



CENTRAL BUREAU INTELLIGENCE CORPS ASSOCIATION JUNE 2019

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

It is with a heavy heart that I write this issue of my President's Report. The first one I have written since my wonderful Dad, and I'm very proud to say, the longest serving Central Bureau President, Gordon Gibson passed away, and now our inspiring Publicity Officer Helen Kenny. Three months to the day, two of our CB Greats left us, very sadly.



The loss is immense but I can assure you that CB will march on for as long as we can.

May they both rest in peace and know the huge impact they had on our country, CB members, family, friends and beyond.

ANZAC DAY COMMEMORATIONS 2019

In light of our losses, and particularly now that the winter chill is upon us, the memories of our lovely warm Anzac Day commemorations are ones that are very special to me.

How lovely it was to see all those who could join us, and for those who couldn't, you were certainly with us in spirit.

As in previous years, the day started before dawn for my husband Chris and I to attend the Dawn Service at Roseville Memorial Club and lay a Wreath on behalf of CB. It was a beautiful service, and only a little chilly this time.

For the March, the day was lovely and sunny. It was great to see our CBers front and centre in the TV coverage on the ABC again, and the March went very smoothly with a group of 11 of us, which was excellent. Bravo to 'Garage Girl' Joyce Grace for marching, and so spritely that she could have gone round twice I think! Such a brilliant lady, and a lovely family! We extend our heartfelt thanks once again to our brilliant banner bearers, Rob Moore and Mark Brackley. What a fantastic job both Rob and Mark do each year!

This year's Reunion Lunch was the 45th for Central Bureau, and it was another beautiful event – a chance to reflect, connect and have a good time together. There was a lot of lively chatter, laughs, and even a bit of fun competition with the raffle.

Thank you to all those who purchased raffle tickets, as we were able to raise close to \$300 for CB, which was great! Congratulations to Noeline Hansen's grandson Matthew who won the prize.

It is always lovely to see the generations represented with many children joining us again this year. Thank you very much to all those who attended our luncheon, and those who could not join us were in our thoughts.

DONATIONS FOR CB

A special, heartfelt thank you to my amazing sister-in-law Cathryn Gibson for putting up her hand to take on the CB Treasurer role. Cathryn is doing an outstanding job and should be commended for her commitment, talent and dedication to CB. My Dad adored Cathryn and he would be so pleased with our choice. We are very lucky to have you.

Since our last issue of Newsletter, we have received many generous donations and I sincerely thank all of those people for their wonderful support. It absolutely does make a big difference to what we can achieve for CB. Thank you so very much for your kindness.

Anzac Day was again wonderful, and I look forward to seeing many of you for our next CB event, commemorating Remembrance Day. As this will be our last year at Roseville Memorial Club before they make renovations, it will be an extra special one. Details of the Remembrance Day ceremony and lunch will be included in the next issue of Newsletter. Until then, I hope you stay warm and I wish you the very best.

“Long live CB!”

Katy Denis, President

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TREASURER'S REPORT

In the short time that I have been treasurer, I've had a busy period learning the ropes, and then receiving the yearly memberships and Anzac Day Lunch. Speaking of which, an amazing day, and very much something I look forward to each year, and now with more enthusiasm in getting to know the original members and their family and friends. It was great to see so many family members at the lunch, and the few original CBers that could make it. Apologies were received from Diana Parker, Allan Norton, Coral Hinds, Jacqueline Keeling, and Kelvin Hocking, who were unable to attend the Anzac Day Lunch.

Thank you very much to the following members who have made donations to CBICA over the past year. G Charlesworth, W & J Renshaw, Stanley Clarke, Norman Allen, Noeline Hansen, Veronica O'Neill, Di Parker, Alan Fookes, Mark Brackley, Geraldine Cole, Coral Hinds, A Hale, Margaret McCafferty, Brian Lovett, A & J Norton, and E J Grace. We also received a generous donation from Chris Denis's (Katy Gibson's Husband) family towards a gift voucher for the Raffle. A Big Thank you to all of you, your generous donations certainly help with the ever increasing costs involved in producing a quarterly newsletter and postage.

Most Cbers are now up to date with the annual subs. Bruce will be including with this newsletter an outstanding subscription form for any members who haven't paid. If you are unsure, or have any questions, then please give me a call. Your subs are important to keep us afloat!

If you have relatives or know someone with a special interest in Central Bureau, please encourage them to join as Associate Members.

