

In memory of Jean Collins

THE boundless energy and vitality that so characterised Jean Collins will be among the many good memories treasured by all who knew her, long after her passing.

Jean was only 58 years old when she died at home, after a valiant battle with cancer, on December 16, 1993. Throughout her life she managed to pack in a breadth and depth of experiences accomplished by few and only dreamed of by others.

She believed that life, however brief, was for living.

Jean married farming contractor Arthur Collins at St Stephen's Presbyterian Church, in Applecross in 1955 and the couple moved to Narrogin where they raised their family of three sons, Lance, Duncan and Norman.

It is now more than 17 years since Jean started her career as a clerk with the Forests Department at Narrogin in October 1976.

John Humphreys was the district forester-in-charge at that time and Jean quickly made a name for herself with her efficiency and cheerful demeanour.

The story goes that visiting officers en route to Narrogin would be asked

by Gerard
van Didden

on radio what their estimated time of arrival would be, then as soon as they set foot in her office they would be greeted with a steaming and most welcome cup of tea or coffee.

However, it was not all rosy for them in the country, as a combination of events, that included a downturn in the wool and sheep industry in the mid-eighties, led Jean and Arthur to retry their fortunes in Perth.

Arthur moved into contract lawnmowing, while Jean transferred into the Fire Protection Branch.

Jean quickly slipped into harness and proved to be a tireless and efficient worker.

Over the next 10 years those who worked with her were encouraged by her support, enthusiasm and friendship.

In recognition of Jean's increasing level of responsibility, carried out with competency and enthusiasm, she was reclassified to Level 3 administrative assistant in

December 1991.

Outside work, Jean enjoyed her family and outdoor activities, including aerobics, swimming, camping and exploring in the family's four-wheel drive.

In spite of her deteriorating health, Jean and Arthur were determined to make the most of life and embarked on a twelve month touring holiday around Australia, returning in late November 1993.

Jean will be sadly missed by all who knew her and our sympathy goes to her family in its loss.



The late Jean Collins. Photo courtesy The West Australian

