

O b i t u a r y

Helen Elizabeth Skipnes (Mays)

1939-1989

Helen Skipnes (Mays) died in the Townsville General Hospital Nursing Home on Friday 13 October 1989, after an extended illness.

Helen was born in Townsville. After finishing her schooling there, she attended the University of Queensland, completing a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1961. She obtained the Registration Certificate of the Library Association of Australia by external study in 1965.

Before becoming a cataloguer with the Public (now State) Library of Queensland, Helen was employed as a Library Assistant at Kelvin Grove Teachers' College. She then began her return north, first working as City Librarian in Rockhampton from 1963 to 1965, and then as City Librarian in Townsville from 1965 to 1971.

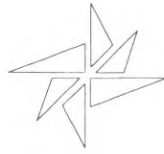
Helen joined the James Cook University Library staff in 1971. She worked in both cataloguing and reference in her early days in the University Library, and it was in that latter area that her talents were best expressed. She was appointed as Senior Librarian and Head of Reader Services in 1974, and held these positions until her untimely death.

Helen was the quintessential reference librarian, always happiest when assisting library users at the reference desk. Her ability to assist, instruct, cajole and entertain her captive audience — usually all at the same time — was legendary. Countless are the student essays, post-graduate theses and staff papers that owe a deep debt to Helen's knowledge, skills and sheer exuberance for research.

Helen knew more about sources of information in and about North Queensland than any other person. Her work in the establishment of the Delamothé Collection of North Queensland History and Literature in 1978 was critical, and in recent years much of her time was spent in soliciting, receiving and organising the material and in giving assistance with its use. Helen thrived on this work because it brought her into contact with a broad range of people from the community, with whom she could share her knowledge and love of North Queensland.

Helen had a remarkably wide range of friends and colleagues, brought together by her many interests. She had an enthusiasm for life, and we are all the poorer for her loss. We convey our deepest sympathy to Helen's husband, Arthur, her sister, Barbara, and Mother, Melba.

J. McKinlay
University Librarian
James Cook University



JOB

POSITION

ADVERTISEMENTS

In the interests of bringing all relevant positions to the attention of ALIA members, *InCite* accepts all employment advertisements. However, the content of these advertisements is not necessarily endorsed. Please note that the ALIA contacts all employers who advertise librarian technician positions, without specifying that library qualifications are essential, to advise of the advantages of employing a qualified librarian or librarian technician.



REFERENCE LIBRARIAN

(One year appointment)

The appointee will be required to form part of a team providing reference and research services including CD-ROM and online information retrieval, reader education and supervision of an inter-library loan service, under the direction of the User Services Librarian. Some rostered evening and weekend duties will be required.

Applicants should be eligible for Associate membership of the Australian Library and Information Association.

The appointment will be for the period 2 January 1990-31 December 1990, during the absence on maternity leave of the current incumbent.

Salary: \$25,287-\$28,599

Applications giving full particulars including qualifications and experience, present position, the names and addresses of three referees, telephone number, and the earliest date upon which applicants can take up duties close on 4 December 1989 with the Personnel Manager, Gippsland Institute of Advanced Education, Switchback Road, Churchill 3842.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY IS INSTITUTE POLICY.

INB/2

Harold White Fellows

The Director-General of the National Library of Australia, Mr Warren Horton, recently announced the Harold White Fellows for 1990: Dr Dennis Haskell, Mr Roger Milliss, Dr Anna Shnukal and Mr Julian Thomas.

Dr Dennis Haskell is a lecturer in English at the University of Western Australia. He is also a poet and editor of the literary journal, *Westerly*. Dr Haskell will be undertaking a critical study of the poetry of Kenneth Slessor.

Mr Roger Milliss is a Sydney-based author, journalist and scriptwriter, whose historical writings include *The Wallabadah manuscript*. Mr Milliss proposes to edit and publish the diary kept

by Lady Franklin on her overland journey from Port Phillip to Sydney in 1893. The diary has been held in the National Library for many years and is a rich source for social historians.

Dr Anna Shnukal, a former librarian, is now lecturer in linguistics at the University of Queensland. She has written extensively on Torres Strait Creole. During the term of her Fellowship, Dr Shnukal will be studying the social history of the Pacific Islander immigrants to Torres Strait, as well as compiling a bibliography of Torres Strait material held in the Library.

Mr Julian Thomas is a Canberra historian with a special interest in the use of visual evidence, such as films and photographs, to interpret changes in Australian attitudes and culture. Mr Thomas will be studying the ideas and influence of the photographer Frank Hurley, especially his work in New Guinea in the 1920s and in the Middle East during World War II.

