



Home
Hill



Introduction

This eBook tells the story of the family of Joe and Enid Lyons and the lives they lived at Home Hill.

Each of the chapters explores an aspect of the history of the family and their experience living in this home, and places these stories within the context of the broader changes in Australian society over the last 100 years.

Visitors to the home can use this eBook to enhance and deepen their experience of the property, and as a point of departure for further investigation into the lives of the Lyons family.

Acknowledgments

This eBook was produced with financial support from the Tasmanian Community Fund.



Thanks to the staff and volunteers at Home Hill, and to Matt Smithies and the staff of The National Trust of Australia (Tasmania).



Thanks also to Foot and Playsted for their assistance in publishing the eBook. Particular thanks for the creativity and hard work of Colin King.



Finally, I would like to thank Sandra Whiteley and Nicquel Walker for their advice and assistance.

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Family history



The Shamrock Inn (later the Ship Inn and Bay View Hotel) built by Michael Lyons Junior.



The Lyons family crest



The Lyons' Cottage at Stanley.

Joe's Family

Joseph Lyons mother and father were both of Irish descent. His mother Ellen Carroll was born in County Kildare in Ireland, and his father Michael Lyons was born in Tasmania to recently migrated Irish parents. Their families were typical of the estimated two million people who were forced to leave Ireland in the 19th Century due to the catastrophic effects of the Great Famine that affected the country between 1845 and 1855. Up to one million people died in this period, one eighth of the total population, when devastating disease hit the potato harvest that provided up to 60% of the nation's total food needs. This led many to seek a new life in the young and expanding United States of America or to take the longer voyage to migrate to Australia.

Michael Henry Lyons was born in Stanley in 1845; just two weeks after his family had arrived in Tasmania from Ireland. It has been suggested that he was the first European child born in the Circular Head region. His parents were Michael and Bridget Lyons (nee Bourke) from County Cork in Ireland. Michael Senior migrated to Tasmania under contract with the Van Diemen's Land Company to manage the cattle property at Woolnorth on the North West Coast. He later entered the business of running hotels, eventually holding the licenses of two of Stanley's three hotels, including the Shamrock Inn (later the Bay View Hotel) which he built. Michael Junior started working as a farm hand on the

properties Michael Senior managed, and went on to have success for a time as a small businessman, notably managing the Stanley produce business of local landowner Henry Ford.

Ellen Carroll was born in Ireland to John and Catherine Carroll. John left County Kildare in 1849 seeking work in America, but died there before Catherine and their children could join him. Instead the Carroll women, Ellen, Catherine and sisters Ety and Mary, travelled to Tasmania under the sponsorship of John's brother Dennis Carroll. They sailed from Liverpool in England and arrived in Hobart on the 18th August 1857.

Michael Junior and Ellen met in Stanley and were married at St. Mary's Catholic Church, Stanley on the 7th September 1870. Together they raised eight children, Elwyn (1871-1913), Catherine (1873-1925), Arthur (1875-1916), John (born 1877), Joseph (1879-1939), Jude (1881-1959), Gert (born 1884) and Tom (1887-1958). Michael moved the family to Ulverstone in 1884 to operate his own successful business that combined the services of a butcher and a bakery.

This good fortune came to an end in dubious circumstances when Michael began to dream of race horses and the Melbourne Cup. The first of these dreams in 1884 correctly predicted the triumph of Tasmanian horse Malua. So when in 1886 (although some reports suggest it was 1887) a similar dream saw the horse Trenton win, Michael gathered all the families wealth and



Four of the Lyons brothers C.1900. Joe is standing on left.



A book given by Joe as prize while at Conara State School.



Teachers satchel.



A note of thanks presented to Joe when departing Pioneer State School.

travelled to Melbourne to meet his destiny. Unfortunately Trenton finished second and the Lyons family was plunged into financial and emotional crisis, an experience that would be formative for young Joe.

Young Joe

Joseph Aloysius Lyons was born on the 15th of September 1879 at the family home in Stanley, a four roomed cottage at 14 Alexander Terrace, the fifth born of eight children.

When the family moved to Ulverstone in 1884, Joe began attending the local state school before moving to St Joseph's Catholic School in 1886. As a result of his father's disastrous Melbourne Cup gamble, 9-year old Joe went out to work in a variety of odd jobs, from wood cutting to being a 'printer's devil' at The Coastal News, to raise whatever money he could for the family. Joe had continued his schooling intermittently during this period, but by the age of 12 a decision had to be made as to whether he should leave school permanently to work full time. Sensing the value of continuing his education, Joe's Aunts Letitia and Mary Carroll offered to pay for his keep and provide him with lodgings so that he could return to Stanley in 1891 and attend the state school there.

Joe excelled in his studies and came to the attention of the Stanley State School headmaster John Scott, who appointed him to the position of 'monitor student' –

a paid student teacher role. This position continued for several years, with Joe passing exams and increasing in seniority, until he turned 17 and requested of the Education Department that he be allowed to sit the final examinations six months ahead of schedule. He sat and passed the examination at the Charles Street State School in Launceston in December of 1897.

As a young teacher Joe was posted to small, remote country schools across Northern Tasmania, including at Irish Town near Stanley, Barrington in the North West and Conara in the Midlands, before eventually becoming head teacher at Smithton in 1905, and then at Pioneer in 1906. It was around this time that Joe began to be involved in the Workers Political League, and his unhappiness with working conditions and insufficient resources started to cause conflicts with the Education Department. He was also viewed with suspicion by some members of the community due to his outspoken political views, for at the time it was strictly forbidden for government teachers and public servants to have any political involvements.

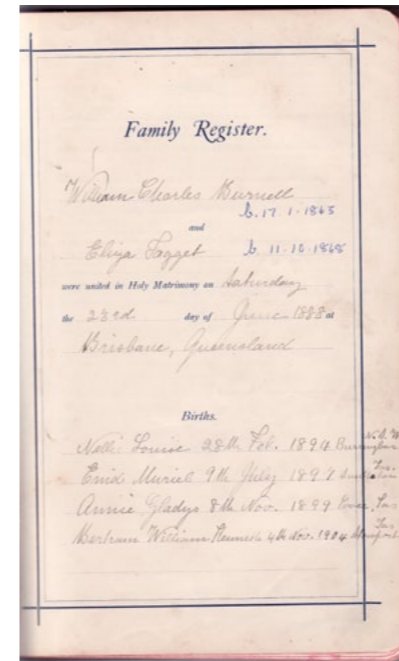
In 1906, Joe took the significant step of moving to Hobart to attend the newly founded Tasmanian Teachers College in order to formalise his qualifications. Being in Hobart broadened his political horizons and allowed him to make connections within the fledgling Tasmanian branch of the Labor Party. In time, Joe became a staunch and outspoken critic of Government policy,



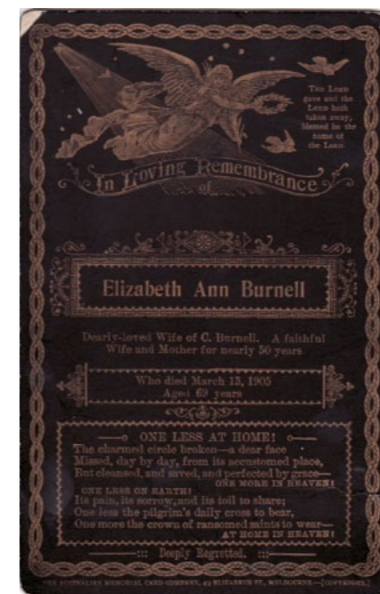
Joe as a teacher at Barrington State School in 1908.



Joe at the gate of the Stanley Cottage.



The Burnell 'family register' showing the marriage of William and Eliza, and the birth of their children.



The death notice of Elizabeth Ann Burnell, mother of William Burnell.



'Gran' Eliza Burnell's 60th birthday party.

showing a natural talent for public speaking in particular. On returning to teaching, Joe spent an unhappy year in Launceston at Glen Dhu State School, where he was overlooked for promotion in favour of teachers 'imported' from South Australia. Increasingly unhappy and feeling victimised by the Department, his teaching career ended with his resignation in 1909 in order to be free to run for State parliament at the coming elections.

Enid's Family

Enid Lyons parents were William Burnell and Eliza Taggett, both of British descent.

William Burnell was born in Devonshire, England in January 1863. At a young age his family moved to live in Cardiff, Wales. At the age of seventeen, William migrated to Australia by working as musician and steward on board a ship. Once he arrived in South Australia, he worked as a wood sawyer and was known for being a miracle worker when fixing a blunt saw. His parents in turn migrated to Northern Tasmania around 1880, running a small farm at Somerset.

Eliza Taggett traced her Heritage to Cornwall in the South of England. Her father Harry Taggett migrated to Australia and rival accounts of his life history paint a picture of a troubled character. Eliza was born on the 11th of October 1869 and experienced an early life of hardship, being required to help care for her siblings after the

death of her father in 1878. In the mid 1880's her mother found work catering to railway workers in the Maranoa district of Queensland, so the family relocated nearly 4000 kilometres north to the town of Angellala. It was here that Eliza found the acquaintance of young William Burnell.

William and Eliza married at Fortitude Valley in Brisbane on the 13th June 1888; he 26 years old, she 18. In pursuit of steady work the family moved south into New South Wales, then made the decision to move to Tasmania and nearer to William's parents. They lived first in Burnie, then at Stowport, before moving to the camp at Duck River in 1897, where Eliza carried the pregnancy of her second child, Enid Burrell.

Young Enid

Enid Muriel Burnell was born in 1897 at Leesville, Duck River in North West Tasmania to William and Eliza Burnell.

When she was just 3 years of age, the family returned to Stowport, just south of Burnie, where her father worked at the Gance Creek Mill. Enid was enchanted by her experience growing up in these forests, writing of 'sassafras, musk and wattle and a hundred flowering shrubs and vines' and finding 'a little clearing like a fairy balloon in an enchanted wood' lit by 'a soft green dimness as though the little clearing were a cavern under the sea'. The village was also frequently visited by travellers seeking work and fortune who would tell tales and open



Louisa Orchard, Grandmother of Enid Lyons.



Enid Burnell as Madame Sophie in the Country Girl in 1914, which opened in Burnie on the day she became engaged to Joe Lyons.



Enid Lyons, age 11



Nellie and Enid Burnell as schoolgirls in Burnie, C.1910

Enid's eyes to the world. One notable visitor she recalled was a Mr Beck from Denmark, who gave Enid her first book, a copy of Hans Christian Andersen's Fairy Tales.

Enid attended school in Stowport and was a diligent student, as well as taking particular interest in musical performance and the stage. Once the family moved to Cooe on the outskirts of Burnie, Enid and her sisters attended Burnie Public School. At the age of 13, when her mother became ill and spent several months recuperating in New South Wales, Enid was left to operate the family store, including filling in as post-mistress and harnessing the horses to pick up her father after work. Even at this early age she exhibited maturity and a fierce independent streak.

In 1912 Enid then followed her sister Nell's example and moved to Hobart to begin training at the Teacher Training College. The course of this training would normally consist of 5 years divided between study at the college and placement as a teacher assistant, followed by 3 years of bonded service with the Education Department. Her first placement saw her back in Burnie in 1914, where she excelled and was given additional responsibilities. This resulted in her being given a classroom consisting of 69 pupils. But by the end of this first year of teaching, Enid's life was set to take a different course, as she had begun to receive correspondence directly from the Minister of Education – one Mr Joseph Lyons.



Premier Joe Lyons as seen by cartoonist L. F. Reynolds.

Marriage and Children

Joe Lyons and Enid Burnell famously first met when Eliza Burnell took Enid, then aged 15, to visit Parliament House in Hobart in July of 1912. For the next two years they wrote to one another continuously, often daily and Joe sometimes more than once a day, as their relationship blossomed. At the time that Joe proposed to Enid, while walking together on the beach in Cooee at the end of 1914, he was a popular and successful member of the new Labor Government and she was part-way through her teacher training program.

The newly engaged couple were keen to confirm their vows of marriage, but there were some complications to be dealt with first. Not least of these was the age gap between the two, Joe being 35 and Enid just 17, which raised eyebrows in some quarters and came in for ridicule from a Hobart pantomime. There was also the question of their different religions, Joe being Catholic and Enid from a Methodist background. Enid's father William did not object to his daughter marrying a Catholic, but was concerned about waiting until July of 1915 when Enid would turn 18. But with the support of their family and close friends, the couple continued to plan for their wedding with great enthusiasm.

Joseph Lyons and Enid Burnell were married on the 28th of April, 1915 in a service at St. Brigid's Catholic Church in Wynyard. Joe was required to attend a Premier's



Dame Enid Lyons on her wedding day in 1915.



A Tea set and Tray given to Joe by his Parliamentary colleagues to celebrate his marriage to Enid.



Brendan Lyons' parliamentary portrait.



Kevin Lyons as Speaker of the Tasmanian parliament.

Conference in Sydney in May of 1915, so the couple organised their honeymoon around this, sailing first to Melbourne and then travelling by rail to Sydney. On return they began their married life together at their new home in Devonport, which would come to be known as Home Hill.

Together Joe and Enid had 12 children.

Their seventh child Garnet, who was the first and to this day only child born to a serving Premier of Tasmania, contracted pneumonia when just 10 months old and passed away.

Their sons Kevin and Brendan followed in the family tradition and became members of parliament, Kevin serving as Liberal member for Braddon from 1948 to 1972, and Brendan serving as Liberal member for Bass from 1982 to 1986.



The Lyons family in 1931.



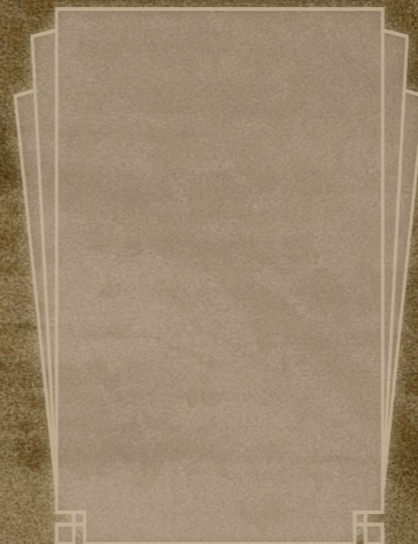
Gerald Desmond Lyons
Born 13th November 1916
Died August 22nd 2000



Sheila Mary Norma
Lacey (Lyons)
Born 29th September 1918
Died September 25th 2000



Enid Veronica
Austin (Lyons)
Born 18th November 1919
Died August 2nd 1988



Garnet Philip
Burnell Lyons
Born 8th October 1924
Died 5th August 1925



Brendan Aloysius Lyons
Born 17th June 1927
Died September 7th 2010



Barry Joseph Lyons
Born 30th July 1928
Died January 21st 2015



Kathleen Patricia
Gordon (Lyons)
Born 31st December 1920
Died July 22nd 2012



Moira Rose
Brady (Lyons)
Born 7th February 1922
Died July 27th 1991



Kevin Orchard Lyons
Born 7th February 1923
Died May 24th 2000



Rosemary Josephine
Mcgrath (Lyons)
Born 25th September 1929
Died February 27th 1999



Peter Julian Lyons
Born 20th September 1931



Janice Mary
Wotton (Lyons)
Born 25th October 1933



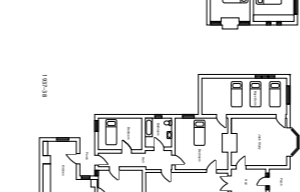
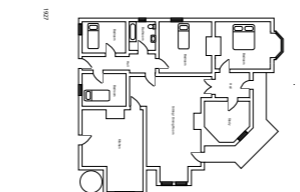
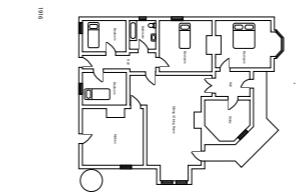
The House



An aerial view of Devonport in the 1940s. Home Hill is in the middle distance



The exterior of Home Hill in its original format.



