

Tom & Jean Moppett

**TOM & JEAN MOPPETT**

**INTERVIEWED BY KLAUS HUENEKE**

**JUNE 1984**

This is an interview with Tom Moppett and his wife Jean whose maiden name was Trimble, at their home in the Blue Mountains at Medlow Bath, on the 14th June 1984.

Tom and his wife and Oliver Moriarty did a ski tour from Kiandra to the Kosciusko Hotel, back in 1936 and have quite a collection of old photographs.

KH: Whites River didn't have a verandah.

TM: Does it have a verandah now?

KH: Yes, it has a porch, which is closed in, which used to have the food cupboard on the left, just as you go in the door.

TM: I don't remember the food cupboard.

JM: I don't think it had a food cupboard.

KH: The Whites River Club might have put that in after you were there, I think.

JM: I would say so. A lot of people have used it.

TM: And the Kosciusko Alpine Club improved it a lot, post-war.

KH: Were the big Antarctic-type sleeping bags there when you were there?

JM: No, there was nothing, there weren't even bunks.

TM: There were bunks.

JM: When we took Flo there were bunks.

TM: It was only the next year.

JM: Yes, '37.

KH: Was there an extra room on the back?

TM: Yes there was a room on the back with bunks, and there was some locker things in that room, I think. I think there was some sleeping bags there.

KH: That's apparently where they were.

TM: Yes, in some locker thing, but I don't think they were Antarctic, I think they were just ordinary bags.

KH: There was something special about them, they were very unusual for the time, I thought.

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TM: I don't remember.  
 KH: Then the rats got into them and that was the end of it. They were noteworthy for some reason.  
 JM: Well we never used them or had anything to do with them.  
 TM: I'm sure we saw them there. Whether that was the time we went with Flo or whether it was Oliver, I can't remember. They were only a year apart so there wouldn't have been much change.  
 KH: George Day, in his collection of photographs, has a photo of Whites River from the Gungahlen slope, looking at Whites River. I think its also the same photo as in Elyne Mitchell's book, on Australia's alps. It's dramatic in the absence of snow gums.  
 JM: Really.  
 KH: That whole slope, from Whites River right up to the Rolling Grounds was practically all open, largely bare, with just dead spars of snow gums sticking out of it. Was it like that?  
 JM: No, there were trees.  
 TM: Well we should see some photographs.  
 JM: That's a poster.  
 KH: I didn't think it was a photo. And who did this album?  
 JM: Well we all had a hand in it. Ray Bean and ...  
 TM: A friend, Dunk, who made the covers, and Ray Bean, who was a professional photographer and processor, he did all the printing concerned.  
 KH: Was he a skier too?  
 TM: No, no connection. Things like that we just cut up photographs.  
 KH: Yes, it's a nice technique.  
 TM: Right this is Kiandra.  
 JM: It says over here.  
 KH: That's who took the photo is it?  
 TM: Yes. This is the village of Kiandra.  
 KH: I haven't seen that big hotel there before.  
 TM: That's the ? Hotel, that's where we stayed. I don't think it's there now.  
 KH: Is this book mainly about the Kiandra/Kosciusko journey? It's all sorts of things.  
 JM: It's in sections.

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TM: It's meant to represent all our skiing - pre war skiing I think. That's all the way into Kiandra, it's just coming around the - just over the other side of that gap, the other side of that hill really.  
 KH: I can't remember what that gap's called now.  
 TM: I don't either, but the snow always appears most heavily just there.  
 JM: That's as far as we got.  
 TM: We skied from there, over the hill and sort of down, along the road.  
 KH: It's part of Mount Tantangara. Although Mount Tantangara was up further, I think, part of that ridge. I think it's Sawyers Hill.  
 TM: I think it is, I'm not sure about that.  
 JM: That rings bells.  
 TM: It's the main road, at that time it was the main road into Kiandra.  
 KH: What sort of a car was that?  
 JM: Oh heaven knows.  
 TM: We hired that. We would have got it from - it wouldn't be Jindabyne, it could have been from Jindabyne, I don't remember.  
 KH: You'd go down on the train to Cooma.  
 TM: Yes, and we would have got a bus to Jindabyne.  
 KH: It was like a taxi - did it have a driver.  
 JM: Oh yes, because it had to go back.  
 KH: Wasn't it Balmain Brothers?  
 JM: Yes, they were the bus people.  
 KH: I thought they had taxis too.  
 TM: Well perhaps they did, I really can't remember just where we got it from, or who from.  
 JM: I suspect that it was Cooma.  
 KH: Did it have chains?  
 TM: No, I don't think we had chains. We just went until we couldn't go any further.  
 JM: They were always fairly helpful these people. He was a bit sorry he couldn't take us further.  
 KH: Who printed these by the way?  
 TM: Ray Bean.

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JM: Tom said he did the processing. This one, West from Tabletop. Jargunal is not visible because of the cloud probably.

TM: It wouldn't be in the view would it?

JM: Oh no, Round Mountain way more.

TM: Yes.

KH: You were very small then.

JM: Yes, I was, wasn't I. Can you see my baggy pants. They were pure flannel.

KH: A fluffy surface?

JM: More or less, but sort of thickly woven. You know what a pair of flannel slacks would be like - do you know what flannel is like.

KH: I know flannel pyjamas.

JM: No that's flannelette. It's the same thing only its pure wool and it's about that thick, it's not thin.

KH: Would it soak up the moisture, if you sat down it would get wet quickly?

TM: It's not ideal for skiing.

JM: We didn't have any - we had waterproofs.

KH: That's at Kiandra?

TM: Yes, that's Township Hill.

JM: Somewhere in this vicinity is the Youth Hostel.

KH: That's all gone now, there's only a couple of buildings left in Kiandra. Oh yes, that's the one that's in the newspaper isn't it.

TM: Yes. Just as we were leaving, about to set off from Kiandra. The weather was not very good then.

KH: Is this you?

JM: That would be Tom.

KH: With the shoulder bags there, that's an interesting innovation.

TM: Walkers use those quite a lot.

JM: Gunney sacks, down here.

KH: Attached to the straps, to the pack.

TM: Yes, that's right. It counterbalances the weight and also it's a bit more space.

KH: They're the packs that you made yourself?

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TM: No, these are Paddy's. ... would have been the one I was talking about earlier, that still exists, it's lived for 50 years.

JM: But I would have made the wind jacket.

KH: You made them from your own design?

JM: I probably had a pattern or something.

KH: A bit like the Kiwi jacket later on?

JM: Yes, not unlike it.

KH: And this is Oliver Moriarty, and you.

JM: Yes.

KH: You've got downhill skis, did you have steel edges?

TM: Cross country skis were not used then, a long time before then. We just had ordinary skis.

JM: Which we still have.

TM: I still have these skis. I don't think you have those, because they went with Alpine Hut, that particular pair, they were an emergency pair.

KH: Did they, because Alpine hut has burnt down now, you know, but there was a pair of old skis before it was burnt.

JM: They were mine. I got a new pair.

KH: This is a sort of a *Kandahar* hard type binding, there brackets, leather strap over the toe and a spring around the heel.

JM: That's right, and with cleats on the side of the ski that you could pull your cables down under and get a bit more downhill heel pull.

KH: So you had more control for downhill runs I suppose. Did you use that very much?

TM: Not on that trip, you wouldn't use it at all, I don't think.

KH: The skins you had ....

JM: Seal skins. They were made in Japan.

KH: Not imitation ones?

JM: No real skins, we've still got them.

TM: They were quite light narrow ones.

KH: Did you have trouble with them slipping off?

JM: Never.

TM: No, they seemed to work very well.

JM: Flo was the only one who lost her skins.

KH: You were wearing Balaclavas and goggles of some kind.

JM: Yes. I made goggles, folding goggles.

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KH: What did you use for the surface?  
 JM: Mica, some plastic thing, orangey coloured plastic.  
 KH: And the big plates on the stocks, bamboo stocks. The men both had very heavy packs, I think, from your article.  
 JM: About 50 lbs. it says. I've got 30 lbs. That's for starting off of course.  
 KH: That's with food for 2 weeks.  
 JM: That's right, except for what was in the huts.  
 TM: We skied all the way.  
 KH: But that wasn't until Mawsons.  
 JM: Until we got half way across.  
 TM: inaudible.  
 JM: But we'd done weeks and fortnights walking trips. I dried vegetables for our trips.  
 KH: How?  
 JM: You hang them on a string near a sunny window. I used to peel the parsnips and the carrots and cut them into rings, put a needle through them and thread them all up and hang them, and the sun dried them.  
 KH: Didn't do them in the oven or anything?  
 JM: They were much nicer than the old Swallow and Aerials(?) which came in a pack, a crushed up thing that came from England and always smelled dried, <sup>eehhh,</sup> a terrible smell.  
 KH: Did you dry your own sultanas and apricots and things like that too?  
 JM: No, you could buy those. But I was a working girl in those days, I didn't have that much time. I was also secretary to the club for quite a long time, the Sydney Bushwalkers.  
 TM: That was later.  
 JM: Yes, that was towards the end of the '30s. All the men went off to the war.  
 KH: 11 a.m. Tuesday, 4 August 1936 - that's good, I know exactly when it happened now. That's an interesting collage. It's been done on photographic paper, multiple exposure and then touched up a bit.  
 JM: This fellow Bean, he's very clever.  
 KH: I've seen this old map, that was the map you used?  
 JM: It would have been.

