

INTERVIEW WITH ALICE GORRINGE

7 June 2000

**Updated with timecode from tape 21_BC_DV
Topics in Bold**

I = Interviewer

R = Respondent

Okay, so this is camera Tape 21. We're still in DAT Tape 10. The DAT is on 2407 and this is the second tape that has part of Alice Fortune, previously Gorringe nee Bates's interview on it, and we're in her son's home in Mt Isa. **TAPE 21_BC_DV**

So tell me, your stepfather and mother would have been paid by the station, were they Alice?

R 00:01:08:14 No. Only Dad. Mum wasn't, although Mum manned the radios and cooked for them when they came through. Oh, if you attend a muster ... in once place, say they attend a muster at Arrabury, so they'll come into The Planet, a group of men, most of them will eat down at the camps but a lot of them would come, like the head stockman and that sort of thing. Mum would cook for them. Some time you'd have about 20-25 men there at the station.

I So what was the exact job that your stepfather was doing for Arrabury and do you know how much he was paid and how he ...?

R No. I never knew how much he was paid. It was a question you didn't sort of ask, you know. Well, he was the manager of an outstation. Arrabury was an outstation. Nulla was an outstation but Nullah wasn't manned when we were there, but that's what they were. You took care of the stock in that area around there. So that's what he was. He could sign his name but he couldn't read well or write well.

I Do you think he was getting cash wages or was he getting wages in food and clothes?

R 00:02:26:06 He was getting money somehow, yeah, but probably into his bank account or something. He had a cheque book so I could say it went into

that. He could sign his cheque book but he couldn't write out the amount so we used to have to do that, or Mum only she wasn't always home. Not that we had that much education ourselves, you know. I went as good as Grade 3, Form 3, or whatever it was in those days. But it's okay, you do learn to read and write. We had jam tins, syrup tins, and what have you.

I And did you learn ... you obviously learned how to do stuff with animals. What's involved in breaking a horse? Tell me about the first time you broke in a horse, Alice.

R **Work: Horse Breaking**

00:03:17:00 Oh, first you've got to get it into the yard. We broke in brumbies mainly, that's what we practised on. You'd run them down and rope them and sneak 'em into a yard and well, you'd have to get from the rope round his neck to a halter on, or a bridle on, if you were game enough to get that close. From there you'd sort of, what they call bag him down to make him a bit quiet, and eventually get a saddle on him. And eventually you'd get on him and hope for the best. And we used to have to do that if we wanted horses. The best ones we ever found was the brumbies on the Cooper. They were really passive horses, never even bucked with you or anything. You could pull 'em in today, rope 'em, do something to their mouth so you can turn 'em when you want to go, jump on 'em and ride 'em away. They were quite good. Some of the brumbies are really rough. They used to wait till you got outside and throw you off, but you didn't dare get thrown off because you'd lose your saddle. So you just hung on to whatever you could and it's no fun riding bareback with your tail bone on a horse. You soon get a sore backside from that. 00:04:35:08

I Now you were saying that girls didn't swim and yet breaking horses is something that in lots of families they would have said that wasn't for girls. Other than not swimming, was there anything on the work of the property that was sort of not for girls?

R **Gender Relations**

00:04:53:00 Not for girls? No. We weren't allowed to salt meats at a certain time of the month, that's about all. If you had your periods, you wasn't allowed to corn meat, wasn't allowed to touch the meat. But no doubt cooks in the kitchen handled meat all the time. Well that's just different there. You could cut your own beef [strap?] and that sort of stuff but on certain days of the month you just didn't do it. Send the meat bad, so they reckon, so that was their little thing.

I How about vehicles? Did you learn mechanical skills?

R Don't talk about that. We broke an axle when I was about twelve, I suppose, in the old Ford thing they used to have. So we had to change it. Needless to say, touch wood, we haven't broke one since.

I So, Alice, I don't know that I've ever broken an axle but I've been driving for 20 years and if I did, I wouldn't have a clue how to change it. How did you work out what to do?

