

INTERVIEW LOG SHEET

APCC Oral History Program – State Library reference no. Somerville Collection OH 714/3

An interview with Ray Alcock by Bernard O'Neil on 4, 11 18 and 25 November and 9 December 2004 in regards to the history of the Animal and Plant Control Commission.

Time	Subject	Proper names
	Tape 1, Side A	
0:28	Personal background – b. 12.12.1921, Mt Gambier, a twin; father's work in Department of Agriculture; father a Rechabite; non-drinkers	Zoe Pearl Alcock; Ernest Simpson Alcock; Alick Alcock; Max O'Neil; Max Alcock; Longerenong College, Victoria; Roseworthy Agricultural College; Mt Gambier; Kybybolite; Len Cook; Taillem Bend; Princes Highway; Bordertown
5:55	Life in Mt Gambier; interest in botany and nature; school holidays; beach; siblings' interests and work; family history	Mt Gambier; Wallis Street; Valley Lake; John McConnell Black; Roseworthy College; Clarks Park [The Springs]; Port MacDonnell; Orwell Rocks; Bubbling Springs; 8-Mile Creek; Cape Northumberland; Treacle Pot; Max Alcock; Longerenong; Walpeup, Victoria; Alick Alcock; O'Neil; Gordon Alcock; Anne Alcock; Ernest Alcock; Elsie Evelyn Crafter; Zoe Pearl Alcock; Unley Park
12:50	More interested in outdoors life than school; the lakes area; family holidays; parents' attitudes, especially religion, race and language; name calling; Chinese friends; rabbits; orchardist and language	Valley Lake; Leg of Mutton Lake; Browne Lake; Port MacDonnell; Victoria; Glenelg River; Dartmouth; Horsham; Halls Gap; Stawell Gift; Mr Chang; [Mr] Langi; Charles and Anne Crafter; John St, Mt Gambier; Millicent
20:20	Scholarship to Roseworthy Agricultural College; Herriot's attitudes; obtaining diploma; war service in the RAAF	Roseworthy Agricultural College; Whel Street Primary School; Mt Gambier High School; Bob Herriot; Education Department; Agriculture Department; Glenburnie
24:30	Casual work as assistant wool classer; trips to opal fields; camping with father	Strathalbyn; Highland Valley; A.W. Barlow; David Barlow; Roseworthy; England; Port Adelaide; Goldsborough & Mort; White Cliffs; Lightning Ridge; Victoria; Horsham; Ocean Road
27:00	Father's work, and taking children on work trips; interest in dairying and cheese making; laboratory work; painting and drawing; grandfather [Edward Ernest Alcock]; grandson; sketching and photography – camera from sister-in-law	Penola; Penola Station; Roseworthy; Adelaide; Frank Pearson; Naracoorte; Hawkesbury Agricultural College; CSIRO; Alick and Max, brothers; Holden's; England; London
	Tape 1, Side B	
0:05	Camera story; multi-faceted father and self; quarantine work; father's working and home life in Mt Gambier; departmental office; father a gardener; father's retirement	George Downes; Mt Gambier; Port MacDonnell; Portland; Waite Research; Black; High Street, Unley Park; Edward Ernest Alcock; Pearson; Naracoorte; Kybybolite
7:35	Own career in agriculture; Roseworthy scholarship	Roseworthy; Hawkesbury
10:05	Roseworthy experiences, especially sports; learning art; swimming in Mt Gambier's lakes; life at the College; appointed Senior Counsellor; food	John Arnold; Mt Gambier; Roseworthy; Max McKay; Mt Gambier High School; School of Mines, Mt Gambier; George Reynolds; Adelaide; Dr Callaghan; Syd Reid; Wally Goulter; Jack Osborn; Sturt FC
20:55	Life and farm work at the College	Osborn; Roseworthy
25:30	Wartime situation, training; work experience before call-up	Wanganella Station; White Cliffs; Geoff Rowe