As the Lyons family expanded, so did Home Hill.

Planning

The land that Home Hill stands on was originally purchased by Joe Lyons in 1915 with an eye towards providing some security for the family if his fledgling political career were to come to a premature end. The plot consisted of nine acres of land in total, five acres of which were an established apple orchard, and was located 1.5 miles (2.4 kilometres) from the centre of Devonport. Joe and Enid were already engaged when the purchase was made, so the property was transferred into Enid's name and Joe's father took over the running of the property.

Politics, as Joe had been careful to point out... was at best a chancy business and the five acres already planted with apple trees and rabbit proofed... offered us, in those early optimistic days of orcharding in the Mersey valley, some degree of security for the future.

Planning of the house began in earnest and, because architects were 'few and far between', it fell to the builder, a man 'of great competence and reliability', to present Enid with suggestions. The new home would need to accommodate not just the newlyweds but also Joe's father Michael and his three younger siblings Mary, Gert

and Tom. Eventually Enid chose a plan that had recently won a newspaper competition for best 'small house design'; a seven-room Federation-style weatherboard design. The house was founded upon a bluestone base that was built with materials quarried from the property, a source of pride for Enid. The total 'contract price' was agreed at £425.

Construction progressed at a steady rate until the frame had been erected when, Enid reports, 'all signs of activity ceased'. She became more concerned when workmen were moved to other buildings and began to feel that the house would never be finished. To reassure her doubts, the builder insisted that for all the wooden houses that he built the frame must be left to stand for four months so the timber would season and settle. Given the fine condition in which the house remains, the builder clearly stands vindicated. Once construction was complete the family moved in during September of 1916, just 6 weeks before the birth of Joe and Enid's first son Desmond.



Enid in the library at Home Hill, surrounded by an explosion of colour and design.



Enid the busy house wife hard at work.



Enid's Singer sewing machine at Home Hill.

Whilst the property was built to the standards of the day, the level of amenity is far from what we take for granted today. The house was lit with kerosene lamps in the 'big rooms' and with candles in the bedrooms. Drinking water was collected in galvanised tanks and from a well located in the garden. The toilet was located outside the house, but potties were kept under the bed for any night-time emergencies. Heating was provided from open wood fires in each of the rooms, and clothes were washed in a large wood-fire heated copper in the laundry.

The house continued to undergo significant changes over the years, as the size of the family grew and priorities shifted. A major set of additions occurred in 1935 that saw the original kitchen expanded into a larger kitchen and dining area, a dormitory style bedroom area added to the Western side, and an additional wing with two bedrooms and a bathroom to the Eastern side. The additions of 1937 saw a reconfiguration of sorts, with a separate kitchen and master bedroom at the rear of the property, the study shifted to old master bedroom, and the change to a dedicated dining room. The last major changes in the 1950's were brought on by the reduced need for bedroom space allowing for a dedicated pantry, library and relaxation room. This configuration endures to the current day.



Changing Styles

Along with the changes to the structure of the property, Dame Enid was always busy redecorating and modernising the interior décor of Home Hill. Enid had her own distinctive sense of style that changed over time and was influenced by the prevailing trends of Federation, Art Deco and Post-War styles. Examples of her personal touch can be seen in many places around the house.

Enid was also remarkably hands on when it came to decorating and maintaining the property. Having lived through the tough times of the Great Depression, she realised the benefit of saving money by making clothes for the family and decorations for the home. But there was also a distinctive streak of ingenuity and independence in her character. Her son Barry recalls his mother would enthusiastically turn her hand to any task that required attention, stating that 'you only got the tradesmen in when you were electrocuted'.

She also kept a remarkable collection of home decorating magazines on the Home Hill bookshelves, and these volumes undoubtedly inspired many of her hand made creations and decorating ideas. 'I have a secret vice' confessed Mrs Lyons, 'it is buying up home magazines'.

Federation (1901-1920)

Federation style is associated with onset of Australian Federation in 1901, and is sometimes seen as a localised take on



the prevailing Edwardian style in England. Federation style distinguished itself by the use of motifs derived from the Australian landscape, such as the use of Koalas and Kookaburras, and indigenous plants such as the waratah. Key components of the architecture of the time were the use of tall chimneys, verandas, and decorative timber features and metal fretwork. These can be seen in the exterior design of Home Hill in particular.

Art Deco (1920s to 1940s)

Art Deco was a highly influential visual design style that emerged in the period between the World Wars as an expression of social and cultural change. Art Deco saw itself as bold, technological and futuristic, while at the same time having a fascination with the luxury and glamour of ancient cultures that were being uncovered by archaeologists at the time. Key components of Art Deco style were bold and vivid colours, and the use of geometric forms often in symmetrical patterns. Common materials included steel and chrome, Bakelite and other plastics, and the use of stained glass.

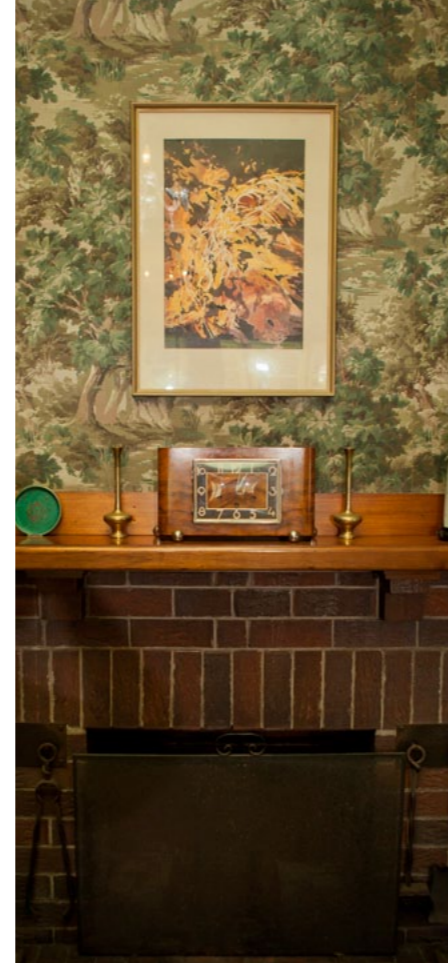
Post-War Style (1940s-1960s)

The post war period saw a radical change in architecture and design, reflecting both the limited availability of materials, and a sense of despair at the horrors of War. Also reflective of these global changes, the influence of a range of international styles began to filter into Australia, with American

and Continental European architectural styles becoming important. Distinctive of the style was more restrained and minimalist design, the use of mass produced materials such as sheet metals, wood and plastic, and more muted colour palettes.

Wallpaper

One of the most distinctive features of the interior design of Home Hill is the use of bold and colourful wall papers. The use of wallpaper rather than painted walls was a standard feature of Tasmanian homes until its use declined in the 1950's. That makes the wallpaper at Home Hill doubly significant as an historical time capsule, as the home is notable for being completely papered throughout.



The Tapestry wallpaper in the Library was manufactured by the English firm of Allan, Cockshut & Co from a design by Forrer of Paris. Although the wallpaper was designed in 1906, it was not hung at Home Hill until the early 1950s.



The spectacular embellishments on this wallpaper in a bedroom.

Enid loved wallpaper and paper hanging. She redesigned the layout of Home Hill so one could look from the entrance hall, through the sitting room to the library and dining room beyond. Everywhere one is confronted with bursts of brightly coloured and effusively patterned walls.

True to her do-it-yourself approach, Enid also enhanced some of the wallpapers that hang in the house by overpainting by hand. Her long-time acquaintance Faye Gardham recalls that 'in her own bedroom, finding the wallpaper colours a little pale for her liking, she painstakingly went over the whole room with watercolours, increasing the intensity of colour in each motif'.



The family called this room the 'Wedgewood' because the wallpaper, one off the British 'Lancastria' range, is 'reminiscent in both colour and design of the famous porcelain'.



The 'long view' through the key rooms of the house.

Ceilings

The ceilings of Home Hill are often as distinctive as the walls. Stamped metal ceilings were first manufactured in Australia in 1890 and became very popular during this period. In contrast to wallpapered ceilings they were easy to install, were hardy and durable, and both fire and dust proof.

Three of the main rooms from the original 1916 design are decorated with metal ceilings, featuring elaborate cornices and ceiling roses in a variety of patterns. These ceilings were all produced by the Australian manufacturing company Wunderlich, who had showrooms in both Launceston and Hobart.

However, the popularity of metal ceilings declined rapidly in the period between the First and Second World Wars as design styles and construction methods changed, and as a result they were not used in the post-1926 house extensions.

Some details of the pressed metal ceilings at Home Hill.



Flower arrangement with materials from the Home Hill garden.



The garden under construction at Home Hill.



The Garden

The garden played an integral part in life at Home Hill for the Lyons family. Every room in the house looks out onto a special part of the garden. Large seasonal arrangements of cut flowers including hydrangeas, dahlias, roses, belladonna lilies and chrysanthemums could always be found throughout the house and even the annual Christmas tree was taken from the grounds. Over the years there was a large vegetable garden, and chooks, ducks and a cow were kept by the family in the grounds.

Dame Enid collects flowers from the garden at Home Hill.



The garden at Home Hill is a cottage style, with exotic annual and perennial plants including lupins, campanulas, echiums and dahlias, with smaller shrubs such as hydrangeas and azaleas. Evergreen and deciduous trees, such as flowering cherries and almonds, were included to provide privacy and shade in summer, and larger evergreens were used for windbreaks. The lawn gardens and flagged paths were edged with stone sourced locally, and water features such as bird baths and a fishpond are dotted through the grounds. The garden is very much influenced by the cottage style gardens to be found in the United Kingdom, and Enid no doubt found inspiration in her travels.

Soon after the Second World War was declared in 1939, Dame Enid Lyons advised garden lovers to keep their gardens going and, by growing beautiful flowers, help to take their minds off the depressing subjects of the times. She believed that gardens could be an outlet for the stress and anxiety of those dark days. 'Gardening', she once said, 'brings heartsease'.



Dame Enid relaxes by the pond.



Politics



PASS THIS ON TO A FRIEND

ELECTION ESSENTIALS IN A NUTSHELL

Herein are condensed in a nutshell the main items of interest in the Election now being fought. The LYONS GOVERNMENT has put up an excellent performance, and we ask you, therefore, to

Return It to Office

AND

Keep the Prime Minister a Tasmanian

A FAIR DEAL ALL ROUND



A FAIR DEAL ALL ROUND

Vote **1** **LYONS, JOSEPH ALOYSIUS**

and U.A.O. Senate Candidates (Messrs. Cooper, Grant, Hayes, Hays, Judd, McEic) in order of your preference. You must vote for all the Candidates named on the ballot paper. Vote U.A.O. Candidates FIRST.

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The electoral boundaries at the 1909 Tasmanian election.

WILMOT.

Jonathan Best, of Deloraine, gentleman.
Henry Arthur Dumbleton, Devonport, investor.
Richard Charles Field, Westfield, grazier.
John Hope, Sheffield, farmer.
Jens August Jensen, Beauty Joint, orchardist.
Martin Kean, Gormanston, cordial manufacturer.
Walter Henry Lee, Longford, wheelwright.
Joseph Aloysius Lyons, Deloraine, school teacher.
Henry Murray, Latrobe, produce merchant.
John Newham Waterworth, Lindisfarne, optician.

They may be divided thus:—

Anti-Socialist.	Labour.
*Jonathan Best.	*J. A. Jensen.
H. A. Dumbleton.	M. Kean.
R. C. Field.	J. A. Lyons.
*John Hope.	Unclassified.
W. H. Lee.	N. Waterworth.
*H. Murray.	

The nominations and their classification in the other constituencies are as follow:—

List of candidates for Wilmot at the 1909 election. Joe is listed as a school teacher from Deloraine.

District of Wilmot.

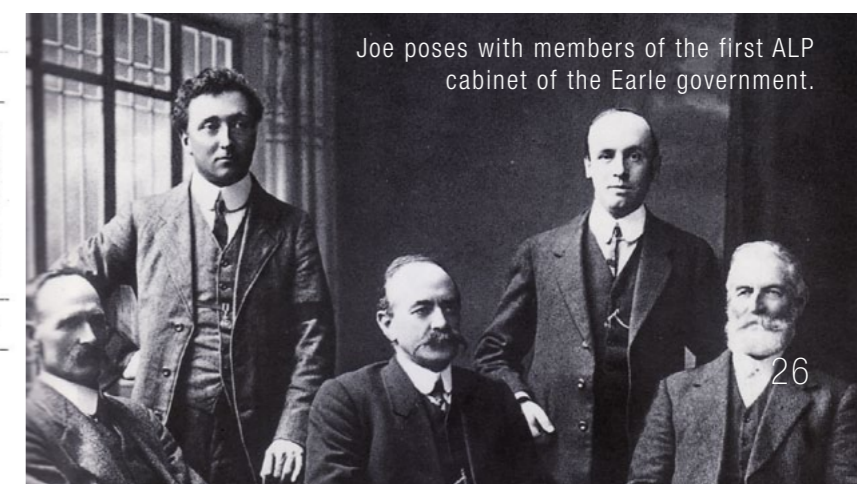
Name.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Best	935	690	595	609	615	550	23	2	7	5
Dumbleton	818	537	603	632	819	650	24	4	3	5
Field	930	899	692	619	555	585	21	9	4	5
Hope	1232	1302	1077	531	229	159	13	6	2	5
Jensen	1955	894	1087	132	58	88	13	19	7	36
Kean	599	1521	1370	118	63	80	11	28	38	15
Lee	822	750	902	618	512	488	27	4	7	1
Lyons	1079	1444	1329	93	76	65	21	29	32	12
Murray	572	885	972	848	625	395	14	6	7	1
Waterworth	221	141	236	590	198	254	141	21	6	9
	8863	8863	8863	4810	3740	3254	308	128	113	94

Results in Wilmot from the 1909 election. Joe is the third elected, second of the ALP candidates.

