

of her father's arrival in Australia. There were 25 of the 44 direct descendants present.

A visit to her home in Double Bay meant that Phoebe would give the guests a meal, with a "sense of occasion".

After having worked as secretary for the Help-in-Need for so long, Phoebe was greatly saddened in September, 1985, to have to advise the Society's members that after 95 years, it would, "in accordance with the constitution of the Society" hand over its funds to the Sir Moses Montefiore Jewish Home. Her final communication to its members added, "The President and Committee regret having to take this action, but because the majority of the committee have reached that "certain age" they feel unable to carry on . . ." It is worth noting here that she had been resisting the move for the previous ten years.

Several of her colleagues in the Australian Jewish Historical Society have suggested that a project be named in Phoebe's honour. With this in view, a number of her friends have contributed donations.

Louise Rosenberg

NAOMI LANDA GROSS **and** **LIONEL GROSS**

The Jewish communities of Melbourne and Sydney mourn the tragic and untimely death of Naomi Landa Gross and her husband Lionel Gross in a car accident in the south of France.

Naomi, the daughter of the Honorable Abe Landa, Minister in the N.S.W. Labor Cabinet from 1953 till 1965 and later Agent General of N.S.W. in London, grew up in Sydney and moved to Melbourne on her marriage to Lionel Gross, who was a well known textile manufacturer and was later interested in the mining industry.

After her three children grew up, Naomi went back to study and took out an Arts degree and a librarian's qualification. She also worked as a loved voluntary guide at the National Gallery of Victoria for 17 years.

However, her great love became Judaism and she was involved and instrumental in the foundation and development of The Jewish Museum of Australia. She was Co-Chairman and was later Vice-President until the time of her death.

Naomi worked tirelessly for the Museum and infused it with her unique warmth and vitality. The character of the Museum is stamped with her deep appreciation of Jewish history, tradition and ritual and with her desire to share this respect with others.

Naomi and Lionel shared an enormous enthusiasm for life and all things beautiful that it offered. Their involvement in communal and cultural affairs was prodigious. Their friendship circle was wide and varied.

Their loss is deeply mourned and their memory is a blessing to us.

Helen Light, Curator, The Jewish Museum of Australia, Melbourne.