R 00:06:03:14 Oh well, Dad supervised. He lay down and had a smoke and a cup of tea and so we pulled it all off one day, one afternoon, and went back the next morning. He just sat there and supervised again. There's all these cogs you put in together to change it, yeah. And they're a separate axle, you know, they're an axle about that long, you put 'em in with all ... so you can put all the cogs in, change a tyre. We changed a tyre the other day. My grandson thinks I'm marvellous. 'The wheel, the wheel, Nanny,' he tells me. And you had to do it, though that stops you if I'm doing it again. But mind you, we couldn't see over the top so one'd do the clutch and the brakes and the other one'd do the steering, that was taller. And of course the gears were here, well you didn't do that. If he sung out 'the gears' while he's down there pushing the clutch and the brake in or whatever, 'Quick, come on, the brakes in'. Change the gear and

I So whose vehicles would these have been that you were driving?

R 00:07:15:00 The station's. The station's vehicle. Did you ever see those old 1920 Fords where you could put the top down? One of those.

I Like a Model T?

R Yeah, yeah. Those. I often tell the kids that's what I used to learn to drive. I learnt to drive in one of those. And they had 'em in a ute version as well, you know.

I And so, were you sneaking away to drive this vehicle, or you were encouraged to drive it?

R 00:07:43:20 We were encouraged to drive 'cause Mum didn't drive. It was a case of have to. If anything happened to Mum, we had to get on the radio and meet someone at a certain place, so you had to drive. All my kids, I taught all my kids to drive at ten, eleven too, for the same reason. We'd go camping and if something happens to me or Dad or whatever, you've got a driver. If you can't drive one on the highway, you can drive to the highway, that sort of thing.

I So it was a survival thing?

R **Transport: Driving a buggy**

00:08:17:10 Yeah, more or less, yeah. Same as Mum ... we used to travel around mainly in a four in hand buggy with rubber tyres – a bun cart they used to call them. They've got ... they're just a trailer car with wheels on that just rolled freely. The horse drug them. So Mum used to drive a four in hand. Quite neat, she used to be. If they bolted, she'd stand up and pull it in. You'd have reins through here and there, see, both sides.

I And how would you, like in that country you would quite often have had different channels, wouldn't you? How would you cope with the channels?

R 00:08:57:22 Oh when we got into the channels, see out on Arrabury there wasn't any channel country there, other than down on, I don't know what they call that creek now, near Betoota, but in the Channel Country Mum used to drive a four in hand. She'd go down and back here, drop all the children off at the top, usually about four or five of those, drop them off at the top, go along till she could find a place to get up, might have to turn around and

come back and go up the high, up the creeks, up the lower part of the rivers.
You've been down to the Cooper country? 00:09:31:10

I I'm going down there soon.

R Well take note of the banks, how steep the banks are. The banks are like that and Mother used to get across those okay.

I So that would have been, the Model T wouldn't have coped with that but your mother could do it with horse and cart?

R No. Yeah. Horse and bun cart. But we didn't have the Model ... we wasn't on the then, we was out on Arrabury. And the same thing with the creeks, you used to get out with a shovel and a crow bar, that's all they carried, so you'd cut the bank down and get across. Ant beds are marvellous things for that, to make a bridge. They last for ages, too.

I So what, you'd ... tell me about how would you use the ant beds? You'd take the ants nests?

R 00:10:18:04 Yeah, you know those big ones you can see? They're not as big as the Territory but just throw them in there and break 'em up with an axe and drive across 'em. We used to do that out here ... Bill was working in the Railway, my husband, out at Kujabbing(?). We went out one night and we had one of those old T Model Fords – we couldn't afford anything else with a couple of children on fettle's wages – so we went out and, not checking the lights before we left, we get out there and coming home just on dark, no lights. I think we had two blankets, one pillow and five kids. And that's how we used to get across the creeks anyhow, just pull up an ant bed as well. The things you learn, it's unreal.

