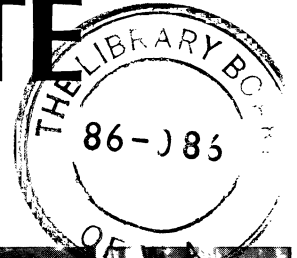


FIRST WOMAN STATE LIBRARIAN



Jane La Scala is the new State Librarian of Victoria. Her appointment was officially announced on February 24 by Race Mathews, Victorian Minister for the Arts.

The appointment is a history-making one as it is the first time a woman has received a permanent appointment as State Librarian.

Jane La Scala brings to the position more than thirty years of experience as a librarian and library administrator. She has spent 17 years in public libraries in positions ranging from junior library assistant to Chief Librarian. She has been Acting State Librarian since July 1985 when her predecessor, Warren Morton, took up his appointment as Director-General of the National Library of Australia.

Working with the Library Council of Victoria has given Jane La Scala the opportunity to be involved in the planning and development of public and government library services on a state and national basis. She has been directly involved in the development of policies for public libraries in Victoria and has provided consultancy and advice to improve their efficiency and effectiveness. This has meant involvement in building planning teams, development of standards and evaluation methods as well as the promotion of services and information services and their importance in community life.

In 1980 the State Government provided the funding for Jane La Scala to visit libraries in Scandinavia, Italy and England, where she studied local government restructure and its effect on libraries and their services to all community groups. She has also had nine years experience in Canadian libraries which has given her a valuable international background to bring to her assessments and ideas for library development in Australia.

She has always been involved in many activities in the library profession and has served as representative with groups and committees dealing with many and varied aspects of library interests. During the time she has spent as Acting State Librarian she has worked with CAVAL, AACOBS and ALIC as well as the State Librarians Council and the State Library/Museum Buildings Committee.

The appointment is a most welcome one, combining as it does the selection of someone with such an appropriate and varied background, with the inevitable professional satisfaction that will be shared by all women in librarianship.



Jane La Scala in different moods

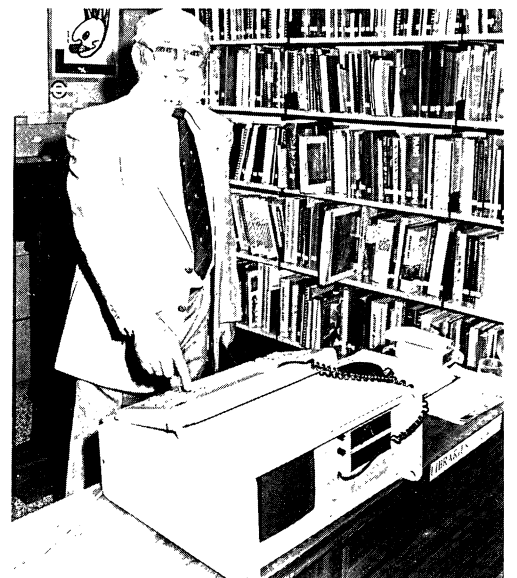
LOCAL GOVERNMENT RECORDS LOCAL HISTORY IN NSW

The *Government Gazette* of 5 July last carried a proclamation of great importance to everyone concerned with local government and local history in New South Wales. The ordinance which regulates the retention of municipal and shire records has been amended in the most decisive manner. From now on a large array of documents must be preserved; many others must at least be kept on microfilm.

Much of the credit must go to the Action Committee on Local Government Records, a widely representative group which has been given official status and backing by the Minister. Over four years, it has worked with the Department of local Government to achieve this end and to formulate guidelines for the operation of the system.

Education and preparation are the key to the new order. As a part of a continuing process, the Action Committee, the NSW Branch of the Library Association of Australia, held an evening seminar at the State Archives Office on 27 November. The seventy people who attended included local government personnel, local history librarians, archivists and historians, notably representatives of the new Professional Historians Association of NSW.

The launching of a new and largely revised edition of *Local Studies Collections* by John Flint and Anne Berry began proceedings, a heartening sign of the existence of an effective tool for local historians and custodians.



Thomas Keneally, one of Australia's leading authors was present at the launch of the Arts Documentation Service database (ARTS) at the Australia Council on December 18. Produced by the Australia Council and available on AUSINET, ARTS covers press clippings on arts personalities in Australia held by the Australian Council Library.

Copies of this publication are now available through the LAA office, 376 Jones Street, Ultimo NSW 2007. *Local Studies Collections. Guidelines and Subject Headings for Organising and Indexing Resources.* Compiled by John Flint and Anne Berry. 2nd ed. LAA, NSW Branch, 1985. \$18.00 (\$15.00 to LAA members). Postage \$1.50.

DARWIN CONFERENCE EARLY BIRD REGISTRATION NOW EXTENDED TO MAY 1