

# **ANDREW ALLEN'S INTERVIEW WITH ALAN AND RHONDA SLOPER AT THEIR HOME ON 23 DECEMBER 2015**

**AA** Can I have your full name please?

**AS** Alan Charles Sloper and Rhonda Ruth Sloper.

**AA** Where and when were you born?

**AS** I was born in North Sydney. My mother died from septicaemia six days after giving birth to me. My father moved to Bondi and he worked at the carnival there where the Swiss Hotel is now. That was a carnival block. He worked there with somebody, then he built a few stalls and eventually bought the others out and then he owned it. I don't remember much about that I was a bit young. He sold that in 1948 and retired.

**AA** Was his father in the same business.

**AS** No, his father Charlie was an apiarist and a builder in Wagga. My father's family came from Wagga. They built the first concrete home in Australia in Wagga. He was an apiarist and my father had bees at the Bondi carnival that was his interest. That was how he came to come to Campbelltown. He had these bees on top of the dodgem car track as an interest. He eventually found a property at Wedderburn here in 1944/45 and he asked Charlie Knight the fellow who owned the property if he could use an acre of his ground to put his bee hives on. So that was how we first came to Campbelltown.

**AA** So how old were you when you came to Campbelltown?

**AS** I was about 8 or 9. I was born in 1939.

**AA** Do you remember much about Bondi?

**AS** I do as a matter of fact. I was a bit of a scoundrel apparently. My grandfather kept telling me to shut up. I remember a lot about it actually. We used to go up to the golf course, grab a few golf balls and sell them. We used to go down to Dover Heights where the people go fishing now. In those days you could go anywhere when you were a kid. I was only 7 or 8. I remember during the war, they had barbed wire entanglements on Bondi Beach. I can't find any photos of them, but I can remember they used to have these crosses with barbed wire on them along Bondi Beach in case of an invasion.

## 5 mins

The Japanese sent a few shells over in 1942 from outside Bondi into Rose Bay. One landed in a house but nobody died.

**AA** Do you remember the submarine,

**AS** I went through it when I was a kid. They pulled it up out of Sydney Harbour and I remember going through it. That was interesting.

**AA** Did you go to the beach?

**AS** Oh yes, our house was in Gould Street which is a street just behind the hotel. There was Beach Road and Gould Street we were very close to the beach.

**AA** So you would have had a few years at primary school there before you came here.

**AS** Oh yes, I went to Bondi Primary School across the road.

**AA** Was it difficult to leave the school and come to a new school?

**AS** No, I just did what I was told. Dad used to drive his 1936 old Dodge from Bondi to Campbelltown to look after his bees every weekend or so and he used to bring me up and he tried to get me interested in the bees, but they kept stinging me. I thought I didn't like this. I used to help him with the bees. Then this 56 acre property was up for sale in 1946 and he bought this 56 acres for £300. That was a lot of money then. There were no roads then, only dirt tracks. There was no electricity or phone, there was nothing.

**AA** Were there a few houses around?

**AS** No, there was nothing at all. There was this old place here, I forget who owned it. There were the Scattergoods, they were the big concrete people who had a house about a quarter of a kilometre in off the road. That was it.

**AA** Was there a track access to Wedderburn from here?

**AS** There was a pretty ordinary track there. There was a little school down on the corner of Rangers Road and Wedderburn Road, that's all I can remember. I went into Campbelltown Central School. Dad used to drive me in.

## 10 mins

**AA** Did the little school have a name?

**AS** No, it was just a little old school.

**AA** Did you have much to do with the people out at Wedderburn, the fruit growers?

**AS** No, Dad used to bring me up here on weekends or get away for a couple of days. We used to come up and do the extracting of the honey. It didn't impress me because they would sting me; I wasn't going to become an apiarist. I learnt my seven times table in Wedderburn sitting on a big log in the bush. It was pretty basic there, I didn't have shoes.

**AA** Do you remember where you lived when you first came here?

**AS** Yes, it was next door to where we are now. The house is not there now. About a hundred metres in there was an old house when he bought the place. I don't know what happened to the people that owned it. It was an old wooden place. What I do remember are the dirt roads, no nothing and mosquitoes. I remember we had to get cow dung. The Scattergoods across the road had cows and I had to get the cow dung. When it was dry we used to burn that. We virtually lived on rabbits in those days. We had about a dozen traps and Dad and I used to go every evening and set the traps. We ate the things. They were good. We were 5 kilometres from Campbelltown and you didn't go in every day.

