



BUSSELTON ORAL HISTORY GROUP (INC)

Colin F BUSSELL

BUSSELL FAMILY LIFE AT JINDONG FROM 1949

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Date of interview:	November 2021
Interviewer:	Margaret Dawson OAM
Duration:	224 minutes
Transcriber:	Margaret Dawson OAM
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UPPER CASE indicates emphasis.

Colin F BUSSELL

BUSSELTON ORAL HISTORY GROUP (INC)
TRACKING NOTES

File name: Colin F Bussell
Disc: One

Track No.	Title: Bussell Family Life at Jindong from 1949	Track Time
1	Summary Introduction	2.28
	Introduction to interview held November 2021	
2	Summary Soldier Settlement farm Jindong. Vasse School	9.16
	Early childhood memories on Soldier Settlement farm at Jindong and Vasse School. Mentions Vasse schoolteachers, friends and their activities. First year class was in the Vasse Hall.	
3	Summary Busselton High School. Harvey Agricultural High School. Hockey	5.04
	Secondary education at Busselton High School and Harvey Agricultural High School. Enjoyed Agricultural (Ag) School and relates the work undertaken, teachers and becoming a prefect. Inspired by teacher Gwyn Cracknell who also introduced Colin to hockey. The Ag School team played in Bunbury Hockey Association.	
4	Summary Family activities – swimming, fishing. Colin grew vegetables	11.10
	Father taught the family to swim. Enjoyed family fishing trips to Gracetown. Caught bus to Vasse School, suffered from motion sickness. Later rode his bike. Helped his father in the dairy. Colin grew a lot of vegetables, Busselton Show entries. With friend Rob Terrace dug potatoes at an early age for pocket money.	
5	Summary Parents' backgrounds	6.40
	Father Julius William Harold Bussell, son of Alfred Pickmore Bussell. Born 1914 in Donnybrook. Mother Heather Carrick from Moora, born 1920. Mother a trained nursing sister. Married 1943. Father in army and airforce in WWII. Stationed at Darwin. Badly affected by army experience. Work in Busselton before farming. Built a house in Busselton, later purchased by grandparents Carrick.	
6	Summary Father allocated farm at Jindong. Brothers and sister	3.53
	Father allocated War Service Settlement block of land at Jindong. Brothers: John, Vernon; sister, Alison. Names who they married and their children.	
7	Summary Musical family. John in Save The Jetty. Colin worked for Doug	7.59
	Brother John good musician, written many songs. School teacher. John and cousin Alf efforts to Save Busselton Jetty. Brother Vernon also a good musician. John and Vernon's marriages and children's names. On leaving Agricultural High School Colin worked for Doug Feutrill for two years.	
8	Summary Growing potatoes. Perth Royal Show. Beef cattle farming	7.07
	Colin planted potatoes on home farm and also share farming with neighbours. At Perth Royal Show looked after cattle for local farmers. Colin and his father also had beef cattle. Many farmers changed from milking cows to beef farming.	
9	Summary Sister Alison a nursing sister. Her marriage and children	7.57
	Alison nursing sister and good musician. Married school teacher Ian Lillico who specialised in boy's education. They have three sons Guy, Sean and Stewart.	

Colin F BUSSELL

Track No.	Title: Bussell Family Life at Jindong from 1949	Track Time
10	<p>Summary Mother's background. Contact with Aunt Ailsa</p> <p>Mother's parents Ellen and Joseph Carrick from Moora. Mother's brothers Colin and Bruce, sisters Dulcie and Ailsa. Names cousins. Talks in detail of contact with Aunt Ailsa in Busselton, a nursing sister. Colin's mother moved in with her mother after her husband's death. Finally moved to Baptistcare, William Carey Court aged care home, Busselton.</p>	10.09
11	<p>Summary Alfred John (Jack) Bussell</p> <p>Grandfather was Alfred John Bussell known as Jack born 1865, died in his 76th year. Son of Alfred Pickmore Bussell. Some education in Adelaide. To Coolgardie searching for gold. Worked on cattle stations in northwest, and in the railways. Wallcliffe property sold. First wife Marion Reynolds died after buggy accident; one son, also Alfred John. Second wife Maude Kershaw; had seven more children.</p>	4.30
Total		76.13

File name: Colin F Bussell
Disc: Two

Track No.	Title: Busselton Family Life at Jindong farm from 1949	Track Time
1	<p>Summary Grandfather Jack's children and families</p> <p>Mentions Bussell uncles, Maurice, Fred, Herbert, Lionel, Donald, their occupations and marriages. Contact with aunts, uncles and cousins.</p>	8.36
2	<p>Summary Grandfather's knowledge of Aboriginal language</p> <p>Early day relationships with Aboriginal people. Rob Breeden wrote a book <i>All That Big Wongi</i> from Jack's notes on the local Aboriginal language.</p>	2.09
3	<p>Summary Interests when young</p> <p>Early years on farm with friend Rob Terrace, rode bikes, caught jilgies. Trapped and sold rabbits. Number of rabbits in district. Picked potatoes for pocket money. Started playing hockey at Harvey Agricultural High, continued in Busselton. Enjoyed gardening, entered vegetables in Busselton Show. Junior Farmers' Club.</p>	9.25
4	<p>Summary Jindong activities. Local families. Jindong name</p> <p>Activities when young at Jindong. Jindong and North Jindong Schools. Played tennis at North Jindong. Mentions some local families. Group Settlement early days. Ideas on origin of Jindong name.</p>	3.16
5	<p>Summary Junior Farmers – activities and interaction with other clubs</p> <p>Junior Farmers, the many activities and events. Meetings, involvement with other clubs. State competitions, displays at Royal Show, debating, One Act plays; State Achievement weekend in Busselton – Ball, Midnight to Dawn Event. A lot of hard work and organisation. Meckering earthquake. Left Junior Farmers to join Apex.</p>	5.15
6	<p>Summary Marriage. Children. Grandchildren. Children's activities</p> <p>Met wife Susanne Mawson at a Junior Farmers' meeting. Married in Busselton, honeymoon in Geraldton. Lived at Jindong farm Pickmore. Parents moved to Busselton to live. Mentions children Naomi, Tamara, Gavin and Julie and grandchildren. Involvement in children's activities – horse riding, hockey, dancing.</p>	10.37

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Track No.	Title: Busselton Family Life at Jindong farm from 1949	Track Time
7	<p>Summary Busselton Apex Club</p> <p>Member of Busselton Apex Club from age 18 - 41. Involvement, Board meetings, portfolios held, community work, public speaking, and other activities. Made close friendships, his Apex family. As International Director invited Muslim people from Katanning to visit the club. Has workers from Afghanistan working in his vineyard. Awarded Life Membership of Apex</p>	9.46
8	<p>Summary Potato growing. Bores. Licences. Board abolished</p> <p>Grew potatoes first with Doug Feutrill, planted own land and worked with Dave Hannay and Ross Terrace. Adams road property planted 50 acres. Large bores for irrigation. Potato Marketing Board, abolishment of licences. Varieties of potatoes grown. Colin chairman of the Marybrook Potato Growers Association.</p>	10.14
9	<p>Summary Planting and digging potatoes. Pests. Spraying. Sheep in vineyard</p> <p>Introduction of harvesters much quicker. Cartage bins replaced bags. Pests and spraying to control. Sheep in vineyard to control weeds and soil fertilisation.</p>	7.58
10	<p>Summary Drainage Rates</p> <p>Talks in depth about Drainage rates, unfair cost. Colin a member of Drainage Action Group – finally rates were abolished.</p>	8.55
	Total	76.11

File name: Colin F Bussell
Disc Three

Track No.	Title: Bussell Family Life at Jindong from 1949	Track Time
1	<p>Summary Water Licences. Water Rights. Bores for irrigation</p> <p>Water licensing to limit deep bores used for irrigation. Some farmers unable to get licences. Fully allocated water is now transferrable between farmers.</p>	5.00
2	<p>Summary Underground water and bores. Selling water allocations</p> <p>Farmers monitor underground water pumped from their bores and report to the Water Authority. Cost of bores and for monitoring. Now can sell water without selling the land. Organisations and developers approach farmers to purchase water.</p>	5.33
3	<p>Summary Water storage and dams. Water monitoring and bores</p> <p>Dams are treated as stored water, not run off. Federal Government through COAG gave money for water but WA missed out. Mentions Leederville and Yarragadee aquifers. Monitoring of water use.</p>	7.24
4	<p>Summary Vineyard</p> <p>1998 planted grapes, now has 85 acres of grape vines. Mentions varieties grown. Management of vineyard. Grapes sold on contract to wineries. Mechanical harvesting and pruning of vines.</p>	7.36
5	<p>Summary Small batches of wine for personal use</p> <p>With help of John Smith first, then Anne Coralie Fleury and Ian Bell made small batches of wine for personal use, also sold to friends. Very pleased with the quality of wine made. Wanted to show that good wines could be made from grapes in Jindong area. Very costly to make small batches of wine.</p>	6.44

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Track No.	Title: Bussell Family Life at Jindong from 1949	Track Time
6	Summary Baby beef cattle. Busselton saleyards	6.40
	Raises baby beef cattle, received top prices. Cattle sales. Mostly sold privately. Travelled to other towns with stock agent Greg Owens. Busselton saleyards and some of the big sales held there.	
7	Summary Grew onions. Sells pumpkins	2.23
	Grew a large onion crop for one year, beautiful onions but no market for them. Plants pumpkins every year, have been very successful.	
8	Summary Purchased a house at Quedjinup. Travels to the farm	6.35
	Moved off farm to live at Quedjinup near Dunsborough. Sold land at Metricup. Daughter Naomi and family live in farm house. Colin travels to farm in Adams road most days.	
9	Summary Holidays overseas	7.44
	Went to England to see daughter Julie, to Scotland to visit Naomi who was studying there. To Germany and travelled through Europe.	
10	Summary Holidays in the North of WA	4.02
	Trip with Sue's parents to Kalbarri. Fishing excursions at Kalbarri and Shark Bay. Trips with Sue and friends to Exmouth and with Apex friends. To Broome. Visited Anna Downs station.	
11	Summary Busselton Riding Club. Busselton Show Jumping Spectacular	11.51
	Daughter Tamara member of Busselton Pony and Riding clubs. Hans Gelderman an instructor. Hans and Colin organised and ran the Busselton Show Jumping Spectacular which attracted top riders in Australia. A great success. Talks about his friend Hans and his skill in teaching show jumping.	
	Total	71.32
	Total for interview	223.56

VERBATIM TRANSCRIPT

DISC ONE TRACK ONE

Colin Frederick Bussell was recorded by Margaret Dawson in November 2021 for the Busselton Oral History Group.

Colin was born in Busselton in 1949 the son of Julius William and Heather Bussell (nee Carrick), one of four children. Colin's grandfather was Alfred John Bussell (known as Jack) well known for his knowledge of the local Aboriginal language. His great-grandfather was Alfred Pickmore Bussell one of the Bussell brothers that settled at Augusta in 1830 and then The Vasse, later renamed Busselton after the Bussell family.

Colin was educated at the Vasse Primary School and Harvey Agricultural College and, when he left school aged 16, farmed with his father at Pickmore, Jindong. They milked cows and raised beef cattle. Colin married Susanne Mawson and they have four children.

Colin began growing potatoes on his property soon after he left school and is still doing so today. Apart from growing potatoes he has been involved in the potato industry representing growers' interests, and on committees making submissions to the State Government before the Potato Marketing Board was abolished.

He is very interested in, and passionate about, water and talks in depth about Water Licences, Water Rights, irrigation and water bores.

Colin and Sue purchased more land and have 85 acres of wine grapes which are sold on contract to local wineries. He also runs beef cattle and grows pumpkins.

Colin has been very involved in his children's interests and in community affairs - Junior Farmers, the Busselton Apex Club from aged 18-41, holding many portfolios. Apart from playing hockey until the age of 59 he was involved in coaching and the Junior Development and Minkey hockey.

When one of his daughters was a member of the Busselton Pony and Riding Clubs Colin was involved and, with Hans Gelderman, ran the Busselton Show Jumping Spectacular, a World Cup qualifying event attracting some of the top riders in Australia.

Colin and Sue now live at Quejinup near Dunsborough and he travels to his farm each day.

DISC ONE TRACK TWO

MD Colin, your family history is well documented as the Bussells were amongst the first group to arrive in Augusta on the 2nd of May 1830, selected land there and later settled at The Vasse, now Busselton named after your family. In this interview I'd like to learn more about YOUR father's side of the family and YOUR life. So could we start off by you telling me your full name and where and when you were born.

BUSSELL Right, well I'm Colin Frederick Bussell. I was born in 1949.

MD And whereabouts was that?

BUSSELL I was born in Busselton.

MD What are some of your earliest childhood memories growing up?

BUSSELL My earliest childhood memories: for a start I was six months old when my family went to Jindong to the farm, as a six-months old baby, with my two older brothers and then, five years later, my sister was born, Alison. So early childhood memories were probably going to Vasse School, one of the earliest things I can remember. We shared a house at that stage with our neighbours, Ev and John Allen, so they lived in our house while their house was getting built because our property was a War Service Land Settlement property which Dad acquired in 1950.

Early childhood memories. I can remember my first day at Vasse School with Margaret Beacham who was Margaret Allen at that stage. And because we had grown up together we used to be babysat in the same playpen at home and one of my earliest memories at Vasse School was Margaret crying and saying that she didn't want to be at school anymore, she wanted to go home and I can remember clearly saying to her, 'Don't worry, the day's nearly over and we'll be going home soon'. That's one of the biggest things I can remember about that, so we were always quite close friends in those days.

I remember going to school. My two brothers went to Jindong School which became the Kaloorup Community Centre but the year that I started school the Jindong School closed down, so my brothers went to Vasse School, my older brothers, and I started school, first year, at Vasse. Grade One was in the little hall of the main hall and grades one, two and three were at the hall and grades four, five, six and seven were in the little schoolroom at the school. My earliest teacher was May Sharpe who then, later on, was married to the late Murray Armstrong, tragically killed of course [in a plane crash at Vasse December 1973].

MD Who was the principal of the school?

BUSSELL The principal of the school was Keith Jamieson and on times when May Sharpe wasn't there I used to have a teacher, May Mardon, and she was a lovely person and for many years I used to see her in town and she always made a big fuss of me. So she was an important person, as a teacher, growing up and for some reason, I don't know, we seemed to get on very well.

MD Do you remember the names of any of the children at school with you?

BUSSELL Oh yes. The boys: Neil Babb, Ray Payne, Kevin Williams, they were all in the same class. The Yelvertons were there and in my class Kevin Williams, the Smiths from Yelverton, Kenny Smith (quite a family of Smiths), Rodney Smith was one who a park in Busselton was named after, Rod Smith Park. He, incidentally, got

hit in the head with a cricket ball at school and ever since then he had blackouts and I think that was part of the reason that he was so debilitated for so many years, Rodney Smith. And he was at Vasse School.

And then there was the Willmotts. I was always very keen on Stephanie Willmott, I always thought she was lovely. As a matter of fact, I remember telling her at one stage, in about grade three, 'There's only one of you girls there that I think much of and that's this one.' But also in the class was Lynette Yelverton, Beverley Couch, Vera Boyle. At the school at that time, I think there was about 50 students altogether. Average of about seven or eight in each class.

MD Did you enjoy school?

BUSSELL Aaah some of it I did. I didn't enjoy the part of it when I was in grade two because I was quite sick, and then what happened was I had to stay in grade two for another year and that affected me really badly because I was really disappointed about that and I thought it was the worst thing people could do to someone but maybe because I'd only been to school for about half of the year and had other things that affected me as well. My dad was very sick in hospital for six months, and my mum was left on the farm to look after cows, and so things weren't that good for me. But later on I overcame that and I got going very well at school after that but I did feel very upset that I had to stay in that class. And then we did enjoy school. We enjoyed very much ... the part that I enjoyed most was, strangely enough, was the oral English classes and Keith Jamieson had a bit of a different way of teaching. He used to like to read a lot of ... he used to read us books and when we were in grades four, five, six and seven, we all used to do the same lessons of English. And he was very big on that, in self-expression and oral questioning and things, more so than the written. I wasn't so keen on writing compositions and things but I quite liked maths and, of course, I loved being out in the sport field, but the sports field at Vasse School was very poor. We had a big lake of water there in the middle of the playing field and so we only had a limited amount in the wintertime because it was all full of water. We used to go tearing off in the bush, running all around playing chasey and so we enjoyed that part of it, the freedom. We got into trouble a few times for getting out of bounds. We used to go right up behind the Vasse store and there were some crabapple trees there and some grape vines which we used to raid. And we went out and Vern Brockman used to lease part of Boyles' land and I remember one day we went out there and he used to put all his horses down there, and all these birds and things were where all the horses were in the swamp, all rolling around, you know.

- MD When Boyles' land, is that down there where still the little old house is, a restaurant?
- BUSSELL Yeah, and there was a big swamp in there and we saw all these birds and swamp birds which I'd never seen before, so I really enjoyed that part of it, all the wildlife and things like that. And now I remember a group of us, we had some stumps in the playing field which we used to land on quite often when we were playing football, so between us all, industrious boys we were, we dug them out. We dug all around them and burnt them, burnt them out and cleared the stumps out of there [chuckles]. In our playtime, we dug these big holes and I don't know how Mr Jamieson let us light the fires in there but we burnt these stumps and they were big stumps, it took us days to dig around each one and dig it out, burnt them out, you know; so we were pretty determined. We didn't want to land on these stumps anymore. Some of them were probably bigger than others but, anyway, they were the days at Vasse School.

DISC ONE TRACK THREE

- MD Once you left Vasse School, where did you go then?
- BUSSELL I went to the high school, Busselton High School and by the time I'd finished high school I was in the top grade and I only did one year there and then I decided that I was going to ... well between us all, I went off to Ag school, so I went to Harvey Ag [Harvey Agricultural High School] in 1964 and 1965.
- MD Did you enjoy it there?
- BUSSELL I loved it. Well, the thing is about Ag school was, there was 25 of us in each class, two classes (year 11 and 12) and about half of us were farm boys and half of them were city boys. And so really, having been a farm boy, in all the subjects we did I really excelled there because a lot of things that I had an advantage of, even from driving tractors and doing all sorts of things, and leaning about cows, and milking cows, and rearing calves. So half of our work at Ag school was in the schoolroom and the other half was divided by trades and farm work. Included getting up early and milking cows, poultry, pigs and so, you know, I really went well at Ag school, even though I was one of the youngest there because normally the people were a little bit older than I was. But, anyway, I did that well.
Some of the people took me under their wing a bit and I became one of the leaders, so I was identified at that stage as being ... you know it was a big honour to be a prefect and to be in charge of a house, so I was really pleased about that. Then I was given the privilege (because I was a prefect) I didn't have to go to prep every night. Two of us used to run the library, so we'd go in the library and people would come in before prep and get the library

book and sign them in and sign them out. And we'd just stay in the library, we'd do our prep in the library whereas others had to go down to a classroom and be there for one and a half hours each night. So we thought being a prefect was a pretty big thing, so I was amazed.

