

The Institution of Engineers, Australia
Engineering Heritage Australia
National Engineering Oral History Program
INTERVIEW TAPE LOG

Interviewee: Alexander Ross McIntyre **Tape Numbers:** IEA EHA: MP 10
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Interviewer: Dr Margaret Park IEA EHA: MP 12
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Number of Tapes: 6

Place of Interview: 32 Beauchamp Street, Deakin, ACT 2600

Dates of Interview: 14 and 19 May 2004

Restrictions on Use: Subject to checking by R. McIntyre (See Interviewee Release Form)

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Tape: IEA EHA: MP10, Side A

Time/ Counter	Subject	Proper Names & Keywords
000-013	Provides full name, date and place of birth.	Alexander Ross McIntyre, born on 21 May 1923 at Chatswood, NSW
014-125	Details of family migration to Australia - paternal grandparents settled in Sydney at Paddington with sons. Ross describes family economic situation in late 1880s and improvement over time. McIntyre and Curran, painters and decorators. Ross's father's details, commenced work at 12 yrs, 10 months, working for a coachbuilder.	James Bilsland McIntyre Dumbarton, Scotland Paddington Barbara Joan (nee Smith) McIntyre & Curran Trocadero Dance Hall Alexander John McIntyre Paddington Superior School Frank Grimley
126-158	Details of maternal grandparents family migration to Australia.	Frederick Bonfield Annie Ross Paddington
159-237	Describes parents: their backgrounds and occupations - mother was a dressmaker, father a coachbuilder. Married in 1914 at the Methodist Church at Chatswood.	Blanche Emily Bonfield Methodist Church, Chatswood

	Moved to home at Roseville. Description of family home – “Cruachan” and locality – Roseville.	Roseville Shelleys (Builders) William Atkins
238-288	Methods of travel on the North Shore, railway, trams, walking, horse and sulky. Home deliveries: milk, grocer (T-model Ford truck), iceman, newspaperman and motor car, postman (Allen).	Public Transport Private Transport
289-end	Continues with description of family home, mother's work and household chores, more about deliveries. Includes thoughts on the Great Depression years. Backyard with fruit trees, vegetable garden, fernery and glasshouse	“Dad” tablets “Reckitts Blue” Great Depression “Bubble and Squeak”
End Side A, Tape MP 10		

Tape: IEA EHA: MP 10, Side B		
Time/Counter	Subject	Proper Names & Keywords
000-008	Continues with description of ‘life at home’ – birds, the parrot.	
009-080	Schooling - attended Roseville Primary School and Chatswood Intermediate High School for one year and then amalgamated with North Sydney to the North Sydney-Chatswood Junior High School (Greenwood School – near North Sydney Railway Station, now a shopping centre). Enjoyed science: chemistry and physics. Latin lecturer at Chatswood (Ian Idriess's sister) and bunsen burner story. Recalls French teacher (Ross spelled it as Duvoisier, but corrected it off the tape as [Dufenznel])	Roseville Primary School Chatswood Intermediate High School North Sydney-Chatswood Junior High School Greenwood School Miss Idriess (Ian Idriess's sister) Dufenznel
081-106	Great Depression years. Knew of unemployment. An Uncle, Ross's mother's brother (a casual at the Telegraph newspaper) lived with McIntyre's for many years. McIntyre's had a telephone. Other Uncle set up workshop making items out of celluloid. Brother, Allen, won scholarship to Newington College.	Great Depression Telegraph newspaper Newington College Allen William McIntyre
107-153	Recalls the opening of the Sydney Harbour Bridge in 1932 from the northside, including the procession. Walked across the Bridge to the south side and back again. Major De Groot's opening, part of the Depression years and its impact. Fathers association with a political party, the New Guard. Mr White's bus routes closed down by Jack Lang – compares this to current NSW government policy on contract buses.	Sydney Harbour Bridge Major DeGroot Jack Lang New Guard Mr White's bus route
154-213	Activities at home - talks about early toys – a Meccano set. Still owns his original set. First radio acquired around first broadcast of a cricket match. Describes the broadcast. House name: “Cruachan” – the war cry of the McIntyre Clan. Mother interested in boxing – enjoyed the dramatics over the radio.	Meccano sets Radio Broadcasts Cricket McGilvray “Cruachan” Boxing
214-281	Early engineering influences – “The Wonder Book of Engineering Wonders”. Ross describes some of his early inventions – wind vane story. Sleeping out on the verandah – talks about who slept where in the family home.	<i>The Wonder Book of Engineering Wonders</i> Electrical Engineering
282-end	High School years – from Intermediate certificate went to North Sydney Boys High School (not received with open arms).	Bob Harvey North Sydney Boys High School