**AA** I suppose you had a vegetable garden.

**AS** Oh yes, we had that. We had the water. We had a bucket for a toilet and we used to have to go and bury it. We had water tanks.

**AA** Did you swim down in the river?

**AS** Yes, it was a nice little creek with a sandy beach. I have a photo of it somewhere. We used to walk down and take the dogs down.

**AA** Did you go over the bridge? I suppose you didn't go to Wedderburn much, but did you use the old wooden bridge?

**AS** Oh yes, if it was too sunny, we would sit under the bridge and sit on the sand. It was very nice.

**AA** It's a shame it's not like that now.

**AS** Well, there is no bridge. They promised to build a new bridge.

**AA** What did your mum do?

**AS** It was my stepmother as my mother died. He met a girl in Bondi, Babe Sloper probably about 18 months to two years after mum died. He married her and she was very good to me. He hated Catholics for some reason I don't know. He married a staunch Catholic but they got on very good.

**15 mins**

**AA** Back in those days it was unheard of for a Catholic to marry a non-Catholic. Can I get on to how you two met? You're from the Central Coast Rhonda, is that where you met?

**AS** Dad did business with people who owned the blocks of land in the main street at The Entrance where we would put up our merry-go-rounds. I met Rhonda, she was the best sort at The Entrance. I was 25 and Rhonda was 16. For some reason I won her and we have been happy ever since.

**RS** I had no time for him. I didn't even know he existed. I didn't know what fairy floss tasted like. We used to go to The Entrance to the boxing tent and my father would take me home or it would be threepence to go on the merry-go-round. My parents would go down to the pub and play darts. At 10pm my brothers and I would still be going round on the merry-go-round. I had nothing to do with the carnival life.

He was a bit of a ladies man, "come on darling, come and win a prize" to all these girls. He was in the pub one day talking to my father but he didn't know he was my father. He knew all the locals at The Entrance. He was with another showman and telling my father he had a good one last night and had another one lined up for the next night. He used to boast, I don't know if it was all true or not. When he came to my place, my name is Rhonda and my father's name was Ron, he put two and two together. My father said, he is 25, a show man and a ladies man. I was 16. He used to boast about all his conquests to my father. I would only see him at Easter and Christmas and I wasn't really interested. He used to drive a big truck. I boarded in Concord West when I worked in Local Government and he would come to take me out in a big 3 ton truck. We would only go ten pin bowling or to a nightclub that we couldn't afford.

## **20 mins**

**AS** We went to Chequers night club in the city. There is a cover charge to get in and everything was so expensive. I was doing the right thing taking my girl out; I didn't know the drinks were that expensive. I had no money. Don LeJeune was there. I used to teach judo and he was one of the judo players. For some reason he was there and I bit him for ten pounds. I was just lucky he was there to help me out.

**AA** It would have been a massive change coming from the water to the bush.

**RS** It was, I used to wear my swimming costume every day and very short shorts. I used to wear them shopping and people looked at me. I thought I can't wear shorts in this town. I didn't wear shorts for about 12 months and thought I can't live here. We lived in a 10 foot caravan with a lean to at the back of the house. We came here in 1964 and I had my first baby in 1966 and living on my own

with a dog when he was away with the show. His parents would be away and I was virtually living out here on my own.

I remember one time the baby was sick and I went into the local doctors at 11 at night and knocked the doctor's door. I was 22, a new mother and I was scared. The doctor's surgery was opposite St Peters in Cordeaux Street, Dr Pate. There was Drs Pate, Guest and Parnell, three young doctors. She wasn't really sick; she had only brought up her milk. I had panicked because I was on my own.

**AA** It would have been difficult I should imagine. You would have been isolated out here on your own.

**RS** Oh yes, there was no phone and the mother and father would lock up the house when they went on their run.

**AS** I used to go on my own with someone helping me to do the show run. Rhonda would have to stay here. We had no money. We used to go from town to town and eventually we got a few bob and bought a 24 foot caravan. Then in 1970 we bought a property in Rangers Road.

**RS** My mother and father were divorced and we got some money from them. Alan sold a little property that he had inherited. I don't know where we got the other money from.

**AS** Her mother loaned me \$2,500. My friend and I bought a block of land at Woy Woy and put a house on it, it was sold and I got \$1,000. The property in Rangers Road was for sale for \$14,000. Scattergood was a nice old bloke and we signed a deal that I would pay him so much each month. We wouldn't have had this place without him. I paid him off in about three years. That wasn't much money relative to now.

