



Interview Abstract

Interviewee: Kathi McLean
 Interviewer: Suzanne MacKenzie
 Date recorded: 26 June 2024
 Abstractor: Sue MacKenzie and Margaret Bennie.

File 01

00:27:36	Parents Dorothy & Alec WILSON 2 brothers – Michael and Alex: 2 Sisters – Jacqui & Anne Marie. Ancestors from Scotland and Ireland – 3 generations
1:11:1.29	Parents came to Central Otago after the war
1.33:2.37	Childhood spent in Dunstan Road while parents developed orchard. Education important. Schooling at St. Gerards. Secondary at St. Philomenas, Dunedin. Studied music – ATCL and at Otago University. Played tennis and hockey.
03.32	Went to Teachers College in Dunedin. Studied English, Music and Education at Otago University.
4.16:5.12	Became a teacher and enjoyed it. Not a lot of careers advice given.
5.22:5.41	Horizons broadened in Dunedin – discovered Opera and ballet. After teacher training stayed in Dunedin finished degree. Taught at Bradford School in Dunedin.
05.54	Described flatting life in Dunedin in the 60’s. Mixed flatting. Sent to Cromwell to teach. Started to enjoy Cromwell. Discovered skiing and met future husband Lex – maths teacher at High School. Married Lex and lived in a Cromwell school house. Taught music at High School and taught a class in primary school. Talks about Lex’s great love of goldmining – Gold mine in Nevis. Family: Had first daughter Emma.
11:33	Started Pottery – (Plunket Mothers not the thing). Loved clay. Mentioned potters – Lilla Coker, Gwen Harris, Helen Mason. Describes importance of learning to throw a pot.

	<p>Had to move from Cromwell when dam was being built.</p> <p>Bought an orchard next to parents in Dunstan Road.</p> <p>Describes collecting clay at Nevis and made first primitive firing.</p>
17:49	<p>Joined Alexandra Pottery Club.</p> <p>Now has 3 children. Describes pottery room and the women who ran it – Viz: Brigid Patillo, Audrey Box, Margaret Hunt and Cheryl Johnston.</p> <p>Describes rebuilding a diesel kiln and interest in Raku firing.</p> <p>Attended Southern Polytech – did weeks course with Frederika Ersten (famous NZ potter) 1983.</p> <p>Formed Crafters – A co-op for artists - Pottery rooms behind.</p> <p>Hillary Allison from Internal Affairs helped them set it up. Lasted 20 years.</p>
24:44	<p>Recalls artists in Co-op – Marnie Kelly, Gwyneth Wilson. Cheap imports impacted the work. Bought orchard in Bolton Road (now the Packing Shed Gallery Café). Got her own kiln. Working for REAP managing school programmes and community art.</p>
26:48	<p>Describes work mainstreaming with children at Terrace School with significant disabilities.</p>
28:04	<p>Visiting teacher supporting children in Heriot, Tapanui, Lawrence, Maniototo. Visiting teachers redundant. Began managing school programmes, te reo, and One Day Schools for Gifted children.</p>
29:56	<p>Involved in Community Art and started Art in the Garden.</p> <p>Involved in Friendship Network. Gets a chance at age 65 to go to Greece for 10 days to Almond Grove to do primitive firing.</p> <p>Describes primitive firing and pit firing.</p> <p>Mentions Melanie Eade - Galley Support for her art work. Today 28 members at thriving Pottery Club: 20 based in Community House.</p> <p>Now teaching small groups 1 to 1 at home. People discovering the therapeutic value of creating with clay. Cost is an issue \$60 for 10 kilos.</p>
41:27	<p>Talks about love of working on the wheel. Glazing the most difficult.</p> <p>Raku and primitive firing don't require glazing.</p>
43:39	<p>Describes learning about sculpture. The Cate Prue Miller her sculpture teacher. Philosophises on the joy of working with clay.</p>

End of File 01