An engineering subject introduced – Mechanics – dynamics of engineering – class of about 7 students. Entered into NS Boys Hall of Fame in the 1970s (about 1976).	Mechanics Hall of Fame
End Side B, Tape MP 10	

Tape: IEA EHA: MP 11, Side A		
Time/ Counter	Subject	Proper Names & Keywords
000-027	Friends from school days, Graham Keep – best man at Ross's wedding. Physics teacher influences – received honours in exams. Mentions Bill Waterhouse, racing identity. Finished high school at the end of 1939	Graham Keep Bill Waterhouse
028-052	Second World War broke out during leaving certificate. Describes feeling of desperation within the community. Father helped out in civilian defence. Describes father's invention of indoor bomb shelter.	Second World War Bomb shelters
053- 141	Attended university – Sydney University Faculty of Engineering, 4 year course from February 1940. Farming on Mary's farm in between school years. Recalls course, length of day – complete dedication required. First year attended Tech College trade work on Saturdays. Worked on machining, lathes, boiler making, gas welding, pattern making. University fees – difficult time for parents, had to borrow money. Descriptive geometry – perspective drawing, very testing. Construction course – stresses in beams, girders, etc. Also did geology – significant for engineering work. Undertook some civil engineering work as well as mechanical and electrical engineering and astronomy (part of surveying work).	Peter Nichol Russell School of Engineering, Sydney University Technical College, Ultimo Machining Lathe Work Boiler Making Gas Welding Pattern Making Descriptive Geometry Civil Engineering Mechanical Engineering Electrical Engineering Astronomy
142-220	Specialised in Civil Engineering in 3 rd and 4 th years. Undertook some architecture. Talks about work at Canberra office in reference to an architect and design of CSIRO building. Surveying work – one week camp in Penrith area. Geodesy experts worked on Snowy Scheme in relation to correct location of tunnels. Importance of understanding geology when engineering major construction works, foundation of dams and other structures. Story of St Francis Dam (California) in USA – problems with gypsum and fracturing.	Civil Engineering Architecture CSIRO Building (Canberra) Surveying Camp – Penrith area Geodesy Snowy Mountains Hydro-Electric Scheme Geology St Francis Dam, USA
221-302	Returns to engineering course – required to pass before moving on to next year, no special requirements. Lived at home with parents until went away during wartime. Journey to and from university. Thoughts on teacher influences – Prof. Miller – proposer for joining Institution of Engineers. RDF – Radio Detection Finding (Radar), interest in. No women involved in engineering course. Women were in other courses – vet science, science, etc.	Public Transport Allowances Professor Miller, Dean of Engineering School Institution of Engineers Radio Detection Finding (RDF) = Radar
303-360	Feelings about going off to war – taken in stride as they were young. Geoff Welch, student at North Sydney Boys, also did engineering, became an Assoc. Prof. of Engineering at University of New South Wales. Nickname = Scottie, Geoff main instigator in naming.	Second World War Geoff Welch, Assoc. Prof. – University of NSW Scottie (nickname)

	Discusses reason for being called Ross, instead of first name, Alexander.	
361-end	Describes the impact of the War on an engineering student – lack of tutorials, written notes, practical notes restricted, shortages of equipment and machine samples.	Second World War IZOD Test
End Side A, Tape MP 11		

