

Interviewee: Jean Egan

Timed summary: Jean Egan interviewed by Mary Hutchison

Session #1: 03/03/2022

Time	Subjects	Key subject words including names of people and organisations
00:00:00	Introduction. Growing up on the edge of Exmoor. Impact of father's war service on family life. Plants on the Moor make up for lack of childhood friends. Memories of the Moor help adjustment to London life.	Social isolation, Bluebells, Celandines, Primroses, Dulverton, Marsh Hill, Winsford Hill
00:04:46	[closing door to block out construction noise] Schooling. Interest in career with plants. Father's occupation as head gardener at a local Stately Home, Marsh Hill House. Barriers to tertiary education. Work and training by correspondence at local pharmacy as dispenser.	Seed banks, Apothecary Hall Certificate of Dispensing, social discrimination, women's education, country life
00: 08:13	Work and life in London. Meeting husband to be. Plans to go to Australia. Bill's recruitment to position Australian Bureau of Statistics. Travel to Australia	Earls Court, Bill Egan, emigration, 'ten-pound scheme', <i>Castel Felice</i> , computer programming, Qantas
00:11: 45	Arrival in Canberra in 1966. Delight in environment. Experience of generous Government provisions and regulations for rental accommodation and public housing. Move to a Government house in Aranda 1968. First awareness of local Australian wildflowers. Travel to Canada in 1970 and return to Aranda house. Canberra lifestyle 1960 – 70s.	Acton Hostel, Stoke-on-Trent, Griffith, 'Rate Reg. 97', public housing, Canberra lifestyle, <i>Caladenia fuscata</i> , Whitlam Government
00:15:46	Attraction to Aranda hills. New Canberra suburbs. First knowledge of Black Mountain. Introduction to Aranda before Belconnen Way. Early Aranda with three young children, Experience of Canada and decision to return.	Lyons, Curtin, Dryandra Street, Wybalena Grove, Bindubi Street, Vancouver, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Pat Tandy (Egan)
00: 20:28	Family life 1970s includes regular walks on Black Mountain and general interest in plants. By 1980s seriously looking at and documenting orchids on Black Mountain. Initial orchid walks on Black	Australian Native Plants Society Canberra Region (ANSPC), Namadgi National Park, orchid surveys

	Mountain for members of Orchid Society of Canberra in 1988. Recent involvement in Society's conservation group.	
00:24:23	Membership of Orchid Society of Canberra. Growing interest in conservation on Black Mountain. Own and Aranda residents' response to building of Telecom Tower. Busyness of family life and work.	Bicycle issues, Telstra Tower, FoBM logo, AME School (Association for Modern Education)
00:28:59	Study and work after return from Canada. Biological Research Technicians Course leads to laboratory work in School of Chemistry at ANU and National Biological Standards Laboratory. Move to desk work includes position in Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (PM&C) Co-operative Research Centre Program. Retirement 1996.	Child-care, micro-analytical work, Therapeutic Goods Administration
00:34:52	Constant interest in plants and development of knowledge about orchids parallel to career in chemistry [pause]	
00:37:11	[return to interview] After children leave home more time for regular investigation and documentation of orchids on Black Mountain. Excitement of finding bearded orchids. Meeting other 'orchid people' on Black Mountain and through social networks. Sharing interest and information leads to setting up ACT email orchid group in 2000.	<i>Calochilus</i> (Bearded Orchid), <i>Diuris</i> (Donkey Orchid), <i>Glossodia</i> (Waxlip Orchid), Namadgi, Ian Fraser, Peter Milburn, bird-watching, Jeremy Evans, Eyal Lebedinsky, Orchid Society
00: 42:51	Exploration of orchids in Fiji after retirement. After return in 1999, voluntary work on orchid specimens for National Herbarium. Formation and growth of email orchid group. People involved. Limiting knowledge of orchid locations.	Orchid pollinators, Rod Peakall, David Jones, Mark Clements
00:45:37	Frank Bullen's involvement in email group. His discovery of <i>Orthoceras strictum</i> , previously unknown in ACT, on Black Mountain in 2000. Later attempts to locate the plants. [general conversation with rubbish truck noise]. Christmas day 2005 one plant found but only stalk remained the following day.	Research grids, common names, Horned Orchid
00:50:18	Another five years before <i>Orthoceras strictum</i> seen again on Black Mountain. Since then intermittent sightings. Common on sandstone ridges and at the coast. Description of <i>Orthoceras strictum</i> . [pause]	Sassafras sandstone ridge, Nerriga, Horned Orchid, labellum, sepals

00:53:30	[return after pause] Orchid Email Group recording activities. Current project to create spreadsheet of all orchids recorded in ACT by Group. Research value of record kept over drought and burns. Namadgi fires 2019. Content of email records. Orchids as indicators of environmental conditions. Location references.	Climate change, insect pollinators, drought, native Lobelia, trails
00:58:27	Showing Black Mountain orchids to people. Contemporary process of mapping orchids using ACT Government computer software. Tony and Jean's printed map of orchids 2012 and its value for ACT Department of Environment.	Scientific mapping, Tony Wood, prescribed burns
01:02:16	Variety of Black Mountain's orchid habitats and 64 species. Importance of aspects and soils. Ongoing discovery of new orchids on Black Mountain and often in the ACT. Habitat in deep gully near summit. Habitat requirements of specific orchids.	Gullies, hillsides, grasslands, <i>Corysanthes</i> , <i>Orthoceras</i> , <i>Caladenia mentiens</i>
01:07:44	End of session	

