

BUSSELTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY ORAL HISTORY GROUP TRACKING NOTES

Filename.....**Breeden, Robert**

Tape # ...**Disc**

**3**

TRAC CK NO.	SUMMARY <b>"Businessman: Naturalist: Aboriginal Knowledge</b>	TRAC K TIME
1	<p><b>TITLE</b>   Purchased Twenty Eight Acres on Sabina River for Bunyip</p> <p>Of the 28 acres, 10 was sold &amp; Rob wanted 3x6 acre lots as a subdivision of the remaining. Allowed 2x9 &amp; sold one block to Harry Butler the naturalist &amp; a good friend. Bunyip became a thriving business as an outlet for local crafts. Parlour Coaches called regularly &amp; there were plans to build an outlet for doing teas &amp; possibly light lunches. Rob had started wildlife tours &amp; Crys had developed a back problem. Rob was often away &amp; it often became difficult for her without help.</p>	10.26
2	<p><b>TITLE</b>   Wildlife Walkabout Safaris</p> <p>Rob loved getting out in the bush on his safari tours &amp; sharing his knowledge with interested people. Convoys of 10 or so vehicles would follow along on trips up to 80 or so kms from Busselton. He would put on a good show (including a bit of bulldust), with gum leaves in the billy tea, steak sandwiches to impress particularly the Japanese present, and so on. He would show them animal tracks and impart all manner of information on the plants &amp; animals in the bush.</p>	8.21
3	<p><b>TITLE</b>   Tours: Dieback: Hot Autumn or Cool Spring Burning</p> <p>Dieback has certainly spread. Rob very conscious on his tours of sticking to certain tracks etc. Theories on its arrival. Favours autumn burning of the bush after the first rains and this seems to be more like the aboriginal practices of old. Pleased to see that DEC (Dept Conservation and Environment) may be swinging over to this approach rather than the hotter burns or the spring burns when birds are still nesting and wildflowers blooming.</p>	4.36
4	<p><b>TITLE</b>   Outback Adventure Safaris</p> <p>Took convoys of 4 wheel drive vehicles with radio communication &amp; usually limited number of vehicles to 10 or so - over 3-4 weeks and as far afield as the Gulf Country &amp; Queensland; to Kalgoorlie, Leonora &amp; Ayres Rock; the Canning Stock Route, Birdsville Track, Gunbarrel Highway to Alice Springs; the Kimberleys, Mitchell Plateau, Gibb River Road etc. Had converted another Toyota to a 13 seater &amp; catered for these people in their own vehicle, otherwise those in the convoy had to be self sufficient. Used their radio communication to Flying Doctor on a few occasions (mentions broken ribs &amp; kidney stones). Few major breakdowns but on one occasion Rob himself had a broken axle on his camp trailer. Had to plough their way through water in creek etc crossings but no holdups with floods. Very few didn't 'fit in'.</p>	7.54
5	<p><b>TITLE</b>   Outback Adventure Safaris for Fifteen Years</p> <p>Greatest changes seen and in condition of roads. Gibb River Road crossings were so bad initially that sometimes almost impassable even with a 4 wheel drive. On the stations many of the aboriginals seemed to work at mustering, station work etc for what appeared to be just handouts of rations with some health checks etc. The equal pay demonstration at Noonkanbah Station resulted in a lot of aborigines having to leave the stations and resulted in a lot becoming fringe dwellers in an alien environment. Often this led to abuse of alcohol, a substance very damaging to them. Crocodile numbers starting to build up: care in choosing camping spots. Tours reasonably profitable &amp; Rob loved doing them.</p>	6.10
6	<p><b>TITLE</b>   Busselton Town and Surrounds</p> <p>The water quality in the Vasse River was a lot better than now. Mullyoway could be seen up as far as the new River (but could these have come up the Diversion Drain?) Floods; fertilizers, flood gates; rubbish dumps</p>	8.00

7	<p><b>TITLE</b>   The Charm of Busselton and Peppermint Trees Down Main</p> <p>Drooping peppermint trees most of the way down Queen Street and plane trees down Prince Street. Only a few of the peppermints remain. Comments on any stands of karri, jarrah, sheoak and the 20 or so varieties of wattles we have in the area.</p>	5.51
8	<p><b>TITLE</b>   Dieback &amp; Theories &amp; the Large Variety of Plants it Now</p> <p>It is apparent now that this pernicious fungal disease is affecting a wide variety of trees and shrubs. It is commonly agreed also that the spores are also being transported in movement of soils for developments &amp; home gardeners etc. Native animals generally seem to have immunity to the 1080 poison &amp; gastrolobium poisons in native plants like Heartleaf Poison etc.</p>	3.51
9	<p><b>TITLE</b>   Fauna.</p> <p>Lists some of the species; birds too. It is thought dingoes came in with the last land invasion of aborigines some 12,000 years ago, before sea levels rose up and covered the land bridge.</p>	7.56
10	<p><b>TITLE</b>   The Thylacine or "Nannup Tiger"</p> <p>In Northern Territory and in our North West there are rock paintings of these done by the aborigines. Mentions a few of the species locally seen which are threatened. Foxes and rabbits as vermin and some detail on the Rabbit Proof Fence. As an exercise Rob worked out the figures on materials required for such an ambitious undertaking.</p>	10.12