From then is really when I really started playing more sport and that was through the headmaster's, well not through the headmaster but through Gwyn Cracknell, [he] instigated a lot of us to play hockey because he was a really good hockey player. And so from that beginning of encouragement and coaching, for many years after that I really enjoyed playing hockey. We used to go to Bunbury every weekend, housemasters would look after us; they treated us very well actually.

MD Did you enjoy the boarding part of it?

BUSSELL The boarding part I didn't mind it especially in second year as I was a prefect so I had a bit more freedom. But, really, when I look back at it, it was accepted at the time but really when I think about it was really a boot camp. You had to sign in and sign out and you were monitored in everything you were doing. You had no spare time, you'd be up early, breakfast, and then your whole day ... at four o'clock it'd be sport until half past six or six o'clock, then it would be teatime, and then it would be prep, and then it would be lights out at nine o'clock.

MD Who was the principal there?

BUSSELL There were different principals there. Mr [pause] can't actually remember his name now.

MD Did your parents visit you at all in that time?

BUSSELL Yeah, parents, that was quite a big thing when parents came up. Mainly parents used to, when it was holiday time the parents used to share the trip. Quite often I would go with the boy O'Connor that lived out at Marybrook so we used to share the travel there but, quite often, once a term if you were lucky your parents used to come up and visit you, so that's the way it was. Then the strange thing about that was everyone whose parents came up the other kids always used to be always their friend that day because they'd always know that they had a cake of something, so you'd have lots of friends to come around to share in the offerings [chuckles].

DISC ONE TRACK FOUR

MD Colin could you tell me a little more about some of your earliest childhood memories.

BUSSELL Well earliest childhood memories were at the farm but my dad he always liked the beach and fishing, that was the only real hobby he had was fishing. So in the summertime, we didn't milk cows over the summer we only milked cows for about nine months of the year, and so in the summer we spent nearly every day going to Vasse beach. One of my earliest memories, we'd never had any formal swimming lessons so my dad taught us all to swim and I was always a bit of a reluctant learner to swim, so my brothers used to have to chase me down the beach and catch me and bring me back for swimming lessons. And Dad also taught my mum to swim because she was from Moora and so she never learnt to swim, but when they were married ... I remember going there very often. And then we had a little dinghy, used to go out and catch King George whiting and we used to catch crabs, so Dad's whole thing was the fishing and the beach. And another early childhood [memory], when we were milking cows we used to start milking earlier in the afternoon and then we'd head to Gracetown, Cowaramup Bay in those days. It used to take us as long to get to in from the track from Caves Road to Gracetown as it did from Jindong to the Gracetown turnoff, where we used to go fishing and catch a lot of fish. We would get there just as the sun was going down we would arrive at Gracetown and we'd stay there until quite late in the evening with our dinghy which we had on. Later on in time we put a dinghy on and we used to leave it on the beach. But then surplus fish we used to take in to town to my uncle and we used to sell them in the shop.

MD Did you have tents or ...?

BUSSELL No, we'd come home at night and so the result of that was Heather, my mum, said her last place she would ever want to retire was Gracetown, because she has to many times sitting there in the car waiting for Dad to come in from fishing. Anyway, we used to go there and it was one of his favourite spots, I think, growing up in Busselton where he used to spend a lot of time with his father and his dad in that area around Margaret River, obviously, because that's where Alfred Pickmore was. So early memories were a lot to do with Gracetown, or Cowaramup Bay as it was known.

MD I think you said to me the other day about going to Busselton shopping and picking your supplies up.

BUSSELL Oh right, yes. Well on Thursday afternoon that was always, just after lunch, have lunch and then go to town for shopping and before we'd go to town Mum and Dad would write out the list of the shopping they were going to get and they'd drop that at Kealy's store and then go into town, do the banking and any other thing they had to do, mainly visiting my mother's mum, and going and get some vegies from one of my uncles. Then we would call back at the Vasse Store on the way home and on the veranda

would be boxes of groceries which had every different person's name on each box and the shop at that time would be normally closed because it would be after five, and pick up your box and go home. So that Thursday was very regular. And sometimes we'd be still be waiting, instead of going home on the bus we'd wait at the Vasse School and Mum and Dad would pick us up on the way home instead of going right around on the bus. Because that was another part of memory which was not great for me because I used to get bilious headaches and I couldn't stand driving right around the whole district on the bus when we only lived about ... well five miles from the store and we used to get home on the bus at a quarter to five. So many times I used to ride my bike to Vasse School and back again. And I enjoyed doing that and I'd be home quite often before the bus had even come on the short way. The roads were really bad and Boallia Road round near Flanagans' and Coates;' it would be a job to get through there and you'd think the bus was going to get bogged.

MD All gravel roads?

BUSSELL All gravel, all gravel everywhere, as a matter of a fact gravel was right up until nearly the Busselton Drive-In, I can remember, was gravel. The trip was dusty and I didn't travel very well on the bus I used to get headaches and I was quite crook. This was when I was really young, as I got older bit of the road started to get bituminised. So, they're early days of that but I quite liked that because I got home early, I'd go and get the cows in for Dad and help feed the calves, so they're early days. Then I remember we used to milk the cows and usually finish in the night at about half past six, by that time it would be dark and I can remember Dad one time bought this little hurricane lamp [chuckles] and he gave me this little hurricane lamp so when we finished the dairy he used to light this little hurricane lamp up and walk up to the house with this little yellow hurricane lamp, you know. It was quite a bit of a thing with this lamp.

MD Did your brothers help as well?

BUSSELL Yes. We all had to help, but I mean I was probably encouraged more because I liked gardening, so I used to grow a lot of vegies and onions. I had a really good garden. As a matter of a fact I grew that much garden that I used to enter it in the show and many times I won prizes for cabbages, and peas, and different things in the Busselton Show so to that extent I encouraged that with my son and not only vegies but grasses and all sorts of things we used to enter into the Show. It was a thing I did it for my son, more or less, so he identified types of grasses and species of plants and things. Anyway, it went on for many years.

MD Any other early childhood memories?

BUSSELL Well I've got the other things that I did with my neighbours.

MD Was that later?

BUSSELL No, I thought it was later but then then when I realised that it wasn't: I used to go in the school holidays picking up potatoes by the bag and we used to get paid by the bag and I did that with Rob Terrace who was my good friend, and still is by the way, and was also a member of Apex Club and now for the last 40 years has lived in Perth as a chicken farmer. So we used to pick up these potatoes. One memory I can always remember is my neighbour Joe Mercuri, he said that his sister was having her 60th birthday. Now I used to go with Rob and we'd pick up potatoes down at the back of our farm where Larry Mercuri used to live. So I said, 'Oh I've got to go over and get the money.' So I asked my brother Vern and he wouldn't go and he said, 'You go down and get the money.' I went down there and this is a memory I can remember forever because as a child I couldn't stand eating cooked carrot and pumpkin, I didn't like those things. I used to say to my mum, 'If you want me to eat carrot I'll eat it raw but I don't like it cooked.' Right, so when I got down there to collect my money Mrs Mercuri was feeding her daughter (in a high chair) this mashed up carrot and pumpkin. This is Toni[etta] Mercuri who was also a [Busselton] Festival Queen in the [later] years. So she was spitting most of it out on the floor and I thought, 'What is this terrible woman trying to make this kid eat this stuff and she doesn't want it?' Because I related very well because I hated it [chuckles].

Now I collected the money and I look back and I thought, this is how old I was going to pick up my money for picking up potatoes. Joe told me his sister was having her 60th birthday right, so I thought when I went down to pick up my money that I was about 13 or 14, but when I look back at her age and my age I was only about eight or nine, and I was going down to get ... at nine years old to get my money for picking up potatoes. We'd put them in the bag but we couldn't shake the bag down, so we had a bag of potatoes and then this guy would come down next day and shake the bag down and we'd have to put about another foot of potatoes in the top of it to make a full bag [chuckles].

So that's one of my earliest days of Rob and I, and that was the start of when potato diggers started to come. I can remember this very clearly, this potato digger on the back of a grey Fergie [Ferguson] tractor and you had to have a bag of sand on the bonnet to stop it from going up in the air.

MD This is a mechanical digger?

BUSSELL This is a little digger before the first harvesters came, and then he'd pick the potatoes up off the ground, and quite often there'd be a lot of grass and it was pretty hard work really. But Rob he was young, he's a year younger than me but his dad was a

potato grower so he was a tough little bugger [laughs]. So he knew how to work, you know, because my father was never a potato grower, we were dairy farmers, and I'll get onto that a bit later.

DISC ONE TRACK FIVE

MD Colin what was your father's full name and where and when was he born?

BUSSELL Well my father was Julius William and he also had another name Harold Bussell, so I don't know why he had so many names. He was actually born in Donnybrook but then lived in Busselton after that and then the War came along and he went away. He was working in the wheatbelt with his brother, so that was my dad. My mum was Heather Carrick, she was a nurse (trained sister) at Royal Perth Hospital and they met. She came from Moora with her extended family. He [her father] was a very successful business person in Moora. He owned nearly everything in Moora and if you have a look in Moora there is still a street there called Carrick Street. They lived right near St Mary's Church and they owned the drapery, they owned International Harvester, and he was a very successful business person. Anyway then they got married and they came back to Busselton after the War. My mum she was a sister but they went to Ballarat, Dad was in the army, but when she was in Ballarat she worked as a kindergarten teacher. Eventually they ended up back in Busselton and they lived with Elliotts in Busselton, Caroline and Eric Elliott in Peel Terrace; it became later the Ivanhoe Museum.

MD So they would have been related, were they?

BUSSELL Caroline is [was] a Brockman and her great grandfather was John Garrett Bussell, right. She was the same generation to John Garrett as I am to Alfred Pickmore and yet she's been dead for 25 years. It's rather strange but you've got to remember that John Garrett when he came out here he was probably nearly 30 years old and Alfred Pickmore was 16, so you get generations right back a lot further.

MD Going back, your dad was in the army.

BUSSELL Yes, and in the air force.

MD Was that during the War [WWII]?

BUSSELL Yes.

MD And did he go away from Australia?

BUSSELL He went to Darwin, he was in Darwin, that's how he came to get a Soldier Settlement farm.

MD And how did that affect him, the War?

BUSSELL Badly, badly.

MD Did he talk about it at all to you?

BUSSELL No, no but I've heard about it, and that affected him and that is why he went to Hollywood [Hospital] for six months, he had a nervous breakdown.

MD Was it Post Traumatic Stress Disorder?

BUSSELL Well he never told me but I heard, must have been from my Aunt Ailsa, I don't know if you knew her. Did you know Ailsa Carrick? Did you know Maeve Monks?

MD No.

BUSSELL You know at Villa Maria [now Capecare], the Monks ward? Right well that was my mum's sister's friend, Ailsa Carrick, who lived in Breeden's house? We own that now, Sue and I.

MD By the river [Vasse]?

BUSSELL Yeah, so we bought that off my aunt when she moved into Westfield Court where Mrs Reading used to live; you know, Dot Reading?

MD Yes.

BUSSELL Right oh, so she moved there. Ailsa and my dad were quite close. My dad looked after her a lot because she was very sick in the last 25 years of her life.

MD After the War and your father go out of the army or air force ...

BUSSELL Yes he came back to Busselton and then he worked for Bignells and he used to drive the school bus. He used to go out to Boallia and pick up all the kids and he worked in a mechanic shop as a mechanic as well, because Dad was quite good mechanically.

MD For Bignells?

BUSSELL Yes for Bignells. And then one day ... because they built a house in Adelaide Street.

MD Whereabouts in Adelaide Street?

BUSSELL You know where Frank Elliott lives?

MD Yes.

BUSSELL Right, well Frank Elliott bought the block from my mum.

MD On the corner of Ford Road and Adelaide Street?

BUSSELL No, not Ford Road, Georgette. And my mum and Dad built the house there, then [there was] the next block along, and Rob Griffiths bought the other block, there were three blocks there, my mum actually owned two of them. When my grandad at 65, he had a business in Moora, his sons didn't want to take it on so he came to Busselton and he bought the house that Mum and Dad had built by Barretts and, when they moved to the farm, my grandad and Grandma came from Moora and bought that house.

BUSSELL That's was a bare/spare [vacant] block and he left his will [estate] to his children, but in charge of the Public Trustee, so that block on the end was always part of the Trustee block. But the other two blocks, in his will he said that my mum had a chance to buy those two blocks back at the valuation of when he died. So in about 1985, after my dad died (my grandmother died at about the same time), anyway, Mum bought the place and if my dad had been alive those blocks would never have been sold. So when Dad died ... Mum and Dad used to live on Bussell Highway; Armstrong Road, right on the corner. At the moment there's a big ... have you seen the big Norfolk Island pine that is growing there? That's going to be a feature, and that's where Mum and Dad lived from when Sue and I were married. First of all they lived at Sandy Bay [between Norman and Armstrong Road Busselton]. When Sue and I came home from our honeymoon they were gone and they'd just rented a house down at Sandy Bay and that place used to belong to Greenacres, and then they bought that place and that's where my dad died in that house in 1984.

DISC ONE TRACK SIX

MD He was driving the school buses and what after that?

BUSSELL Then he waited for the War Service Land Settlement farm to come up and then he was offered quite a few different ones, Kudardup and different things but he wouldn't accept them. So he waited and eventually he got the Jindong farm, that is what he preferred, he didn't want to be down at Kudardup or where the other War Service farms were. Some of his other friends I think. Jerramungup was another place where they did a lot of War Service farms. He was there and Allen's were next door, and John Cores around next to where Evans & Tate Winery is, used to be Cores and then it was Billinghursts after that.

MD I think he chose the best position.

BUSSELL Yes, well Allens next door was pretty good too but at one stage they were all one farm but when the War Service bought them they divided in half, it's a 250-acre block.

MD That your dad originally got?

BUSSELL Yes.

MD What were your bothers' and sister's names, and who they married?

BUSSELL Well John was my eldest brother, I think he's four year older than me. He married Rosalind Rickett from Cowaramup. He became a school teacher, he was the first of our family to move away. He was a good brother, actually, because he was the one who went away and the first one to have his Driver's Licence, so when he came home on holidays from uni with a car, we'd spend most of the time going off in the car, going to Yallingup body surfing, and doing all sorts of things like that, so that was really good. John was very keen on music and my mum was very keen on everyone to learn music.

MD Did she come from a musical background?

BUSSELL Well she could play the piano herself, but not really.

MD What are John's children's names?

BUSSELL John had five children, the eldest one being Emma (Emma-Claire), and then there's Sarah, Laura, Amy and a boy Paul.

MD Alison [sister] is quite musical.

BUSSELL Really musical.

MD And her family.

BUSSELL And her family yes, Sean. But John before Mum had a piano, she bought a piano eventually at the farm, but John used to ride his bike down to the Vasse Hall and go in and play the piano that was at the Vasse Hall. We used to go to music lessons to Mrs Strachan in Busselton who was his teacher.

MD Because he's written quite a few really good songs, hasn't he?

BUSSELL Yes but he was always most happy when he was playing music, he used to love it. You'd see him play the piano and do all these different things, and he played in lots of different bands, and all sorts of things, and that was really his life. We used to have Junior Farmers' dances when I left school, and what used to happen was the families would all go to Cowaramup or Acton Park, Churchill Park or whoever ran the dances. Generally, the families would come along and the girls would sit around with their friends, all around the outside [the edge of the hall], and then when the pub shut at 10 o'clock all the boys would come and stand at the top of the hall [chuckles]. Right, so then after a while

you'd get up enough courage to go and ask this girl to dance, and the worst thing that could happen is if they said no and you'd have to walk back again [laughs].

DISC ONE TRACK SEVEN

MD Colin, John and your cousin Alf were really involved in saving the jetty after the cyclone.

BUSSELL Oh well yes, John particularly was one of the early people ... he was very interested in history and by talking with his dad he knew all the history, so he still does. His knowledge of the history of the district; he could write a book. That's when he made those tapes of different events like Georgiana Molloy, Yulika, Cattle Chosen, The Caves song, one about the jetty [*Monsieur Vasse*], and he was inspired and he did the walk of the jetty which different people supported him. But, anyway, he did that and I think it went on for over a week.

MD And he raised quite a bit of money didn't he?

BUSSELL Yes. Well, it wasn't so much money in those days but what it did it brought the attention of the jetty. Alf of course was the jetty campaigner. John was not really that suited to be a teacher, although he did get a degree, local history was what he specialised in. So part of his education, after being at school, he started off doing a Bachelor of Arts and then he went teaching and he became a teacher when he was only 19. It was pretty young you know. Then he went out to Norseman, one of his first jobs out there, but his real love was for music and you'd see his whole face would light up. And I used to say to him sometimes, he'd play some tunes, and I'd say, 'Why don't you play that tune the same as my sister Alison plays it?' Which was correct. Then to demonstrate that he used to say, 'Well would you like me to play it just like this?' He'd go along like that and it would be ... 'Or would you like it like this?' So what he used to do was put extra chords in and beef it all up, you know. Then he had a trailer and a Leslie box [speaker] and a big Hammond organ that he used to go along and play at all the different things. He was a one-man band at one stage when he was out at Norseman. Then he used to teach (at night school) the Aborigines English as well. On the farm, he and myself if we were getting the cattle in we'd always be the ones running and doing everything, but Vern was always layback; he was quite a smart person Vern. He was my next brother.

MD How much older is he than you?

BUSSELL Eighteen months, so at one stage we're only one year apart.

MD Who did he marry and what did he do?

- BUSSELL He's married to Joy, she was a New Zealander, but he got married late. He lived at home with Mum and Dad until he was nearly 40. He's now got two sons, one's about 27 or 28, Daniel, and the other one's about 20, Julian.
- MD He farmed with them [their parents] until he ...
- BUSSELL It's strange really because the year I left school which was in 1966, I was home (same year that decimal currency came in) ... when I arrived home from Ag school, thinking that I was coming home to be a dairy farmer, just before I got home there were no cows, and there was no milking machine, and the farm had been bought at Chapman's Hill. All the cows were transferred to Chapman Hill and the milking machine, so when I came home we were running dry stock, steers and things, and there wasn't too much money in it. Vern was over there and I used to go sometimes, because he used to play music as well, he was the guitarist in the band, rhythmic guitar and singing. So they'd go off and so quite often I'd be called on to go and milk the cows over there which I enjoyed actually. I used to go over and milk the cows but I was a bit annoyed that here I was sent off to Ag school and when I came home there wasn't even a tractor, there was nothing. So I went to work at Westbrook, and I worked for Doug [Feutrill] for two years when I left school. The things I did there, when I think about, it was pretty full-on at Westbrook, it was actually hard work really, and I was only 18 years old.
- MD Was that potatoes?
- BUSSELL Potatoes, he had about 4 000 sheep (ewes), potatoes and a 100 head of cattle and we worked from one job to the next, running just about. And he used to work with Austin Taylor, he and Doug worked together and Jack Taylor was there at the same time. When I was working there was when Jill and Doug moved from Omelah, the little farm that Doug had over to Westbrook, that was the year when I was there, when Jack Taylor retired and went in to town and Doug took over the farm.
- MD How long were you there, for two years?
- BUSSELL Two years. I was there for one year first working on wages straight out, and then after the one year I said to Doug, 'Look, Doug, I don't want to do this, I need to go home and I want to do some work at home as well.' So I said, 'I'm going to work part-time.' When I went part-time I did more hours there in the second year than what I did when I was working full-time [chuckles]. After two years I said, 'Look you know, I've got to go.' But it was in that time that Doug said to me, 'Would you like to come along to an Apex meeting?'
- MD We'll talk about Apex in a little while.

