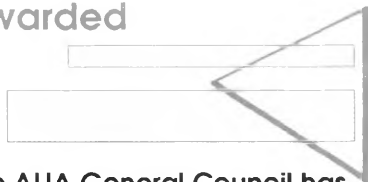# Outstanding members awarded

The ALIA General Council has conferred Fellowship on Ian McCallum, and awarded Allan Fleming with the Ellinor Archer Award and Kenneth Myer with the Redmond Barry Award. The three awards were presented on 24 November 1989 at the National Library.

Ian McCallum

Throughout his 20 year career in librarianship, Ian Stanley McCallum, has demonstrated that librarianship is fundamentally concerned with meeting the needs of users and the market.

This has been particularly reflected in the distinguished contribution he has made to library and information services in Australia in three major areas: the development of AUSINET; the foundation of the Australian Database Development Association (ADDA); and the establishment of the Australian Schools Co-operative Information Service (ASCIS).

Ian McCallum began his career in the National Library of Australia in 1969, and worked there for 10 years. He was the Project Officer for the ERIC research project and the Online ERIC project, and his drive, energy and enthusiasm was central to the successful subsequent establishment of AUSINET.

This phase of his career was singled out by the judging panel for special mention when he was awarded the Robert D. Williamson Award by VALA in 1983. He had a clear vision of the importance of AUSINET to the library community and was never afraid to try new approaches to solving the problems which arose in mounting this ambitious project.

He brought this same vision and energy to the development of ASCIS after he moved to ACI as Manager, Information Retrieval Services in 1979. ACI was the contractor for the ASCIS service, but Ian McCallum's contribution went far beyond that which would normally be expected as a consequence. He was committed to the concept that what was best for schools should be the first priority in developing ASCIS and his sagacious and informed policy and administrative advice was crucial to its immediate acceptance, throughout the Australian school library community.

Ian McCallum has played a major role throughout his career in broader professional forums. He was one of the key figures in the foundation of the ADDA in 1983, and his strongly-held belief that vendors and producers should be included along with the users, in membership of the Association resulted in it quickly becoming an influential force throughout the database industry.

While ALIA President in 1986, Ian was responsible for the carriage through General Council and the Association's Annual General Meeting of that year of the report of the Corporate Plan and Review Committee, and the initial implementation of its recommendations.

Following the committee's identification of the need for the Association to raise its political profile, he played the crucial role in the decision to establish the new ALIA Head Office building in Canberra. It was his persistence and belief in the need for ALIA to 'return' to Canberra, as he was wont to state his case, which directly led to the chain of events culminating in the recent ceremony at which the Governor-General of Australia laid the Foundation Stone for the new ALIA Head Office building in Canberra.

He has been the key figure in the detailed negotiations to obtain the land from the Commonwealth Government under such favourable terms, commission the architect; and subsequently construct the building.

Ian McCallum's professional beliefs have always been based on the premise that it is the network of Australian library and information services, which is of paramount importance, and that it is the network rather than individual libraries, which should be seen as providing most things to most people. His colleagues recognise his specialised competence in the development of information retrieval systems and product planning in the area of information management.

His contributions to Australian librarianship and the Association over the last 20 years make him a worthy recipient of the distinction of Fellow of the Australian Library and Information Association.

Kenneth Myer

Kenneth Baillieu Myer has in the last 30 years given outstanding service to the National Library of Australia and to the Australian library profession.

Kenneth Myer served on the National Library of Australia Council for 21 years, an unparalleled record of public service to the library. Its Annual Report, 1981-82, fittingly refers to this in the following terms:

'The Chairman of the Council, Mr K.B. Myer, retired on 22 March after more than 21 years' distinguished service to the library. Mr Myer, who had been Chairman since August 1974, was appointed a member of the Interim Council in October 1960 and served continuously as a member of the Council from the establishment of the library on a statutory basis in March 1961.

He was closely involved in the planning for the library building and in the application of new technology to the library's operations, particularly in the field of computer-based services.'

What this published record for obvious reasons cannot make clear is the time, effort and restless enthusiasm which Kenneth Myer also brought to the library's cause. He came to the council at a time when he had heavy responsibilities to his business interests, but quickly established a reputation for thorough preparation for council meetings, and for raising and pursuing significant issues.

These included the question of adequate financial support for the library, where his business background was of considerable advantage to the library. He took a particular and constructive interest in the question of gaining government approval for the construction of the National Library building, but also spent much time and effort developing his knowledge of library matters, and in pursuing National Library interests overseas.

Kenneth Myer, while chairman of the National Library Council from 1974-1982, was also an informed and articulate advocate of its interests in a range of public forums. He also established the National Library of Australia Trust Fund, and through this action the policy of seeking private sector support for the library.