**AA** Was that on the corner of Rangers Road and Wedderburn Road? Was the school there then?

**AS** I don't think so.

**RS** It was acreage then, Reg Gale had it. There are a couple of houses this side of where the baseball complex is now. That's where the school was.

**25 mins**

**AA** Do you know if the house was called Oakwood? Did it have a name, Scattergood's house? We have a photo of the house I think you mean and it was called Oakwood. We just want to clarify it.

**AS** It could have been. I don't remember it having a name.

**AA** We have photos of the Scattergood family on the land and I think it is Oakwood.

**RS** I've just been out and had a look and this place is called Glenrock.

**AA** You were saying that James Bocking owned that house.

**AS** James Bocking was the first Mayor of Campbelltown and we think he owned that house. Old Scattergood told me that the house was in town and they pulled it down bit by bit and rebuilt it on that five acre property. There was another block on the corner; there was another one on the other side of it down towards the bush. There a few other blocks in there all owned by the Scattergoods. They were the sort of pioneers here.

**RS** I don't know that Brian would know too much of the history. I think that Alison has lost it and wouldn't know either.

**AA** You say that it was demolished this year, 2015.

**AS** Yes, there is not a thing left there, it is unbelievable. It was pretty dilapidated. The people that they leased it to let it run down. That's all that they could do with it I suppose.

**AA** Alan, I will backtrack a bit. Where did you go to high school?

**AS** I went to boarding school in Albury. When I was 11 or 12 I went Albury Grammar School, which is not Scots College. My father's sister lived in Albury and her husband was a high school teacher. My father sent me down there as a boarder to Albury Grammar School and they looked after me on weekends. They sent me down on the train and my Aunty and Uncle picked me up and took me to the school to board.

### **30 mins**

I left the day after I got there. I didn't like the boarding school so I got on a train and came home. My father asked what was I doing home. I told him that I didn't like the boarding school. The next day my dad took me back there. My poor Aunty who was going to look after me on the weekends knew nothing about it. Anyhow I stayed there for a few years. I enjoyed it after a while. I was in the cadets and enjoyed all that. I played Aussie Rules.

**AA** Then you came back to Campbelltown.

**AS** I got my Intermediate Certificate down there and then came back to Campbelltown. I was around 16 to 18. I worked with Teddy McGoldrick the builder for about 18 months. He built the first Catholic Club. I worked with him for a while and built a couple of houses. Then my father got sick and he died. I got out of my apprenticeship and I had to look after his business. It wasn't a big business but he had a few merry-go-rounds and stuff. I had to go out on the run

to look after the ground. In our business if you have a position you have to maintain it and if you lose it someone else gets it and that was valuable. So I went out on the run.

**AA** Was it something that you wanted to do?

**AS** No, I didn't want to be a showman. As it was I took it up and made a good business out of it. I worked hard and enjoyed the building part of it, the building of the trade. I eventually got a few bob, bought a new truck and a new caravan. I built a shooting gallery. Dad used to go to the Brisbane Show and that was good money. He didn't give me much but it was a good learning curve. I was about 21 or 22 before I said I'm not getting on here. He was smoking, drinking too much and gambling. He liked the race horses but couldn't afford it. That taught me not to gamble.

**AA** Was the Brisbane Show as far as you went?

**AS** Yes, that was as far up as we went. In the 30s my father had an old truck and used to go to Ipswich, Gympie and Maryborough, the north run. When he had the carnival at Bondi he used to go up there in the winter. He didn't get much money at Bondi. He got money during the War from 1939 to around 1942, so he stayed around in Sydney. The Yanks would come out on R and R. They used to come to the Bondi Carnival. He had the dodgem cars, Ferris wheels etc.

**35 mins**

**AA** I'll get on to the Fishers Ghost Festival. I believe that your father was instrumental in getting that going.

**AS** I would have been around 18 or 19. My father used to drink at Marsden's Pub, Lack's Hotel. Dad and Jack Farnsworth the Mayor, Harley Daley the Town Clerk and later on Clive Tregear and Guy Marsden were all mates. Guy was running the pub and they all used to sit in the corner and talk rubbish every day. That was it. Dad had a merry-go-round from Bondi. When he finished the carnival at Bondi he sold it, brought the merry-go-round up here and just parked it on the block. I imagine he must have said to Clive or someone, I've got a merry-go-round sitting out there, why don't we put it up in Mawson Park and have a carnival. Give the people rides and earn a few dollars. I wasn't at the meeting, but I imagine that's how it went.