Tape: IEA EHA: MP 11, Side B		
Time/Counter	Subject	Proper Names & Keywords
000-020	Describes surveying gear and damages. Thesis on structural steel failures – equipment problems during wartime. Coal rationing for shipping overseas, inability to fire boilers.	Surveying equipment Wartime shortages Rationing
021-067	Professional engineering experience – worked at commercial workshop at St Peters (about 6-8 weeks). Manufactured patterns for castings, lathe work, general engineering workshop – a jobbing shop. End of 2 nd year did survey work with his brother, Allen, DMR (Dept of Main Roads). Worked at the Tank Training Range at Singleton. In 3 rd year - practical work for 3 months with Main Roads. Worked with Allen in Queensland. In charge of 25 mile section of road south of Charters Towers. Helped to build culverts, working on machinery and general survey work. Helped with future work in Snowy, etc. Completed University in September 1943 and worked with the Water Board until called up in December 1943.	Work Experience W B Eastaway Jobbing Shop Department of Main Roads (DMR) (with Allen McIntyre) Tank Training Range – Singleton Charters Towers, Queensland Water Board
068-135	War Service from December 1943. Applied to join Air Force, had medical at the Palladium at Woolloomooloo. Work at the Water Board (NSW) Central office – water supply group and design. Worked on the Warragamba Pipeline. Attestation date = 6 December 1943. Discusses why choice of RAAF – always interested in aircraft. Trained at the School of Administration at Melbourne University, Aircraftman Class 1 – describes courses and activities. Shared with Bruce Morrison, another NS Boys High School student. Describes polishing, cleaning accommodation.	Royal Australian Air Force Palladium, Woolloomooloo Water Board (NSW) Warragamba Pipeline RAAF training Aircraftman Class 1 Bruce Morrison
136-163	Appointed a Pilot Officer on completion and posted to Melbourne Headquarters, office work in St Kilda and training work at Lara. Describes introduction to 'submission' work. Posted to No 5 Mobile Works Squadron – reforming at Melbourne Cricket Ground, Ramsford.	Pilot Officer Lara Training Ground St Kilda No 5 Mobile Works Squadron Ramsford (Melbourne Cricket Ground)
164-247	Trained and bivouacked at Liverpool, Sydney, awaiting for vessel to Islands. Departed Sydney, March 1944, disembarked in Lae, Papua New Guinea, remained there until Aitape. 500 personnel in the Squadron and a Commanding Officer (Squadron leader), describes different officers. Ross was a Construction Officer. Story about Ed Tull, powder monkey, and Anzac Day march in Canberra.	Liverpool, Sydney No 5 Airfield Construction Squadron (ACS) Lae, Papua New Guinea Aitape, Papua New Guinea Construction Officer Ed Tull
248-292	Unit support at Noemfoor fighter strip, other Construction units including his brother Allen's – No 1.	No 1 Airfield Construction Squadron Noemfoor Allen McIntyre

Describes meeting up with his brother, Allen at Labuan (British Borneo) and Ralph Biddulph. Death of Allen's wife.	Ralph Biddulph Roseville District Cricket Club
End Side B, Tape MP 11	

Tape: IEA EHA: MP 12, Side A		
Time/Counter	Subject	Proper Names & Keywords
000-060	Assault landing at Aitape as described by, Sydney Kildea, Chairman of the 5ACS (Flying Shovels) group. Speaks about feelings about war and its effects on young soldiers and engineers.	Sydney Kildea 5 ACS (Flying Shovels) Group Aitape, Papua New Guinea Aitape Assault Landing
061-103	Talks about preparations for construction work. Use of LST (Landing Ships Tank). Difficulties getting equipment through to the aerodrome. Discusses materials and methods used to build the airstrips.	Landing Ships Tank Airstrip Construction Pierced Steel Planks (PSP)
104-210	Noemfoor Island, a coral island, quarried the coral and used it for the bomber airstrip. Clearing of coconut trees slowed down the construction of the airstrip. Worked 24 hour shifts until the strips were serviceable. Talks about regular bombing by Japanese. Airstrip was 10,000 feet long by 100 foot wide made with crushed coral surface. Describes regrading work at night using Army searchlights. Story about wiring home for sunglasses.	Noemfoor Island, Dutch New Guinea Airstrip Construction Coral Quarrying Coconut Tree Plantations
211-307	Operations on the islands organised by Americans, provided transport, rations, etc. Describes differences in rations. Describes the crater of a Daisy Cutter Bomb – 50 feet in diameter. Safety concerns.	Americans Rations Daisy Cutter Bomb
308-end	Description of Americans base, including PX Shop (post exchange) at Biak. No 5 ACS worked on airstrip maintenance, describes type of work. Talks about the level of noise and how it affected hearing. Later diagnosed by Veterans Affairs as deaf.	American Base PX Shop Biak, Dutch New Guinea Deafness Morotai Island, Dutch New Guinea
End side A, Tape MP 12		