The Auditing of the 2018 books was a little late this year. They will be with the Auditor by the time this newsletter is out. I want to thank Alan Bentwitch, who kindly Audits our books free of charge each year.

I look forward to seeing some of you again on Remembrance Day. To every one of you, my warmest wishes for a healthy and happy year ahead.

Cathryn Gibson (Hon. Treasurer)

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SECRETARY'S REPORT



law, Helen Kenny.

I am including a link to a very special audio visual presentation prepared for Helen's funeral by her nephew, James Gibson - <https://youtu.be/PmF-AifTQGU>

ANZAC Day celebrations in Sydney were a resounding success. Yet again the CB Banner was proudly carried along Macquarie Street by Rob Moore and Mark Brackley, leading our CB contingent of eleven, including veteran Joyce Grace. How good is she!

Almost fifty gathered at Windows for a lovely, convivial luncheon and several hours of lively conversation and reminiscing.

This is a most difficult Newsletter to prepare, as it is the first one without specific directions from Helen. What a wonderful person she was – absolutely committed to quality life, helping and guiding others, whether they be nine or ninety, and whether they be family, friends, colleagues or just people she knew.

Helen had given guidance and contributions for this Newsletter, but I will hold some over until September, as President Katy and I feel this edition should be more dedicated to her father, Gordon Gibson and to my step-mother-in-

In between emails and cards honouring Helen, there have been requests wondering about the future of CBICA with the unexpected passing of Helen and Gordon. You are assured CB will live on. We have already booked Windows for ANZAC Day next year, and President Katy has spoken with Roseville RSL and they will be functioning as usual at least until 2020, so we have arranged to be with them for Remembrance Day this year.

I ask yet again, if you would like to contribute items to Newsletter about your local ANZAC Commemoration, or any other CB news, please do so – email me on bgoudge@optusnet.com.au from wherever you are across this glorious Nation.

In passing across the financial records to our new Treasurer, Cathryn Gibson, we had an audit, and some members have not yet paid their subscriptions for 2019. If our records show you have not paid, a Membership Renewal Form has been included with this Newsletter. Please send you subscription (\$25 for Associates)/ \$15 for Veterans to Cathryn – her details are noted in her report above. Without your membership, we will not be able to continue publishing the Newsletter (Printing and Postage about \$400 per edition), and we need to pay a substantial deposit to the Pullman hotel for 2020, as well as buying wreaths for ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day services.

I have received the following request from Sydney University. Helen was preparing a report, so if any of you are Sydney University graduates and would like to participate in the programme, please feel free to contact the Sydney University as requested below.

THE UNIVERSITY OF SYDNEY ARCHIVES ARE INTERESTED TO HEAR FROM STAFF, STUDENTS AND GRADUATES OF THE UNIVERSITY AND FROM FAMILY MEMBERS OF THOSE WHO SERVED IN WWII.

THE UNIVERSITY HAS AN ONLINE BIOGRAPHICAL DATABASE, {GOOGLE: [BEYOND 1914](#)} FOR MEMBERS OF THE UNIVERSITY WHO SERVED IN WWI. WE ARE LOOKING TO EXPAND THIS DATABASE TO INCLUDE THOSE WHO SERVED IN WWII.

PLEASE EMAIL **NYREE MORRISON**, SENIOR ARCHIVIST,
NYREE.MORRISON@SYDNEY.EDU.AU OR CALL 02 9351 2684.

Very best wishes to you all, and I am already working on the September Newsletter.

Bruce Goudge

(Hon) Secretary bgoudge@optusnet.com.au 0412 579 160

NEWSLETTER AWARDS - Helen Kenny

JOYCE GRACE: Ever observant Garage Girl and Mate, came from the South Coast and said, “Helen, I’ve just read this article from the Women’s Weekly which would be of interest to CBers. (April, 2019)

Indeed it is.....

The article, headed “St Kilda Spy – the Aussie grandmother who saved lives during WWII. It has photos of **Jessie Edgar** at 18 when she joined the Navy and Jessie Flanders now. The face is still handsome and intelligent. She was a WRAN Officer and last ANZAC Day Jessie wore a gold pin which she’d received seven years earlier from then British Prime Minister David Cameron. The message included with the gold pin said, “Deepest gratitude on behalf of the British Government for the vital war service performed during World War II.”