I And tell me about what relationships you had with white kids on Arrabury, because you were on Planet Downs, weren't you?

R **Gender Relations**

00:11:15:00 Yeah, we were at the outstation there. It was always okay with us. If they had any problems, we never heard of them. We used to play with them. Very seldom we seen children so, if we did, you played with them. There was another family over on Tamban, which we didn't get to see anyhow, only ... I think we went to the race meeting in Windorah once. Suddenly there's kids galore to play with. When we were at that age of 14 and 15 well you wasn't allowed to run around with the kids any more then anyhow. That was the thing. When you got to the teens you were supposed to be like a lady then – other than riding horses and fallin' off and everything else. 00:11:57:15

I So what did being a lady involve? What parts of your behaviour or dress had to shift when you were 14 or 15?

R 00:12:07:16 The shift was more or less your behaviour, that's all it was. You didn't go shouting or running around with the children. You more or less helped Mum in the kitchen in your spare time. I remember the first time I There was this mare called Daisy and I had to ride her, she was a chestnut. This was usually in the bush races. I knew she was fast but that's what I wanted and we had an old Aboriginal Long Ted, he used to look after us kids more or less, you know, he was an old full-blood. Ted said to me, 'You can't ride it, it's just too strong and it'll take off'. 'But I must ride it.' Okay, he let me go and we were up at the creek, changed horses, I rode Daisy back from up there. Horses on stations are playing and race into the trough, buck around, and Daisy took off because she thought it was a race meeting. I ended up over the trough. [Tracey? Daisy?] come and I'm trying to pull her but she won't let me, she's just shakin' her head and yelling, so she propped and I went straight over the top. And Mum came running. She could hear the commotion and poor old Ted, he can't get up. He's laying on the ground holding his stomach.

I I'd love you to describe a race meeting at Windorah, Alice. Picture it in your brain and tell us all about it.

R They're very good. Ummm, I only went to one there. Can I tell you about the one at Betoota?

I Sure.

R 00:14:04:14 By this time my brother George has got this horse, I don't know what's the name of it. Anyhow we lived at the Planet and never went to Betoota Races in my entire life so we're there and everything. You're bettin' on anything and everything that moves. So me cousin's got to training this horse for me brother and she just threw herself down, she's a real hyped up thing, so here's Spinny trying to get her up – that's Spinny my cousin – and I'm lookin' for a piece of wire. I'll get her off the ground, I'll just double it under her tummy, just flog her, and just as we got the wire all sorted out, George come around – that's me brother – 'Come on darling, get up,' and he pulls it up. We could have killed him with the piece of wire as well. That was it. And race meetings are good. We didn't dance, it was antisocial more than anything. But Windorah Races are good. You can go to dances and dance with Tom, Dick and Harry there if you wish to and we all had those big flared skirts in them days, remember? So many metres in a skirt. My aunty made me one of those and I thought I was just it. A pink polka dot, it was. 00:15:21:04

I And would Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal people all mix together at those dances or would there be kind of the Aboriginal bit and the non-Aboriginal bit?

R **Gender Relations/Race Relations: Bourke**

00:15:31:00 No. What I can remember, everyone came in, but the boys mainly went to the pub and Mum and the kids came to the dance, you know. Until the pub closed and then everyone else came up. What I used to like about those days, if they had a difference they'd tell it by fist. They'd have a fight and get it over with. And that's when you see 'em all walkin' round arm in arm, mate this and mate that. You know, there was no grudges whatsoever. No, the Aboriginal kids used to come as well to the dances, although there wasn't that many there. There was only us and aunt's family,

I suppose. And me other aunty and uncle had one or two. So there wasn't that many kids but we all played together. They all went to school together, all fought together and, well the boy next door to me now in Windorah, he was about this high when I left home, going to school. Even now I give him a lip bashing over the fence, you know. He comes in for a cuppa tea and it's that way in Windorah, you know, you just walk in to anyone's place and if you want something you go in and take it, leave a note to tell or say who it was, and that's it. You drive into their properties and do the same. You just leave a note – 'Just come to look. I come to borrow this' you know, whatever it is, and you're gone. I find them there really good but I got the shock of my life when I went to Bourke when I was younger and you had to go in through a side door to go to the movies. You wasn't allowed to ... you can buy your ticket at the front door but you couldn't go in there. But that was only once or twice you went down. You was too tired to go to the movies anyhow.