Meanwhile your dad was still on the farm and you were there?

BUSSELL Dad was on the farm.

MD What was he doing there?

BUSSELL We were mainly buying and selling steers and the property was a really nice farm but there was still a lot of work to be done there and Dad, really at that stage, he was ready to retire and he was only 55. So when I came along he was glad that he could just do what he wanted to do. Anyway, Mum was more of a ... she always went looking at different farms and Mum always supported me. Without my mum I think she sort of believed in me to work. If something went wrong Dad would go off his train about it, you know. I can remember puncturing the tyre once on the tractor, I went over this stake or something, and Dad went off his brain about it; the back tyre on the Dexter. I remember Mum saying, 'Well he's the only one who drives it so I suppose if it's going to get a puncture he's the one who's going to do it.' [Laughs] But then when they bought the farm at Chapman Hill Mum saw the advert in the paper. Dad said, 'Leave it, we'll do that sometime.' Mum said, 'No we won't, we'll go now.' Mum and I would have a bit of banter you see. Mum used to always say that I was this and I was that, and she used to go on about the fact that I was the least educated and that I wouldn't know about these sort of things. So I used to always say, 'Well you know, I left school from Ag School,' I can always remember saying to her several times, 'You can actually learn some things when you leave school' [chuckles]; so that was the banter we used to have.

DISC ONE TRACK EIGHT

MD How long before they moved off the farm and what did you do?

BUSSELL In 1966 when I left school I worked for Doug and then I started (with the inspiration of working with Doug), I thought well if I'm going to grow a few potatoes I may as well grow a few for myself and try. So my dad being a War Service it was very hard to get a licence, for a start I use do grow some on the black market and just sell them illegally. Then Austin Taylor said, 'Well if you keep on doing that I'm going to dob you in.' Dad wrote away and got a licence and I remember it came up at the Zone Council meeting, at that stage I got an extra licence because I bought a licence and managed to get it transferred from Cavallos. Doug knew bloody well that I wasn't related to Cavallos but he said, 'Ah, I think there's some relationship between Cavallos and Bussells' and of course Doug knew damn well that I wasn't because, I mean, Doug was the emcee [Master of Ceremony] at my wedding [laughs]. He chaired our wedding, Doug Feutrill did, so he knew that but anyway then we started growing potatoes.

MD How many acres did you start off with Colin, do you remember that?

BUSSELL Two acres in the winter. Didn't have a harvester, Murray Armstrong came and dug them for me and he was actually amazed at what I did. And my dad used to say ... I had this couple of acres of potatoes and I'd go and work the ground and I'd work it again, then I'd drag it, and I'd do all this. Dad said 'You've already done that.' I said, 'Forget about it, just leave me, I know what I got to do to grow.' Because Dad's idea was to do it once and, anyway, he wasn't big on super. He used to bring his knowledge of farming in the South West from Kalannie where you got about ... if you got any rain you got bugger all, but you had to put twice as much super on. Anyway, it was always a conflict between what was going on.

MD Did you grow a summer crop as well or was that later?

BUSSELL The first summer crop was in conjunction with Dave.

MD Hannay?

BUSSELL Mmm. So Dave and Ross Terrace, and then that relationship, and then I went share farming.

MD Was that grown on Dave's property?

BUSSELL On Dave's place and Neil Babb was involved as well, Neil, myself and by then I think Robert had more or less started to get ... he was working in a bank, Rob Terrace was, in Perth. Then he met up with Judy and then he came back but he only stayed for about five years, or might have been longer, but then he actually got out of it and went back and bought a chicken farm. In the meantime, I spent a lot of time with Dave and Fay [Hannay]. In between that I used to do other things. I remember on three occasions I went as a stockperson to the Royal Show, I went with Ross Reading, I looked after all his bulls at the Royal. Then I went with Butcher Brothers, Jim Butcher and Ron; so the Butchers. And that was good because I stayed there, I went up with the cattle in the truck, stayed there the full-time of the show, looked after the cattle for judging and all that sort of thing, and that was a pretty important, part of a good education actually because when I used to go back to the show many years later I knew where everything was because I'd spent three weeks there walking around the show.

MD How long before you got into cattle?

BUSSELL Oh, I was virtually working for Doug, but then when I came home I was working on the farm on the weekend, mowing hay and doing all sorts of things, you know. I don't know why Doug did it, but I

used to just go on a tractor and he said, 'Mow that paddock.' So I'd have to mow it and I'd just keep on mowing, I'd be mowing for days; just mowing. I don't know how he knew that I could at 18 ... I mean today I wouldn't just trust someone to come there and do it without much supervising. I used to have to do the whole thing and then rake the hay, and then Doug would come and bale it all.

MD You did eventually get into cattle yourself, did you?

BUSSELL We had cattle and so the cattle farming started, it was round about the mid-1960s or late 1968. I can remember early days from my house, which is five miles from the Vasse School, there were eight dairy farmers between our farm and the Vasse School; now there's none. And I used to be jealous of Readings who had this big herd of beautiful [Australian] big Illawarra Shorthorns, right, and I could see them because when I'd ride my bike there sometimes I go through the cows, all these big beautiful cows you know, beautiful big AIS cows. Our cows, we had a lot of Jerseys, so then we had brindles, do you know what a brindle was? Brindles and Jersey cross and they were rubbish compared to what these big AIS cows were.

MD When you had the dairy you also had beef cattle?

BUSSELL Yes, well no dairy cows there when I went home, the dairy cows all went over to my brother, so it took us years to get going. What happened was, from the dairy farms when there were eight dairy farmers, there's none there now, but it was around about that ... and I think Cliff [Dawson] milked a few cows at one stage when you were there but it quickly ... the price of milk and the price of butter was useless. I can remember the first time my dad had a cow and it wasn't suitable for the dairy, so this was the beginning of it for us. And Dad said, 'You're going outside, you're out, rear the calf.' So he sent the calf to Midland where John Mclean used to drive the truck actually (who died not that long ago, last month, his death notice was in the paper), sold this baby beef and the baby beef bought £44.12.6, I remember the price. So they said, 'Well this is better than milking cows.' But by then a lot of other people were also changing over from milking cows, I think Evans, John Allen, a lot of people were running baby beef. Even Dave [Hannay] did it, he was about the same time when he gave it up. They all gave up milking cows because it was every day, morning and night, and a lot of the land around here was pretty wet and the dairies weren't up off the ground, you know, just walking around in mud and crap everywhere, you know.

DISC ONE TRACK NINE

MD You had a sister Alison.

BUSSELL Alison was born five years after myself, she was always a kid sister. Matter of fact I always used called her Kid, that was my nickname for her. She was very talented at music as well. We got on very well, Alison and I, because closer age group together and always have, really. She had a very musical ear, I can remember her, she used to listen to Kindergarten of the Air before she went to school and then she could go and play it on the piano.

MD Just by ear?

BUSSELL Just by ear, she played the tunes she learnt from Kindergarten of the Air. So she was very musical as well. Anyway, she went through the Vasse School, she was about the same age ... her friends were Jill Evans and Terrie Hannay and I had a photo somewhere of Terrie and a few of her friends, Margaret Willmott, that was Stephanie's younger sister; there were three of them. She went to Busselton High School and then she did her nursing training at Royal Perth, the same as my mum. She finished all that and then she worked for a group of doctors in Perth and she did a speciality course of [with] Dr Lefroy who specialised in women's health from when they had ...well Dr Lefroy I think he was a part of the Silver Chain or the start of older people's ... so her main job at that stage was she used to go and pick these people up from hospital or go and visit them when they'd had broken hips and different things and go and assess their home and have all those sort of things done and modify the houses. So that was her job. Then she got married to Ian Lillico who was a teacher at Busselton High School and was also in Apex but that was after, but they met when Alison was teaching [nursing] in Geraldton.

MD Nursing in Geraldton.

BUSSELL She was nursing in Geraldton and Ian was teaching in Geraldton. At that stage Sue and I were staying at Horrocks Beach one night and Alison came out from Geraldton with Ian and said, 'We've got an announcement to make that we're getting engaged.' So I remember that, and so later they were married, and then Ian transferred back to Busselton, Alison used to work in Busselton as well, and I'm not sure whether she worked at the hospital, I don't think she worked in the Silver Chain. My mum worked for the Silver Chain, after she left the farm my mum went back and did a refresher course. And Sue and I were married in 1972, so Mum about '73 she went back and did a refresher course and she was a Silver Chain nurse for many years. In those days the Silver Chain only employed nursing sisters, whereas now the Silver Chain they're just carers. Mum used to be able to give needles and do all sorts of things, you know. She'd go from Capel, all around Cowaramup and

everywhere, driving around. And she wasn't really that good a driver, actually. Dad taught her to drive and she wasn't that confident in driving but, anyway, she was determined and that's what she did. She needed to get ahead a bit more.

MD Alison, what children does she have?

BUSSELL She's got three boys.

MD Quite musical as well?

BUSSELL Yes. Guy who's the eldest one, he's married, he's got two kids now and he's a computer guy; he works in computers. Not so much music but Sean, the next one, he's a piano king. Sean lives in Yallingup and Sean he's a concert-style piano player, he's unbelievable if you hear him playing. He plays here at some of the jazz things which Dr Jarvis runs. Have you been to any of those? So he's the piano expert. He got a piano that was on the wharf which was damaged and he completely rebuilt it. He is also a piano tuner ... piano tuner, piano player. I learnt a little bit about music but not much, but if I had to look at him when he's playing or with a singer or something, it's not notes like it's written, it's all chords and it's in a different format.

MD And she has a third son?

BUSSELL She's got Stewart the third son who is a schoolteacher and got married two weeks ago; Sue and I just went to the wedding. I had a lot to do with those boys, not so much with Stewart, but they've all been out on the farm, they all chased cows, all dug potatoes or planted vines. Because we've got a pretty big vineyard out there, we've got 85 acres of grapes.

MD Yes, we'll get on to that in a little while.

BUSSELL So they've all done that. Their father is Ian, he's a Doctor of Education after being a headmaster [Dr Ian Lillico founder and CEO of the Boys Forward Institute; retired former Principal of City Beach High School; international consultant in gender, boys' education and middle schooling]. He's was a maths teacher at Busselton High [School], he left the Education Department but he used to travel to Queensland and do everything, boys' education is what he specialised in and he wrote books and he's done all sorts of things. Really, at the wedding two weeks ago, to be honest it just about makes me cry to think about it now, actually, the accolades that I got from his son and from my sister and from my brother-in-law about his son [emotional]. Because his son at 15 said, 'I'm not going to school anymore.' This is the youngest one [Stewart], refused to go after third year. Came and spent six months living with us and his nickname for Sue was Turkey, I don't know why it

is but he calls her Turkey. He spent that time living with us sometimes.

Then it was through a friend of Naomi's who is Lorellie Cabetti who is a farmer's daughter from Southern Cross, lovely person, actually, Lorellie. Well Lorellie she ended up, got the award Teacher of the Year, unbelievable. Now she picked up Stewart and got him back into Carine College, right, and so he went there and then after doing those, getting an entry to uni, then he did his teacher's degree, whatever that is called now [Bachelor of Education], then he's done his Masters from leaving school at 15 and then getting back.

You'd be here one night and next thing, 'Oh, someone's here.' Stewart would be sleeping, you know. Emma brother [John's daughter] used to do the same, she used to just rock up here. Emma would rock up and you'd say, 'Oh, Emma's here.' Next morning she'd be gone again.

DISC ONE TRACK TEN

MD Colin we talked about your mother and her family earlier but we didn't mention her parents' names.

BUSSELL Her parent's names were Ellen and Joseph Carrick.

MD Do you know anything about your mother's brothers and sisters?

BUSSELL Yes, my mother had two brothers and two sisters. One brother was my Uncle Colin, my namesake, and the other is my Uncle Bruce, they were both Carricks. Then I had an Aunt Dulcie who was married and became an Overheu and she lived in Canberra and now she lives in Albany ... well she did but she's died now, but she moved to Albany after her husband died. And Ailsa Carrick was my aunt. Ailsa was a very experienced [nursing] sister and she worked in Busselton Hospital for years. She was a Triple Certificate sister and she did her midwifery in London and one thing she used to do was, her job in London she learnt how to look after prem [premature] babies, in the days before they had humid cribs. So she specialised in that. And then she came back to Busselton, she never married, she delivered a lot of babies in Busselton Hospital, actually. Then she met up with another friend of hers (a nursing friend), Maeve Monks, and they actually became farmers and they bought three farms in Busselton with the help of my father; with a bit of advice and in partnership at one stage.

Then she bought some St Davitt's [inherit place 02936: built as the family residence for well-known and successful prospector FWP Cammilleri (Mayor of Busselton, 1904-07). Owned and occupied from 1959 to 1986 by members of the medical profession who played a significant part in the lives of the community, namely Dr. A. G Hemsley (1959-62), Ailsa Carrick (1962-72) and Meave Monks (1962-86)], which was Dr Hemsley's

house and from then on, she started to get a bit sick. So, unfortunately, the last 25 years of her life were a trauma to her. She was always very friendly to me (and me to her) so I would never hear anything bad about her. She was always one for ... stickler for manners and it would be interesting ... she said, 'Don't put your elbows on the table, don't do this, don't do that, you wouldn't be able to dine with the Queen,' [chuckles]; that was one of her statements. Anyway, she depended on me a lot in the last 20 years of her life. She would ring me up and say, 'I've got this problem.' Which she didn't really have a problem but she thought she did. So she said, 'Come in and help me sort this out.' By then she was living in Breedens' house in Busselton after she bought several other properties and dissolved partnership with Maeve Monks. When she left Busselton she went and worked in the Quad [Quadriplegic] Centre in Perth. This is how I came to get the Adams Road [Jindong] property because at one stage it was owned in partner, or half of it was owned by my mum and dad, and half of it was owned by her, and then my mum and dad sold their half and bought the farm at Chapman Hill for my brother. Then years later she said, 'Do you want to take over this farm? So I said to my brother Vern, 'I've been offered this farm.' And I won't talk about the amount of money, I suggested the deal to my brother Vern and he said, 'I wouldn't go near it if I was you.' Anyway, I said, 'It sounds okay to me, it's probably what I'm going to do.' He just said, 'Well, you're mad.' Anyway, that's what I did and that's where I grow potatoes and my grape vines and I expanded it from there, bought some other land around it as well. But Ailsa, she liked the very fact that I was in public a bit and that I was at one stage Apex President and a few things like that, and she sort of liked that you know [chuckles]. Eventually she offered me the house in Peel Terrace and Susanne didn't really want to have anything to do with it but, anyway, I said, 'It's in a good position.' Anyway, I bought it, I actually paid too much money for it [chuckles]. She used to say, 'I'm looking at this property, when can you come in and have a look?' I said, 'When would you like me to come and have a look?' And she used to say, 'Oh, now,' and then she used to say, 'I'm flexible.' She was flexible but it was still 'now'!

She had a mental problem where she thought that people were doing things to her, which they weren't. I supported her, I didn't tell her that she was not right or sick, I just sort of went along and said,

'Well you know' (what she called the team), they've been working on you for a long time and they haven't achieved anything yet so it looks like you're winning.' She was a very attractive lady when she was young, very pretty. Anyway, she never got married but she had some boyfriends as well later on. Her success was probably ... a lot of it was probably from her upbringing but my dad helped her a lot.

MD Did you have contact with any of your cousins on the Carrick side, at all?

BUSSELL Yes, I still have. I've still got a cousin who's the head of the Ag [Agriculture] Department in Albany Tim, Tim Overheu, so he's a very respected guy in soils. He came from Canberra. Unfortunately his brother was killed on his graduation in Canberra; a car came over the road on the wrong side of the road and killed him. So Tim was an only child, but Tim's mum she lived in Canberra for many years after that. Tim came here, he did land surveys in Esperance and he's still in Albany now and he actually does some work for Alannah [McTiernan] the Minister for Agriculture.

So the other cousin I've got is ... I've got some cousins from Uncle Bruce, I've got two cousins: Paul Carrick who is actually a farmer in New South Wales now; and Ross, he's a chemist in New Zealand, and Janet Commander (Janet Carrick). Janet's got three daughters, so I had a fair bit to do with Janet. She's a very learned person, she used to go to France and teach English in France. She's quite an 'out there' person', she's a bit younger than myself but she was one of the first persons that I knew that were quite insistent that women had a better place in the world than what they are given. She is a very independent person in other words

Her husband, Philip Commander, is known as the water guru of WA [Consultant Hydrogeologist]. He's retired now. From a lot of my knowledge that I learnt about water, and different things I used to bounce off him, and so we had quite a good relationship with Philip Commander. When people used try and tell me about water I was already pretty well armed. He was not working for the government [Water Authority] he was for the science part of water, not the political side and one thing you remember about these types of things is that the science and the politics are quite different [chuckles].

MD When your father passed away did your mother continue living in Armstrong Road?

BUSSELL Yes, only for a short time because at the same time her mother died. When my grandmother died the estate was distributed to her family (her children) and Mum was one of them. So what Mum had the chance to do, she bought the house back that she'd sold to her parents 25 or 30 years before at a probate valuation, that was the deal that they had. So Mum exercised her option to buy the house, and then that's when she sold Armstrong Road and built a new house in Blue Crescent.

MD When did your mother pass away?

BUSSELL I'm not sure of the date but it's about seven years ago now that she died, 95 she was. She stayed at William Carey [Baptistcare,

William Carey Court], she died at William Carey yes, but she didn't go in there until the last two years of her life, until she couldn't get out of bed. Because the Silver Chain used to come. People say to me now that they're not going into care and they're not going to do this, not going to do that and I say, 'Well you know I've got bad news for you but you haven't actually got an option when it gets too bad'. Because if you're living by yourself and you can't get out of bed, ... What happened was when Mum couldn't get out of bed one morning, they [Silver Chain carers] would come about nine or ten o'clock and give her a shower and everything, and she had Meals on Wheels and a few things, they called the ambulance and then she went into Busselton Hospital and you're not getting any treatment, you're only allowed to stay there for something like 28 days at that stage, and then you have to find something else. Then what they do is they offer you different places to go and it might not be in Busselton, it might be in Nannup or it might be in Pinjarra or it could be Armadale or somewhere. Eventually she got offered this place ... because she never booked in anywhere because she wasn't going, see, she wasn't going anywhere. Because she was a Silver Chain nurse and she was acting matron at Villa Maria for some years after Maeve Monks left there; Maeve Monks was her sister's friend. So Mum ended up at William Carey which she hated, you know.

