

**AUSTRALIAN GARDEN HISTORY SOCIETY**  
**NATIONAL ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION**  
**WEST AUSTRALIAN BRANCH**



Photo: Patsy Vizents

Interviewee:	CARMEL O'HALLORAN
Interviewer:	PATSY VIZENTS
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0:00

**Today is 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2022. My name is Patsy Vizents and I'm interviewing Carmel O'Halloran at her home in Forrestfield in Western Australia. The recording is being done on behalf of the West Australian branch of the Australian Garden History Society (AGHS) and is part of the national collection of oral history.**

**Thank you, Carmel. I'm grateful for your patience in doing this. So, before we start going into questions and things, could you identify yourself with your name, your birth date and place of birth, please.**

I'm Carmel Mary O'Halloran. I came into the world on probably a cold wet day on 22nd June 1944 at the [indistinct – Malahide Private Hospital in Narrogin, WA. According to my birth certificate Nurse Barrington was in attendance. I was the second child and daughter of Mary Higgins and John O'Halloran. My birth certificate states that he was 30 years of age, born at Cherry Tree via Katanning and was in the AIF. The reason that I was born at Narrogin is that my mother was staying with her sister [Kate] and her husband [Gus Cowcher] on a farm at Allanbrae, Quindanning. The farm was about 40 miles away from the closest hospital maternity services. Dad was away serving in the AIF during World War 2.

**So, born in Narrogin and your father was in the AIF, but what did he do before the war came along?**

He was a bank officer for the Bank of New South Wales. And after he came back from the war he continued working with the Bank of New South Wales until his retirement in his 60s. He never really liked his job in the Bank of New South Wales because he was born at Kojonup so he'd always lived an outdoor life as a young person, but he really hated farming and he didn't want to become a farmer. And he also had four other brothers who were there who could take over, but he hated the bank — couldn't get away from it. And he really didn't have much love of gardening and he only did it when he had to, and he used to mow the lawn but he used to get terrible hay fever. But he didn't seem to take any medication for it, but you would hear him mowing the lawn and he'd be swearing and cursing all the time. So I didn't get my love of gardening from him! I believe my mother loved gardening but she died suddenly when I was eight and a half, after she had my younger sister, but I believe she was a gardener. She was only 42 at the time so Dad had the responsibility of bringing us all up — there were six of us, three boys and three girls. I think I said already that I was the second eldest. My love of gardening came from my aunt [Aunty Kit], who I lived with as a baby, for probably for about a year while Dad was away. And she was a really keen gardener and I learnt the names of a lot of plants, which I remember now. Thinks like the philadelphias, the Irish strawberry tree, stock plants, kikuyu grass. And Aunty, every year, or probably twice a year, used to get sheep manure from down at the shearing shed and spread it all over the garden, and everything always looked so healthy.

**Was she on a farm?**

Yes, there was a farm at Quindanning. Quindanning. Quindanning is between Boddington and Williams.

**Very cold in winter.**

Very cold but beautiful country. It's really hilly. Very, very hilly country; it's magnificent country.

**Is that sheep growing or is it ...**

Well, sheep, oats, wheat, all of those.

**So, crops.**

Yeah, they had a lot of sheep. Wheat and oats they used to grow there. Not sure what they grow [now] but that farm is still in their family.

5:03

**So she had a garden ... she had a love of gardening. Was that around the homestead?**

Yeah, right around the perimeter of the house, and there was a fence dug into the ground to stop the rabbits, because the rabbits were in plague proportions then. That's before myxomatosis was introduced to get rid of them, in the 50s, so there were hundreds and hundreds of rabbits, so it was well rabbit proofed. And also kangaroo proof I suppose, too. The other person who frankly influenced my gardening was my father's sister, Auntie Margaret, who lived in Applecross. And she had a house and garden that overlooked the Swan River, so standing on her back verandah you could see right [indistinct] across to Perth. So she also taught me the names of plants that she had in her garden. And every time I went to visit we'd always spend time wandering round the garden to see what was coming out, what was the next thing that was coming. So she was a great influence. And I think my granny, Dad's mother, who was on the farm at Cherry Tree in Kojonup, she obviously had a lot of gardens because at one stage she had about a hundred roses growing in the rocky hillside. Reading back into the family history, their first house was down at the river and Grandpa had ... I think at one stage they had a couple of hundred fruit trees so they were obviously both linked into gardening. Granny died when I was about 11 so I don't remember her doing much gardening. But after they retired and came to Perth and lived in West Perth, I remember seeing ... Grandpa had grown sweet peas along the wooden picket fence and they were all a good couple of metres tall so obviously he had a bit of a love of gardening but not very much.