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KH: That was the only map you had I suppose.  
 TM: We would have had three copies of the same map I think. It was the only map that was worth using, that was available, at that time.  
 KH: Have you got individual photos of these.  
 JM: They're in here.  
 TM: They're the ones you've already seen.  
 JM: This is Tabletop. That's O'Keefes, and this is Farm Ridge isn't it.  
 KH: Yes.  
 TM: I think that might be Whites River.  
 JM: Yeah that could be.  
 TM: The way the snow always melts up in the front. I'm not sure about that.  
 KH: No, the chimney is on the other end.  
 TM: Perhaps it's Mawsons.  
 KH: It could be from the top above Mawsons, yes.  
 JM: Where is it on the map Tom, because I think they were put - that's why these three .... together.  
 TM: It's closer to Mawsons.  
 KH: Mawsons is under there.  
 TM: Yes, well it would be meant to be Mawsons.  
 JM: We tried to put them somewhere near, in the vicinity.  
 KH: How did he get the map on there.  
 JM: Don't ask us, he did it.  
 TM: I don't know his techniques. He would have photographed the ...  
 JM: I suspect that he would have made a negative of this, the map, and would have perhaps cut holes - no, it's got the map through it hasn't it.  
 TM: He just takes another photograph and superimposes it, later on.  
 JM: I think he probably printed these and then put the map on top of it. He's a very innovative gentleman, he does very clever things.  
 KH: That looks like the Tin hut there.  
 TM: We went to the Tin hut, we didn't camp there.  
 JM: This up here, that's the chimney.



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KH: Yes, it looks like the opening on the eastern side.  
 JM: Yes, I think it is.  
 TM: I suppose it would have to be because we didn't go to any other hut.  
 KH: You didn't go to Kidmans hut or Alpine hut?  
 TM: No. Well Alpine didn't exist, it's way over here somewhere.  
 KH: That's good, that's really worth looking at. From the mouth of Mulligans Creek.  
 JM: .... these great patches of snow. We were putting our ski on and off all the way across.  
 TM: Yes, and carrying them quite long distances.  
 KH: Yes, I've walked across there several times.  
 JM: It's a long way isn't it.  
 KH: Yes, it seems like a long way.  
 JM: It is when you're carrying.  
 KH: In the end, I think, the last crossings I've done, we've crossed low down because you get across to the Boobee Ridge. You get across from the ridge that comes off Tabletop, drop down in Happy Jacks and get back into wooded country where the Boobee hut is and you get into snow more quickly. Even though you drop more, you get into snow more quickly.  
 TM: Yes, I guess that would be so.  
 KH: Rather than going right around the top of the head waters.  
 JM: I can remember carrying my ski over there, I got sick to death of them by the time I got to the other side, it's a long way.  
 KH: Did you have to wade <sup>the</sup> Happy Jacks?  
 TM: .. Well, the fence. *- Mc. Keahnies*  
 KH: I wonder why you've got ..  
 Creek. The main one is now called the Happy Jacks River, so this is just a tributary.  
 JM: He says in here something about it. Here it is. We waded across....  
 TM: ... Happy Jacks, Mulligans Creek, <sup>Mc</sup> Gregors Creek, <sup>Mc Keahnies</sup> Creek.  
 KH: Oh yes, it's just as big as the other one.  
 TM: This is the junction, this is the main Happy Jacks River there, I think.

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JM: It says here, that: 'when we reached the Happy Jacks Rivers it looked rather uncomfortably deep for crossing. So we followed it up stream for about 2 miles. Here it was only knee deep, so we waded and then immediately crossed on a fence, <sup>Mc Keahnies</sup> Creek, a tributary of Happy Jacks'. Tom never made fancy stories out of anything, he stuck to fact.  
 KH: Where was it that you camped out for the first night?  
 JM: Farm Ridge.  
 KH: You didn't quite get to Farm Ridge.  
 JM: We couldn't find it. It was misty and ...  
 TM: Yes, we got to the place but couldn't find the hut.  
 JM: We weren't sorry the next day because Farm Ridge was in such a delapidated state.  
 TM: It wasn't worth staying in.  
 KH: Even then!  
 JM: I think it had something done to it, in the meantime, hasn't it?  
 KH: No, it's gone now, practically on the ground now.  
 TM: It wasn't much use then, not in winter time.  
 JM: It wasn't much of a shelter.  
 KH: So you didn't stay there the next night?  
 JM: No, we went on.  
 KH: Did you go up Jargun\_al?  
 JM: Yes.  
 KH: Did you call it Jargun\_al then?  
 JM: Yes.  
 KH: You did call it the Big Bogong?  
 TM: No. We knew that that was an alternative name, it's on the map, but it was always referred to as Jargun\_al as far as I know, at that time, by both walkers and skiers. What anybody else called it, I'm not responsible for.  
 JM: I had carried, secretly, up till then, 4 ounces of ginger chocolates, to celebrate reaching the top of Jargun\_al. It had been a pinnacle for us. All our skiing up the southern end of the range, you see, in the earlier days. I opened them up, but you couldn't eat them because they were cold and hard.  
 TM: They were dry.  
 JM: They were terrible.

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KH: Your cheeks would be cold, there wouldn't have much warmth in your mouth to melt them.

JM: We were warm from climbing up.

TM: We couldn't see very much further than the chocolates. It was not an ideal day to view the views from the mountain top.

JM: It was a great disappointment.

KH: Oh you went on to Bogong hut didn't you.

TM: Yes, I was just going to mention that, which is not a long distance. We stayed at Bogong for two nights and then, it must have been the next day that we came straight over here and went out to the trig(?) station and then came back a bit, to Mawsons.

KH: Was there any food at Bogong hut?

JM: Not that I remember.

TM: I was saying earlier that we didn't send any there.

JM: I'm almost sure we didn't.

TM: I think you're right. We were carrying food up until we reached Mawsons. Incidentally none of these tins were ever opened, except once, and someone - this was at the White River hut - someone opened the tin and they took out ....

JM: They took out a tin of golden syrup and put in a tin of plum jam. They didn't deprive us, actually.

TM: They must have been a bit in need, or wanted something more tastier than they had, or something of that sort.

KH: But you'd had the food brought in there the previous summer, so it must have been a stockman, or a bushwalker.

JM: But nobody would know. We never had anything touched, it was always sitting there waiting for us. They were Arnott biscuit tins, the tall ones, and I used to turn that into an oven, that became my oven.

TM: Oh they were Arnott biscuit tins, I was thinking they were kerosene tins.

JM: No, they were Arnott biscuit tins that we soldered down.

KH: You would then place it next to the fire and put the hot coals over the top or something.

JM: The solder that put the lid on, the lid had a wire through it with bits curled over from the body to the lid, and that always melted off. I would just hook the folded down bit over the top and put a stick against it, and that became my oven.

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KH: But next to the fire.

JM: On top of the fire.

KH: So the bottom would get red hot.

JM: I was careful. I've cooked in the bush all my life, so I know what to do with a fire.

KH: You'd use it like one of those cast iron ...

JM: Camp oven. Similar. Always around the hut you'd find a piece of tin or something to put in it to damp down the heat. You'd either put it above or below, and then you always lifted the coals on to the top to get your heat going down.

KH: The same as a camp oven. And you'd bake damper in that?

JM: Yes, we lived on damper.

KH: Biscuits and things as well.

JM: No just always damper.

TM: It was always simple, the cooking. We cooked as few things as possible.

JM: Once we met a camper oven in Whites River - that was with Flo. When Flo recovered she made us peach turnover or something.

KH: That would be quite a treat I would think.

TM: Mawson had camp ovens, the bold variety, with the big heavy cast iron lid, those sort of camp ovens.

JM: If there was one of those, that's what I would use, but mostly I would use these tins.

KH: Was there anything in Tabletop hut ?

TM: Not a thing.

JM: I think it was empty, it was just hollow.

TM: A little bit of snow had got into it, but it was a nice tight hut.

KH: I think it fell over soon afterwards.

JM: It was only a weatherboard hut. I think Mawsons in those days was slab wasn't it?

KH: No, it's always been an iron hut, Mawsons. I think within the first few years they also lined it with canite. It would have been lined when you were there.

JM: I don't remember.

TM: I can't remember, but it was a good hut to stay in.

KH: It had a stove in the back room.

JM: That's right.

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TM: There wasn't any wind whistling around it, it was a snug hut.

KH: So you have Tabletop, Farm Ridge, Bogong and then Mawsons. You didn't go over to Grey Mare?

JM: No we didn't. And then across to Whites.

KH: You called in at Tin.

TM: We just looked at it, we went to it.

JM: We've been there a couple of times.

KH: Because it was a snug hut, it's lined with boards and everything, it's a very snug hut.

TM: It had a reputation for smoking badly, if I remember rightly. But we didn't try it.

JM: You see we were spending - we must have been at Mawsons for some days and we'd been down in Whites for quite a few days.

TM: Certainly a couple of days we were there.

KH: Did you meet anyone else on the trip?

JM: No, I don't remember seeing anybody.

TM: Not until Whites River.

JM: Was that the trip that Adams ....

TM: I'm not certain.

KH: Did Ray Adams ski in?

TM: Yes.

KH: From the Chalet.

JM: Yes I think it was.

TM: From the Chalet, not necessarily.

KH: Or would he come up Whites River Valley?

JM: Don't know.

TM: He may have - I don't remember at all how he came on that occasion, he could have come from Pounds Creek, and he could have come via, where the Alpine hut was later.

JM: Yes, that's right.

TM: Which would be more likely.

KH: In from Snowy Plains. [Napthale's]

TM: Because that was going well then.

KH: Did you ever go there?

TM: Yes, we've been there.

KH: Did you walk there.

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TM: Didn't we drive out there once, but I think the hut had disappeared, I think the hut had vanished by there.

KH: It must have been a very big place.

TM: Quite big, yes. One went via that to get to Alpine hut.