DISC ONE TRACK ELEVEN

- MD We'll get onto the Bussell family Colin. What was your grandfather Bussell's full name and what can you tell me about him?
- BUSSELL Well Grandfather's name was Jack, Alfred John, born in 1865, he died in his 76th year. When his father died he was only 17 years old; very young. He was the son of Alfred Pickmore [Bussell] but he was only very young, and he spent most of his time living in Busselton and around Margaret River apart from the two years he spent in Adelaide at college [North Adelaide Grammar School: operated 1854-1882, now Australian Lutheran College, Cnr Ward and Jeffcott Streets]. Then he arrived back. He did quite a few different things, a couple of his things weren't that successful and he went with one of his brothers-in-law at one stage in the search of gold at Coolgardie and when he got about half way up there his brother in law decided he didn't want to go (this is one of the Terry boys) so he turned back. Then when Jack came back he set off on his own way and he went out there. He wasn't successful in finding gold (this is in the gold rush days), so he worked up there in the mining industry and he worked up in the North after that on cattle stations at Roebourne, all sorts of jobs like that. And he worked in the railways as well, I'm not sure where he worked in the railways in Coolgardie or where it was.

Then he returned back to Busselton and, because he was only young when his father died, Wallcliffe was left to him in trust until he got to the age of 23, or something, and he was only 17. When he came back things had gone pretty bad and in actual fact his older sisters were running the property. The hindsight of it was that they lost Wallcliffe House, the Bussells did.

Well he was married to one of the Reynolds. Marion Reynolds was his first wife and, unfortunately, she died because she was going to Busselton in a buggy and the buggy tipped over. She was a bit sick before that, apparently she hadn't been well. Anyway eventually she returned back to Wallcliffe but she died. She had a son, Alfred John, and he was killed in the War in France, two days [a few weeks] before the end of the War, so that was my uncle from his first marriage to Marion Reynolds. The Reynolds family weren't happy with Jack because they said he should have accompanied her on this journey, so that was always a bit of a rift between the Bussells and the Reynolds for many years, you know. Alfred John was actually brought up by the Reynolds because his father was off doing different things at that stage, so he was brought up as a Reynolds, really.

MD This is Alfred John the second?

BUSSELL Yes this is Alfred John the second who was killed in France and if you go up to King's Park you'll see a tree planted and it's got Alfred John's tree it is, underneath there. Then Jack remarried and his wife was a teacher ... his son Alfred before he enlisted in the War he was going to school at Wonnerup because that's where the Reynolds were, at the little Wonnerup School there. The teacher there was Maude Kershaw and that's when Alfred John said to his dad, 'There's a teacher, a nice lady down there, I want you to come and meet her.' I don't know whether reluctantly or Well Jack went down there and met her and then they got married, so that was set up by Alfred John, the son. After that Maude and Jack had seven children.

DISC TWO TRACK ONE

MD Colin can you tell me your Grandfather Bussell's children's names?

BUSSELL Yes sure, and I might say that my uncles, I was very fond of them all actually. The eldest son was Uncle Maurice, Maurie, who ended up getting married twice, actually [noise in the background], he lived in Busselton; they all lived in Busselton. There were six boys and I'm not sure of the order in which they were born. My father was Julius, then the youngest one, I know, was Uncle Fred and he was a greengrocer in Busselton, then there was Uncle Don who at one stage was a farmer up at Kalannie where my dad used to go and work. Then there was Uncle Herbert who was a taxi driver from Collie, he and his wife

drove taxis. Uncle Lionel who was also a taxi driver. The only bit of an argument we used to have with Uncle Lionel was that he was also a staunch Labor Party supporter [Voices in background]. He always accused me of, when we had the rally against Gough Whitlam [25th March 1974], he swore that it was that Colin, cousin Colin, who threw the can at Gough Whitlam when we were at Fremantle Oval. But it wasn't, I had to explain to him that I never even got down to Fremantle Oval or Subiaco Oval where they had the big demonstration. But anyway, that was there, and I never met my Aunt Lorna, she'd died before I was born. Uncle Fred he used to have the greengrocer's shop and, from the farm, sometimes I would go into town and stay with Uncle Fred and do a bit of work in the shop. I enjoyed it and he was a very jovial sort of fellow Uncle Fred, he was my dad's youngest brother.

MD Who did he marry?

BUSSELL He married Isobel Cruickshank.

MD Whereabouts was his shop?

BUSSELL Right in the main street which is Queen Street right next to Valentines, opposite the Vasse Hotel. He was there for many years and it was called Bussell Brothers Greengrocery Shop and he was in partnership there with his brother for a start, then his brother, Uncle Don, and then they split up and Uncle Don went into the furniture selling business. And Uncle Don used to go to Perth to the auctions and bring back all this furniture and that was Alfred's father. Then they went out of the furniture and Alfred, when he took it over, went into different sort of furniture, bit more like 'antiquey' and better-quality sort of antiques. That was cousin Alf and he was an expert at restoring furniture and knew a lot about antiques and how to preserve things, and how to French polish, and all sorts of things. The Bussells, all the brothers, were always respected and they all had families and I was quite proud of them all, actually.

MD Uncle Lionel, what family did he have?

BUSSELL Uncle Lionel [Wilfred, 1915-1990], he was the same as Maurice he was married twice. From his first marriage he had three children and then from his second marriage he had two children. Aunty Cicely [Edith, 1915-2003] she was a Langridge from Busselton, she was a nice lady; I used to go and stay there.

MD Do you remember your cousins' names?

BUSSELL Yes, still alive ... Iona Hood is one of those cousins and she married Tommy Hood; and then there is Christine, she married Frank Benstead; and then there's Lionel for his [father] Lionel's

sake who's a woodwork teacher in Perth. Those are still alive but the two girls from his second marriage have passed away.

MD What were their names?

BUSSELL Pamela and Jennifer but they should have lived a lot longer but for some reason they haven't.

MD What other cousins did you have?

BUSSELL Well Uncle Fred had two boys and they've both passed on as well. Lloyd who was about the same age as myself. Good mate, we used to go down to the jetty fishing and I'd stay in town with him and we'd catch fish and we'd actually sell them in the shop with Uncle Fred. Uncle Fred was always pretty jovial, you know, he used to like drinking beer, he probably drank too much but he never drank beer during the day but as soon as the shop was shut he would be straight over to the Vasse [Hotel]. He was always there and I can remember he always referred to his nephews and his nieces as either cousin; cousin this or cousin that. His own two boys he called one of them, Lloyd was 'Boy One' and Gus was 'Boy Two'. So he was very family-orientated, Uncle Fred, and every time we used to go to town Mum and Dad would always go into Fred's shop. He knew the vegetable game inside out, actually.

MD Colin you mentioned Uncle Fred's sons' names but you didn't mention his daughter's name.

BUSSELL Well Deborah was her name and she was a younger sister to Lloyd and Alan.

MD Was Alf the only child of Don?

BUSSELL Yes [Alfred Donald born in 1938, died 11th October 2020; only son of Donald Norman (1905-1975) and Dorothy Bussell]; [Cousin] Don and Dymple. And Uncle Maurie he was married twice as well but the only ones I know are (from [his] second marriage) Maurice John who was married to Lorraine Evans (Maurice passed away from Parkinson's about three years ago), and Roy is still alive. Stella Driver is my other cousin (I saw yesterday), and Sue Lewis. And they had another child, Sally, who was had epilepsy and some other things as well, she passed away before but the others are still alive.

MD Were there any other children of Jack or have we covered them all?

BUSSELL No there was Herbert who had Leon, Lorellie and Dennis. Leon and Dennis have passed away, he was my uncle from Collie, but Lorellie is still alive. Leon was a very champion bike rider, there

are a few stories around about him that he, in a bike race once (his fame was [featured in an article] on the back of *The West Australian* one time) because there are certain rules in bike racing: 'taking your line', and this guy apparently took Leon's line and after the race Leon decked him [chuckles]. So he got rubbed out for a few years or a year or something, he got disqualified. Anyway, that was Leon. Leon was a manual arts teacher but he passed away a couple of years ago, Leon. I think that's about all of my cousins.

MD So you had quite a lot of contact with your cousins over the years?

BUSSELL Oh yes, a lot of contact, actually, probably mainly from the Busselton ones not so much with Lorellie and Leon and Dennis. Dennis used to come down and stay (from Collie) and he mainly stayed with my Aunty Margaret (Maurice's wife) and Maurice. And my two brothers used to go and stay there but I never stayed there somehow or another I always stayed with Uncle Fred and Isobel and with Cecily and Lionel, because I was a bit younger. Sometimes they used to come out to the farm as well. I can remember Dennis coming out and Sue Lewis stayed at the farm for quite sometime, actually; Sue Bussell that was Maurie's middle daughter. Good piano player, by the way, she used to teach (still does in her older age), she was a Suzuki music teacher, you probably would have heard of her.

DISC TWO TRACK TWO

MD Your grandfather Jack was well-known for his knowledge of the local Aboriginal language and there is a book with this information. Can you tell me a little bit about he came to know the language?

BUSSELL *All That [Big] Wongi*. Well the thing is he spent a lot of time fishing and, actually, as did all the Bussells. Some of the stories that go around as if there was always antagonism between their early families, and particularly the Bussells and everyone, but in actual fact it wasn't too long before the relationships ... it was quite a good relationship with a lot of Aborigines and the Bussells. They actually worked on the farms with them and the other story was that there was one Aborigine worked for years who was found in the potato paddock and she was brought up by the Bussells. When they said, 'Well it's time for you to go back and join [your people]', she didn't want to go. There was a lot of time spent between the Aborigines and in some ways, for Jack, maybe the relationship between whites and Aborigines, at one stage, was a bit frowned upon. Maybe some of the medals that Alfred John got didn't go to his father they went to the Reynolds and, we think, that maybe that is

because the whites and the early settlers weren't meant to associate so much with the Aborigines.

But, anyway, he became very learned and he learnt all the language and people put it together, they helped him. Some of his sisters or helped them put it together. Then that book with Rob Breeden, wrote some book as well ... I think Rob Breeden wrote *All That [Big] Wongi*, actually. Rob Breeden had a lot to do with Jack Bussell if you remember Rob Breeden and Arthur Breeden, the Breedens in Busselton; they used to have Breeden's Hardware.

Jack knew a lot of the stories and how to do things, he learnt a lot from them.

DISC TWO TRACK THREE

MD Growing up, what were your interests, sport, community involvement?

BUSSELL As a young person I think, in some ways, in the '50s we didn't really do that much socially. We went to Vasse School, it was only a small school and sport was very lacking. We didn't have a sports teacher, we made our own sport, we learnt off each other but we never really had anyone to coach us. We must have picked up some things from the older boys, or whatever it was, but we used to play cricket and football and different things, but we never really had any coaching. And some of my friends used to play football; my mum was not keen on football so I didn't go to football. But I didn't start hockey until ... and even when I went to high school I wasn't really big on sport.

But as my interests when I was around the farm as a young person what we used to do is trap rabbits, catch jilgies and ride our bikes everywhere. And my Italian friend, Rob Terace, we used to pick up potatoes to earn pocket money and trap rabbits and we used to sell the rabbits all around the neighbourhood. And then when we had surplus, too many for the neighbours, we used to pack them in a box in the morning, and Rob used to go to the convent school. Alongside the convent school was a Casselton's Store and we used to sell the rabbits to Casselton's and Rob would take them on the school bus before school. Casselton's was right next to the Post Office.

So we did that and it was a pretty big thing for us trapping rabbits. There's one thing I'll say about the rabbits even though they were pests a lot of people in the districts in those days, because things were pretty bad in the early days but there were rabbits everywhere. The ground used to ... (particularly out south of Payne Road where the ground was drier), rabbits used to go out there because the burrows never got filled with water. At dusk you could see the whole ground moving, there were millions of them.

MD Did you sell the skins as well?

BUSSELL Well, Dad told us how to do the skins. So we put these skins on these wires and hung them on the trees, then what we did when we got a big pile of skins ... because you used to pull the skin off a rabbit just like a sock and then put them on a wire, see, and let them dry. Anyway so we cut them all in half and packed them up and sent them up to Perth, but the mistake we made we cut them down the middle so we got nothing for them and they said, 'Well you shouldn't have cut them down the middle.' So virtually brought enough money in to pay for the freight but so they wouldn't charge us for the freight. We never kept anymore skins for rabbits. We used to sell the rabbits all around. Mrs Willmott used to always buy rabbits and Mrs McCarthy and so it was quite a good thing. We'd be up early in the morning before the school bus and have the rabbits skinned and, so, packing them up and put parsley in the middle of them, and you've probably seen that yourself.

But the rabbits were everywhere and then the early part of the rabbit thing was at the Kaloorup Hall for many years; the 1080 man used to come around the farms with a little jeep with a little disc on the back and put the oats out. Put the free food first for a few days, that would be for ... two lots of free feed, then the next one would come around with the poison. So they were early days. There were logs and things everywhere and the first thing was to get rid of the logs so the rabbit warrens could be ploughed in and disced up.

That was a big part of what we used to do. And there was a professional rabbit trapper who used to come around as well. But the rabbit was a nuisance but it's never been suggested or even accepted that the rabbit was, probably, an important part of the diet for people because after the Depression, after the War, things were pretty tight, there wasn't much money.

The other thing that I used to do was gardening and I think encouraged a lot by Dad and Mum. Every time they'd come home from town I'd get them to bring me another hundred onion plants or something, so I got quite good at that. Because we had the dairy and there was always plenty of fertiliser (manure and that) to put in there, and things used to grow. When I was even young I used to enter them in the [Busselton] Show, so that was my thing, was gardening and I suppose that's how I ended up going in to horticulture in growing potatoes and things. That was a thing.

Later on I got involved in ... when I went away to Ag school, I was first encouraged to start playing hockey.

MD Did you continue on with that after you came back to Busselton?

BUSSELL [Voices in background] Well I'd been very much encouraged because what we did at Harvey Ag we formed an Ag School hockey team which used to go to Bunbury and we used to play hockey every weekend in Bunbury. It was inspired by Gwyn

Cracknell and a couple of the other teachers, [and] one of the cooks at Ag school and they joined in the team. A lot of us had never played hockey before but, anyway, we were encouraged by Gwyn Cracknell who was an A-Grade hockey player for Bunbury. And Harvey, they were a very good hockey team, the Harvey team itself, not the Ag School team but the Harvey town team. So he took us and encouraged us and we did training and he got us going.

And from that, when I came home from Harvey I didn't even have a Driver's Licence, my mum used to drive me in to hockey and so I became quite a good hockey player, you know. To that extent I played hockey for ... I didn't stop playing hockey, I played hockey from the time I was probably 16 or 15 at Ag school (or 14), and I think the last year I played I was 59 when I gave up hockey.

I went many times to Country Week and then the last team, we formed a new team, we had a Junior Farmers' hockey team and that was again what we started from Junior Farmers. It didn't last for too long but it was about two or three years. Once again that was a group of Junior Farmers who'd never played hockey and Wally Lord and myself, who were hockey players, we encouraged the rest so we got quite a few hockey players. A lot of them were footballers before and, as a matter of a fact, Neil Hopkins (who we all probably know), he was a footballer but he brought up his sons as hockey players, to that extent that one of his sons, Aaron, went to the Olympic Games, I don't know whether he played in it but he was a very good Australian hockey player anyway, Aaron. And Colin Payne and a few of those guys; Neil Babb.

MD You all were in Junior Farmers together?

BUSSELL We were all in Junior Farmers.

MD How did you get involved? Did someone ask you to join or ...?

BUSSELL To Junior Farmers?

MD Yes.

BUSSELL I don't know how it was.

MD Did they meet?

BUSSELL We'd meet every week. But the Junior Farmers in those days was pretty strong because there wasn't many other outlets to go to, you know. Because you couldn't go to the hotel because the drinking age was 21, so we all used to go along to Junior Farmers. Every week we'd go to Junior Farmers.

MD Was that in Busselton?

BUSSELL In Busselton and we actually started in the Congregational Hall and then when the Youth Centre was built we had the Junior Farmers in there in the Youth Centre [noise in background].

MD Apart from the Junior Farmers' hockey team, what other teams did you play for?

BUSSELL When I came back from school I joined the Busselton Hockey Club, Countrys Club, and played there for many years, actually. As time went on we formed another club which was Redbacks as we got older into Vets [Veterans]. At one stage we used to travel to Bunbury on Monday nights and played hockey in Busselton on Thursday nights, and then we played our Countrys games on Saturdays. So hockey was a pretty big part of things and in the last few years of hockey I actually played for Capel as well.

DISC TWO TRACK FOUR

MD Colin do you have any other memories of things you did when you were young at Jindong?

BUSSELL Yes. One thing that I could have added the other day was I remember going to (which is quite important for the history of Jindong really) was that we used to go sometimes, I think it was on a Saturday afternoon round to North Jindong and play tennis. There we met up with quite a few of the neighbours, couple of families of Smiths, the Andersons, my brother Vern used to come around there, and sometimes I think Rob Terrace used to go, ride our bikes around there, and to Allens. Mrs Allen was a very good tennis player and very keen on coaching and helping people along and, to that extent, Geoff Allen, her son (who still plays tennis at the age of nearly 70), and I believe he has been the champion of Busselton Tennis Club quite a few times. His sister, Kathy, she also was a really good tennis player, she's had lots of trophies from playing tennis. So tennis was a fairly big thing around there.

MD That was at the North Jindong School?

BUSSELL That was at the North Jindong and North Jindong School, apparently, according to Neil MacDonald, the North Jindong School continued a little bit longer after the Jindong School which was at Koorup. We call it the Koorup Community Centre these days.

MD Very close to one another.

BUSSELL Very close, it shows you that the population around there in the Group Settlement days, there was quite a lot of people there, you know.

MD You mentioned something to me earlier about where you thought the name Jindong originated.

BUSSELL Oh yeah, well the name Jindong. I've been quite intrigued about this for quite some time, as to where the Jindong ... because it doesn't seem like an Aboriginal [word] but looking up on the internet and different things, it seems like Jindong ... there's quite a few names of people named Jin Dong in China. So, I mean, probably needs a bit more research done. Because Jindong is quite a big area. Jindong, strangely enough at one stage, everyone who had a farm around the area, Jindong expanded because Jindong was recognised as a good farming area. Anyone, even if they weren't quite in Jindong, they still wanted to be in Jindong. Then the strange thing is when the grape industry came, the upmarket place of grapes is Willyabrup, or Margaret River, so then Jindong then shrunk a bit because Jindong wasn't the 'in place' to grow grapes because of the different things people did. So it was planted too much in the wrong areas and different things and, anyway ... But Jindong is still recognised as a very rich soils [area], with a lot of intensive soils brought down by both the Carbunup River and the Buayanyup River, so the rich land was quite fertile.

DISC TWO TRACK FIVE

MD We mentioned hockey and Junior Farmers, what are some of the other activities that Junior Farmers undertook?

