

AN ODE TO ENA

My Beloved Ena's gone, ascended thru' the clouds to heights of glory,

And I am left bereft, alone to tell the story.

T'was at Hat Head I met her, atop a light-house; on steep stairs she took my hand,

And never let go; 3 years and many letters later, we became one band.

Honeymoon in Tassie, midst greens and lakes, snow and timber twisted,

Stopped in Queenstown, Empire Hotel, whose staircase now heritage listed.

Snow on top of Mt. Wellington, cuddled together in Hadley's Hotel, chatted,

Flew home, Ena busy, I working on house, solitariness shattered;

Annette arrived!, followed by Alice, beautiful children. Ena worked harder,

Housekeeping, making children's clothes, and stocking up the larder.

I busy at Aircraft Factory, bought car; Ena, with Annette & Alice, visited relations;

Later I came, and through sunshine and storm, home after negations.

Paul, Sarah and Phillip arrived, a Kombi Van acquired; holidays in snow, in water and sea,

Climbed Grampian mountains, and headed North, Ena's many relatives to see.

From Sydney to Frederickton, and on to Murwillumbah; camping at Hat Head and South West Rocks .

Moved to Upwey in the mountains, and back again to Hartwell, - caused some shocks;

. Children growing up, Sarah leaves home, weddings in the air, Alice to Geoff, Annette to Jeff

Paul to Virve. Buy Store and Post Office at Tallarook, Ena postmistress midst the riff raff.

But "Things are not crook in Tallarook"! Back to Hartwell, country houses to buy and sell

My Darling helped me, without her help, how could I have done so well !

Then into ministry with Presbyterian Church, many country trips before I found a berth,

In South Australia's Penola, Mary McKillop country, 3 years there, time well worth!

Meanwhile Phillip prospers in his work, finds a wife and marries the fairest Lyn,

Buys a house and sets to work, adds on rooms, a 2nd story, home fit to live in,

Home again, so many Presbyterian churches to preach at, all through Victoria,

Rejoicing now with grandchildren, 14 in all, - angels singing "Gloria".

All through this time, Ena, a master maker, gathered nuts and seashells, sand blasted glass,

Decorated pictures, made ornaments and vases; in her own workshop she was first class.

Thru' the years we travelled much; delighting by the wayside, stop for morning tea and lunch.

To Mamre Farm in Alectown, singing as we go, Manager's Hut we stayed in, not a crunch.

Age draws on; we shifted houses, from Hartwell to Wantirna, North Croydon & Mooroolbark,

Memory begins to fail, we find good fellowship in Church at Kangaroo Ground, Hark

To the sermons, and share at Bible studies. Ena no longer works, "I'm retired, don't you know?"

So for ten years I have the care of my Beloved Darling; breakfast in bed, O what a glow !

Great grandchildren begin to arrive, boys in majority at first, there number is seven,

But girls catch up, precious little darlings, (3 more since Ena went), much rejoicing in Heaven,

Then the bones get weary, Kirkbrae Presbyterian Home gets a new angel. They all to Ena, say "Hello"

I visit each day, play Upwords, a wheelchair ride to the park, sing with the birds, blue and yellow.

Ena has a fall, endures manfully at hospital, 'til Xray shows a broken hip, 5 days later she is back,

On her 90th Birthday. We celebrate with a party, many children there, a real send off, for alack!

It was time for my Beloved to go Home; one morning we said goodbye. The angels came and took her.

Alone, I am left without her. (June 2023 – now **103, 33** greatgrandchildren)

In all this I give thanks to GOD for His Loving Kindness, the family, friends and work He has given me,
the fellowship of the saints; life has its ups and downs, but GOD is always faithful, in Him is my trust.

Ena Elizabeth Duck, b.12/8/1920. Married Alfred Emmerson Curtis 9/10/1948 Went Home 25-8-2010