During and after the War Jessie was sworn to secrecy about the work she did with Special Intelligence Bureau – a secret base in Melbourne called Monterey, working as an outreach for Bletchley Park. They intercepted messages, decoded them and informed allies of the enemy movements. Through liaising closely with Bletchley Park, as with CB, hundreds of lives were saved.

Jessie's parents and husband died without even knowing of her work, and when her (adult) children finally found out they cried, "Mum – you were a spy!"

CO-INCIDENCES NOW

AWAS and WAAF received thanks from former British Prime Minister Gordon Brown in 2009. His letter read, *"On behalf of Her Majesty's Government, GCHQ is delighted to recognise the vital service of those who worked at Bletchley Park and its outstations during World War II, by presenting surviving veterans with a commemorative badge."* The badge was a beautiful brooch, engraved with the words, "They Also Serve".

AROUND THE TABLES

(Pullman Hotel, Sydney, ANZAC Day, 2019)



KATY DENIS: It was my first time marching and it was a wonderful experience. Joyce was amazing and never missed a step – I'm sure she could have gone around again. What an inspiration! So lovely to see so many at our luncheon – especially Helen and Joyce. Missing my dear Dad, Gordon Gibson, and, in his words, "Long Live CB"!

SUE GIBSON: It was a sad but uplifting day to experience the March as Gordon has for so many years. So lovely to see how many people appreciate the true Spirit of ANZAC Day. It was lovely to be surrounded by the warmth and friendliness of the CB members, Gordon would so have loved this day.

BEC JOHNSON: What a moving time to see Sue, Dean and Katy marching for Gordon! I really missed his wave and his big smile but I am sure he was looking down on all of us and enjoying the moment.

BENTWITCH FAMILY (ALAN BENTWITCH): On behalf of the Bentwitch Family, Bruce, children and relatives, we thank you for the function today. We have had one addition to the family, Roxley, in the last week; Lil is due in June and a mate for “the Rock”. Bruce is going well for his age (95) and we hope for many more years. We are all sorry to hear of the passing of Gordon – a stalwart of the group.

ANNETTE SALMON & TREVOR JOHNSON: It was lovely to catch up with friends and their families and nice to see all the children joining us. Important to remember and carry on the traditions of mateship left us by our veterans. A big thanks to Katy and Cathryn and the other members of the Executive.

MARK BRACKLEY (SON OF THE LATE COLIN BRACKLEY 6WU & 1WU RAAF, LEADING AIRCRAFTMAN WWII): Today we honour our Returned Service Men and Women who fought for our freedom and liberty. Sacrifices were made and many lives lost. We remember them today, tomorrow and always.

DEBORAH GIRVIN: I attended the lunch with my Mum, **NOELINE HANSEN**, and son **MATTHEW GIRVIN**. We have been so pleased to see how well the lunch has been organised each year, and to see old friends catching up with each other. Well done!

NOELINE HANSEN: Thank you for organizing this function again. It is a pleasure to catch up with friends to honour relatives and friends who have passed on ... David would be pleased to have his daughter and grandson attend.



MATTHEW GIRVIN: Today is the second ANZAC Day Lunch that I have been to. It is great to honour my Grandpa, David Hansen, and it has been Fantastic to meet everyone involved.

LAKE BABYACK: ANZAC Day is a very respectful time; it means to honour the people who died in the war. We celebrate it by having a march for the war survivors to attend and be reverent and respectful.

BEAU BABYACK: ANZAC Day is a day when you show your respect to people who fought in the war. I am here today because my Great Aunt did work as one of the “Garage Girls” cracking codes in World War II. I love her very much.

SHARON BABYACK: Such a special time marching today with my Great Aunt Joyce Grace, alongside my sister Julie. It is always great to hear her stories and those of the “Garage Girls”.

BEYA BABYACK: ANZAC Day is always a special time as we watch how our relatives fought for our beautiful home we call Australia. It is so intriguing to hear and watch our history being told. I am especially proud of my Great Aunt AJ for representing our country through her work in Central Bureau Intelligence Unit and all the stories she has shared about

them. Watching the March, I was inspired by the many people who have sacrificed their lives for me and others, and I had a feeling of comfort because of how safe I am because of the brave men and women.

