

## INTERVIEW LOG SHEET

APCC Oral History Program – State Library reference no. for Somerville Collection OH 714/12

An interview conducted by Bernard O'Neil with Ron Sinclair, Waite Institute, South Australia on 18 December 2008 and 8 January 2009.

Time	Subject	Proper names
	<b>Disk 1</b>	
0:23	Born Sydney, 1946; attended Epping Boys High School; impact of reading books on career; kindergarten–school–university colleague; Bachelor of Science in Agriculture, and research assistant at Sydney University, mid 1960s; university farms; wildlife biologist in Zambia, 1971; married, 1970.	Adelaide; Sydney; Gerald Durrell; Geoffrey Robinson; Sydney University; Camden; Zambia; Lake Tanganyika
	Surveying by FAO researchers; low-level flying counting animals; interest in a PhD.	United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation; Graham Caughley; Luangwa Valley
	Began PhD on distribution and abundance of kangaroos in western NSW, 1974; rainfall of 1973–74 affected PhD.	Caughley; Sydney University; Central Australia; New South Wales; Zambia; CSIRO; Charles Birch
	VPCA job in South Australia on dingo baiting, 1978; field trips surveying native birds, reptiles and mammals; Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science's collection of native small mammals.	Peter Bird; University of Canberra; Vertebrate Pest Control Authority; Blacks Rd; Institute of Medical and Veterinary Science; Chris Watts; Peter Bavarstock; CSIRO; Canberra; John McIlroy; NSW; WA
	Testing 1080 by VPCA preserved its usage in SA; dingo-baiting programs; poisoning water holes; Dog Fence.	John Bromell; United States Department of Agriculture; Coopers Creek–Diamantina area; Bird; Moolawatana Creek; Northern Flinders Ranges; Far North
	Vertebrate Pest Control Authority as a statutory authority.	Department of Agriculture
	Move from dingo work to bird problems Adelaide Hills, 1984; VPCA and National Parks joint committee on native species; never worked on rabbits until 1996.	Bromell; David Wotten; Summertown; Fauna Management Coordinating Committee; Joan Paton; Bird
	Mouse plague work in the Murray Mallee, 1984.	Brian Cooke; [Murray] Mallee; Peter Allen; Wanbi; Department of Agriculture; Greg Mutze
	Mouse plague, 1987; research into risk of the strychnine left in dead mice; information used in the 1993 outbreak.	Mutze; Bird; Department of Health
	Work on rosellas in cherry orchards in Adelaide Hills; changes in management practices.	Bird; Adelaide Hills; Bill Bishop; Basket Range; Lenswood Research Centre; Summertown; Christo
	Contacts through vertebrate pest conference, Brisbane; use of netting from c. 1987; idea originated in New Zealand.	Brisbane; NSW; Queensland; Lenswood Research Centre; [Colin Plane]; Paul James; Bird; Tim Reynolds; BHP Steel; Adelaide Hills; United States; New Zealand; Young, NSW; Victoria
	Work on starlings and starling damage in vineyards; work on bird damage in the dried fruits industry.	National Feral Animals Control Program; David Paton; Adelaide University; Adelaide Hills; Barossa; Clare Valley; [Christine Campbell]; Dried Fruits Research Council; Loxton Research Centre; Riverland; Barossa Valley
	<b>Disk 2</b>	
	Bird damage in dried fruits industry, including Victoria.	Loxton; Mildura; Sunraysia District
	Big mouse plague, 1993 – role of minister, methods of treatment, use of strychnine; outcome for 1994.	Richard Downward; Kevin [Heinrich]; Mutze; Pinnaroo; Richard Carter; ABC; Alison Caldwell; Robin Hood; Tailem Bend; Riverina, NSW; WA

	Determining environmental fate of strychnine; export markets; mice started up in the Darling Downs, 1995; commercialisation of treatment process, 1996.	Grains Research and Development Corporation; CSIRO Land and Water; Barley Board; Wheat Board; Darling Downs Grain Growers Association; Mutze; WA; Animal Control Technologies
	Involvement with rabbits from 1995 – calicivirus; liaison with local Aboriginal community; media work; rabbit haemorrhagic disease; liaison with New Zealand; federal legislation; tracking the virus; release at Turretfield Research Station.	Wardang Island; Mark Williams; Port Victoria; Yorke Peninsula; Point Pearce; Yunta; Agriculture Department; CSIRO; New Zealand; Flinders Ranges; High Country Farmers Federation; NSW; Queensland; Port Augusta; Streaky Bay; Tailem Bend; Victoria; Bass Strait; Tasmania; Turretfield Research Station; Rob Kerin; Peter Allen; Australian Quarantine and Inspection Service; Turretfield; Penny Hopper
	RHD work at Turretfield Research Station since 1996.	
	Impact of myxomatosis and calicivirus on rabbits and other animals.	New Zealand
	Ongoing work on pest birds – technical advice to WA, spread of disease via piggeries.	Esperance, WA; National Feral Animals Control Program; Invasive Animal Cooperative Research Centre
	Getting 1080 products re-registered.	Agricultural and Veterinary Medicines Authority
	Research focus of career.	
	<b>Disk 3</b>	
	Nature of the Vertebrate Pest Control Authority; practical vs theoretical experience; VPCA merger with PPC.	Bromell; Adelaide
	Role of research staff after Animal and Plant Control Commission formed; some crossovers between pest animals and pest plants; loss of staff and direction.	Allen; John Virtue; Roger Wickes
	Formation of a natural resource management agency; silo mentality retained.	Wickes; Primary Industries and Resources SA; Department of Water, Land and Biodiversity Conservation
	Attitude towards a natural resource management agency.	Adelaide; Victoria; Far North; Natural Heritage Trust
	New project management computer systems; management attitudes towards research	Bromell; South Australian Research and Development Institute
	Less connectivity between APC and the NRM Council.	Wickes
	Formation and role of Rural Solutions in PIRSA.	Rural Solutions
	Involvement in government/political matters, legislation, ministers; crises – mouse plague, 1993	Terry Groom
	Landholder reaction to APC's work in crises; change in public service mentality.	
	Relations with landholders – a generational change with more women, technology and education.	
	Law enforcement vs advising landholders of the rules and best practices; being an expert witness; appeals.	Bromell; Agriculture Department; Downward; Williams
	A very stable organisation over a long period; silo mentality; contact with other organisations.	Grenfell Centre; Bromell; Netley; Waite; Adelaide University; CSIRO; Virtue
	Cooperative Research Centres' work – Invasive Animal, Weed, Desert Knowledge.	Virtue
	Attending and presenting at conferences; publications.	Australasian Vertebrate Pest Control Conferences
	Staff and board people furthering the vision of animal and plant control over long periods – a strong environmental bent.	Bob Henzell; Mutze; Bromell; Cooke; Peter Michelmores; Peter Sheridan; Ian Coleman; Robin Hood; Allen; Mark Ramsey; Williams; Ken Rudd; Kadina
	Progress made over 30 years.	