State Politics

The Lyons family became one of the great dynastic families of Australian politics, producing in Joe a State Premier and national Prime Minister, in Enid the first female politician to sit in the federal parliament, and in sons Kevin and Brendan two members of the Tasmanian state parliament. However, this long journey started from humble beginnings when Joe first stood for office at the Tasmanian state parliamentary election of 1909.

Prior to this election the Tasmanian voting system had been in a state of flux, with changing electorate boundaries, differing systems of voting, and limited voting rights due to property restrictions. The 1909 election saw the first implementation of the Hare-Clark system, which divided the state into multiple member electorates and used proportional representation to decide who would be elected. The system was introduced to restrict the growing power of the Australian Labor Party, which was the first mass political party in Australia.



Joe poses with members of the first ALP cabinet of the Earle government.

Prior to the emergence of the ALP, politics in Tasmania had been dominated by wealthy property owners, businessmen and industrialists, and was characterized by a 'politics of personality' rather than policy.

On resigning from his position with the Education Department, Joe Lyons prepared to run for office in the electorate of Wilmot. At the time, this electorate was based around the city of Devonport and stretched South towards the central midlands, and East through towns like Deloraine and Evandale, and parts of southern Launceston. Joe nominated as a candidate with the ALP and was listed as the second candidate on the electoral ballot; not ideal but a reasonable proposition to be elected.

Throughout the campaign Joe worked tirelessly, appearing at meetings and speaking to crowds of voters. He was notable for his youthful appearance, passion and energy in contrast to candidates who were typically older and more conservative. It was also noted that his audience featured more women voters than normal. In a time before compulsory voting, it was important to get voters to actually turn up on the day, so targeting the recently enfranchised female voting population was a bold strategy and reflected Joe's more progressive views on the role of women in public life.

The results of the 1909 Tasmanian state election were remarkable. Although the plan had been to shake up the parliament, the



John Earle, ALP premier of Tasmania from 1914-1916.



ALP candidates for the 1922 State election.



Labor Party advertisement from the unsuccessful 1928 State Election.



Joe pictured by famous Australian cartoonist Alec Gurney.



Joe with his first ALP cabinet as Premier of Tasmania.



The Tasmanian Executive Council of 1925.

result was to increase the representation of the ALP from 7 out of 35 members before the election to 12 out of 30 members afterwards, making the ALP the second largest party in the house. In the electorate of Wilmot a total of 8,863 ballots were cast from 9,164 eligible voters, and Joe Lyons managed to win the first preference of 1079 voters, putting him third in the count. Duly elected, he joined the other members of his party on the opposition benches in State Parliament.

Once in parliament Joe was an active member of the opposition, pursuing the government over Education issues in particular. In 1912, he was elected as the State President of the ALP and in January of 1914 was elected as deputy leader of the parliamentary party. In April of 1914, the ALP moved a successful 'no confidence' motion in the sitting government and formed government itself under John Earle, with Joe appointed as Treasurer, Minister for Education and Minister for Railways. This term of government lasted until April of 1916 when the party was defeated at an election. In November of that year, the Tasmanian Labor Party elected Joe Lyons to be its new Leader of the Opposition.

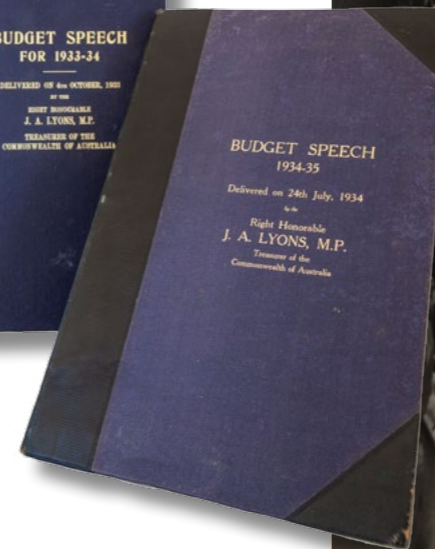
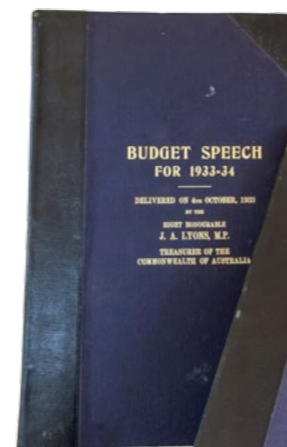
Apart from a failed attempt to run for federal politics in 1919, Joe dedicated all his energies to running an effective opposition in the state parliament. However, the performance of the ALP in elections of 1919 and 1922 was disastrous, with

the party losing seats. This changed in October of 1923 when Joe was approached to replace the sitting government due to instability and growing dissatisfaction with state finances. With the promise of support from non-ALP members, the Labor Party was able to form government with Joe serving as a 'unity candidate'; a reliable figure who could safely guide the state regardless of political affiliations.

The Lyons Labor government would hold office through to the end of the decade, being returned at the 1925 state election, before being defeated at the 1928 election. This period of governance showed remarkable stability during a period of great economic difficulties and political turmoil. The Lyons government was notable for putting the interests of the state of Tasmania first, rather than the interests of the Labor party. This marked Joe out as a very moderate and pragmatic leader, not one concerned with dogmatic policies or political ideologies. Although in 1909 Joe had referred to himself as a 'socialist', his views moderated over the years and he came to be described as 'a subdued radical ... searching for a 'third way' between capitalism and socialism'. When he did take an unrelenting stance it tended to be on moral issues; he staunchly opposed capital punishment and conscription, and refused to play a role in wartime recruitment.



Joe campaigning in Tasmania in 1931.



Federal Politics

The return to opposition in the Tasmanian parliament did not last for long, as Joe soon made the transition to federal politics at the 1929 federal election. Joe had previously run unsuccessfully for federal parliament in 1919 and had declined the opportunity to run in 1928. But dramatic events in Canberra changed his mind after the sitting Government of Stanley Bruce lost support in the house and had been forced to call an election. Joe campaigned as the federal Labor candidate for Wilmot at the 1929 election and was able to translate his existing popularity to win the seat for the party for the first time since Federation, collecting 53% of the vote.



The ALP won a large majority at the election and formed government under Joe Scullin, with Joe appointed as Postmaster General and Minister for Works and Railways. Upon moving to federal politics Joe was immediately popular within his party and the electorate. His typist recalled him as 'a pretty shrewd judge of people ... extraordinarily tolerant' but, as befitted a former teacher, with a 'horror of split infinitives'. However, the less congenial environment in the Federal parliament did not sit well with him, and he expressed disillusionment at the power of the 'party machines' that dominated from Sydney and Melbourne at the expense of public interest.

The 18 month period that followed was a tumultuous time in Australian politics, with ongoing government instability and the devastating effects of the Great Depression in the United States rippling through the Australian economy. Within 12 months Joe had been appointed as Acting Treasurer while Prime Minister Scullin travelled overseas, and was soon involved in a deep conflict within the party about the direction of economic policy. The government faced a crisis of shrinking revenues, a collapsing economy and Commonwealth Bonds to the value of £28 million due for redemption.

As acting Treasurer, Joe supported a policy of economic restraint and reducing expenditures, yet there was support within the party, led by Ted Theodore, for a more ambitious policy of credit expansion. Seeing this as economic suicide, Joe Lyons refused to follow this approach,



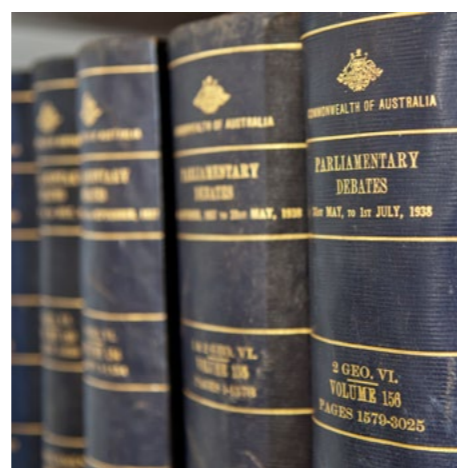
Joe developed a reputation as a brilliant public speaker.



Canberra was still a newly built town when Joe arrived in federal politics.



Campaigning for federal election in the 1930s



A collection of the parliamentary record Hansard at Home Hill.



The "one million pound" banknote used as a flyer at the 1931 election, painting the ALP as a danger to the national finances and recommending a vote for Joe.

threatening resignation and banking on the support of Prime Minister Scullin who was still overseas. The Lyons approach was implemented and is widely seen as crucial in protecting the Australian economy through this difficult period. However, on his return to Australia in 1931, Scullin made the decision to reappoint Ted Theodore as Treasurer. This lack of support so outraged Joe that he resigned from the Cabinet and later voted in a 'no confidence' motion against the Scullin Government.

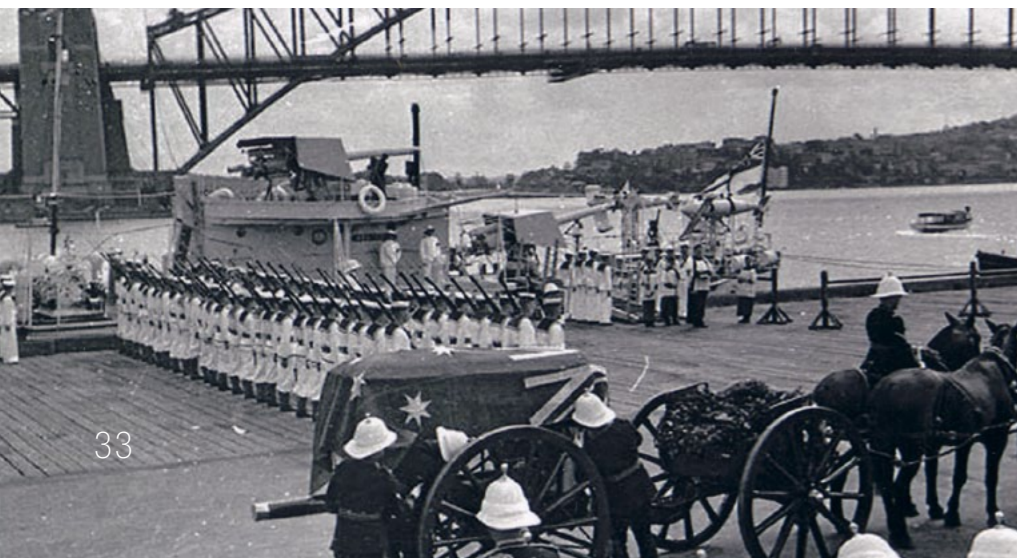
Joe Lyons resigned from membership of the Australian Labor Party on the 13th of March 1931 and immediately began a campaign of public meetings in cities all around the country to raise support for a new political force that the media dubbed 'The Group'. Alongside Joe this group included disillusioned former ALP members and other prominent journalists, businessmen and political figures. A political vacuum existed due to the collapse of Labor and the absence of a steady opposition, as the Nationalists party had also lost support, so Joe and his new group stepped into the breach.

On the 7th May 1931, 'Honest Joe' Lyons, as he had come to be dubbed by the press, announced the new United Australia Party in parliament and preparations began for a federal election in December of 1931. Campaigning on a platform of financial responsibility and prioritizing the interest of the 'common man', the UAP won a crushing victory in the election. The party secured 39 of the 75 seats, allowing Joe

to form a majority government without relying on minor parties for support. Joe Lyons was subsequently sworn into office as Prime Minister of Australia on the 6th of January 1932.

The period of the Lyons Government from 1932 until 1939 was remarkable for its stability and the popularity of the Prime Minister in the electorate, but behind the scenes within the UAP there was ongoing upheaval. The party won elections in 1934 and 1937 under Joe's leadership, but faced hostility at the state level from the government of Jack Lang in New South Wales. Inside the party there was agitation from many quarters, including former Prime Minister Stanley Bruce and a young Robert Menzies, who resigned as Deputy Leader of the UAP in 1939 amidst suspicion of a deal with Lyons for succession to the Prime Ministership.

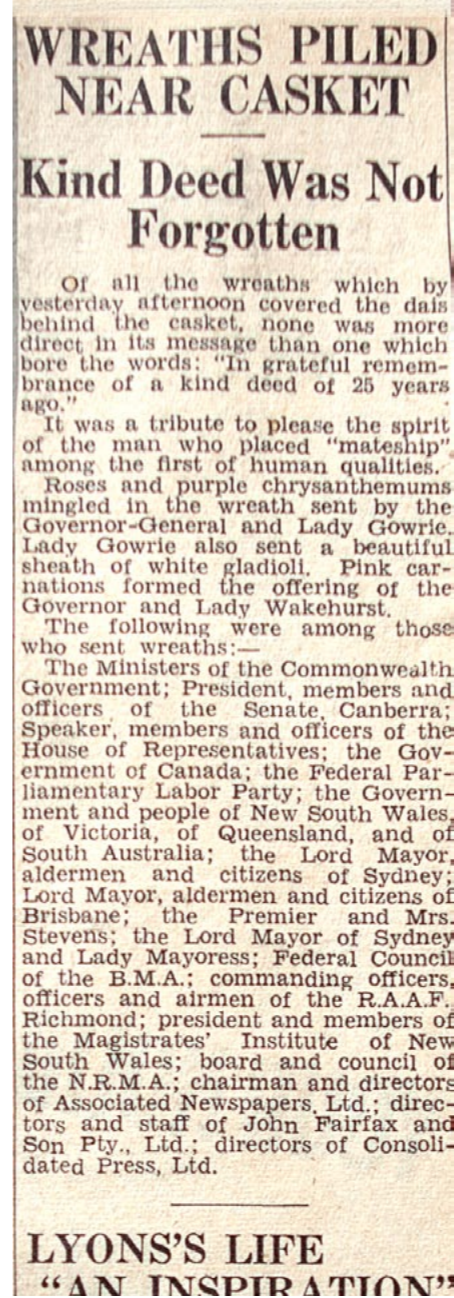
The end of the Lyons Government came in the tragic circumstances of Joe's sudden death on the 7th of April 1939. Due to concerns with his health, Joe and Enid had been considering the possibility of Joe resigning from the leadership of the UAP and returning to the backbenches.



Election flyer to re-elect the UAP Prime Minister.



The first ministry of the United Australia Party in 1932.



Stanley Bruce was sounded out as a potential replacement Prime Minister, and in October of 1938 Sir Earle Page was appointed acting Prime Minister so that Joe could take a leave of rest at home in Devonport. While in Melbourne for a meeting of the newly formed National Council in April 1931, the UAP organization insisted that Joe stay on as leader, a request he accepted with some reluctance.

