

ANDREW ALLEN'S INTERVIEW WITH ARTHUR AND JEAN HOUNSLOW

- AA** We have an oral history interview today on 23 May 2013 with Arthur and Valerie (who prefers to be known as Jean) Hounslow from Ingleburn. Can we start with both of your dates of birth?
- AH** I was born on 30 January 1927.
- JH** I was born on 17 June 1931.
- AA** Were you both born in Ingleburn?
- AH** Yes, I was delivered by Dr William Mawson, brother of the famous explorer Douglas Mawson, something to remember. I was born in Campbelltown. We lived in Chester Road, Ingleburn. I was brought into a new house, the old one was demolished.
- AA** Is that house still there?
- AH** No, that house was demolished to make way for a new subdivision.
- AA** Jean, where did your family live when you were born?
- JH** We lived in Kings Road on the corner of Fields Road. My mother was from Parramatta.
- AA** Jean, what was your maiden name?
- JH** It was Wallace.
- AA** Arthur, your family goes back a fair way in the area, is that right?
- AH** Yes, they moved out here in 1917.
- AA** Arthur, I don't know if I have this right, but I believe that your mother administered homeopathic medicines from a medicine chest to you as a child, is that correct?
- AH** Yes, that was not an uncommon practice that people got from travelling salesmen, a homeopathic chest and various medicines. I had an interview from the Power House Museum, which was held down at Wollongong. We still had the chest which wasn't in very good condition. They had a better one, but they used it for display purposes.
- AA** Was your mother into that?
- AH** Not overly, but what did you do. There was no pharmacy and hard to get to a Doctor. Campbelltown and Liverpool were the closest sources for both.
- AA** What did both your fathers do for work?
- AH** When my father came up here, he had to do farm work. He had poultry, vegetable growing and flower growing for marketing. He had originally worked in the gas works

at Mortlake. There must have been some kind of accident which led to him being gassed and he came out here for better breathing atmosphere.

AA Did he recover from that?

AH Yes, he did. He was born in 1880. He would have been on the callout list for the First World War I suppose. But he was working in an important industry and then he was gassed.

AA Did he have a bit to do with the Ingleburn Cinema? Have I got that right?

AH No, that was his son Harry, my brother. It was in the School of Arts and my father was treasurer of the School of Arts Committee.

AA Was he the projectionist at the Cinema?

AH My brother Harry did it originally.

AA Jean, what kind of work did your father do?

JH He worked on the Ingleburn Council. When they amalgamated with Campbelltown Council he worked there and that was where he died.

AA So he would have worked with Harley Daley.

JH Oh yes, very much so.

AH He was an overseer over a very limited number of people. I think there were only about one or two gangers. I found it interesting going through some of his old stuff, I did engineering, to realise that Council consulted and got plans from a consulting engineer at Liverpool when they wanted to build a bridge over the Bunbury Curran Creek that used to go under the railway line at Saywell Road, Macquarie Fields. I should think that they would have gone to a consulting engineer in Liverpool on many projects to give them the know-how on what to do.

AA The Council building at Ingleburn, is that still there?

JH No, they took the front part which was a Lest We Forget clock and that is now in Carlisle Street outside a new Baby Health Centre they built.

AA That building became the Baby Health Centre didn't it?

JH Yes, and a small library, but the building isn't standing any more.

AA Onto your school days. Did you both go to school in Ingleburn?

AH Yes.

AA Did you know each other then, when you were children? Where did you meet?

AH We met through the Ingleburn Baptist Church. We went to Sunday school together and worked together running young people's activities. More at the Macquarie Fields end of the work that was developing at that stage.