**You've mentioned Cherry Tree twice, so do you just want to explain what Cherry Tree is? What you mean when you say that.**

Cherry Tree was the original farm that Grandpa O'Halloran bought with his brother actually paid ... [paid the deposit], and there are still family at Cherry Tree in Kojonup. So ...

**How big is it? How big is the ...?**

I'm not sure but it would be a few thousand acres.

**OK. So quite considerable.**

Yeah. Quite a few thousand acres. So that's where Granny and Grandpa O'Halloran had their farm at Cherry Tree. And in the conference, the Garden History conference, which was in 2014, one of the days of the conference [2014 AGHS Conference held in Albany] we actually visited Cherry Tree so everybody saw the beautiful garden. After Grandpa O'Halloran died, the farm passed to my Uncle Dennis and then it passed to Robert. And his wife Jane had ... I don't know how many roses she had in that garden but it is still a magnificent garden today.

**So, can I just interrupt? When Robert and Jane ... where they had their farm, is that Cherry Tree?**

That is Cherry Tree.

**And the garden is part of the original ...**

Yes, yes.

**But you said that the house was originally down by the river, so the house that exists now is a second or third ...**

Oh, it's probably the fourth house. So, they did go down the river for quite a few years and raised their six children down there [Granny and Grandpa lived down by the river]. Then they moved up to the hill, above where the Cherry Tree house is now. Jane, she got the copper from the old wash house and got that in her garden filled with plants. But Jane and Robert have now retired, and they live in Albany and their son Nicholas has taken over that farm.

**So, it's still an O'Halloran ...**

Yeah, since about 1904 ...

**Gee whiz!**

So it's over a hundred years old. It's been in the family ... Grandpa was from South Australia

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and his brother had been in Western Australia kangaroo shooting at Kojonup, and he saw the land and he bought the land, and then Grandpa paid for that. So Grandpa had ... at that stage he was actually serving in the Boer War. He went to the Boer War from South Australia, so his family were all in South Australia. And my great grandfather, great great grandfather, apparently he was growing vines, grapevines, in South Australia. And that would have been in the 1820s, I suppose, 1830s.

**I think Adelaide was settled in 1835, and, no, that's Melbourne so it's after Melbourne.**

So he was in South Australia and growing grapevines. So there seems to be a bit of a history of gardening ...

**Of horticulture ...**

Going back ... yeah ... going back through the family.

**So it is interesting, isn't it, that it kind of skipped, although ... excepting that your father didn't like farming, [laughter] but didn't quite like banking either. So was your father based in Narrogin or ... where was he based?**

No. Well, Kojonup is quite close to Katanning so his first job was in Katanning. And I know at some stage he was at Northampton. And the other side of my family, some of those lived in Northampton. But I believe he met my mother in Busselton. She was a nurse and she was ... he ... that's right, he worked in the bank in Busselton for a while so he met my mother in Busselton. Apparently she was engaged to someone else at the time but as soon as she saw Dad that was it. He was a very quiet sort of person actually. He had a great sense of humour but very quiet. And, as I say, that was it.

**That was it. That's lovely. So, give me some idea of where you went to school. There were six of you and because of your mother's passing then you were ... were you separated?**

We only were separated with Mary because Mary was a baby that was born January 1953, and she was actually raised by my uncle and auntie. Auntie Kit and Uncle Gus [?], the ones who ... I was at their farm after I was born, and Mary ended up being raised by them. And the rest of the ... and the boys were only two or ... Alec was two and I think Mick was about four ... they stayed on the farm until they were old enough to go to school, and then we lived in South Perth. And we used to go to the farm for all our holidays or otherwise go to a cousin's farm, Coral, or sometimes we'd stay at Fay's farm or ... so we were always sort of farmed out for the school holidays. But had a fabulous association with all of them, Auntie Kit and Uncle Gus' family.

**So she was the influence on you as far as gardening?**

Yes.

