

INTERVIEW LOG SHEET

APCC Oral History Program – State Library reference no. for Somerville Collection OH 714/10

A series of interviews conducted by Bernard O’Neil with Richard Downward, O’Halloran Hill, South Australia from 27 November to 4 December 2008.

Time	Subject	Proper names
	Disk 1	
	Personal background, b. 1938 in South East; school at Lucindale (primary) and Naracoorte (high); <i>Sun-Advertiser</i> Youth Travel to Coronation in 1953; father’s background; Roseworthy College scholarship; teacher training in 1959.	Naracoorte; Lucindale; England; Roseworthy College; Adelaide Teachers’ College
	Interest in studying agricultural science; Agriculture Department cadetship; father visited the Minister of Lands; Roseworthy scholarship exam; schoolteacher career; sport over academia; agricultural science teacher; family land; transfer in the Riverland.	Adelaide [University]; Cecil Hincks; Bob McCulloch; Roseworthy; Glossop; mother; South East; Playford Government; Woolumbool; Lucindale; Loxton
	Football (playing and coaching) for Loxton; marriage; resigned from Education Department; work on new farm; drought in 1967 ruined the farm.	Loxton; Rex Voigt; Phil Nelson; Russell Ebert; Kerry Hamilton; Lucindale; daughter
	New career as the Lucindale Council’s weeds (and rabbit) officer; football for Lucindale; meeting the council, 1968.	<i>Naracoorte Herald</i> ; Lucindale Council; Ralph James; Horrie Mason; Wally Richards; mother; Lucindale
	Rabbit control post-myxomatosis - training local government officers; earlier rabbit control; Bromell’s methods implemented; Bromell’s tactics; important role of Ralph James.	Lands Department; John Bromell; Vermin Control Group; Dean Smith; Tatiara Council; Lucindale; CSIRO; Francis Radcliffe; James; Vermin Control Advisory Committee; South Australian Stockowners; United Farmers and Graziers; South Australian Farmers Federation [SAFF]
	Gained job by the ‘interview’; family farm too small for all, but run in partnership; sport at Lucindale.	Brother, father and mother; Lucindale Council
	Background in weeds work; move of Agriculture Department’s offices from Naracoorte; a more professional approach to weed control.	Roseworthy; Agriculture Department’s Weed Unit; Max O’Neil; Naracoorte; John Dawes; Struan; Commonwealth Development Bank; Adelaide Oval
	South East councils and weed control; division of work on weeds and rabbits; confronting huge rabbit problem; organising regional conferences in the South East on weeds; improving operations throughout the State.	South East; Tatiara, Robe, Kingston, Beachport, Coonalpyn and Meningie Councils; Lucindale; Pat Kelly; James; O’Neil; Dawes; Naracoorte; Penola; Mount [Gambier]; Millicent
	Employed by Lands Department, 1972 as vermin control adviser; growth of family; demise of farm; housing needed; MATS Plan; friction in department over Vermin Control Branch and the Vermin Control Advisory Committee.	Jack Dunsford; parents; Naracoorte; Ron Wright; Public Service Board; Metropolitan Adelaide Transport Study; Darlington; Lucindale Council; Lucindale; Adelaide; Vermin Control Branch; Vermin Control Advisory Committee; Bromell
	Vermin Control Advisory Committee (chaired by Jack Dunsford); major rabbit problem at Narrung leads to 1080 trials and rabbit control experiments; influences on Bromell; producing commercial 1080 oats; comparing carrots and oats as feed; characteristics of rabbits: overseas treatment.	Dunsford; Frank Heaslip; Carrieton; District Council of Carrieton; Grosvenor Hotel, Adelaide; Westminster School; Richard Harvey; Narrung; Meningie; Tatiara Council; Brookman family; Newton Tiver; Ian Rowley; CSIRO Wildlife; Houghton & Byrne; Rentokil; New Zealand; ‘Glenroy’
	Using external funding to research officers; vermin control, including dingoes.	Bromell; Brian Cooke; Australian Wool Research; Nick Newland; Pastoral Board; Smith