- AA** So you went to Ingleburn School on the corner of Cumberland and Oxford Roads.
- JH** Yes, the headmaster was William Champion, a good bloke.
- AH** What about other teachers, did you have any favourite teachers?
- JH** There was a Miss Kelly; she was very good with the children. She had Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd. Then there was Mrs Humphries who had 3rd and 4th and the Headmaster had 5th and 6th.
- AH** I think the school teachers then were more concerned about the pupils, where many of them today don't appear to be so concerned, which is the impression that I get.
- AA** What was the size of the classes? Were they big or small?
- JH** I suppose altogether with Kindergarten, 1st and 2nd there would have been 30 children.
- AA** So you would have known Greg Percival, would you?
- AH** Yes, Greg Percival and Peter Benson were a couple of years ahead of me in age and schooling, but we were in the Scouts together. They were long standing families in the district.
- AA** I was going to ask you about the Baptist Church and your scouting. You were both in the Baptist Church.
- AH** Yes, we are still in membership of that Church.
- AA** Is it still the same Church building?
- AH** No, the original Church still stands and is used on Sunday evenings by the young people who have taken it over. It is in their colours, has been redecorated you might say. The new building was built in 1974 when sewerage came through.
- AA** You were into scouts.
- AH** Yes, cubs and scouts. I was assistant scout master and scout master for 25 years.
- AA** The reason I know this is we have a photo of you as scout master. Where was the scout hall?
- AH** It was in Stanley Road at the beginning of Aero Road going up to the Camp across from the station. Interesting, when the Japs first became a menace, it became law that you had to cross out Ingleburn, so they crossed out Ingleburn and left First Scout Hall. It was a bit of a joke as it was just a little weatherboard building. I believe it was a joke but it wasn't a joke to us boys.
- AA** Is that building still standing?
- AH** No, it was moved when they relocated their headquarters to Westland Memorial Park, they moved most of the scout hall there.

- AA** Being born in the 1920s would you have memories of the depression? Do you remember the great depression and what it was like in Ingleburn at the time?
- AH** Yes, fortunately I don't know how it happened, but when my father moved into the district he must have had enough money, it may be it came from the gas works from his gassing, not only did he buy this block of land which was an interesting history in itself but he bought a block of land in Oxford Road. During the depression years he arranged with the storekeeper Collins, which was Collins and Son, to get everything "on tick" until I suppose the money ran out you might say. Then at the end of the war the block was handed over and sold. The block was worth about £100 at that stage. So that helped quite a lot to survive.
- AA** What about you Jean, you were a bit younger weren't you?
- JH** Yes, I believe that Dad had three days' work on the Council each week. Besides that we had chooks and a cow and things that made it a bit easier. We had a lot of fruit trees and a garden.
- AA** How did your mum find it? Did she find it hard?
- JH** I think they found life very hard right from the beginning. There were 12 kids in their family and they lost everything in the great drought of 1900. They evidently had come up and they had what was later known as the old Hilltop Bulk Farm. They had a dairy, but with this great drought they lost all their cattle. She used to tell us about how they used to have to go and cut branches off the trees to try and feed the cows, but it wasn't any good, they just lost everything. Her father more or less was working for other people wherever he could get a job and that was how they survived. One of my uncles said to me once thank goodness for the old humble bunny. We wouldn't have survived without that rabbit. They must have had a lot of rabbit stew I think.
- AA** How times have changed. These days people wouldn't eat rabbit.
- AH** Another thing my father was doing in that period. He had a horse and cart and he would go around the various orchards and vegetable growers and had a fruit and vegetable run around the district, because again there was no shop doing that in the town. That helped out. He would send eggs to the market. I think again getting a little bit from the neighbour. We had a cow and when it was milking, they would get milk from us. That was the feeling in the depression time, how people survived helping one another and doing whatever they could to earn a bit of money.
- AA** Did you get swaggies calling in?
- JH** Oh yes, they would camp under bridges or anywhere. Some of them were alright. But at times you had to be wary of other ones.
- AA** What about the war years, what do you remember about the war years?
- AH** Being in the scouts when we were younger teenagers we became messenger boys for the wardens. My father was a warden. When the sirens were going they had to inform people what was going on and things like that. We were messenger boys, not that we had much to do because it soon settled down as far as the shelling of

Sydney. People were selling their lovely houses in the beachside suburbs to get away from Sydney.

AA Did you have your houses blacked out?

AH Oh yes, the houses were blacked out.

AA Do you remember when electricity first came to Ingleburn? Was that when you were children?

JH I can remember when it came up Kings Road. Dad and another fellow were working on the Council. It was in the depression years and evidently the Council got some grant to put the electricity further out, so they were able to employ some other men. All those holes had to be dug by hand six foot down. All those poles had to virtually be lifted up and be put in by hand. I can remember my sister and I used to sit down at the gate and watch them come up Kings Road.

AH The electricity came through somewhere in the early 1930s. It wouldn't happen today but the electrical engineer was there helping with the digging of the holes and putting the posts in.

AA So it was a little bit after Campbelltown. Campbelltown was around 1924.

AH The supply came through the railway system which controlled the signals.

