

Water Corporation AA Dams Available for Transfer to the Shire of Mt Marshall

Preliminary Report

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BACKGROUND

The Water Corporation first approached the Shire of Mt Marshall to gauge their interest in taking over eight AA Dams in May 2015. The approach was made by David Morgan, Water Corporation Senior Property Planner, Procurement and Property Branch (08 9420 2640). At the time, the Shire was very interested in taking on the Beacon Rock tank and catchment, however this was not on the “Available for transfer” list.

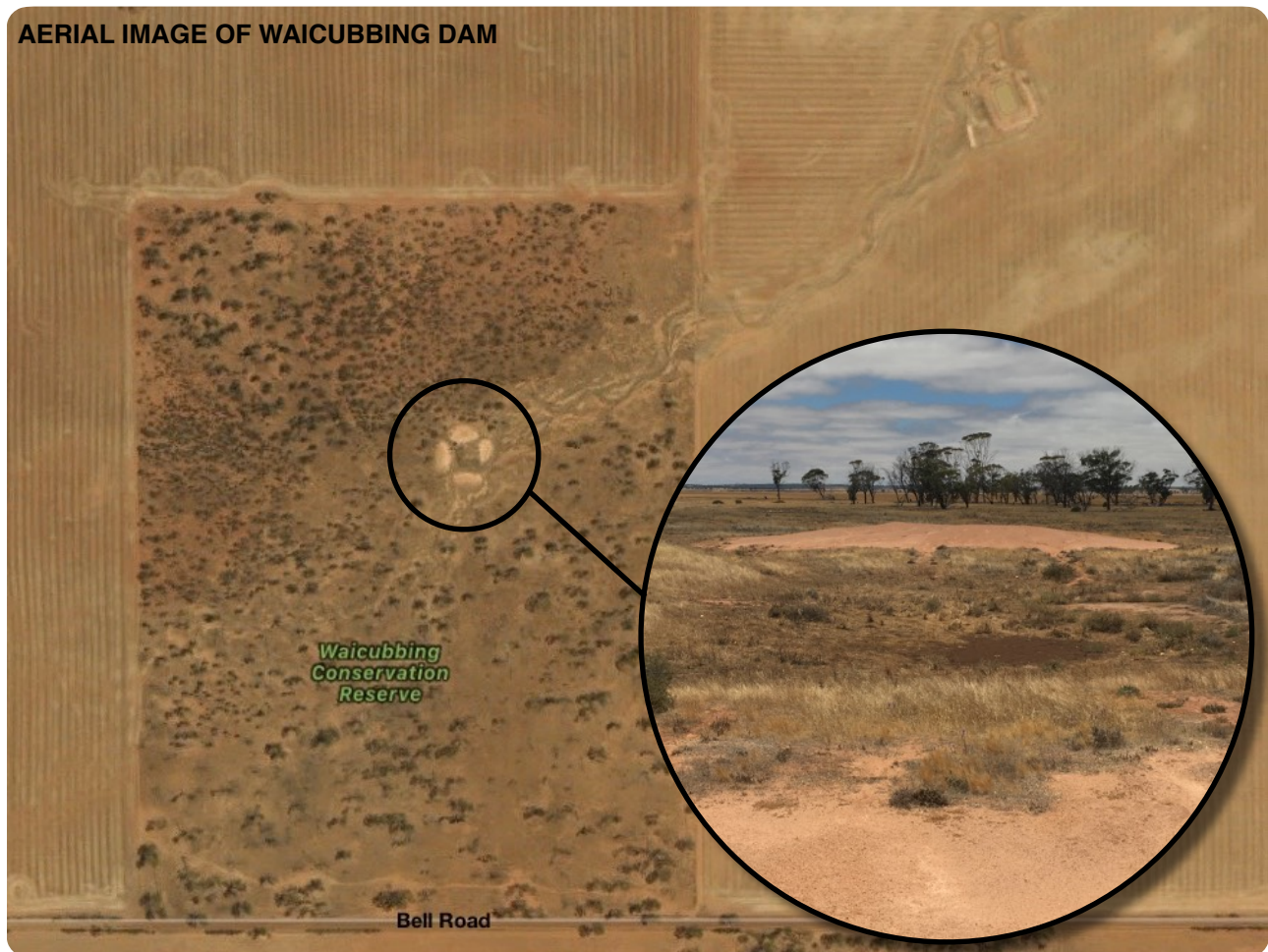
David Morgan has recently contacted Stephen Tindale, Acting CEO. At Mr Tindale’s request I conducted site visits to the eight AA dams that are available for transfer and completed a preliminary visual inspection. This report contains details of these inspections.

AA Dam Name	Address	GPS Coordinates	Availability
AA Dam No 069 Wiacubbing	Reserve 12689 Bell Road, Welbungin	-30.851420 117.961466	Available for Transfer
AA Dam No 412 Gabbin	Reserve 19373 Gabbin Road, Gabbin	-30.660753 117.652792	Available for Transfer
AA Dam No 434 Warkutting	Reserve 20303 Beacon-Bencubbin Road, Beacon	-30.557578 117.908252	Available for Transfer
AA Dam No 441 Sand Soak	Reserve 17924 Dalgouring Road, Wialki	-30.349733 117.985155	Available for Transfer
AA Dam No 456 Gabbining	Reserve 14744 Job Road, Beacon	-30.525034 117.778630	Available for Transfer
AA Dam No 457 Marindo Rocks	Reserve 21417 Marindo North Road, Cleary	-30.399970 117.758477	Available for Transfer
AA Dam No 461 Snake Soak	Reserve 17927 Welbungin-Wialki Road, Wialki	-30.575741 118.030852	Available for Transfer
AA Dam No 469 Beebeegnying	Reserve 21681 Grant Road, Bencubbin	-30.629343 117.927841	Available for Transfer (Subject to protection of other infrastructure within Res)

LIST OF AA DAMS (TABLE)

All of the dams in this report require some maintenance and some safety enhancements. There may be funding available from either Water Corporation or Department of Water for the requisite works, depending on a range of factors.

WACUBBING DAM



As can be seen in the above image, Waicubbing Dam is an actual dam instead of a tank. The dam itself is more interesting for its historical value rather than any potential as a water source. The fashion in which it is situated in the landscape means that its catchment area is small and will probably only harvest stormwater when the dam located ~900 metres to the north-east is full.

NAME	Waicubbing Dam
TYPE	Dam
LOCATION NUMBER	Avon Loc 14805 / R 12689
SAFETY ISSUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Nil
MAINTENANCE ISSUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The collection pathways are overgrown with weeds.• No fence on north or west sides. North side was historically fenced but it lack of strainers make it seem as though the west side was never fenced.
GENERAL COMMENTS	Given that the area is already for “Conservation” if the Shire were to take on the site there might be some management activities that would enable the Shire to use the site as an offset for any future clearing permits.

Water source potential: **VERY LOW**

GABBIN



Gabbin Dam is a relatively small tank. The water collection pathways are ill-defined and overgrown. As can be seen in the aerial image, it appears as though much of the harvested stormwater makes its way around the tank and into the dam ~160m to the north.

NAME	Gabbin Dam
TYPE	Tank
STORAGE CAPACITY	850 kL (estimated)
EFFECTIVE CATCHMENT AREA	0.5 hectares (approximate)
LOCATION NUMBER	Ninghan Loc 02372 / R 19373
SAFETY ISSUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Roof is coming adrift
MAINTENANCE ISSUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The collection pathways are overgrown with weeds. No visible leaks
GENERAL COMMENTS	Given the small size of the tank and its catchment area, its location, and the safety and maintenance issues it may not be a viable water source.

Water source potential: **LOW**

WARKUTTING



Warkutting is quite central. Aside from the roof, it does not appear as though it would need much work to bring it up to standard. The access tracks would require a little attention to be suitable for larger vehicles.

NAME	Warkutting Dam
TYPE	Tank
STORAGE CAPACITY	1, 178 kL (estimated)
EFFECTIVE CATCHMENT AREA	1.5 hectares (approximate)
LOCATION NUMBER	R 20303
SAFETY ISSUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roof damage• Fence requires attention
MAINTENANCE ISSUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Despite being virtually full, water was not available at the outlet.• Visual evidence of some leaks• Catchment wall overgrown with weeds in places• Ladder is locked, but no cage
GENERAL COMMENTS	Sump and inlet seem sound. The tank is a decent size and is relatively accessible.

Water source potential: **MEDIUM**

GABBINING



Gabbining Dam is one of the two dams under consideration in this report that has had its roof replaced, which greatly enhances the attractiveness of the site. It is also has the largest tank and catchment area of the sites that were inspected.

NAME	Gabbining Dam
TYPE	Tank
STORAGE CAPACITY	2, 640 kL (estimated)
EFFECTIVE CATCHMENT AREA	3.6 hectares (approximate)
LOCATION NUMBER	R 14744
SAFETY ISSUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Two ladders and neither have cages nor are lockable
MAINTENANCE ISSUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Visual evidence of many leaks, although the tank was full at inspection• Roof appears sound• Fence requires some maintenance
GENERAL COMMENTS	Sump and inlet seem sound. The tank is the largest on under consideration in this report and is relatively accessible.

Water source potential: **VERY HIGH**

MARINDO ROCKS (CHRISTIE'S TANK)



The tank seems to have had its roof replaced. It also does not have an obvious leaks from the tank, although there is one in the inlet pipe. The tank was approximately 75% full at time of inspection.

NAME	Marindo Rocks (Christie's Tank)
TYPE	Tank
STORAGE CAPACITY	1, 140 kL (estimated)
EFFECTIVE CATCHMENT AREA	1.5 hectares (approximate)
LOCATION NUMBER	Ninghan Loc 03742 / R 21417
SAFETY ISSUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• No cage on ladder
MAINTENANCE ISSUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Inlet pipe has a leak• No obvious leaks from the tank itself• Inlet sump seems sound• Fence seems sound• Access to the gate is blocked by vegetation
GENERAL COMMENTS	Along with Gabbining, this is the other tank that appears to have had its roof replaced.