## **Yes, you didn't mention her name.**

Oh, yeah, Auntie Kit, she was the one who had a great influence on my gardening. So every holidays we'd be down at their farm, or someone else's farm. Of course, Dad had to still keep on working and I don't think there were any payments for single fathers at that stage. But the bank were very, very good to him. They used to give him time off when he needed it. So I went to school in South Perth and the boys went to Manning, to Aquinas and Maureen had a few years up at St Gertrude's in New Norcia, which she hated, 'cause she always said there were maggots in the meat. [laughter] I don't know whether that was a true story or not. But anyhow, that was New Norcia. It was probably quite different then because that's where they had the boys' and girls' orphanages; the Aboriginal orphanages there and some nasty things have been said about them since. So that was in late 1950s. After school ... Dad couldn't afford to keep me at school 'cause he had three boys he had to educate so I could only do my Junior and I had to leave school and start working, which was at the RAC, that's where I started off. Then Sydney Atkinsons and then I got married ... I had to leave the RAC when I got married because that was the rule then in 1966.

15:00

You couldn't stay there after you were married. That's unbelievable when you think of it now. After I got married I did office work again and then I kept on getting shoulder aches so I decided, 'Oh, I'm not going to do this anymore' so I went and applied for a job at a nursery — I just walked in and said, 'I want a job.' And that was at Highway Nurseries in Maddington. So, I walked out with a job even though I'd never worked at a nursery before. For the first three months I was there ... the owner was a Shirley McCran and she was a very hard taskmaster. And I actually served an apprenticeship there. There was no such thing at that time for girls, but my first three months of my job was working ... I started in July and my first three months I worked in the rain all day, every day, with my long plastic trousers and coat on. Loved it, absolutely loved it, and never got sick ... and two of us were training, both of us started on the same day and every day we had to go out and learn three new plant names, starting at the front of the nursery and working down. And every day we'd be tested on the names of the plants we'd learnt that day. And she had them in alphabetical order starting at the front of the nursery, so 'A' at the front, and it was a long narrow nursery, so every day we'd learn some new plant names.

## **So, where did she get her training? Do you know?**

I'm not really sure where she got her training. But she also had a florist shop in Victoria Park called Russell's Florist. She was the owner of that. And her mother used to run that. Her mother ran the florist shop. And Miss McCran, we always had to call her Miss McCran, used to sometimes go up ... a fantastic drive in the Armadale hills to collect plants for the florist shop, a couple of afternoons a week. She also had a brother who was a Catholic

priest, and she always shut the nursery on Mondays so he could come and do all the odd jobs for her.

**She clearly didn't mind that you were married at that stage.**

Well, she used to get my ex-husband to go and do the odd jobs on the Mondays too. So, she was quite happy to have another man around to do the jobs for her.

**So, rules could change but government jobs were definitely that you certainly had to leave when you were married. Or more institutional jobs would've meant that, so this is a smaller, private concern it probably would ...**

I think the rules had changed for married women by then, and they changed a couple of years after I left the RAC because a friend of mine was getting married and she was secretary to the manager of the insurance company, RAC Insurance, and he didn't want her to leave so he got the rules changed for the RAC.

**It's who you know. [laughter] So in the nursery you learnt plant names, and you must have learnt things like conditions of growing and ... so that was really a formal, as you say, like you say, apprenticeship.**

It was formal training but I didn't get any credit for it.

**Did you do any academic studies at all?**

No, no. Nothing at all. Nothing at all. It's interesting thinking back then — talk about occupation health and safety! There was a very, very small room at the front of the nursery and inside that little room was where ... well she didn't have a cash register, I don't know that she didn't even have a till, that's where all the fertilisers and pesticides were all stored together, and to have our lunch we sat on bags of fertiliser in that room. There was nowhere else ... that was our lunch room.

**But there was also poisons and ...**

Oh everything. The fertilisers were on the floor, mostly, and the bottles of Metasystox and things like that were sitting above our heads when we were having our lunch. And the other thing, even though she had two toilets, you could only use one of them because the other one was where she stored her boxes.

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She was a bit eccentric, I must admit. The other thing that I used to go ... I didn't get my licence till ... just before that I got my licence.