On the return car trip to Canberra, just after picking up his son Kevin from school in Goulburn, Joe fell seriously ill and was immediately taken to St Vincent's Hospital in Sydney. His condition deteriorated and within 24 hours he had slipped into a coma. The sudden passing of Joe Lyons shocked the country as this was the first time an Australian Prime Minister had died in office. Earl Page would take over temporarily as Prime Minister and in Robert Menzies would return as leader of the UAP, however the party was voted from office in 1941.



The body of Joe Lyons lies in state at St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney in April 1939.

In many respects the instability within the UAP came from the image of Joe as an amiable and easy going type, as if he was somehow lacking the ruthlessness and steel required in politics. An earlier prime minister, Stanley Bruce once said that the three requirements for the post were having 'a hide like a rhinoceros, an overwhelming ambition and a mighty good conceit of himself' and that Joe Lyons had none of them.

For all these supposed weaknesses, the political career of Joe Lyons' was remarkable. From humble beginnings through to the highest office in the land, he was able to maintain his integrity of character and conduct politics with a decency that is often lacking. The secret of his success might be captured in this attitude; 'I have spoken, not as a financial genius, not as one who has any visionary scheme ... we must do what the ordinary citizen would do in similar circumstances'.



FUNERAL OF MR. LYONS



Enid Lyons arrives at Parliament house on her first day as the Member for Darwin.



Enid pictured with other female members of Federal Parliament.



The busy life of an MHR.



Enid stands with the members of the Menzies cabinet in 1949.

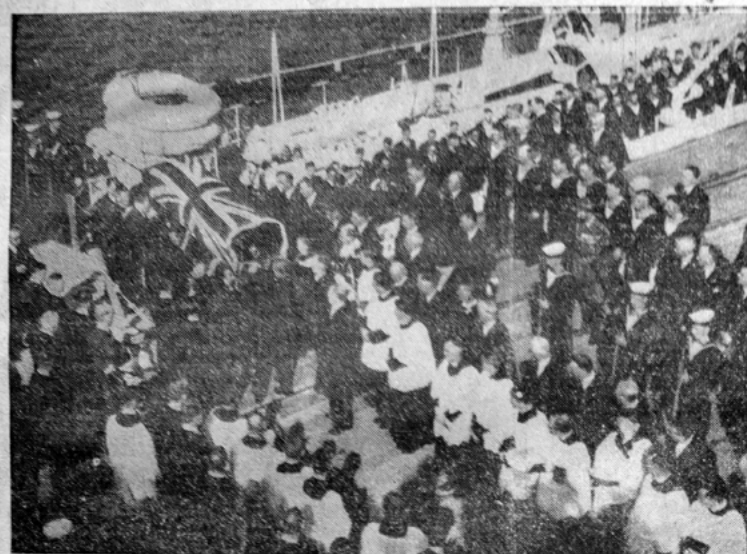
First Woman in Parliament

Dame Enid Lyons was politically engaged from an early age, but it took some prompting from Joe and others before she made the decision to run for parliament. Enid's mother Eliza had been active in the Workers Political League and transferred a strong political and social conscience to her daughters.

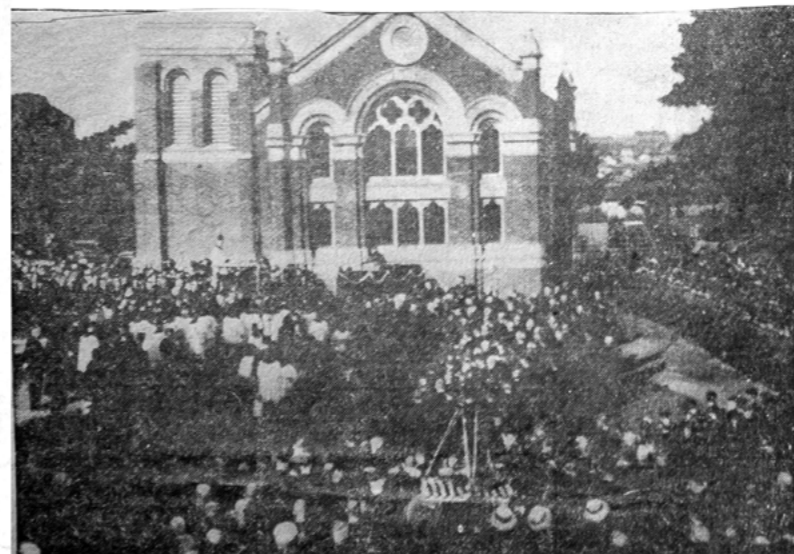
At the 1925 State election, both Eliza and Enid would stand as candidates for the ALP; Eliza in Darwin on the North West Coast and Enid in the seat of Denison based around Hobart. This was the first time that women had been allowed to stand for election to the Tasmanian parliament, and it was hoped their presence on the ballot would draw votes from another independent candidate named Edith Waterworth. In a remarkable result, Enid was twice as successful in votes won than Edith, but narrowly fell short of winning a seat in her own right.

Although her parliamentary aspirations were put on the backburner, Enid continued to play an important role supporting Joe's political career. She regularly travelled and attended campaign meetings with Joe, helping him connect with female voters in particular by engaging with them about issues of real significance in their lives. During this time she was also taking on the enormous responsibility of raising six children and holding down the fort back at Home Hill in Devonport.

MR. LYONS COMES HOME



A solemn moment yesterday as the coffin draped with the Union Jack, containing the remains of Mr. J. A. Lyons, was borne from the destroyer Vendetta at Devonport, Tasmania, the home town of the late Prime Minister. Then began the solemn funeral procession to the church of Our Lady of Lourdes. This picture was taken to Melbourne in a specially chartered airliner, picturegrammed to Sydney last night, and brought to Brisbane by air to-day.



The impressive scene at the funeral of the late Mr. J. A. Lyons in the grounds of the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes as Archbishop Simonds, of Hobart, delivered a panegyric. On the right is drawn up a military guard of honour. Taken to Melbourne in a specially-chartered airliner, the photograph was picturegrammed to Sydney and brought to Brisbane by air to-day.

Enid continued to support Joe when he made the transition to Federal Politics, although their increased separation and subsequent isolation from each other was a burden. Throughout this time she remained in close consultation with Joe about his political decisions, as they continued to write regularly to each other. She was in strong support of his decision to leave the ALP in 1931 and backed the decision to establish the UAP. The grander stage of federal election campaigns appealed to her and she appeared onstage with Joe at public meetings, as well as appearing at special women's meetings. Her success on the national stage is said to have caused Robert Menzies to complain of her stealing the limelight at UAP events.

After Joe's passing in 1939, Enid retired for a time from public life while dealing with illness and grief. It was the 1943 Federal Election that saw her return to the political stage, convinced by her daughter to run for their local seat of Darwin (now Braddon) where the local member was retiring. Standing as a UAP candidate Enid defeated the Labor candidate Eric Reece, who would later become premier of Tasmania. Her election to the federal parliament made her the first woman to sit in the House of Representatives. At the same election Dorothy Tangey was elected as a Labor Senator for Western Australia.

During her time in parliament she spoke frequently on a wide range of issues, notably campaigning for consideration on what would



Dame Enid in 1967.



be called 'women's issues' such as cost of living expenses, maternity services, widow's pensions and the legal rights of women in the workplace and society. However she was also quick to point out that she should not be restrained or restricted by her gender, stating in her maiden address to parliament that a woman in the public sphere must 'justify herself not as a woman, but as a citizen'.

In 1945 the UAP was replaced by the newly established Liberal Party of Australia, under the leadership of Robert Menzies. Despite their troubled history - Enid resented Menzies attempts to undermine Joe while a member of the UAP - he appointed her to positions of authority within the government. By making her vice-president of the executive council in 1949, she became the first woman to be a member of federal cabinet. However, Enid had ambitions of taking on a full ministry and she complained that the role she was given was patronizing and 'toothless'.

Enid was re-elected as the member for Darwin with increasing majorities at the 1946 and 1949 elections. However, she continued to struggle with ill health and began to find the demands placed on her as both a local member and a member of the cabinet to be difficult to manage. As a result, she resigned from the cabinet on the 7th March 1951 and did not contest the next election.

After taking time to recuperate, Enid continued to serve an active role in public

life. From 1951 until 1962 she was a commissioner of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, and continued to be involved in organisations such as the Australian Women's National League. In addition, she was active as an author and broadcaster, producing a regular radio program and writing a series of books. Her lifetime of achievement and public service was recognised on Australia Day in 1980 when she was appointed as a Dame of the Order of Australia.

Dame Enid Lyons passed away on the 2nd of September 1981 in Ulverstone not far from her home and survived by eleven children.



Presented to Joe Lyons when opening the new Launceston State High School in 1918. The old Launceston jail had been pulled down to allow building the new school.

Presented to Joe Lyons to mark the switching on of Hydro-electric power to North West Tasmania in 1927

Political Achievements

Joseph Lyons was Prime minister during a period of enormous change in Australia. During his time in State and Federal parliament he was oversaw the establishment of a number of key national institutions and major Nation-building works.

Beginning from his time as Premier of Tasmania, Joe achievements included opening the first State High School in Launceston and being involved in the extension of Railway and Hydro-Electric services.

During his term as Prime Minister, he introduced in 1932 the legislation that established the Australian Broadcasting Commission, and in 1933 set up the Commonwealth Grants Commission that distributes money to the States and endures to the present day.

He also saw the completion of a number of iconic projects such as the Sydney Harbour Bridge and the Shrine of Remembrance. He also unveiled projects such as the pioneers monument at Gundagai, the expansion of railway lines in South Australia, and the submarine cable linking Tasmania to mainland Australia by telephone in 1936.

His Government assisted in bringing automobile manufacturer General Motors to Australia, developed trade arrangements with Japan, and introduced measures to assist industry that would help lead Australia out of the Great Depression.



Table presented to Joe Lyons by Cane growers to mark the Sugar agreement Act of 1932.



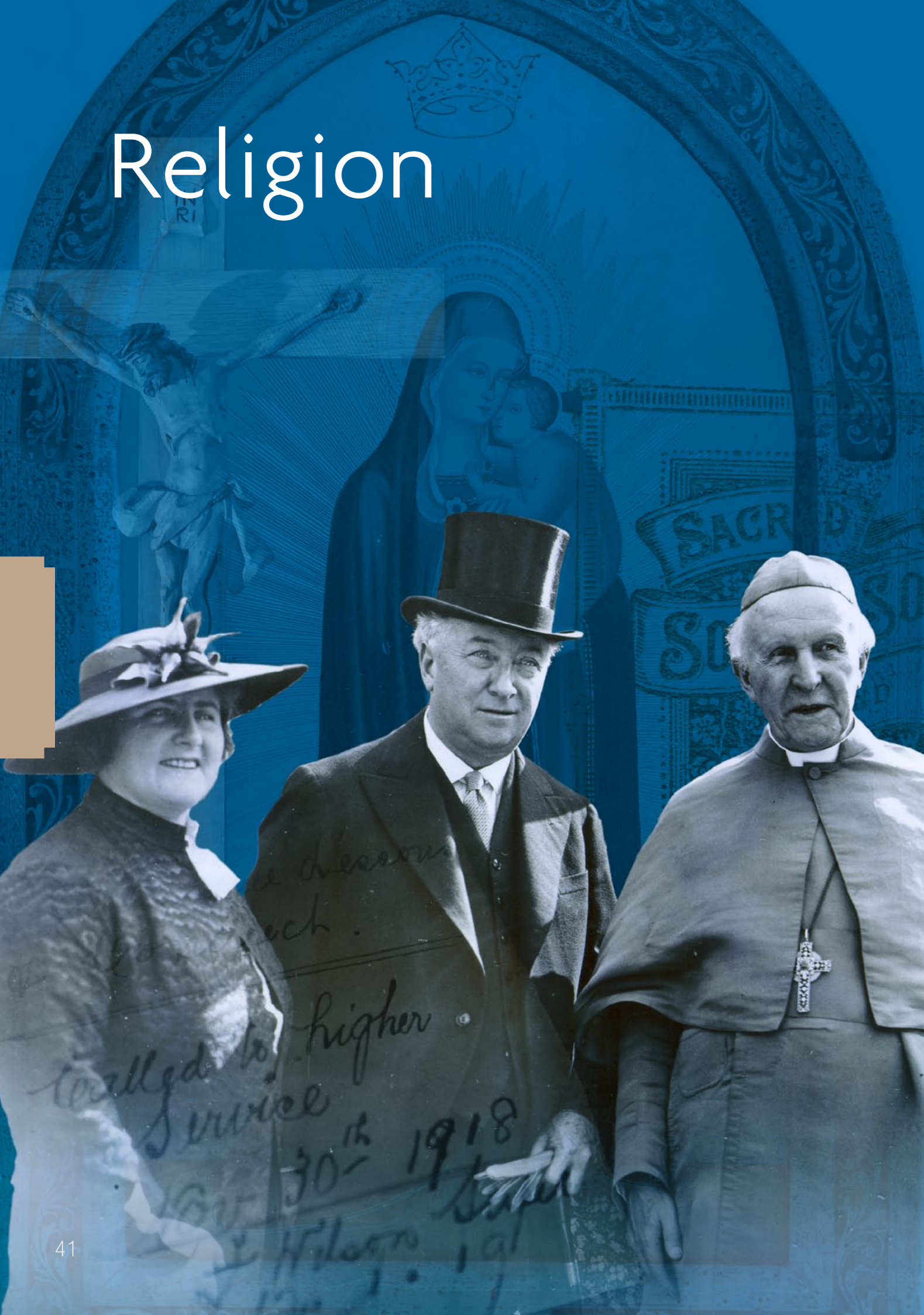
Presented to Joe Lyons in 1932 when he unveiled a monument to Pioneers five miles from Gundagai in New South Wales. The famous 'Dog on the Tuckerbox' monument has become an Australian icon.



Presented to Joe Lyons at the opening of the new General Motors Holden factory at Fisherman's Bend, Melbourne in 1936, at the time the largest car manufacturing plant in Australia.



Religion



Dame Enid wearing a Catholic cross.

Religious Life

Religion played a significant part in the lives of the members of the Lyons family, providing a source of faith and guidance, but also presenting complications and complexities. Joe and Enid were from different cultural and religious backgrounds, Irish Catholic and English Protestant, which reflected the religious divide that existed in early 20th Century Australia. The way that they negotiated their faith throughout their lives is therefore an important part of their story.



Dame Enid and Sheila Lyons at a convent ball in Burnie, 1954.

The role that religion plays in the life of Australians has changed dramatically over the last 100 years. Religious discrimination was widespread and significant during this period of time, ranging from Government policies such as the White Australia Policy, which restricted immigration on



The burgeoning Lyons family at the Lodge in 1937.

the basis of culture and religion, to restrictions on access to employment. It was not uncommon, for example, to see job vacancies advertised with the condition 'No Irish Need Apply' or 'No Catholics Need Apply' up until the 1960's.