Water source potential: **HIGH**

SNAKE SOAK



This tank holds water and comes with a serviceable outlet, including a standpipe. However, it is made less attractive by its relatively small tank and catchment size. The corrugated iron roof is all but gone and the timber frame is collapsing.

NAME	Snake Soak
TYPE	Tank
STORAGE CAPACITY	1, 178 kL (estimated)
EFFECTIVE CATCHMENT AREA	1.3 hectares (approximate)
LOCATION NUMBER	R 17927
SAFETY ISSUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roof corrugated iron virtually gone• Timber frame collapsing into tank• Two ladders, neither have cages or are lockable
MAINTENANCE ISSUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some minor leaks• Catchment wall seems sound• Sump and inlet pipe seem sound• Outlet and standpipe are operational
GENERAL COMMENTS	The roof on this tank is the one in worst condition. Despite having some leaks, the tank was virtually full at time of inspection.

Water source potential: **LOW**

BEEBEEGNYING



As with most of these tanks, the roof is in a state of disrepair. The tank itself is slightly bigger than most of the others in this report. Its catchment area is also slightly bigger, as well as looking nice and clear from a desktop survey. The rock had no obvious access tracks so an on-the-ground inspection was not possible. However, the tank was virtually full, so that would indicate that the catchment area is functional.

NAME	Beebeegnying Dam
TYPE	Tank
STORAGE CAPACITY	1, 360 kL (estimated)
EFFECTIVE CATCHMENT AREA	1.8 hectares (approximate)
LOCATION NUMBER	R 21681
SAFETY ISSUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Roof damage• No cage on ladder
MAINTENANCE ISSUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Some minor leaks
GENERAL COMMENTS	The catchment area is on the opposite side of the road from the tank with no obvious access. The tank was full at time of inspection.

Water source potential: **MEDIUM**

SAND SOAK



This dam has a nice character with the way it is built into the granite outcrop. However, it is not particularly accessible to large vehicles. Without being to observe the level of the dam floor it is difficult to discern how much water it can hold. Given its location and relatively small size it is probably not a convenient water source. Also, the fence requires attention and given that it is only 1.2m high in parts, would probably require replacement with a 1.8m high fence.

NAME	Sand Soak Dam
TYPE	Granite dam
STORAGE CAPACITY	600 kL (difficult to estimate due to its shape)
EFFECTIVE CATCHMENT AREA	1.5 hectares (approximate)
LOCATION NUMBER	Ninghan Loc 04303 / R 17924 are the numbers of the reserve though the actual dam is at Ninghan Loc 03045
SAFETY ISSUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Fence requires maintenance
MAINTENANCE ISSUES	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Some leaks in dam wall
GENERAL COMMENTS	The area is not particularly accessible to larger vehicles.

Water source potential: **LOW**



Mt Marshall History Working Group

Oral History Programme

Transcript of Interview

A.M. MOIR

Interviewer	Frederick (Frank) Broomhall
Transcriber	Mary Macfarlan History Development Pty Ltd
Date of Interview	8 Dec 1974
Duration	90 minutes.
Reviewer	Len Cargeeg

NOTES TO THE READER ON INTERPRETATION OF THIS TRANSCRIPT

Readers of this oral history transcript need to be aware that it is a near verbatim transcript of the words as spoken during the interview that was conducted in the form of a natural conversation between the interviewer and the person being interviewed. Some minor changes have been made to facilitate the flow of the document.

Much of what is said in such interviews relies upon the accuracy of the memory of the person being interviewed and readers should bear this in mind and judge for themselves how factually accurate the material is. The interviewer has sought to clarify or verify facts and statements made during the interview where this seemed appropriate.

The views and opinions expressed within the transcript are those of the person expressing them in the interview.

Please refer to the notes on the following page to aid interpretation of the transcript.

Note 1

The recording is in three tracks and runs for a total of 90 minutes.

Note 2

Where the interviewer has used words such as ‘Yes’, ‘Right’ or ‘OK’ as an encouragement, but not as anything else then these words have not been transcribed unless they are relevant for the context.

Note 3

The interviewer has inserted occasional words (which are not in the original recording) into the transcript in order to clarify the context of what was being said. These words are shown in the form [they would say].

Note 4

Where a sentence has a series of dots in the text such as this indicates that the speaker paused, the recording was not clear enough to transcribe accurately what was said or the following speaker interrupted what was being said.

Note 5

The interviewer is referred to as ‘FB’ in the transcript and to the subject speaker is referred to as ‘AMM’ for the interviewee as appropriate.

Track Speaker

Len Cargeeg This is an oral history interview of Arthur McAlister Moir (Senior). The interviewer is Frederick Broomhall better known as Frank Broomhall. The date of the interview is the 8th of December 1974. State Library of WA catalogue number OH180.

FB Mum and dad?

AMM Yes they'd taken over.

FB Yes took over fromBrown.....took over from you?

AMM I came to Bencubbin in July 1925 and came over from Melbourne. I'd been over there a couple of years and I came back at their request to go as a partner in this block that they'd purchased from Fred...Meyer..... and I had the name that's to

FB Yeah, yes

AMM Is that [recorder] going?

FB Yes it's going. She's right. So that was 1925?

AMM 1925.

FB And your people had been over in Bencubbin?

AMM Oh well they'd been in Bencubbin - they came from the South West - and they purchased Browns General Store there probably about the end of 1923 there and then when they purchased this place from Myers – 2000 acres. I was the only one in the family [that had] had previous farming experience here in the West and they asked me would I care to come in as a partner and manage the farm.

So I agreed and I came over and our first [task] - Myers was still on the property [as] they had the right to stay there for three months after we took over - and we immediately applied ourselves to clearing. My brother Bob was working with me and a cousin named Bert Phillips he was also working with us that year and we

cleared somewhere about 500 acres the first year we were there.

Quite a lot of it was green Salmon Gum forest that we chopped down and then the remainder had been rung-barked some years beforehand and we burnt that down and cut out the regrowth that had grown in between. And then we rolled with a big boiler made into a roller. We had a tractor on the property and we rolled about 150 acres of jam [tree] country and of course there was a crop in on the ground. There was about 800 acres of crop there.

FB This was when you bought the property?

AMM Mmm. We bought it with a crop over [it]. And we harvested that crop which was badly affected by Septoria but it went 12 bushels even so - a magnificent looking crop. [Lord knows] what we would have got off if it hadn't been affected with Septoria.

FB What had caused you to - what really started you off - coming to the West from Melbourne?

AMM Oh well I belong to the West

FB Oh I see. You'd been over there working?

AMM I was born here.

FB You had been over to Melbourne you know on....

AMM Oh yes, yes. I'd been working in the timber industry over in Gippsland and then the timber industry up in New South Wales and I spent about 12 months working in Melbourne and [had] come back to Western [Australia]. It was my home state and I was born in Perth and lived down the South West all my life before going to the eastern states. And [my] brother Robert went over to the Eastern States with me and he stayed about 12 months then he came back and he came back to work in the business. He was a partner in the general store ~~here~~ in Bencubbin.

FB And the family had been down in the South West at that time?

AMM Oh yeah that's [right]. In the timber country.

FB They would have connected with a timber industry?

AMM Oh yes.

FB Was your father a jarrah faller?

AMM No. No he was an engine driver.

FB And he came up - I've a recollection of having seen him at...

AMM Oh probably would have yes.

FB Only the once though.

AMM Yes.

FB You know I might have seen him 100 times.

AMM Yes he'd be there in your time.

FB I only remember the once at Warkutting when the progress meeting was on.

AMM Yes.

FB There wasn't that much at Bencubbin at that time was there?

AMM No, not a great deal there wasn't. There were a few houses but I noticed in my visit last year that they have quite a large number of houses built there that weren't there in my time. But also [there was [a lot of houses had disappeared that were there in our time. As a matter of fact there was quite a collection there was at least six houses over on the eastern side of the railway line which weren't there.

FB And they'd be permanent houses?

AMM Yes, well built houses.

FB The others were weatherboard weren't they? The ones that disappeared.

AMM They were well built houses and the police station was over there.

FB Oh yes well it was over there wasn't it on the south side?

AMM Well I didn't see it there this time.

FB Oh it was gone then was it?

AMM Gone, yes. They all seemed to be gone

FB Do you recall who was the Bank Inspector at that time?

AMM Yes. Thomas Tertius Atkinson. [Tertius Trafford Atkinson]

Always used to amuse me his second Christian name. Yes, he was the Agricultural Bank Inspector at that time. And the manager of the Bank of New South Wales was a man named Rice. I forget his Christian name. Rice

FB T Howard Rice wasn't it? [Edwin Howard Rice]

AMM That was it yes.

FB That's how he used to sign himself.

AMM I can't remember the manager of the Commercial Bank. They were the only two private banks operating at that time. [William Joseph Webb]

FB How did you go on when you went out to the farm? Had they built a house on it then?

AMM Oh there was a house yes - a well constructed house.

FB There was - when I was there once I think it was - there was a good weatherboard house. Very well built one.

AMM Yes weatherboard and plaster lined inside.

FB And you were living over in another?

AMM Yes we ...the place we built has a

FB You had boxing gloves hung up there.

AMM Oh yes, yes, yes.

Ollie Moir That was burnt down wasn't it?

AMM That was burnt down while we were there we lost everything in

that fire.

FB That was burnt down was it?

