

## Frances Mary Anstey (15 February 1914 – 8 March 1995)

Frances Mary Anstey was the fifth of seven children born to Fanny Louisa and Charles John Anstey of Osmond Street (Old Tapleys Hill Road), Saint Leonards (Glenelg). She had an older sister Doris, 11 years her senior, and five brothers. Her father Charles was a builder throughout the Glenelg area.

Frances moved to Cabra from the Dominican Convent, High Street, Glenelg. In addition to the general school curriculum at Cabra Frances studied music and music theory, passing the Australian Music Examination Board examinations in fifth grade theory and sixth grade piano in 1927. Frances was also an enthusiastic and able tennis player. She played tennis in the Cabra B Grade school team which achieved the premiership two years in a row, in 1928 and 1929. After leaving school, she played tennis for Glenelg parish.

After Cabra, Frances' life continued to centre on family and the Glenelg Catholic parish as well as Sacred Heart College where her two younger brothers were still in attendance. She became involved as a volunteer working at fetes and on organising committees for dances and balls.

Frances also became a member of several societies. In 1932, aged 18, Frances became a member of the Cabra branch of the Catholic Women's League which sold badges to raise money for charitable causes, visited children in the Children's Hospital, and held bridge parties and other social activities as part of fund-raising. The league also held debates and read prepared essays, fulfilling its aim 'of uniting the young Catholic girls, and promoting religious, social, and intellectual interests among them.' During the depression in the 1930s the Cabra branch directed its fund-raising to helping the unemployed and assisting the nuns. Frances was involved with the League for nearly 20 years.

The Children of Mary, was another Catholic sodality for young women which aimed to foster in its members religious devotion and reverence towards the Virgin Mary. Members wore a distinctive blue cape and, around their neck, a miraculous medal suspended from a blue ribbon. In 1934 as a member of this group, Frances, age 20, was one of the volunteers who worked on the 'Fancy' stall at the Saint Mary's parish fete, held in St. Dominic's hall, Glenelg.

During WWII, and having four brothers in the Army, Frances worked as a volunteer for the Australian Comforts Fund in Glenelg from its inception in 1942 until its closure in December 1945.

As a member of Our Lady of Victories Red Cross Circle, Frances, was among several catholic women of Glenelg, who helped organise bridge and euchre parties at the Glenelg Town Hall in aid of Red Cross. She also assisted in the Red Cross markets which were held each week in Moseley Square, and held the role of convenor for over four years. Then in 1945 Frances as 'Miss Glenelg' was an entrant in the Miss Red Cross fund-raising competition. While she did not win, she did raise 4,304 pounds and seven shillings (\$8608).

Frances maintained her school friendships. In May 1939 she was bridesmaid to her school tennis team captain, Kathleen Clendinnen when she married Jeffrey Langdon.

In 1951 Frances married Francis Abbott. They lived at 21 Moseley Street, Glenelg. They did not have children. She survived her husband and died, aged 81, in 1995.