AA I want to talk a little bit about what entertainment there was, firstly when you were both children and then later on when you were teenagers. What sort of things did you get up to around the place?

AH Well for me scouting was my main entertainment besides the church activities. There wasn't much else on.

AA So you had to make your own entertainment.

AH Yes, an interesting story in that regard. When I was about 10 or 11 before I went to high school my mate was Alec Goodsell. I used to walk all the way from Chester Road to Eagleview Road where it turned into Derby Street to his place. We would then walk together to the swimming spot on the Georges River which I later found out was at the top of the road where I lived. Goodsell's originally had an old house that had a dam and that is where I learnt to swim in that dirty old water. I enjoyed going with them, for the fellowship mainly. You wouldn't want to go out and swim on your own.

AA What about you Jean. Where did you learn to swim?

JH I learnt in the river. That was near Kings Road.

AH The weir was in then wasn't it?

JH No, we used to swim there before the weir was put in. The weir got put in and it was better then, a lot less dangerous. We were never allowed out there without an adult.

- AA** That's a little bit different to what I've heard from other people. They'd say that they were out there as kids all day without adults.
- AH** Some people would take picnics out there.
- JH** Yes, but not kids just on their own. As kids we always had adults with us.
- AH** It's interesting the history of the Ingleburn Weir. Harley Daley and Fred Goodsell built it. The government must have said that they had some money if you want it and they employed somebody during the depression years. So Harley Daley got into that. I don't know what contact they had with Fred Goodsell, he was a builder of sorts and he lived locally and he was given the job. I don't think it was a full time job. Where did they get the stone? I know there was stone there, but stone in the river weathers. There was a sandstone quarry off Cumberland Road just down the back of my place. I think they must have cut good solid stone out of there. Jean's father was the overseer and he used to drive the tractor.
- JH** No, the other fellow was on the tractor and dad was on the grader behind.
- AH** They would have had to put a track down. To move some of the stones, it wouldn't have been just Fred Goodsell on his own. It's like saying General so-and-so won the battle.
- AA** I think we have something on the weir. It might tell me who built it.
- AH** Fred Goodsell was a keen builder – he built his own new house after he moved from his old place in Eagleview Road. Somewhere near where Derby Street used to come up from Minto station. He was a good builder so that is probably why they selected him, I'm not knocking that. Also, for building a weir you would have to provide a means of flushing the place out and all things like that.
- AA** So, did Harley build it too or did he just organise it to be built.
- AH** He organised it. Bert Wallace being the overseer would have been the organiser and keeping his thumb on the work as it were. Alec wouldn't have known much about that background. Fred would come home and dad would come home. Alec was a good mate and his mother advised both of us about where we should go to high school. She had been a school teacher before the kids came along.
- AA** Alec was a school teacher too wasn't he?
- AH** Yes he became a school teacher and headmaster eventually.
- AA** I wanted to ask you about a building I found the other day in Kings Road. I saw a photograph of a little old cottage and wondered if you remember it or if it is still there.
- AH** Possibly, if I had seen the photograph. When we were married the scouts were forming. Ross Thorby was the group scoutmaster in those days.
- AA** Did you have a honeymoon and where did you go?
- JH** We went to Forster.

AH We travelled by train as we didn't have a car.

AA I was going to ask if you had a car.

AH No, that came much later.

AA Most people I ask from your generation either went to Katoomba or the Blue Mountains that seemed to be the place to go.

What sort of work did you do when you first got married?

AH I was doing civil engineering. I went to Sydney University after high school. At the time we were married in 1953, I was working for the commonwealth government. I had started off working with the Water Board – Sydney Water today.

AA So what were some of the other projects of work were you involved in?

AH At the Board, I was involved in the investigations for Warragamba Dam. There were a lot of things that they were looking at such as using ice in the mix following the United States reclamation and things like that. It was interesting with a lot of research to be done. The interesting thing that not many people know being in the investigation side. They started construction before I left the Board. As they were digging down having diverted the river, they found there was a fault in the rocks due to earthquake movement from a previous era. They had an expert from the USA, a Doctor Savage, who advised them to clean out all the broken bits of stone and backfill it with concrete, one to stop the leakage and two to provide a more secure foundation. They did that. It makes me laugh when I hear the politicians want to raise the dam. The present dam could collapse if there was a serious earthquake, who knows.