To put the changes in statistics, in the 1911 Census 96% of respondents identified as Christian, with 38.4% Anglican and 22.4% Catholic, while just 0.4% of the population identified as non-religious. In contrast, at the 2011 census 22% of the population identified as having 'no religion' with the Christian population at 61%, of which 17.1% were Anglican and 25.3% Catholic.

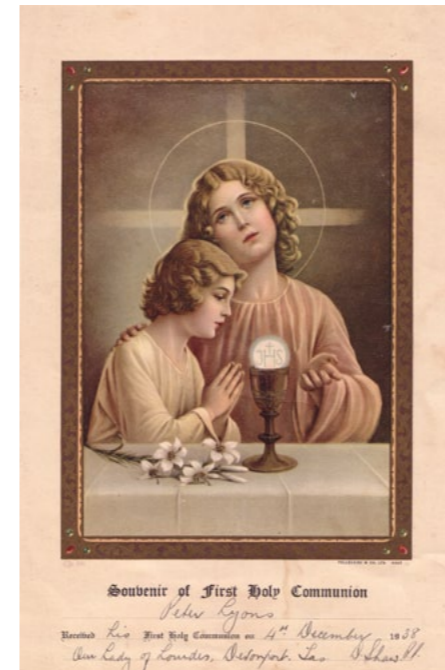
More important than these simple numbers are the qualitative changes that have occurred in religious life in Australia, as the community has become ethnically and culturally more diverse, and multi-culturalism has become an official policy of Government. We now expect that religion is a personal and private matter, that discrimination on the basis of ethnicity and religion should be illegal, and that all individuals should be free to participate to the full extent in the workplace, in politics and in society.



Enid Lyons' Sankey hymn book.



The Methodist bible of Bert Burnell.



A souvenir to mark Peter Lyons' first communion.



Joe with Brendan and Kevin at boarding school in Goulburn, 1938.

Both Joe Lyons and Enid Burnell were active church goers from an early age; Joe in the community at Stanley and later at convent school in Ulverstone, and Enid following her mother's involvement at the Methodist church in Burnie where she was a choir member and Sunday School Teacher.

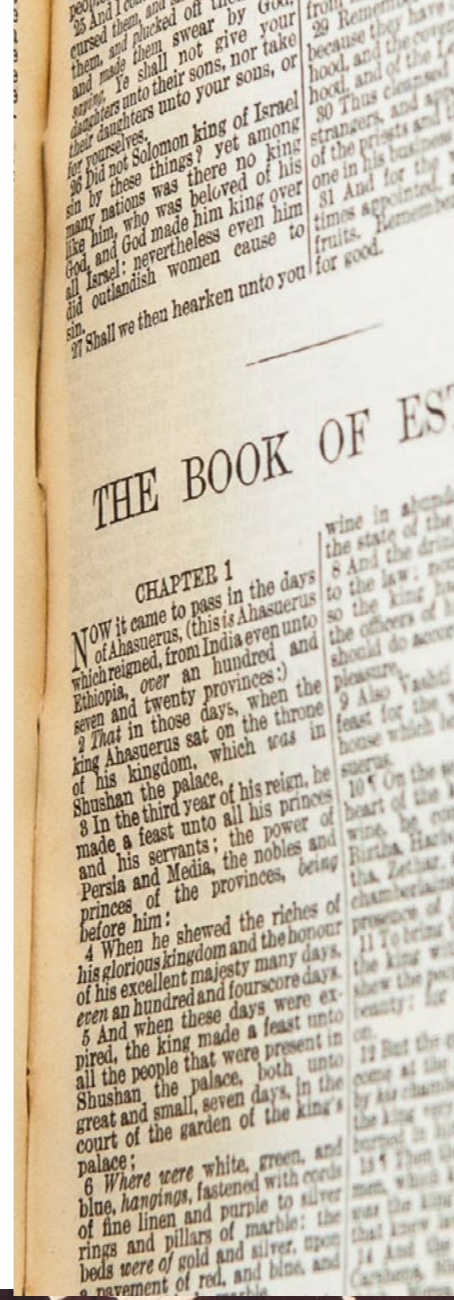
Although by the time of his marriage Joe claimed in a letter that he was 'not extremely religious', he still continued to attend church regularly, finding solace in St Francis's Church in Melbourne and attending Mass each Sunday at Manuka parish church when in Canberra. After her conversion to Catholicism, Enid was involved with Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church in Devonport, where she played as organist and is remembered for her love of the Methodist and Sankey hymn books.

The Lyons children were all brought up in the Catholic Church and attended a range of Catholic schools due to the changing circumstances and location of the family. The older children spent more time at boarding schools, with the boys attending St. Patricks College in Goulburn and Xavier College in Melbourne, and the girls attending Sacre Coeur School in Glen Iris, Melbourne. The younger siblings, the 'little ones' as Brendan Lyons described them, were able to attend St Christopher's Convent School in Canberra.

As devout Catholics, Joe and Enid also followed their church's teaching on contraception, believing that any method that prevented the development of an embryo

was sinful. Large families were the norm in Australia during the early 20th Century, and Joe and Enid's brood of 12 children was not considered unusually large. However, Dame Enid joked that Home Hill was the most densely populated part of Australia. In her maiden speech to the federal parliament, Dame Enid said:

'People began to think that the woman who became the mother of a family was something of a lunatic. About 30 years later she began to be regarded as a criminal lunatic. In the end the belief developed that it was a social virtue to produce fewer and fewer children. Where such a state of affairs exists, it is a matter of courage, even of hardihood to have a family of more than two or three'.



Tolerance and Conversion

When it was announced in 1915, the news of the impending marriage between Joseph Lyons and Enid Burnell caused quite a stir in the local community. Not only was the prominent Tasmanian politician more than twice Enid's age, there was the significant matter of their different religious beliefs – he was a Roman Catholic and she was of the protestant Methodist Church.

While Joe and Enid generally received support from their close friends and family members, in the wider Tasmanian community, which was predominantly Protestant, anti-Catholic feelings were more widely held. Enid's local Methodist minister pleaded with her to not give up the 'faith of your fathers' and her grandmother denounced the



with Barry, Brendan and Rosemary attracted her too; but she is rapturous about Barry.

Tell Nurse Clare that I hope she will come back via Bunnie, so that I may see her.

Apva don't know how much I long to see you all. I did not see the report of the win

At Virgil's soccer team had, but I did see the enclosed photo, which was published in the 'Mercury'. Perhaps you have seen it, if so I know you will like to see it. Wonder whether Brendan or Barry could pick Desmond out?

I am hoping to persuade Aunt Lill, and perhaps Nucle Mark to come over after Xmas. It would be a real joy to me. I wrote and told her that while
where in Melbourne would be the time to come

Love and blessing
be yours
your mother

Joe and Enid agonised over their religious differences, writing to each other frequently on the topic.

Roll over the icons above to read the letters in plain text.

marriage, accusing Enid's mother of allowing her child to sacrifice her beliefs and 'marry a Catholic for the sake of worldly ambition'.

Both Joe and Enid agonised over their religious differences, writing to each other frequently on the topic. It became clear to Enid that it was more practical for her as a Methodist to convert to Catholicism, as she could still marry in a Catholic church whereas a Catholic could not marry outside a Catholic ceremony. To better understand the 'teachings and tenets of the Catholic Church' Enid spent a month before her marriage consulting with Father TJ O'Donnell in Stanley.

During this time Enid wrestled with some of the aspects of Catholic belief; the doctrine of confession, the veneration of the blessed virgin, tales of moral abuse within the church, and public contempt for Catholic beliefs. However, she finally resolved herself to the belief that the Roman Catholic Church was the original church founded by Christ and as such one she wished to join. After her conversion, Enid remained a devoted practicing Catholic for the rest of her life.

Despite his Irish Catholic background, Joe Lyons prided himself on his religious tolerance and led by example in his political life. When visiting Ireland in 1935, a country split in two by hostility between Catholics and Protestants, Joe was the guest of honor at dinner in Dublin Castle. This coming together of otherwise hostile groups lead one newspaper to ask 'What magic power has Mr. Lyons got that he can assemble Irish



The bible used to swear in Joe Lyons as Prime Minister in 1932.



Joe and Enid with the Archbishop of Canterbury in England.



Joe meets the press in Canberra after being sworn in as Prime Minister, 1932.



Joe Lyons with Governor General Sir Isaac Isaacs and the Duke of Gloucester in Canberra, 1934.

political parties around a dinner table and make them fraternize?'

The darker side of this conflict would present itself later on the same tour when Joe was presented with the Freedom of the City of Edinburgh. On arriving at Usher Hall for the ceremony, Joe was met by crowds of raucous 'anti-pope' protestors and the ceremony was delayed until police could remove over thirty demonstrators.

A lighter hearted example of the prevailing anti-Catholic sentiment met Joe when he arrived in London that same year. At dinner with the Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, the fiercely anti-Catholic Lord Craigavon, Joe was asked whether he had 'many Catholics in Australia?' When Joe replied that he did, Craigavon was heard to have said 'Watch 'em Lyons, watch 'em. They breed like bloody rabbits'. We can only imagine his embarrassment when he learnt of Joe and Enid's family of eleven.

Joe Lyons also took great pride from the circumstances surrounding his swearing in to the position of Prime Minister in January 1932. The occasion at Government House in Canberra was presided over by then Governor General Sir Isaac Isaacs, who was both the first Australian-born and first Jewish person to hold the office. The bible that was used in the ceremony was kept as a memento by Joe and served as a representation of Australia's religious tolerance and democracy - a Protestant bible used to swear in a Catholic Prime Minister by a Jewish Governor General.

Religion at Home Hill

Religious imagery and artifacts can be seen throughout the house at Home Hill, reflecting the great significance that religious faith played in the lives of Joe and Enid Lyons.



This carved wooden cross hangs in Dame Enid's bedroom.



Wooden Nativity in Library.



Plaster statue of Jesus with children in Muriel's bedroom

Lladro porcelain statue of nuns on mantelpiece.

Family Pursuits



The Lyons fire brigade spring into action.

One benefit of being a member of a large family is never worrying about finding a playmate. The images here show the children of the Lyons family engaged in play at Home Hill, at their home in Melbourne, and at the Lodge in Canberra.



Barry turning two garden chairs into a fighter plane.



Barrie and Peter with a microphone built from Meccano-style pieces.



Transfixed by a spinning top.



Butter wouldn't melt in these mouths waiting impatiently for cake.



Dolls in the garden at Home Hill.



Janice enjoys a family picnic at the beach.

Joe Lyons had been a keen sportsman at a young age, playing cricket, football and tennis as a schoolboy and having some success at athletics. However, he was forced to abandon these endeavors, particularly after the automobile accident of 1926. Enid reported that Joe 'rarely talked of his early exploits' from which she concluded his talents must have been modest.

Enid also recalls a curious tale that occurred in 1912 when Joe was staying overnight in the town of Tunnack, having travelled there with two other members of a parliamentary committee. The next day players from Mount Seymour, Tunnack's fierce local rivals, arrived for a football match but were three short of a full team. When hearing of the guests staying in town the captain saw an opportunity and asked 'Do any of you fellows play football?' Joe's colleague Frank Green replied 'I think we can fill the gaps if you can get us the togs'. According to Enid, the standard of local football in those days was lamentably low, so Joe and his colleagues helped Mount Seymour to a crushing win over Tunnack. Upset locals expressed their unhappiness at the performance of the 'ring-ins', and so the members of the parliamentary committee 'ingloriously departed from the village'.

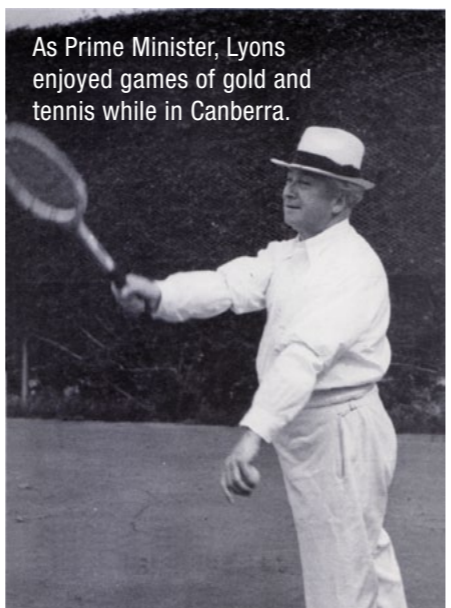
Joe continued to have a keen interest in community sports and frequently patronized and supported such events. He was a regular attendee at the annual Christmas Carnival series of cycling, running and wood chopping events held on the North



Joe and Brendan Lyons at the Latrobe Carnival on Boxing Day 1930.



Joe meets Jim Foster, World Champion Axeman and uncle of David Foster, at the Ulverstone Carnival in 1937.



As Prime Minister, Lyons enjoyed games of gold and tennis while in Canberra.



Joe and some of his children on the tennis court at The Lodge. From left to right; Enid; Moira; Sheila; Kathleen; Kevin and Brendan.



The silver water jug that Joe purchased as a trophy for the Burnie Wheel.

HUGE CROWD AT DEVONPORT Collingwood's System and Accuracy Geelong Forwards Fail

A classic exhibition of scientific football was given by the two teams, the Victorian League combination, Collingwood and Geelong, when they met in an exhibition game at Devonport under the auspices of the Devonport Sporting and Athletic Club on Saturday. Collingwood, maintaining practically the same pace throughout and playing with scientific accuracy and precision, won by 31 points. Geelong, showing its regular attacking system, and showing some of its high marking, Collingwood scored 10,000 and 11,000 points, and the latter team scored 2,000 and 3,000 points, the latter team having set a record for any football match in the southern part of the State.

The large crowd was treated to an exhibition of football tactics, Collingwood scoring along with easy and accurate marking, and Geelong often by about 200 yards in the second half. While the game was in progress, the players of both teams, but particularly Collingwood, did not kick to a player, but to the spot where a player should be.

The Prime Minister (Mr. J. A. Lyons) and the Hon. Mr. Lyons, the Chief Secretary (Mr. T. G. Alcock) and Mr. J. H. Horgan, president of the Devonport Sporting and Athletic Club, were among those present. The Prime Minister, who arrived in the morning to see the match, said that the game would be the first Australian game match he had seen this season. Mr. Alcock congratulated the Devonport Sporting and Athletic Club on its enterprise in staging the match.

The match was described to the crowd, through a microphone, by Mr. Wallace Sheppard of Melbourne.

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The game was described to the crowd, through a microphone, by Mr. Wallace Sheppard of Melbourne.

The first quarter was marked by lightning accurate and great accuracy on the forward line. Collingwood ran up a 10-point lead, and played delightful football. G. Cooney received an ovation when he kicked the first goal, but shortly after he missed an easy chance right in front. The ball went off the side of his feet. Collingwood consolidated its lead in the second quarter, and Cooney kicked three of the five goals for the team. Collingwood's work on the forward line in this quarter was delightful to watch, especially when Liberty scored a goal. The ball went between H. Collins, G. Ryan, K. Ryan, T. H. Kelly, and Liberty again, with half-time Collingwood leading 23-point advantage.