I So you're saying that growing up in Windorah it wasn't a big deal?

R **Droving**

00:17:17:04 No, I didn't find it a big deal. Arrabury either, for that matter. But just when you went to town, oh there were small towns like Charleville, Bourke – we used to go to Bourke with cattle – and even the properties we didn't find anything. I remember they never used to like us puttin' our horses on their sheep feed in the next paddock and we feed them up with a bit of beef or anything else, you know, if they went home to bed, we'd let our horses into their yard. Just cut the fence, undid the wire and put 'em in. They didn't like it, but if they wanted beef they'd have to let us do it. Yeah. That's all there was to it. They were our stock, they were our living, so we had to feed them. 00:18:08:06

I So was there a way in which you felt yourself to be kind of living on land that was yours when you were at Arrabury?

R 00:18:17:02 Mmmm. Yeah, I suppose so. We used to do a lot of things on the land there and it made no difference to us. Like now, we've got a land

claim in at Glengyle, not me really, but you know, it's for the other kids, like my younger sister, see, 'cause her father comes from there. He was born there. But it's a free land. If you get a land claim, let 'em use it. They've been using it for hundreds of years now, why not let 'em use it? You've not going to go out and camp on it, you're not going to live on it. That's what it is, it's just open range still.

I So what area is that where you've got a land claim?

R **Native Title**

In through Glengyle and Birdsville, in through that country, because ... but he's still using it for the same reason they've always been using it. I don't believe you should put a land claim and bar anyone from it. If you're not going to live on it, work it, let it go. Let 'em use it like it's been used all the time. That's what I reckon.

I So let's just say your land claim was successful. What would that mean? Like what, in your understanding, does a successful Native Title claim involve?

R Well, it'd make you feel free to go and live there if you wanted to. But still, I don't think I'd bar the stock that people have got it now. I still wouldn't bar 'em. I'd like to have a little corner to grow some veges, fruit trees, probably put up a little house. That's what it'd mean to me. And that'd be home.

I So could you imagine, if your land claim was successful, would you imagine that you and the white people currently living there would continue to both live ...?

R **Race Relations**

00:20:05:02 Oh, I'd hope so, yeah. Like now this land claim's in, there's a few of them in it, and I think I'd like that. 'Cause like I said, white people really haven't done me any harm. There might have been a few things way back in your childhood but what's the use of living in the past really? It's

now, the present, more than anything. Our other two sons married white girls. One's a German girl even. And I get along quite okay with their mother. She talks a little bit of English, I talk a little bit of German, and we can talk, us grandmothers, mainly sign language, but we can talk.

00:20:46:00

I So am I hearing are you slightly perplexed by all this politics?

R Yeah, I think it's silly. They'd even go back to the hard and fast ways they had before but, you know, like they was using people, but why can't we all get along? We all live on this planet and fighting's not going to improve anything, is it? Look at Fiji. Look at New Guinea. It's doin' no good.

I I know talking, for some white people who have owned or leased land, Native Title feels like a real threat. You know, it seems like this land that they've considered theirs could potentially be taken away from them.

R 00:21:39:10 Yeah, I realise that too. And they paid a lot of money for their land so I say why can't they use it, you know, for what they're using it for? Well, Aboriginals are not going to use it. They've not used it, have they, for years and years. This is the way I look at it. Like the Diamantina, the Georgina, whatever it is now, there's cattle on there. You're not going to go down and put two cows on it or something, or three cows or half-a-dozen, whatever I can afford, and run them there. That's crazy. 'Cause you'd need a little paddock to hold 'em in anyhow.