JM: Yes that's right.

KH: Colin Gilder, I've seen a photo of his of it, it's a long low sort of building. Apparently it had a very big fire place that you could get inside.

TM: There was a big fire place, as I remember it, yes. I went out there with - the chap who was president of the .... mountain walkers, when I was president of the Sydney Bushwalkers. He and I went to Alpine hut for a week or whatever it was.

KH: Oh you did, skiing.

TM: Yes, this is post-war. The two of us went out to Pretty Plains hut from Alpine hut, there and back again.

JM: Yes, I had children by that time.

TM: I don't think he did a lot of skiing. I can't remember his name now.

JM: Was he married?

TM: No idea.

KH: It wasn't someone called Southwell-Keely?

TM: No, it wasn't Tom Keely. He was a walker not a skier.

KH: And you went across to Pretty Plain in a day?

TM: We took 2 or 3 days to do that.

KH: Did you camp out or did you ...

TM: We camped in the hut.

KH: I mean on the way, you went there in a day, did you get there in a day from Alpine.

TM: Yes.

KH: Then you had a couple of days at Pretty Plains?

TM: We had a day there, I think, and came back the next day, also in a day. I think that's how it was.

KH: On your '36 trip did you see any ski tracks, was there any sign of any other skiers?

TM: We wouldn't have because of the weather.

JM: When we went across Happy Jacks Plains we had the sun, but that was about the end of the sun.



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TM: There was a twinge of sun in the morning, when we left Mawsons, it only lasted an hour and a half.

KH: In the whole two weeks?

TM: Yes, something like that.

JM: Things happened to us like that. We'd be up there at Whites and it would be dull the whole time, or snowing. Like it did when we went to Bogong.

TM: What was the date we said we left Kiandra?

JM: 4 August.

TM: That's why I queried the statement that you tend to get better weather in the first half of August, because never have we had worse weather. It lasted practically the whole of the fortnight we were doing it.

JM: Actually on that trip we were two days overdue.

KH: Because you had three days in Kiandra, before you even set out.

JM: Before <sup>[Maurie]</sup> Maurie(?) turned up. He couldn't get there.

TM: That sounds right. He couldn't get there before the day.

JM: I think it was a Wednesday or Tuesday.

TM: We stayed there for a day after <sup>[Maurie]</sup> Maurie arrived and left the next day, I think it was.

JM: The first morning we woke up, the wire netting in the tennis court had holes that you could barely put your finger through, with frost, and all the telephone lines were like that. It was beautiful, it really was. We skied from daylight almost, right through until about 10 o'clock at night because it was moonlit.

TM: That was just on Township Hill.

KH: You went out to Mt Selwyn I think, didn't you?

TM: That's across the way. Oh yes that's right.

JM: That was where we found the echidna.

TM: Quite correct.

KH: Did you come across a hut in that valley?

JM: I don't remember.

KH: Do you remember a hut called Pig Gully?

TM: No I don't remember it. I can't remember seeing any hut around there.

JM: Not to say it wasn't there.

KH: It would have been there.

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TM: We may have not been in the right ... at the hut.

JM: We were only out skiing around.

TM: We could have been in the area without seeing the hut, probably.

KH: I suppose so, because it was a very low hut and if there was a decent fall of snow, it would just about cover it.

TM: I wouldn't know whether it was there or not. I don't remember it being mentioned.

KH: Do you remember any reference to a hut at Four Mile, Four Mile hut, or Bob Hughes' hut. It's there now. Do you remember the Elaine Mine, anything to do with the Elaine Mine.

TM: No, I knew it existed, but I don't know anything about it.

KH: What about Broken Dam hut?

TM: Broken Dam is well known, like Four Mile is well known, but I don't recall the huts. I haven't been to them.

JM: I think we would remember them if we'd been to them.

TM: You're trying to check on when they existed.

KH: Yes, that's right.

TM: I'm sorry. I don't think we can help there. We would remember them if we'd been to them.

KH: I would have thought so.

JM: If we poked around in a hut - normally if we got to a hut I would like to have a poke around and look at it, but I don't remember them.

KH: Your first hut really was Tabletop. But there were huts at the Nine Mile diggings, but you didn't go there.

TM: No.

KH: You kept to the ridge?

TM: Yes. We kept to what we thought was the easiest navigational route.

KH: You wanted to cover country too, didn't you.

TM: We weren't exploring really at that stage.

JM: We'd had two or three days ....

TM: We were making for the Tabletop hut and we only reached there just as it was becoming dark. We had to wander around for a little while to find it.

JM: The thing was that our packs were heavier then.



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KH: Yes, that's right. I estimate, I've worked out that I think Four Mile hut was built in 1937, Broken Dam I'm not sure about.

JM: I think Broken Dam was just a place.

KH: The dam was certainly there and it was probably breached by then, but I think the hut must have come after you'd gone through there, but there were certainly huts at the Nine Mile that you could have gone to.

TM: I don't think we can assist there, I just don't know.

KH: There would have still been some huts at the South Bloomfield and North Bloomfield holes too.

TM: There is a hut <sup>marked</sup> there.

KH: Yes, that's still there. What do those black pencil lines mean. This one here, did you put that in there?

TM: Oh yes, that's just the direct bearing from one point to another, just as a basis, to have the information on hand.

KH: Did someone tell you about the Tabletop hut, or had Oliver Moriarty gone there the previous summer?

TM: I think he would have gone there the previous summer. You would have known about it anyway.

JM: We used to talk to people, with this in mind....

TM: We collected as much information as we could.

KH: And you would have had Colin Gilder's article from the previous year.

JM: These huts, if they are on here, they are pretty 1936. I wonder when this was printed.

KH: I thought that 34 is a date, but I'm not sure. It might have been year '34 and map number 583.

TM: I'm just wondering if this was a fairly new publication, the map I mean.

JM: It wasn't too old.

TM: I can't remember.

KH: There's dead snow gum here, the tops are dead, sticking out.

JM: But there are always those, they regenerate.

KH: Yes, but I look at these also from a sort of management point of view, what the landscape looked like, the extent of burning at that time.

JM: They used to burn off for the cattle in those days.

KH: Did you ever see them do it?

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JM: No.

KH: When you said you did a walk on the main range...

TM: That was only a short one from Island Bend up to Tin hut. Then I turned south and finished up at the Chalet.

KH: Did you meet any stockmen on that?

TM: No.

KH: That might be a view from Jargungal or something.

TM: Not on that trip.

KH: I see, it must be another trip.

TM: That was taken after we'd crossed over the top of Jargungal and come down into the sunlight. There was low cloud of course, which ... the top of the mountain. I wonder if that's another one from the lower slopes of Jargungal. A sort of companion one to ...

JM: I think that's Dicky Cooper.

KH: It's not the Grey Mare Range in the distance. It might be Dicky Cooper.

TM: What do you mean Dicky Cooper?

JM: Taken from up at the little gap, up at the head of Whites River, where it jumps over into Dicky Cooper.

KH: It doesn't matter that much.

JM: There's Whites, there's the lean-to.

KH: It doesn't look as though it's extended out here. That extra bunk room was put on the end there.

TM: At this end there was a separate room, or a partition of some sort with the bunks beyond. It's very likely that since then an extra piece was put on.

KH: See how low that ... they are big trees now.

TM: This is preliminary to getting into the hut. The snow always covered the door.

KH: It had a very big pouch across the front.

TM: That's the sleeping bag.

JM: There's Whites River.

TM: This is up at the head.

KH: One of your panoramas.

TM: Yes, at the head of Whites River looking downhill, down stream.

KH: That's a lovely valley.

JM: It's a lovely place to be.

Tom & Jean Moppett

KH: It's just so popular now.

End Side 1, Tape 1.

Tom & Jean Moppett

Side 2, Tape 1

JM: That was Spencers Creek I think. I think there's another one of Bob Savage's, somewhere.

KH: The mouth of Whites River.

TM: Yes, looking down the Snowy.

KH: It is more open then, it was. Because of the burning, dead snow gums....

TM: It was thick on this side.

JM: See this velvety bit here, this is scrub about so high. When I stood up it came to just below my hips. I found I could sit on - I put my skis about so far apart and I'd sit with my two bottom cheeks on the ski and when I wanted to stop I would pull the skis apart and drop my bottom through as a break.

TM: You couldn't ski.

KH: No, just sliding through it, and then you'd have to take your skis off.

JM: The boys, with their superior weight, they had a much worse time than I did and I found it hard enough. Of course, by that time we'd eaten our packs down somewhat.

KH: Yes, your packs must have been down to 30 lbs or so.

JM: We had a fair amount of gear because Tom carried a small ... bit for putting the edges back on our ski.

KH: Various repair gear.

JM: A spare tip, all the extra things, plus decent size sleeping bags.

KH: Did you make the sleeping bags?

JM: Yes, pure down.

KH: Did you have a funnel, a tube system?

JM: No. I made one big bag and I would divide it across. I put all the down in and seal it, sew it up, then I would hold it - Tom probably helped me - we'd hold it and shake half - I'd pat it all out, and then we'd pull it across the centre and shake it all down and then I stitch across that. We'd keep doing that and we ended up with pockets with about 20 inches by 10 inches.

KH: Sewn through, it didn't have any walls in it.

JM: I could show you one.

KH: Was it Australian down, or was it imported?

Tom & Jean Moppett

JM: It must have been, it came from the Australian feather mills. We used to pay about £5 a pound for it.

KH: So that was quite expensive. I mean that was very expensive for you, at the time.

JM: That was two weeks pay for me.

KH: £5.

JM: Yes.

KH: You were paid £2½.

JM: Yes.