They have taken measures in more recent times following international standards to run rainfall into the dam with what is called a one in 500 year frequency, to modify the spillways for a greater capacity and to provide gates that can be lowered earlier in time for what is called dam maintenance in floods. They have done what they could. I'm not saying it's a danger, we don't know. Many dams over the years around the world have collapsed for various reasons. The biggest damage caused at Christchurch was caused by a deep centred earthquake. There must have been a fault there that they weren't aware of. Sandstone is one of the weakest of the stones, mud stone might be weaker.

AA So while he was off to work Jean, did you have a family?

JH Yes, we had four children.

AA That would have kept you busy. Were you involved in any organisations besides the church?

JH I always worked on the school canteen.

AA Did your children go to Ingleburn Public School?

JH Yes.

- AA** I was going to ask you about the buildings in Ingleburn from the past that you remember that aren't there anymore. Was it McIlveens store?
- JH** Yes. There was McIlveens on one side and Collins on the other.
- AA** I am just trying to work out what is there now.
- JH** Over where McIlveens were is now a Thai Restaurant. Laurie Ferguson has his office in the building where Collins was.
- AA** Did you go the School of Arts much?
- JH** Yes, that was the main hall. We would have the big school concert and end of year prize giving. The Anzac services were held there. Everything that was held in Ingleburn was in the School of Arts. There were dances held there.
- AA** Do you remember Ingleburn House near the station?
- JH** My mother lived there during the First World War.
- AA** Allens lived there didn't they?
- JH** Yes, she was an Allen.
- AA** I'm an Allen too!! Can you tell me a little bit about the house?
- JH** From what Mum said the kitchen was a dirt floor. I don't know what the rest of it was. The story goes that Grandma saw this snake coming along the wall and she got the shovel and jumped out the window and killed the snake. It was near the railway line and it was noted for snakes being there. That was where Uncle Rack came back to after the war. George his brother came back earlier because he lost his leg. His name was Reuben Walter, but somehow he got Rack.
- AA** So you would have been sad to see that demolished.
- JH** Yes, that's partly where Ingleburn Fair is now. They used to get cut off, because you know where the canal comes around the back of the shops along Macquarie Road, when it flooded they would be cut off at Ingleburn House and their only way out was up onto the station and get a train.
- AH** I don't know what year it was, around the 1930s, the whole shopping centre was flooded. They had the canal there, but leading into it was probably where the blockage occurred. Nobody worried about keeping things clean in those days or keeping the trees down, it flooded the shops of Ingleburn. They had the shops and Post Office sand bagged.

The interesting thing about the house my parents bought in 1917, it was the first Police Station in Ingleburn. I'm not too sure why, it could have been as a result of the First World War, there were a lot of German and perhaps Italian people here that they wanted to keep under control and that was one of the control points. For the era it was probably a very elaborate house. It had a bowling green in the front of it. It was not built particularly for them I understand. The house had a lock up and I remember

as a kid helping dad in the garden and finding police buttons. That's interesting history; I don't think anyone else has recorded that. Although Peter Barrett who was the fellow in charge of the police in Campbelltown a few years ago said that he thought he had heard of that. It's interesting history.

AA So it had a bit of age before your parents bought it.

AH Oh yes, it was probably built around the turn of the century. William Gee was the builder who was involved with the Ingleburn Public School. He moved the old circular roofed building across from the Sutherland area to Ingleburn. He didn't get the contract for the main brick building, somebody else beat him.

AA I've heard of William Gee.

AH He was connected with the Baptist Church when it started up.

AA He was an Alderman of Council in his later years. What about say cafes. Do you remember the Ingle?

JH That was on the other side of the line from McIlveens and Collins.

AH That was built during the war years. There used to be a level crossing over the railway line at the railway station.

JH The old bakehouse was across the road from the Ingle. Williamson had the bakehouse.

AH Allan worked for him doing the deliveries. They were the days.

JH He used to go to Minto and out the back of Macquarie Fields and we were the last house he had to deliver bread to. Quite often when he got there he wouldn't have any bread left. He was in a horse and cart. My sister and I would have to get up on the cart with him and he would take us back to the bakehouse. I can always remember Mum saying to him "You put them over that railway line carefully. Make sure they get across there safely." We would have to go down there to get a loaf of bread. Then we would have to walk back home.