Geelong threw itself into the attack in the last half with more success than Collingwood, and during the third quarter Collingwood defended almost throughout. Collingwood's high marking, back-catch, and strong defence were almost unbreakable, and though Collingwood added only three points, Geelong did not improve its position materially. Geelong often went within an ace of equalizing the lead in the last quarter, which was played at a faster pace than the previous term. The play was always close, hard, and marked with individual brilliance. Several of the Geelong players kicked unmercifully and the failure of the forwards to finish off the forward attack was probably one of the main reasons why they failed to score. The Collingwood system, and understanding and precision within one point of the leaders, the Collingwood's first goal since the second quarter. They did not score for the second quarter for the first time since the first half. Collingwood did not score the last goal, which was a running one and kicked by the Geelong forwards.

Collingwood 24 12 12 12 12 = 84
Geelong 2 2 12 12 12 = 48

Enid, Woods, and Kye were not marked, long kicking and general straggling made them prominent all day. Boyer and Lyster were strong in defence, and H. Collins touched several objectives from the centre. Pannam, Mackenzie and Doherty often effectively opened up the game for Collingwood. Todd, Wood, and Cooney were also conspicuous.

Doherty and Miller shared the honors for Geelong. The latter was spectacular and effective on a flank, and Doherty was the best of the forwards. They were temperamental, and often shot the ball up to the forwards. Todd, Lyster, and Doherty were the best of the other. G. Cooney, H. Collins, G. Ryan, and G. Ryan were the best of the other. G. Cooney, H. Collins, G. Ryan, and G. Ryan were the best of the other.

Doherty (Coll.) injured
During the last quarter two Collingwood players, Kye and Cooney, ran for a goal from different directions, and collided heavily. Cooney was carried off with a bruised left knee.

Joe and Enid attended the Devonport Oval in 1937 to see Collingwood and Geelong play in an exhibition match. Later that year the two teams met in the Grand Final, with Geelong winning by five goals.

West Coast of Tasmania. On one occasion he agreed to provide a trophy for the winner of the Burnie Wheel Race but, according to Brendan Lyons, the large silver water jug that he purchased was seized by Enid who claimed it was far too good for a bike race. Joe had to buy another smaller trophy to be presented to the Burnie Athletic Club.

The sporting pursuits of Brendan Lyons are also worthy of note, as he made headlines for a cricket career that endured for nearly 70 years. Brendan began playing for Xavier College in Melbourne in 1943 and 'officially' retired in 2003 after playing in more than 1000 games. His records playing around 800 games with the Old Launcestonians team show him scoring 13,868 runs with the bat, and taking 1279 wickets in 5326 overs of bowling. Retirement from the game obviously did not sit well, as an article in The Age from 2007 shows Brendan making a 'comeback' at age 80, taking part in a specially organised match as the most senior player in the self-proclaimed 'World's Oldest XI'.

In 1937 members of the English cricket team toured Australia. After being entertained by Joe Lyons at The Lodge, this signed cartoon was left as a memento.



Dame Enid Lyons was a keen performer from a young age. In fact, the very first meeting between Joe and Enid occurred in 1908 when she was asked to recite poetry for visitors to her mother's house in Burnie. Enid played the piano, sang in the church choir, acted in local theatre and wrote poems and articles for local newspapers. Newspaper reports show her performing in the 'recitation' section of the Burnie Carnival in 1908, and later writing poetry for the Victoria League Competitions when studying at Teacher Training College in Hobart. In later life her talents as an author and broadcaster flourished as she wrote four books, a steady stream of newspaper and magazine articles, and produced a regular radio program for broadcast.



The 1915 Queen Carnival was held in Hobart to raise money for war relief organisations including the Red Cross.



Artworks on the walls at Home Hill.

Joe Lyons was by contrast a less active participant in cultural life, but was an avid reader and enjoyed attending performances and shows. In addition, both he and Enid were active patrons of the arts in their local community, regularly attending performances and supporting events such as the Devonport Eisteddfod.

The large library in Home Hill is evidence of the family's love of reading, and the walls are hung with a wide variety of art produced by up and coming young Australian artists.



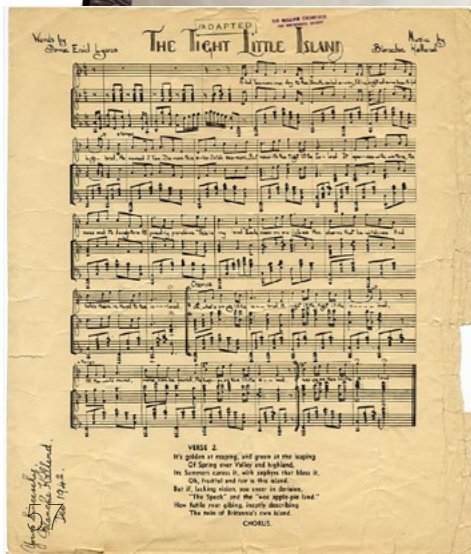
Enid Burnell as Madame Sophie in *The Country Girl* in 1914, which opened in Burnie on the day she became engaged to Joe Lyons.



Sections of the library at Home Hill.



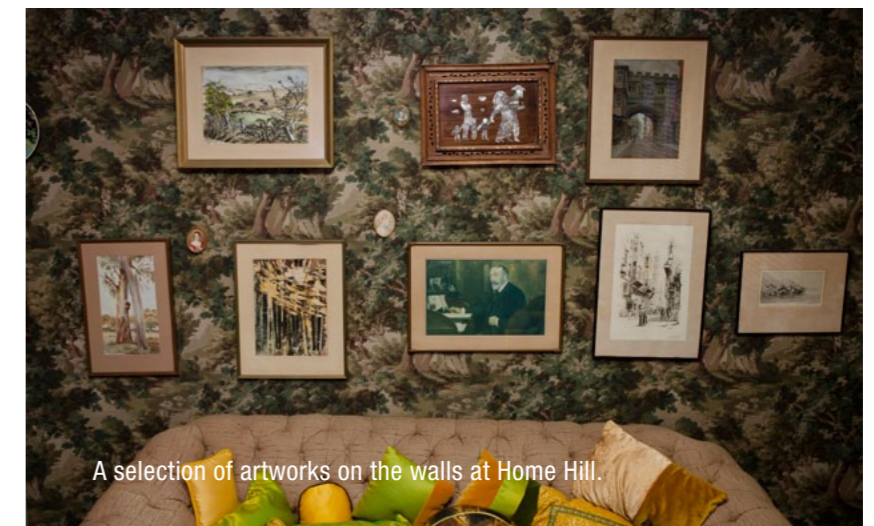
Enid was named 'Queen of the Service' and her 'crowning ceremony' was described as 'one of the most brilliant spectacles of the... carnival'.



A song written in 1942 by Blanche Kelland for which Enid Lyons wrote the words.



Lyons children in costume at the Devonport Eisteddfod.



A selection of artworks on the walls at Home Hill.

Communication



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON 9th July 1935

Dear Barry
This is a message
from the house of
the President of America
who is like a king
in his country.
Love
Dad



Desk with writing implements and telephone at Home Hill.



Dame Enid always wrote in longhand with a pen and paper, and her personal assistant and secretary Francis Lane typed up many of her notes using this typewriter.



Joe at his writing desk in Canberra while Prime Minister.



The first airmail service within Australia occurred in this bi-plane in 1914.

Letter Writing

Before the widespread advent of the telephone, and long before the age of email and social media, the cheapest and easiest way to contact family and friends was by letters sent through the postal service. The letters sent by members of the Lyons family between 1849 and 1937 offer an insight into their close bonds and changing fortunes.

A national postal service was established in 1901 when Australia federated and the existing colonial services were combined. Postal services within Australia were originally carried out by the use of horse-drawn coach, but by 1924 these services were replaced by mail trucks. The first use of airmail within Australia occurred in 1914 when French stunt pilot Maurice Guillaux flew from Melbourne to Sydney in two days. Regular airmail services came into operation after 1921.

Regular international mail came by sea and would take many weeks to arrive. It wasn't until the 10th of December 1934 that the Duke of Gloucester, on a royal tour of Australia, launched the first regular airmail service between Great Britain and Australia. As Prime Minister, Joe Lyons attended the ceremony in Brisbane. This airmail service meant the journey each way took only 13 days. Airmail services between Australia and the United States of America began on the 20th April 1937.



Roll over the icons above to read the letters in plain text



A letter sent by Joe's father Michael Lyons to his cousin describing Joe attending the laying of the foundation stone for Canberra in 1918.

Roll over the icons above to read the letters in plain text



Joe and Enid wrote to each other every day when they were apart. Joe always kept Enid's letters in his coat pocket so he could read them as often as he wished. This tattered letter, written in 1918, was recently discovered behind a fireplace mantel in a house that Joe and Enid rented in Deloraine.



A letter sent by Joe to Allan Pybus describing the state of affairs in Canberra in 1931.



A letter sent to Enid from her mother Eliza in 1931.



Newsprint

The newspaper was the dominant mass-media format in the early parts of the 20th century, allowing an inexpensive and efficient way for news and events to be communicated to a mass audience. The format of newspapers at the turn of the 20th century was also much different from the modern example, with broadsheet paper and pages dominated by dense, small-font text.

The media landscape in this era was much more diverse than we now experience, with a much larger variety of daily and weekly newspapers being printed in Tasmania and across mainland Australia. On the North-West Coast of Tasmania there were a variety of publications, including *The Devon Herald* (1877-1889) and *The North West Post* (1887-1916), before a number of titles merged to launch *The Advocate* which was first published in 1919.

Although the dominance of newsprint media began to wane with the onset of wireless radio and then television, the ability of newspaper owners and editors to shape and influence public opinion has remained a key issue in political and public life. An important example that benefitted Joe Lyons was the support given to the UAP in the 1930's by media mogul Keith Murdoch, who declared him the leader 'Australia is seeking'. Newspapers therefore served people like Joe to both stay up to date and set the agenda for the future.



Joe catches up on the papers whilst campaigning in the 1930s.



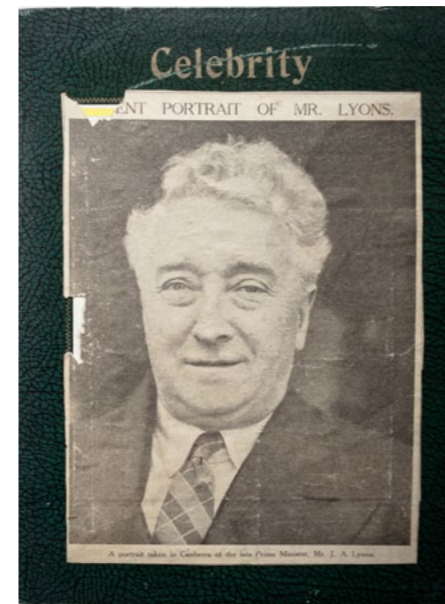
Satirical cartoons were a key feature of newspaper coverage of politics. Joe was frequently drawn as a cuddly Koala.



However the sentiment was not always friendly. This cartoon from *The Australian Worker* newspaper in 1931 claims Joe supports big business over the working man.



Joe on the cover of the famous *Time* Magazine, which did a feature story on the new Prime Minister in 1935.



Brendan Lyons kept a scrapbook with clippings of newspaper articles featuring his father.



A headline and memorial notice after Joe's passing in 1939.



Commemorative stamps produced by Australia Post to recognise the contribution of Joe (Australian Prime Ministers in 1975) and Enid (50th Anniversary of Women in Parliament in 1993). Also note how the price of stamps increasing from 10c to 45c in just 20 years.

Dame Enid became a prominent figure in the media landscape in her own right after her retirement from federal parliament. She had always been an avid reader and was encouraged to start contributing to newspaper and magazine articles. She became a regular contributor to popular woman's magazines such as the *Australian Woman's Weekly*, writing regular articles about cooking, home decorating, sewing, politics, literature and well as an 'agony aunt' column. She is also the author of four books, including the memoir *So We Take Comfort* and the anthology of articles and essays titled *The Old Haggis*.

Dame Enid appears in an Australian Women's Weekly feature article marking her 80th birthday in 1977.



Wireless Radio

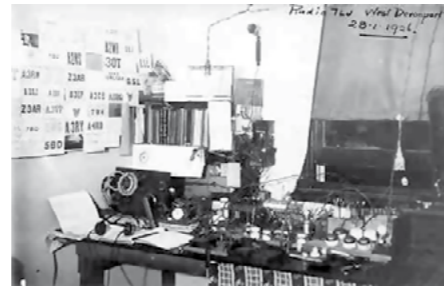
Before the Television became the box that people crowded around, the Wireless Radio was the dominant form of popular entertainment in Australian homes. Radio started out primarily as a means for communication at sea in order to aid navigation and assist in rescue. But by adapting to serve a range of functions, including use by the Royal Flying Doctors and linking remote students through the 'School of the Air', it began to increase its impact on all aspects of life.

In 1922 the Australian Government began issuing licenses to broadcast to the public, but upkeep was slow to begin with as the potential audience also needed to pay to buy a license to listen. Radio continued to grow and expand into news broadcasting, popular music and serialised dramas that eventually became the most popular programs. Soon the image of a family crouched around the radio set would become a common occurrence in Australian homes.

The Lyons family listening to the radio in 1931.



Joe prepares to address the nation from the lawn of Parliament in Canberra.



The radio station installed by the Jensen family at Home Hill in 1926.



Commemorative Pen set presented to Prime Minister Joseph Lyons when he opened Sydney radio Station 2UW in 1933.



AWA Hotpoint radiogram at Home Hill. It plays records and receives radio signals with pre-sets for the 11 Tasmanian radio stations that operated at the time. It was presented to Enid by the ABC Staff Association in the 1950's when she was an ABC Commissioner.



A short wave radio service was installed at Home Hill by the Jensen family, who lived in the property between 1923 and 1928 when Joe was Tasmanian Premier and the Lyons family were in Hobart. Lionel Jensen used the service to operate a short wave amateur radio station, named 7LJ, from a room in Home Hill, and it was there that he received the first direct radio message between England and Tasmania.

One of the great achievements of Joe Lyons as Prime Minister was being responsible for the legislation that established the Australian Broadcasting Commission, which amalgamated 12 radio stations around the country, including 7ZL in Hobart, into a national broadcast network. ABC radio was a fairly staid and conservative organisation to begin with, with announcers only allowed on the air if they spoke in the most perfect 'King's English'. Yet it has continued to grow to become one of the most crucial and vibrant parts of Australian cultural life.

Joe took to radio broadcasting with great gusto and found it an effective electioneering tool as it would enable him to reach a vast and captive audience while he was Prime Minister. A special line was put into his study at Home Hill that allowed him to broadcast messages to the nation from the comfort of home.