Session #2: 07/03/22

Time	Subjects	Key subject words including names of people and organisations
00:00:00	First walks on Black Mountain for Orchid Society of Canberra, 1988. Ben Wallace's orchid walk from ANBG annex. Leading walks from before orchid guides to computer software.	Australian National Botanic Gardens, pollinators, Tony Wood
00:03:39	Meeting Tony Wood 2000. Orchid walks with Tony from 2002. Continued by Jean after Tony's death 2018. Tony's pattern of walks. Jean's interest in providing information with illustrations about the different structures of orchids.	National Herbarium, Australian Bureau of Statistics, voluntary work, Friends of Australian National Botanic Gardens, Friends of Black Mountain, petals, sepals, <i>Glossodia</i> , <i>Diuris</i>
00:07:58	Details of Tony and Jean's regular spring walk for Friends groups each October. Plans for autumn walk 2022. Care for orchids on walks. Introducing walk participants to native orchids and black Mountain. Enjoyment of sharing information on orchid walks for Native Plants Society Wednesday walkers.	Friends of Australian National Botanic Gardens, Friends of Black Mountain, conservation, community education, bush walking
00:13:15	Value of coloured trails established after declaration of Reserve. Present day	Black Mountain Trails, conservation, orchids, Aranda

	remnants. Impact of Capital Punishment cycling events on fire trails basis for concern about Centennial Trail (2013). Work with Jean Geue on realignment. Individual activism pre FoBM.	Bushland, Friends of Black Mountain, ParkCare groups, Mount Majura, Mount Ainslie
00:18:31	Pamphlet guides for coloured walking trails. Difficulty in accessing trails from Aranda after Gungahlin Drive Extension. Official walks use existing fire trails and minor tracks. Contribution to FoBM discussion about tracks to be used.	Wangara Street, Wildflower walks, Burbidge & Chippendale, Rosemary Blemings,
00:22:27	Role in Friends of Black Mountain based on own conservation work until its formation. FoBM logo design. Black Mountain Orchid. Appreciation of FoBM initiative to establish walks with Indigenous knowledge holders	Jean Geue, Linda Beveridge, <i>Diurus nigromontana</i> . Designer of FOBM Logo was Mariana Rollgejser, based on photo by Tony Wood.
00:27:40	Involvement in negotiation to minimise Impact of Gungahlin Drive Extension on access to Black Mountain. Disappointment in result. New access from Aranda. Ongoing issue of Caswell Drive entrance signage and safety. Lack of response to Friends of Black Mountain's recent submission re concerns.	ACT Government consultation, Wangara Drive, Noala Street, protest
00:33:00	Ongoing problem of Caswell Drive entrance for Black Mountain activities. Impact of Gungahlin Drive Extension on Aranda Residents includes change to access to Black Mountain from Aranda.	ParkCare, Wangara Drive, Bindubi Street, Noala Street, parking
00:35:59	Impact of Capital Punishment mountain bike race on Black Mountain (2009-2014). Damage caused. Encourages creation of illegal cycle paths. Agitation against bike events. Reparation by ride organisers. Failure of deal to allow use of Bruce Ridge instead of Black Mountain.	Centennial Trail, <i>Lyperanthus suaveolens</i> , ParkCare Rangers, erosion, protest
00:40:31	Agitation against bike events with support of orchid email group. Characteristics of <i>Lyperanthus</i> (beak orchids)	Aranda Bushland
00:44:18	Wonderland of orchids in 'Tony's Gully'. Destruction caused by power line contractors. Introducing Park Ranger to orchids leads to discovery of new orchid for ACT.	Tony Wood, Peter Milburn, Eyal Lebedinsky, <i>Corysanthes hispida</i> <i>Acianthus collinus</i>
00:50:25	[pause]	
00:50:31	Updating digital orchid map. (Original actual map was colour coded by numbered coloured dots-showing location and species.)	Namadgi, Mulligans Flat

00:54:40	Development of <i>Field Guide to Orchids of the ACT</i> (2008) with David Jones and Tony Wood. Role to enhance all drawings of orchids. Development of <i>Field Guide to Orchids of the Southern Tablelands of NSW including the ACT</i> (2020) with Tony Wood. Jean's completion of the project after Tony's death with additional co-authors and many helpers. Difficulty of conducting orchid research during drought.	Black Mountain, David Jones, Roger Farrow, Tobias Hayashi
00: 59:05	Publication details <i>Field Guide to Orchids of the ACT</i> (2008). Post retirement orchid activities.	National Herbarium, Mark Clements, National Parks Association of the ACT, illustration enhancement, graphic design, Fiji.
01: 03:30	Interest in illustration and graphic design. Learning design skills through work on development of both orchid books	Orchid illustration
01:07:23	Learning about plants as a child. Love of looking for and checking locations. Later realisation of issue of common names. Value of identifying plant habitats without GPS.	Exmoor, environmental knowledge, Global Positioning System
01:10:29	Story of discovering new orchid for the ACT, <i>Chiloglottis seminuda</i> , seen every year in one spot on Black Mountain and nowhere else in ACT. Discovery of another rare ACT orchid on Black Mountain <i>Diplodium nanum</i> seen for three years and not since. Enjoyment of getting to know orchids in their native environment.	Ben Wallace, Tony Wood, <i>Chiloglottis valida</i> , National Herbarium, <i>Chiloglottis reflexa</i> , Rod Peakall, Australian National University, The Pinnacle
01:15:35	End of session	