

Recorded; 17-01-23, 02-02-23.

Interviewer; Jo Wilson

Abstractor; Jo Wilson

File 01; 17-01-23

Introduction and recording agreement.

- 1.34 Born in FIELDING, educated at HASTINGS BOYS HIGH SCHOOL and attended CANTERBURY UNIVERSITY 1961, Enlisted in NZ Army graduated Dec 1954 from the AUSTRALIAN ARMY OFFICER CADET SCHOOL and commissioned into the NZ ARMY.
- 2.19 Saw active service in BORNEO & VIETMAN, (2 tours).
- 2.53 Married Wendy in 1968 and together raised three daughters. Resigned from the Army in in 1984 to establish a horticultural business growing flowers and specialty vegetables near Auckland.
- 3.32 1985, unexpectedly elected to Chair the NZ SCHOOL TRUSTEES ASSOCIATION.
- 4.15 1987 employed by an international security company to set up a logistics operation for the UNITED NATIONS in former Yugoslavia. Subsequently made responsible for the Company's African operations.
- 4.38 Resigned in 1989 and returned to NZ to prepare long-held plans to sail around the world with WENDY. Took up an opportunity to house-sit in Queenstown.
- 5.00 Returned to Auckland having purchased a near derelict stone cottage near St Bathans in CENTRAL OTAGO – their "stone anchor".
- 5.10 Voyage ended prematurely with the loss of their boat and returned to Central Otago towards the end of 2000.

End of File 1

File 2; 17-01-23

- 1.00 In 1962, was employed by Canterbury University to help gather meteorological data to assist decision-making for siting an observatory which was subsequently established on Mount John, Tekapo, Canterbury. Describes living alone on various alpine sites around the South Island including the Upper Manorburn Dam in Central Otago. Recent discovery of Manorburn Hut Diary which records his visits.

End of File 2

File 3; 17-01-23

- 0.0 House-sitting in Queenstown. Exploring Central Otago; recollection of family connection with St Bathans where an ancestor had once been the Blacksmith recalls connection with St Bathans and ancestor who was Blacksmith there. Planned to stay the night at VULCAN HOTEL in ST BATHANS which proved to be full so settled for overflow accommodation at a stone cottage built in 1884.
- 2.20 Ended up buying it after 3 days. Was on SHEPHERDS FLAT ROAD, 10km from St Bathans.
- 3.30 Called Twin Oaks, but one tree was a Sycamore, so renamed "THE COTTAGE". There for 10 years.
- 4.20 New owner renamed it as "LOMBARDY COTTAGE".
- 4.39 Renovated to create a home plus planting approx. 1000 trees and shrubs. Contacted HISTORIC PLACES SEEKING advice. No interest by them.
- 5.50 Describes THOMAS HUGHES – manager of the VINEGAR HILL GOLDMINE who built the Cottage where he and his wife raised five children.
- 7.05 Wendy and Graye created a significant garden, has now matured and inspired two further projects.

End of File 3

File 4; 17-01-23

- 0.00 History of THE COTTAGE. Describes. One acre, bounded by old poplar trees.
 - 1.10 [Moss, the dog, barking]...
- End of File 4

File 5; 17-01-23

- 0.00 72 Poplars removed & removed weeds.
 - 0.56 Enlarged the property to include view of HAWKDEN RANGE & SHEPHERDS CREEK (from JOHN STEVENSON, OWNER OF 2 MILE STATION.)
 - 1.30 Was gifted the land as the 'improvements' were appreciated (paperwork completed much later.)
 - 2.00 Interior of Cottage upgrade described. ROY FARRIS, Alexandra drew plans for an extension.
 - 3.05 Added further 2 bedrooms, cladding with 19th century corrugated iron.
 - 4.14 Planted trees, and with high water table, irrigation not needed. Local Weather pattern described.
 - 5.52 Bought a boat in Europe & spent next 2-3 summers alternating between Europe and Central Otago.
 - 6.40 Boat sold to have winter in CO. First was a Very cold one. ~2003 Hoar frost -19°C. Creek froze & rose 1m above banks. Describes.
 - 8.33 Alexandra people travelled to admire the hoar frost on the trees & enjoy the sun.
 - 9.15 Killed off 'gum trees' in Central Otago. Realisation that native trees wouldn't survive without shelter.
- End of File 5