After Joe passed away, Enid rented the line from the Post Master General so that she could broadcast her own radio show from home. This enabled her to share her strong and insightful views and complemented her

work writing for newspapers and magazines. In 1939 and 1940 she recorded a weekly 20 minute spot for the Macquarie Group of commercial radio stations, which included 7HO and 7LA in Tasmania. She would speak freely on topics ranging from her experience in London in the 1930's, to the rise of Hitler in Europe, to her tips for domestic life. She claimed however to 'exclude, of course, politics and religion'. Her payment for this work was 10 pounds per week.

Ten years ago, broadcasting was practically in its infancy. Wireless, generally, was left to experts on ships and to enthusiastic amateurs on shore. It was a fearsome affair of static and ear piercing noise. Now all that has changed. Today it is not such a difficult matter to hear London. With a comparatively inexpensive set, we sit in our drawing room after dinner at night, turn the dial, and lo! We listen to voices of our kinsmen across half the world.

Joe Lyons speaking at the opening of radio station 5PI in South Australia in 1932.



The handset that Joe used to make the first call across Bass Strait in 1936.

Telephone

The introduction of the mobile phone has put telephone services literally at our fingertips, with the vast majority of Australian adults and an increasingly large percentage of children owning a handset. Yet at the time when Joe and Enid Lyons married in 1915 the telephone was only 40 years old and landline phone services were rare. Phone calls were very expensive and few Tasmanians owned or had even used a telephone.



A more modern phone at Home Hill but still operator driven and without a dial.

In the early days of telephony all calls had to be connected manually by an operator through a local exchange. Exchanges were opened in Hobart and Launceston in 1883 (Hobart had 10 subscribers and Launceston had 35) but the two cities were not linked by telephone until 1903. In more remote parts of Tasmania reliable telephone services did not arrive until the 1950s.

Tasmania was not linked to the mainland Australian phone network until the 25th of March 1936 when Prime Minister Lyons opened the first submarine cable across Bass Strait. Joe took the first call on a Western Electric 'Candlestick' desk top phone set, which had a fixed mouth piece and a receiver on a cord. The phone has no facility for the user to dial a number because the operator at the local exchange would connect you to the number that you requested.



The telephone became a more important part of daily life, here taking an important position on Joe's desk in Canberra.

The telephone would become a more important part of life for the Lyons family, allowing Joe to perform some of the work of Government without the need to travel, and letting family members stay in touch more effectively despite the vast distances that often separated them.



A busy telephone exchange in Melbourne in the 1940s.

Movies and Television

The first Cinemas began to appear in Tasmania in the first decade of the 20th Century. The advent of 'moving pictures' was a marvel of the age, although the first films were of course silent and often consisted of news reels reporting on important events of the day. Silent films, projected by hand-driven machines, became popular in purpose built 'cinema palaces' such as the Princess Theatre in Launceston in 1911, the Palace in Hobart, and the North Hobart Picture Palace in 1913 (which now houses the State Cinema).

Talking movies began to appear in the 1920s and Tasmanians flocked to see them both in cinemas in the larger towns, or in village halls and RSL clubrooms in less populated areas. This added an even greater sense of community and special occasion to the proceedings.

Alongside the entertainment factor of a blockbuster movie, cinema played an important social function as for many years as the program would include a 5 to 10 minute newsreel that would screen before the main event. These newsreels included titles such as the *Australasian Gazette* (1913 – 1932), *Cinesound Review* (1931-1970) and *Fox Movietone News* (1929-1970). For the first time, Australian audiences could watch footage of significant Australian and International sporting, cultural and political events. For Prime Minister Lyons this represented another avenue to connect with the voting public.

Movies were popular among the members of the Lyons family as well. Barry Lyon recalls a story from their time in Canberra when Prime



In 1935 Joe and Enid travelled on the SS Mariposa when returning from the United States of America. On board Joe met child movie star Shirley Temple and the two posed together for this photo.



Joe preparing to record an address to the nation for a newsreel while Prime Minister.



A satirical cartoon produced after a member of parliament appeared in a 'talkie' picture that depicts Prime Ministers as movie stars. Joe is in the middle with Earl Page as the duo 'Laurel Page and Hardy Lyons'.



Enid as Queen of the Service, with nine-year-old Errol Flynn as pageboy.



An 'His Master's Voice' television at Home Hill.



The cast of the ABC television show *Bellbird*.



Johnny O'Keefe performs on *Six O'Clock Rock* on ABC television in 1959.

Minister Joe arranged for them, along with staff from the Lodge, to travel to the cinema to watch famous Tasmanian movie star Errol Flynn in the 1935 movie *Captain Blood*.

Television transmissions did not reach Tasmania until March 1960 when the first test signal was broadcast. The first two stations were in the south of the state, with TVT6 opening in May 1960 and the ABC soon after launching Channel 2. In the north of the state people had to erect enormous aerials in the attempt to tune into transmissions from Melbourne. In 1962, TNT9 opened the first channel based in Launceston, and produced a number of popular programmes including *Quiz Quest*, the *Sunday Sports Club* and *Teen Beat*. During those early years of television, more TV sets were sold per person in Tasmania than anywhere else in the country.

As the years went by television had a dramatic effect on family life, as people began to sit silently glued to the TV screen instead of talking around the dining table. Just like today, people had their favourite programmes which were hard to miss. Dame Enid Lyons particularly loved the program *Bellbird*, which screened on weeknights in a 15 minute slot before the 7pm news. The show ran for 10 years and followed the lives of people living in a small regional town in Victoria. Dame Enid said it was like 'inviting old friends into her home'.

However, the effects of TV were not always seen as a positive. Dame Enid is reported to have raised her concerns in parliament that the ABC's weekly *Six-O-Clock Rock* show, hosted by legendary rock and roll star Johnny 'Wild One' O'Keefe, might have a damaging effect on the moral fibre of the nation.



The essential tools of any experienced traveller – a well-worn set of suitcases at Home Hill.

Tyranny of Distance

In 1966, the famous Australian historian Geoffrey Blainey coined the phrase 'The Tyranny of Distance' to describe the effects on our national identity caused by the remoteness of Australia from other nations, and the vast distances that separated the different parts of the country.



The jet-set lifestyle of the Prime Minister meant lots of goodbyes.

Being an ambitious politician in a place like Tasmania presented significant difficulties for young Joe, whose electorate of Wilmot (now named Lyons in his honour) stretched from Devonport and Beaconsfield in the North all the way down to New Norfolk in the South.

In the contemporary world, where plane and car travel are a normal part of everyday life, it is difficult for us to appreciate the time and expense involved in something as simple as travelling to the state capital Hobart for a sitting of parliament. The move to federal politics and the need to travel regularly to Canberra presented additional strains and burdens for the entire family.



Checking the credentials before taking to the skies while campaigning.

As a result, both Joe and Enid needed always to make the most of changing transport technology to overcome the tyranny of distance in their travels across the State, the Nation and the World.

By Foot, Bike and Horse

Joe first ran for state parliament standing in the Division of Wilmot at the 1909 state election after resigning from the Education Department.

In these early days of his campaigning, walking and bicycling were the most effective ways to get from place to place so Joe could attend public meetings and doorknock voters. The famous photo reproduced here shows Joe riding his bike during the campaign, a choice he made for convenience but also, as Enid confirms, because it was the only form of transport he could then afford.

After the family established its base at Home Hill, Joe again had to take to foot-power to make the mile and a half journey into Devonport each week to catch the train to Hobart for parliamentary sittings. Later the family kept a horse at Home Hill to avoid the walk and make travel 'into town' that much easier.



A 1910 Napier 15 of a similar vintage to what Joe drove when a State politician.



Joe helps change a tire at the side of the road while campaigning in 1931.



Family car at *The Lodge* in Canberra.



Family car at Home Hill.

Road and Rail

The railway was the superhighway of mass transport during the first half of the 20th Century providing a regular, efficient and cost-effective travel service for the Australian public. Joe was intimately involved in the operation and expansion of railway services during this period, serving as the Minister for Railways from 1914 to 1916 in the State Labour Government, and as Minister for Works and Railways when elected to the Federal Parliament in 1929.

Although often a very quick and convenient way to get between major towns, the complexity of the railway system caused some problems for Joe getting to and from Devonport. When he was required to travel to Hobart for parliamentary sittings the rail journey took ten hours each way, not the best preparation for a busy week of politics. Frequently Joe would have to stay in the train overnight at the Western Junction rail yard (near Evandale) before resuming the trip to the North West Coast the next morning. The solution to this problem was to convince the family to relocate to a cottage in Deloraine in 1917, renting out Home Hill to a tenant in the meantime, so as to shorten the travel time to Hobart.

Travel by car was obviously a more flexible mode of transport, yet at the time automobiles were not commonly owned by private individuals. For example, in 1912 Joe was a member of a parliamentary committee investigating a proposal to

build a railway to the East Coast and had to travel on a fact finding mission. The remoteness of the destination meant the three committee members were granted use of a Government car, a Napier. In fact, this was the only official Government car, so it must always be 'treated with respect and used with immense circumspection'. When later serving as Premier, a group of local businessmen presented Joe with a Morris Oxford to assist him in his travels, as tight Government expenditures did not even extend to provision of official cars.

The benefits of travel by automobile also came with significant risks, as Joe found out in 1926 while Premier. He was travelling by road from Hobart to Launceston with three others when their car struck a train at a level crossing near Perth. Joe was thrown onto the gravel and badly injured his leg, while his colleague Mick O'Keefe later died from his injuries. It was many weeks before Joe was able to leave hospital, and his condition was so serious that a newspaper had written a draft obituary in anticipation of his death. After recovering from the accident, Joe was never again able to fully stretch or bend his knee.



Joe travels in style while Prime Minister.



ACCIDENT AT PERTH.
There will be widespread regret at the serious motor accident which occurred at Perth last evening, involving in its results the Premier (Mr. J. A. Lyons), the Speaker of the House of Assembly (Mr. M. O'Keefe), the general manager of the Hydro-Electric Department (Mr. H. A. Curtis), and the driver (Mr. A. Fulton) of the car in which the party were travelling from Hobart to Launceston. Mr. Lyons and Mr. Curtis, with Mr. G. G. Becker, M.H.A., were to commence a business trip through the North-Eastern districts of the state this morning, but all arrangements have had to be cancelled on account of the injuries received in the accident. Delay in the resumption of Parliament must necessarily result, and Government business will be held up pending the Premier's recovery. The facts regarding the actual occurrence were related by the Premier, and the accident appears to have been a singularly unfortunate one. The danger of level crossings is being emphasised with deadly frequency, but the same conditions appear to obtain everywhere and toll of life and limb goes on. Reports last night were to the effect that Mr. O'Keefe's case was probably the worst and there will be sincere sympathy for the popular member for Wilmot. The public of Tasmania will hope that there will be speedy recovery for the three gentlemen prominently associated with the public life of the state and for the driver who suffered with them in the mishap.



Enid and Sheila take to the skies.



Joe with Charles Ulm about to board the aircraft *Faith in Australia* while election campaigning.



Joe with TAA air hostesses in 1938.

Air Travel

The election of Joe Lyons to the federal parliament of Australia presented additional difficulties for the Lyons family. Although the family relocated to a house in Dandenong Road, Melbourne for a period of time, the frequent journeys to Canberra still required up to 36 hours of rail travel per visit. When travel by air became a reality in Australia, Joe was a fast adopter of the new technology for personal travel and to help revolutionise election campaigning.

The election campaign of 1934 saw Joe beginning to use air travel for the first time in Australian politicking. The plane was piloted by Charles Ulm, partner of the famous air travel pioneer Charles Kingsford Smith, and had the inimitable name 'Faith in Australia'. Joe used the plane to reach parts of the country that would otherwise be impossible to campaign in, and over the course of the campaign he was able to notch up 4000 miles (6,500 kilometres) of air travel. It also enabled Joe to return regularly to Melbourne to spend time with family, which was of particular importance as Enid experienced severe illness during that year.

One of the more novel uses of aircraft during the campaign was to assist in distributing campaign literature to remote electorates. A newspaper story in *The Advocate* reports on one operation to distribute 10,000 pamphlets across the North West Coast, describing the scene when 'circling over Devonport and leaving a wake of handbills, which looked from the

plane like a flock of pigeons as they gently descended'. This flight was also notable for a 'black menacing storm' that gave the plane a 'severe buffeting', yet was not enough to deter Sheila who declared afterwards that she 'never wished to travel... by sea again'.

Sheila developed a fascination with air travel and began to dream of becoming an Airline Hostess. The Daily Mercury reported in 1938 that the Prime Minister's daughter had applied to Australian National Airways, quoting her as declaring 'I am mad on the air and would much prefer the job of a hostess to work in an office'. Only two things stood in her way, needing to obtain the permission of her mother Enid (because Dad 'would say yes right away') and meeting the job requirements – that a hostess not weigh more than '8st. 7lb.' or 54 kilograms. Despite declaring 'I will have to diet', Sheila in 1939 took up a position as an 'Air Ambassadors' working in the publicity department of ANA in Melbourne.

Air travel also served as a saviour for Enid when she heard the news of Joe's ill health shortly before his death in 1939. She was at home in Devonport when Joe was taken to hospital with an undiagnosed illness, but sailing Bass Strait would be too slow and the only scheduled aircraft would depart Launceston before she could arrive. Her friend Tom Murray organised for a private plane from the Broken Hill mining company to fly her to Melbourne, and an overnight train saw her arrive in Sydney so that she and Joe were able to spend some final moments together before Joe passed.



Sheila working for Australian National Airways in 1939.

TO "SELL" AIR TRAVEL

Miss Sheila Lyons' New Job

Thrilled at the prospect of her work as "air ambassadress" for Australian National Airways, Miss Sheila Lyons was at the airport learning about her new duties a few hours after her arrival in Melbourne last week.

Miss Lyons will be attached to the publicity department of the company in Melbourne, and, as Miss Cynthia Langdon Parsons does in Adelaide, she will "sell" air travel to the women of Australia.

At the offices of A.N.A. in Flinders-street an office is in course of preparation, in which she will carry on some of her work. But most of it will be done outside the office, contact with women through women's clubs and societies, with a view to putting the advantages of air travel to women.

Miss Lyons is fully qualified for her position, as she is an enthusiastic and experienced air traveller. Asked how many times she had flown across Bass Strait, she laughed, and said that she once began to count, but the number got beyond her. She hopes that her work will include occasional flights to Tasmania as well as to other states.

"I think by air is the ideal way to travel," she said. "It is so clean and comfortable, and you never feel grubby as you do on other journeys."

Miss Lyons has lived in Melbourne before, when she and her brother Desmond and sister Kathleen had a flat at South Yarra. But this time she intends to board, in East Melbourne she hopes because it is conveniently near to the city and because she has always loved that suburb.

She is looking forward to the experience of living alone, although she knows she will miss her mother and family very much.