BUSSELL The main thing that Junior Farmers did ... and before I joined, probably 10 or so years before that, it was very strong Junior Farmers in WA and it was supported much by the government and encouraged. And it was very successful because, I think, people weren't allowed to go into hotels in those days until you were 21. Some people didn't like it much but Busselton club was very strong and the State was very strong. One thing we used to do was we had competitions between clubs and leading up to the State competitions, actually ... and we had meetings once a week and work out what programmes we were going to do. A lot of it social, but public speaking was a big thing, debating, one of the competitions was a One Act play. When we had these achievement weekends, which were competitions between all the different clubs, there were lots of things for the males and the females: cattle judging, sheep judging, shearing, welding competitions. One of the things (and not many of the boys in those days went in for it) but table setting, and cake decorating, painting and art. And one thing we used to do is, each club when we went into competition used to make up a big theme display (similar to what they have in the McFarlane Pavillion at the Royal Show), of things relating to their districts, and that was a big lot of work to put up a theme display.

We put in to have the State Achievement weekend in Busselton because we thought we have good facilities here and so we were lucky enough to have the State Achievement weekend in Busselton. We used to accumulate in a big ball on the Saturday and night, and we had a ball at the Busselton Youth Centre and we sold a thousand tickets. So there were no tables inside the hall. We had a big marquee at the back of the hall and that's where everyone sat out there. We had fish nets down the side so that people wouldn't get in the way of the dancing, and we had the Remnants band which was always a sought-after band. Then on the Sunday night we used to have a midnight to dawn show, which would start at midnight and go to dawn. Now that show, as Margaret Dawson might have even remembered, was at Murray Armstrong's place in the shearing shed, so Murray and May Armstrong lent us the shed and that's where we had a big function. It was really good in those days and I was lucky enough to be the chairman of that weekend which was quite an honour, but quite a lot of work. Margaret Babb, and also a lot on our committee in Busselton, worked quite hard to get that organised. Because you had to get the sheep and the cattle in and all sorts of things, you know, so it was a good thing, and it's a bit of a pity that these day ... It then became Rural Youth. I thought at that stage, I was busy on the farm and I thought, 'Well, if I want to go further I've got to travel to Perth and I've got to join the committee of the Junior Farmers'. Anyway at that stage I was working with Doug Feutrill at Westbrook and he invited me to come to Apex, but that was, virtually, when I didn't go along much further with Junior Farmers because I saw the opportunity to learn and expand without actually leaving Busselton so much.

MD Did you have a lot of interaction with other clubs?

BUSSELL Oh, we did quite a lot of inter-club visits and weekends. But one I remember greatly was went up to York to the State Achievement weekend and strangely enough that weekend was in October and I forget the year but it was the year the Meckering earthquake was on [14 October 1968] and we didn't know, until we got home on the Sunday night, that the earthquake had happened, but on the way home we felt the road shaking a bit and we wondered what it was but we were very surprised. The hotel which some of the people that I took up with me, Margaret Allen was one and another girl from Capel, and they were sleeping on the veranda and when we got home we looked on the TV and the veranda fell down! So it was rather a strange that we didn't even know it had happened.

MD That was the Meckering Hotel?

BUSSELL No the York Hotel, the front veranda fell off it. So it was quite a surprise when we got home, we couldn't believe it that we were

there that same weekend. Achievement Weekends were big things.

DISC TWO TRACK SIX

MD What is your wife's name and her maiden name?

BUSSELL Susanne. I was lucky enough to meet Susanne when she transferred in the telephone exchange from Katanning and she worked for the Busselton Telephone Exchange and my friend Walter Lord brought her into one of our Junior Farmers meetings, it was a debate night actually, and that's where I met Sue. So Sue Mawson and she was born in Pemberton and Dr Ryan was her doctor and her parents used to work at Shannon River. Anyway, then they eventually moved to Katanning. Sue's dad worked for the Shire in Katanning, he was a fitter and turner, mainly worked as a fitter in his later times but he was a very experienced guy in fixing, and welding, and all sorts of things. A very clever person Peter, a very nice chap. And Barbara [Sue's mother], Barbara Lee from Pemberton So Sue and I met and within six months we were engaged, in 12 months we were married, and in the following year Naomi was born. Sue worked for a while until she was pregnant and then she came out and worked on the farm with me.

MD Whereabouts were you married?

BUSSELL We were married at St Mary's Church in Busselton and we had our reception in the Vasse Hotel and, at that stage, Margo and Victor Vines ran the hotel. And I can say that Victor Vines, (he used to have the farm where the Busselton Golf Club is now, actually), but Margo Vines and Victor Vines were the perfect people to run a hotel, she couldn't do enough for you, Mrs Vines. I can remember very clearly the way Sue and I were treated by her and the effort that she went to, to make things nice, so she's a very nice person and that's a very good memory of the wedding, strangely enough.

MD What year was that?

BUSSELL Ninety seventy two, August the 26.

MD Where did you go for your honeymoon?

BUSSELL Sue and I went to Carnarvon, actually. Drove up there and on the way up slept in the back of my ute but we didn't do that too often [chuckles]. We ended up in Carnarvon and then Geraldton, Carnarvon. I'd never been to Geraldton before but Sue had because she had an uncle [Sony] and aunt [Alice] that lived in Geraldton and we stayed in their house for a little while, while we were there. Her father used to ... strangely enough he was a

skipper on a tug boat and a dredge boat and the name of the boat was *The Brockman*. While they were dredging in the harbour at Geraldton he used to sneak home ... and they had all of these marker buoys in the harbour where they were dredging. But on some of the markers they had cray pots and I can remember that when he came home and he said, 'I've brought you home something special.' And out of his Gladstone bag he'd bring a couple of crayfish [chuckles], which was probably highly illegal because it probably wasn't even in season. Some of the markers were actually craypots.

MD After you returned to Busselton where did you go to live?

BUSSELL Straight away when we got back, by the time we got back from our honeymoon, Mum and Dad had vacated Jindong, (that was their intention before we went, anyway), and we moved straight into the house at Pickmore at Koorup.

MD Can you tell me your children's names and something about each one of them.

BUSSELL Yes. Well very fortunate to have my four children with Susanne and they mean everything to us. The eldest one was Naomi, she was born in 1973 one year after we were married. Tamara was born in 1977, and Gavin was born in 1980, and then our baby, Julie, was born in 1986. Now Naomi is the main social worker in Busselton, so she's been social working for many years, because [born] 1973 makes her about 48 years old I think. Tamara at the moment works at Amelia Park and Gavin was working with me on the farm, he doesn't do so much now. There's a couple of things I should add about Gavin's influence on things at the farm. Gavin was instrumental in developing the vineyard when he left school, so we planted a huge vineyard. He became very proficient at doing all things, welding, mechanical things and so in some ways it's a bit of a pity that he's not involved in the farm now because of certain health conditions. Gavin had an accident on a motor bike about 10 years ago so it's has left him a little bit disillusioned about farming and not really capable of taking on management. Very skilled at a lot of things. Julie, our baby, who's actually a school teacher but she's never actually taught, she spent 10 years living in London. And she's just arrived back and she's now living in Abbey with her husband, Tom, and her children are carrying on a tradition of going to Vasse School, which all of our kids went to Vasse School, like myself. Naomi has two children, Phoebe and Harvey. Tamara has a boy William, and Gavin has two children, his son's name is William as well. So we've got two grandchildren called William, and he's got a daughter called Charlotte. Julie has two boys; Max who is six years old, and Oscar who is 18 months old going on to three, by the way [chuckles].

MD I guess you have a lot of contact with all your children.

BUSSELL Yes. Don't have too much with Gavin's children because his friend, or his partner that he had at the time, they don't communicate these days much, so there's a bit of trouble there so, unfortunately, we don't have much to do with Charlotte and William but have a lot to do with the other grandchildren. Enjoying watching them grow up and go to their sport things and different things the same as we did with our own children, actually. Seems like the wheel just goes around in a circle.

MD Colin what were some of your children's activities growing up and how involved were you?

BUSSELL Well, actually, I was very involved and, as a matter of fact, I enjoyed it very much, especially the horse-riding with Tamara; got very involved in that and also the hockey. Now I wasn't a horse rider, I never had any horse-riding lessons myself but I very much enjoyed that part of the life and I'll talk about that later. But hockey was my thing so, in that way I was a hockey coach for Tamara and Julie and Gavin and, at some stage, used to go to the Vasse School at lunch time and coach hockey, that was part of the Junior Hockey Development that we did. [Coached Countrys under 16s grand final winners]. Also we used to run the Minkey [K-4 yrs] hockey competition in Busselton for the juniors, and umpiring and coaching, and it used to be a very important part, and we used to go a long way to carnivals; Narrogin and all over the place. Enjoyed the social part of it very much. At one stage (and I didn't really want to do it anymore) coaching, when Julie came along and I said to Julie, because that was quite a bit later, I said, 'Maybe you should have someone a bit younger.' And she said, 'No, you're the one we want to coach us.' So that was pretty nice. And the other part that we enjoyed very much was Julie started dancing and so we were quite involved in her life as a dancer, and we used to over to dancing competitions, and Sue became very proficient at costume making. As a matter of a fact a lot of Julie's costumes are still hanging in the wardrobe. It became like and artform for Sue because she became so good at drafting the costumes out. We've always looked for something in each of our sports and things we've followed, was just to try and do something just that little bit extra, just to make it a little bit better. With that comes a bit of criticism from other people as well, but I always thought that was really important and for Sue and I growing up with the children. Naomi was the first one born and so we were probably quite busy at that stage and so we probably didn't do as much with sport with her because she also used to get asthma and she wasn't that inclined in those days to get into it, although she did play netball.

So sport, and I still believe and I used to have quite a few arguments with Naomi, a social worker, as to how important sport was, all the lessons and the things that you learnt from sport rather than from a schoolteacher who could have a different relationship as a sports coach. I did a bit of coaching courses as well, myself. I don't think I really needed to too much but I mean, it was a thing to do. So enjoyed very much interaction with the children with their different activities.

DISC TWO TRACK SEVEN

MD Colin you mentioned that Doug Feutrill was the first person to ask you if you'd like to join the Busselton Apex Club. What do you remember most about your time there?

BUSSELL Well I remember at that stage, when I came home from school I started working with Doug Feutrill but, in the meantime, Doug invited me to come along to an Apex meeting and I was quite young, I would probably have been the youngest Apexian ever, I joined Apex when I was 18 years old. So Doug invited me in there and from there on that was more or less the catalyst for me ... at that stage I was in Junior Farmers and Apex and then I gradually just went towards Apex. In that way I was in Apex from the age 18 until ... I was lucky enough the AGM was held after the 30th of June and my birthday was in August and so when I left Apex I was 41 ... you had to leave at 40 in those days. At that stage we had a very strong Apex Club in Busselton, we had over 40 members, and I think just about every portfolio in the club I had, the only thing I never did I was never secretary but I was always treasurer and did a lot of membership drives. I joined the same night as Doug Lindberg, actually, in the Agricultural Hall we were there, we were inducted by Peter Mayo who was the national president and Keith Rose was the president that night, I remember that. I remember a lot of things in Apex and, over the years, I really value my life in Apex. And I used to say to some of the senior members of Apex, Rich Davies and those guys, I remember saying to them quite a few times, 'I've got more out of this club than you have because of the fact that some of you guys are very learned and trained and I was a farmer and Ag school boy.' And I'd say, 'So what I've learnt is probably more than what ... it's been more beneficial to me than it has to you.' So I really admired those guys. Now, even today, I feel that, unfortunately, some of our old members have passed on. I always valued their friendship and the time that I had in Apex and some of my best friends are still Apexians, did a lot for them, so got friendships, Sue and I by the way. Sue was also involved in the ladies' part of Apex which they use to call Henpexians!

MD You wouldn't get away with it today.

BUSSELL You wouldn't get away with that today [chuckles], Henpexians, but Apex now has women in the club. Not as strong as it used to be but I always think of Apex and I've said it to different people, I haven't always got on the 'same page' as some of the Apex guys but I mean, socially, still great and accept that and that's one thing it taught me, really, friendship; just because you have a different opinion doesn't mean that you still can't be friends with people. I see them as a part of a family to me; 'the Apex family' I refer to it as to Sue.

MD What were some of the activities they had?

BUSSELL Public speaking was a very big thing, but also Apex was involved very much, in the early days, we used to run the Festival of Busselton. We used to do a lot of fund-raising, and a part that was really good, one stage they used to do ... Apex were a demolition crew. One of the things they demolished was the Bank of New South Wales. The Busselton Hotel, they also demolished that. Then we moved with Phil Tickle who was a very astute guy for building and doing things and organising. Then, I remember, we moved a big shed from Ted Lilly's Mill out in the industrial area which became Grocock's Glass. So all those sorts of things we used to do, pensioner's night for the play; we'd pick up some old pensioners and take them to the play on the night before the play started. Then we used to run the animal nursery at the Busselton Show, we started that until eventually, I think, the law sort of changed around a bit on some of the activities. So there were always a lot of good stories about some of those things that we did.

MD And you had a Festival Queen entrant didn't you?

BUSSELL Yes, we had Festival Queens for many years in the Festival as well, so that was fund-raising. We used to run an Apex Ball and we used to do a lot of wood chopping for some of the old ladies and go and mow their lawn, tidy up their yards. And, one thing I do remember which, when I think back, is a highlight of one of the things that I did in Apex. Because of my friendship with my father and mother-in-law and Sue, the family came from Katanning. I happened to meet up with a lot of their friends and, in the meantime, I met up with quite a few of the Muslims and people from Christmas Island. At the time I was Apex International Relations Director so what I organised, from the people in Katanning, was they came to Busselton and we had an international dinner and so they came and presented some of their stories of Christmas Island and their religion. They came in their dress and they cooked all these dishes from Christmas Island. That was probably in about 1975 and was one of the things that, when I look back, the way things have happened, I now have Muslims working for me in the vineyard; they do a lot of pruning. They're brought from Afghanistan. It just shows you that

... well Katanning is one of the most successful districts where people from other countries have integrated into Australia and a lot of them work in the meat works and do different things. So I think when I look back at it, it was quite a thing to do you know. I'm quite proud of that night, actually; in retrospect, not so much at the time.

MD How often did you meet, whereabouts and what was the format of the evening?

BUSSELL Well Apex meetings used to be every fortnight; first and third Thursdays. And if you were one of the directors on what we used to call the board you meet once a month, and once a month the meeting used to be at someone's house, individual houses and entrance fee used to be two bottles of beer for that night. Normally we used to meet at the Scout Hall, we started off meeting at the Scout Hall. But then one of the things myself, particularly, I became quite bored with meeting at the Scout Hall and having that type of meal, and I thought, 'We can actually do better than this.' A few of us decided then, and for many years after that, we met at the Geographe Motel for Apex meetings. It was something a bit more ... you didn't have to worry about taking the keg away next day which we were always in trouble because the keg used to get left in the Scout Hall and the scout's lady (Mrs Teale by the way) used to ring up and say on Saturday morning, 'The keg is still here, Dickie Gray hasn't gone to get the keg, and the place smells of beer and this is not good for the young scouts where we should be. So, anyway, our meetings were then for many years at the Geographe. And then when I was president, the year I was president, I decided we could do something quite extravagant at the time, so we had our Apex changeover dinner, and we got a bus and we went to Caves House. That was something that ... I always liked to do something a little bit different, just to change a bit, to get out of the humdrum. Anyway, it was very good times in Apex.

MD Is there anything else you would like to add about your years in Apex?

BUSSELL Yes, first of all I was actually president in 1979/1980, it seems an eternity ago now, and then in 1990 when I retired I was honoured to be awarded Life Membership.

DISC TWO TRACK EIGHT

MD Farming, Colin, how has this changed over the years? You did mention potatoes, beef cattle, and the vineyard but could you just tell me about how you progressed over the years?

BUSSELL Well, potato growing. When I first left school I worked for Doug Feutrill for two years and that inspired me a little bit towards growing potatoes. So then that led me onto growing potatoes for myself, managing to get a small licence, and then gradually building it up. And it was through working with neighbours, particularly Ross Terrace and Dave Hannay and Neil Babb (who I share-farmed with) and then eventually grew potatoes in a small way until, eventually, I put a deep bore in on my Adams Road property. That was the start of things actually happening because the bore was very productive, it was one of the first deep irrigation bores in the district actually. Then we started to grow a lot more potatoes and managed to get more licences, buying licences, and eventually grew up to 800 ton of potatoes a year.

MD What acreage did you end up with?

BUSSELL I'm not sure but I think it grew up to 50 acres of potatoes a year, so that was the start of being able to acquire more land and get really going in a farming business.

MD And how has irrigation changed from when you first started?

BUSSELL Well that was inspired. The irrigation was great because of the deep water bore because the small bores that people put down didn't produce very much water but this big bore that I put down at Adams Road was the second bore. Ken Cuthbert put the first one down and they're 400-feet deep, so they were very expensive operation to put it in. In some ways it was a bit of a gamble but anyway without the water we weren't going anywhere. But the main change of irrigation was brought about by John Evdokimoff [Springfield Market Gardens, Holland Street Busselton] who was an American neighbour who imported big side roll wheel [irrigation] lines from America and he sold ... I don't know how many but he must have sold a 100 of them around the district, not only in Busselton but up to Harvey as well. That was the beginning, that enabled irrigation ... if you wanted to water two acres you could water two acres or you could water 30 acres with the wheel lines.

MD How was it irrigated before that?

BUSSELL Oh, it was moved [watered] by portable pipes which you had to move by hand and just prior to that it was just grown in swamps. But then we went to grow on higher ground with water which didn't get flooded and that allowed us to keep our potatoes in the ground for longer.

MD The summer crop?

BUSSELL Summer crop and winter crop; we grew winter potatoes as well. Two crops a year so I've actually grown two crops of potatoes a

year for 50 years so that makes it that I've grown over a hundred crops of potatoes now.

MD Are you still growing potatoes?

BUSSELL I still grow potatoes but their end is nearing. I mean there doesn't seem that there's that much interest in the rest of my family to grow potatoes. We'll be harvesting in the next month and I hope to be harvesting around 300 ton of potatoes between now and Christmas.

MD How did the abolishment of the Potato Licence affect you?

BUSSELL Well that brings us into a whole different chapter of my life, really, because I was always a supporter of the Potato Marketing Board and there was always criticism from different people who wanted to grow more potatoes and do things differently. So eventually there was a report by a guy, it was known as the McKinney Report, and the McKinney Report what it said was it had a lot of criticisms and so a group of us we agreed with some of the findings but we didn't agree with the recommendations.

MD Now you were on the Potato Marketing Board at one stage?

BUSSELL I was never on the Potato Board but I was chairman of the Marybrook or Busselton potato growers (we had over 40 members of growers) and, during that time, that was when the big move was to abolish the Board. It wasn't abolished at that time so the government formed a committee which was called a working party. I was a member of the working party which enquired into making a lot of changes to the industry which went on for about a year, many meetings in Perth. And so we came up with a whole different system, we had the gun at our head, really, to either change the system or to abolish it. So, with a lot of effort, eventually we came up with some recommendations and then after that the next committee that was formed was a task force. The task force then which allowed licences to transfer between growers without the sale of the land. It brought in a pack out system, it separated processing potatoes from 'where' potatoes and so it appeased some of the people for many years really. And it is only in about the last five or six years that the Potato Marketing Board was abolished. But abolishing the Board has not led to any cheaper potatoes for people in the shops, for consumers. And, basically, what it does the merchants virtually copied the system that the Board had in their delivery plans. So we now don't have a guarantee of a set price, or a price mechanism, whereas when we had the Potato Marketing Board the merchants who were buying our potatoes couldn't draw potatoes from the Board unless they were cashed up, so there were a lot of good things about the Potato Marketing Board.