The first one was called the Rose Festival in 1956. Then it just went on from there. Dad was the co-ordinator of the amusements and Jack Farnsworth used to get the OK's from Council. Jack was a really nice old bloke. All I remember is that I was around 18 or 19 and I was the one that had to put the merry-go-round up on my own and it was heavy. I had to use crow bars and jacks. That's how it started. It just went on from there. A few years later as they do now we

invited other showmen in who had different equipment. I don't know how many years we were in Mawson Park. It was a few years because I remember doing

the judo exhibitions in Mawson Park. They formed a social committee from the Rose Festival. I think it was the year after it started that they called it the Fisher's Ghost Festival. There was just the one year of the Rose Festival.

#### **40 mins**

Then a committee was formed. There was Clive Tregear, Alf Sloper, me, Harley Daley, Guy Marsden. I can't remember who else was on it. We had this committee, nothing to do with Council. I can remember dragging heavy chairs from the Council Chambers to the road so the old people could watch the parade. There weren't many people in the parade then. That was the start of it. It went from there and got better and better. When dad died in 1979 I took over from him to run the amusements and we gave the committee 25 per cent of the gross that we took. It's the same now. I think they give them 25 or 30 per cent. It was nothing to do with the Council as much. I make that quite clear because I was there for 52 years running this festival and very proud to do so.

**AA** You must be proud, because you were from the beginning and it is still going strong now.

**AS** A few years ago Council said that they were happy with the way that I had been running it, but they said that they had to call for tenders for people to run the festival. I said that was fair enough, I didn't care who ran it. So they called for tenders from amusement proprietors. At the end of the day they got someone else, Better Amusements and he is a nice bloke. Nobody said thanks Alan for running this festival for 52 years. For the betterment of Council we built the Ambulance Station and the Music Shell in Mawson Park. It wasn't a Council job, they didn't put in their money, it was the committee that did it.

#### **45 mins**

I was annoyed that my father and I started this festival and no-one said thanks. Council took over the committee in the last few years. I remember Ron Moore saying this is the end of the festival as it is. Council want to bring the Festival Committee under the guidance of Council. We were all community minded people and said OK. He said mark my words this is the end of the festival as a community event, the Council will take over. That was Ron; he was a nice old bloke. So that was what they did, they just took over. There was no committee. There are a couple of nice girls there in the Council but they run it. I knew most of the Councillors then and not one of them said thanks for 52 years. I added it up one day and it was probably around \$1 million that we raised. We gave them 25 per cent of the profits.

**AA** Did you have any funny stories over the years with what you did?



## 50 mins

**AS** One year somebody said from Council how do we know that you are giving us the right percentage. I said that you don't really unless you have someone there sitting in the ticket box. I might have had 20 different people at the dodgem cars, Ferris wheel etc. and the next morning after the carnival they would give me a gross figure and a percentage and I would total it all up and would be say \$10,000. I said that you wouldn't know because it's an honesty thing. I trust these people to give me the right money and I give you the right money. One year I said do what you want to do, if you don't trust me put someone in the ticket boxes. They've all got individual ticket boxes. They can report to the Council. They made Mr Jerry Bakkers who owned Bradbury Hardware the Council representative to do this. He said I can't get enough staff to put someone in each ticket box. I said how about when they all come in to pay me the money at 10am and we will work out the percentage. He said that would be better than putting 50 volunteer people in ticket boxes. He said this is too hard. I said you either have to trust the people to bring in the 25 per cent or put people in the ticket boxes. Jerry is a pretty staunch honest bloke and reported back to Council.

## 55 mins

**AA** Did you have any interesting experiences with your job?

**AS** No, people I dealt with were people that I had invited to do the festival and were pretty honest businessmen. Nobody played up, everything was good.

**AA** No, I meant when you were there doing your carnival stuff.

**AS** One night there were these drunks there who wanted to fight and harass people. I said to the Sergeant of Police what are we going to do with these people. There were about five of us and we looked after them. They left the carnival and we never saw them again. The Sergeant said they won't be back and he was in uniform too. I got robbed a few times. Three o'clock in the morning they would come in and knock off prizes.

