Entry type: Person
Entry ID: AWE0443

Palmer, Helen Gwynneth

(1917 - 1979)

Born	19170509, Kew Victoria Australia
Died	19790506, North Sydney New South Wales Australia
Occupation	Political activist, Teacher, Writer

Summary

The second daughter of Vance and Nettie (née Higgins) Palmer, Helen Palmer spent a year in London after being educated at Presbyterian Ladies' College (Melbourne) where she was dux in 1934. Returning to Melbourne she won a scholarship to the University of Melbourne and graduated with a BA and DipEd in 1939. She later obtained a B.Ed. (1952). From 1940 until 1942 she was a teacher in Victorian State schools.

Helen Palmer enlisted in the Women's Australian Auxiliary Air Force on 18 February 1942 and during her service worked in the education division. After the war she worked with the Commonwealth Office of Education (Sydney). In 1948 she returned to Melbourne teaching in private schools.

She made several trips to China and in 1953 published her observations in *An Australian Teacher in China.* Through the bi-monthly publication *Outlook* (1957-1970), Helen Palmer provided a forum for vigorous discussion of all issues which were part of a radical critique of Australian politics and society.

The author (with Jessie MacLeod) of *First Hundred Years* (1954) and *After the First Hundred Years* (1961), she also authored books on Australian literature, popular culture and history. Helen Palmer was also a prominent poet and balladist and is remembered for 'The Ballard of 1891,' that describes the shearers' strike.

Helen Palmer died on 6 May 1979.

Published resources

Resource
Trove, National Library of Australia, 2009

Resource Section
PALMER, HELEN GWYNNETH, Department of Veterans' Affairs, 2002,
http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/script/veteran.asp?ServiceID=R&VeteranID=1070100

Palmer, Helen Gwynneth (1917-1979), Gollan, Robin, 2006,
http://www.adb.online.anu.edu.au/biogs/A150652b.htm

Book Section
Helen Palmer, Keene, Judith, 1989

Book
Banjo' Paterson, Palmer, Helen G. (Helen Gwynneth), 1917-1979, [1966]

W.G. Spence and the rise of the trade unions, Palmer, Helen G. and MacLeod, Jessie, [1964]

Our sugar, Palmer, Helen G. (Helen Gwynneth), 1917-1979, 1949

Makers of the first hundred years, Palmer, Helen G. and MacLeod, Jessie, 1956

Beneath the Southern Cross, Palmer, Helen G. (Helen Gwynneth), 1917-1979, [1954]

After the first hundred years, Palmer, Helen G. and MacLeod, Jessie, [1961]

Fencing Australia, Palmer, Helen G. (Helen Gwynneth), 1917-1979, [1961]

Helen Palmer's outlook, Palmer, Helen G. (Helen Gwynneth), 1917-1979, 1982

The first hundred years, Palmer, Helen G. and MacLeod, Jessie, 1954

The first two hundred years, Palmer, Helen G. and MacLeod, Jessie, 1981

150 years, 150 stories: brief biographies of one hundred and fifty remarkable people associated with the University of Melbourne, Flesch, Juliet and McPhee, Peter, 2003

Sound recording
[Conversation with Helen Palmer], Berg, Hazel de (interviewer), 1974

Edited Book
Double Time: Women in Victoria - 150 Years, Lake, Marilyn and Kelly, Farley, 1985

200 Australian Women: A Redress Anthology, Radi, Heather, 1988,
https://webarchive.nla.gov.au/awa/20071105022623/http://pandora.nla.gov.au/pan/78644/20071105-1315/www.200australianwo

Archival resources

National Archives of Australia, National Office, Canberra
Helen Gwynneth Palmer - Volume 4

Helen Gwynneth Palmer - Volume 2

Helen G. Palmer - complaint re wharf officials

Applications for positions by Palmer, Helen Gwynneth Miss

AUTHOR Helen Gwynneth Palmer and Ronald James Grant Taylor : ADDRESS Kirribilli and Melbourne : TITLE OF WORK Prisoners' Country : TYPE OF WORK Dramatic

Helen Gwynneth Palmer - Volume 3

PALMER HELEN GWYNNETH : Service Number - 350207 : Date of birth - 09 May 1917 : Place of birth - KEW VIC : Place of enlistment - MELBOURNE : Next of Kin - PALMER VANCE

Helen Gwynneth Palmer - Volume 1

Australian War Memorial, Research Centre
[Department of Information - Broadcasting Division:] Talks by Helen Palmer (Sep 1943) [transcripts]

[Official History, 1914-18 War: Records of Charles E W Bean, Official Historian:]

In the outdoors, the Director WAAAF, Group Officer Clare Stevenson, and a WAAAF Wing Officer conversing with WAAAF officers who conducted a four-day bivouac.

National Library of Australia
[Biographical cuttings on Helen Palmer, writer and educationalist, containing one or more cuttings from newspapers or journals]

National Library of Australia, Manuscript Collection
Papers of Aileen and Helen Palmer [19--] [manuscript]

Papers of Helen Palmer, 1918-1996 [manuscript]

Papers of Aileen Palmer, 1935-1979 [manuscript]

Thesis and correspondence 1934-1967 [manuscript]

State Library of New South Wales
Audrey Blake - further papers, 1915-1998

Author Details
Anne Heywood

Created 6 February 2003
Last modified 29 October 2018

Digital resources

Title: In the outdoors
Type: Image
Date: 3 May, 2023