But then big growers, and people who wanted to be in the industry, they saw that they were being excluded so they kept at it and at it for years until it was, eventually, the demise of the authority. Most boards have virtually been done away with but, I mean, it hasn't been to the advantage of most growers here to do away with it, really. It's freed it up and there's a lot of things that may not be ... but the government got sick of the argument, really, between the different sectors and trying to appease different sectors so virtually it was abolished.

MD What varieties of potatoes have you grown and what do you mostly grow now?

BUSSELL Ahh, well, when we had the Marketing Board the criticism was that we only grew Delaware potatoes so now, even when the Board was in, we were growing different varieties as well.

MD Is that because you got more per acre?

BUSSELL Oh well Delaware was suited to our WA soils. Our soils in WA are not really as fertile as what they are in the eastern states but now, at the moment I think I've got five or six varieties of potatoes: so blues, reds, whites, yellows; all sorts. And the Department of Agriculture doesn't have much to do with that now, with breeding potatoes, it's mainly done, protected by Plant Variety Rights so that's the breeding of potatoes and you'll see them in the shop. Don't always think that the variety that they've written where they sell them is what they are because my opinion is they cheat because they don't want to pay the royalties. So all red potatoes they sell them as Royal Red and there's not even a variety Royal Red but it's just come on the back of what they call Royal Blue, because Royal Blue is quite popular but hard to grow. And our main potato that we all like growing is the Nadine but some consumers don't like Nadine very much, they like the look of it because it's a white with a smooth skin, shallow eyes, mainly comes about by people cooking and they cook the Nadine a bit like they used to do with the Delaware and so basically they over cook it and then it can go mushy. Nadine is not a very good potato for baking, it's more of a mashing potato and a salad potato. Beautiful, and a very good yielder, so that made a big difference to the potato industry. Now, you know, it's hard to know what people want. It seems to be just like a lot of things in agriculture that the consumers or the merchants want what you haven't got and it's more of a pricing thing. But Royal Blue is very popular but it's very hard to grow and get a yield of in the summertime.

DISC TWO TRACK NINE

MD How has the planting and the digging of potatoes changed since you started?

BUSSELL Yes well that's changed a lot basically because of the area we plant has changed a lot. I mean when I was a young boy I used to see the Italians and people digging their potatoes with a fork. It then became a single row digger, then became a harvester that Dave Hannay and Ross Terrace had, just a small harvester, then you used to take the bags off and put them on the ground. Our first harvester was a Port harvester which I bought from Ryans by the way, in Pemberton. And then the next one was a Faun three point linkage potato harvester. Then a group of us went to the eastern states with Brendan Hart and that's when we bought a big harvester, a Grimme, made in Germany. That transformed our potato harvesting where we could easily harvest 20 tonne of potatoes in six hours so it was great, you know.

MD What about the cartage?

BUSSELL Then, to start with when we were harvesting potatoes in bags, all the potatoes were delivered to Busselton Railway Station and most of the farmers, apart from Vasse Transport (the Vasse Garage), they used to cart a lot of potatoes. The farmers would load their potatoes all along the ... near where the Busselton Library is now, down to the jetty, you'd see all the rail trucks there and the farmers loading their bags of potatoes in there. But when the bags went away and we went into bulk bins or half tonne wooden bins, then it changed. Because what happened then there were no fork lifts there and so most of the potatoes were carted to Perth with semi-trailers and that's the way it is today. So, delivered to the merchant rather ... in the first time when they were in bags all the potatoes were delivered to the Board store which is in Fremantle on Robb's Jetty, right alongside the railway station. Then all of the potatoes would go out from there to all the different merchants.

MD So now straight from the paddock ...

BUSSELL From the paddocks straight to the merchants. It didn't lend itself to actually double loading them on and off three times, so that's the way it is today.

MD What about pests and spraying and things, Colin, how was that ... what were some of your pests and ...?

BUSSELL Our main pest that we've always had here was the black beetle and that caused a lot of trouble actually, the black beetle problem. Because the way to treat the black beetle was with organochlorine and organochlorine, basically, was dieldrin and the other one was heptachlor. So what that did ... well in potato growing the beetle became resistant, strangely enough, and it was taking twice as much chemical to kill the beetle in the potato paddock as what it did somewhere else. Eventually the dieldrin was outlawed and so we now have another chemical which we

call chlorpyrifos which is used to kill the black beetle. But I mean it caused a lot of trouble with dieldrin and organochlorine and the DDT because that was found to be coming prevalent in women's breast milk, so then the government had to step in and so that caused us a lot of trouble in the beef industry. It stays in the soil for a long time but the interesting part about it is (and a lot of people don't understand it) that plants don't actually take it up. You can grow crops on it, but it lodges in the fat of animals and that's where we first got concerned about it because they found the organochlorine was coming into women's breast milk. So the Health Department said, 'What are we going to do about that?' It wasn't only through potato growing that organochlorine, it was around SEC [State Energy Commission] poles and all sorts; dips for sheep, and people used to spray their cattle with dieldrin to kill the lice. But potato growing was to kill the black beetle because if you had potatoes with holes in them you'd have them rejected, you know.

MD What about people spraying, how did that change?

BUSSELL It did change because we got better equipment. In the early stage a sprayer would be a guy with a carry-all on the back of tractor with two 44-gallon drums, you know, and it was a very poor system. But now we've got airconditioned tractors with filters and people are a bit more aware of handling chemicals as well, and different people have got different opinions about it. My opinion is that there's no outstanding statistics to say that potato growers are living less time than other people who don't use them. So, you know, people are getting cancer as well, but history doesn't actually show, or statistics don't actually show, that all the potato growers and the orchardists are all dying from exposure to chemicals. Better methods of applying chemicals, and the chemicals have got more specific. So it has changed quite a bit where we're tending to spray ... rather than using a big hammer, we use one that is specific to the particular insect.

MD Colin when were sheep introduced into vineyards?

BUSSELL It was pretty obvious that there was a lot spare grass in vineyards that wasn't being utilised and all it was doing was causing a lot of weed trouble and quite a lot of fuel and time to keep it slashed. So people, including myself, quickly realised that there were some benefits in running sheep. We quickly decided to get a flock of sheep, quite a large flock. We started off with lambs and then we ended up with breeding ewes which we run today. So that has cut down the use of pesticides (or mainly herbicides, really) in the vineyard, and reduced the amount of slashing, and it looks like it's worked very well. To my way, the mid rows of the grass in the vineyard look healthier, and the vines look healthier, and very minimal damage. The only thing is you need more land to run because as soon as budburst comes the sheep have to go

out, so you need extra land to run them. Some people are actually using them to just agist sheep for the time when the plants are dormant straight after harvest. So they do a really good job. That's my idea of putting this in to show that it was a development which actually showed that growing grapes and running livestock in a vineyard was quite compatible. You get some fertilisation but it also completes the cycle of bacteria which I think is quite beneficial.

DISC TWO TRACK TEN

MD Could you tell me now about the drainage rates and the water rights and licences?

BUSSELL Right, well I was always interested in water having been one of the first ones to put a deep bore in and to actually start irrigating. I mean normal bores used to produce about 3 000 to 4 000 gallons an hour. When we put our big bores in they were producing nearly 20 000 gallons an hour so it was a huge difference. And the other thing that I was always very interested in was the over-drainage of the land.

The drainage system was put in in Busselton probably in the 1920s but in a lot of cases the ground sometimes was over-drained. And then what happened was the PWD [Public Works Department] used to charge a fee every year for drainage rates, and in about the mid-1980s the fees and that became out of control. They were just chopping down trees along the edge of the bank, they weren't really doing anything but we were getting these huge bills. And they had the ability to charge ... over the next 10 years they had to increase the rates by 40% a year until they got to what they think was a cost recovery.

Well a group of us got together and we decided that ... it was proved ... we proved that some of the other areas weren't paying drainage rates. So all it was, was the land owners (including the people in town, they paid drainage rates as well), but people in Bunbury and people in other parts of the State, Narrogin and all out, they didn't pay any drainage rates.

So we thought, 'Well this is unfair.' Because what they said was Bunbury, and a lot of those places, they didn't pay drainage rates because it was for flood mitigation of the towns. Well if you have a look at the way it is set up in Busselton it is as much flood mitigation as well. As you can just see, in the last year (what they've spent \$24 000 000 for flood mitigation. So the landowners were the only ones paying for the drainage rates. In the meantime transport companies, timber companies, the government themselves, they were all using the roads and we were paying for the bridges. We proved that the money from the Busselton drainage district, which included Capel and Busselton, the money was being spent in other areas, even in Carnarvon. So we actually proved that over a period.

We formed a group called the Busselton Drainage Action Committee which I was the chairman of and it went on for 10 years, we refused to pay the rates until this anomaly was sorted out. In the meantime we had about three or four different Ministers for Water and so the argument kept on; we were called rabble rousers and lawbreakers. Anyway we didn't pay the rates and we didn't stop the argument. We engaged lawyers, we actually went to the Supreme Court and we proved in the Supreme Court that in the Strike-Out clauses we won the first three Strike-Out clauses and then the government panicked. So what they did then they formed a ... they joined the two Houses of Parliament together and they passed legislation to sanctify the charges that they were putting on us.

So our case was blown out of the water. What happened then we still refused to pay even though our case was finished. We couldn't go any further because they changed the law to allow money from one district to go to another. It became a political football and so we had meetings in Busselton, we had meetings everywhere, and we had a big lot of supporters, majority of farmers supported us financially as well as physically. But it became a lot of problems because some people wanted to sell their farms in that time and it became difficult for them to sell because they had a debt to the government. That was another thing that we had to get moved, that had to be altered, so that the land could be transferred with the debt owing.

Gradually, as people got older they started to drop away from us a bit because they could see their debt was going up, some of them owed \$20 000 and some people were getting quite worried about that, you know.

Anyway, we just kept on going and with the change of government to the Liberal Government, the Liberal Government then decided (in their wisdom) because they could see the ground swell was so great it became an issue even though some local members here they didn't actually support us but they knew that being strong Liberals they knew that the weight was against them. So it was introduced into parliament and the drainage rates were abolished for Busselton. We had a bit of a hollow victory and a lot more negotiations went on and the majority of the rates that were owed were written off; we didn't pay. But then a couple of people that I knew they said that they'd done the right thing and paid their rates and they wanted to get their money back and the government said well 'stiff bickies'; they didn't pay them back. So we had a bit of a victory there but, I mean, it's something which really taught us a lot of lessons because in the first place we didn't really intend to go to court. We just said we're not paying and we want this changed. But then we decided to have a test case and go to the court so then the costs started to accumulate and that's where our bill came to over \$100 000 in costs. So we did need money from people to support us, which we got, and eventually the government ... it was unweighted

because the government had funding for what they wanted to do to charge us the rates but we didn't get funding to put the other side of the argument.

Anyway, it was something that burnt us out a bit, really, over the years because it was so much work and the main credit I think was to Margaret Teale who actually put just so much work into that and she's never actually been recognised by the community for what she did. There was no point in continuing on, different people said different things as to how the rates were abolished. And, I mean, at the end of the day it doesn't matter if people want to grandstand they can do it but I know, and the Drainage Committee knows, how the drainage rates were abolished and it was only through people sticking together and fighting for a cause for a long time, in defiance, that actually changed the law. Since the drainage rates were abolished people, newcomers to the town, don't realise the amount of money that the district has been saved by not paying these exorbitant fees. They only got away with it because it was a charge per hectare and most of the landowners here were small and if they tried to charge those rates out in the wheatbelt areas, where they are still subject to flooding, where they had thousands of acres of land it would just be so ridiculous. So people who come to the district don't realise what actually happened with the drainage rates and how we don't pay those rates anymore. Even an urban person on a quarter acre block or a fifth of an acre block were paying a drainage rate.

DISC THREE TRACK ONE

MD Not everyone owns the Water Rights on their property do they?

BUSSELL Now that comes to another question. When Sumich market gardens came to Jindong, they bought a property out at Jindong and they watered 100% of their land and so farmers all around, we all thought, well what's going on? Different people were saying that their water levels were going down. So in actual fact what happened was our district, from the potato growers, we actually asked for some monitoring to see what was going on. The upshot was that our district was the first district to instigate water licensing, it was done in a bit of a bad way, really, and I mean it's never been proved to be wrong or right. But what had happened was, the people who were irrigating, the farmers (this was probably 15 years after people were irrigating in a fairly big way), they came around and found where all the bores were in a cheating sort of a way, they just said, 'We want to know where your bores are and what you're doing.' This guy came around in a little ute, wrote these things down, next thing the people who were watering got a water licence, it became a water licence. So then the people who had a water licence, they got a water licence and if anyone else wanted to put bores down to irrigate they couldn't because it was already fully allocated; it was

120% allocated for water. So some people could water 100% of their property and other people could water none. So the argument was that we actually lost Rights without compensation, but their argument was that you didn't actually have a Right in the first place but, because it wasn't a problem, we didn't worry about it.

So that's their argument, that you didn't actually have a Right. Doug Feutrill had a huge court case, cost him THOUSANDS of dollars in drainage rates and he still maintains today that he's got the right to water to the centre of the earth or something. So fully-allocated water is now transferrable between farmers, you can sell the water, so you can transfer your allocation of water.

Where we are is in Jindong/Dunsborough, there's been a lot of argument about where the boundaries were and over many years we've argued that you should have been able to move the water on a route that doesn't follow road boundaries, which is what they said. And then, because it suited them, they then joined Jindong and Marybrook to Dunsborough and they've done that because they see that the farmers had too much water in relation to the townspeople. So they said you can move it that way but you can't move it back again. There are all sorts of little rules and things that they made up on the go, you know.

Because there are two people in charge, there's Water and Rivers, one was responsible for looking after the water and maintaining the rivers and the other one was to draw the water out. So then they decided ... I don't know how many times we've had Waters and River, and Water and Forestry, and Water and something else, so it's to'd and fro'd. It's still today and I don't know really what the answer is, I don't think anyone can, actually. It just seemed unfair at the time if you weren't irrigating you didn't get a Water Licence. They used to say to me, 'We've got so many people here who are watering without a licence.' And I always used to say, 'Well how many people are there?' And it was something like a dozen and the amount of water they were using wasn't very much. I said, 'Well the easiest way to fix that is to just issue them with a licence and that will be it.' Believe it or not I've always thought that in farming you've got enough people on the other side of the fence so, regardless, sometimes you really need to stick together as farmers for your point of view. Because you have enough people on the other side who are ready to put the boot in, or take rights away, or to compromise you.

DISC THREE TRACK TWO

MD Colin, what do you think the future for water with the farmers is now?

BUSSELL Well I think ... I'm not sure, and I don't think anyone is, but what the whole thing about trading water is based on the Murray River

and the Murray River is totally different than an aquifer that's underneath the ground. First of all what happened here was the quantity of water, the aquifer, was never really surveyed to find out how much water there was. And then it became 'water for the environment'. Well when they estimated how much water was under there did they also allow, in that estimate, was environmental water included? Because environmental water was a 'Johnny come lately' thing. So I would say that because they didn't have facilities ... the only bores they really had to monitor underground water at that stage was our bores that the farmers put in, which they never paid anything for.

So they were getting the information from us, we had to supply the bore log to the Water Authority, and now you have to supply meter readings and all the rest of it. Now they get that information from us for nothing. Now when they wanted to charge us a few years ago, bring in water charges, well we said, 'Well you pay us and we'll pay you.' Because their argument was you get the water for nothing. You can't get the water for nothing when you construct a bore and these days it will cost you sixty to a hundred thousand dollars for a bore to put in. Then you've got to pump it and then you've got to maintain the bore, so our water, our underground water, costs us more per litre than what Harvey water does where the water comes down a channel and they pay for it. When the water comes down off the Whicher Range into Jindong, into Vasse, under pressure then we would be happy to pay for the water. But when we supply all the infrastructure, all the maintenance, and give you the logs, and monitor, you know fair's fair. So we put forward big arguments for many years to stop that and at this stage we're still not paying for water licences but for water usage.

It's a bit of a problem because water had to be priced, so now you can sell water without selling your land. So that was a problem that came in and the banks didn't realise for a start that, if a farmer had a mortgage on his farm and he was irrigating, he could have just sold off the water and then, by selling off the water off horticultural land, the land would be worth probably 30% or 40% less. So it wasn't too long before the banks got on to that and then they actually took a mortgage on the water. Water is now separate from land whereas at one stage water was tied to land. Now the problem is in the future (where it's come from), is that farming hasn't really been profitable enough for people to expand their water because the price of the farm product is too cheap and the farmers can't compete against golf clubs and housing sub-divisions because THEY want the water. We've always got people trying to buy water off us, you know most of the farmers have got water, Vasse Newtown, golf clubs, Dunsborough playing fields, hotels, they're always wanting to buy small amounts of water. They don't want to buy a lot they just want to buy small amounts because then they've got a licence so that's one charge they get. If they're pumping without a licence

that's one thing, but the other charge is if they're over-using their water licence that's a lesser charge than what it is pumping without a licence!

So water going to the highest value. It could, if you looked at it in the extreme case, you could have all Jindong and Marybrook where the price of water is too expensive for the farmers to own because of other interests who want to buy the water. Now where would that be in 50 years' time if you had all the horticultural land and you didn't have any water because the water was owned by golf clubs or resorts? It's a complex thing. Up at Myalup Roses used to grow a lot of lucerne, huge water licences for growing lucerne to feed horses, racehorses, but is that a good use of water? Because you can actually feed racehorses on lupins and beans and protein which you can grow without water. So there becomes a problem with the water. The water in some ways needs to have a cost so that it goes to the highest user, but the highest user may not be agriculture? We leave ourselves vulnerable in where we could have all good horticultural land but very little water attached to it.

DISC THREE TRACK THREE

BUSSELL I've always had an interest in water as I've already said but to that extent I was a member of a State Government, State Water Reform Council, so I was actually employed by the government for a couple of meetings in the State Water Reform Council. Which for some reason, I never heard anything about it, but the State Water Reform Council closed. I've still got the pay cheque and the small amount of superannuation attached to that so ... in employment of the Water Corp!

The other thing we did when they wanted to introduce ... any water that ran off your land they wanted to charge you for it and that affected Pemberton, Manjimup and everywhere, and Albany. They said as soon as you did an excavation it wasn't rain water it was ground water. So, here we go again, we formed another group, not necessarily by me but it was a guy from Albany, actually, chaired it and we formed the Water Users' Coalition. We had a solicitor Jack Flanagan from Mandurah and he helped us a lot so the Water Users' Coalition fought the government about introducing charges for water and, what I alluded to before, was who provided the infrastructure. You know Pemberton, Manjimup guys put in huge dams, cost them thousands of dollars to put in dams for water. Who is the beneficiary at the finish? It's the production of food, you know. So a lot of that was no cost to the government.

As far as I know it's still going, I'm not a member of the Water Users' Coalition now but we had several meetings. We used to go all over the place to have these meetings to bring it to the attention of the government, to actually put a point of view to stop the introduction of charges.