PETER DONOVAN: The Sydney Morning Herald on 17th April, 2019 republished the following, rather cryptic item from 1943:

SEARCH FOR RARE BOOK

The RAAF has urgent need of copies of a publication with the forbidding title of “Logarithmic Tables to seven places of decimals – log sines and tangents to every second of the circle”, but so rare is the volume that booksellers and libraries do not possess a copy. The RAAF hopes, however, that some private citizens may have one, and asks that it should be delivered to the RAAF Headquarters.

This could well have been required for the cipher creation unit!

JAMES GIBSON: Helen Kenny was in fine form for ANZAC Day. Now rather hard of hearing, Helen still was inquisitive and interested in all around her. I wish I could remember the name of the fine lady (Joyce Grace) sitting next to Helen as they bounced old CB experiences back and forward. Apart from anything else they went skiing together after the war – confirmation that Helen’s stories of fabled incompetence were still vividly remembered. Presiding over the table was Bletchley Bear. For my part I spent quite some time talking with David Dufty and Peter Donovan about both prior codebreaking and also modern developments and techniques as we enter the 5th generation age (F35’s etc).

JUDITH & BRUCE GOUDGE: Numbers were slightly down this year, which was to be expected after the major celebrations of last year. Nevertheless, the March was particularly inspiring, and the relaxed atmosphere, the good food and the ambience of the setting in the Pullman, all made for wonderful afternoon – we had to be ejected by the attentive Staff ...we were all having such a lovely time.

BLETCHLEY BEAR & ANZAC DAY

Bletchley Bear flew out from Bletchley Park – the codebreaker centre known to wartime Central Bureau people as GCCS – the Government Code and Cipher School. He is a replica of the bear owned by Alan Turing. Helen was given a Bletchley Bear by Bev and Rob Isdale, historians of Chermside in Brisbane. Here he is with Helen and Joyce Grace at this year’s ANZAC Luncheon.



Hamish Robertson, who met with Helen regularly when he and his mother visited St Paul’s where his grandmother Jean is a resident, is a bear admirer. Hamish is a student at Scots College, and has a profound knowledge of Bletchley Park and our own Codebreakers during the war.

Another bear, carried by Noelene Hansen, widow of David, usually comes to ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day but we did miss him at Remembrance Day last year.

{Helen’s Bletchley Bear stood proudly on her coffin with the National Flag at her funeral on

17th June, 2019. The CB Banner was also on display adjacent to the coffin. BG }
This year's ANZAC March did miss the late Gordon Gibson at the front of our contingent, but there was his recently widowed Sue, proudly carrying his photo.
Our only AWAS marcher was Joy Grace – looking on were her young family members who love AJ! Ailsa Hale couldn't come to town this year. Illness prevailed ...there are only a few original Cbers left. The only man present was Bruce Bentwitch – all honour to him, and greetings to others locally, interstate and overseas.



BOOKS

- Helen Kenny

“A Codebreaker’s Tale” by Hugh Melinsky, with illustrations by his wife Renate, was published by The Larks Press in 1998. Melinsky was one of those young Englishmen, trained in Japanese and sent out to Australia during the War. I heard that he became a Canon of Norwich Cathedral afterwards. I bought this book when it came out, but subsequently lost it when I went into Aged Care.

{Bruce’s note: WE HAVE NOW FOUND THE BOOK, AND TOGETHER WITH HELEN’S MANY CODEBREAKER BOOKS, HAVE PASSED THE COLLECTION TO ANNETTE SALMON, AND ARE EXAMINING THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A CB LIBRARY. }

VALE

Sadly the passing of two other Veterans has been reported by family.

GEORGE ASPDEN: On 6th May I (Bruce Goudge) received from Sue Aspden this email, which she has asked to be published for your information. Sue has kindly offered to prepare a eulogy for the next Newsletter.

Please forgive me emailing you out of the blue like this. However I've just discovered that my late father's email account is still active and receiving emails. Nearly all are junk mail, of course, but I found this one from you and thought I should write and let you know that my father, George Aspden, died in October 2015. It was a shock to all of us as, although 90, he was living independently and thoroughly enjoying life until he contracted pneumonia and died within a few days.

I should like you to know that he was thrilled when he discovered the existence of your association. He really enjoyed receiving the newsletters and reading your news as well as going to the bank to get the \$Aus he needed for the annual subscription. My sister and I grew up hearing him speaking fondly of his time in Australia (although it was not until much later that we learned anything of the nature of his work there), even it was war time. He found the Australian people very welcoming and would have dearly loved to return there. Especially when he discovered later in life that some cousins whom he had lost touch with had emigrated to Australia. He was a rugby fan and always used to say that unless England were playing he would always support Australia.