**Your driver's licence.**

Driver's licence. I was over 21. And a girl called Dulcie used to drive the ute to the railway station with the fruit trees to send down south, and also, she used to take the rubbish to the dump in Maddington, which was like a big muddy hole. So, when she left I had to drive the ... I had to do the driving, had to take the fruit trees to the railway station and also take the rubbish to the tip. And it was one of those tips, you just backed up and put the rubbish out. And I was absolutely petrified I was going to fall in the tip. But then it was time to leave because we hadn't had any children so we'd applied for adoption. Anyhow we got the news to say we were getting a baby, so I had to leave there because of getting the baby. So that was my life at Highway Nurseries. [I resigned even though I loved the job but we had been advised that a baby was waiting for us. We hadn't been successful in achieving a pregnancy even though we had been married for a few years. We had applied for adoption and had been advised by the adoption agency, that we were successful. We did have natural children later on. CO'H, October 2022]

After a few years I decided it was time I went back to work and I went to Waldecks in Bentley, worked there for a couple of years, then somewhere in between all those times I had another couple of children. And then I decided I wanted to go back to work so I was a census collector for a couple of years, did that. Then I applied for a job at Lushgrow in Cannington but I didn't tell them I had any children or what my marriage status was because a friend of mine had applied for a couple of positions and she hadn't got in. But she had six children, and she said the number of children, of course, she never ever got her job. So I applied for this position and didn't say how many children I had ...

### **And how many did you have?**

Four. I said, 'I'm not going to tell them that.' Anyhow I got the job. I think I wrote a letter to 5 nurseries and I ended up getting a reply from Lushgrow in Cannington and I started there ... after I'd been there for a while, one of the apprentices was starting at Bentley TAFE doing her certificate, so I thought, 'Oh, I could do that,' so I started doing part-time study at Bentley TAFE for my horticulture certificate, carried on with that. I was there for another couple of years then I worked at the Dutch Windmill in Jandacot. And the Dutch Windmill would be remembered for all its Dutch Delft pottery, the blue-and-white pottery, which we had to spend hours cleaning every week. And also, zygocactus, she had a lot of zygocactus, a lot of epiphyllums. And the zygocactus and epiphyllums, she used to do hundreds of mail orders every week, send them all over the place. [The garden centre specialised in Zygocactus and Epiphyllums which grew easily from the cuttings. The owner sent cutting by mail every week all over Australia and I think some overseas. While I was working there, I started doing my Diploma in Horticulture part time and finished it after a couple of years CO'H October, 2022]. While I was there I had started [studying] to do my diploma in horticulture part time. So, I went on and finished that after a few years. Then one day I got a call from TAFE, from one of the lecturers saying, 'Carmel, we'd like you to come and teach for us.' And I said, 'I can't teach, I couldn't do that.' And she said, 'Well, just think



about it,' she said, 'Because you've got very good plant knowledge,' she said, 'that's what we need.' So, I eventually I started, 'Oh yes, that would be good.' So, I decided to do that.

**So, plant knowledge is recognition of leaf, flower, you know, being able to recognise the plant.**

Yes.

**And then the other is naming it using the Latin form.**

The naming was very important but also because I've had all the other experience in the nurseries, and I also had my own garden. 'Cause I established a garden in Gosnells, then I established a garden up in Lesmurdie, so I had actual experience in planting and all those sort of things that go with it.

**Can you recall what years this was happening?**

Waldecks would have been mid-70s, Highway Nurseries was about probably 1969, I guess.

**But what about doing your ... the TAFE teaching?**

My TAFE teaching, I did have it written down somewhere but I don't know if can remember it ...

**So, it may be in the '80s?**

No, it wasn't the '80s, it'd be the '90s.

**90s.**

90s, yeah, 'cause I ... and after I'd done my diploma, I actually did part-time study at Edith Cowan University [1996-1999] but never [completed] it. But one interesting thing about plant knowledge, to show how naïve I was, after we were first married we lived in my Grannie and Grandpa's house in West Perth because that had been passed on to my dad and my Auntie Margaret, and they weren't sure what they wanted to do with it so we lived there for 12 months after we were married. And I used to do a bit of gardening at home [in South Perth] before I was married but I decided I wanted to grow some vegetables but the only place that seemed to be suitable was in the front garden. So, I went to Woolworths down in Murray Street, which used to sell seedlings, and I bought a couple of packets of ... I think they were cabbages ... wrapped up in newspaper, I think. I thought, 'Well, these cabbages, I'll put these cabbages in.' So, I put them all ... planted them all along the front fence, and one day Dad came in, he said, 'Carmel, what have you got growing there?' And I said, 'Oh, they're cabbages.' And I said, 'They don't seem to be forming hearts.' And he said, 'The reason they're not forming hearts is they're

beetroot plants.' So that was in 1966. So that's how much I knew about gardening in 1966.

**Wow. You changed!**

I certainly changed.

**Nothing wrong with beetroot. [laughter] So in those days you could get ... West Perth is in the city centre, there's no nursery facilities ...**

No, no.