AMM Oh yes, yes, yes we'd been out in the morning got wet with the rain and taking our clothes off and draped them round boxes in front of an open fire. And anyway the rain lifted for a while so we all went out to one of the back blocks to bring in a tractor wheel [and] loaded a tractor wheel into a crank axle cart after a very heavy lift [so] most of us went out and while we were out there a Mallee root had rolled out of the fire and up against the boxes where the clothes were drying and set it on fire.

Ollie And the whole lot was burnt.

AMM And the whole lot was burnt

Bob had a very lucky escape because he was a very, very heavy sleeper and he'd been working night shift on the tractor and normally he would have been asleep there [during] day time only he'd gone to the funeral of a Mrs Smith [that] had been killed at ~~home~~ - killed in a sulky accident [Mrs Mary Kelly Smith , funeral 15th April 1930]

FB Yes that's right

AMM So he was out of the house. There was nobody in the house and [it was] a very fierce fire. We had, of course, all our possessions there and we had guns and rifles ammunition and birds.

It all went. Yes it all [got] burnt. The heat was that fierce. We had a 1000 gallon tank catching the seepage - the rain - from the roof and it was pretty near full and it melted the joins in the tank.

FB How did you go for water supply when you first went on to the block?

AMM Well there was big dam on the place and there was water tanks at the house which kept us alright. There was about three 1000 gallon tanks.

FB Were there any water supplies round about?

AMM Oh yes, about 5 mile away there was a place called Snake Soak, I assume had been a native well, and it had been opened up by the sandal-wooders and later on the government had timbered the whole well and pump on top so we used to get a supply of water from there. It was very good water too and a very good supply until when we had long dry summers with the farmers all around coming to cart from there and diminished the supply. And of course it used to be very hard to get any quantity of water at all. We used to cart 3000 gallons at a time on our truck and I remember we used have to wait longer and longer for the water to make in the soak and it got that way that when you got up there at 4 o'clock of the morning you found a queue of farmers waiting in front of you to fill from the well when it came your turn you knew you had a few hours wait for the well to make up so that you could get your 300 gallons out.

FB You would have to be pumped – what is it a semi-rotary pump?

AMM Yes, Handle back and forth.

AMM So we overcame that part of it by going up there of about 9 o'clock in the evening and putting our blankets on the ground to make sure that we'd be first in the queue when the well made 300 gallons. And during the night sometimes if we hadn't had that [then] we used to keep on pumping until we got our tanks full and then we'd return home and sometimes that was 3 and 4 o'clock in the morning before we got home. Then finally the supply would give out and we'd have to move further afield.

FB What were the places where you carted water from then?

AMM We carted water as far as 35 miles away from home. We used to cart from another well out south of Wialki. We used to cart from Warkutting Rocks tank. This was later on of course.

FB Did you do any of that with horses or was it all done by?

AMM All done by motor [truck]. And then when they brought the water from Waddouring Dam up to Barbalin - the Water Supply Department wherever the head of the pipeline was they used to put a stand and the farmers used to cart from there. Well, we were carting from – at one time we were carting from 35 mile away from home and of course on the state of the road – dirt roads – badly rutted and badly corrugated it was quite a trip - to have to go for a trip to water.

There was one - sometimes when you have things very grim like that you get a spark of humour. I remember on one occasion when the pipeline came as far as Mick Griffin's just north of what we call Hamence's Hill about 10 mile from our place brother Bob went down there to fill the tanks up - because we had a lot of stock on the farm – we had horses, sheep and cattle. We used to run 11 or 1200 head of sheep and we generally used to have about 30 or 40 head of cattle.

FB You had two blocks did you? Two 1000 acre blocks?

AMM Oh no. We had 2000 acres, another 1000 acres, we had 5000 acres all told.

FB All together?

AMM Yes, 5000 acres. My brother Bob would come down to the pipe stand for water, Got his load on the way back there was a thunderstorm and it just simply fell [down]. At home we saw the thunderstorm and wished it would come over our way and fill our dam but it wasn't to be. We only got a few specks. But anyway Bob was driving this truck home and he got as far as Eyanning Dam and he got bogged. He got bogged there so he said 'what am I doing carrying this load on the truck and it is probably swimming in water at home?' So he put the siphon hose in the tank and runs out on the ground only to find out when he got home that he'd only had a few drops of water and was still without water for our

sheep.

FB Did Snake Soak ever give out in your time? Apart from temporarily?

AMM Only temporarily. Only temporarily. It was very, very good. Afterwards they put in a concrete reservoir there.

FB You mean one of those quarter of a million gallon tanks? Like Warkutting?

AMM Yes. It was in before Warkutting.

FB Was it?

AMM Yes. I'd been writing to the member to the district – Fred [Warner MLA]Williams? I used to call him Marshall because he was the member for Mt Marshall. I former myself into the Snake Soak Progress Association, I had always...I had been writing to him for some time pointing out that it was a fine rock catchment and that there was thousands of gallons of water ran away to waste every year then our district was without water so they finally decided to – the Public Works Department with representations finally decided in the big tank there.

FB Did they put a pump on there too?

AMM Beg pardon?

FB Did they put a pump on there?

AMM Oh yes, yes, yes but of course it was a lot easier pumping out of that then pumping out of the out of the well.

FB Yes because they always put the stand pipe at the lowest point?

AMM That's right. That's right yes. They only practically [had] just to start the pump and the water flowed. But while I'd been writing about this necessity of putting in a tank - the desirability of putting in a tank there - I received a letter in the mail one day to say that the following day there was a couple of Public Work officials -

Water Supply Department officials - coming up to make an inspection of Snake Soak and [asking] could I have some members of the Progress Association meet them and escort them over this area. So I had to hurriedly dash over to an adjoining farmer - who knew nothing about me writing these letters - and get him appointed president of the Snake Soak Progress Association which he agreed to and when the two officials came I told them 'well I haven't been able to round up any of the committee men they were too busy but I did have the President who would accompany us on this inspection'.

They were quite they were quite pleased with that. That satisfied them and we went up and showed them this large expanse of rock and they had a look at it and they agreed that it was quite a desirable project to embark on. So anyway a few weeks after that a gang of chaps - who were on relief at the time - workers they came there and started [work].

FB Started work. Who were your neighbours then?

AMM The neighbours they were the Perrys.

FB That's Bert Perry?

AMM Bert Perry and Clarrie Perry and Bob Grant. That was on our southern part of the block and then right at the southern part of the block was Billy Woods and Colonel Raper.

AMM And over on the eastern side was George Cowling and Harold and Bill McAndrews and Ernie [Perrin] and then a bit further down was Charlie Grant and [alongside] Charlie Grant the neighbour on the other side was the - you know the father and son?

Ollie Moir Mr Johnson?

AMM No, no, no, no, no. That was [Hind].

Ollie Moir Hawkins?

AMM That was Hawkins. Yes.

FB Oh he had a son there didn't he?

AMM Yes he had a son. The son and his family lived there.

FB Did you do much visiting at that time? You know, there wasn't a great deal going on?

AMM Well we didn't because as a matter of fact we were just about occupied full time with the farm because with the running sheep - we were the first people to have sheep out north of Bencubbin and with the wild dogs, the dingos, being so bad they had to be shepherded all the time [during the] day and yarded at night.

FB Can you recall what year it was that you got sheep?

AMM I think it was 1928.

FB Golly you must have been well above anybody else in North Bencubbin?

AMM Oh yes, yes a long time.

FB Most of us didn't think about sheep until the Depression had well and truly set in.

AMM Yes oh we were the only ones with sheep for miles. Old Mick Griffin he was the only other one had sheep and he had built a dog-proof fence around his property. But yes we [had quite a] number of sheep and not only not only did we have to shepherd the sheep but we used to go out in to the surrounding bush country - you know, that wasn't farmed - wasn't taken up. It was a big expanse of country that wasn't settled at all near us and a lot of rocky country - break-away country - and this was the haunts of these dingos and we used to go out there and set traps for them.

As a matter of fact we found that that was quite a lucrative undertaking because the at the time the Vermin Board paid a scalp bonus of £2 and [this was] supplemented by the Roads Board - the Mount Marshall Roads Board - was another £2 so every scalp - every dingo scalp - we got we got £4. So it was quite a lot of

money back in the days of the Depression.

FB Did you get many?

AMM Oh yes, we got we got quite a lot. I think our highest tally - I kept a tally - and we got 16.

FB Over what period would that be?

AMM Well that would be about that would be about '30, '31.

FB But I mean how long would it take you to get the 16?

AMM Over 12 months.

FB Over 12 months?

AMM 12 months, yes.

FB So that'd be 60 odd quid from the [dingo scalps]?

AMM Yes that's right. That's right. Very welcome. Previous to that we used to set traps but we had no knowledge of how to trap dogs at all and we used to set a nest of traps and the dog would come in and he'd walk in between two traps and walk out between two other traps without putting his foot in the right place.

So we thought well there must be a different way to doing it to that. Anyway I read in a report in the Sunday Times of a very clever dingo trapper who had trapped a notorious dog up at Wiluna a dog and there was a £250 bounty put on his head. He was called 'Bullocks Foot' because a previous attempt at trapping had taken some of his toes off and when he used to leave a track on the ground he used to leave a cloven foot mark. He had very big paws and he was known all round the district as Bullocks Foot.

And of course that made him a bigger marauder than he'd ever been before and he used to roam all over an area of miles and miles on the sheep stations killing sheep. So hence the pastoralists [sheep farmers in that] around all clubbed together and they offered this reward. Well this dog trapper named George Herbert had read about this reward so he came down there and he was only

there a week and he trapped Bullocks Foot and got the £250 reward.

