

Friends of Black Mountain Oral History Project 2021-23



Interviewee: Kim (Kimberi) Pullen

Timed summary: Kim Pullen interviewed by Mary Hutchison

Date: 23/5/2022

Session #1 00:42:32

Time	Subjects	Key subject words including names of people and organisations
00:00:00	Introduction. Growing up and working alongside Black Mountain. Parents' background. Father's love of the bush. Move to Canberra for father's work at CSIRO.	Armidale, Boorowa, Gundagai, Second World War, Blue Mountains
00:03:52	Work of both parents at CSIRO. Father's interests in insects and botany. Employed as Field Botanist in Papua New Guinea. Relationship between insects and plants. Mother's work at CSIRO as a librarian	
00:06:50	Arrival in Canberra as child in 1957 before Barry Drive existed. Easy access to bush. Learning of father's childhood insect collection and collecting. Learning bushcraft and collecting beetles on Black Mountain	Turner, Sullivans Creek, Belconnen
00:11:27	Interest in insects as child and teenager. Returning to collecting locations on Black Mountain. Schooling and early university studies.	Rugby Union, Haig Park Kindergarten, Turner Primary School, Canberra High School, Wollongong University, University of Canberra
00:16:09	Interest in languages as well as science. Restlessness as young adult. Work in population genetics laboratory at ANU. Enjoyment of field work. Similar work at CSIRO. No collecting on Black Mountain for work but permanent CSIRO light trap on Black Mountain added large number of moths and beetles to CSIRO collection (see Ted Edwards interview).	Australian National University, Research School of Biological Sciences, Laboratory Assistant, grasshoppers, Nullarbor Plain, mercury vapour lamp
00:21:28	Continued own collection while working for CSIRO on biological control of weeds and pests. Pest control in orchards. Population control and monitoring.	Pheromones, Codling Moth, Peach Tip Moth, pheromone traps
00:24:48	Interest in sponsoring education of child overseas. Decision to visit foster child in Guatemala results in life changing experience.	Foster Parents Plan, Mexico Antigua Guatemala, Belize

00:29:35	Plans to return to Central America once back in Australia include course in teaching English language. Donation of insect collection to CSIRO. Awareness of impact of Canberra development on Black Mountain during 1970s. Own patch eastern side close to Turner.	Barry Drive, O'Connor Ridge
00:34: 48	Opportunity to work in CSIRO Laboratory in Acapulco. Stimulation of new environment and culture. Meets wife. Laboratory moves to Veracruz. Takes job teaching English after return to Acapulco. Birth of first daughter. Meeting with Australian entomologist provides opportunity for work in Mexico for Queensland Government [Interruption].	Biological control of weeds, tropical weeds, Paterson's Curse, St John's Wort, Queensland Department of Lands, Texas, Lantana
00:42:32	End of session	

Date: 23/5/2022

Session #2: 00:36:43

Time	Subjects	Key subject words including names of people and organisations
00:00:08	Entomology position in Mexico for Queensland Department of Lands. Move from Acapulco to Cuernavaca. Return to Australia 1993. Adjustment difficulties for family during 1990s involves moves between Mexico and Canberra.	
00:04: 40	Differences in primary school education between Mexico and Australia. Decision to stay in Australia.	
00:07:53	Kim's study and work in Canberra from 1993. Ongoing projects with CSIRO until retirement. Biodiversity study near Renmark. Publishing as author and co-author. Enjoyment of writing.	Spanish, University of Canberra, field work, mallee.
00:11:11	Recent work on National Insect Collection reconnects with first interests. Early introduction to collection by one of father's colleagues. Father's continuing interest in insect collection in New Guinea. Experience of looking at CSIRO collection as 14-year-old. Fascination of Renmark biodiversity study. CSIRO restructure brings all collections under one management umbrella.	
00:15:59	Varied work at CSIRO before retirement. Fewer projects in changing funding	Wheat breeding

	regime. Honorary Fellowship to work on ACT insects in CSIRO collection.	
00:18:43	Progress on list of Black Mountain insects. Potential publication. Identification of ACT species major part of work. Issue of cataloguing as data base or hard copy. Value of including specimens in CSIRO collection in existing data bases. Issue of huge number of insects.	<i>Atlas of Living Australia</i> , digital format, ACT Environment Directorate
00:23:06	Transition to digital management of scientific knowledge and keeping up with changes in information. Value of online resource that can be added to.	Taxonomy, classification, <i>Eriostemon</i>
00:24:35	Moderator for Canberra Nature Map. Enjoyment of interactions with people including broader online groups. Input of photographers to Canberra Nature Map. 'Getting your eye in' in identifying different insects.	Butterflies, Facebook groups, Beetles
00:28:19	Enjoyment of community education online. Value of broad knowledge of insects through work in many areas of entomology. Experience of guiding walks.	Friends of Black Mountain, Field Naturalists of the ACT
00:31:37	Connection with Friends of Black Mountain on basis of Black Mountain's importance in early interest in insects. Role of parents' garden in attracting insects. Walking and running on Black Mountain. Provision of information as contribution to conservation and biodiversity. Support for environmental causes and connections with community groups. [decision to take a break.]	Cross country running, Little Black Mountain, Friends of Black Mountain, Gungahlin Drive Extension, Friends of Grasslands
00:36:43	End of session	

Date: 23/5/2022

Session #3: 00:21:28

time	subjects	Key subject words including names of people and organisations
00:00:00	[background noise issue] Connections with various community groups and organisations through Facebook questions. Continuing interest in ACT nature reserves. Involvement in Friends of Black Mountain Symposium. Continuing interest in activities of Friends of Black Mountain.	Conservation Council ACT Region, Ginninderra Falls Association, Namadgi National Park

00:02:26	Values of Black Mountain as ACT reserve. Conservation example. Distinct geology and history of land use. Wealth and variety of beetle species on Black Mountain includes 30 different kinds of <i>Castiarina</i> Jewel Beetles. Continually adding to list of these since childhood to recent finds.	Biodiversity, Lake Burley Griffin, coppiced trees
00:08:13	Colours and size of Jewel Beetles. Association between insects and plants. Rare pollen- feeder leaf beetle found on western side of Black Mountain 1980s. Recently recorded on Black Mountain and Mount Painter. Only specimens with origins known. Insects as pollinators. Intricate methods of orchid pollination by specific species. Orchid dependency on these.	Gum trees, Grevillea species, Grasses, new unnamed species, Canberra Nature Map, conservation, pollen packets, wasps, flies
00:13:34	Concerns for future of Black Mountain. Health of soil organisms and other micro-organisms rarely seen. Impact of significant fire event. Black Mountain's distinctive nature and isolation as issues for recovery. Leaf litter insects lack of mobility.	Fungi, climate change, controlled burns, Mt Ainslie, Mt Majura, Red Hill,
00:17: 19	[discussion of audience for FoBM oral histories] Value of stories of insects and their collection for developing community interest in them.	
00:20:00	End of session	