**Not even ... yeah.**

I don't recall there being any ... there would've been nurseries around. You need to ask John Viska, he'd have all that information at his fingertips.

**Yes, he would.**

But, no, I can't recall there being any nurseries around there. There must've been somewhere.

**And yet Woolworths were selling ...**

Woolworths ... we used to go and buy them and they were wrapped up ... instead of in seedling punnets they were wrapped up in newspaper or brown paper. Sometimes a little brown paper bags.

**That's interesting.**

Because we lived in West Perth, and at that stage I must have been working at Sydney Atkinsons in Perth [Adelaide Terrace], the other end of the Terrace [St George's Terrace], so I used to catch a bus to work every day, and obviously I must've caught one from ... I don't know if there was one that went actually from Adelaide Terrace up to West Perth, so I probably had to stop in the city to get another bus.

**Oh, surely not.**

I'm not really sure.

**OK, so, we've jumped back a bit. So, go back to the TAFE. When you were ... and Bentley is where you started, did you come across John Viska during that period?**

I don't remember John being there, no. I mean, he must've been but I don't really remember him being ... I don't ... well, he certainly wasn't one of my lecturers. He'll probably say I'm wrong but I don't remember him being one of my lecturers there.

**Because you were part time.**

I was a part-time student. And I think when I started I would've gone two nights a week but by the time I did my diploma I was going ... I used to go one day a week. I think I used to go on Fridays, for the full day. I don't remember John being there. Chris Oliver was Head of Department. Chris Cooper was also one of the lecturers. That's also when I became very interested in permaculture and I ended up taking . . . so then to TAFE and then the move to Murdoch. So that was towards the end, I think towards the end of my diploma, moved to Murdoch. That's where I started teaching.

**So, in Perth at that time there was only ... you mentioned Edith Cowan, so did they have a horticulture course?**

No. It wasn't horticulture, it was more towards a teaching degree, but I didn't do horticulture there.

**OK. So, Bentley ... was TAFE the only place that you could get a formal qualification?**

I think Midland might have been going at that stage, I'm not really sure.

**Midland TAFE?**

Midland TAFE might have been ... but certainly Murdoch. I don't think there was anything else apart from Murdoch and Bentley when I first started.

**So, you taught at Murdoch TAFE and how ... was it a full load of teaching?**

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Ah no, I mostly worked part time because of the family. The kids were all growing up so it was difficult to do it full time. So, I used to work part time. So, at that stage we used to work at nighttime or during the day so I could work from anywhere from 8 o'clock in the morning to 10 o'clock at night, which was quite difficult, but there was always security at nighttime to walk you to your car so that wasn't a problem.

**Were there a lot of students? What was the student population number?**

We had lots, we had hundreds, yeah.

**800?**

Not 800 but probably 300 or 400. I'm not really sure what the numbers were.

**And going through first, second and third, or two years? Got a certificate and then a diploma?**

I think the certificate full time was about two years and the diploma would've been another two, I think, or three. Probably three for the diploma. I'm not sure ... because I always did my study part time, so I'm not really sure what the years were.

**Yes. Was this the time that you became involved with the Australian Garden History Society?**

No. I was working with John Viska [at Murdoch] by that stage and he often used to say to me, 'Oh, Carmel, why don't you join the Garden History? You know you'll really love it.' He was always on and on, and eventually he wore me down. But I didn't get involved until a couple of years before I retired. Probably I joined in the early 2000s I would say, yeah. I can't really ... it might've been before that. But I joined and didn't get very involved until after I retired.

**So you just went to events and ...**

Yes, went to all the events, or as many as I could. Well, that was a problem at that stage, getting to events, because we could work any time of the day or night. And also, not being on the committee I couldn't influence when the meeting was going to be or when the outings were going to be so I thought, 'What's the point of joining if I can't get to all the events that are being held.' But anyhow, John eventually wore me down.

**But you were close to retirement.**

Well I was sort of close to retirement. I did actually join before I retired and I retired earlier than I had planned because in 2008, while teaching, I tripped over some irrigation and broke my heel. So for the next couple of years it was a bit of a nightmare because I had to have my heel pinned and then developed an ulcer on the back of my heel, and that wouldn't heal, so eventually they had to do a graft and take some skin from the back of my leg and fold it down over my heel. And ended up with an exposed tendon so they had to do another graft. So I had gone back ... before I had the graft operation I had to have a support in the classroom. I always had to have someone with me in the classroom. I couldn't do any ... show students how to prune because of the damage to my heel. I couldn't really stand very well on two legs so I had ... I couldn't do my ... teach gardening activities so I was restricted in what I could teach but I could do any classroom teaching. Still having to have someone with me as support 'cause I couldn't carry my books etcetera etcetera. So anyhow I very soon retired, probably about four years before I planned to do. So then I got ... once my heel got better I could get back to getting involved a bit in the committee, which I loved. I was very sad to leave my job because so often you hear people say they don't really like their job, like my dad, he hated his job in the bank but I absolutely loved my job teaching horticulture. It was wonderful.