KH: How much were you paid?

TM: £5.

KH: Did you have a hood or anything like that?

JM: No, just a rectangle.

KH: Did Oliver Moriarty have one of those too?

JM: He would have had one of Paddy's I think.

KH: Were they down?

JM: Yes. Just like ours except that his was closer quilted because they would have had the machines. I only had a household sewing machine. As long as you put your hip onto a square and not onto stitching, you managed.

KH: It must have been cold when you camped out, when you slept practically on the snow.

JM: The cold always came through, through the ground.

KH: Did you have a floor in your tent?

JM: No, just a ground sheet.

KH: Any foam on it? You slept straight on the ground sheet?

JM: Tom carried a little rubber pad.

TM: Did we have foam rubber?

JM: It was foam rubber because they didn't know about plastic in those days. It was very solid, rubber is solid, about 3/4 inch thick.

KH: Did you all have one of those?

JM: No, Tom was the only one.

KH: It must have been cold when you actually slept on the snow.

TM: Well we didn't sleep on the snow, we slept on the ground under the snow.

KH: You cleared the snow away?

TM: Yes. It's much too cold to be sleeping on top of the snow.

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JM: And we'd put any clothes that we could under us, and we'd snuggle up together.

TM: We'd have a good fire, right in front of the tent with the tent ....

JM: You know about ....(?)

KH: Yes.

JM: You get the reflected heat.

KH: You kept the fire going all night?

JM: No we didn't, but we kept it as long as we could stay awake. We could afford to have a fire burn any of our gear.

TM: As far as I remember, the most uncomfortable part, was not because it was cold, but because we were on a bit of a slope and we slid down hill. Having concertinaed, we'd have to straighten out to become a bit more comfortable. Being on a ground sheet it was easy to slide.

KH: Was it a .... tent?

JM: Yes, super light weight, Egyptian cotton. I can show you one of those too.

TM: Did we have a blue tent?

JM: Yes.

TM: The first blue tent.

JM: That was your tent, I had my little one-man.

TM: Not on this trip.

KH: In this case you just had the one tent for the three of you?

TM: Yes, I couldn't afford to carry any more.

JM: Without the pegs it weighed about a pound and a quarter.

KH: It must have been wet some mornings?

JM: It rained three nights, I think, on that trip.

TM: One night at Farm Ridge.

JM: Yes, one night on the Perisher, two nights.

KH: You just had some protracted stays in some of the huts.

JM: We were out to enjoy ourselves.

KH: While I think of it can you just tell that anecdote how you earned your spurs?

JM: I had been at the hotel for two days and I asked George *Lamble* what he thought of me going to the Chalet, and how would I go about it. He said he didn't know of anybody going and finally he said 'Tom Mitchell is going out tomorrow, he might take you, but you'd

have to go and talk to him', which I did. I found this fellow, short dark man, sorting out and packing gear. I was very impressed with all this imported gear from the other side of the world, not homemade like a lot of ours was. I explained to him and he said how much skiing had I done. I said 'Not very much but this afternoon I'd been up to <sup>Daners</sup> Daner's Gap and back'. As I didn't look very glamorous, he probably thought I was telling the truth. He said 'Well be here at 7 o'clock tomorrow morning', which I did. I had a little tiny pack on my back with a change of clothes, etc., and we started out. But after we got over <sup>Daners</sup> and getting on towards Smiggins, the weather closed down on us and all I could see of Tom and the man <sup>George Day</sup> who was carrying some extra gear for him, were the blue pole holes, in the snow, and their tracks you see - I was plodding on. But we made it, we got to Betts. Betts was locked, it had been locked all summer and nobody had bothered to open it. So Tom went round to the other end and had pulled out the lavatory pan and turned it upside down in the snow and disappeared through the hole, which I did likewise. When we got in, we set to to <sup>light</sup> a fire ..... with my poor frozen dead feeling hands, I scraped up the woodchips and twigs and whatever was left from the last winter's fires, we had a fire going. Then when we got up to the Chalet - <sup>to Tom</sup> George Day said 'Where's the woman'? I said 'I was here'.

KH: How long did you stay at the Chalet then?

JM: I think it was only a few days because I think I had only 10 days in all, that holiday. I couldn't have afforded any more.

KH: That was your very first one.

JM: Yes.

KH: So you had a few days at the hotel to get climatized and get used to this business of sliding on ... plank.

JM: Yes, then I went to the Chalet.

KH: You had 3 or 4 days at the Chalet.

JM: Three days I think it was and then I came back to the hotel.

KH: Did you come back with some other people?

JM: I can't remember the coming back.

KH: So you didn't actually stay a night at Betts Camp?

JM: No, there was nothing there. I can remember there was a sink and a tap and a bench, but I can't remember anything else being there. It was terribly dirty. They had just closed it up after the previous winter.

KH: I see, and you were there very early in the season.

JM: It was June.

KH: Had you gone there to go skiing, or had you gone to go walking?

JM: Oh yes, skiing. I can't remember what part of June, it might have been towards the end, I just can't remember.

KH: At that time they would have had a resident cook and a resident caretaker, during the winter.

JM: They didn't then, no. That was getting on towards - I don't think there was anybody there when we came across.

KH: '38/'39, I think, when Ted Winter went up there first, I think there was a resident person.

JM: Yes, that would have happened about '37 or '38, I would think, because there was always this talk about how messy Betts was left. You know what Seamans gets like - the day trippers. The money people, who feel that somebody should be paid to clean things up, they don't bother. They're not all like that, a lot of people are. It was just messy.

KH: It's really pretty unusual for you to go skiing, not being a member of the wealthy part of society.

JM: He just wanted to go and look.

KH: Was it unusual then, for people like yourself to go up there?

TM: No, but a lot of people went to the hotel there, the Chalet, and that wasn't unduly expensive. All sorts of people went to the hotel.

JM: Mostly young people.

TM: At the beginning of the '30s anyway.

JM: Is that picture of you in here with the horses and the sled?

TM: I don't know.

KH: Perhaps we should move through this.

JM: Anyhow, at Smiggins, all there was was a lean-to shed with three walls and a roof, that's all there was.



Tom & Jean Moppett

KH: Was there anything at Perisher Gap, above Perisher Valley. There was a hut there later on, but there may not have been when you went through.

JM: No, that was after the war.

TM: Rocky Creek hut, but it wasn't there in the early '30s.

KH: Yes, '50s I think.

TM: I don't remember any hut of any sort at Perisher.

KH: The Red hut was there, and the Grey hut, above the Chalet.

JM: The Red hut might have been there.

TM: I really can't visualise it.

JM: That's where they used to unload food and stuff for the Chalet, at the road, then they would have to wait for good weather to take it down.

KH: They were next to each other, they were practically at that same site above the Chalet.

TM: Was there a Grey hut?

KH: Yeah up on the road they both were.

TM: I don't remember a Grey hut.

JM: I don't remember it, it was always a red hut to us.

KH: Was it red because of the colour or because of something infamous that had happened there.

JM: I think somebody probably painted it so it could be seen.

TM: It was painted red as far as I know.

KH: So many people know about the Red hut, it's amazing.

JM: Now this is Whites River - that's the same picture.

TM: Just taken on different days, or different times was it.

JM: Well it's misty here and sunny there. This was only just outside Whites. It was our intention to spend - the time we spent on Kiandra Kosciusko trip - we weren't delayed by the weather. We wouldn't have done it any quicker if it had been excellent weather the whole way, we just would have seen better.

JM: We would have spent more time playing around the hut, rather than doing a trip out from the hut and back.

KH: Well you certainly learned to ski on that trip.

JM: We'd been going before that.

TM: That's that slope you were speaking of earlier, sort of opposite the hut which is down here.

Tom & Jean Moppett

KH: The photo I was talking about is a photo taken from here on to Whites River. Whites River is at the bottom and the whole slope up to the Rolling Grounds is visible. It's taken from the Gungahlin side, it includes that whole slope.

JM: I don't think it ever was very wooded.

KH: Well it's very wooded now, the regeneration is prolific.

JM: Isn't that super.

KH: In fact, throughout the National Park the regeneration is just incredible.

JM: I know what we'll do, we'll take ourselves for a flight over it some time.

KH: This is a panorama one.

TM: That's from ... Dicky Cooper, looking along the western edge of the Rolling Ground

KH: What do you call that, Scavler.

JM: Scarver.

KH: Is that what it's called.

TM: I haven't heard the word for donkey's years. I must have taken it somewhere.

JM: It was George Aalberg who brought a lot of their Swedish names. We never said ski, we always said 'she', we 'sheed' around.

KH: You didn't say 'snow shoe', snow shoeing had gone out. Skiing used to be called snow shoeing.

JM: No, never had.

TM: That was only in Kiandra, not amongst recreationalist, skiers at Kosciusko.

JM: We changed with the .... But in these days it was always 'sheeing'.

TM: It was the miners who talked about snow shoeing, I think.

JM: Yes, that's right. Yes, there's that Spencer Creek one, mentioned earlier.

KH: The colour is fairly recent, is it?

TM: No, it was done at the time.

KH: It's more a toner I think, the same tone, a toning technique. Did you take most of these now.

TM: There are some by other people.

KH: Captain Frank Hurley, you've got one of his have you.

JM: Two of his.

Tom & Jean Moppett

KH: That's Mt Lee, Carruthers, and Townsend in the back there, I think, the Snowy River.

JM: He took nice pictures, didn't he?

KH: This is quite a collection.

TM: We had a lot of fun putting it together. It took several years.

JM: This is very early days.

KH: There's the dog team.

JM: The dog team used to take the mail and the fresh food and stuff up to the Chalet.

KH: They look like kelpies or something.

