

(Arboretum seats, memorial seats, history features)

# HELEN MAY BROOKES 1917 – 2008



**1. NAME - DOB - DOD Helen May BROOKES 3 November 1917 Melbourne – 1 January 2008**  
Adelaide

- **Occupation:** Senior Systematic Entomologist, Entomology Department, Waite Institute 1936 – 1982 and Artist.
- **Seat location:** behind Urrbrae House, on the left hand side of the lawn underneath the *Pyrus callenyanus*, 'Lynington', callery pear, ROSACEAE trees. The seat is facing west.
- **Nearby tree species:** Left #2187, Right # 2188 *Pyrus callenyanus*, 'Lynington', callery pear, ROSACEAE trees.
- The four 'Lynington' pears are from “a special selection from the Waite Arboretum by David Symon” (Gardner, 2009).





Photos: Terry Langham

## 2. QUALIFICATIONS:

*“Educated at Adelaide High School, the Depression of the 1930s deprived Helen Brookes of the chance to obtain a university education” (Schummans, D. Girls of Grit) .*

*In 1936 she joined the Waite Agricultural Research Institute as a laboratory assistant, working for the brilliant Professor James Davidson in entomology. This association fostered her interest in insect ecology and the identification and physiology of the Australian Coccoidea (Schummans, 2001, Girls of Grit...).*

## 3. AREA OF RESEARCH:

*“In 1936 she joined the Waite Agricultural Research Institute as a laboratory assistant, working for the brilliant Professor James Davidson in entomology. This association fostered her interest in insect ecology and the identification and physiology of the Australian Coccoidea.”*

*“Helen Brookes work was considering pioneering, as little was known about the Australian scale insects and she lead the international science community in this field” (Schummans, 2001, Girls of Grit).*

## 4. RESEARCH SPECIALITY:

*“... Coccoidea became her area of expertise and she gained international recognition in the field. She donated her large specimen collection to the Australian National Insect Collection in Canberra upon her retirement (1982).*

- *Throughout her career Helen Brookes wrote several important works and made many key contributions to the field.*
- *She was a member of the Royal Society of South Australia and a founding member of the Australian Entomological Society” (Encyclopaedia of Australian Science 2015).*

## 5. FURTHER INFORMATION - SOME WORDS OF HUMOUR, INTERESTING FACTS, ETC:

**“1951, English, Book, Illustrated edition: [Reprints of scientific papers on Homoptera collected by Helen M. Brookes], Brookes, Helen M., (collector.)**

**Physical Description:** 34 reprints: ill; various sizes.

**Published:** 1951-2000, [Reprints of scientific papers on Homoptera collected by Helen M. Brookes], 1951-2000.

**Also Titled:** Helen M. Brookes reprint collection 1951-2000, Contributions to entomology by Helen M. Brookes 1951-2000

**Author:** Brookes, Helen M., (collector.)



**Other Authors:** Waite Agricultural Research Institute. Dept. of Entomology

**Published:** 1951-2000.

**Physical Description:** 34 reprints: ill; various sizes.

**Series:** Some reprints stamped and numbered as: Adelaide reprint /Waite Agricultural Research Institute, Adelaide reprint

**Subjects:** Brookes, Helen M. -- Archives., Homoptera -- Australia. , Entomology -- Research -- South Australia.

**Time Period:** 1951-2000

**Summary:** A collection of reprints of papers contributed to various scientific journals. 14 of the reprints are articles authored or co-authored by Helen Brookes (1951-1988), 4 are reprints of articles containing acknowledgements to her, for her assistance, loan of specimens and so on (1957-1991), and 16 are reprints of articles with no reference to her, and are not authored by her, but on the topic of her research (1967-2000)" (Brookes, H. 1951)" (Brookes, H. 1951).