	Moves for legislative and administrative change, 1972; State conferences for weeds.	O'Neil; Arthur Tideman; Grant Baldwin; Highways Department
	Disk 2	
	Professional jealousies; changes to <i>Vermin Act</i> in 1967; enforcement as a last resort; semantics and choice of terminology by general consensus; tour of SA by Vermin Control Advisory Committee; bureaucratic difficulties, including with the VPCA/PPC.	O'Neil; Bromell; James; Vermin Control Advisory Committee; Bunny Fennessey; CSIRO Wildlife; Dunsford; <i>Vertebrate Pests Act</i> ; <i>Pest Plants Act</i>
	Administrative role and move to rabbit poisoning scheme; origin of 1080 poison; use of 1080 on rabbits; WA tests; field trials in SA in 1972 – north, Upper South East; working away from Adelaide.	Vermin Control Branch; Bromell; Narrung; Rowley; CSIRO; Smith; Cooke; Dave Chinner; Brian Sutton; Adelaide University; Heaslip; Glenroy, Carrieton; Witchitie; Lucindale; Coonalpyn; Day Spring; Redbank; George Copping; Lucindale Council
33:12	Dave Chinner collecting a hive of bees.	Chinner; Blackwood; Narrung
35:05	Encounter with a tiger snake.	Lucindale; Chinner
38:10	Encounter with wedge-tailed eagles.	Chinner
40:12	Rabbit carcasses; risk of 1080 baits to off-targets; a dummy batch of 1080.	Lucindale Council; Thebarton; Smith
51:53	Testing other methods of application; stopped use of one-shot in 1975.	VPCA; James
	Vertebrate Pest Control Authority as an enforcer.	
	Disk 3	
	Vertebrate Pest Control Authority as an enforcer.	
	Brian Cooke's work on killing rabbits and warren destruction on roadsides, 1969–73.	Cooke; Witchitie; Heaslip; Flinders Ranges; Pinnaroo
11:05	Escaped rabbit at Blackwood.	Blackwood; Chinner; Cooke
	Examining rabbits.	Chinner; Heaslip
16:03	Troubles en route to conduct experiments in the northeast of SA and in NSW.	Quinyambie; Kidman; Arkaroola; Yunta; Frome Downs Station; Broken Hill; Poison Bore; Cockburn; New South Wales; Mulyungarie; Lake Mundi Mundi; Cooke; Relief Dam; Sutton; Chinner
29:59	Experiments on Quinyambie (1974–75) and Witchitie.	Cooke; Cameron's Corner; Witchitie; Carrieton
	Disk 4	
	ABC's <i>Landline</i> documentary, <i>The last rabbit?</i> , 1975; working beyond the State borders; the new legislation; program replayed and used in the training schools.	John Evans; Broken Hill; Quinyambie; Robe; Lucindale; Olary; Kym Afford; Eringa Park; Yalkurie, Narrung; Harvey; Bill Munn; Mrs Edkins
11:11	Building a network with local government; VPCA piggybacking with the PPC; training schools.	Murray Bridge; Monarto; Monarto Development Commission; South East
18:47	Field training for regional officers; roadside work at Pinnaroo; Karoonda Field Day on rabbit control and native vegetation on roadsides; Native Roadside Vegetation Committee chair opened the field day.	Karoonda; Borrika?; Adelaide; Bromell; Cooke; Pinnaroo; Loxton; South East; Pilchera Bore; Basil Newland
28:10	Subsequent field day at Tintinara involved the PPC.	Ray Alcock
	Karoonda Field Day; demonstrating the techniques; forming boards for the region.	Steve Wood; Murraylands; Alan Arbon; Murray Bridge; Karoonda Council; Cooke
36:12	Observing impact of soil conservation, pest plant, vertebrate pest work on the landscape.	Dukes Highway; Yumali; Corong Council; Eyre Peninsula; Murray Whitehead; Andy Bates; Port Lincoln; Tumby Bay
41:22	Compensation for roadside vegetation; Tynan v R. court case, 1978–79; encouraging landholders to control proclaimed plants.	Alcock; Jack Tynan; Yumali; Dukes Highway; Highways Department; Taillem Bend
48:59	ACRE Award by Rotary International; landholders' legal responsibility for road reserves and overall.	Australian Campaign for Rabbit Eradication; Bromell; Peter Duncan