Tape: IEA EHA: MP 12, Side B		
Time/Counter	Subject	Proper Names & Keywords
000-051	Describes meeting with brother, Allen McIntyre, No 1 ASC, on way to Labuan Island. Part of convoy near large Japanese bases and near Philippines. Air cover night and day. Landed at Labuan, difficulties with getting airstrip serviceable.	Labuan Island, British Borneo Airstrip Construction Spitfires
052-079	Decisions on airstrip locations – intelligence reports. Describes squadrons reporting to Wing Headquarters – design group would provide advice as to prevailing winds and materials available.	Intelligence Reports Airstrip Locations Tarakan Wing Headquarters
080-169	Volunteered to take plant operators and equipment to Kuching to service the aerodrome to bring in DC3s to carry out the POWs. Describes journey by mother ship of torpedo boats.	Kuching, British Borneo Prisoners of War (POWs) DC3s

	Story about locating the aerodrome with help of a rickshaw driver and meeting armed Japanese soldiers. Story of unscheduled arrival of Japanese plane with senior soldiers on board, guarded them until Military Police arrived.	Japanese Soldiers
170-220	Discharged as a Flying Officer at end of 1945. Returned to Australia via Dutch Catalina Flying Boat – 8 hour trips each day. Describes health upon return as well as general health and nutritional issues in wartime.	Flying Officer Catalina Flying Boat Health Issues Food Provisions
242-324	Describes feelings about war in general and the war in the Pacific. Discusses work experience acquired during wartime and effects upon future career. Settling back at home – living with parents. Story about SPAM.	War in the Pacific War Experiences Returning Home
325-352	Returned to work at the Water Board (Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board), same position, same desk as Professional Officer General Scale (£397 per year). Began to look for other work mid 1946.	Metropolitan Water, Sewerage and Drainage Board (Water Board) Professional Officer General Scale
353-376	Additional qualifications gained via correspondence in the local government area, completed the health inspector's course after the war.	Local Government Health Inspector's Course
End side B, Tape MP 12		

Tape: IEA EHA: MP 13, Side A		
Time/ Counter	Subject	Proper Names & Keywords
000-035	Local government work continued. Gained a local government shire engineers ticket. Describes meat inspection aspect of the course (health inspector). Applied for a job at Nundle Shire (NW of Newcastle). Allen worked as shire engineer at Patrick Plains (Singleton).	Local Government Shire Engineer Health Inspector's Course Nundle Shire
036-065	Applied for work at the Commonwealth Department of Civil Aviation in August 1946. First job in C'wealth Public Service. Work entailed aerodromes, runway locations, etc. carried on from wartime service to civil service. Position as an Airport Engineer, located in Central Office, Melbourne. Boarded with Mac Beavis (Works Head Office), university colleague at Hawthorne.	Commonwealth Department of Civil Aviation, Melbourne (DCA) Airport Engineer Mac Beavis Hawthorne, Melbourne
066-090	Describes organisation of the DCA. Director-General located at Head Office in Little Collins Street. Worked under Chief Aerodrome Engineer. First task at Hobart – planning a new airport. Surveying pine forest for Hobart airport.	DCA Little Collins Street Hobart Airport
091-144	Work in New South Wales on country aerodromes – constructing new aerodromes in country towns. Investigated appropriate sites. Describes use of his compass and pace method. Sent to Norfolk Island re: condition of airstrip.	New South Wales Country Aerodromes Compass and Pace Surveys DC3 aircraft Norfolk Island St Barnabas Church
145-304	Describes story behind meeting his wife, Mary Elizabeth McLeod, includes memories of school holidays on the property. Became engaged in 1949, married in 1951. Describes Mary's wedding dress and wedding party. Honeymooned – train to Sydney and plane to Southport (Goldcoast).	Mary Elizabeth McLeod Cullinga, NSW Ross Memorial Presbyterian Church Murrumburrah, NSW Southport, Qld (Goldcoast)