So this account was in the Sunday Times so I wrote down to the Sunday Times and asked could I get in touch with Mr Herbert and to get some pointers off him on how to trap a dingo and told him about the dingo trouble we were having. So they passed the letter on to Mr Herbert who in the meantime had been appointed the first government Vermin Board 'dogger' And one of the first places he visited was our place because he told us when he met us that he considered anybody that'd go to that trouble to try and get information about really had a dingo problem. So he came up and he made several visits to our place.

He took he took me and brother Bob with him on several occasions and he demonstrated the setting of dingo traps - what were the proper places to set them, and how to set them, and how to deceive the dingo - both the smell and his eyes - and in effect made us quite good dingo trappers. Then we started to deal with the dingos and of course we got results straight away.

FB And you'd notice the difference in the flock too?

AMM Oh yes, well we never - owing to closely shepherding - we never lost a sheep. We never lost a sheep but we knew the dingos were there because we used to hear them howling in a chorus before it got dark at night. And of course we used to see them about and as a matter of fact they used to [follow] the light when you were working at night time ploughing, or some operation like that, with a tractor.

They used to delight in following you at a distance round and round and you'd look back and you'd see these - on a moonlight night you'd see these - eyes shining further back on the furrow behind you. They used to seem to fascinate them the newly ploughed ground and I suppose the noise of the tractor. They'd follow you around most of the night so we were well aware that

they were around and of course we used to see their tracks around.

FB How did you go for doctors and medical attention if you had an accident or anything like that?

AMM Well...

FB Or did you have no accidents?

AMM Oh we had accidents.

FB I would think to myself that if you'd been farming any length of time that there'd be, you know, some risks run?

AMM Oh yes. The first time - the nearest doctor was 40 mile away - Dr Finkelstein of Kununoppin and he used to come over once a week I think it would be on a Friday to Bencubbin. He had a room at the hotel and any person requiring his service of the doctor would see him.

Well then, of course, if you had an emergency it meant going over to Kununoppin and on a very, very rough road. At that time it was - well the roads of course in the first place were made by horses and drays and improved in the course of time by the Roads Board. But of course with the limited amount of finances they had they couldn't do a very great job. They would gravel over boggy patches.

FB Generally furbish up the road?

AMM Furbish up the road. But we had a very bad accident on our farm. It was at the harvest time and we used to work two men on a harvester - one on the harvester and one driving the tractor. We had two tractors, two harvesters and then of course that was back in the days when you had to be sewing [wheat] bags too at the same time. And of course with having to shepherd the sheep and all that we were a bit short of manpower even with all the brothers there.

So we engaged a man for the harvest sent away to the employment

Bureau [agency] to get a man that was experienced on harvesters. Well a man came up and he assured us that he knew all about harvesters and all that so we went out to a block north of the homestead and started harvesting there. I think it was on the first round I was on one harvester and my brother Don he was driving the tractor on the other harvester and we just pulled in near to [off load] we went one round with the harvesters and we were pulling in near the wheat dump when evidently the comb of this other chap's harvester run into a mound of dirt - [because] he didn't raise the comb quick enough - and he jumped down off the harvester and went and rushed to and put his hand in the [machine] and pulled the dirt out and got his hand in the beaters which mangled his hand very badly. We were we were over a mile from home so I pulled my shirt off and his hand looked in a dreadful mess blood all over it and it was quite apparent of course that he'd had no experience on a harvester at all before despite the fact that he told us he'd done plenty of harvest work.

So I pulled my shirt off and we wrapped it round his hand and we didn't have the truck out at the block with us so they had to walk him home. So while Don and Bob were bringing him home I run ahead so that sister could prepare to wash the dirt and that out of his hand and I run that mile home as hard as ever I could go. I was in condition then because it was nothing for me to run a mile. I used to run everywhere I went about the farm. I used to run when I was on foot and a mile run wasn't out of the way but it was the fastest mile run that ever I did - part of it through the uncleared bush.

I got home and the sister had hot water by the time my brothers arrived with this chap she had hot water there and she bathed his hand and cleaned all the dirt out of it and that. He had a couple of fingers were just hanging by a bit of flesh but his hand was badly crushed as you could imagine. The truck was at home it had been away with a load of wheat and when it came home we got this

chap and made him comfortable on a mattress on the back of the truck and ran him over to Kununoppin.

I was very thankful that we had a workers' compensation policy. Although we weren't required to have it by law we did have a workers' compensation policy so the so he was fully covered by insurance.

We found out afterwards - he told us afterwards - he'd had no [experience]. We went to see him in the hospital and he told us he'd had no experience [and] that he was an unemployed boiler-maker and which made us feel very sad to think that his right hand which must have been very important to him in his trade was so mutilated. But the doctor saved - I think he saved - the thumb and his forefinger and think the other three fingers had to be amputated.

But he told us that he was desperate for work. He said he'd been out of work that long and sick of living on the dole he was only a single man and he only used to get nine shillings a week 'sustenance' and he said it wasn't enough to live on after he'd paid his [way]. Whatever he paid for his room in Perth. And in desperation he'd taken this job on the harvester he was very sorry and very apologetic to us but of course we were very sorry for him too and very sorry to feel that men were - that the economic circumstances - were such that they forced men into that position.

FB Yes.

AMM If the chap had made a clean breast of it too [and told us that] he'd never worked on a harvester before we'd have pointed out all the dangers and the things not to do. You certainly didn't put your hand down in the beaters while they were still revolving. So that was the only thing that I recall.

FB It's a pity in a way isn't it that blokes have to do that sort of thing.

AMM Yes well you can understand that economic circumstance forced

him to. The only other occasion when we were in an awkward position like that was with myself out harvesting on the same block only driving 10 horses in a harvester. Some of them had only just been broken in and I'd stopped for lunch and my brother Alec had come out on horseback and bought the lunch out to me and sat and talked with me while I ate lunch. I waited for a little while for the horses to clean up a bit more of their feed and he went away down to a dump of wheat and started sewing up a few bags of wheat. Well I got the horses reharnessed, on the move, and started away and it's a long sandy hill that they were harvesting on and [I was] way up the top of that and I was half way back again when I got a terrible pain in my stomach. Frightful pain and I stood up on the harvester and best I could and tried to attract the attention of my brother who was on this horse at this dump. But I was waving [shouting and] singing out to him and waving to him but he calmly got on his horse and without looking up near the harvester rode off home.

Well there I was in great pain and 10 horses on my hand [with] three of them I think just freshly broken in very restless and I didn't know what to do. So I tied the reins of the team up to a lever on the harvester and nearby was some fence posts that we'd cut so I got these fence posts speared them through the wheels of the harvester on both sides and thought 'well if they bolt with the harvester they won't drag it very far like that in this sand'. So I set out for home and I had over a mile to walk - or it must have been at least a mile and a quarter to walk home to walk home - and the further I walked the lower I got to the ground and I could remember about the last 400 yards finishing on my hands and knees the pain was that great. I got home.

Of course I was married then. No I don't think I was. I wasn't no, no. There was just mum and Kath. Anyway they got hot water and put the hot water poultices on my stomach and all that and, of course, by this time I think the truck was away from home

somewhere so we had no means of conveyance so the pain eased off a bit and I said that I wouldn't go over to Kununoppin so they put me to bed and I felt a bit easier after having these hot poultices on my stomach.

The next day next day was the day the doctor visited Bencubbin so they took me in to the doctor. The doctor decided to take me across to Kununoppin Hospital and there were two or three other chaps in his car being taken over when we went. I sat in front with the doctor and chatted to him all the way because I felt alright and I thought it was a bit of a blow getting taken over to hospital when we were right in the middle of harvesting.

We got over there and drove up to the hospital and the doctor hopped out and disappeared in the hospital then they started hurrying around there and I thought some of these chaps must be very ill that was in the car with me. Anyway the doctor come and he says 'out you get' to me. I said 'was somebody ill, somebody real ill doc?' And he says 'yes, you'. So he says 'I'll just go home and have my tea and he said 'they'll prepare you' and he said 'I'll come [back] and operate on you straight after tea'. So the consternation.

So anyway they put me to bed and after tea the doctor came up and started sounding or feeling around my stomach and the pain that he could raise was over on the left side of my body not on the right side at all.

FB Mmm.

AMM So he seemed a bit mystified and he said 'I'll defer the operation on you because it seems to be something a bit different'. So anyway I think he kept me there at the hospital for about a week and then he sent me - there were no X-rays there at the hospital in those days - so he sent me down to Perth to have an X-ray. Well I returned from Perth, I returned to hospital, to home and I think it was about a fortnight or three weeks after that I was in Bencubbin

on the day of his trip so I made it my business to go and see him and see if he knew anything about this X-ray. He told me, he said 'yes', he says, 'it was your appendix alright and it's very inflamed' and he says 'also you've got adhesions' [so] it'll have to come out'. And I says 'well I can't' and he says 'when can you come over' and I says 'I can't come over I'm too busy'

'Oh well' he said 'are you too busy to die?' I said 'No'. Well he said 'that's what'll happen if you don't get that out'. And I said 'well anyway, it's all right now doc just now and I'll put it off for a while.'

So I went back home and sister Kath told me about somebody that had told her that if you kept drinking regularly olive oil that it was very good for anybody that had appendix trouble. So I started drinking olive oil and I couldn't bear the smell of the stuff. I remember I used to have to put pepper and salt with my olive oil to be able to drink it down.

FB Do you remember – you know how it used to be in Bencubbin with quite a number of fellows working on farms who had blocks out north. Did you know any of those chaps at all?

AMM Oh Yes.

FB They'd be fairly well known I would imagine?

AMM Yes. Oh yes. Well what I was going to say – I've finished just about with my appendix. That of course was of course – how many years ago -it would be well over 40 years ago and I haven't had my appendix out yet.

The chaps that were out north of us - while we were there - there was quite a lot of new land opened up north of us and one man that readily comes to mind was Hughie MacDonald who took up a block just beyond Snake Soak – a virgin block he took up there. He had worked for Ollie's father before that time. I well remember that he called in at our place when he was going out to settle on the

block and he had a tent and camping gear and all that sort of thing.