It was good of you to continue to send your newsletters in the absence of any subscriptions from George for the past few years. If he had been alive, but had just forgotten to make the payments, it would have meant a lot to him.

*With best wishes,
Sue (Aspden)*

BRIAN LOVETT: (15th March, 1924 – 25th May, 2019) Brian’s brother Bruce advised us of Brian’s sad passing on 25th May this year. Bruce sent the following email, and has subsequently sent a eulogy with photographs to be published in the next Newsletter.

Today my brother Brian Lovett received a wonderful service at his funeral. Three members of Castle Hill RSL, complete with decorations, participated in the service which was very much appreciated. David wore his father’s decorations and I wore my father’s World War 1 decorations on our right breasts of course which we thought was fitting for the occasion.

David was presented with an Australian flag by the RSL Members and I was presented with the Australian flag that draped the coffin.

I delivered the Eulogy, so, if you would like a copy by email please advise.

Regards and thank you for your help.

Bruce (Lovett)

GORDON GIBSON

7 October 1920 – 6 March 2019

Gordon Gibson was my adored husband for a little over fifty years and I feel honoured and blessed to have been his wife.

Gordon was born on the 7th October 1920, just after the end of World War I, to Edith and Robert Gibson. He grew up in Artarmon, Sydney and with his brother Robert, attended Artarmon and Roseville Public Schools. Gordon was a very bright student who then proceeded to the selective North Sydney Boys High School. He excelled at Languages and the Humanities and was also a keen sportsman. He played rugby league, cricket, baseball and tennis. Gordon then went on to Sydney University where he concentrated on Latin and French – achieving an Honours degree.

His studies were interrupted by World War II when he joined the Army in 1942. The Army was his second choice - he would have liked to have been in the Airforce but was colour blind. This didn't seem to worry the AIF who soon had him training near Greenwell Point in New South Wales and painting camouflage on equipment, hopefully being given some guidance on colour choice.

Gordon enjoyed the comradery of Army life but was bored by the daily activities. By good chance he heard of a relatively secret group who were training to intercept messages from the enemy. He applied to join this group and was fortunately interviewed by one of his University lecturers and approved. So began his life with Central Bureau.

These young men and women were stationed in Brisbane for some time and he was later posted to the Darwin area for most of the war. Central Bureau was thus named to disguise the secret nature of the activities of the Code Breakers. General MacArthur took the Central Bureau men with him to the Philippines in the final stages of the war. Gordon was later awarded the Philippines Liberation Medal and a very special medal from the U.K. Prime Minister recognising the Australian group of Code Breakers as part of the famous Bletchley Park Intelligence Interceptors.

Ever humble, Gordon never talked up or big noted himself, but the wonderful men and women of Central Bureau have been credited in playing a key role in helping to bring the war to an end much sooner than it would have been without their involvement. Most recently, Central Bureau was honoured with an official grant from the Defence Force – further recognition of their outstanding contribution to our country.

Gordon returned home from the war, completed his University degree and then his Diploma in Education to become a Teacher.

As a young bachelor, Gordon loved and cared for many children in his family including taking them up to Noosa on holidays. He built a very special and ongoing bond with his much loved niece Noelene, who adores him, and considers him to be her second Dad.

Teaching was how I met my lovely husband when I was appointed to the Correspondence School where he was the Deputy Principal. We married in January 1969. I already had two small sons whom Gordon immediately adopted and considered legal and wholeheartedly his true sons. Eight years later we welcomed our daughter and sister to the family. Gordon was a most wonderful father – one of the earliest to take paternity leave and care for Katy as a baby for six months, whilst I returned to work.

Tributes have flooded in for Gordon and almost all praise his gentleness, loving, caring and compassionate nature. He had very high moral values which never varied. As a husband and father he is unrivalled - at least in our eyes.

Gordon was keen member of Ku-Ring-Gai West Probus Club for 20 years.

Fishing was Gordon's favourite past-time and the best place to do this was in his favourite place in the world – Noosa. This is where he will return to in a few months' time.

Gordon adored his three children. Phillip and his wife, Jackie with their four children, Eric, Heidi, Zoe & Ryan, and Great Grandchildren, Arya and Korra. Dean and his wife, Cathryn – with Samy and Tim his Australian grandchildren; and of course Katy, his adored daughter and her husband Chris, his wonderful fishing buddy.

