

## HELEN, 105, HONOURED FOR SHARING CANBERRA'S BIRTHDAY



**Fri 8 March 2013**

The ACT Chief Minister Katy Gallagher visited Anglicare's Brindabella Gardens Nursing Home on March 5 to present two residents aged over 100 with medallions celebrating Canberra's own 100<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Star of the day was Helen Deppe, who will turn 105 on Canberra's birthday March 12 – making her the oldest living Canberran to share her birthday with the city. She was born Helen Frances Egan on March 12, 1908 in Macksville, near Kempsey on the NSW North Coast.

After a shipboard romance on the "Polkinbar" travelling from Sydney to Brisbane, she was married to Ray Deppe on December 7 1935.

Helen Stuparich, their only child, says her mum came to Canberra in 1973 "to be closer to us and her four grandchildren".

"In her retirement she did volunteer work for Calvary Hospital, Pregnancy Support and Meals on Wheels and was involved in several card playing groups and over the years had trips overseas."

She moved into Brindabella Gardens in 2004 when she was about 96.

"I have been very happy with the care that Brindabella Gardens have given to my Mother over the last nine years, both in the Hostel and now in the Nursing Home", Mrs Stuparich said. "The staff have all been very cheerful and caring and have met all her needs. I couldn't be happier."

Canberra's 15 citizens aged 100 years of age and over, and babies born on Canberra's 100th birthday, will each receive a special Centenary Medallion to acknowledge the significant milestone they share with the nation's capital. The concept was the brainchild of former Governor-General of Australia and Centenary of Canberra Patron, Sir William Deane. The silver medallion features the Correa 'Canberra Bells' - the official flower of the centenary - on one side and the Foundation Stone, on which Lady Denman stood in 1913, on the other.