	Disk 5	
	First prosecution enforcing the <i>Vertebrate Pests Act</i> .	Tintinara; Tapley brothers; Alan Dearman; Dean Tapley; Murray Bridge Court
5:57	Resolving a court action without conviction.	Eric Anderson; Meningie; Smith; Cooke; Murray Bridge; Kym Boxall; Bromell
14:20	Legislation proven, leads to fewer court actions.	Morton brothers; Bordertown
	Attempt to merge VPCA/PPC legislation and bodies, 1978.	
19:08	Creating an authority and a commission; liaison between the bodies; attempt to bring the legislation together, 1978–79; political variations on the theme.	Meningie; Narrung Peninsula; Potter; Soil Board; Harvey; <i>The last rabbit?</i> ; O'Neil; Bromell; Adelaide; Brian Chatterton; Dunstan/Corcoran Government; Bob Christiansen; New Guinea; [Don] Dunstan; Des Corcoran; Carmel [Corcoran]; David Tonkin; Ted Chapman; Tonkin Government
	Was deputy mayor of local council, chair of Meadows Pest Plants Board and establishing Mid-Hills Vertebrate Pests Control Board – a confluence not conflict of interests.	
	New State government 1982; funding principles.	Chatterton; Bromell; Des Ross; [James]; Harvey; Roger Brockhoff; Frank Blevins
	Involvement with ministers; an alleged dingo.	Chatterton; Chapman; Blevins; Leon Murray; Bromell; Mitcham Council; Kym Mayes
	The <i>Animal and Plant Control Act</i> ; the merger of VPCA and PPC into the APCC, 1986; staff reaction.	Mayes; Bromell; Adelaide; Les Hoff; Alcock; Dale Manson; Kevin Gogler
	Disk 6	
	Reaction to the creation of the APCC; alternative options; bringing staff together.	Manson; Ron Webber; Naracoorte; Geoff Robinson; Port Lincoln; Mid North; Adelaide
9:58	One chairman for the PPC and the VPCA.	Peter Barrow; Jim McColl
11:44	Attempt to stand the new body alone; local government experience.	O'Neil; Bromell; Dunsford; Meadows District Council; City of Happy Valley
15:59	Teaching courses – Natural Resource Management diploma/degree, c. 1976; training schools for officers; rabbit problem removed at Monarto.	Roseworthy; Salisbury CAE; Murray Bridge; Salt Creek; Cooke; Coorong; Monarto; Gemini Downs Resort; Port Lincoln; Eyre Peninsula
	Transition of a native animal becoming a pest – wombats, dingoes; dingo paper at an international conference, 1990; formation of South Australia's dingo control policy.	Bob Ashby; Nundroo; West Coast; Tony Adams; Sacramento, USA; Wotton; Murray Bridge; Ron Sinclair; Peter Bird; Collinsville
	Dog Fence Board took control of dingo work via Pastoral Board; Sundown murders; toured the Dog Fence, 1975; new regional officers working on dingoes; toured the pastoral area, 1982; attempt to have the Dog Fence Board in the VPCA/APCC; liaison with the Dog Fence Board.	Bromell; Smith; Donald Byrne; Pastoral Board; Mt Willoughby; Oodnadatta Track; Greg Mutze; Cooke; Quinyambie; Rod Everett; Andrew McTaggart; Jim Vickery; Copper Hills; Coober Pedy; Sacramento; Hughie Frahn; Brian Lock; Gawler Ranges; Michael Balharry; James; Nundroo
	Box Flat Dingo Control Committee – tackling dingo problems across SA and Victoria border.	Pinnaroo, Lamerloo, Coonalpyn and Tatiara councils; Box Flat
	<i>Soil Conservation Act</i> could not cover proclaimed plants.	
	Purple Peril Woody Weed Management Program.	Adelaide–Mt Lofty Ranges
	Box Flat dingo difficult to control or eradicate.	Victoria; Mildura; Horsham; Ouyen
	Disk 7	
	PPC and VPCA staffs amalgamated after '83 before Act; value of the local boards and their volunteer members; recognition by ministers.	Bromell; Rob Kerin; Mayes; Terry Groom; Lynn Arnold
6:41	CSIRO against biological control agents for Salvation Jane; introduction of biological control agents for weeds.	John Doyle QC; Justice Len King

