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HOUSE-KEEPING ACCOUNTS

1939 - 1974

Housekeeping accounts kept by a Hobart housewife with a husband and four daughters, born between 1940 and 1946 (2. July 1940, 24.8.1942, 23.12.1943, 8.9.1946). Between January 1966 and December 1968 the daughters, then grown up, left home one by one. The mother had attended the Zerco Business School in Hobart after leaving school and, no doubt because of her training, kept careful, detailed accounts of all minor cash payments for housekeeping expenses. These accounts were entered in octavo cash books or diaries and include details of each purchase or expense, totalled at the end of each page. Cash payments included groceries, meat, vegetables, fruit, bread, milk and also occasional minor expenses such as "shirts", "clinic", gas, cleaner, shoes, shoe repair, sweets, tram fares and later petrol, creche, nappies. There were occasional treats such as cake, pictures [movies], theatre, ices, "solo losses", tennis, and incidentals such as raffle tickets, church magazine, Sunday School magazine, chiropodist. Gaps in the accounts are noted: "Hospital June 30th to July 17 1940", "St Stephen's Hospital (Julia) from 23rd December 1943 to 9th January 1944" and "Queen Alexandra Hospital Nerinda Forbes Sorell 8/9/1946, Sister Gould 1 week". The second volume, 1941, refers to 13 Greenlands Avenue and from 19 April 1942 No. 3 Reynolds Road. It also includes a note about the war time meat coupon scheme.

The accounts only record small cash payments, possibly from a housekeeping allowance, and not major expenses such as house rates, rent or repairs, insurance, clothing or household furnishing, school or medical expenses. They are, however, a useful record of the cost of basic foods.

At the back of each volume from 1941 was noted a separate account of expenses of "solo" [card game, form of whist], mostly noting only the name of the hostess.

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Housekeeping cash account books 1939 - 1949, 1956-1963, 1970-1974

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|---|------------|---|-----------|----------------------------------|
| 1 | June 1939 | - | Sept 1941 | (cash book) |
| 2 | Sept. 1941 | - | May 1945 | (cash book) |
| 3 | May 1945 | - | June 1949 | (cash book) |
| 4 | Aug. 1956 | - | Nov. 1963 | (entered in old 1950 desk diary) |
| 5 | Apr. 1970 | - | June 1974 | (entered in 1970 desk diary) |