File 6; 17-01-23

- 0.0 2 x Redwood trees planted either side of entrance, described. 'Charles & Camilla'.
 - 1.0 Stone mason KEITH HINDS employed to teach skills and assist with building a stone bridge –Described.
 - 3.10 Tree planting described. Surveyed location of trees, painting lessons with view to 'imagining' the future garden but failed dismally.
 - 5.12 Involvement with wider issues re protecting and preserving Central Otago's history and landscapes with History & Landscape protection.
 - 5.25 History of The Cottage ownership. Describes. HUGHES FAMILY.
 - 6.12 Connection with local families.
 - 6.40 Involved with ST BATHANS area's HISTORY. Set up guidelines 20 years ago.
 - 7.22 HISTORIC PLACES TRUST & HERITAGE TRUST explained (government Dept and Local volunteer local effort).
 - 8.48 MERIDIAN WINDFARM PROPOSAL. Explained. (Under CO HISTORIC PLACES TRUST).
 - 9.55 Parent body withdrew from Appeal to ENVIRONMENT COURT. So locally body became CENTRAL OTAGO HERITAGE TRUST. Now an oversight organisation for Central Otago heritage.
 - 11.05 Formed "SAVE CENTRAL" (for legal reasons an off-shoot of COES) with GRAHAM SYDNEY, BRIAN TURNER, ANTON OLIVER & GRAYE SHATTKY. (GRAYE being the coordinator and fundraiser) to oppose Meridian Energy's plan to build windfarm on the Lammermoor Range.
 - 12.28 DUNSTAN TRAIL 'saved' and no wind farm. MERIDAN'S DATA used for court case.
- End of File 6

File 7; 02-02-23

- 0.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY (COES) set up by GRAYE & others 2008 [?] Advocating for District Plan reclassification and protection of significant Central Otago landscape. Describes other projects e.g. opposing housing development of the Raggedy Range and at Manorburn Dam; advocating.
- 2.35 With others e.g. FISH & GAME, FOREST & BIRD, pursued Environment Court action to maintain protection (Water Conservation Order to prevent further damming of the NEVIS RIVER and appropriate classifications for the NEVIS VALLEY and RANGE. All done by volunteers requiring many hours of preparation and sitting in the ENVIRONMENT COURT.
- 4.24 End of File 7

File 8; 02-02-23

- 0.0 Initiation into public affairs in ST BATHANS. Describes. EARL HARREX, (farmer), mentioned regarding the local Town Board, supporting newcomers. Shareholding in the VULCAN HOTEL purchased. And in an Extraordinary General Meeting offered 3 options and ended up on the committee.
- 5.44 DEPT OF CONSERVATION, (DOC), was involved in the Historic sites. Explains their involvement.
- 7.35 GRAYE elected as secretary of the Community Organisation Committee (this included farmers, Crib owners and locals).
- 8.35 CENTRAL OTAGO DISTRICT COUNCIL. Wrote the Community Plan, following public consultation on Heritage Values. That Plan formed blueprint for surrounding areas. Used for building applications in those areas.
- 9.57 Unsure of Vulcan Hotel shareholders. (Share register not kept).
- 11.11 Hotel subsequently sold to a private owner but continues as a destination.
- 12.09 More interaction with DOC. Concern with “greening” of the landscape. Cultivated ground and the brown tussock. Pine trees around Cambrians. Early 2006 irrigation increased from the Manuherekia River (especially with increase in Dairying). Describes.
- 14.45 Formed the CENTRAL OTAGO ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY. Involved in Major issues, e.g., RAGGEDY RANGE. (see File 7). Submissions made for Council-owned DISTRICT PLANS (2008).
- 17.20 Council Policy statement from 2008 only being updated now, and submissions being written by Graye.
- 18.30 Describes the pro-river faction versus the farmers wanting irrigation water.
- 19.20 Had their property on the Dunstan, with water supply from a bore (12m deep). Describes change over 4-5 yrs due to introduction of intensive grazing and irrigation. Over- allocation of water?
- 21.46 End of File 8