He was a raw Scotsman - a very big fellow was Hughie – I don't know whether you knew him. He was- a big raw-boned bloke.

FB No I don't think I knew him.

AMM He used to be lumping afterwards for Dreyfus up at Dalgouring.
..He spent a few seasons lumping wheat but when we got on to the block and cleared the place for him to put the tent up we could see that he didn't know the first thing about pitching the tent. So we all hopped in and helped him – helped Hughie to put his tent up and we rigged up a fire place for his, you know, how he could do his cooking. Well he started in there. He bought a tractor. He chopped down with an axe quite a lot of the forest country. But this was mostly a block of light country that so he bought a tractor and roller and rolled quite a lot.

But he run into trouble. Just the type of trouble

He brought a type of tractor – it was a Fordson tractor - with iron tyred wheels which wouldn't pull easily when ploughing or anything like that it because it used to dig itself into the sand. Although he did manage to put a crop in it was only after very, very hard work. Actually he found that the farming wasn't a success at all and he gave it up.

Way out further up north from us was a family called Bennison.

FB

AMM A lot of boys and girls and they took up a property there and we used to see them at times – [when] we were driving out that way - cutting down the gimlet country. Clearing there's was mostly gimlet country and they were clearing it, some Salmon gum forest. I used to feel sorry for them because they were more or less a 'new chum' family and I thought well what a terrible way to trying to [get started].

FB Hard work isn't it? I mean it is hard work any time but if you don't know....

AMM One occasion I do remember, the midgies used to be very, very, bad. We used get plaques of midgies. They were particularly bad when you were cutting down forrest. I remember on one occasion being out there and some of the boys who were clearing, they had white flour bags pulled over their heads with eye holes cut and they had castor oil spread on their arms to keep the midgies going and even that didn't keep the midgies off them. And they had fires going with smoke from ringed boughs and that, every now and then they would rush into the smoke to take these midgies off.

AMM There was another family out that way named Milligans. Harry, Mike, Bob and their mother. They came from South Africa and they evidently had a fair bit of capital and they worked very hard too. And clearing their country and when it came time to put a crop in, they decided they would get horses. So one of the boys went down to Perth to the Stockman's Sale Yards and bought, I think it was eight horses, all unbroken, South Australian draught horses and they brought them up. They came to get us because they weren't really used to handling horses. So they called in to come and come to unload these horses. We were horrified when we knew that they were unbroken.

They were all little chaps, small fellows. Try to handle all these horses to town help them. We eventually got them out onto our farm and some of them were really outlaws. We broke them in, we had working horses there and we put them in amongst working horses and we broke them all in. We rested for a while till they were, reckon they were quiet and we lead them over to them.

AMM I was always very amused by a story that they told. Evidently when they left South Africa sovereigns were currency in South Africa so they brought a quantity of sovereigns with them and they thought they'd be legal tender in Australia and one of the chaps -

one of these boys - I think it was Mike had told me how he went into a tobacconist shop in some street in Sydney to buy a packet of cigarettes and put down the sovereign and the girl behind the counter said what's that? And she wouldn't take it, wouldn't take it, so he couldn't buy his cigarettes although he had a sovereign [and] he had several sovereigns in his pocket.

FBwell to do and couldn't get them.

AMM Well of course if she'd only known well of course she'd have grabbed the sovereign without any hesitation.

FB Did they – the Milligans stay long?

AMM They stopped there for several years but eventually they left there. I couldn't say [when]. I think they left after we left but we met them again after. Harry was a Health Inspector for one of the local government authorities down in the metropolitan area. And Mike was an electrician. He was an electrician in South Africa before he came out here so he went back to his trade as an electrician and it only recently that - the last of the brothers - we saw [was] where the last of the brothers died they're all dead now.

FB You know after all the years you put in on the farm how did it start that you decided to go, to leave the district?

AMM Well my brothers had gradually left. One brother, brother Alec he became a jockey. [He] got a jockey's licence and was riding for some race horse owners and brother Bob went prospecting up at a place called Enuin [near Mt Jackson] and that was where [Ira] George Polkinghorne he went up there. [You should] see George Polkinghorne talk about this district and the potential that was in this district that.....

So Bob went up there and he was prospecting there for quite a while. Don went up with him at the same time but at that time there was a find of gold made at Mount Palmer. It was out in Yellowdine and Don went there. Don had an alluvial claim there

and he worked that alluvial claim for a while and then when the alluvial patch worked out he went working for the de Bernales company who had bought the mine and were constructing the plant for the mine. Bob also left the prospecting and went there and worked on the construction of the plant and when that was finished Bob took up a job in the power house there and Don became a battery man in the plant where they crushed the gold. Well then that only left sister Kath and mother and brother Jack and then brother Doug who was domiciled in Kalgoorlie he wanted mum to come up there and live in Kalgoorlie and Kath also went up there because I'd married and we had our second child then.

FB That's while you were on the farm?

AMM Oh yes.

FB Both of your children were born on the farm?

AMM Yes they were born in Kununoppin.

FB Born in Kununoppin?

AMM Yes.

FB Like two of mine.

AMM Yes and well [the] way things were going on the farm I couldn't see any hope. There didn't seem to be any light ahead and I saw young children of other farmers out driving tractors from necessity because in desperation they couldn't employ labour the work was too much for them themselves so that's the easy way to have [workers]. I knew cases - well my own cousin [John Mill, North Gabbin] had his girl I think 11 years of age out driving a tractor while he was on the drill seeding the crop.

So I looked at that and I thought 'well none of my children's going to do that' and all I could see ahead was years and years of very hard work. I was always confident that farming would recover that it would come good just a matter of weathering it out. But of

course I was snowed under with work [so] it was too much.

FB Well you had a big property?

AMM Oh I couldn't work a 5,000 acre property and I couldn't work it to the extent that we'd all worked it and I couldn't see anything else but just carrying the burden all the time. So anyway I decided to get out. So by that time there was only the wife and I and the kiddies and brother Jack on the farm. So we packed everything up consigned it to Kalgoorlie and meantime brother Doug had got a house for us up there and no he hadn't we just consigned it there and he looked around for a house. And we went to Mount Palmer and stopped with Bob and Don for a while because they were living in separate houses.

FB What year would that be? Before the war I suppose?

AMM Oh yes that was in 1937.

FB That was a poor year too [wasn't it]?

AMM Yes well then I left and I left Ollie and the babies down at Mount Palmer while I went up to Kalgoorlie. In the meantime mum and Kath had got a house up there and we had a house to live in. I started looking for work. At that time it was very, very hard to get in Kalgoorlie. I think I spent about three months chasing up after work without getting a job there. I well remember this Hughie MacDonald - he had left down there several years before - he'd been working on the mines up in the north country and he'd come down to Kalgoorlie and he was trying to get a mine there. He was a very well set up fellow. Over six feet Hughie. A chap about 14 stone without carrying any excess weight. I was 36 at the time and Hughie was about the same age or a little bit younger.

I felt very despondent after we'd gone out of our way to buttonhole a mine manager who we noticed used to walk down a certain track to the mine from his house in the morning and we circumvented the [normal procedure as] we decided it was no

good standing in amongst the crowd down at the mine, you know, waiting for the boss to come and say whether he wanted any men or didn't. So we cut him off on this track. So we had a yarn to him he was very nice to us and yarned to us and asked our ages and that and he said 'we prefer to get men younger than 35 years of age' so I realised that at 36 I was over the hill. I was getting a bit old.

FB But you did eventually get a job?

AMM Yes.

FB In that particular place?

AMM In Kalgoorlie. I got a job with the rigging gang with the foundry and I got a job because I happened to have a utility. The chap who was in charge of the rigging gangs had worked down on Mount Palmer and was friends with my brothers down there and he came over one afternoon he says 'does that utility of yours go?' and I says 'yes' and he says 'well will you run the men out early in the morning?' And he says 'we had an accident with the lift we were taking today and I want to get to it before the mine starts work in the morning and if you drive the gang out I'll give you a job'.

So I got the utility out and we picked up the rigging gang and we took it out to the South Kalgoorlie Mine where a smoke stack that they'd been lifting had fell and crashed through the roof of another building. And that was why they wanted to get it lifted out as quickly as possible. We started work at about six o'clock in the morning to lift this out when the mine went into operation about eight o'clock. So that's how I commenced with the foundry.

Well in the foundry work with the construction it was an 'on again off again' job because you'd work on a construction job they had and then [it would] come to a finish. They'd have another one on the planning board but it wouldn't be due to start for a fortnight so you had to wait out that time and then start again on that. The little

bit you were able [to earn] - .the wages were very poor. I remember I was getting £4 10s a week paid fortnightly and my take home pay was £9. Back in those days there was no tax taken out of it. I remember there's a financial emergency [when] tax was taken out but that was only a few shillings.

I used to take home £9 and how my wife managed on it I don't know. I reckon [they] should have made her Treasurer of Australia. She'd be able to manage the economy very well if she managed it any way at all like she did our household in Kalgoorlie. I never used to smoke in those days so of course that wasn't a burden on [us] but she used to give me two or three bob of a Saturday afternoon to go down and have a couple of pots of beer which cost sixpence each back in those days.

FB Mmm. Kalgoorlie Brewery?

AMM Kalgoorlie Brewery. So I'd go down and of course by mixing around with the other mine workers and that I thought that I might hear of a better prospect than what I had there. You had to be in the know to get the job.

FB Yes.