JM: They were anything I think, cattle dogs a lot of them, blue cattles. That was me.

KH: On snow shoes that time.

JM: Yes. That wasn't on this trip, that was later. That's Tom.

KH: George Day has got a lot of this.

JM: I'm sure he has, yes.

KH: And a lot of brumbies, through the summer, good 'Man From Snowy River' stuff. There's Betts with a verandah on it, closed in. That's a nice one of Betts Camp actually.

TM: We stayed there a couple of times and just skied all around the neighbourhood.

KH: Had you done a big trip before '36?

TM: Not a big trip, no.

JM: We hadn't had time.

KH: Had you had a trip with packs?

TM: We'd done walking with packs, we hadn't done any skiing with packs, other than to go to the Chalet.

KH: You must have been some of the very first people who were bushwalkers, who then went on to skis.

JM: I would say so. I don't know of anybody who went skiing ahead of us.

KH: The others were skiers who went on these long trips.

TM: They weren't bushwalkers at all.

KH: All those doctor guys.

TM: Reg Gelling and Colin Comber, they were skiers they weren't walkers.

KH: They were skiers who kind of extended it to long trips.

Tom & Jean Moppett

TM: Yes that's right.

JM: They were adventuresome.

TM: What I was going to say was, in those days one carried one's own gear to the Chalet, mostly, unless you hired a dog team.

KH: Clothing.

TM: Everything.

KH: Sleeping stuff.

JM: No, there was bedding up there.

KH: Food was there.

TM: Yes, full accommodation, but your own clothing and any equipment you wanted to take with you, you had to carry it yourself.

JM: You had to know what you were about.

TM: And skiing with packs to the Chalet.

JM: You really had to be on your feet before you took off.

KH: And that's a damn good way to learn, slogging up that road.

JM: I never was a good skier, and that's because I carried a pack. But I was a safe skier.

There's the old hotel. Here it is, this is it, Tom's first trip.

KH: 1933. So you went up there the same year, but not at the same time?

JM: Actually I think we were there at the same time. It must have been '33 that we hooked up at the Chalet then, because you went up to the Chalet.

TM: I think this was taken in 1932 as a matter of fact.

JM: I think it was too. I'm sure you were there ahead of me.

TM: I don't suppose it made any difference, I would have been there in '33 too. But this is just a fun thing.

KH: What prompted you to go in the first place.

TM: There was a group of us, friends, and somebody said 'what about trying out this skiing business'. We decided to do so.

JM: A friend kidded me into going. I said I would like to go and he said to me 'Yes you go', and he had been and he said there was no reason why I can't go. Actually we were tipped out - the road was blocked at Rennex Gap. I had to walk in from there. So I had an introduction to the snow very smartly.

TM: That one shows - that's the lake with the reflection of the hotel in the lake. Now that doesn't look as though it's frozen.

Tom & Jean Moppett

JM: I think it was only frozen on rare occasions.  
 KH: That's pretty light snow there. That's all burnt too through there, it looks like it's been burnt, you can see through the trunks.  
 JM: I think that's only around 5,000 feet, the old hotel.  
 KH: Probably less. I think it's kind of Kiandra elevation, 4,600 or something like that.  
 TM: Yes, probably something like that.  
 KH: In Kiandra, the old timers talk about there being a lot more snow at Kiandra too, in the '20s and '30s.  
 JM: Also as the area gets cleared, the wind scours it out a bit more. The trees would hold it, hold the snow. You know yourself, if you walk through a group of trees, how bogged down you can get. Whereas out in the open it beds down.  
 TM: That's all around the hotel area. I can't remember ever seeing a really heavy snow at the hotel.  
 KH: You mean like 2 or 3 feet.  
 JM: No. That time I went in, when they'd had a blizzard, and I was walking through snow at Rennex Gap about a foot deep. But fortunately the traffic had been going backwards and forwards meeting the bus and it had bedded it down, so it wasn't too difficult, it was just a bit of an effort.  
 KH: Franklin! That's a nice shot of the Franklin Chalet, it's still there, I've stayed there, it's still the same.  
 JM: Remember I mentioned Reg Alder.  
 KH: Yes, that explains it, it's taken by him. It's actually with one 'I' isn't it.  
 TM: Yes, it is, that's a misprint.  
 KH: I'm accused of mis-spelling names in my book, the huts book.  
 JM: Don't call me Joan Trimble.  
 KH: No. That's on Franklin too - someone called John Ferris or something.  
 JM: Yes.  
 TM: A group of us went from Sydney didn't we, for a weekend probably.  
 JM: This is Bogong. This is how we went up to the Staircase hut.  
 KH: With packs and a horse and the skis in a sort of A-frame.  
 TM: Yes. Did we walk or did we ride?

Tom & Jean Moppett

JM: The horses took the luggage and we walked.  
 KH: Was this after the war?  
 JM: Before the war, about '38 I think.  
 KH: When was that Mt Franklin trip, did I ask you?  
 JM: I think all of it was pre-war, because this was put together post war, but only just post war.  
 KH: This is Victoria.  
 JM: Yes.  
 TM: That was a day trip we did from ... hut down to Big River and back.  
 KH: That's a nice atmospheric shot. Is there any more of Kosi in here?  
 TM: (inaudible) ... just shoot through.  
 KH: Staircase hut, Hotham. I think this Stevenson fellow would probably be interested in some of these. There's a nice one of showing the gear of the times.  
 TM: Yes that shows the skis.  
 KH: The pointed skis.  
 TM: With holes in their noses so that they can be towed across a river.  
 KH: You've got a lot from Victoria in here.  
 TM: We didn't go to Buffalo, there's only one picture and that was taken by a friend.  
 KH: Kofners hut. While I'm asking questions and the tape is still going, can I just get a couple of details about when you were both born, the year.  
 TM: Jean in 1909 and myself in 1912.  
 KH: Were you born in Sydney?  
 TM: Yes, both.  
 KH: Where did you go to school?  
 TM: Gosford High School and Narara Primary School.  
 KH: Oh dear, my parents live in Wongul(?). I did part of my Honours thesis on the Gosford/Wyong area. Narara then Gosford then Shore - Shore was a boarding school was it.  
 TM: Yes.  
 KH: So your parents were reasonably well off to send you to Shore?  
 TM: Just sufficiently.



Tom &amp; Jean Moppett

KH: It would have been pretty expensive to go to Shore?

TM: Reasonably, but not untoward I think.

KH: But you didn't go on to university?

TM: No.

JM: Skiing got into the way.

KH: Who did you then work for?

TM: (inaudible) ... they were woolbrokers. They don't exist any more, with various takeovers.

KH: Their name still appears on buildings and things doesn't it.

TM: Yes. There used to be a big wool store down at Circular Quay, that's disappeared too.

JM: That's where the AMP is.

TM: Yes that's right the first big AMP building was built there.

JM: Opposite Manly wharf.

KH: Did you stay with them long?

TM: Until the war.

KH: Until you went to Europe?

TM: Yes.

JM: He went to Canada to train and then over to England.

KH: You must have had about 12 years or so.

JM: What's that.

KH: You went skiing the first time in '32.

TM: Yes, that's right.

KH: What about you Jean?

JM: I went to public schools; Naremburn, Suspension Bridge, and North Sydney.

KH: Suspension Bridge! On the way to Castlecrag?

JM: Yes, that one on the top of the hill, on the Sydney side.

KH: You didn't go to university?

JM: No, I went to business college and then went into an office.

KH: As a secretary?

JM: A bookkeeper. I was at the same place for 15 years, until just after the war - no, during the war I left.

KH: You just got 2 weeks holiday per year, two weeks paid.

JM: But that's how it was, everybody did that.

TM: I think it was some time after the war that that changed to 3 weeks, and then well after that to 4 weeks. I can't remember just when it occurred.

Tom &amp; Jean Moppett

KH: And when did you go on your first bush walk?

TM: The first time I went bush walking! Oh come on.

JM: At age 6 months, both of us.

KH: Your parents took you as a baby?

TM: Camping rather than bush walking. Aroomba(?) Creek, the mouth of Aroomba Creek is a place we went quite a number of times, to camp.

KH: Does that flow into ....(?)

TM: It's between Gosford and Wyong.

JM: And our haunt was Middle Harbour and the Hawkesbury.

KH: And you'd camp out with your parents?

JM: Often. But we had a weekender at Mooney Point.

KH: So they already had packs and tents?

JM: They wouldn't have had packs. We had a boat.

KH: So you'd still stay in some kind of shack or something?

JM: A little weekender, a one room point.

KH: I'm trying to establish how it built up. As adults, you then went off with packs and made your own gear. What started that, was there any scouting or guides or anything like that that you were involved in?

TM: Neither of us were interested in ....

JM: We were just interested in the bush. Our families camped until we were more or less away from home. And we would still go on trips, occasionally, with them.

KH: And they had tents?

JM: Yes.

KH: Were they homemade tents?

JM: Yes, as far as I know. I don't remember what the family's tents was about.

KH: Would they walk into a place, or drive there?

JM: Yes, but not the long distance walking that we did. They had children you see, to cope with, you don't walk very far with children.

TM: There was an atmosphere in both families, on outdoor things, that was the main thing, rather than the specific form that it took.

JM: Climbing that mountain over there, or exploring that creek that went up the mountain.



Tom & Jean Moppett

TM: I remember walking in the hills behind Narara and going bicycling all around ...

End Side 2.

Tom & Jean Moppett

Tape 2, Side 1

KH: ... how you came to be involved in bush walking.