**"Contents:**

- Articles authored by Helen Brookes: The morphological development of the embryo of *Gryllus commodus walkeri* (Orthoptera: Gryllidae) / by Helen M. Brookes
- Identification of San José and related scale insects occurring on pome fruits in Australia / [by N.M. Hudson and Helen M. Brookes]
- The Coccoidea (Homoptera) naturalised in Southin Australia : a second annotated list / by Helen M. Brookes
- The identification and distribution of *Quadraspidiotus* species (Homoptera: Diaspididae) on pome and stone fruits in Australia / by Helen M. Brookes and N.M. Hudson
- *Chorizococcus herbicola* (Maskell) Comb. N): (Homoptera: Pseudococcidae) a grass infesting species in Australia / by Helen M. Brookes
- Two species of *Eurycoccus ferris* on Acacia in Australia (Homoptera: Pseudococcidae) a grass infesting species in Australia / by Helen M. Brookes
- New species and records of *Chorizococcus McKenzie* in Australia (Homoptera: Pseudococcidae) / Helen M. Brookes
- A new genus and species of mealybug on *Callitris* in South Australia (Homoptera: Pseudococcidae) / Helen M. Brookes
- *Symonicoccus* gen. n., with five new Australian species (Homoptera, Coccoidea) / Jan Koteja and Helen M. Brookes
- *Epicoccus cockerelli* and its type-species of *Epicoccus Acacia* in Australia (Maskell), redescribed (Homoptera: Coccoidea: Pseudococcidae) / Helen M. Brookes
- The immature and adult stages of *Callococcus leptospermi* (Maskell) (Homoptera: Coccoidea: Asterolecaniidae), with observations on the life history / R.B. Coles, F. Verberne and H.M. Brookes" (Brookes, H. 1951).

**"Biography:** Research for the author's papers was conducted while she worked as Senior Systematic Entomologist in the Department of Entomology, Waite Agricultural Research Institute, University of Adelaide" (Brookes, H. 1951 article).

"University of Adelaide Waite Library: 99127248001811; 595.752 B8725r (Trove [Online, accessed 18 April 2016].) (Brookes, H. 1951 article).

## 6. PERSONAL INFORMATION:

"... Following her retirement, in 1982, she presented her insect collection to the Australian National Insect Collection in Canberra. Brookes was a member of the Lyceum and Minerva Clubs.

**In 1999, Year of the Older Person, Brookes was invited to a symposium in Canberra as an outstanding older woman scientist”** (The Australian Women's Register 2000-2015).

#### **“State Library of South Australia**

- Interview with Helen Brookes [sound recording] Interviewer: Lois Mander-Jones, 2001, [SRG 438/29/64](#); State Library of South Australia. [Details](#)
- Interview with Helen Brookes and Coralie Li [sound recording] Interviewer: Brian Dickey, 1995, [OH 436/11](#); State Library of South Australia. [Details](#) “(Encyclopaedia of Australian Science 2015).
- 1936 – 1943 Career position - Laboratory Assistant at Waite Agricultural Research Institute in South Australia
- 1943 – 1957 Career position - Technical Assistant at Waite Agricultural Research Institute
- 1950 - Career position - Member of the Royal Society of South Australia
- 1957 – 1964 Career position - Assistant Systemic Entomologist at Waite Agricultural Research Institute
- 1964 – 1975 Career position - Systemic Entomologist and Lecturer at Waite Agricultural Research Institute
- 17 August 1965 - Career position - Foundation member of the Australian Entomological Society
- 1971 Career position - Study leave to the British Museum in London (ten months)
- 1976 – 1982 Career position - Senior Systemic Entomologist at Waite Agricultural Research Institute
- 1977 Career position - Study and research leave in Singapore, Kuala Lumpur, Japan and London” (Encyclopaedia of Australian Science 2015).”

#### **7. PHOTOS:**



Photos: Terry Langham      Leaves, bark, and leaf litter of the *Pyrus calleryana*, ‘Lynington’, callery pear.

#### **8. REFERENCES:**

Brookes, H. 1951, *English, Book, Illustrated edition: [Reprints of scientific papers on Homoptera collected by Helen M. Brookes]*, Brookes, Helen M., (collector.) , Trove [Online, accessed 18 April 2016]. URL: <http://trove.nla.gov.au/version/39016884>

Edgeloe, V. A. 1984, *The Waite Agricultural Research Institute: The First Fifty Years 1924 - 1974*, The Waite Agricultural Research Institute, Adelaide, p.179.

Encyclopaedia of Australian Science 2015, *Biographical entry Brookes, Helen (1917 – 2008*, [Online, accessed 18 April 2016]. URL: <http://www.eoas.info/biogs/P004586b.htm>

Schumann, D. 2001, *Garden of Discovery, Girls with Grit WOMEN SCIENTISTS at the WAITE INSTITUTE 1925 – 1945 Garden of Discovery* (metal book), Schumann & Associates, Historian & Cultural Heritage Consultant, Adelaide

*The Australian Women's Register 2000-2015*, via Trove [Online, accessed 18 April 2016, URL: <http://www.womenaustralia.info/biogs/AWE0931b.htm>