**RS** The shows are dependent on the weather. If you get good weather you sell ice cones. If it rains back luck you miss out. I had people say to me, you are lucky you have a great big house. I would say yes we are lucky, we started out living in a 10 foot caravan and 25 years later we have a 100 foot house. They don't see what you do like a lot of other businesses do; you get up at 4 o'clock in the morning to set up. Then you pull down in the rain when everyone has gone home with their toys. I would drive from Hay to Molong to Leeton overnight, dirty nappies in the back of the truck. You get to the showground and I would be washing dirty nappies, which were cloth in those days. The public don't see

that, they just see the money in the till because it is all cash. They don't also see that you would start out with \$500 in change. Especially the young ones, cause they don't see much cash these days, everything is cards. That used to get to me, because the public didn't see all that.

### **60 mins**

At Ingleburn a couple of years ago it was pouring down rain and they were pulling down in the pouring rain because the main street had to be cleared by 2am.

Council has been saying that this is the 60<sup>th</sup> year this year. It's not, because it was started in 1956 and the 50<sup>th</sup> was in 2006, so the 60<sup>th</sup> should be next year. There wasn't much promotion. The Fishers Ghost Festival in Mawson Park used to be held in March. Because the weather was always raining they moved it to the warmer month.

**AA** Do you remember the ugly man competition? It was to raise money. It wasn't so much that you were ugly; it was the funds that you raised. Then they went on to some other type of novelties like that.

**RS** There was Miss Spirit before Miss Princess.

**AS** There was a man called Graham Dunstan. He was a leftie and came from Wedderburn, very intelligent but an arty. There was Fred Braat. Graham Dunstan used to write letters to me and he stacked the meeting to take over the Festival Committee. We used to have John Leary or someone like that from Council designated to run the festival. Dunstan used to get subsidies from the government to dress up stilt walkers and things like that. He used to get money from the State Government. We found out he was organising a meeting of all these artists living out at Wedderburn. John Leary, a few Councillors and myself organised our own committee. We had all the people that we knew in Campbelltown, ex Mayors and Councillors. There was a meeting and they lost. It was serious, he was going to put his own people on there, run the festival. Then I started a Judo Club in Campbelltown.

### **65 mins**

**AA** Your daughter has taken over a little bit has she?

**AS** Yes, that's Megan the middle daughter. There's Michelle, Megan and Kylie. Megan and I are partners in Snowy Australia. It is an American firm. This lovely American bloke invented a very sharp blade. I went to an amusement convention at Surfers about ten years ago. They had stalls around; if you were a sign writer you had a stall up advertising that you were selling signs. This American fellow Karl and his wife had a little stall and they had this little white Snowy machine. I've always been into snow cones and fairy floss. He showed

me how the machine worked. It shaved the ice off so fine and was so fast. We used to make snow cones and it took forever. I thought this was unbelievable and I told him that I would like to be his Australian agent. Luckily I was the first one at his stall, there were some after me. He agreed and I became his Australian agent. They're not cheap but they are so fast, you can serve so many more customers. The old machines can take 3 to 4 minutes to make a snow cone. This new machine can make 16 in a minute which is pretty quick at \$4 each.

### **70 mins**

The customer goes one metre away to the flavour station and they choose their own flavour. The customers love choosing their own flavour, so once you have shaved the ice and taken their money, you don't have to do any more business with them, that's the beauty of it. I thought how can you trust people to put on their own flavouring without supervision. Karl explained that they do the big crash car rallies in America where they get 200,000 people. He said with his wife and two daughters they took \$72,000 in two days. He said he did it with the flavour station. I asked if they put too much flavour on. He said on that job they probably lost \$200 in extra flavour that was stolen or put too much on. I said "you've got me, I want some of those machines Karl."

**RS** In America they can pull up in a car park for a couple of hours and serve snowy cones. You can't do that here. We had a guy come and wanted to buy a machine. He lived in Utah for X amount of years and came over here and saw the machine on the Internet. He knew the Snowy from being in America. He just wanted a little machine for his wife to put on the end of a craft stall.

### **75 mins**

**AA** Can you briefly tell me about when you had your heart attack and died? I know it has been written up. Did you see the light?

**AS** People ask me that, but I saw nothing. I was just standing up and next thing I woke up in hospital. I didn't see a thing. Apparently I just fell over and this bloke behind me was from Liverpool Hospital. The worst part was I woke up in Liverpool Hospital and I was so sore it was unbelievable, my chest was so sore. I don't remember blacking out, I don't remember anything, I guess it was just like going to sleep. I am just happy to be here. I wasn't doing anything strenuous; I was just walking up steps. A fortnight before I had had a complete medical check x-rays the lot and I was perfectly healthy. The Professor thought that it was some plaque in the main vessel and it moved up in the heart and I died. When they worked on me it probably moved. They when they used the fibrillator it probably moved the plaque through my system. They did so many tests of me but I was OK. They didn't put in any stents or anything like that. I was concerned that I could walk out of there and it could happen again. He

didn't know how it happened or where the blockage went to. He asked me if I drank wine and I said that I had a bit of a collection. He said he suggested that I drink it because it could happen any time. He was only a young bloke.