AH This old house when bought had a storage room at the back of it built of slabs, half a tree kind of thing and they all came from a butchery set up that Percivals had in Cumberland Road between Oxford Road and Chester Road where they possibly buried the offal and things like that. When the hot weather came you could smell the fat. There's lots of history there.

JH Across the road from us at Fields and Kings Road there was a suture factory run by old Dr Klages. The factory used to make sutures for stitching people up and tennis strings and things like that. I think there still is because he had a very ornate fence built around it, ornate on the corners and gateways, the rest was just wire. The two posts on the gateway that led up to the house were left there; I think they still may be there.

AA I will have to see if I have any photographs.

- JH** We don't have any photographs of it, because we didn't have a camera. Ulrich had a camera. My sister and I had a little pony and we were riding it one day and he came out and took photos of us. I still have that photo.
- AA** Do you remember Milton Park House?
- JH** That big two storey house, I can remember that.
- AH** I remember particularly where Gleam Daley lived, just around from where we lived in Chester Road in Drumalbyn Street. It was quite an old elaborate house built sometime before Derrimans (that was her maiden name) moved there. It was interesting that the road leading up to it had a driveway coming in from Cumberland Road was called Jaclyn after their two children Jack and Lyn.
- AA** So Jaclyn Park is that what it was called then. We have an old photo on our photo data base of the first car in Ingleburn that belonged to people who came from a place called Jaclyn Park.
- AH** It could have been because there was big open land between them and Cumberland Road. Drumalbyn Road wasn't in in that era, so it could have been. I know they had planted gorse down either side of the road. After they moved and things started to develop, we would go across and pick some gorse, which was nice and tasty.
- AA** I can't remember their names but they were from Jaclyn Park, but I think that it was a poultry farm there.
- AH** I don't know, it may have been another Jaclyn.
- AA** It could have been too. Did you go to Sydney very much on the train? Was that a common thing to do?
- AH** Mum used to take me to Parramatta shopping sometimes. She also took me to Horderns in Sydney a few times. I got into the habit of travel when I went to High School. I went to Sydney Technical High, Alec and myself among many others. People were travelling in from further up beyond Campbelltown. The beautiful old steam trains that we had.
- AA** What about you Jean. What High School did you go to?
- JH** I went to Liverpool. It was Liverpool Domestic Science then.
- AA** That wasn't too far to go then.
- AH** In the evening there was a Moss Vale train that we would catch from Sydney and get here about 5pm. When I was at Uni and working for a number of years, there was a train which I think went to Goulburn which went from Central with first stop at Ingleburn. That was kept up even at a later stage when I was working. They wanted to cancel it from stopping at Ingleburn – that insignificant, you might say, little place!! They were willing to take 1st class passengers providing we got enough of them. There was Roy Watts, the Minister for Agriculture. There was the vet station at Glenfield and he lived at Ingleburn. With a number of us and I was prepared to pay a

bit more for a first class ticket as it was so convenient to stop at Ingleburn. It was a lovely train compared with the normal steam train that served the community.

AA Do you want to tell me the story you were going to tell me about the scouts?

AH Yes. When you were 18 years of age you were approached by the Government to enrol in the war effort. I was in my second year at University at that stage. You could defer it and say I'll not go into the forces provided you worked for the Commonwealth Government at the end of the war. It wasn't binding only if needed.

When I turned 18 I was appointed Assistant Scout Master and it must have been in that year of 1945 and we had our meeting on the Friday as usual and a number of young guys I guess who had been called up, turned up outside. We didn't know who they were. The first thing we were aware of, they came along and they broke down our flag pole which was in front of the hall and they used it to try and batter down the double doors at the front. I think that they had been up drinking. I recognised one or two of the voices as being kids from Macquarie Fields. I think one of them was in my classes at Ingleburn who was with an older brother. It was rather scary.

There were some funny things in the Scout Hall. There were a lot of boxing gloves from a guy who helped the original Scout Master. He did nothing much except boxing, but that's another story. There was also an old 1st World War bayonet. I remember pushing it up and down through the gap in the door when they tried to put their hands in to pull the doors out. Eventually they went away – I don't know what injuries we caused, but it was rather scary I can tell you.

JH There was no Police Station between Campbelltown and Ingleburn.

AH Another interesting thing I can remember about the Scouts. We used to have night activities such as a paper chase. We were on a paper chase one night and it was dark. This young boy said "Can I stop near you skip, it's dark out there." He was only at the bottom of the street where we were, not more than a hundred yards from his home, but he was scared. You got used to the dark with scouting activities such as camping.