TM: Prior to 1932, 2 or 3 years before that I guess. I mentioned one of my friends said what about trying this Kosciusko business, skiing and so on. We, as a group, used to do quite a lot of day walks. We didn't do any camping, we used to do day walks from Sydney - National Park .... those sort of places.

KH: You'd do that by train?

TM: Yes, what ever transport...

JM: There was no vehicles.

TM: It could be buses or trams in those days, for example up to Narrabeen, or a train to somewhere like Lillyvale.

KH: Narrabeen was a long way out then wasn't it?

JM: Yes, that was the old tram line.

TM: We did some quite good walks of that sort.

KH: When did you join the Sydney Bush Walkers?

TM: 1934 I think it was.

KH: But they got going in '27?

TM: Yes.

JM: He didn't join the bush walkers until he'd met me.

KH: When did you join?

JM: 1930.

TM: I'd heard about the bush walkers. We were already doing our own walking and didn't see any need to become involved with any club at that stage. Then we got this idea of skiing and that was a good thing.

JM: Well actually to us in those days, skiing was just an off-shoot of walking, going places on a ski. It wasn't thinking that you'd climb up a hill and come down.

KH: Right, you didn't go for the thrill of downhill skiing, it was more seeing interesting country and things like that?

TM: That's right. In fact I skied every year up to the war from that '32 introduction, during annual holidays. The walking was done, first of all day walks, as I mentioned, and then after I became a member of the Sydney Bush Walkers it was mainly weekend walking, and I did a lot of that.

Tom & Jean Moppett

JM: We got together, and every trip we did, we did together, mostly.

TM: Often with others of course.

KH: But a lot of that was orientated towards the Blue Mountains.

TM: Yes, quite a lot.

KH: What about the Buda wangs?

JM: Yes we've been down there, but that's since the war.

TM: I think we were doing the nearer places, such as the Blue Mountains, and places nearer Sydney, the Gosford area and so on, places like the Bowang, a bit harder to get to. We've been there on camping and car camping trips, post war. I did a walk on my own to Barrington Tops, a several days walk, like the one I did at Kosciusko. That would have been at <sup>Christ</sup>mas time, Barrington Tops.

KH: Was that with others, or on your own?

TM: That was on my own, and the one where I went from Island Bend up to Tin hut, that one was on my own.

KH: Was there much of that at that time, solo walking?

TM: Not a tremendous amount, people did a little bit.

KH: Because it's quite an intriguing phenomenon, there's a lot of it now.

TM: A lot more now, I would imagine.

JM: There's a lot more walking now.

KH: I suppose it's hard to gauge just how much there has been and there is now, they are very hard to track down, the solo walkers.

JM: They're loners, they don't want to be - they just go out and enjoy their own company in the bush, don't they.

KH: And they don't put their name down in log books in huts, so you don't hear about them, unless you find out about them by word of mouth, or obviously are prepared to tell you. I did want to mention the solo walkers in the book that I'm doing, to give them credit, to mention this phenomenon at least.

JM: Most of walking was done in a group with anything from 1 to about 5.

KH: How much did it cost on the train from Sydney to the Blue Mountains?

JM: Two shillings and 7d.

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KH: Places like the Buda wangs were pretty inaccessible then, no train.

JM: Well we couldn't have gone down there.

KH: Most of the exploration there has been since the war anyway.

JM: This was convenient to come to Blackheath because there was a train around 6.30 Friday night and there was one going back about 6 or 7 on Sunday evening, so you had your whole weekend here. You'd get out, and it would be bitterly cold, walk out down the Devil's Hole or somewhere into Megalong, go all sorts of places, out to the Dogs where these people were lost last week.

KH: Did they find those people?

JM: Yes.

KH: Were they all right.

JM: Yes.

KH: They were out for about a week weren't they?

JM: They just weren't where they expected them to be.

TM: It wasn't quite a week, but they were quite well equipped I think. According to the newspaper they had taken the wrong turning.

JM: Which is what most people who are lost do.

KH: That's right.

TM: They have to say something don't they.

KH: Nice and vague.

JM: It amazes me. They take it as gospel that they're going to be where they say they're going to be, instead of giving a wide spread, and I don't think they lit smokey fires.

KH: So in the high country your activities were mostly on skis, and I suppose because you did it on skis and you only had limited holidays, you didn't get down there in the summer time. Now that may be true for a lot of other people too.

TM: I would think so, at that time, certainly.

JM: It was transport.

KH: It seems as though most of the noteworthy trips that were done in the mountains then were written up in the Ski Year Book and it seems as though there were very few others.

TM: I think that would be true, as far as I'm aware, that's right.

JM: Have you got anything on George Halberg?

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KH: Yes, and read in the Ski Year Book about his crossings, the fast crossing he did with Reg Gelling, and he did one by himself too, so I'll record those.

JM: He held the shortest time didn't he?

KH: Yes. Well at first he did it by himself, he got it down to 18 hours or something, then with Reg Gelling he got it down to 16 hours and that then stood, practically until the early '60s and people like Kora .... and Otto Pinkas, the people who came over, the new Australians of the time who came out with the Snowy scheme, who then had a go at it. They discovered these incredible things you could do and found some of the old Ski Year Books and then started doing them.

JM: We certainly didn't have anybody else to see around the range, they were locals that we'd meet.

KH: Well you wouldn't meet any stockmen either because you were there in the winter, so you didn't have much interaction with local people.

TM: That particular trip where we went to Kiandra and stayed for three days and then did the trip, what I mentioned when I went from the hotel to Island Bend and Tin hut, Chalet, that was probably around <sup>Christ</sup>mas or later in January, the end of January when the flowers were around. Those, I think, were our only visits to Kosciusko pre war.

JM: I had never been.

TM: Apart from other winter trips there, when I toured the hotel and the Chalet, but I'm now speaking of touring.

JM: After the war we made quite a number of visits.

TM: Yes, with the caravan.

JM: We took the caravan to ..... Point.

TM: Also we camped at Happy Jacks Plains for a while.

JM: We had a <sup>Christ</sup>mas there.

KH: When that road was still open.

TM: Yes.

JM: We nearly got blown away.

KH: I was going to say, in the '30s too, in the summer time, the common form of transport was on a horse.

JM: That's right, and a lot of them came up from Victoria.

KH: You didn't hire a horse on your walk to Tin hut?

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TM: No.

KH: That's interesting.

JM: By the time we got organised on horses and things our holiday was dwindling away, we went the quickest possible way, to get the most time.

TM: I think I would probably have thought that walking was the most pleasant.

JM: Another thing, we had to pay for horses.

TM: This was only a few days, 4 or 5 days I was doing that.

KH: But it was very common then to have a guide, pack horses.

TM: Yes I know. Now Maree Byles did that trip didn't she.

JM: Do you know about Maree Byles?

KH: I've heard her name.

JM: She was Sydney's first lady solicitor.

TM: She did a pack horse trip around the mountains, I'm don't know just where.

JM: Classic. Everything went right for Maree except that trip. She got back and she was handing the horses over and the fellow wanted 2 more days rent on the horse. She said 'No, I said I'd have it back on the 31st and here it is'. He said 'This is the 2nd'. She lost two days. I don't know whether it was the 31st of the 2nd but it was two days later.

KH: Is that trip written up somewhere?

JM: I would have thought - possibly not. But there's somebody who's not long done a thing on Maree Byles.

TM: She wrote things in the Bushwalker.

JM: It's probably been published in the Sydney Bush Walker.

KH: An article or a lengthy....

JM: No, it wouldn't be very long.

TM: I don't remember.

JM: A young woman has just done a thing, for television I think, on Maree Byles.

KH: Is there a Mary Gilmore, or something like that?

JM: She's a writer.

TM: Mary Gilmore, isn't she dead long ago.

KH: There was a Gilmore who went on a horse ride, the Snowy Plains, that country, that's written up somewhere.



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TM: Reg Alder would know about who ever it is who's writing about Maree Byles.

JM: Yes, because he wrote to us didn't he.

TM: Yes. If you want to find out if there's anything about this riding trip, probably the easiest way to start is to ask Reg.

JM: Have you got an address for him?

KH: I think I have actually. Other people have referred me to him.

JM: He'd have a lot of good memories.

KH: Is he your age?

JM: Roughly, a bit younger maybe, late 60s.

KH: What would you say was the most dramatic moment of that journey in 1936.

JM: Opening those ruddy chocolates, I'm sure.

KH: That was the anti climax wasn't it?

JM: It was really.

TM: Very much so. I don't know that we had any dramatic incidents.

KH: You didn't fall in any rivers, you didn't lose any toes.

TM: No.

JM: We never allowed anything like that to happen, we were always very careful.

TM: We tried to be well prepared, have good equipment and all this sort of thing.

JM: We were always prepared for any odd occurrence.

KH: Can you just tell that one again, the one about where Oliver Moriarty went the other way. I think it's a rather nice anecdote. I mean it's happened to me, so I don't know that it's all that uncommon.

TM: Probably not. We were skiing from Mawsons Hut to Whites River and we had reached somewhere in the vicinity of Gungahlin at the top of the range. Visibility was almost nil and Morrie was in front and Jean following behind and I was behind Jean. I was checking with a compass and keeping the right direction, and then, all of a sudden, Morrie turned round and went back the way we'd come on a parallel track.

KH: Still quite convinced that he was going in the right direction.

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TM: I stopped him and pointed out he was going 180 degrees out. He took quite a long time to convince that this was so, he hadn't the faintest idea that he'd turned around, he thought he was still going the way he was supposed to be going. Eventually, using compasses and maps and explanations he did believe us.

KH: Did he lead or make track most of the time, or did you take turns.

TM: A lot of the time there was no need - just three people wandering across the country. But with the bad visibility, the best way of doing it was to be one behind the other, so that I could check the route. He, being over the country previously, in the summer, we thought maybe he could better do the leading.