File 9; 02-02-23

- 0.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIETY concerns; plenty of opportunities for input. Explains. Major one against Meridian’s plan for windmills on the Lammermoor Range.
- 2.00 Included Heritage values as well. Describes. Brought in various groups to assist. Huge task.
- 4.27 Co-ordinated various factions and raised money. \$400,00 in total. Much from beyond Central Otago. In 2004 – 2006.
- 5.30 ‘World of Difference’ logo appropriate.
- 6.18 Nevis Range battle - described. (Conservation Order).
- 8.20 FALLS DAM. Managing the Manuherekia River flow: the Manuherekia Catchment Strategy Group (MCSG) a representative group to find / store more water. Proved unable to find farmer funding required to raise Falls Dam or build a new dam.
- 12.00 Achieved collective agreement that “The River comes First”. The theme has endured and is reflected in on-going discussions.
- 13.23 Failure to reach agreement on minimum flow levels – the ORC has to realise that at times, there is not sufficient water and consequently must prioritise the allocation.
- 14.55 CENTRAL OTAGO HERITAGE TRUST. Explains: When HISTORIC PLACES TRUST re-organised as a Crown Agency, local branch became an independent organisation, Historic Places Central Otago (HPCO) and joined with COES to oppose Meridian Energy.
- 18.40 Subsequent discussion with other heritage groups resulted in the establishment of the Central Otago Heritage Trust (COHT) as an over-arching group to coordinate and support heritage initiatives in Central Otago. Describes. Council-led Community consultation re heritage established heritage values and goals.
- 20.50 2016-18 COHT, COHT on behalf of all heritage groups persuades Council to provide for a paid, part-time HERITAGE COORDINATOR currently MAGGIE HOPE.
- 23.00 MATTHEW SOLE contributed to an early project- CO MEMORY BANK, a digital repository; explains.
- 24.36 COHT created an ORAL HISTORY GROUP, expands.
- 26.05 Volunteers invaluable but strategic planning, coordination, funding and administration require paid professional effort to maintain momentum and meet deadlines.
- 27.00 Made submissions to both Otago Regional and District Councils re Heritage as a valuable economic and cultural resource. Explain: Heritage, and what it can contribute to the region e.g. TOURISM.
- 28.30 Too many organisations to keep track of, but delicate path to tread. Maybe CO-ORDINATORS can pool their common interests and goals.
- 29.33 End of File 9

File 10, 02-02-23

- 0.0 SPORT & RECREATION. Skiing and sailing. Common interest in GARDENING and trees. Auckland first, then describes a Central Otago place with "river, mountains and trees." Describes.
- 3.19 Attempted to use 'CAD drawing' programme to plot all the trees planted on Shepherds Flat. Now much admired.
- 4.35 Characters met in C.O. Cambrians has Bob de Berry. Describes. Has used WOOFERS to plant about 40 acres of land. Aka RAINBOW JACKSON, when reading to school children.
- 6.30 2010[?] Bought 40 acres land other side of the Dunstan, to develop along similar lines of Bob's property. Called DUNSTAN HALT. Explains the name. Came with old concrete woolshed, and 'home' to DOMINIC PRICALOW. Rabbits with his dogs. Well known around St Bathans and Ranfurly. Loved to talk.... Expanded.
- 10.15 GARDENING. Now on 3rd garden in Central Otago.
- 11.30 FISHING. Not as much as he would like.
- 11.55 Walking Moss the dog.
- 12.31 End of File 10.