JH What kid wasn't scared of the dark, there weren't many lights. I remember when I was a kid there weren't many street lights and they always went off at 11pm every night. So it was really dark unless there was moonlight.

AH We went camping fairly frequently at the Georges River. You could drink the water safely then. We established our own camp sites. We didn't take over Ingleburn Reserve like a lot of other people did. A lot of people came up there camping once there was a pool for swimming. We had a number of what we called new camp sites; one was at the back of East Minto.

I also took them on bike camps. One Friday night after our meeting we left on our bikes to go across to Penrith. We got as far as Rossmore probably about 1am and thought we would sleep on the side of the road not realising until sunlight came that there were houses fairly close the road and we were going to set up and have breakfast. We moved on to a more secluded spot.

I took them on another bike hike, through Moss Vale down the old zig/zag to the coast. We stopped at Bargo under the bridge the first night; there was a bit of a paddock there. It was a cow paddock we found, no trouble!! When we got down to Albion Park it started to rain. When we looked around and found there was an oval of some description with a dressing shed that was open. So again we were provided for. The biggest thing was pushing your bike up Bulli Pass with a pack on your back. One of the boys fell off his bike. My first aid was pretty down to earth – iodine. That went on his knee – ooh doesn't that sting. Every time I have met him since he reminds me of it. We met him just recently I met him at the pathology place.

AA Did you do bob-a-job?

AH Yes, we used to do that. During the war years we went on the collection of reusable metals and things like that. There's an interesting story there. My dad still had his old cart; we didn't have a horse then. One of the guys who came to our troop came from Campbelltown; his father had been in the 1st World War. They had a horse which they probably used for ploughing. He walked it down to Ingleburn. We harnessed it up and went around Ingleburn area collecting what we could such as aluminium and other metals and things like that. But they were wonderful days.

The interesting thing about Ingleburn in those years in the war years and a bit after, there were only 7 road lamps around the whole of Ingleburn. A number of us would walk from one lamp to the other and that would be the last lamp and we would have a bit of a chat there then go our way through the dark to where we lived.

AA Did someone used to light the lamps?

AH They were electric; it wasn't that far back in history!!

JH With the Ingleburn Council, they didn't have a truck. When they wanted gravel or anything like that, my dad had to harness up his horse and dray and take it to work and drag it with the horse and cart.

AH The gravel pits were at Macquarie Fields, in the Parliament Road area.

JH Dad and the other fellow, when they went out to a job, they had to ride their push bikes with their picks and shovels on their shoulders and a bag with their food in it. One day they were somewhere down Glenfield and they had left their stuff in a heap on the side. They were going along clearing the gutters or something and they got away from their things. Next thing Harley Daley turned up. He had come out to Dad because Dad did the time sheets and he wanted to get them early because he was going somewhere. Anyway he came out to them and said "Oh Bert I have come out to get the time sheets because I want to do them." Dad said "Well they're back there in my bag; you can go and get them." Anyway he went back and there were no bags, somebody had pinched their bags. They had left their bikes but had taken their bags. He came back and said that they're not there. So everything was gone including their lunch. So Harley went back to our house and told Mum and asked her to get some more lunch ready for Dad. She packed him a lunch and Harley took it back to him. Dad said if they were hungry, why didn't they ask him for something. I think Mr Daley reported it to the Liverpool Police but nothing came of it.

AA What do you think of Ingleburn today, how it has progressed? Do you still enjoy living there?

JH Yes, we live in a fairly quiet street, some other parts aren't quiet.

AA You would have seen some huge changes.

JH All the paddocks are gone.

AH I find it interesting in this respect, not only was I the Scoutmaster for 25 years but at the minimum age of 21, I became Secretary at the Church which I held for 25 years. During the war they were a bit short of man power and I also became a Deacon at the Church. This is something that you may not know, but over the years the Baptist Church founded the Campbelltown Baptist Church 54 years ago. I have just had a reminder from the Macquarie Fields people where we worked in the Sunday School and where I preached my first sermon there, you wouldn't want to listen to it!! They are celebrating their 50th anniversary next month. When they first started having services it was the only Church in the district. The Secretary wasn't a Baptist, he was Winston Musiac quite a well-known engineer in the electrical television area and his wife was a Baptist I guess that is why he did the job. He was a very prominent citizen.