I So I'm getting a bit confused here, Alice. Are you saying land claims should only go on to land that white people aren't currently using?

R 00:22:30:06 No, no. I think if they want land, why can't they pay for it like everyone else, you know, or live on it and work it? Down home there we had a loan in an Aboriginal, a loan for a house. Everyone sort of built their home. It's a self-help, you know, you help your ... we put up one of these and you had what you liked inside, and then you're supposed to grow plants to make it look respectable, eh? Like, you're living in a house, why not do it? But a lot of people didn't do that. They didn't want to do that.

They didn't grow one tree. And they was whingeing for someone to come and do their gardens. They're able-bodied, why can't they do it? You know, the house is a reasonable price. This is stupid. If you want a garden, get in and put a garden in. No one's going to come along and do it for you. No one's got that sort of time either. You grow what you want. Like you wasn't allowed to paint it until you got permission and all this sort of rubbish, too, but I went ahead and done it. I said I'm buying, I'll do what I like and that's it.

00:23:38:14

I So independence is important to you? Doing things for yourself.

R **Education**

00:23:44:04 Yes, yeah. I think self-help offers the best thing out. Look, we can go on the dole. Go on the river bank. You got to have a bit of pride in what you do, I reckon, in yourself as well, in your family. Sure, my kids all went to high school, boarding school, on a grant. That's all I wanted, just to put 'em, education for 'em, something I never had. They came out reasonable people.

I So we actually, I need to get that bit filled in. How did you meet your husband?

SIDE B

R Droving, where else would I meet a man? He was around, you know.

I Could you just tell me that again? Tell me how you met your husband.

R **Romance**

Well, when you're the only girl, or two girls, in the entire countryside, you get plenty of proposals, naturally, but you don't want to take 'em all. I wanted to give us a home so I took this one. That's the only reason I can give.

I And so where did you meet your husband?

R Windorah. That's him up there when he was in the Army. Not that we get along very well. In the meantime, a lot of things happened, so we don't get along very well.

I How old were you when you married?

R 00:25:08:04 Well, I was 22 but the mind was about 15, I suppose, yeah. 14 or 15. Very sheltered family life sort of thing, you know. Within the family, you didn't work outside. I think I worked outside the family for about two years, that's about all.

I So was your husband from around Windorah?

R Cloncurry. Julia Creek area.

I So what had brought him to Windorah?

R Stock. He used to come down with stock from up here. and another place up in the Gulf.

I So he was a drover?

R 00:25:52:04 Yes, he was one of the guys on the ... he didn't own a plant but he was one of the guys, you know, working with the drover. You always had about four or five men with you. So ... when you're fetching a couple of thousand head of cattle you've got to have five or six men.

I So, 22. That's 35, so 1957 when you met your husband?

R Yeah. So we ended up coming up here in that car, that 300 pounds car that we had. I took it when I left. My wages for the 14 years.

I So who gave you that car?

R 00:26:43:16 Ah, I threw a bit of a tantrum because I wanted a car of me own down in Tibooburra so I drove it back from there, in this souped up model of a sedan. Needless to say, we had a car at home that, if you went courting you took all your sisters and brothers with you to push the car when

you stopped it. And you parked on a ridge like this so you could, so they'd have easy pushing. You could start it going down.

I Because they didn't have a starter motor?

R It had a starter motor on but goodness knows what was the matter. I think we put it together ourselves.

I So when you say you had a tantrum, who did you have a tantrum with and ...?

R **Leisure**

00:27:26:08 Me stepfather, 'cause I really wanted wheels and I really liked this thing. It was a Super Snipe, eh, one of those ... the policeman had one. Gall had one in what's-a-name so we knew they were fast, they used to race the buggies and the rest of the cars down home. So once we got that, we used to all go to the river for tea. Black and white and everyone. And from there, the seven miles home we'd race. Even the policeman, sorry. He did too. So horse and buggy or whatever you had, you'd be racing. It was a wide road, good wide road, so we was going to battle along with this car. We ended up doing it too.