AMM Well anyway finally I could see that I wasn't going to get anywhere with this intermittent work and I doubled my efforts to get a job on the mines. I was registered on all the mines with potential employees but I never ever got the call until we had a spare room at our place and we used to let that room and we let it to a career girl who was the employment officer on the 'Lake View and Star' so she must have told him about this very nice gentleman that she knew that was out of work. So he came along to our place one night and he said to me would you take on shovelling dirt in the mine?' I said 'I'll take on shovelling anything'. So I started then as an employee of the 'Lake View and Star' on the Golden Horseshoe shaft and I found that shovelling ore was a very, very, very hard job. Half an hour after I'd started

work in the morning in the very peculiar atmosphere that there is down a mine I'd be just dripping wet through clothes and everything.

FB Heavy and humid wasn't it?

AMM Oh heavy and humid and your feet used to squelch inside your boots becauseyou'd take your boots off and empty about half a pint of sweat out of your boots. But anyway you soon got used to that. You didn't feel you had to empty your boots you just kept on working in them. Anyhow you didn't have enough time for that sort of thing of course not being used to shovelling - and then I wasn't an expert shovel man - but I reckoned that after a few days I was in good condition and all that sort of thing. After a few days I reckon I was doing a good cut so I was rather disappointed when the foreman who used to occasionally visit round the mines he said to me 'you'll have to smarten yourself up a bit or else' he says. 'You're not doing enough'. Well seeing that I was flat out from the time I started in the morning until it was time for me to walk out the shaft I couldn't see how I could do any more. So anyway, anyway I decided there wasn't much future on working on the shovels especially when [we] got put on development work and used to have to shovel behind the machine miners that were working on piecework basis. The shoveler was only wages but the machine miner was on piecework basis so of course it was to his interest to get as much footage as he could.

The operation was that they used to like to bore out and fire each shift [and] so to enable them to do that the dirt from the previous firing had to be bogged up in that shift so we had to work very hard. So I thought 'well I can't see much future for myself on the end of this shovel so I'm going to learn to work that machine'. So the machine man that I worked with he was quite good with the practice of miners to 'sling back' as they call it to their bidders - he was the fellow on the shovel - but this chap was noted for his

meanness - and I remember the first pay day I thought we'd done pretty well and I might get something from him. So he told me 'I can't give you anything this pay day Art. We only made a couple of quid'.

Well I was only getting 17s 4d so he had more than twice as much as me and I thought he could have spared five bob out of it anyhow. So anyway three more pay days went past like that and then he - I don't know I just gave it away any thought of getting any sling back off him. So this [day] we were afternoon shift on this pay day and he said to me 'do you call in to 'The Block'? There was a hotel at 'The Block' where he caught the trams to go home and I says 'sometimes I do Jim' and he says 'well call in there tonight and wait for me. I'll buy you a beer'.

So then I thought well this is my sling back I'm getting so I got a pot of beer and he bought me a pie so that was the sling back. In any case he made a bargain with me he asked me did I want to learn the machine I said 'yes' he says 'I'll teach you the machine.' So he did. He taught me the machine and then when the shift boss [saw] that I had was a very good fellow he come in there one time when I was boring on the machine and when he come in I stopped the machine and went back on the shovel. And he saw me out on the flat that is out of the shaft and he told me, he said, 'you were having a go on the machine?' and I said 'yes' and he says 'don't stop because I come there. If you get the chance to learn that machine do it and I'll get you a machine job'?

So he was as good as his word and when there was a vacancy he put me on but anyhow the foreman he wouldn't have it that I could go on machines because I'd only been in the mine six months and he said I'd just come on the mine, I'm a new chum and I want to get a machine job. He said that wasn't going to happen so he barred me and this Superintendent - the shift boss told me he said 'don't be disappointed about that. I'll work you in somehow'

Anyhow there's a couple of vacancies coming up. There's a couple of chaps pulling out and I'll put you in there and that'll be it.'

So anyhow sure enough a couple of chaps did pull out but they brought two machine men over from another mine another shaft and gave them the job so that knocked my tail in and I thought 'oh well what's the good of this?' So anyhow then I heard the Tributers working on the 'Great Boulder' [mine]' and I heard that onethey wanted a machine man there so I went down to the 'Tribute' boss's place and asked him for the job and he gave me the job. I started off on machine there. I worked for the Tribute for about 12 months and then the Tribute closed up and the Great Boulder took over the crew and we went working for the Great Boulder. And I worked for the Great Boulder right up till the time I ceased working in the mines.

FB Did you have any difficulty in you know starting off?

AMM I took to it very, very quickly. Very quickly. I seemed to it just seem to come natural to me the machine work and I did all variations. There's some chaps work in mines and they only do one type of work but I say I got a good grounding with the Tributers because we had to do all types of work. We had to do timbering. We had to timber our own work and all that sort of thing and I was always observant.

When I saw anybody doing something I used to look at the way that they did it and wonder why they did it that way and I wasn't afraid to ask questions. I wasn't afraid and I used to smile afterwards. When I'd only been a couple of years at the mines some of the other miners used to come to me to come round and have a look at their working place and to see if I could suggest some way that they could get over their difficulty. These were chaps that had been working 10 or 15 years in the mines and I thought well if they only knew how little experience I had they'd

be thinking twice before they asked. They were asking me how to do their work but I took to it very quickly.

I also went to the School of Mines for a while and took a course in mining and then they were trying to get an examination for [supervisors]. They were running very short of supervisors on the mines and they asked me would I sit for an examination for supervisor and I said I wasn't interested in that and they said 'well we're trying to make the number up so that the Board will come to Kalgoorlie to [assess them]'. So I said 'very well I'll put my name [down and] put in an application. Well I put in an application and I got my supervisor's ticket granted to me at the first try.

So anyway it wasn't very long after that that they offered me a job as a supervisor. In the meantime I been taking an active part in the union and I couldn't reconcile the two positions. One working as a supervisor in the mine although the union rules allowed it I couldn't see me working as a supervisor in charge of men telling men what to do and being an official of the union so I [felt it was] necessary for me to say that, at that time, as an official of the union that I was an 'Honorary Official of the union' I wasn't paid for my services although I used to put in a lot of time.

And in the meantime the men on the Hamilton shaft where I worked they elected me their union rep which I was for quite a few years up till the time that I left the shaft to take a paid position with the union as a union organiser.

FB And how about your parliamentary career? How did that come [about]?

AMM Oh well that started up [when there was] the vacancy. The chap who was the Member for Boulder decided to retire - not retire - to take over the job of AWU secretary in New South Wales and he came to me and told me about it. And he said 'I want you to stand in the selection ballot in my [electorate] for the seat' He said 'you're the logical man for it.' I demurred a bit and all that and he

said 'well whoever beats you will be the next Member for Boulder'. So I nominated in the ballot and I had three opponents the mayor of Boulder, a previous secretary of the mining division named Jack Tribe who'd been a Member for Parliament for Leonora and the Workmen's Inspector named Archie McGilray Anyway I won with an outright majority over three of them. And I nominated then for parliament and much to my astonishment the opposition never nominated anybody against me so I went into Parliament. I was one of the only two people in Western Australia that's ever gone into Parliament without an election.

And the other member was Harry May from Collie.

FB Ah yes

AMM Well then I had to - I think there was about - the elections they must have been - it wasn't till 1962 that I had to fight an election and that was when the redistribution come about and they put all the Esperance area - all the Esperance was combined in and they cut half of Boulder off me and I was very worried about it.

I had three opponents there, the secretary - the president of the shire council at Esperance who was a mining manager [from Norseman] and I think he thought he had a double barrellful and a chap named Ossie Stewart. Orlando Stewart that's right he was a prominent farmer in the Esperance area.

Anyway it was the only occasion when I.....that I know of back in those times when a member of the Country Party lost his deposit. He stood for the Country Party and one was an Independent and the other one stood was a Liberal. And I had an outright majority over the three of them.

FB Again?

AMM Yeah again and I wasn't very far behind in the votes. I was out polled in the Esperance area but I got a lot of votes that nullified the votes against me and I had a majority amongst the farmers of

Salmon Gums and I felt very proud of that because I was only known as the Member for Boulder and yet I was new to them and yet the majority of the farmers at Salmon Gum voted for me. And some of that may have been not due to personality but due to the fact that their fathers had been miners. It had been a miners' settlement and these were the sons of those older generation and they might have still had a soft spot in their heart for ex miners.

FB Mmm and how long were you in Parliament altogether?

AMM 20 years.

FB 20 were you?

AMM Mmm.

FB Was it during that time that you received the Queen Mother?

AMM Yes I was a Minister then - the Minister for Mines - and I had a great experience in the government. I was in Parliament 18 months when there was an election. I wasn't opposed and in the Caucus - of course in our Constitution [so was] every member of the party. The Caucus was made up of all the members in the Legislative Council - all the Labour members in the Legislative Assembly who you meet you meet each week when Parliament's sitting so you could decide what you're going to do or any business [to be put] forward. And that's broken up into all these committees as I previously mentioned.

Well when the party wins the government you have a ballot of positions. You have a ballot for the leader who was to become the Premier and as they're nominated so the positions [are filled].

FB And that goes right through to the Cabinet positions as well?

AMM All the Cabinet positions. There were 10 Cabinet positions [including] the Speaker the whole lot. The chairman of the party, all the positions, and everybody's a candidate. You can tellwell I don't want to be the leader. But anyway that [was the case] but in theory everybody's a candidate and you vote for

everybody in that paper. I know I think one ballot paper I can remember we were voting down to the thirty 35th preference

AMM

Well anyway the first time we voted for Cabinet I missed the Cabinet by one vote. The second time I tied with somebody I tied with Jack Brady and when there's a tied vote they come back and ask you to vote between the two people that's tied. Well they were going to come back the scrutineer told me they were going to come back and he said we decided to have another count and he said we found that Jack Brady had one more preference vote than you so that settled it.

