

Branch, he ‘ghosted’ volumes that appeared under the names of others, and there are later war history volumes to which he devoted years of scholarly editing.

Ian’s keen interest in archives was a natural outgrowth of his early work with the War History Branch and his own thesis research. By the mid-1970s National Archives was in an enfeebled state. While unable to comment publicly, Ian made his views widely known. He also solidly backed the Archives and Records Association of New Zealand (ARANZ) when it was formed in 1976, encouraging the new organisation to adopt an advocacy stance. When in 1978, in response to the state of the Committee of established to make for future was invited to take much to state that provided the the innovations of 1990s.

In 1984, the retirement, Ian was State Services three-person report on National accommodation working party’s were not followed, for eventual transfer Mulgrave Street point, Ian had been third Honorary Life Member, an honour of which he was proud.



Ian Wards. Family photograph, reproduced with permission of Kathryn Patterson.

public disquiet over Archives, a Inquiry was recommendations management, Ian the chair. It is not too the Wards Report blueprint for many of the 1980s and early

year following his appointed by the Commission to a working party to Archives’ future needs. Though the recommendations the way was paved to the current building. By this elected ARANZ’s

Ian’s commitment to the Alexander Turnbull Library was just as deep. Spurred by his passionate opposition to the ultimately successful moves in the early 1960s to bring the Turnbull within the ambit of the new National Library of New Zealand, and claiming that the Library’s integrity and the security of its collections would be placed at risk, he always hankered for, and openly advocated, the Library’s independence. While there could never be any doubt as to where his heart lay, this streak of intractability conceivably sometimes caused problems for the Chief Librarians he so strongly supported.

Over three decades Ian worked positively and hard in the Turnbull’s interests. No task was too small, and none too big. Happy to be doorman or to serve soup or wine at Friends’ gatherings, he also took a leading part in initiatives such as the Centennial Fund, set up in 1983 to raise \$100,000 for acquisitions. Almost certainly, however, his most significant contributions came on the several