30:25	Horses bolted	
32:40	Call-up; Victor Harbor Air Training School	Roseworthy; Victor Harbor
	Tape 2, Side A	
	Not transcribed – extensive war service record notes	
	Tape 2, Side B	
0:17	Post-war experiences; RAAF Reserve; factory work with Farmers Union and A.A. Brice & Son; dairy course; new family; employment in dairies and cheese-making; vermin; improved work practices; European market; transfer to eastern Eyre Peninsula; change of career	Hawkesbury; Farmers Union; Mile End; Kingsley Pryor; Roseworthy; Cook; Kybybolite; A.A. Brice & Sons; J.D. McDonald; son Eric; wife Elsa; Melbourne; Streets; Queensland; Gordon Pickhaver; Adelaide; A.W. Sandfords; Naracoorte; Murray Bridge; Penola; Bordertown; Lake Wallace, Edenhope; Port Lincoln; Wilcox Mofflin
13:05	Spraying pesticides/weedicides; working with herbicide company and local government	Eyre Peninsula; Bill Hodge; P.J. Wren; District Councils – Lincoln, Tumby Bay, Franklin Harbour, Kimba and Cleve
17:00	Britain joining European market, 1950; work on weed and pest control almost a hobby	Port Lincoln; Wilcox Mofflin; Hodge; Koppio; Waite Research [Institute]; David Symon
21:30	A regulatory officer under the Weeds Advisory Committee	Adelaide; Pearson
23:15	Joining the Public Service; moving to Adelaide; education, Boards, effective weeds treatments; contracted to councils	Port Lincoln; Adelaide; Eyre Peninsula; Wren; Elliston; Streaky Bay; Ceduna; Kimba; Goyder's Line; Agriculture Department; Pest Plants Commission
	Tape 3, Side A	
0:20	No plans to be a farmer	Koppio; Hodge; Hawkesbury; Koppio Agricultural Bureau; Bert Newton; Wanilla
3:50	Involvement with Agricultural Bureau	Adelaide; Newton; Alf Moody; Green Patch, Port Lincoln; Lock
6:05	Work as a contractor	Alcon Pty Ltd; Eyre Peninsula; District Councils – Lincoln, Tumby Bay, Franklin Harbour, Cleve and Kimba; Cummins; Wilcox Mofflin; Lawlors Pest Control; Murray Pest Control
10:45	Work as the local officer on Eyre Peninsula; Bureau meetings; move to Port Lincoln; Departmental office	Cleve; Tumby Bay; Port Lincoln; Koppio; Port Lincoln; Jack Richards; Eyre Peninsula
18:05	Change in nature of the work; overcoming resistance from some farmers	Eyre Peninsula; Tumby Bay; Cleve; Kimba; Cowell; Salvation Jane
	Tape 3, Side B	
0:25	Liaison with other officers; assisting farmers; Weeds Advisory Committee booklet; joining the Department of Agriculture	Eyre Peninsula; Kimba; Franklin Harbour; Cowell; Cleve; Tumby Bay; Lincoln District Council; Mr Testrow; Ian Phillips; Frank Chapman
6:05	Contact with surrounding regions; annual conference; common problems; weeds	Nullarbor [Plain]; West Coast; Ceduna; Streaky Bay; Elliston; Port Lincoln
10:00	Controlling weeds by government, contractors, companies, farmers; <i>Weeds Act</i> ; roadsides adjoining land; specimen collection, bird watching and recording	Lawlors; Chapman; Coffin Bay; Doug Barnes; Elsa; SA Museum; Kellidie Bay; Phillips; Eyre Peninsula
15:40	Liaison with Soil Conservation Boards and Lands Department; Roseworthy connections; Pastoral Board committees; annual conference	Jack Richards; Port Lincoln; Rowe; Roseworthy; Adelaide; Naracoorte; River Bend Cheese Factory; Kybybolite
18:25	Working on soil conservation	Cleve; Roseworthy; father
20:25	Dilemma between love of natural world and farming world; reserves for protection of native species and land	SA Nature Conservation Society; father; Eyre Peninsula; Chapman
25:00	Joining the Public Service; weed committee members; meetings	Kybybolite; Mt Gambier; Port Augusta; Port Pirie; Port Lincoln; Victor Harbor
30:45	Support for job application; move to Adelaide; amateur botany	Adelaide; Testrow; Chapman; Port Lincoln; Eyre Peninsula