	Bio-controls – fear of introducing new pests; rabbit calicivirus; quarantine and testing facilities.	CSIRO, Montpellier, France; Jim Cullen; Cooke; Spain; Adelaide; Northfield; Keith Turnbull Research Institute, Mornington Peninsula, Victoria; Australian Animal Health Laboratories, Geelong
19:51	Difficulty in convincing some southeastern councils to amalgamate into PPC Boards, 1983–85.	James; South East
23:46	Stock sales inspection policy for SA.	South East; Gepps Cross; NSW; SAFF
30:26	Co-operative work on plants like dodder infestations; Alcock's identification of golden dodder; a contaminated seed introduced illegally or inadvertently spread dodder; a contaminated certified seed introduced yellow burr weed; communicating with farmers.	Riverland; Hoff; Alcock; Kew, London; South East; Jack Jones; Coorong Council; Tintinara; Upper South East; CSIRO, Canberra; [Mr Ryan]; Eyre Peninsula; ABC; Leigh Radford
	APCC tours; first woman representative.	South East; Christine Johnson; Lucindale Council; David Hogarth; Cooke; Manunda; Olary; Mutze; Gum Creek
	Treating landholder appeals.	Brockhoff; Ross
54:15	Handling a regular appellant on Kangaroo Island; the most interesting appeal; appeal to minister or through the courts; the legislation was sound.	Kangaroo Island; Charlie Thomas; Mark Williams; Brockhoff; Robe; David Brockhoff; Mr Brook
	Disk 8	
	International contacts; temporary loss of conference and travel material, 1990.	Sacramento; UK; Tullamarine airport
04:57	Mouse plagues, 1979/80 and 1993; liaison with Health Department on agricultural chemicals (strychnine); use of volunteers; aerial contractors; representing APCC at a farewell dinner; media coverage.	Mutze; Mr McCarthy; Keith McKellar; Pinnaroo; Groom; Nick Brooks; Williams; Dave Creeper; Trevor Dillon; Kevin Heinrich; Brenton Wilhelm; Sinclair; Bob McCabe; Tintinara; Loxton; Peter Jackson; Loxton Hotel; West Coast
17:09	Media coverage; funding the treatment program; staff costs; benefits to the South Australian grain industry, 1993.	ABC; Groom; Sinclair; Pinnaroo; Mutze
22:45	Problems with supply of strychnine and in obtaining alternative supplies for 'Operation Mouse'.	India; Wilhelm; Eyre Peninsula; Adelaide Airport; Queensland; Gordon Bilney; Bob Henzell; Phil; Brisbane; Perth; Port Augusta
28:42	'Operation Garter', 1995 (rabbit haemorrhagic/calicivirus disease); acting head of APCC; emergency response situation; testing for the escaped virus; virus escaped before being fully trialled for Australian or SA conditions; original tests for myxomatosis, 1937–38.	Wardang Island; Yorke Peninsula; Peter Allen; Cooke; Pt Victoria; Broken Hill; William Morgan; Rabbit Free Australia Foundation; Geelong; Mt Barker; CSIRO; Vic Breeding; Yunta; Flemington Rd, Glenside; Geoff Neuman
40:07	Reorganisation of boards, 1975–85 and 1996/97.	Renmark; Yorke Peninsula; Fleurieu [Peninsula]; Yankalilla Council; Roger Wickes; Allen; Gogler; Phil Blumberg; NT
46:00	Retirement as the NRM regime was about to unfold, 1998; deputy chair, Purple Peril Woody Weed Management Committee.	Wickes
49:23	State biannual conferences; APCC's Award for Excellence; Rotary's ACRE Award.	Rotary
	Enjoyment level – counting road kill, roadside vegetation, staff rapport such as with accidents, environmental benefits.	Queensland; Jones; Lameroo; Alawoona; Billiat National Park; Lameroo; John Price; Creeper; Yorke Peninsula; Foundation for a Rabbit-Free Australia; Mutze
Notes	Tarbaby, c. 1972 Establishment of Australian Vertebrate Pests Committee	CSIRO Wildlife; Cooke; Chinner Australian Vertebrate Pests Committee; Australian Agricultural Council; Dick Tomlinson; Des Gooding; Bromell; Gordon Wood; Geoff Ryan, Geoff Douglas; 'Bunny' Fennessy; Harry Frith; John Wright; Rob

	Landholder appeals	Borbridge; Melbourne University; John Gibb; 'Punch'; Frank Kneebone; Dunsford
	Aboriginal Training	Keith McBride; Brockhoff; David Hogarth; Le Poidevin; Owen
	Weed Warriors	Murray Whitehead; Pt Lincoln; Andy Bates; Local Government Association Conference, Adelaide
	Mantung Project	Purple Peril Woody Weed Control Committee; Mt Lofty Ranges; Phil Cramond Catherine Austin
		Jones; Loxton; John Garvie; Mantung-Maggea