I So who came up with the 300 bucks?

R Dad did. Me stepfather did, yeah.

I So when you say it was wages for 14 years of working on Planet Downs ...

R **Droving**

00:28:22:10 No, no, no, not Planet Downs. As drovers. We left there ... when we left Planet and I was about 16, 15-16, we went droving straight away. Dad had a lot of horses so we used to have, we had 30 horses on plant, or 25-30, and we had a spare at home, and when we came back we picked that one up and leave the other one. By the time we come back, they'd be rested and we'd use them. It was a continuous thing. You just went round and round.

I So where were you droving?

R From morning, we'd go to the next one at Glengyle, Mount Leonard, in through that country. Waverney, it all depends what was available and you took.

I And where would you be droving them to?

R Bourke. Bourke, Quilpie, Yaraka. You'd take a load of cattle up to Yaraka and you'd fetch a load of bulls back or something. The bulls, they travelled in about three or four hundred, they'd do that once in a while, you had to take a load of bulls back. So it was continuous work up and back as well.

I So that would be you and your sister and your brother helping your father?

R **Gender Relations/Alcohol**

00:29:38:20 Mmmm, stepfather, yeah. It'd be nothing for the boys to get on the grog at Windorah or something and you'd lose them. They'd all get huffy and pull out and so you'd do half a night watch for the next fortnight or three weeks. Two on, two off, you know. All because there was only four of us besides cooking, and no one liked cooking. Not over an open fire anyhow.

I And going on those droving trips, when you'd get to Quilpie or Bourke or whatever, are you saying that you would encounter racism then?

R 00:30:18:00 Yes, mmmm. Especially Bourke, yeah. Well, Quilpie you used to phone the taxi driver. He used to take the poddies, like the calves just born close to town. He used to take those and rear them, but he'd give us bread in exchange and take care of us girls when we hit the town. We'd go to the movies but Mr Greenie would be waiting there. As soon as we walked up, they rang a taxi and you're home. So to amuse ourselves, Quilpie's got very hot bore water, so you'd fill the tub up and we'd soak ourselves and get all the dirt that's on us for the 12 months or ... we wasn't allowed to go anywhere from the movies. Greenie would be waiting for us.

I Was Greenie Aboriginal?

R No, he was a white guy. We used to stay with them.

I So he would be keeping you safe from men?

R Yeah, mmmm. He'd pick us up and take us home. It didn't matter how much water we used as long as we ... it wasn't outdoors, you know. The boys, very seldom we camped down the stockyards where the men were. If we did, Mum was with us, sittin' on it. So it was, you know, reasonable. You didn't have to worry too much.

I And was there a sense that being a Gorringe was something special?

R **Gender Relations**

00:31:32:02 Yeah, to everyone it was. Even, like, in later life the proper Gorringe family, you know the younger children, used to say, 'Well, you weren't Gorringes anyhow' and the young sister-in-law. They said, 'Oh, but he chose us and we turned out better men than your husband did,' you know. Even the men part of it. My sister would always throw that in their face now, 'But he chose us. He didn't have no choice in you guys'. You know, that sort of thing. Yeah, I suppose it was, eh? Because he was known all in that country for his horsemanship and what he could do with a horse and he brought us up the same way. A bit like Bulloo Downs mob, you know, you was brought up the same way. You knew how to change a tyre. Even at home, and the boys are home with me, I've got four boys, had four boys, we've got pulley gear to pull the engine out of our cars and everything. Even I can get down and undo the shoe nuts and pull my engine out and have a look at it. And put another one in, or whatever. That's what you was brought up like. And I found in later life my husband didn't like that at all but I felt he married me for those things I had. To put up a fence, a chook run, or anything else. And then at the end of it, he didn't sort of like it.

I What didn't your husband like about that?

