

Obituary

Isabel Gordon

August 30 1936

July 31 2016

*Now resting in
God's garden*



Isabel was born on the 30th August 1936 at Blyth Hospital, the youngest child of Henry and Myrtle Michael, she had three older siblings, Jean, Jim and Meg, she adored her loving family.

Isabel had a wonderful childhood, with much freedom - these days people would say their parents were a bit careless, but they didn't think of it in terms of careless, they just wanted their children to explore things for themselves and they did...

Isabel said, "I lived on the farm at Hilltown and loved it. I can't think of anybody who had a better childhood than we had. We were so loved and valued and given so much freedom. It was just a beautiful childhood..."

"We would get on our horses and on Saturdays (if dad didn't want us to muster sheep in the morning) we would go and visit our friends on horses - we had loads and loads of fun - Mum used to pretty much let us do whatever we wanted and we'd just report back at meal time."

Isabel went to Hilltown Primary School and when she left they only had 11 pupils and 7 grades, so there weren't enough people to have a team of anything - at the age of 12, she was enrolled at Methodist Ladies College in Adelaide as a boarder, this opened up a whole new world for her - it was so exciting to find that she could actually be in a team - because she hadn't had that chance before - there were 68 boarders.

Isabel said, "I had loads of friends there. They were all farm girls too pretty much and those friendships have lasted and we meet quite regularly."

Her sister Meg was included among Isabel's important friendships, Meg was such an exciting sister. Isabel said "You never knew what was coming up next. Meg made me do some hairy things, it's a wonder I survived, she was a dangerous sister, but I just adored her."

Isabel's eldest sister, Jean taught Meg and her music - Isabel loved music, but when it came to practicing, Meg would twiddle a few things on the piano and there was a window next door - she would pull up the window and escape - Meg was the clown, Isabel was the musician, Jean was like their second mother and Jim was very important because he was the only boy.

Because of her kind and friendly nature, Isabel developed and maintained many friendships - she

loved her friends and enjoyed a variety of activities throughout her life including church, tennis, painting, golf, garden club and particularly bridge - Isabel was an accomplished pianist and a very good bridge player (having been taught by the master, her mother, Chip). She was also a devout Christian and maintained a strong faith throughout her life.

Isabel married John Gordon at St Peter's Cathedral, London in 1960 and they honeymooned through continental Europe, returning via America - they settled on the family farm of Wahroonga where she raised three children and had many happy memories.

Isabel was trained as a mothercraft nurse and worked for a time at Torrens House. Later she worked as a library assistant at Wilderness School and Meningie Community Library. She was an avid reader - with her accumulated knowledge and sharp memory, she nearly always scored top marks in the Saturday Advertiser quiz.

Of all her accomplishments, she was most proud of her children - Jane, Diana and Mark and grand children - Sarah, Emma, Hannah, Sophie and Mary.

Isabel was always a devoted and loving mother and wife and her fondest memories were of times spent with her children.

Isabel said, "I remember in the May school holidays, it was always freezing cold and we would usually have had rain by then. We had a creek by Wahroonga where we lived and I remember three tots in their knee-high rubber boots with their buckets and their lines with bits of meat dangling on the end going yab-bying. It was great fun when that happened..."

"And they each had a motorbike strangely enough and they had wonderful times with their motorbikes, but half the time I was nearly scared out of my wits when I knew of some of the tracks they went on."

"We had a swimming pool, kids would come on Saturdays during the summer - kids would come on bikes and on horses. They were really happy times; everybody loved our swimming pool."

"I can remember that I used to make an enormous amount of cake on Friday before they would come, it was all really good fun."

"Another thing that I think the children really loved was the beach shack at Wallaroo - we used to go to Wallaroo and they all loved it there."

Although life wasn't always easy for Isabel, particularly in latter years, she always thought about others less fortunate and felt blessed for the life she had.

She concluded her conversation with Mary, saying: "I'm very grateful for my family - that's the first thing I'm grateful for... and the second thing I'm grateful for is 75 years of very good health - I have to remember that I had a pretty good run for a long time. I said that I'm so grateful for my family - that means my children and my grandchildren - I think that's probably all I want to say."

Extracts from a conversation between Isabel and her granddaughter Mary - presented as her eulogy by Ann and Rod Bailey, 5th August 2016 - edited for the Strathalbyn Garden Club

'Profile page' by Janet Jones.