

Late Hazel Hawke was not only a first lady who looked after a P.M. and brought success to him. She was the real strength and the anchor that Bob Hawke depended on for his long career as Prime Minister of Australia.

When Bob Hawke decided to proceed to England to study at Oxford, his fiancée Hazel took the bold decision to give up her work and go with him perhaps aware of the nature of the man she had become attached to.

Hazel Peterson, a young girl from Perth, met the young man at a church function. Miss Peterson was perhaps the second such girl to give up everything and accompany her man to England. The other per-

son I can think of is Mrs. Dhyana Clarke, already married to Dr. Manning Clarke. She was an educated woman who knew a number of languages in addition to English, with bright future prospects, but all that did not matter when it came to the future of her man.

Hazel too was such a woman giving up everything for the sake of her future husband. Not only did she tolerate him when he went for contests like the beer drinking show which he won, she even stood by him when he was not faithful to her. It is not a rare thing for a woman to do, but in the case of Hawkes it was in broad day light. I feel the whole country admired the lady for that.

Although I have no right to criticise a man for giving up his woman, I feel rather sad



that such a lady was left to mind her own business late in life. Is it a tradition with Australian politicians to give up their wives when they have done their duty? In any case Hawke was followed by his successor Paul Keating in dumping his wife soon after losing his job. Anita Keating was someone he met in the air, when she was working for a Dutch Airline. The other notable politician to dump his wife was John Hewson, who how-

Hazel Hawke earned the respect and admiration of a nation for her genuine interest and generosity in working with a variety of disadvantaged persons including Aboriginal and other social groups. She must be admired as a lady who did not want to enjoy the glory of being the P.M.'s wife, but was keen to use that position as a lever to reach out to the needy and the helpless. None of her children wanted to bask in the glory of their father. In fact, one son, who went to the Northern Territory to work for the Aborigines even refused to use the father's surname because that gave him an unwanted advantage.

For her social work and dedication Hazel Hawke was honoured by the nation and praised by all irrespective of their political differences. This was obvious when Opposition Leader Tony Abbott spoke in Parliament on the motion of condolence moved by the P.M.

With all the work done by Australian feminists and activists, women in Australia still lag behind most developed countries in the avenues and recognition that they have before them. One must not forget the way Dr. Carmen Lawrence and even Cheryl Kernot were pulled down from their pedestals. If they were men they would have been excused easily.

The accusations and attacks that are a constant feature as regards the current P.M. also seem to prove this tendency very popular with the local press. Even her dress becomes a target for attack; whereas no man is ever attacked for what he wears unless, of course, it is something horribly wrong. Some of these critics fail to understand that a woman has to think of her appearance all the time. In this regard, I think, Julia Gillard does pretty well.

The nation's admiration and respect should go to this lady who did serve her motherland up to her last moment, bringing the position of woman respectability and recognition that it deserves.



## HAZEL THE FIRST LADY

ever did not get the job he wanted,

My mind goes back to my motherland, where wives of politicians have done far better. There were three P.M.s who did not have a wife of his own. Sir John has had a wife, but was a bachelor when he became P.M. Dudley and W.D. were confirmed bachelors though of two different kinds. D.S., SWRD, JR, and Premadasa had their wives with them right through their political life and one went on to take the job held by her husband. She in fact, created a political dynasty which ended with her daughter becoming the first woman President of Sri Lanka.

Sri Lanka now has no dynasty to look for

power, except perhaps the almost dead dynasty of E. Premadasa. His son has messed up his chances, while all the Senanayakes and Bandaranaiques have exhausted their stock.

Coming back to our subject, the lady who accompanied Bob Hawke to England came back with him and saw him becoming the P.M. of the country. She stood with him all the way until he decided to give her up, of course.

Her children were all behind her when she developed alzaiema and still continued to work for the community. Just like Jim styne later, she used her illness as a source of inspiration to offer comfort and advice to others who needed help. This is a rather rare Australian quality which I find lacking even in my own motherland.



### Victoria Mercantile LAWYERS

<p><b>Commercial Litigation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Motor vehicle litigation (Motor vehicle accident Claims)</li> <li>→ Debt Recovery</li> <li>→ Contract Disputes</li> </ul> <p><b>Business &amp; Commercial Law</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Sale &amp; Purchase of Business</li> <li>→ Partnership Agreements</li> <li>→ Employment Agreements</li> <li>→ Commercial Leases</li> <li>→ Franchises</li> <li>→ Liquor Licencing</li> </ul> <p><b>Criminal Law</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Driving Offences</li> <li>→ Other Offences</li> </ul>	<p><b>Conveyancing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Sale &amp; Purchases</li> <li>→ Contracts of Sale</li> <li>→ Auction Contracts</li> <li>→ Vendor Statements</li> <li>→ Subdivisions</li> </ul> <p><b>Family Law</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Divorce</li> <li>→ Property Settlements</li> <li>→ Intervention Orders</li> <li>→ Binding Financial Agreements</li> <li>→ Consent Orders</li> </ul> <p><b>Probate &amp; Testamentary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>→ Wills</li> <li>→ Powers of Attorney</li> <li>→ Deceased Estates &amp; Administration</li> </ul>
--	--



☎ (03) 8787 8590      ✉ info@vicmercantilelawyers.com.au      ☎ (03) 8787 8572  
 ✉ 10 Yellowbox Crescent, Lyndhurst VIC 3975  
 www.vicmercantilelawyers.com.au

Anne Heenatimulla LLM (Monash)  
Principal Solicitor
Shiran Jayamaha LLB  
Barrister & Solicitor

## SCHOLARSHIPS FOR STUDENTS!

Now available in Universities in


China / UK


- MBBS • Mechatronic Engineering
- Telecommunication Engineering & Commerce
- Civil Engineering (all These Courses are in English Medium)
- BA (Hons) Business studies ( 2 years)
- MBA (1 Year)

Any of the below Qualifications:

- ★ VCE (Average Results)
- ★ Recognised Degree

Contact : A.H.Godavitarane,  
Former Principal of Rahula College, Matara.  
**EXCEL AUSTRALIAN EDUCATION CENTER**  
432 1/3, Pannipitiya Road, Pelawatta, Battaramulla.  
(Opposite Isurupaya Education Ministry)  
**Tel: 00 11 94 713 005 216**  
Email: info@eaec.com.au