KH: Because it's normally easier for one person to make the track and just stay in the track of the person in front of you.

TM: It wasn't that sort of difficulty. I mean the snow was quite firm, there was no track making in the snow.

KH: If it's soft snow ...

TM: Yes, that's different, but because of the wind, the heavy wind for days, there was no loose snow around, as far as I remember, it had all been blown away.

JM: Sort of crusty.

KH: Crusted that you break through a bit?

JM: Not there, it was quite firm.

KH: What else would you concoct up, what would have been a typical breakfast?

JM: I think we had rolled oats, didn't we. I can't remember what breakfast would have been, but it wouldn't have been bacon and eggs, it was a cereal of some sort.

KH: Did you take any eggs?

JM: No we couldn't carry them.

TM: I think it probably would have been rolled oats.

JM: It would have been rolled oats and a piece of damper. Lunch would have been a sort of biscuit like a Ryvita, a number of Ryvitas probably, with some salami and cheese and some dried fruit of some sort, sultanas or something like that. Dinner was these dried vegetables that I used to do, the carrots and parsnips, and barley or rice. That would be something that we would send out in the tins, anything that was solid or heavy.



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KH: What about milk powder?  
 JM: Oh yes we took milk powder.  
 KH: Did you take any liquor, hard spirits?  
 JM: Oh no.  
 KH: No after dinner noggin?  
 JM: Couldn't afford the weight.  
 TM: It was too heavy.  
 JM: Not to say we wouldn't like it, but it was just beyond our carrying.  
 TM: We were carrying quite enough as it was.  
 JM: You see we were carrying all our food for about week.  
 TM: In the first place we were, until we reached Mawsons.  
 JM: Sweets would have been damper and jam, or golden syrup, or I'd make fried scones.  
 KH: I thought you must have done something else as well as damper, but it would be a basic flour/water mix.  
 JM: But basically it was damper, flour/water.  
 KH: Sugar?  
 JM: Oh yes, there would be sugar. And you'd have those with golden syrup.  
 KH: That was brought into the hut, except that was swapped wasn't it?  
 JM: In one hut it was. We were adequately fed.  
 TM: We had plenty to eat, we weren't hungry.  
 KH: Did you take any bully beef, tin meat or anything?  
 JM: It was dried sort of meat, like ..... or something like that. But salami, the hard salami we used to take because they would keep.  
 TM: Did we have any tins of ham, something like that.  
 JM: I think, in the early part of the journey we might have had what we used to call camp pie, which was a mushed up meat dish. But with two men to feed, and I had a healthy appetite, I worked hard.  
 TM: Incidentally these dampers were very good ones, she makes good dampers. Oily Moriarty can make good dampers too.  
 KH: Why were they good.  
 TM: Well cooked.  
 JM: They were successful.

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KH: Do you use plain flour or self-raising flour?  
 JM: Self-raising. It would depend on your dry milk supply whether you put a spoonful of dried milk in.  
 TM: Not this plain flour and water.  
 KH: Not a rock.  
 TM: No, no, they are good things.  
 KH: And sometimes you put sultanas in too?  
 JM: Yes. When we were in camp - the day we would travel, the day before I would have to cook baked damper to carry to the next hut. Also, if we were going to have 2 or 3 days in the one hut, I would make a sweet damper maybe, if we had enough sultanas or peel. I used to take little odds and ends just to make a flavour. I'm just trying to think what else. I suppose if I went and dug through the archives I might ...  
 KH: It's mentioned in the article, globex or something, what is globex.  
 TM: A predecessor of Vegemite, same type.  
 JM: That would flavour stews. You could make a vegetable stew with barley and these vegetables - dried onion we used to take, that was bought dried onion. There were a few things we used - I know, like they use now here, beef cubes, that you can to put in your stew, there were things like that.  
 KH: What was your main source of protein?  
 JM: Cheese and salami.  
 KH: Earlier on this camp pie.  
 JM: Tinned bully beef is one of the things.  
 KH: You could have had that brought into the hut.  
 TM: Oh yes.  
 JM: You could only afford a certain amount of space in this tin you see.  
 KH: What about fruit?  
 JM: We carried dried fruit.  
 KH: And you'd stew some apples or something.  
 JM: Apples and apricots. Apricots and rice was a popular dish.  
 KH: That sort of dried fruit was already around?  
 JM: That had been around long before I was born, a long long time. We used to just buy those and sometimes in the huts on the home days, you'd have the quickest easiest breakfast on the day you

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were moving off and on the other days you'd fiddle around. I might make some pancakes - they wouldn't have eggs in them - oh no, we used to carry egg powder.

KH: I was going to ask about that before.

JM: Yes. But we didn't like it much, we didn't like the smell of it.

KH: It's still not very nice.

JM: But it had its uses. We used to eat a fair bit of rice, that was always good.

KH: How about your boots, did you get wet ski boots, did you have any problems with cold feet.

TM: No, not that I remember.

JM: Because I used to knit all the socks.

KH: What about your creek crossings, did you cross...

TM: We took our boots off.

KH: In bare feet.

TM: At Happy Jacks Plains we went across one creek, we took off our boots, the other one's on the fence, in that photograph. Whatever the name of the river is near Farm Ridge, we got wet then because...

KH: The Doubtful.

TM: Yes, that's right, because we waded that. It was dark already, that was the problem, when we were trying to find the hut.

JM: You can't carry a big torch on a trip like that.

KH: So then you have wet boots.

TM: We thought, it's only a short distance to the hut, we'll be there any moment, we'll risk it - we had a conference about this. So we waded through and couldn't find the hut. That's when we made camp and built a fire and dried the boots over night.

KH: Were they doubled lined boots?

JM: I don't think they were lined boots.

TM: Yes, they were lined boots.

KH: Lined on the inside. Good solid downhill style of the time.

TM: At the time there was only one sort of ski boot and these were made by Macnaughts.

KH: Oh the old Macnaughts boots, I've seen the ad in the Ski Year Book. I was going to use one of those in my book because they are lovely ads.

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JM: Underneath my boots I had a clamp(?) on, that sat under the arch of the boot and I could just flick it back onto my heel, it was hinged along the inside of my heel and it came back and hinged on...

TM: The idea of that was sometimes on the top of places like Gold(?) Twynham and Gungahen and so on, it could be very very hard and icy and edges tended to just skid rather than do anything. It would be easier to remove the skis and tow them on a piece of string, a strong piece of string.

JM: But I was lightweight in those days.

TM: In fact we didn't do any of that on that trip.

KH: The hinge, this thing would flip back...

JM: It was no bigger than that, and it was square across there and it just hit back onto the heel, it had teeth on it.

TM: This thing had teeth on it, only a few, about five teeth, and that could be folded over and clipped down under the boot and it was just smooth.

JM: It was wonderful. I have short legs - where Tom could step up onto something and get his balance, it was such a stretch for me and I'd be off balance, so I had that extra protection.

KH: Did you come across any snowed in stock?

JM: No, never.

TM: You were asking about dramatic experiences. I think the only thing that approaches that, I think, was the morning we were leaving Mawsons and the sun suddenly shone and we thought 'ahh at last we have a beautiful day to go across to Whites'. I think that might have been the most dramatic experience, but an hour or so later it had all gone grey.

JM: That day, when we got up along the range from Whites, we turned around and came back.

TM: We were nearly blown off the Rolling Grounds.

JM: I couldn't stand.

TM: It really was fierce, that was the fiercest I think of the trip.

JM: It would blow me and I'd go clattering across the ice.

KH: It was boiler plate as well as it, that hard crusty snow.

TM: It looked like solid ice.

KH: We call it boiler plate now.

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JM: And then you'd get a hollow that had some soft snow in it, so you could pull up.

KH: Yes, don't remind me.

JM: If I had too many falls with a pack on I would get knocked up.

TM: It's very tiring that sort of business.

KH: Oliver hurt his ankle, twisted his ankle going down Whites River.

JM: Did he?

KH: You mentioned it in the article I think.

TM: That could well be so.

JM: The cold snow would have helped that.

TM: This was in amongst trees, big trees and low scrubby bushes and then light snow on top of that. I think I mentioned we couldn't ski, we were just scrambling down the hillside as best we could and it would have been very easy to twist an ankle there.

JM: He was probably tired too, poor fellow, we all were.

KH: Although you were well acclimatized by then, in a sense, you'd had practically ten days out.

TM: It doesn't prevent one getting a bit tired.

JM: It also can be a worry if you're coming to the conclusion that you should turn back because we were getting so close to getting over to the Chalet. So actually we didn't get to Mount Kosciusko. We went down onto the Snowy - I suppose we got as far as - I can't remember how far we got.

TM: Perisher Creek.

JM: We got down and went up Perisher Creek.

TM: We got down to the Snowy and got across on rocks without being wet, just towing our skis with rope, clambered up the bank. There's the river there and we came down here, crossed, and then a ridge came down there with Perisher Creek coming in here, so we had to climb over the ridge, didn't go too high, and then Perisher Valley opened up. But that was Perisher Creek below - there's a waterfall half way down and it was lower down than that of course. We walked around the hillside until we got close to that waterfall and we made camp there.

KH: There was a gauging station there later on, by SMA I think. It's an open little valley I think.

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JM: There's a picture of me in my panties. We took our long pants off to go across.

KH: All these other photos in here would be with Oliver Moriarty, you don't have any others.

TM: Wait a minute, we should have a set of them. Rob has them, we lent them to him when we lent him the Year Book. He's binding them, he says he knows where they are.

KH: How could I get to look at those, could you send them to me, or could he send them to me.