We started our work in Minto and things didn't go too well. It had to be abandoned. Jean noticed a few weeks ago that where they are bulldozing the Housing Commission area, they also demolished the old Baptist Church of about 30 to 40 years age. A lot of things happened that we have been involved with. From Ingleburn we used to do Sunday School and young people's work at Macquarie Fields. I had Sunday School with another guy out at the Point. The Boys Brigade had a property there and we used the open air kitchen area with seats for about 2 or 3 years.

At that stage I was working for the Commonwealth with work going on in the Holsworthy area, particularly the Army Camp, we were based at Moorebank. One day I had to interview a number of guys for a job of doing drainage work for the stormwater and sewer for the extensions going on there. Not knowing who they would be, there were a few of the fathers of the kids in the Sunday School. I'm not too sure what came first that or the Sunday School. There was one family in particular, he was a good worker but it was hard, how could they demonstrate to you that they could lay pipes or had experience, it was a bit difficult you had to just take their word.

AA Unless they had references like they do today.

AH The only thing more difficult I suppose was if they had to lay the cast iron water mains which needed a bit more equipment. Another interesting thing in my time with the Commonwealth, I was in the Head Office then. I had to do some research and go with Greg Percival who was a member of the Board and a Member of Parliament at the time; I think he was in control of Local Government, with a proposition that would benefit many, many people, I haven't had to use it, where the Water Board pays for any restoration of the water main between your meter and the connection, including the connection to the cast iron or whatever the pipe system is. The Water Board in

Sydney was behind the Hunter Board in Melbourne Board of Works and they found it not excessive in costing and so the Government said OK we'll do it. We had a neighbour just recently who had that benefit of getting it done, they had to it is the law anyhow. Particularly it is important with the change of needing concrete roads over connections and the mains were laid perhaps more in the middle of the road and they shouldn't have been. Digging up the concrete road is very costly if you were the person needing it. But they're exceptional.

AA Did you ever get any bad floods around Ingleburn that stood out?

AH Only by hearsay. An old fellow who used to come to the Church 20 years ago said that in 1901 he lived in a house with a dairy a bit towards Macquarie Fields from Ingleburn Station on Aero Road which went up to the Camp, the flood waters came right up to the railway line there.

JH That was always called The Flats over on the other side of the railway line, because it was very flat and it used to flood there a bit.

AH Do you know how Aero Road got its name?

AA No, I don't.

AH Apparently before the Second World War, in those days students from Sydney University used to come out here and I think that they probably started off using grass sledges. We did that out from Goodsell's place. They started using gliders and once they got used to it they would sit in the glider and have it projected and come down over the flats over Ingleburn. Aviation was in its infancy in those days, which would have been around the First World War.

AA What is it called today? It's not called Aero Road today is it?

AH Part of it is, but there has been a main road put through from the overpass a bit further towards Macquarie Fields, that is Williamson Road.

AA Did you hear the story about Charles Kingsford Smith? Back in the 30s, he flew around Ingleburn and Springfield Farm near Denham Court. We have some photographs of that on our database.

AH I hadn't heard of that. I don't know what my son has done with his photographs. At one time he was in the Police Force and was flying over Ingleburn in a helicopter taking photographs just for interest. They may have been Police matters.

JH I think that Ted Hurst was at Springfield Farm.

AH Yes, he was a benefactor for many organisations including the Scouts. I think that we have had a very enjoyable time growing up in Ingleburn. Even one of the things that really got me was I was working in the City and used to suffer from tonsillitis. I used to have to come home and see Dr Hallinan in Ingleburn. You might have to wait until 1am to see him from the 7pm surgery, and then there was no pharmacy in Ingleburn, you would have to go to either Campbelltown or Liverpool. At that stage I was working in Australia Square in the City and I found out that there was a doctor in the

building. So I would only have to go down in my lunch hour and get a script and start taking the medicine and wouldn't need to have to take the day off.

AA And the dentist, was that Peter Benson? Was he in Ingleburn or Campbelltown?

JH Peter had his main practice in Liverpool. It was called Benson House.

AH He did build a dentist's practice in Oxford Road, Ingleburn. He had keen followers working there. I don't think that he worked there very much, only for the more difficult jobs. I don't know how it worked out but he developed hypnotism in his dentistry work getting children to sit still so I believe. He used it; I wouldn't say he was the inventor of hypnotism. He was a good dentist I believe. I never went to him. As I worked in the City I found it more convenient to go to a dentist in Martin Place in the City.

