

K A R (Ken) Horn

State librarian, State Library of Victoria, 1966–1981

Ken Horn was appointed as the first state librarian of Victoria in 1966. He occupied the position until his retirement in August 1981. His earlier professional appointments and education had been in New Zealand, before he moved to the Monash University Library as acquisitions librarian.

Ken's appointment as state librarian resulted from the Victorian Government's implementation of the major recommendation of the Jungwirth Report. This recommendation was for a new Library Board of Victoria, responsible for both the development of the State Library of Victoria and for state government support to the Victorian public library system. Ken had been very involved in the Library Association of Australia's lobbying government in relation to the Jungwirth Enquiry and library funding. The Library Association's submissions helped Sir John Jungwirth in the drafting of his final report.

A major thrust of the Jungwirth Report had been for a new building for the State Library of Victoria, the Swanston Street building having been roundly condemned as totally inadequate for modern and effective library service, whatever the grandeur and charms of the Domed Reading Room and other major public spaces. This was also the key mission for Sir John Starke, Supreme Court Judge and first president of the Council from 1966–1985. By 1981 when Ken retired, and after unrelenting lobbying by him and Sir John, the government had committed itself in principle to a new State Library of Victoria building on the splendid nearby Queen Victoria Market site. This decision was to be cancelled soon after the

Cain Labor Government came to power in 1982. The issue of the State Library building was not of course finally resolved until the Kennett Government eventually committed itself to funding for the splendid restoration and rebuilding program for the Swanston Street buildings now well in progress.

A crowning glory of the Horn years at the Library Council was the major development of Victorian public library services during that time. These were the envy of all other states. Their success was based on good funding and a well-developed regional library model, with strong support from Premier Rupert Hamer especially, but across a broad political base. Ken was the first to admit that Barrett Reid of the Council's staff was primarily responsible for these landmark developments, as he also generously acknowledged the work of other key staff including Margery Ramsey and Mary Carey.

The 1970s were a period of growth in Australian public services generally and the State Library of Victoria's staff grew by thirty per cent in these years, allowing the development of more effective information and support services for the public.

In his non-public life, Ken was an active Anglican and had many interests, including modern Greek and church music. He also, in retirement, acted as the honorary Mollison librarian at Trinity College in the University of Melbourne. He was a devoted husband to Janet who survives him with their five children. Barbara and Mac followed in their father's footsteps by becoming librarians.

Warren Horton and Frances H Awcock



... from previous page

• 20/11 ALIA NSW. Council meeting, all welcome. Coles Room, Level 11, State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney, 6pm. RSVP for catering purposes to: Jo-anne Fuller, local presence co-ordinator, ph 02 9906 6000, fx 02 9906 5987, jojo1@ozemail.com.au

27/11 Trimagic Software. Knowledge management solutions presented by industry & information experts. Demonstrations of the latest Trimagic Solutions. All welcome. State Library NSW, The Coles Seminar Room. 10–12pm, lunch will be provided. Please RSVP by 23/11 to: Tara Lord, ph 02 9880 8666, tara.lord@trimagic.com.au

• 18/12 ALIA NSW. Council meeting, all welcome. Coles Room, Level 11, State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney, 6pm. RSVP for catering purposes to: Jo-anne Fuller, local presence co-ordinator, ph 02 9906 6000, fx 02 9906 5987, jojo1@ozemail.com.au

QLD

12/11 CAVAL training activities.

Introduction to the information audit. full-day workshop provides an overview of the information audit process and discusses the practical skills needed to conduct an information audit in an organisation. University of Queensland, St Lucia. Cost: \$360 CAVAL/ALIA members, non-members \$400. Register online at http://www.caval.edu.au/Services/reg_form.html

• 13/11 Qld Library Technicians.

Marketing Mania evening where you can pick up a wealth of ideas on how to effectively market your library. Metway Theatre, State Library of Queensland, 5:30pm. Contact: Marian Moyle, ph 07 3244 6446, marian.moyle@detir.qld.gov.au

• 15/11 Qld Reference And Information Services. RAIS-A-MATAZZ 2001: the library quiz night of the year.

The Greek Club, Acropolis Room, 29 Edmonstone Street, South Brisbane, 6:30 for 7pm. Cost (incl GST): \$35 including 3 course "Gods of Olympus" banquet. RSVP to: Kirsty Hamilton, ph 07 3237 6636, khamilton@sppcpm.com or Paula Callan ph 07 3864 4670, p.callan@qut.edu.au

15/11 Trimagic Software. DB/TextWorks introductory training. One-day course, introducing the GUI interface, searching a textbase, editing & creating records, displaying/printing & writing using report forms, QBE screen design, linking databases, managing textbase elements, exporting & importing data. Trainer: Carol Farmilo. To register please contact: Tara Lord, ph 02 9880 8666, tara.lord@trimagic.com.au

16/11 Trimagic Software. WebPublisher training. One day course, in-

continued next page...

INMAGIC® DB/Textworks™

The Leading Software for Information Management

NOW AVAILABLE WITH

Interactive Circulation Management for Libraries designed by Triad

Call for free evaluation software

TRIAD
DATA MAGIC PTY LTD

P.O. Box 727 South Melbourne 3205
Tel: (03) 9696 4866
Fax: (03) 9696 4869
Email: triad@tdm.com.au
www.tdm.com.au

Out of 10,000 new books published every month, how do you choose?

See 2000-3000 new titles, relevant to public libraries, each month at ALS Online.

New list every month
Colour jackets
Order pre-publication
Fast delivery



www.alslib.com.au