

Kingsley Siebel - Died 20 November 2001

Members have been saddened to hear of the death of Kingsley Siebel, one of the Life Members of the Australian Society of Indexers. Although Kingsley had not been in good health recently, he continued to index and to participate in the affairs of the Society when he was well into his eighties, until a few months before he died.

Kingsley Siebel was elected as an Honorary Life member at the Annual General Meeting on 24 March 1999, nominated by Alan Walker and seconded by Lorraine Doyle. He has been a member of the Society since 1983. He was active in all New South Wales activities, since the first meetings held in Sydney in 1984. He held office in New South Wales Branch from its establishment in 1990 until 1997, serving as President in 1994-95, and Secretary in 1993. At some time or other, he held almost every Branch position, including Vice-President, Treasurer, Minutes Secretary and Newsletter Correspondent. In 1997-98, when the Branch became strong enough to take on the function of National Committee, he became the Society's national Vice-President.

Kingsley came to indexing after retiring from a long and distinguished career in legal publishing. He then embarked enthusiastically on his new career as an indexer. His considerable body of legal knowledge and experience were invaluable to the Society, and he was always willing to contribute his experience to its committees and to give advice and assistance to individual members.

Kingsley's publishing experience went well back to the 1950s when he undertook a course in publishing in Madras, followed by positions with the Christian literature Society as manager, and bookshop manager for HW Cave & co, Medical and Legal Publishers in Ceylon. In the late 1950s riots and uprisings forced Kingsley to consider migrating from Sri Lanka. On arrival in Australia in 1960 he took up a position with The Law Book company where he worked for over ten years before joining Butterworths. He was the highly respected Chief Editor and then Editorial Director of Butterworths from 1971 to 1982. On retirement, Kingsley started his own publishing business, Serendip Publishing, as well as taking up indexing. With his well-rounded background in the publishing industry and law (being admitted to the Bar in the seventies) Kingsley's contribution was a valuable asset for the Australian Society of Indexers, giving direction whenever legal and publication matters arose.

But Kingsley's contribution was by no means limited to the legal and publishing areas. He was always a ready volunteer in all the activities of the Society, contributing to the organisation of meetings and conferences, compiling (on his own initiative) an index to the Newsletter, editing Indexing Available, and even (when appropriate) acting as wine supplier. His name was frequently featured in the Newsletter, and other indexing publications, as he contributed letters, articles and reviews and made proposals on many different matters. His energy, advice and practical contributions have helped to sustain the activities of both the New South Wales Branch and the national Society over fifteen years.

In extending the Society's sympathies to Kingsley's wife Hazel, I remember with affection Kingsley's warmth, generosity, wholeheartedness and professionalism. We shall miss him.

Alan Walker
President, Australian Society of Indexers

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