Another interesting thing was the first Mayor of the Ingleburn Municipality had the name Barff. I don't know where he lived in Ingleburn. When I retired I did volunteer work guiding over some of the historic buildings of Sydney. Looking at some of the history I found there was a Barff in the early days around 1880, he was the Registrar and later the Vice Chancellor and it said of him that he had come across from Melanesia and possibly came out from France. This guy who was the Mayor with different initials could have been the father of the other guy. I doubt their births would have been registered but possibly their deaths would have been in the registry, I didn't check.

AA What was the reaction like when Ingleburn Council merged with Campbelltown Council? Did it affect you?

AH What you did lose was the fact that you could just walk up to Ingleburn Council and pay your rates. I think the general feeling was with the changing of the methodology and equipment you had better access to those things. There is always a need for doing the roads up. I think it was a very good move. Ingleburn was a very small Council to start with, it acquired Macquarie Fields and Glenfield areas from Liverpool Council and I think Minto from Campbelltown Council.

The other interesting think is that during the war years the first bitumen road was between the Mayor of Campbelltown and the Mayor of Ingleburn. I saw some interesting photos the other day, out of the Campbelltown area, of the Crossroads and this guy said that was the big garage that his grandfather used to own. The Bocking family, you may have heard of them.

AA I've heard of James Bocking from Campbelltown.

AH It was quite a long building of garage facilities for repairs and also a photo of the original Crossroads Hotel. It wasn't really recent as there was a nice bitumen road going up to it. Of course it has been rebuilt since then.

Are there any more questions?

AA No, that pretty much covers what I wanted to talk about. I was going to ask you about the cinema where your brother was the projectionist. Did you go the cinema much?

AH Not really very often, only if there was something on that we wanted to see. My older brother Harry was very keen on that kind of work and I think bought the rights to use the School of Arts on a regular basis to screen the movies.

AA So, it was actually in the School of Arts, it wasn't a separate building.

AH Yes, it was in the School of Arts. There was some modification made to provide a projection room and possibly whatever fire protection was required then. He had others who were training with him to do the projection if he couldn't make it. I think Colin Heskey was one of them.

Another interesting thing about one of the Mayors was Johnny Keats. He was a First World War digger and Boer War Veteran from England. He lived in Cumberland Road and he used to wander through some property into our place to shoot rabbits if he saw them, without any warning. We might be in the yard; we weren't in any real danger as he would be right down the back. It would be unlikely but we didn't know the danger as we wouldn't know he was there until we heard a shot.

Another interesting thing of that era, we would collect beautiful field mushrooms. They had taste about them.

AA I used to do that when I was a kid as I was on a farm. You don't get those mushrooms anymore, the ones with pink sort of bottom, not the black ones.

AH I think that they have developed mushrooms to provide more an acceptable vegetable kind of material rather than the flavour of the old type mushrooms. Of course we lost the paddocks too. People used to come out from the city to go mushrooming on the hills over the other side of the railway line in the farm land.

AA Where did you get your milk from?

JH We had a cow. Just about everybody in Ingleburn had a cow. Not everybody – Roy Bain had a dairy up on the Ingleburn Road that goes across to the Rossmore area. The name of their house was Box Hill. It is still there. He used to milk his cows in the morning and come down and deliver the milk to a round of people. They would just leave out the billy can on the front fence with the money in it. He would just take the money out and fill up the billy can. Then he would go back and milk the cows again in the afternoon and then come around again.

AH The Ingleburn Council used an old building in Chester Road. In the era that was there, Chester Road got the nickname of Canary Lane. There was no electric lighting for starters. It was quite a deserted road. It was a little building established by the Church of St Peters as a mission project and then abandoned. I don't know the history of that. So Council bought the little two roomed place on the corner of Gertrude Street and Chester Road. The Council only met on full moon nights as it was a bit dark and scary going up there otherwise. The people would whistle a lot in that era, so it got the nickname of Canary Lane.

AA We have a book on street names of Campbelltown places. It would be in that book I must have a look. A lot of Ingleburn streets are named after birds aren't they?

JH When we built the Church in Macquarie Fields, we approached the Council to change the name from New Road to Church Road. It was the only building in that road at that time and they agreed to do that.

AA That concludes our interview for today, our thanks to Jean and Arthur Hounslow.