Our system in WA ... the thing was what happened was there used to be a thing from the Federal Government called COAG [Council of Australian Governments] and COAG what they used to do was give money ... the Federal Government gave money to the states in proportion. Now in WA there was three reasons why we didn't get as much as what we should have from the Federal Government for the State Government. One was because we didn't have water licenced or bore users monitored; the second one was we had a Potato Marketing Authority; and the third one was trading hours, shopping trading hours. So they were the three excuses [why] the government didn't give us [money]. And that's still going on today because our system is not like the Murray River. The Murray River, if you're watering ... some years you might, if the rivers flowing better, they might say you can plant another 20 acres of crop, and if it's not there then you can't have it. But if you're planting an avocado crop here you can't say you know ... you need the licence to go on forever because you can't say you can't have any water this year. It's okay if you're growing a seasonal crop but if you're growing a crop which is there for a long time you got to have ... well in perpetuity of the licence.

And that's one thing (a couple of years ago) we traded because they said, 'We won't give you a licence in perpetuity because you're not going to pay for the licence. If you pay the fee we'll give it to you. So, anyway, that's at a standstill now.

One of my relatives who is known as the water guru of WA [Philip Commander]; I got a lot of my information about water and stratas from him. He studied water all over the world and he explained to me ... he was responsible for the logging of the water for the Yarragadee [aquifer], actually, and some of the people here with water they'd say, 'You can go to the Sue Coal [bore] which is down further, underneath the Leederville, and you can have whatever you like.' But no-one's been able to get much water out of it. So then, after they've spent all the money on it, you've done the research for the government, saying that you couldn't get water out of Sue Coal [under the Leederville aquifer]. The only place where a Sue Coal bore goes is where there's a crack in the rock, and the two layers mixed together.

But they'd always lie, unfortunately. Anyway I'm saying this, and I don't mind saying it, because they said, 'Well we're monitoring the water level and the water level's going down in this, and one level is different from the other.' But I know differently because I know that some water will test differently, they have different amount of iron, different PH, different things. They say, 'We know that it's different.' I know people who've got water in the Leederville [aquifer] and they are all different anyway.

Then the next thing he said to me, the local guy, he said, 'We know the monitoring because we've got these monitoring, they're automatically monitored.' He said, 'All the monitoring system (they've got all these bores around the place you might see them

every now and again), they're all monitored.' But when you look at the results of the monitoring, they haven't monitored them every year, they've measured them at different times of the year, so it's useless. They haven't got the staff, they admit they haven't got the staff to go around and monitor them. He said, 'We've got them all automatically monitored now.' There's not one bloody bore in Busselton district (apart from their own ones) that have got automatic monitoring on them. You'll see the thing up there with the solar panel, they're not automatically monitored. So they'll tell you any story. What the law is now is that you've got to send a meter reading in every month of your bores, you know, and unfortunately the meters they don't last very long and they're expensive because our water's got a lot of iron in it, and that's one of the biggest problems we've got is to get the iron out of the water. You'll see a lot of the buildings have got the rust, and that's expensive.

MD And you pay for your own monitor?

BUSSELL You pay for your own meters, yes nearly \$1 000 each and we've got three of them, three meters, and it's a complicated system because some water we pump it twice to let it go with the air and then pump it. Because if you could perfect trickle irrigation better, and get rid of the iron, the water use is less with trickle irrigation than what it is with overhead sprinklers. But the trouble is with the water with iron in it the iron oxide blocks up the trickles so people do a lot of things to try and get rid of the iron, and it's improving all the time I've got to say, but the Leederville water is up to 20 parts per million of iron!

DISC THREE TRACK FOUR

MD When did you first start planting grapes?

BUSSELL Well, the inspiration was when Gavin left school the idea was to give up growing potatoes and so we decided ... well I left it another year or so because my neighbour, Ken Cuthbert, was planting grapes and grapes were the thing to do so I said, 'I'll wait until Gavin comes back.' So then in 1998 was when we started planting grapes and we've kept on going until we've got 85 acres of grapes. We've got chenin, chardonnay, shiraz, cabernet [sauvignon], merlot, sav [sauvignon] blanc, and semillon all in. The main one is shiraz, and cabernet; we've got 20 acres of each. And we've got chardonnay; about 13 acres of chardonnay, 13 acres of chenin. Pulled a little bit of merlot out because we couldn't sell it, and 10 acres of sav blanc, so that's it.

MD Do you have a contract to sell to wineries?

BUSSELL Yeah we've had different contracts, at the moment we've got four years left on one contract to go to Accolade Wines and Deep

Woods. We went through a bad spot with Evans & Tate when they went bankrupt because they actually ... it was a very bad deal, it was hard to sell grapes that year as well, and so that took a bit of recovering from because we actually lost \$90 000 when Evans & Tate went broke and we've never got paid to date, and we still haven't been paid. We don't even know what they ... it left a pretty sour taste in our mouth, really, though it's sold out; McWilliams bought it. Some of the guys who had white grapes at the time they still continued to grow to McWilliams at a high price but, if you didn't have white grapes, you didn't get a contract renewed.

MD So how is the price changed, has it fluctuated up and down?

BUSSELL It hasn't it's just gone down, it's gradually come up a little bit for some varieties. Chardonnay is very much in demand at the moment but the cost of growing grapes is exorbitant, really. It's a high cost ... pruning and unless you're really doing ... if you had to pay everyone to do the work you wouldn't make too much out of it, you know. But, I mean, it's okay for us at the moment and we've stayed with it since '98 and we seem to be able to do a pretty good job of what we do. You have to be, it's not for a part time farmer, there's quite a bit of ... it's not hard to grow the grape but it's hard to manage the whole system.

I wouldn't say it's hugely profitable but the problem is that they really want you to produce low yield to get the better quality (in their book), but they don't want to pay you the money. So the two things don't work. In the eastern states, where they grow cheaper wines, the yield is twice as much per hectare as what ours are but as soon as you start to get the yield up here they sort of start to question you ... what you're doing. So you've got two problems that work against you.

Our best at the moment, our best performing variety, is chenin even though it's not a high value per ton but it's a high yielder, so that's been a pretty good thing for us. And that goes into the Amberley Chenin, actually, which is not Amberley as such it's Aravina now; Accolade Wine bought that. And Deep Woods they've been pretty hard to deal with but they've gradually got better. I think a few of the bigger companies, some companies have pulled out, and some vineyards have been pulled out, and so we've got quite an advantage where we are because we've got free draining soils, we've got flat ground (we're not working on the side of a hill), we're not working in swamps, and we've got fairly big quantities of each variety. If you only had small patches of the varieties, the cost of getting harvesters and doing the whole thing, you know, the minimum charge for a harvester now is \$1 300 to land on your place.

MD So yours are all mechanically harvested?

BUSSELL Mechanically harvested, yes.

- MD What about pruning, is that mechanical?
- BUSSELL Partly mechanical and that's changing a little bit around the place. Some people are going to minimal pruning but we're still using the mechanical pruning for the most part and then come and clean up after. And we've got a team of Afghanis who have been working with us for 12 years now, I think, and they do all the pruning and the wire lifting.
- MD Are they local residents?
- BUSSELL They live here, yeah. One guy is the manager he looks after all of them and, for a start we used to but it was very difficult to keep track of who was doing what. It's piece rate, per vine and we've built up a good relationship with him. I mean it's not cheap but it takes the pressure off us, because of all the other things we do on the farm as well. So our work is we don't prune, we don't lift wires, we do spraying, we do a lot of other jobs in there and we do chaser driving when we're harvesting, and look after that. But the actual management of the vines, of lifting the wires and pruning, is done by the Afghans.
- MD Apart from the team manager and the group that look after the vines, do you have any permanent workers?
- BUSSELL Yeah, there was Gavin who was working with me but Gavin, at this stage, has decided he doesn't want to be involved at the moment for various reasons which probably it's best not to go into, really. I've got one permanent worker there and my grandson is actually working out there at the moment, but that's interim as well.
- MD Do you employ any other seasonal workers apart from the team?
- BUSSELL Only a little bit for potato harvesting and that's it; there's only myself and Damien there most of the time.
- MD Did you build a winery there?
- BUSSELL No we don't have a winery. We had some wine made but we had it contract made and different people have made it for us with good results, actually, so our wine's gone far and wide.

DISC THREE TRACK FIVE

- BUSSELL Several years after we planted the grapes and they started to produce good fruit we decided that we needed to learn a little bit more about what we were doing. We'd asked Ken Cuthbert, and neighbours, a few questions about grapes which I never found the answer to. So I decided the best way out of this is, I want to make some wine I want to find out more about it. At the time there was a guy who was living in Ken's house, John Smith and

his wife Diana. John Smith was a very experienced wine maker and Diana did wine education courses so I thought this is too good an opportunity.

Ken, by then, he'd set up a small facility to make some wine so decided to make our first batch of wine with John Smith and he took us through all the system. He was virtually retired but, anyway, he came down and he said, 'Well, I think we're going to get the wine we want from this patch.' And he picked out the row [of grapes] where to make the wine and then we went through the whole winemaking process. Sometimes it was quite unusual because he would say at about five o'clock, 'Colin we're going to press the wine tonight.' And I was already living (I think) at Dunsborough and I said, 'Well alright, John, but I'll just have to ring my wife and tell her I won't be home for another four hours.' [Chuckles]

Then we pressed the wine, bottled the wine and everything turned out beautiful, a really good job. As a matter of fact I was at Ken's only last week and he said, 'Come and have a glass of wine.' So we had a glass of wine. I said, 'This tastes pretty good.' He said, 'Do you know what it is?' And I said 'No.' He said, 'This is the first wine that John Smith made for you in 2004 and it's yours; it's the last bottle we've got.' It was really good. So that was part of things and then following on from that had some more wine made by French wine maker, Anne Coralie Fleury, who was living in my Jindong house at the time. So we made some small batches of wine with her; that turned out very nicely as well.

Our last lot of wine we made was with Ian Bell. He was a very experienced wine maker, he used to work for Moss Wood, he's got his own winery now at Yallingup and Mrs Beers was his mum. He made some very nice wine. The last one we made was a chenin-chardonnay mixture which was made really with the thought of what my daughters and my wife and they type of wine we actually liked, not necessarily a prize-winning wine, but it was to our taste. And before it was bottled we went and he said, 'Do you want this added to it or that added or whatever to it?' And we said, 'No, we just like it as it is.'

Now that was very successful. So Naomi did the label, because Naomi ... I don't know whether I mentioned it but she actually started doing fine Art when she was at uni, and then she dropped out of that, went away from that and went into social work. But she designed the label and that was the white wine and it was loved by everyone that drank it, all the neighbours and different people I sold it to.

And the red wine (when I was trying to sell my fruit) they'd say this about that, and about Jindong, and they more or less sort of thought (used to portray to us) that Jindong wasn't such a good place to grow wine, you know. Mainly because the developers planted too much of the wrong sort of ground where farmers wouldn't have done.

So my idea of making the wine was to actually prove a few things to some people: that the first requirement for making good wine was good fruit, the second was in the winemaking; the way it was done and the amount of care. I always look at it as small batch wine, if you compare that, in my opinion, it's like having an original painting of something or you have a print. Now if you do a nice job of making the wine it's the original job: it's done with a bit of care and a bit of love and a bit of passion, and then if you've got good fruit to start with you'll end up with a good result. What we actually proved to these people, and they were very surprised at the quality of wine we could make out of Jindong. That was my main purpose of making the wine.

We didn't continue along that line of making wine because the cost of making small batches of wine is too expensive and, in a market where to sell wine locally, unless you've got a name like Vasse Felix or somewhere, the priced range is \$10 to \$12 a bottle. And you cannot make small batches of wine for \$10 or \$12 a bottle, you need to get around ... to make a profit out of it you need to sell it for \$20 a bottle and that's not really profitable in a big way.

We'll probably still make some wine for ourselves but the main purpose of the winemaking was to prove to some people that good wines can be made out of Jindong where we have the advantage of flat ground, plenty of water and good soils. And so I think we sort of proved that to people and learnt a fair bit along the way ourselves.

We've made probably four or five batches of wine and we've sold it all but it takes a while and, you know, you probably drink a bit more than what you should as well, but everyone's loved it [chuckles]. What we've done, and the purpose of that was to educate ourselves of what we had to know, so we have confidence of what we're doing, you know.

And one thing about growing grapes is you have to be right 'on it' with the fungicides. And some of them are not that poisonous, some of them can be organic, but you need to be very particular in the early stages of growth for the powdery mildew (in this district here) powdery mildew, and then later on botrytis. So it's very important to keep those sprays pretty close together and have good equipment to do it with.

DISC THREE TRACK SIX

MD Earlier Colin you talked about you had beef cattle, do you still have beef cattle?

BUSSELL Yes, certainly, that's always been one of the things that I've really enjoyed on the farm was cattle. My dad was a dairy farmer but then when the butterfat prices collapsed then people went out of that and so gradually the whole district changed into what they call baby beef. Basically that's what we're doing, other people

were just buying and selling cattle and things. We, eventually, it took a while to actually (for myself and my dad) to get back to a good herd of breeders because most of our breeders went onto our Chapman Hill farm where my brother was. So we had to start off again building up breeders. And then it was with the help of Dave Hannay and Ross Terrace, and a few things, and then educating myself as to how to produce baby beef. And I was lucky that my Jindong farm is very good for producing cattle, because of the fact it's got a lot of late country on it and many times I topped the market with baby beef in February, end of February, where at that time of the year is when cattle get quite scarce. I've got here [indicates from document] one of the sales was 80 head of vealers or baby beef brought 253 cents a kilo which was a very high price in 1992.

So baby beef was something I used to pride myself in. Dave and I used to get together a bit and we'd do a lot of private selling, actually, we'd go to the sales, people used to say, 'Oh they must be going to sell their cattle soon they're coming to the sales to see what the prices are.' Anyway it was quite good and a good friend of mine who died, we used to sell our calves on CALM [Computer Aided Livestock Marketing] and that was in 1992 so that was a computer sale. So they'd come out and weigh all the cattle and then catalogue them and then, on I think it was Monday afternoon or Monday about 12 o'clock, the sale used to be on. You'd go into town and sit and watch the computer and see the cattle sold and within a week the cattle would be picked up from your farm. We'd always try and guess the weight and it was quite a ... when he got out of it, Greg Owens was his name, when he got out of it, it was some part that I missed a lot.

MD The stock agent?

BUSSELL Yeah, the association with Greg. Because we used to go up and buy cows and we'd get going, go up to Narrogin and buy cows and calves and then we'd do the ... weigh of cattle and then we'd usually have a bit of a bet on the side, and a couple of beers, as to what the weights were going to be [chuckles]. It was a bit of fun you know as well as the work. So when Greg got out of it (he's since died, actually which Cliff, your husband, would have known him from golf) and he used to work for Elders in the early days and then he became his own agent. The cattle was quite a thing and still is but the fun isn't, I don't get the enjoyment out of it that I used to.

MD So the agents don't come around like they used to?

BUSSELL Oh they do, they come around but at one stage I went away from agents a bit but I seem to have gone back to them a bit now.

MD What about the saleyards in Busselton, what do you remember about them?

BUSSELL I remember the saleyards very distinctly, actually, because even though we used to sell our baby beef and vealers generally direct. A lot of times we used to sell cows and odd bits and pieces to the sale. I think it was a sad day when Busselton Saleyards closed down. I can remember on the Vasse Highway where the saleyards were, opposite the hockey grounds (now a subdivision in there [Willow Grove]), it was right next to the railway line, and there would be THOUSANDS of cattle. Sometimes you'd go to drive in there and even though it was 150 metres off the road the trucks would be lined up on to the Vasse Highway to get in to unload their cattle. So all the butchers used to come down and they were big sales in those days, actually, in Busselton; there were a lot of cattle. Then they used to have the store sales and people used to specialise in having breeder sales and different people, including the Dawsons, who used to specialise in putting in big lines of mated heifers and did a really good job of them. So that was the thing. People used to come from far and wide, it was a really good tourist attraction, I thought that all these people used to come down to these breeder sales. Matter of fact sometimes I used to feel a bit embarrassed about it, actually, because you'd go into the toilets there and they were pretty grotty and I thought, 'This is really not that good for our town with all these people are coming far and wide and the facilities here for people are pretty poor.' Anyway, there were some record prices, and I think it was a bad day when the saleyards closed.

MD And moved to Boyanup!
The tearooms, do you remember the tearooms there?

BUSSELL Yes I do, I remember old [Miss] Clara Brockman [OBE, 1895-1989] was always there and was always friendly. And at the sale, of course, the other thing we used to do is on the day after the sale, quite often we would end up at the Commercial Hotel and have a few beers and a bit of a discussion about the prices and things. In most cases, it was mainly after the big sales, bit of celebration. And those days, I remember them quite fondly actually.

DISC THREE TRACK SEVEN

MD Colin are there any other farming pursuits that you undertook?

BUSSELL Yes, one interesting thing was (which is always remembered in our family), we decided one year to grow onions. To the extent of that we planted 20 acres of onions and my neighbour, Allens, (one side) had a small seed planter because he used to grow a few onions. So Ken Cuthbert and I decided we were going to plant these onions. I planted 20 acres of onions, grew really well, beautiful onions, and had a whole big shed full, a shed which was 60 by 40 [feet] full of loose onions, stacked up 10 ft high in the

middle; I had 200 tonnes of onions in there. The crop did well but the price was useless and the cost of doing it wasn't worth doing. Everyone reported what beautiful onions they were but the price didn't reflect in that. That was only a one-year project but we've got photos somewhere of this shed stacked full of onions loose and then we had to shovel them into bins. We didn't have much equipment, we used a potato harvester to harvest them, actually, and digging them out and then took part of the shoots off and just put them in boxes and dumped them in the shed. So that was a learning experience. But we didn't continue on with that because the upfront costs were really high in growing onions and the weed control.

The other thing we did on the farm is after we harvested the potatoes in December we've always planted pumpkin, we've done that for many years; been one of the most successful things we've done through fluctuating prices in other things they've been a really good stand by. Particularly when the grape thing went really bad we sold up to 200 ton of pumpkin a year and at a contract price and it was a really good thing. We're still growing pumpkin today, special variety of pumpkin which we get the seed, it's a hybrid a grey pumpkin. We've grown a few butternuts and a few Jap[anese] pumpkins, we mainly just grow grey pumpkin and they use them for processing. So that's been a good thing for us over the years, actually, pumpkin growing.

DISC THREE TRACK EIGHT

MD When did you and Sue move to this property in Dunsborough or is it Quejinup?