TM: I guess so, I can't see why not.

KH: If you send them by certified mail, things are pretty safe. That's most of the set.

TM: As far as I can recollect it's a complete set of the photos taken on that trip.

KH: If I wanted to use those, I'd have ....

JM: You'd have to get his permission.

KH: That's no good.

JM: You think he wouldn't give it.

KH: I wrote to him before asking him about what he had and he said it's all in the archive at the Adelaide Library and he wasn't prepared to ...

TM: He wasn't cooperative.

JM: I wonder if we wrote and said could we use them, he'd let us.

KH: If he says that...

TM: But then that's not quite the same thing is it.

JM: He's a bit of a ....

KH: He's funny, he's very funny in that way.

JM: Well he was funny back then.

TM: What about seeing them and seeing if you want to use any and then perhaps specifically ask him, saying you've got these from us and does he mind if you use these specific photographs.

JM: It's a great pity not to be able ....

TM: It's probably the best way of going about it, decide what you want first.

KH: And they are with Robert.

TM: I'm not too clear on exactly where they are. As I say he thinks he knows where to find them.



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JM: We'll be talking to the family so we can probably stir them about it.

TM: I'll make a note about that.

KH: Yes that will be good.

JM: We're more likely to get on with it if we start prodding.

KH: With most of the stuff in this book, where I've got written material for a journey, I like to get the original photographs that went with it.

JM: They were that finish that we used to use in those days. How far ahead is this book do you think.

KH: I'm starting to get most of it together now.

JM: You've got a good lot of stuff for it.

KH: Yes, with this visit to Sydney and a few more interviews, I'll have a lot of stuff together. I'll probably be putting it all together about January/February, I hope. Do you remember what sort of a camera it was.

TM: I haven't a clue now.

KH: You had an unusual welcome at the Kosciusko Hotel?

TM: Couldn't get anything to eat.

KH: You were hungry.

JM: You can put your moniker on that if you like.

KH: Yes I can do that.

TM: Yes, we ate our last food at Perisher Creek and it wasn't very much.

JM: We had about a tail... of porridge each that day.

TM: After that we reckoned it was a bit of a climb, going up Perisher Creek to Perisher Plains.

JM: And then ski down to the pub.

KH: Which was still quite a way wasn't it.

TM: It was outside of the hours we could get anything to eat.

JM: And they said we had to wait until morning tea time. I said we were hungry and we hadn't had anything since yesterday. They said they were very sorry but there was nothing they could do about it. I forget what we had, we had some sweet cakes and a cup of tea at 11 o'clock.

KH: You must have got up at the crack of dawn that morning.

TM: I think we left fairly early.

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JM: It was a very unrestful night because we kept slithering down the tent.

TM: There seemed to be a bit of a slope, it seemed impossible to find any flat ground.

JM: Farm Ridge was dark we couldn't go scouting around much. You're either on harnicky grass with water between or lumpy bits under trees, but there never seemed to be anything level.

KH: Were you involved in the National Parks Association in the earlier days.

JM: Sure was.

TM: I was amongst those who formed it.

KH: It arose out of the Kalua.

TM: Members of the Kalua Club were involved in forming the NPA, and others.

KH: Was Allen Strong involved with that?

TM: Yes, very much so.

KH: I was sort of involved with the NPA when I was in Sydney in '68/'69, I was on their Reserves Committee.

JM: It was in the '50s wasn't it that you were there, late '50s?

TM: Yes. For about 10 years from '57 when it was formed.

KH: Were you on the committee?

TM: Yes.

KH: Were you president?

TM: Yes at one time, treasurer most of the time.

KH: Was Henry ... Cunningham involved then, because I did some walks with him?

TM: Yes.

KH: I got very involved with some of the conservation issues. I was all fiery in my early 20s when Cohen Caves, and Marl Lakes and .... were all those things were burning issues. I suppose it's because of my background in regard to skiing and so on from my parents, that I naturally gravitated to something like the National Parks Association in Sydney. I can't remember how I got to that. It's interesting for me because a lot of things have come full circle since then and people I met then are meeting again now in a completely new context because now I'm working on historical things and so on. I can't remember, but at some stage your name must have come up at that time, with regard to nature conservation.



TM: A big argument went on within the Association. It was about the time the National Parks Act went through Parliament, but I think in fact the argument occurred after that. It was about a year after that that I dropped out of active participation. Dunphy and a couple of others made a big stir up about who should be members of the council and so on, and the council wasn't doing the right things, and a couple of big meetings.

KH: Was there some sort of parting of the ways?

TM: I couldn't see any point in continuing to work - Dunphy in particular seems to be a difficult person to work with.

KH: There was a similar thing in the Australian Conservation Foundation some years ago, wasn't there, when Geoff Mosley came in.

TM: Well he was already in it, he was already the director I think.

KH: A fellow called Piesse I think, '67/'68. They had a base at Macquarie uni. They went on until the mid '70s, this particular group and then there was almost like a coup there was a big meeting in Melbourne and there was a complete change.

TM: By then the ACF was based in Melbourne. Dunphy was involved in that too.

KH: Oh yeah. I've met him a few times.

TM: It was thought, I think fairly widely, that the ACF was not doing what it should be doing, quite rightly I think.

End Side 1, Tape 2

Side 2, Tape 2

TM: ... in a way I suppose it was, in that this little group thought this Association wasn't taking the right line on this or that.

KH: Or a hard enough line.

TM: As a matter of fact, just off hand I can't think of the main points.

JM: Tom would come home at 2 and 3 o'clock in the morning from meetings. I hardly ever saw him.

KH: Well if you were involved for 10 years, that's a long time.

JM: Allen Strong was the same.

TM: He did a tremendous amount of work.

KH: I suppose a lot of my orientation towards nature conservation was inspired by people like Allen Strong.

JM: Did you join up with the Kaluas?

KH: No. I came to Sydney, to Macquarie University in '67 and that's when that started for me.

JM: The Kaluas had faded out by then.

TM: They took themselves out of existence some time after the NPA was formed.

JM: The NPA was doing trips and so on.

KH: They had a bus didn't they?

TM: The Kaluas did, an old truck. I think the NPA carried that on for a while.

JM: I think they did too.

KH: ... used to talk about these incredible bus trips.

TM: Yes they were good, I went on one.

JM: It was just a truck that had sides and a roof and curtains around it, and seats inside.

TM: I was on one that went to the Warran.... - it was a very good trip.

JM: We had some beaut trips with that group for a long time because the children were young so we were able to. We had one notably trip up to Barrington, near Barrington House. There was always a big group of us and because all the children got together. There was huts, old huts from the sawmill down the way and the kids had a high old time, with charcoal they drew all over these huts and they came back very cocky about this to tell us about it. I just

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said 'Now you can just go back and clean it all off again'. Oh well they couldn't do that, how would they do that. I said 'Well there's plenty of ... about' and all the others parents stood by and said 'yes'. They went down and spent the rest of the day scrubbing. It taught them a lesson.

TM: Allen Strong and I and two or three people from Newcastle did most of the work in forming the association.

KH: Really. .... wasn't involved with that.

TM: No. Rod Earp - I can't remember their names.

JM: A fellow named Roberts, out at Gosford.

TM: No. That was Britton Water(?) National Park. I was either treasurer, and later president from then - it was after the National Parks Act went through, it must have been '67/'68 that this upset occurred. I think it had to do with the Simms Committee Report on the sand mining at coastal parks. I was also president of what is now the Sydney branch of the NPA, all that time. It was part based in Sydney and parts of Newcastle, the two regions. From these were elected the members of the state council. Several of us had double jobs.

KH: What was your job then, your earning job?

TM: We were importing glass ware and hi fidelity equipment etc.

JM: It was a busy time.

KH: So you had an office in the city. So your line of business was always very different to your hobby.

TM: That's right.

KH: Not like Paddy Pallin.

TM: No, who's combined everything.

KH: A lot of people do now. People do trekking trips.

TM: There's a lot of that, their whole life is in the one area.

KH: I've asked you about your involvement with the NPA because I suppose I'm interested in the way - people who were bushwalkers, they gravitate towards what you might call more active positions on organisations and then become politically motivated too, to change things. You must have started to feel that.

JM: The Sydney Bushwalkers have been conservation-minded from the early days. You know about aspiring the blue gum?

KH: Yes I've read about that.

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JM: To pay £400 in those days was a lot of money for us to dig up.

TM: Yes that was one of the early efforts.

KH: Were you involved with that.

JM: Oh yes.

TM: I wasn't, but Jean was.

JM: We all were, trying to earn money for various things and dig up enough money to pay off this loan.

KH: Did you have much to do with Myles Dunphy ?

JM: Oh I saw a good deal of Myles.

KH: Because they were an exclusive all male concern.

JM: Well he used to come on our bushwalking things, particularly our reunions, we had an annual reunions and Myles and Margaret would come - Margaret didn't come a lot but she came occasionally in the early days. Oh yes, if you meet Myles, he's got a very soft spot for me. Like Paddy, he's got a soft spot for me. I remember the day he said - I went in to see him at his business - because I was an awful person, I used to make all my own gear.

KH: Yes, you weren't much good for business.

JM: No, but he was still very happy about me. Anyway I went in one day and he was very pleased with himself. They had just produced a daughter and they were going to call her Jennifer. That's 50 years ago. They've got two daughters and a son.

KH: Is Robert the youngest?

JM: Yes. There was another boy but he died as a child.

KH: Well I think that will probably just about do me, I'm exhausted, I don't know about you.

TM: It's quite tiring.

KH: Yes, you've got to concentrate.

JM: What are you going to do with yourself now, this afternoon.

#### Conclusion of interview