The final days for Gordon were heartbreakingly painful. We are now so glad that he may rest in peace.

Farewell my beloved. Take with you my love forever. Your Wife, Sue.

HELEN KENNY

21 March, 1921 – 6 June, 2019

Helen Kenny (nee Frizell), journalist, former literary editor of the Sydney Morning Herald, and Publicity Officer of our Association, died in Sydney on 6 June 2019, aged 98.

From Meriden School Helen continued to the University of Sydney just as war broke out.

Helen studied Latin, Anthropology, History and English. All the younger men were at war and so the professors were old. The students called them "retreads." Helen particularly admired the anthropology lecturer Prof Henderson, who, despite being "tottery in his tattered green gown," gave lectures on Pacific history she found fascinating.

Helen was keen to contribute to the war effort and joined the Australian Women's Army Service in 1942. She was drafted into the Central Bureau of Intelligence Corps, Australia's version of GCHQ and Bletchley Park. She was sent to Brisbane where she became one of the 'garage girls', working as a cypher operator in the garage attached to a stately home at 21 Henry St Ascot. The friendships she made were life-long and well treasured.

Even up until her death Helen wrote and edited Newsletter for the Central Bureau (CB) and contributed to many oral histories and books. In 2009 Helen, and all CB members received a Bletchley Park medal from the UK Government for their service.

In 1946, after her discharge from the army, Helen joined The Australian Women's Weekly as their first cadet and worked her way up. While at the Weekly she covered the 1954 Royal Tour and the 1956 Melbourne Olympics, and was part of the magazine's all women team in the Redex Trial around Australia.

Helen loved the experience of being in such a different environment. She was a city girl and this was an Australia she didn't know but was keen to explore.

Helen subsequently wrote many feature articles on Aboriginal communities in Central and Northern Australia. She had a particular interest in Aboriginal health, reporting on the high

rate of infant mortality . In 1969 she received the Australian Medical Association National Press Award for this reporting.

Helen covered some of the biggest stories of the time in Australia.

Helen moved to the Women's Day in 1960 and travelled widely, sometimes for work and other times for interest. Her tales of Moscow during the Cuban Missile Crisis and the beauty of Beirut and Baghdad now seem from another age. In 1965 she was part of a delegation of nine Asian and Pacific women journalists to the United States. In addition to visiting newspapers she was able to nominate her own areas for stories. During this trip she interviewed Coretta King (wife of Martin Luther King Jr) and also the wives of the astronauts at the home of Mrs Conrad. At that time the astronauts were in training for the first landing on the moon.

Helen's US trip also included meeting Lady Bird Johnson at the White House. Helen had just extracted tea bags from her handbag to add to a cup of hot water preferring this to the endless cups of coffee. As the President's wife suddenly appeared to shake her hand, Helen had to hurriedly place her teabag on a table, hoping no-one would see.

Helen joined the Sydney Morning Herald (SMH) in 1965 under editor John Douglas Pringle who encouraged her feature writing and gave her the news column (DATA). She then became the SMH film reviewer and for a short two-week stint Helen even replaced the holidaying resident astrologer – requiring much riotous family consultation and resulting in reader accolades. However, proving nobody's perfect, in a 1977 review of Star Wars she notably wrote that the film had nothing going for it except that Chewbacca reminded her of an Australian terrier dog. Helen was assigned full time as literary editor (1976 – retirement in 1980) where she championed Australian writers including Ruth Park and Olga Masters. Helen married journalist Jack Kenny – Helen was 53 years of age and delighted in calling herself a 'child bride.'

After retirement she and Jack travelled extensively undertaking research for separate books on Australian history.

Helen was much loved by her sister Shirley Merchant (who died in 2018) and niece Sally and nephew James and their families. She was a devoted godmother and also had become a 'stepmother' to Jack's children Judith and John and 'nanny Helen' to their children and grandchildren. She encouraged all children to find pleasure in reading, writing and to learn about the world.

Helen was a generous and loyal friend, remaining close to those from childhood, the army and journalism. As she became very frail, these close relationships sustained her. She was a constant letter writer, often lamenting that this had been overtaken by technology.

Helen's Meriden school report card at the age of seven presciently said that she is "always interested and interesting". Nothing could be more true!

- Sally and James Gibson