R 00:32:57:06 My independence and what I could do. That's what I felt anyhow. He said I was only puttin' him to shame. I said, 'Look, I've been doin' this fencing and cuttin' posts and everything all my life. This is about all I know'. I can put up a chook run, you know, it's no problem. I might lock the trailer inside behind my netting, but I can do it. He used to get very annoyed with it. Like movin' me gas bottles and things. That's the sort of life we lived. You're independent and you do it. It's got to be done, you do it.

I Now your stepfather Bill, when he went droving, he had his own plant?

R Yeah.

I And so you and your sisters helped him. When you were married, what happened then?

R But I didn't. I married in Cloncurry and I didn't go home. I didn't go home for 30 ... I've been home ... for 15 years before I went home, and just to let the family see the children. My eldest boy was about 14, 15 then, and ... I never went home for 31 years or something like that, to live or anything. See, my children were at school, I couldn't afford it. Our kids in boarding school. And you had your husband at home then to after and everything.

I So did your husband keep droving after you were married?

R No, no. He went into the Railway. Came up and got a job in the Railway. We lived at Duchess, we lived at Kujabi. Seven years at Kujabi. I don't know, four or five years out here at Duchess.

I Because if your husband had kept droving, he wouldn't have been able to take you with him, would he, because the ...?

R 00:34:38:04 Not with the children in school. But my sister could tell you a story about her and her husband droving. Peg, just ask her about the droving trip. She went on doing it with her husband. Her husband was a fencer drover too so she done a lot of it.

I So what was your life then, after you got married, Alice? Give me a glimpse of your life in Cloncurry.

R **Pregnancy**

Ah, we moved to Duchess. When I got married we moved out to Duchess just up the creek here. It was okay. I had my goats, you know, animals still. Had a little garden. I already had a child by that time. I had Patsy, she was about six. Sent her to school, walked to school with them. You had the school house on the rise over at Duchess, eh. The kids lived over here and the school house was over there, over on the hill on the other side. So if the creek was running, it'd be running a bank so you'd have to piggy-back the kids across the water up to here. It was strong so you had to.

00:35:49:06

I So you're saying it was your first child that had a different father?

R Yeah, mmmm. So, and after that, we had more children and used to walk round the hills with the kids all the time. Even my teenage boys, we climbed every hill between here and The 'Curry. It'd take us a full day to come up here from The 'Curry 'cause you'd take lunch. You'd have a barbecue lunch and climb all the hills, all the way.

I So you were about ... how old were you when you had your first child? Can you tell me a tiny bit about that, how that happened.

R 00:36:24:08 I was, uhhh, about 16. You just met someone, like the boys were out all the time, you're inquisitive, and that's what happens. But after that, I had ... I missed by kids, family, so much. I think I had six, five more, just to make up for the family. I had my own kids to walk around the hills with and Christmas time and Easter, make bunny tracks everywhere and all that. So I thoroughly enjoyed 'em all. This is two of them up here now, you can see. That's George in blue there, and this is David down here with the baby.

I You've got family all round you on the walls.

R Mmmm. And he's a friend, that little guy up there. Very good friend, Dean. And there's another group around the corner. That's my family. You know, you put away the big frames and one family's in there and another family's in another.

I So what brought you back to Windorah, then, Alice?

R Well, I always told my kids, when they grew up and finished school, I'm going home. If not home, I'm going to Western Australia. I couldn't afford Western Australia so I went home.

I Where was the West Australia dream? Why West Australia?

R 00:37:46:16 I don't know. But my nephew won a, you know how you win a holiday for two. He won a holiday for two for the America's Cup when the America's Cup was over, so I've been over to the West then. We went over there for a fortnight, my sister and I. The plane leaves over there at six o'clock in the morning or some ungodly hour, so we go out to the casino, pack our bags and leave 'em at the door in the motel, and go to the casino, ordered this great big flash meal, didn't know if we were going to be able to pay for it, and we thought we'd be washing up when the plane left anyhow. But it worked out okay. 00:38:27:12

R Yes, okay. I'll give you a bit of water. No, you don't want water. Do you want apple juice? Here, have this.

I If you need to stop, we can.

R I'll have to, yeah, and give him a drink.