I missed out well then it was only the third occasion then that I got in the Cabinet that was in 1957 when Ernie Hall was appointed Agent General over in London they had a ballot for his seat just the one seat and I won the ballot. I don't know by how much they don't disclose it. So I won that and I went in. Lionel Kelly was Minister for Mines so Bert Hawke shifted him for mines to agriculture and lands and put me in mines. I was the Minister for Mines and Tourism.

Well then the first event was Lionel Kelly went on holidays and I become Acting Minister for Lands and Agriculture. I had experience at that. Then Jack Tonkin went overseas for three months so they made me Acting Minister for Public Works, Water Supply and Electricity and believe me boy I had a plateful there. I had a plateful because I was still carrying on my own portfolios and I was nearly driven into the ground and I thought to myself 'how did this mob get on before I come in the Cabinet I never knew. Didn't anybody do any work?'

Well I used to do half a day - half a day at my own [office] - I used to always be in my office at eight o'clock in the morning down the Mines Department. I used to work up to midday there and then in the afternoon I used to go to the Public Works which was in a different [building]. You know where that was? The Old Barracks.

And that was how I carried on the work. I used to often work till nine and ten o'clock at night to get clear and I remember on one occasion we sat late we sat late at Parliament House and instead of going home I went back to the office and started work. So that was [that].

FB That's what they called increasing productivity isn't it?

AMM Yeah that's increasing productivity. So incidentally too it wouldn't be known amongst the general public but when I first got into Parliament when it came up on election time again Ollie and I, we had a long conference as whether I could afford to stop in Parliament because we were going behind we were dipping into our savings. We weren't getting paid enough money to keep [going]. Well I had to I had to have accommodation down here.

FB Mmm. [You were] running two homes?

AMM I was running two homes and you just couldn't do it. And the only thing - I would have pulled out then because after all my family come first - and only that Sir Ross McLarty who was the Premier at the time, he had told me, he questioned me about how did I find the finances and I told him how they were. And of course Ross McLarty was a wealthy man but he was a very kindly man and he [was very] considerate. He was a thorough gentleman and he was he was very nice to us 'Back Benchers' whether we were in the Opposition or in this own party. He was a very kindly man and he says 'oh that's terrible, Art.' and I said 'well that's the way it is Sir Ross. I just can't afford to be a Member of Parliament' We were getting £1250 a year which seemed a lot of money to people outside.

FB What year was that?

AMM That was back in 1951.

FB '51. That wasn't a great deal was it?

AMM Seemed [that] a lot of people thought I'd made my fortune when I

got into Parliament.

FB I went into agriculture two years after that at £990 and I was only a minor civil servant.

AMM Yes but your money was your own?

FB Oh yes.

Ollie Moir There's a lot of expense attached to [being a Member of Parliament].

FB Yes but I mean when you consider that I was getting that as an ordinary salary and I didn't have any responsibilities regarding travel or accommodation or anything like that. No you can understand why it wouldn't be enough.

AMM Yes.

Ollie Moir We had no car the first two [years].

AMM No car?

Ollie Moir We were paying off a home.

AMM I used to walk around everywhere. I used to walk around and get blisters on my feet doing it.

Ollie Moir There was a lot of out of pocket expenses, donations and [such like].

AMM Yes?

FB Oh yes, yes.

AMM Every effort that was made on behalf of any project in the district the first one they thought of coming to was the Member and you had to give what you [could].

Ollie Moir You couldn't hand over two shillings.

AMM Not what you thought was reasonable donation but you had to give what they thought was a reasonable donation as from a Member of

Parliament.

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Ollie Moir Otherwise your name would be mud.

FB Mmm.

AMM Well the big thing is when you're a Member of the Parliament after the election you start campaigning for the next election. Now all Members of Parliament do that. If they don't they're silly and they're not Members of Parliament very long.

So that was the [situation] and I had Ross's assurance. Well, he says 'well you've got my assurance Arthur if I come back as the Premier next time he says I'm going to I'm going to lift the salaries of Members substantially'.

Anyway he didn't come back as the Premier but we were the government and of course we brought pressure to bear on Bert Hawke to increase the members of Parliament salary. - back in those days it was decided by the government what a Member of Parliament's salary will be. Bert was a very parsimonious fellow. He used to look after the state's money better than he did his own and the only way that Bert Hawke was really generous is when you come to him about something about children and he'd open his heart then he'd give with both hands to any project [involving] children. But he was very tight.

Anyhow the application was so much and was coming from Back Benchers on the other side and of course their problem when they were the government they'd been to McLarty but he hadn't taken much notice of them and they told the trouble was that they had so many men in their party who were quite independent of their parliamentary salary.....

[As well as] farms they had businesses and all that. So of course they weren't very ruffled about the low salaries [for] Members of Parliament but of course some of the back-benchers who had no

business [and] no other income at all they were in the same position as us. So anyhow I remember the Bill was brought in to give Members of Parliament £1750 and the public outcry was enormous. The press was down on it and [it] made me very bitter. I thought 'well here you are. You're only being given [that amount] after all that' That was adequate at the time. It was it was a wonderful lift for us and it was adequate. And I felt that - as soon as I realised that - and over the course of the time that I stayed there.

I realised it didn't matter what system you had for determining Members of Parliaments' wages, what was done about it, or what increase was given it always brought an outcry because we were concerned about this method of determining Members of Parliaments' wages.

So we said 'we'll have to get a wage from the government. We'll get a tribunal'. So we got a tribunal and the first finding that they brought down that was subject to another public outcry so I thought 'well what you have got to do?' As time went along I just took no notice of the public.

FB Mmm.

AMM And of course we were subject to personal abuse too.

FB Right.

AMM Out in public they knew you were a Member of Parliament. You'd hear the comments made - you know if we'd just got a rise - and they weren't such marvellous rises at all as a matter of fact Ollie and I found the going very hard even with the increases we had to be very careful and live very frugally and all that sort of thing.

Ollie was [not interested in] dressing in fancy frocks or anything - or expensive frocks - she was making her own most of the time and it wasn't until I become a Minister [that it eased the] financial pressure because the Minister's salary did [provided] some

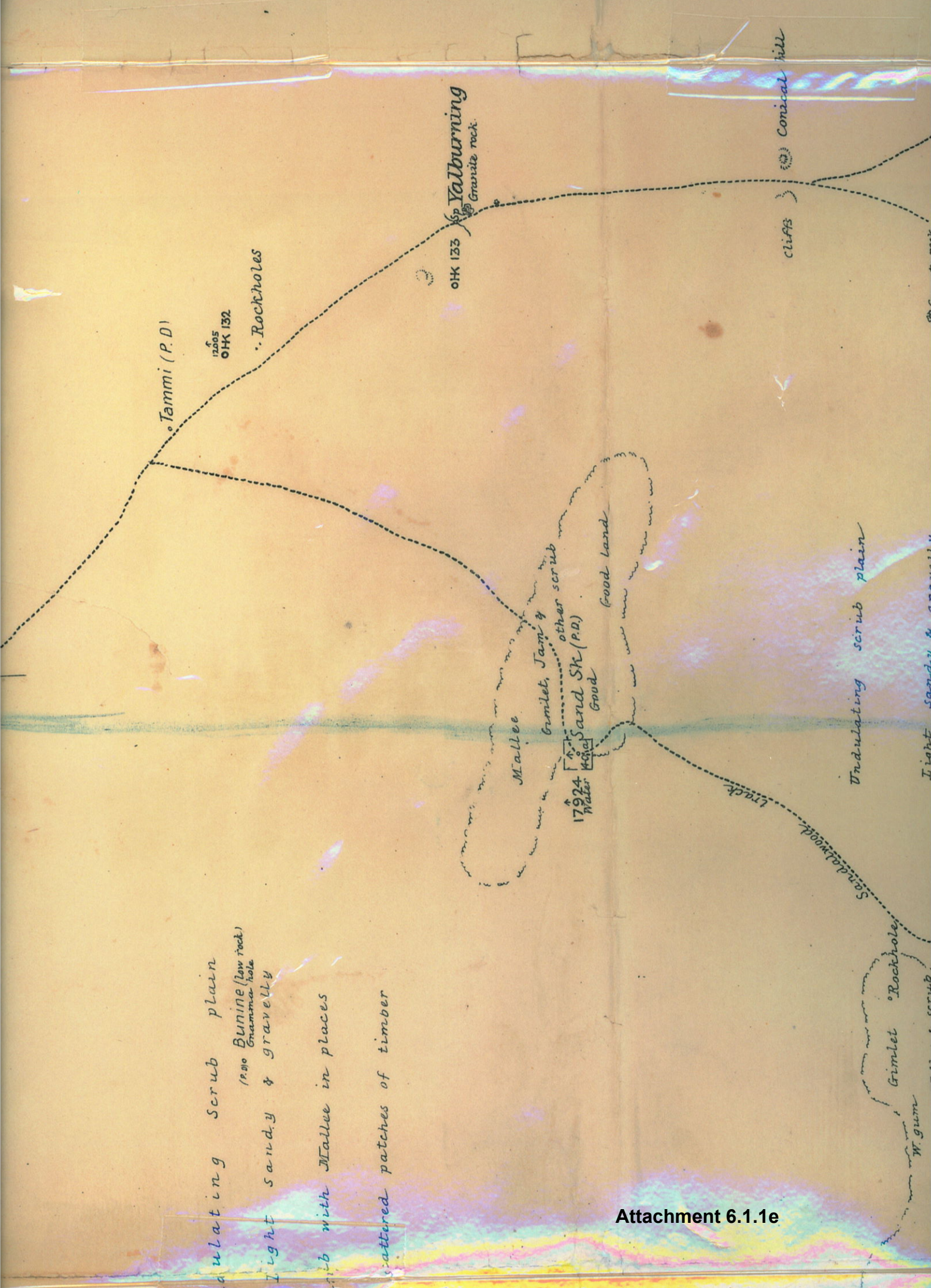
leeway.