BUSSELL Oh well, that's a funny thing because when I moved and got my address in Quejinup I'd lived in the district all my life and so I'd never heard of the word Quejinup until I came here and I thought, 'I'm only one and a half kilometres from the town centre of Dunsborough and yet I'm in Quejinup.' So I mean Dunsborough must be a pretty small place, but anyway [chuckles]. We came here we've been here nearly 15 years now since we moved and the reason was that I was six months old when I went to Jindong as a baby and I'd just got to the stage where I met up with a friend of mine Hans [Gelderman] who passed away two years ago. Anyway, we talked about things and he said, 'Why don't you think about moving?' I always did think about moving at one stage because I thought, 'Maybe I should do something else rather than just look at the same view here that I've looked at all my life.' So I was ready to make a move to go somewhere. One thing, it used to be (which don't have anymore), used to be on a Saturday or Sunday afternoon to drive down around the place and look where we might live. Anyway one day we came here and went through it but it was bit too expensive for us, really, but anyway we drove up the track and came in and I walked out

on the veranda and looked out there [indicates] and there was a nice big shed there and everyone was trying to show me what was in the house, and everything, [chuckles] and so I wasn't interested and that was it, I'd already made up my mind. We put an offer in and then we moved here but to do that, what we did, we had a property on Gale Road which we bought off Rob Tognela and was a 180-acre property and eventually ... we bought that in a morning, actually, when Rob was a real estate agent. He had his place for sale and then he was wanting to sell me something else and I said, 'Oh no, but I'd be interested to buy that property off you.' He said, 'Oh that's not for sale anymore.' Anyway one day out of the blue he rang me up and said, 'You know that property you wanted to buy? You can have it.' Made an offer and Sue was in town and I said, 'You'd better come home because you're going to buy a block of land.' Because I already had enough in my name I thought I'd buy it in your name, so it was in Sue's name. So we had it for 15 years the Metricup farm, it used to belong to Trigwells before Rob Tognela had it. A beautiful property with the Caribunup River in it and we used to run cattle and everything there and in the last, I suppose (we had it 15 or 16 years), but in the last five years I worked out I was the only one who ever went down there, because originally we thought we might build a house there. Peter Evans built his house just over the road from it, Peter and Sue they live there. The consequence of it was I said, 'I can't see this actually working for Sue and myself living down here.' So what we did we subdivided it into three and we sold it and so then that enabled us to come here. We paid too dear for here, but we did okay out of that, so that one cancelled it out [chuckles]. Peter De Chiera bought one of the blocks, actually. So there's three blocks there and they've gone up in value as well but, I mean, that's life. So that's how we came to be here. For the first 10 years we used to look out there across the sea at night with the lights all on and we used to say, 'How did we ever get to come here?' But gradually you get so used to it that you don't necessarily appreciate it as much as you should, you get a bit blasé about it. It comes with its problems as well because there's five acres of land here, you've got the fire thing to do with, you've got to do the firebreaks and you've got to burn off and do things. So whether we stay here forever I don't know but at the moment I've still got my farmhouse at Jindong but my daughter [Naomi] lives in there and her two children (well they're not children they're young adults now), and then on my other farm at Adams Road I've got a lunch room and quite a comfortable set up there with a kitchen.

MD How often do you go out there?

BUSSELL Well, every day, most days except when I'm doing interviews [laughter]. So, even on the weekends I won't necessarily go out

there to work much I just go and have a bit of a look around. Experience tells me that I never, I don't think I've ever sort of said, 'I don't know why I bother to come and look.' Because I usually find something that I attend to.

MD And you still enjoy going out there?

BUSSELL Yes, I do, I would enjoy sometimes NOT going but you know quite often you'll find ... I went out last weekend and someone had left a gate open and the chain had come undone and there were 50 cows in my hay paddock, so I thought, 'Oh well that was good that I came out here that day.' Or the pump will be running and it won't be pumping water or something. So, while the farm's there I feel that unless you sell it you're still connected and I think most farmers would relate to that pretty well. When you don't want to go out there you've either got to walk away or sell it or say, 'That's it, finished.' But while I'm still responsible for what's going on out there I'll be still there.

DISC THREE TRACK NINE

MD What about travel and holidays, have you and Sue been on holidays?

BUSSELL Yeah, we've been quite a few places actually. Our youngest daughter lived in England for 10 years. Our eldest daughter did her social work degree in Scotland so while she was doing that we took the opportunity to go to England and drove up to Scotland and stayed there. We stayed in a manor house, actually. We stayed at Naomi's ... she was her social worker coach and she lived at a place in Pennan [Aberdeenshire]. We never even meet her, she said, 'You've got to come up to Inverness and you can stay in my cottage at Pennan.' There have been no new houses built in Pennan for 100 years. So we stayed there, we hadn't even met her, so we stayed there for four or five [days] ... had my mum with me actually, she went with us. And then we went up to Scotland. Her name was Ethel Aberdeen and she lived in Aberdeen, strangely enough, so we went there. After we stayed at Pennan ... it's just like the North Coast, I don't know if you ever saw the film *Local Hero*, made in that area and you hear like the southern Scotland with the wind blowing and the seabirds squawking and you know, it's pretty wild up there; old castles and things. Anyway after we stayed there we said, 'We're going to meet up with Ethel at Aboyne, the Aboyne [Highland] Games.' So we said, 'How do we know?' She said, 'I'll be the lady standing outside the tea tent (at this certain stage) with a yellow rose in my lapel.' So we went up there and we said, 'Well you must be Ethel'; she was there outside the tea tent. And the Aboyne Games [Aboyne is a village on the edge of the Highlands in Aberdeenshire, Scotland, on the River Dee, west of Aberdeen], they have ... if you had them in Australia you wouldn't

get anyone to even go, but the Highland Games everyone goes. You can enter in and do the 100 metres, you can do the one-mile race, you can do the jumping, do it just like we used to do at sports days, you know. Then they had Scotland the Brave [pipe and drum band] come in with the bagpipes; we had a pretty good time there. I had my youngest daughter with me as well, and so that was the first trip there, and then my mum came home and Sue and I went to Europe.

Through the association with our friend Hans and Ilse Gelderman we went to Germany. We went to Amsterdam first and then we picked up a car in Dusseldorf thinking that Dusseldorf would be easier to get around than in Amsterdam. But Dusseldorf is an industrial centre and it was TERRIBLE, you know. Then we went to the place where they make the Grimme harvesters, so we had a big tour of the Grimme factory, and we stayed with Ilse's family in Germany. And that was quite difficult because of the language but luckily Ilse's brother had a daughter, Simone, who could speak English. So she took us all around different places in Germany. We stayed on the farm with them and harvested potatoes in the morning and then in the afternoon we went and harvested wheat [chuckles].

Then we went down, we drove all the way through Germany right down to Bavaria. We went through King Ludwig's castle which I didn't even go up there I just watched it because tourism is horrendous. Then we drove through into Rome. Oh, first of all we went to Bavaria where Hans and Ilse, from Germany, where they had their hotel. When Hans and Ilse left they sold what they called a hotel, we'd probably call it a guest house here, but it had a liquor licence and they used to serve meals and all sorts of things.

MD Is that when they came to Australia was it?

BUSSELL No they'd been here 10 years by then, or more. And, anyway, before they left (Hans always had the horses) and before he left he had this old guy, Martin, who used to work for him, and he converted the horse stables into a house for Martin and on this small piece of land. Anyway, we had to ring up Hans because we got a bit lost down in Bavaria and he said, 'When you turn around this corner you'll see a man standing underneath an Elm tree with no potatoes growing underneath it.' [Chuckles] Anyway, he was Martin. We stayed there with Martin; that was pretty interesting. In the morning he got up and got the tractor and drove into Bavaria and got breakfast for us and brought us back on the tractor. He was a pretty old-fashioned guy but, anyway, we had a great time. That was probably the best trip that I had because of the interaction with different people and different things. Then we went down to Rome, Pisa, that was an experience and the experience was ... because we'd dumped the car, at Pisa we left the car and then we were going on the train to Rome. Sue

went and got the tickets and I thought, 'That was bloody easy.' Then we went down to the railway station and this lady says, 'Where is the first class? Where do the first-class people get on the train?' I said, 'I don't know.' I was just congratulating us that we'd managed to get a ticket.

Anyway it was a disaster, to be honest, because they don't sell the number of tickets for the number of places there are on there, you just all get on and you just keep getting on. And I'd go to get on and couldn't, the guy didn't even help much, they just kept coming on you know. I chucked the cases in the thing there and we piled on. Then we had to travel from Pisa right down to Rome in this corridor because you had to book a little cabin. At one stage we got in and went into the cabin for a little while but then someone else came in with their ticket and then you had to get out.

Sue really enjoyed Rome and we stayed in Rome on a farm, a little cottage with a restaurant and everything on it. And it was enlightening, actually, because we went into a village (I forget what the name of the town was) and I thought, there must be something on here, in the village in the market centre, there must be something on today. Then we went in the next day and it was still the same [chuckles]. It was the same every day and all the men were just sitting under the tree drinking coffee and the women were doing all the work. The guys you know, 50 years old and they were virtually retired, pretty bloody slack I thought [chuckles].

MD You also had a trip to England to visit Julie, did you?

BUSSELL Well Sue went, she's been three times. I went with Julie the next time and I took my grandson. All the grandkids went actually. So the grandkids have been ... Phoebe and Harvey, and I took William the next time; Sue was already over there. So I went over there. That was a bit of a drama, he'd lost his wallet and a few things, all the normal things that they do.

DISC THREE TRACK TEN

BUSSELL Margaret there are a couple of things I should add about short breaks to the north fishing, and just generally holidaying, because it was quite a big part of our life. Usually it was a trip to the north in the winter time when things were not quite so hectic on the farm. Our first trips were to Kalbarri, which was quite an adventure, and usually a lot of these trips that we went on were also with Sue's mum and dad, Peter and Barbara Mawson, and formed a good relationship with them and some of our best trips that we had were actually with them. They were really good company.

From then we ventured up to places like Shark Bay and on several occasions went with, not WITH Dave but met Dave Hannay and Lou Colombera and some other people up there and

we ventured out as far as the South Passage on several occasions, actually. So it was really an experience travelling along by boat right out to the South Passage, via Useless Loop to Dirk Hartog Island, and eventually to the Passage. Stayed overnight, caught lots of fish and it was a great adventure, actually. We had some very good times.

Then later on we went a bit further. We then decided to go to Exmouth so on several occasions and in that time we to Exmouth with my Apex friends, Lloyd Shepherdson and his wife Anne, Doug Lindberg and Maree (his wife), and Geoff and Lorraine Jenkins and had a lovely time up there. The women didn't really enjoy Exmouth that much because it was a bit of a man's thing. But we went there several times and went there again with Sue's mum and dad. Then on another occasion went back there with my brother-in-law, Wayne King, and went out as far as the Murion Islands and caught lots of fish. And so it was a really good time. Haven't been back for a few years now but would really like to go back to those places, you know. So they were really good breaks and things that you can remember for a long time.

I remember fishing with my brother Vernon and Sue's dad at Monkey Mia and fishing in very shallow water and catching huge pink snapper, and the look on Sue's dad's face (because he wasn't really a fisherman), it was just unbelievable to pull in these 20lb pink snapper in about four metres of water; it was like fishing in a river. It was really a great experience and something that stays with you forever.

Another good trip was with our Apex friends, we decided to all go to Broome. So we flew to Broome and we hired some vehicles up there and that was a great trip, and the other person that went with us was Doug Lindberg. On one occasion, one day at Broome, our big plan for the day was to go down to Anna Plains. Now Anna Plains was owned by Jackie [John] Stoate who was a relative of Doug's, who was bought up by Aunty Clara; Clara Brockman. So that was a great experience to visit Eighty Mile Beach and Anna Plains. We drove all over Anna Plains and looked at the cattle.

Broome was a really a good experience and something that bound our Apex friends further together, you know. They are still very much our friends today and they're the things that life is built on, those sort of memories.

DISC THREE TRACK ELEVEN

MD Is there anything you want to add Colin before we finish?

BUSSELL Well we did a few other trips. When I was in Apex we went to zone conventions, we went to zone convention in Singapore. The other thing, Sue and I went to New Zealand. We've been to Bali a couple of times and when I was in the potato industry I was

lucky enough on a seed selling trip to Mauritius, so that was a pretty good thing. We haven't done a lot of travelling but we've done a bit to get us interested.

The other thing that I haven't talked about much is when my second daughter was interested in horse riding so what I did I supported that because I liked the animals and I went along. For a start we bought one horse and then we bought another one and then I thought, 'Crikey this looks pretty dangerous,' because she had an Arab pony and it just wanted to go you know [chuckles]. Tried all sorts of things and then went to Pony Club one day and there was this guy there Hans, Hans Gelderman. So from then he said, 'Well this is the way you've got to go here.' First of all he said, one thing he said, 'I can't stand ponies.' he was straight down the line, Hans, 'Can't stand them; they're useless, they're too hard to control, they're this ...'

Anyway she did okay with but then she had some good lessons from Hans and from then the horse riding part we started to relax because we thought this is good, she's not going to get injured ... there's no guarantee, but you've got a lot less chance. Then we ended up with a big horse; 17-hand horse.

At that stage the Riding Club was formed, Busselton Riding Club which broke away from the Pony Club and we ran a Show Jumping Spectacular, we ran three events and the last one was a World Cup qualifier which was televised. Hans used to bring his horses out to spell at the farm and we became really good friends.

He had a bit of a manner about him which wasn't necessarily always accepted by everyone, he had a lot of friends but he also had some enemies as well. The Pony Club people, they didn't really support us. I became president of the Riding Club, we did a fair bit of work, in fact a hell of a lot of work to do the Show Jumping Spectacular which was televised; building jumps and getting all the money organised and doing everything. Everyone said, 'You guys, you're going to go broke and you're going to break the Pony Club, that's going to be the finish of the Pony Club.' So we went separate, Brian Sukroo and Lou Greenacre and quite a few others who supported us.

Anyway, we ran the event, we had the money in the bank before the event started for the prizemoney, sponsors, but the Busselton Shire underwrote us as well, for the television, because until you got television you couldn't get sponsors. The other thing is that a lot of sponsorships are done 12 months in advance, they don't just don't go ad hoc. I learnt a fair bit about that and Hans always said, 'You don't have one sponsor against a competitor, like if you have Ford cars you don't have Holdens'. And that was his way and he had a lot of different ways and his whole thing with show jumping was the way you did it, was on style. The way you sat, the way you rode, the way you did things, more important than winning and the other thing was to not injure the rider; safety.

[Event made a big profit donated to Adult Riding Club]

MD Because Hans had been a very good rider back in Bavaria, hadn't he?

BUSSELL Yeah, Hans was in the [Bavarian Jumpers] squad [awarded International Rider of the Year] and he was in the German Army as well. I was just reading about it this morning I just forget the details now. But he learnt the hard way, because in Germany and Europe you don't ride a horse until you work in the stable for years and you come up the hard way. I was lucky that I recognised that early and I only felt a bit sorry for the fact that there were some people who got their nose out of joint a bit because Hans was bringing something special in teaching people how to ride, and do things; and the safety. I mean when we first went there [Pony Club] used to have the jumps and you used to have this crossarm sticking up in the air and the pins to put into it were bolts sticking out like that [indicates], you know. We got rid of all that stuff very quickly with Hans.

MD So the Show Jumping Spectacular was that over a couple of days?

BUSSELL No mainly ... can't remember now, but I mean it was huge. The number of people we had in each event; tremendous.

MD Did it attract all the top-class riders?

BUSSELL Yes we had all the riders from Australia: Vicki Roycroft, Laurie Lever, they were all here, they all came, and that was for the A grade event, it was two days actually. In the D grade ... what Hans didn't like was in the EFA system which was the Equestrian Federation of Australia, they didn't recognise juniors, you didn't start on a graded system or a system with the EFA until you could jump nearly a metre. So the young kids didn't get any of that, have a proper course builder; a lot of things weren't recognised. It's changed a bit today but, I mean, from what I've seen it hasn't actually ... well I watched the kids at the show on the weekend doing the jumping and they had reasonable horses, various horses, but I said, 'Obviously they haven't got anyone coaching them properly.' For jumping they're still using a hacking seat. That was one thing Hans hated was hacking, hated it with a passion. He said, 'Always use a dressage arena.' The Australian way, you know, that was just the way it was, for the hacking you've only got to form a circle and go around in a circle and the judge picks out the nicest looking woman, or if she's a woman judge, picks out the nicest looking guy [chuckles]. You can ride around the circle on the wrong foot or the wrong leg or do whatever but the points system was never right towards the best riding. It was to do with turn out and the way things looked and Hans used to say if you polished up the horse, 'And what do you want to do? Do you want to sell him?' So his thing was about riding you know.

MD The Spectacular was it a financial success?

BUSSELL Yes, we actually made a profit, we paid our money back to the Shire, all the money that they lent us to underwrite us, and then we had money left over. Virtually exhausted ourselves with three events because it was a World Cup qualifier, the last one. And we said, 'Well it's too much.' We got a lot of help from Events Corp, they came down and they spent three days. But some of the things Hans did ... I don't know whether that's what he wanted to ... try to revolutionise too many things at once. Like he used to have the alphabetical start was one thing he had, which was a good concept. In other words, say in one of these events say we had a hundred riders in one event, in a D grade event. So what you did was on a certain weekend you had an alphabetical draw, name of your horse, right. What would happen, in other words if you were coming from Perth you didn't have to come down to Busselton and leave Perth if your horse started with the letter, well just say for instance A, you knew you had to be there early and there were a hundred in it. But if your horse started with the letter S, you knew you didn't have to be down there at seven o'clock. You could come down at 10 o'clock because it would be three hours before you were on. In Germany each week of the year started with a different alphabetical number, so weeks before you'd know what time you were going to be jumping. So that was just one of the things. The other thing is a lot of people used to cheat, even at Pony Club, they'd all try and the same people would try and do it all the time. So we introduced a system, no number on the horse (on the thing), no start, you don't get a number until you pay your nomination fee. All those sort of things, and then style was his thing. He had a couple of good horses which we ended up with one of them. He didn't want the horses to ... to start off at D grade, D grade, C grade, B grade; B and A was usually together because there weren't enough horses for A and B. But he didn't really want the horse that he had there (a couple of horses), he didn't want them to be if they were in a graded event, once they got so many points they go up to C grade see, he didn't want those horses to go to C grade. Otherwise he had no horses to train the young people with to go in events. He'd say, 'If you look like you're going to win ...' which was a bit cruel for the kids, they had to do a circle so they ran out of time so they didn't win. But, I mean, if it was ungraded it didn't matter but it was for teaching the kids and it was all about not interfering the horse. If you see photos of good horse riders which stood out to me straight away (and I haven't had much to do with it for 10 or 15 years) at the show, some of them were quite good riders but they were thumping on the back of the horse: boom, boom, boom. Well you've got to get away from that, you've got to get your legs together, push on the side, and take the weight off the horse. The

horse hates that, but that's a forward seat of hacking, this upright you know, put their chest out and, you know, 'Look how good I am'. But a forward seat, you see, a nice show jumper and their forward like that [indicates the position], so you could see it straight away.

For all the different things we did I helped Hans put a lot of things on. He built the castle in Juniper Road, and he used to come and get hay from me and we did all sorts of things together.

MD He's passed away now hasn't he?

BUSSELL He's passed away with cancer of the red blood cells and didn't even know he was sick until he went to the doctor and had a check-up and he said, 'You know you've got serious problems.' He'd lived about another eight or 10 years with it but he was just a strong guy and you would never have thought that something like that would happen.

MD Thank you Colin.

END OF INTERVIEW