### **80 mins**

**AS** I had the carotid artery cleaned out two years later. I went a bit funny walking up the street. I was 75% blocked. Any more blockages and I could have had an aneurism, so I had that cleaned out. About a month ago I had another check and my carotids are as clean as a whistle.

**AA** What do you think of Campbelltown now? Do you like the way that it is going?

**AS** My first memory of Campbelltown is around 33,000 people living here. There are around 150,000 now. I think Campbelltown is a beautiful and wonderful place and I do love it. I wish that they would put another bridge down there that they promised. Somebody should get on to them and open up the road to Wollongong. When there are fires and floods they have to come all the way around to pick up their cars to go to work.

We're pretty right here because I have a 32,000 gallon tank of water. We had no water here when we built this place in 1989.

**RS** This land was part of his father's acreage which was Alan's inheritance. His sister's inheritance was just a building block on the other side.

**AS** Out of dad's 56 acres this is the best five acres. I had to pay a lot of money when dad died because he owed a lot. I paid off his debts. I only wanted five acres of the 56 acres and I won't worry about the money. I got this five acres which was the best five acres and I am happy.

**RS** When we first came here to Campbelltown and there were 33,000 people here, we knew most of them. We knew everyone when we walked up and down the street. I liked the old Main Street. I see that the fish shop has closed down in the main street. That is three people that have tried to keep a fish shop there.

**AA** Did you get all your things at Downes?

**RS** Yes, there and at Fosseys. The kids used to run around in Fosseys and I knew where they were. They had those dress racks in a circle and I would see them spinning around and knew that was where the kids were.

**AS** I remember in Downes where they would put the money in a suction tube and they would send back the change to the till.

### **85 mins**

**AA** Did you go to the old Macquarie Cinema when you were a boy?

**AS** Oh yes, Fred Eves had it. That was on the corner of Browne Street. I don't know if anyone ever said thanks to Ron Moore, but he is gone now. He used to put \$10,000 into the Festival each year out of his own business as a good community minded citizen. He used to get a special firm to take film of the Festival parade each year. I don't know where they are.

**AA** We have some film in the library but not a lot. If it was done every year, I don't know what happened to them.

**RS** How do we get to see them? How can I see the parades because I won a lot of prizes in the parades?

**AA** We have only just got our film digitised. We are in the process of getting it out there now. I can let you know when it is ready and you can have a look.

**RS** I still have all my pennants down in the shed. Going back to 1984, Prettiest Float, Best Float etc. We used to put a lot of effort into it. What I found about the Parade, I don't know about this year because I didn't get down there, but they are very bland, there is now prettiness about it. There just seems to be a tractor and fire engines and a plain one going past with The Chronicle or The Advertiser written on it. I remember one year walking down with the girls and I was all dressed up with a wig on and carrying a big high heeled shoe like Priscilla. We would get a bit round of applause when we walked past, the crowd would be clapping. I know the Theatre Group always does something. I feel like saying do something give the people something worthwhile to see. It used to be six people deep all the way along the street. There would be people up on the roofs of the hotels and now there is hardly anybody.

## **90 mins**

**AS** Ron Moore used to put in \$10,000 and that was for six or eight good bands. All the good marching bands would be there, the Army band. That split up the parade. Now it's just Fred Blogg's Hardware.

**RS** In Browne Street there was Mrs Mac's taxi service opposite the Bowling Club. She used to run a taxi from home. That was John, Bruce and Ron McDonald's mum. They were good friends of Alan's family. Her husband used to drive it and it was the only taxi in Campbelltown. It was a black hire car. That was it, there was nobody to use it in those days.

**AA** Did you mainly drink at Lack's Hotel or did you drink at any other pub.

**AS** There was The Good Intent Hotel at the other end of town with Nock and Kirby's next to it. The Railway Hotel was down the bottom. We used to just go to Lack's. Everyone knew Guy and John and Jim.

**RS** In the main street there was a little wooden stall. The Red Cross would have it one week with their cakes. Somebody else would have it the next week. It was opposite the Mawson Park. It would have been near Romalis's Fish Shop on a vacant block of land.

**AA** Thank you very much for talking to me, I have really enjoyed it.