FB Relieved the pressure?

AMM Relieved the pressure.

But I've often thought you know how unfair the public and the press are over the remuneration of Members of Parliament because after all they cry out about attracting good men to Parliament and they're not prepared to pay them when they get there. Because after all after all they won't get good men - they won't get good men – period. Our party is just as anxious to get good men as any other party.

We're anxious and we can't attract them because I've known of occasions when there was chaps - highly educated men, professional men - were quite interested in standing for a seat on behalf of the Labour Party until they heard what wages we got. They heard what salary we got and that was the end of it because they were getting twice as much.



Granite Outcrops

Billiburning Rock

Inside the Billiburning Reserve this outcrop provides excellent views of both cropping and pastoral country. The reserve displays its beauty in Spring with masses of wildflowers. The outcrop is also the location of a pioneer well and a Gnamma Hole.



Marshall Rock

First written about in 1836, Marshall Rock provides 360 degree views of productive cropping land. Great display of wildflowers on the reserve and a perfect location for a picnic.



Beagley's Breakaway

A spectacular example of this rock formation dating back millions of years, one of a number of crumbling remnants of the protective capping of this ancient landscape, widespread throughout the district. This breakaway adjoins Tampu Well Reserve. This area is private property and you are asked to respect the owner's property, fences and roads. Please keep to breakaway reserve area and farm tracks. Camp fires are only permitted between the months of April to Sept. No pets, no shooting. Please take your rubbish with you. Ring Beacon Telecentre 96861014 or Mr Beagley 96861012 for permission to camp. There are no services at this rock. Nearest services are in Beacon.



Pioneer Wells

Local wells were the only means by which early settlers were able to remain on the land until the pipelines from the Mundaring Weir were established throughout the Shire. A trip back in time sees the observer imagining how families carted water from these sites for their stock and personal use.



Pergandes

See a display of settlers craftsmanship and innovation. The Pergandes Family settled in the Mt Marshall area in 1910. The Family homestead and sheep yards are made entirely from granite taken from nearby rock. The thin granite slabs for the sheep yards were obtained by a process of firing and rapid cooling with water on the rock surface. This historic area gives an interesting insight into how early settlers made use of their surrounding landscapes when building their properties.



Wildflowers

When favourable seasonal conditions prevail and good winter rains are experienced, the district blooms with wildflowers. Many people travel from Beacon North along Mouroubra Road to Payne's Find to photograph or just walk amongst the wildflowers when they are blooming, usually late August through to October. Current road conditions along Mouroubra Rd to Payne's Find can be obtained by calling the Shire Office on (08) 9685 1202.



Salt Lakes

Within the Shire there are many Salt Lakes of different sizes and salinities. Depending on the season the water level of the lakes can vary. Some of the lakes in the Shire include, Lake Moore, Askew, McDermott, Mollerin and Wallambin.

Museums

There are three very interesting museums within the Shire of Mt Marshall.

Bates Museum – Don't miss a captivating visit to Norm Bates' historical museum, filled with rare and unusual articles from times gone by. Attractions include vintage farm machinery and tractors – some of which have been fully restored. With everything from leather dog shoes and camel saddles to an old hospital operating table and farm homestead memorabilia. Bates Museum is definitely worth the 10km trip south of Bencubbin. Museum visits are by appointment only – Contact Norm Bates on (08) 9685 1242.

Beacon Museum – Located at rear of the Old Beacon Bake House Building. The museum is full of historical items and photos that illustrate the history of Beacon's industries, events, buildings and people.

Bencubbin Museum – Located in the original Police Station Building the Museum has a range of historical items that outline the history of the Shire. The key focuses of the museum are industries, events, buildings, laws and legislations, police and people. Contact the Shire Office on (08) 9685 1202 to visit the museum.



Visitor Guide and Map

For more tourist information
contact the Shire on (08) 9685 1202
www.mtmarshall.wa.gov.au



Shire of Mt Marshall Bencubbin Sandalwood Shire

Echidna - Beacon



Pergandes Homestead - Bencubbin



Sandalwood Shops - Bencubbin



Farming Photo - courtesy of Rachel Kirby



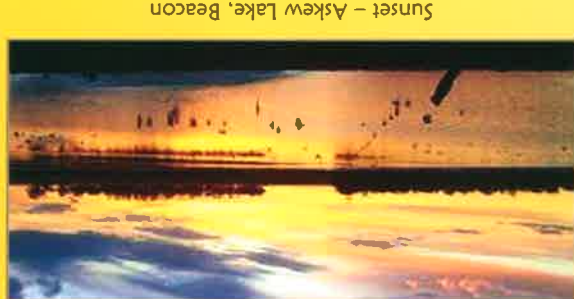
Datjoia Rock - Beacon



Mt Marshall Community Nursery



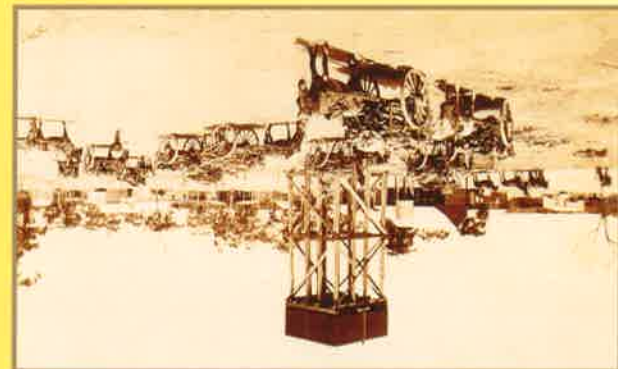
Marshall Rock - Bencubbin



Sunset - Askew Lake, Beacon



The area is now primarily wheat, coarse grain, cattle and sheep farming. There are many points of interest, all serviced by the two main centres, Bencubbin and Beacon.



In September and November of 1836 the Surveyor General Captain John Septimus Roe led a 40-day expedition out into the unknown east of the settled districts of the Avon Valley. Marshall Rock and Lake McDermott were named after Captain Marshall. Sandalwooders and Graziers were the first European settlers in the Mt Marshall area. The first grazing lease was taken up in 1868. Sandalwood was removed from this area from the 1880's through to the 1920's. Permanent settlement and development of the land for farms commenced around 1910.

History of Mt Marshall

Town Services

Accommodation

Beacon

Beacon Caravan Park

Conveniently located opposite the Tourist Information Bay. Powered and unpowered sites as well as three fully furnished on site cabins. Phone: (08) 9685 1202 during office hours for enquiries

Beacon Railway Barracks

Budget style accommodation. Phone: (08) 9685 1202 during office hours for enquiries

Bencubbin

Bencubbin Caravan Park

Close to the town. Offers both powered and unpowered sites as well as two fully furnished on site cabins. Contact the Shire of Mt Marshall for bookings and further enquiries. Sewage Dump facilities available. Phone: (08) 9685 1202 during office hours for enquiries and bookings.

Bencubbin Hotel

Provides well priced accommodation. Monger Street Bencubbin. Phone (08) 9685 1201

Beacon Town Services

Beacon Garage (08) 9686 1056
Beacon Panel and Paint (08) 9686 1010
Beacon Silver Chain (08) 9686 1020
Beacon Telecentre (08) 9686 1014
Ninghan Spraying & Ag Services (08) 9686 1092

Bencubbin Town Services

Bencubbin Police (08) 9685 1220
Bencubbin Silver Chain (08) 9685 1229
Bencubbin Smash Repairs (08) 9685 1125
Bencubbin Telecentre (08) 9685 1007
Bencubbin Truck and Autos (08) 9685 1313

Emergencies (000)
or Bencubbin Police Station (08) 9685 1220

Meals/Snacks

Beacon

Beacon Country Club

(08) 9686 1030
Monday 5.00pm-9.00pm
Tuesday to Friday 5.00pm-11.00pm
Saturday 12.00pm-2.00pm & 5.00pm-12.00pm
Sunday 11.30am-1.30pm & 4.30pm-8.30pm

Beacon Co-Op

(08) 9686 1057
Weekdays 8.30am-5.00pm
Saturday 8.30am-12.00pm
(Apr-Sept 8.00am-11.00am)

Old Beacon Bakehouse Café

Contact Beacon Visitor Centre for opening hours

Bencubbin

Bencubbin Hotel Mark and Pam

(08) 9685 1201
Sunday to Wednesday 3.30pm-9.30
Thursday to Saturday 3.30pm-12.00am

Country Tarts Café

(08) 9685 1165
Tuesday to Wednesday 10.00am-1.30pm
Thursday to Friday 10.00am-2.30pm

Benny Mart

(08) 9685 1442
Monday to Friday 8.30am-6.00pm
Saturday 9.00am-12.00noon
Sunday 10.00am-12.00noon

NB. Business hours are subject to change



Telecommunications

Only CDMA and Next G mobile phone coverage is available in some but not all areas of the Shire.



Beacon Visitor Centre (Telecentre)

Phone: (08) 9686 1014
Tuesdays and Thursdays 9.00am-4.00pm
Wednesdays and Fridays 9.00am-3.00pm

Bencubbin Visitor Centre (Shire Office)

Phone: (08) 9685 1202
Monday to Friday 8.30am-5.00pm



Fuel

Beacon

Ninghan Spraying & Ag Services

(08) 9686 1092
Monday to Friday 7.30am-5.30pm
Saturdays 7.30am-12.00pm
No Eftpos facilities or gas available.

Bencubbin

Bencubbin Hardware and Agencies

Monday to Friday 9.00am-5.00pm
Saturdays from 9.00am-11.00am
Sovereign and BP fuel card facilities available.
Eftpos available.
No Gas.