He has, since vacating office on the council, nonetheless continued his financial support to the library through regular capital donations to its Trust Funds, the income of which has enabled the library to undertake projects of advantage to the broader library community, but on occasion also outside the normal opportunities available through government funds.

The most obvious example of this in recent years is of course the Australian Libraries Summit. The concept of the Summit planning process very much attracted Mr Myer's interest at the stage it was being developed, and a separate and special donation of $20 000 from him in 1987, largely funded the Summit's central expenses. It goes without saying that he himself, notwithstanding his strong personal interest in the Summit planning process, as usual, attached no conditions to this donation nor sought to influence the Summit planning process itself.

In addition to his involvement with the National Library of Australia, Kenneth Myer has also over the last 30 years demonstrated a deep interest in broader Australian library matters, and has been an articulate and committed advocate on the profession's behalf. His appointment as a Companion in the Order of Australia in 1976, demonstrates his national standing as a man of affairs participating in a wide range of intellectual and cultural forums.

In all of them, he has when appropriate, articulated the profession's interest, but especially concerning the nation's need for dynamic scientific and technological information services and effective broad information planning, with libraries as a major participant.

The Redmond Barry Award may be conferred by the Australian Library and Information Association on any lay person not employed in a library who has rendered outstanding service to the promotion of a library or of libraries, or to the practice of librarianship.

Mr Kenneth Myer has in the last 30 years given outstanding service not only to the National Library of Australia but also to the Australian library profession. The General Council of the Association, considers him a most worthy recipient of the Award.

Allan Fleming

Allan Fleming occupied the highest position in Australian librarianship as Director-General of the National Library of Australia from June 1970 to September 1973, following a term as Commonwealth Parliamentary Librarian from February 1968, until his appointment to the National Library. Prior to that he had a distinguished career in the military forces in World War II and then serving in the Defence and Trade Departments.

When Mr Fleming was appointed to the post of Commonwealth Parliamentary Librarian he took over a library which 1 month before had completed the process of separation from the National Library and which 2 years before had set in place an embryonic Research Service modelled on the pattern of the Library of Congress.

He served for only 28 months in the Parliamentary Library but made a remarkable contribution in that short period of time. He brought a fresh radical view to parliamentary librarianship, articulating the role and purpose of the library as never before: 'Democracy in action' was one of his expressions, and the staff quickly became enthused and imbued with his concept of service and the importance of their role in servicing the Parliament.

The Parliamentary Library will for decades reflect his views, ideals and style of leadership. It is now, largely due to him, a dynamic research and information service promoting its services well to its clients and ever mindful of their needs as it strives to fulfil its role in the democratic process.

Allan Fleming performed so outstandingly in the Parliamentary Library that he was invited to become National Librarian in 1970. Although he occupied this position for only slightly over 3 years, he again made a dynamic and distinguished contribution to Australian librarianship and to the development of the National Library of Australia.

The library's Annual Report, 1973-74, records this contribution in the following fitting terms:

'Mr Fleming brought to the National Library his great gifts of administration and leadership, a wide and varied experience in a number of senior posts in the Departments of Defence and Trade, and above all a genuine concern for people and for the advancement of knowledge and dissemination of information for all. His imaginative concept of a national information system has stimulated Australian thinking on the achievement of this ultimate goal.

During his term of office he was responsible for a major reorganisation and upgrading of the Library's staff structure, for presenting to Government on behalf of the Library Council the findings, conclusions and recommen-

dations of STISEC, now known familiarly as the STISEC Report and for the encouragement and development of participation by the staff in the activities of the Australian library community. He exerted a strong personal influence in making the library's activities and services known both within Australia and overseas.'

As in the Parliamentary Library Allan Fleming again saw a very active and positive role for the National Library, rather than a passive collecting role alone. He fostered a new level of liaison and credibility with Government at both the ministerial level and interdepartmentally, and in gaining the strong confidence and support of the Government, created opportunities for new roles and levels of funding.

It was solely due to Mr Fleming's initiative that the National Library Council invited Dr Bjorn Tell, Head Librarian of the Royal Institute of Technology in Stockholm, to visit Australia in 1973 for consultations on the future development of the library's role and activities, within the framework of a national information policy and with particular reference to computerised information retrieval systems.

The library took advantage of Dr Tell's visit to hold in April an advanced working seminar on national information policy and the impact of social and technological change on national information planning, thus bringing to the attention of those people in Australia who ought to be concerned with such matters, the importance of creating a national information policy and of planning a national network of information services. Allan Fleming's work in promoting the importance of national information policy and effective planning was of central importance to the widespread debate on these matters in the next 15 years.

The intention of the Australian Library and Information Association in establishing the Ellinor Archer Award was to recognise those rare cases of an outstanding contribution to our profession from somebody working within libraries but not eligible for professional membership of the Association. The General Council in conferring the Award on Allan Fleming now fittingly recognises the services of one the major figures in our professional since World War II.