	Tape 4, Side A	
0:15	Committee membership; Koppio museum; service clubs, lodges and services clubs; relaxation	SA Nature Conservation Society; Australian Conservation Society; Koppio Agricultural Bureau; National Trust (Port Lincoln); Frank Brennan; Bert Brennan; Koppio; Lincoln Reserve
5:00	Popular on weed control	
6:45	Family life; wife's work; children; study; factory work; children's schooling	Elsa Alcock; Ballarat; Hawkesbury College; Camberwell, Melbourne; Hodge; AgCon Ltd; AW Sandford; Port Lincoln; Wilcox Mofflin; Hindmarsh; Koppio; sons Eric and Robert; daughter Janet; Poonindie
13:00	Family history	Eric Alcock; Dan Perry; Tractor Company; Port Lincoln; Melbourne; Caterpillar Tractor Company; Canada; Cummins; Lyn Kloeden; British Columbia
17:40	Supply and equipment services; Eric's story	Perry; Port Lincoln; Eric Alcock; Burnie; Tasmania; Koppio; SA Tractor Company; Melbourne; Vietnam; Lyn Kloeden; British Columbia; Canada; Finning Tractor
22:00	Bob's story	Adelaide Boys High School; Port Lincoln High School; Lands Department; Western Australia; Queensland; Brisbane; Eric; SA Institute of Technology; Koppio Primary School; Department of Marine & Harbours; Adelaide; Forests Department (WA); Judy (wife); Australian Survey Office; Friends of the Heysen Trail; Kiwanis
27:50	Janet's story; Elsa and Ray's overseas travel on long service leave from the Pest Plant Commission	Elsa; Adelaide; Victoria River Downs Station, Northern Territory; Royal Adelaide Hospital; England; London; Bristol; Europe; Ray Alcock; Victory Services Club; Moscow; Victoria Station; Port Lincoln High School; Canada; Eric and Lyn; Vancouver; Prince Rupert; Peter, husband; Murray River; Germany; Italy; Rhine; Greece; Morocco; Port Lincoln; Tumby Bay; Cleve; Kimba; Port Augusta
	Tape 4, Side B	
0:05	Ray's long service leave; assistant in the Commission	Queensland; Noosa Heads; Gold Coast; Mossman; Point Douglas; Eric; Fort Jackson; Arctic Circle; Vancouver; Switzerland; Prince George; Lake Louise; Queen Victoria Glacier
8:40	Earlier liaison with Canadians on weeds – Manitoba Department of Agriculture	Saskatchewan; Eric and Lynette; Prince George; British Columbia; Canada; Jack Forbes; Manitoba Province; Adelaide; research centres – Carman, Elm River, Canberry, Brandon, White City, Regina and Findlater
9:50	Holiday touring in Canada; visiting a religious sect; payment of expenses; work benefits; tours for wives	Manitoba; Canada; Elsa
17:30	Elsa's story	Elsa; Port Lincoln; Hoppings; Adelaide; Adelaide Hospital
19:40	Work as Local Government Weeds Advisory Officer and for the Pest Plant Commission; proclaimed weeds; boards	Peter Barrow; Adelaide; Gawler Place
28:15	Formation and operation of Weeds Advisory Committee	

	Tape 5, Side A	
0:28	Working with the weeds boards; work at Agriculture Department research centres; individuals trials; mistletoe problem; farmers sharing information on weed control; herbicides	Eyre Peninsula; Ernest Simpson Alcock; Peter Kloot; Northfield; Riverland; Minnipa; Kybybolite; Turretfield; Karoonda; South East; Struan; Adelaide; Murray River; Yankalilla; America; Britain; Europe; Germany; England
11:00	Awareness about using pesticides and herbicides; poison	
17:15	Decision making	
18:45	Working arrangements with councils and landowners	Port Lincoln; Lower North; Upper North; Eyre Peninsula; Mallala; Crystal Brook; Port Pirie; Port Augusta; Adelaide
21:50	Assistance with fieldwork; bushfire control; secondment to Pest Plant Commission	Arthur Lewis; Les Hoff; Jim Garrick
26:40	Reporting to the Commission; senior officers	Bob Christiansen; South East; O'Neil; Grant Baldwin; Arthur Tideman
29:50	Career expectation on joining the Department; native dodder; Noogoora burr; trip to England	America; Renmark; England; Kew Gardens
	Tape 5, Side B	
0:05	Visit to Kew Gardens re dodders	Dr Verdcourt; Kew Gardens; Dr R.W. Johnson; Queensland
1:10	Commission's field trips; interstate committee; spraying roadsides	Berri; Victoria; Christiansen; Sue Barker; Gidgee, NSW; Des Corcoran; Bill Parsons; David Murray; New South Wales; Canberra, ACT; Grenfell St; Streaky Bay; Minnipa; Port Lincoln; Jamestown; Renmark; Naracoorte; Gwydir River; Moree, NSW; Mildura; G.W. Douglas; R.T. Borbidge; F. Etheridge; Noxious Weeds Destruction Board, Victoria); J. Strang; H.R. Carter; F.R. Clyde; L.N. Fletcher; Noxious Weeds Advisory Committee, NSW; Tideman; O'Neil; C. Oliver; R. Humphrey; W.S. Reid; Weeds Advisory Committee, SA; and W.T. Parsons
9:40	Commission's field trips; Weeds Officers' Conference	Eyre Peninsula; Minnipa; Streaky Bay; Ceduna; Port Lincoln; Tumby Bay; Cleve
12:20	Commission intervention in dealing with officers or farmers; serving notices; relations with officers	
15:30	Retirement 1986; Pest Plant Commission management	Ian Phillips; Dr David Cooke; Richard Downward; John Bromell; South East; Crystal Brook; Dr Cooper
21:10	Merger of Vertebrate Pests Authority and Pest Plant Commission; independence of staff	Bromell
24:35	Female staff; female tertiary students	Barker; Marie Caskey; Mt Gambier High; Max McKay; Bob Bickford
28:35	Conducting weed control courses to train people	Kloot
32:20	<i>The Weed Scene</i> publication	Chapman; Kloot; Adelaide
	Tape 6, Side A	
0:10	Dealing with pastoral people; spreading of weeds	Jeff Rowe; Adelaide; Quorn; Smythes; Whyalla; Middleback Ranges; Flying Doctor; Flynn; Dr David Symon; Waite Research
6:20	Economics and practical demonstrations of weed control	
8:25	Annual Weed Officers' Conference; sharing information	Adelaide; Tideman; Kloot; Symon; South East
13:15	Publications; information from interstate	Kloot