Mother Pleased

"Mother is pleased about my job," she said. "Of course she did not like my leaving home, but with a family like ours some of us must always go away."

Miss Lyons, who is not yet 21 years old, expects that she will spend a...



Joe arrives by sea in Melbourne, in December 1923, on his first visit to the mainland as Tasmanian Premier.



Travel to England was by sea. Here are Joe and Enid on the way to Europe in 1935.



A reflective moment for Joe and Enid aboard ship en route for the Silver Jubilee of King George V and Queen Mary in 1935.

Overseas Travel

International travel became a larger part of Joe and Enid's lives once Joe had taken on the position of Prime Minister. Transcontinental airflight was not an option at this time, so travel by sea remained the only way for Joe and Enid to move around the world.

Their first major overseas trip was in 1935 to attend the Jubilee Celebrations of King George V. Along with other members of the Government, including Robert Menzies, they sailed from Fremantle in Western Australia. After landing in Port Said, Egypt the journey continued by rail through Europe, including a stopover in Rome where Enid was stunned by the pomp and ceremony of life for the privileged in Fascist Italy. Once in England, Joe and Enid took part in the Jubilee celebrations, including riding in the royal procession and attending the Jubilee ceremony, and dining with the King and Queen at Buckingham Palace. They also visited Scotland and Ireland where, given Joe's Irish heritage, they were celebrated as guests of honour at a dinner at Dublin Castle.

The next leg of their journey was to Canada and the United States on a new luxury liner owned by the Italian Government named the Rex. Joe and Enid stayed at the White House in Washington D.C., as guests of President Roosevelt. The return trip began in Canada on the ship Niagara, but took a dramatic turn when it collided with another

vessel at sea. Both ships were able to limp back to port, but damage to the hull of the Niagara required alternative plans. So Joe and Enid travelled by rail to San Francisco in California where they boarded the SS Mariposa for the return voyage to Australia.

A second major overseas journey occurred in 1937 to attend the Coronation of King George VI and participate in the Imperial Conference of the Prime Ministers of the British Commonwealth. On this occasion, Joe was asked by the British Government to return to Italy to speak with Benito Mussolini, the fascist dictator, to try to smooth relationships between the two governments. This visit put Joe right at the centre of world events during the inevitable march towards the Second World War. With two major trips in two years, Joe attracted a label as something of jetsetter, which led him to joke that he must have joined the UAP in order to 'See the World'.

Homecoming - in August 1935, after six month overseas, Enid and Joe Lyons are welcomed back by daughters Enid and Kathleen (holding baby Janice) and son Peter.



Overseas travel also allowed opportunities to add to Enid's collection.



A presentation box given to Enid on the launch of the ship TSMV Port Townsville in 1935.



A Life of Honour



The 'Address of Welcome' from the Municipality of Deloraine presented to Joe on his return to Australia after attending the Coronation celebrations in London.



Dame Enid attending the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.



Dame Enid wearing her honorary medals.



The Order of Australia Medal presented to Dame Enid Lyons in 1980. The design at the centre consists of the Australian Coat of Arms in front of two sprigs of wattle, with the crown of St Edward above.

During their lives, Joe and Enid Lyons received many individual honours to recognise their outstanding record of service to the Australian community.

Many of these honours were bestowed from England because, until 1975, Australian citizens were honoured in the British Imperial Honours System, due to being a part of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

This is a sample of the many different awards that were presented to Joe and Enid by organisations locally, nationally and internationally.

Australian Honours

Dame of the Order of Australia

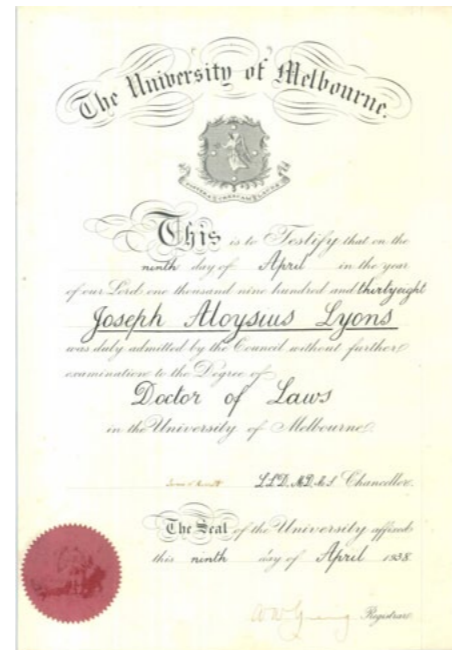
The Knight or Dame of the Order of Australia was introduced in 1976 to honour 'Extraordinary and Pre-eminent achievement and merit of the highest degree in service to Australia or to humanity at large'. This title was conferred on Dame Enid Lyons on Australia Day, 1980.

The honour was abolished by the Hawke Labor Government in 1983 and reinstated by Prime Minister Tony Abbott in 2013.

To date only three other women have been made Dames of the Order of Australia. They are Dame Alexandra Hasluck (author and social historian) in 1978, and both Dame Quentin Bryce (Governor General) and Dame Marie Bashir (Governor of NSW) in 2014.

Honour by Degree

In 1938 Joe was presented with an Honorary Doctorate of Law from the University of Melbourne. To recognise the achievements of worthy individuals, universities can give honorary degrees without the recipient having to take the normal course of lessons and study. Joe had originally studied law in Hobart while he was a member of the Tasmanian State parliament to prepare for a life after politics, but did not have the opportunity to complete his degree. The University of Melbourne therefore decided to recognise his contribution to Australian society.



The Honorary Doctorate of Laws presented to Joe in 1938.



Joe wearing the uniform of the Privy Council while celebrating the coronation of King George VI in 1937. The embroidered jacket is edged with pearls, and the cocked hat has ostrich feather plumes.



Dame Enid brought home several of these piece of fabric from the Coronation ceremony. They can be seen on the walls in the print below.



The Companion of Honour Medal depicts an oak tree with the Royal Arms and a mounted knight in armour. The inscription is 'In action faithful and in honour clear'.

International Honours

Privy Councillor

The Privy Council of the United Kingdom is a group of distinguished and experienced individuals whose role is to advise the Sovereign in carrying out their duties, and its members are given the title 'The Right Honourable'. Joseph Lyons was appointed a Privy Councillor of the United Kingdom in 1932 during the reign of King George V. Australia maintained a legal connection to the Privy Council until the passing of the Australia Act in 1986, after which the highest legal authority in the land was the High Court of Australia.

Companions of Honour

This Commonwealth of Nations award is for service of national importance. The Order consists of the Sovereign (King or Queen) and not more than 65 members, and was instituted on the 4th of June 1917. The honour was conferred on Joseph Lyons in 1936 as part of King Edward VIII's birthday honours.



A print of the Coronation of King George VI. Joe is dressed in uniform standing behind the King.

... what I most enjoyed about his performance was his appearance in the academic regalia. The cap – if cap it was – particularly delighted me. At one stage of the procession, the long tassel ornamenting the fantastically formless piece of headgear hung down over his nose. By what happy chance it eventually twisted to a more suitable position over his ear I never knew. Joe had not even noticed when it dangled before his eyes, so desperately self-conscious was he. He was never good with fancy dress'

(Dame Enid Lyons, So We Take Comfort)

Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire (GBE)

Enid Lyons was awarded the Dame Grand Cross of the Order of the British Empire (GBE) in the Coronation Honours of King George VI in 1937. This is the highest of the five classes of the Order of the British Empire and only 300 people can hold the rank of Knight or Dame Grand Cross at any one time. On accepting the award Enid said she believed it to be not just for her, but 'an honour conferred on Australian womanhood'.



Dame Enid Lyons wearing the medals of Dame Grand Cross of the British Empire when attending the ball to celebrate the Coronation of King George VI on the 13 May 1937.



Dame Enid's wardrobe at Home Hill still contains her GBE robes of rose pink satin, lined with pearl grey silk and fastened by a cordon of pearl grey silk with two rose pink and silver tassels. A gold collar, only worn with the robes on very special occasions, is returned on the death of their owners.



The eight-pointed Silver Star bears a crimson ring with the motto 'For God and the Empire', and the effigy of King George V and Queen Mary.



A gold casket presented to Joe when he received the Freedom of London in 1937.



A gilt casket and scroll presented to Joe when he received the Freedom of Aberdeen in 1937.



Joe wearing formal academic dress participates in the graduation ceremony at the University of Cambridge in 1937.

Freedom of Cities

The Freedom of a City is a special award given to a valued member of the local community or to visiting dignitary by the municipality. Joseph Lyons received the Freedom of Edinburgh (Scotland) in 1935 when visiting Britain for the Jubilee of George V, and later the Freedom of London and Aberdeen (Scotland) in 1937 when visiting for the Coronation of King George VI. Dame Enid was also given the Freedom of her hometown of Devonport when she was made Citizen of the Year in 1951.

Honoured at Cambridge

The first honorary university degree that Joseph Lyons received was from the University of Cambridge in England. During his trip to attend the Coronation, the university presented him with an honorary Doctorate in Law in 1937.



Visitor and Educator Information

Date	Names	Locations
30th June 1936	W. J. ...	Lauda Melbourne Lydney
1 July	...	Melbourne
3rd July 1936	Jack Hides Joan Grossman	Melbourne
July 1926	Mr & Mrs H.S. Jones W.E. ...	Melbourne
July 1936	Ray L. ...	Sth Australia Hobart
7th July 1936	Joyce B. ...	Sydney
7th July 1936	Mrs W. Ellis	Hobart
7th July 1936	Zola Birkman Frank Ellis	Western Australia Adelaide
9th July 1936	Sir G.F. and Lady Pearce N. Mitchell R.S. Wallace D.B. ... W.F. Cahill L. ...	Sydney Melbourne Bunbury Isalong Lydney
20th July 1936	J. Ninian Macdonald	Fort Augustus, Scotland
August 12th	C. ... Godfrey ... Walter S. ...	Canberra London Lansdown

Information for Visitors

Home Hill is located at 77 Middle Road in Devonport, Tasmania. The property is a short drive from the city centre or, for travellers coming to Devonport, just off the Middle Road exit from the Bass Highway.

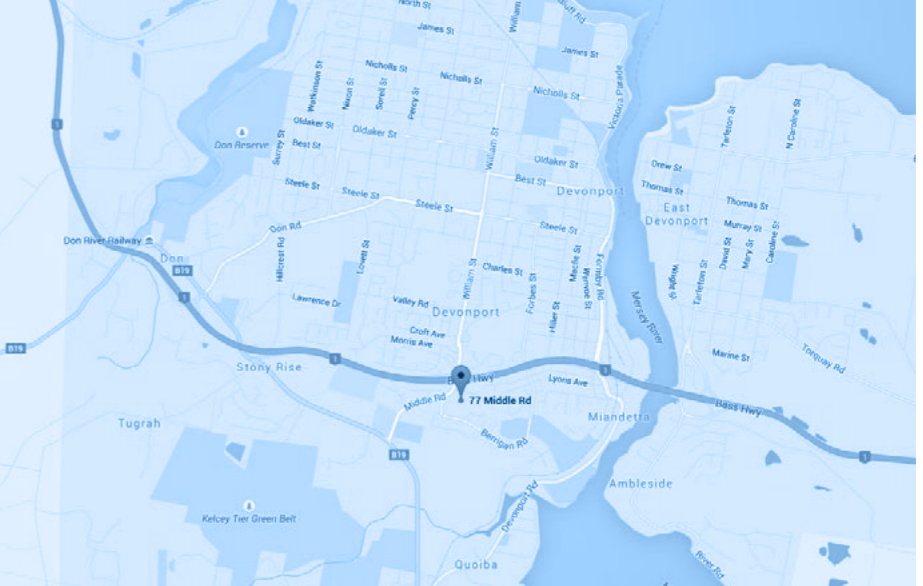
Regular guided tours of the home and grounds operate at 2pm each day from Wednesday to Sunday. Group tours of the property at other times, including school bookings, are available by appointment.

The property features ample off-street parking, extensive gardens, and accessible public toilets. Afternoon tea packages are also available but must be pre-booked.

The grounds of the home are available for weddings and other events.

For more information about the property, including entry fees and contact details, visit the National Trust website at <http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/tas/homehill>

Up to date information about the home, including upcoming community events, can be found at the Home Hill Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/LyonsCollection>



Information for Educators

Home Hill is a great resource for engaging students of all ages across a wide range of curriculum areas. A visit to the property at Home Hill provides a way for students to connect with the lives of the Lyons family and understand the important role that they played in our local and national community. It also allows students to see first-hand the dramatic changes in the way we live that have taken place over the last 100 years of Australian History.

To further assist educators a variety of sample lesson plans for Grades 1, 2 and 6 are available from the Home Hill website. These lessons plans were produced by pre-service teachers studying at the Cradle Coast Campus of the University of Tasmania. We would like to thank them, and their lecturer Dr Peter Brett, for their efforts. These lesson plans can be found at

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/tas/homehill>

The property has ample parking to accommodate busses, and the property and gardens are well maintained and easily accessible. The staff at Home Hill are also very experienced dealing with student groups of all ages. School bookings on weekdays can be accommodated by arrangement on the Home Hill website at

<http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/tas/homehill>
or by phone on (03) 6424 8055.

Resources and Further Reading

This eBook provides an introduction to the story of the Lyons family and presents a sample of the resources that are available for educators. Further resources that might be of interest for educators and visitors are listed below.

Books

Bird, David (2008). *J. A. Lyons, The Tame Tasmanian: Appeasement and Rearmament in Australia*. North Melbourne: Australian Scholarly Publishing.

Henderson, Anne (2008). *Enid Lyons: Leading Lady to a Nation*. North Melbourne: Pluto Press.

Henderson, Anne (2011). *Joseph Lyons: The Peoples Prime Minister*. Sydney: NewSouth.

Lyons, Brendan (ed.) (2007). *Home Hill: Some Reflections by Enid Lyons*. Launceston: National Trust of Australia (Tasmania).

Lyons, Brendan (2009). *They Loved Him to Death*. Self-published.

Lyons, Enid (1965). *So We Take Comfort*. London: Heinemann.

White, Kate (2000). *Joseph Lyons*. Melbourne: Black Inc.

Websites

Australian Dictionary of Biography

<http://adb.anu.edu.au/>

The ADB provides 'concise, informative and fascinating descriptions of the lives of significant and representative persons in Australian history' including Joe and Enid Lyons.

National Film and Sound Archive

<http://www.nfsa.gov.au/>

An archive of over 2 million pieces of audio-visual history, including film, television and audio recordings.

National Trust of Australia (Tasmania) on eHive

<https://ehive.com/account/4357>

The eHive site provides an electronic catalogue of items and artefacts from National Trust properties in Tasmania, including multimedia resources.

Trove

<http://trove.nla.gov.au/>

A National Library of Australia resource that allows the user to search holdings of libraries and museums across the country, with much of the content available to access online.