35:05

And I ... with the AGHS I was on a committee and I was a secretary, probably a couple of other things as well. And some people I remember from the committee were Caroline, Ruth, Tom, Ros and Sue, and probably a few others. And, of course, John Viska was always there. And with the AGHS, the National Management Committee, John retired in October 2013 and I was elected to replace him in 2014 and I remember distinctly at the ... the National Conference was held at Albany on 2014, and I think that was one of my first official meetings for the AGHS. And I was on the AGHS National Management Committee until 2018 until Patsy Vizents took it over that position.

The names I remember from the committee were Ros Burge, Stuart Read, Jess Hood, Richard Heathcote and Ruth Morgan. And Ruth Morgan had originally been ... lived in WA but then she jumped ship and moved to Melbourne, and she ended up being on the National Management Committee meeting in ... Committee in Melbourne.

**Do you think she was the Victorian representative or an office bearer, some sort of ... part of the NMC has got specialised officers?**

She was a specialised officer but I can't recall what.

**Okee dokey, alright.**

She was, and she was on that for a few years. And I think she was teaching at a Melbourne university but I'm not sure which one.

**Who was the Chairman?**

It was the person before Richard Heathcote but I can't remember who it was.

**OK because Richard was ... when I came on Richard was the Chair.**

He was there for quite a few years.

**So part of the role on National Management Committee is seeing the various branches and what they contribute, and how the Society works. Have you got an opinion of how valuable the Society might be? You know, to do with gardens and conservation.**

Oh, I think it's instilling an interest in gardening overall, apart from the historical value. And Perth has helped ... WA has helped by having two historic gardens of exhibitions over the years. And also the Tree Forum was another thing that WA contributed to over all. I think getting members of each State together regularly as a formal committee just to talk about the things affecting gardeners and affecting gardens, and there's climate change how that's going to change — the Garden History will be very much involved with that. And making gardens... and people aware of our historic gardens and how important they are. In WA we've got the Government House gardens; the University of WA gardens; you've also got Kings Park, which is a valuable resource; and with old gardens like Wirra Willa in Armadale, which has been

let go the last few years, and the AGHS in WA has brought the attention of that garden to the Council in Armadale, I think that's important that the AGHS to do those things, to be aware of what's happening with the historic gardens and make sure that

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the Council is aware of it and also aware of their responsibility to make sure they're looked after.

**And also the Heritage Council. So contributing to reporting and documenting, and making ourselves available for comments to do with any landscape issues is valuable.**

I think to make them aware, and also our members that they add things that might need attention to make others aware of them so they don't fall into decay and disappear

**So, it's a bit education-wise, isn't it.**

Yeah.

**It's bringing forth that information where it wasn't known before.**

Well, people who are like-minded can actually discuss these things and make sure something happens with them that's necessary before they disappear.

**Good points. Is there anything else that you think is important to recall regarding the Garden History Society?**

No, I don't think so. I think that's probably about it. I'll think of a thousand things as soon as I finish.

**That's OK. Were you involved with Albany conference?**

I was involved with the Albany conference and ...

**As a Committee member?**

Yeah, as a Committee member. And the only thing that was really bad was the day we went on our trip to Kojonup it poured with rain. We were meant to go to look out at Mount Barker. Well when we went to look at Mount Barker but all we could see were clouds and very, very heavy rain. It was very cold but also I remember about that is that I ended up very wet on the last day when we went to Kojonup. Very wet and cold and I ended up with the 'flu' and coughed and spluttered all the way home in the plane from Albany. The person next door [sitting next to me] probably thought that I must've had some terrible thing. And I ended up with pneumonia even though I'd had all my injections. I was very sick so that's what I remember about that.

**Oh, that's a terrible memory.**

I hope the next one in Bunbury I don't have those bad memories.

**Don't get on the Committee. That'll wear you down. OK. That's very good. Well, thanks Carmel, thank you very much.**

*Interview ends; 42 minutes and 45 seconds.*