17:15	Royal Show; fire control; field days; media; discussing problems; learning from colleagues	ABC; O'Neil; Baldwin; Barrow; Tideman; Garrick; Andy Michelmore; Streaky Bay; Elizabeth Michelmore; Roseworthy
27:30	Liaison with interstate; water weeds project; control vs eradication	Gwydir River; Darling River; Moree, NSW; David Murray; Riverland; Murray River
	Tape 6, Side B	
0:30	Joined the Department of Agriculture, 1970; descriptions of early fieldwork	Port Lincoln; Adelaide; Spalding; Stephen Hogg; Adelaide Hills; East Torrens Council; Garrick; John Stafford; O'Neil; Baldwin; Meningie Council; Wally Saltmarsh; Roseworthy College
5:00	Quarantine work; previous work with livestock; volunteer survey of Oraparinna National Park, Lincoln reserves; overlap of professional and personal interests	Morphettville; Port Lincoln; Des Habel; Roseworthy; Oraparinna National Park; Flinders Ranges; Nature Conservation Society; Eyre Peninsula; Hundreds of Hambidge, Hincks and Blesing; Basecombe Well; West Coast; Chapman; Tideman
10:05	Departmental awareness of nature conservation; soils	Reg French; Herriot; Roseworthy College
14:50	Fieldwork in 1971; forming Weeds Committees; metropolitan boundary	Crystal Brook; Georgetown; Port Wakefield; Port Lincoln; Adelaide; Eyre Peninsula; Hindmarsh; Adelaide Hills; East Torrens; Salisbury; Tea Tree Gully; Norwood
20:00	Fieldwork in 1971	Nundroo; Penong; Crystal Brook; Georgetown; Wakefield; District Council of Blyth and Balaklava; One Tree Hill; Oraparinna National Park; District Council of Gumeracha; Kangaroo Island; Kingscote; Parndana; Penneshaw; Henry Day
26:00	Formal and informal liaison with farming bodies, departments, committees and farmers	Stockowners Association; United Farmers and Graziers; South Australian Farmers' Federation; Agricultural Bureau; Rural Youth; Agriculture Department
	Tape 7, Side A	
0:20	Trip to Canada, 1975; report for the Committee; 9th Interstate Border Liaison Conference; trip to Europe, 1981; visit to Kew Gardens Herbarium; quarantine	Calgary; Canada; Eric Alcock; Prince George; Edmonton; Alberta; Winnipeg; Manitoba; Brandon Research Centre; Regina; Saskatchewan Research Centre; Adelaide; England; Verdcourt; Kew Gardens Herbarium; Renmark; River Murray; Tideman; Ian Black
8:30	Working conditions; attitudes towards controversies and reports; hours overtime	Ernest Simpson Alcock; South East
13:05	Recommending control programs	Kybybolite; Tom Playford; Glen Pearson; Cockaleeche
16:00	Attitude to promotion	O'Neil
17:35	Office accommodation and facilities, departmental vs private vehicle, telephone; superannuation; promotion; job sharing	Port Lincoln; Hope Valley; Port Lincoln; Elsa Alcock; Black; Cooke
23:00	Working with Commission members; appearing at the Commission	Roger Brockhoff
25:15	Dealing with confrontation	Kimba
26:55	Dealing with conservation	Hincks
29:00	Lifelong personal interest with practical and academic knowledge; experience with horses	Roseworthy; Hawkesbury