305-end	Seconded to Snowy Mountains Hydro-electric Authority. Had worked at DCA for 4 years and wanted to 'do better'. Snowy offered this opportunity. Discusses story of secondment to Snowy Authority (1950) and 'unwritten' arrangement between Department secretaries re: staffing. Left DCA as Class 3 Engineer, downgraded to a Class 2 at Snowy. Lived at Roseville, NSW, traveled to work at Alexandria, worked in Design office, mainly road design. Purchase of plant equipment for Guthega and tunnel.	Snowy Mountains Hydro electric-Authority Roseville, NSW Alexandria, NSW Guthega, NSW
End Side A, Tape MP 13		

Tape: IEA EHA: MP 13, Side B		
Time/ Counter	Subject	Proper Names & Keywords
000-065	Continues with Snowy Mountains Authority and decision to go with contract staff instead of day labour. Commissioner Sir William Hudson, head of the Authority. Describes feelings about working with the Authority and the lifestyle it provided. Descriptions of the types of houses constructed (Italian builder, Pasotti)	Snowy Mountains Hydro electric-Authority Comissioner Sir William Hudson Pasotti House (builder) Cabramurra, NSW Tantangara, NSW Cooma, NSW Khancoban, NSW
066-080 081-094	Impressions of Sir William Hudson – a man of impeccable integrity, very approachable and friendly. Children at school and descriptions of class sizes.	Sir William Hudson Heather McIntyre Joy McIntyre Dugal McIntyre
095-115	Community relations, social interactions at the Snowy. Formation of groups – little theatre group, baking group; Cabramurra and Khancoban tennis courts; Mary's involvement with Country Womens Association (CWA); men's group = Toreadors (speaking group).	The Snowy Community Country Womens Association (CWA) Toreador Speakers Group
116-166	Describes changes of job positions at the Snowy, began as Class 2 Engineer to Plant Engineer (1951). More interested in building dams – joined major projects group. Sent to USA for training = Colorado, California, Kansas and South Dakota. Learned how to organise work programs via contracts. Worked with the Bureau of Reclamation for 10 months. On return was sent to Cabramurra as Office Engineer. Spent 4 years in Cabramurra. Position involved administration of the contracts of tunnels and power station.	Class 2 Engineer Plant Engineer Dam construction United States of America Bureau of Reclamation Office Engineer Eucumbene to Tumut Pond Tunnel Tumut Pond Dam Tumut 1 Power Station
167-280	Talks about use of immigrant labour at the Snowy, also the use of land rovers. Sir William Hudson invited Ross to organise an airport at Cooma and the opening ceremony. Ceremony for the closing of the gates at Eucumbene/Tumut tunnel and the 3-day tour by the Duke of Edinburgh (1956). 2 day tour by the Govenor General. Working relations with Sir William Hudson. Introduction of the use of seat belts at the Snowy. Telephone system at the Snowy. Invited all Members of Parliament to the Snowy at one time.	Immigration and the Snowy Mountains Scheme Land Rovers Cooma Airport Eucumbene/Tumut tunnel gate closing ceremony Duke of Edinburgh visit Govenor General tunnel Seat Belts Telephone system Members of Parliament Sir William Hudson

281-300	Reported to the Chief Engineer, Major Contracts who was responsible to the Assistant Commissioner, Tom Lang. Spent 10 months in Cooma and worked as Acting Chief Engineer.	Tom Lang Acting Chief Engineer
End side B, Tape MP 13		

Tape: IEA EHA: MP 14, Side A

Time/ Counter	Subject	Proper Names & Keywords
000-045	Continues with work at Snowy Mountains Authority. Describes his family's reactions to living/growing up in the Snowy community.	Snowy Mountains community life
046-069	Describes engineering and organisational skills learned at the Snowy.	Work and Skills experience
070-114	Career move to Canberra (1966) for family reasons and Snowy was drawing to a close. Ross was Senior Engineer at Khancoban and majority of work near completion. Applied for Assistant Director of Works in Canberra. Discusses difficulties with appeals against his appointment. Notional position at Port Moresby, Class 5 Engineer. Director was Aldo Ferrari.	Khancoban Commonwealth Department of Works – Canberra (1966) Assistant Director Port Moresby Aldo Ferrari
115-154	Feelings about arriving at the Canberra office. Difficulties continued for many years due to position appointed to and appeals. First task was Corin Dam, preparing the foundation (earth and rock fill dam). Worked with engineer, Graham Kelleher. Later involved in environmental work, won a Churchill Scholarship	Commonwealth Department of Works – Canberra Corin Dam Graham Kelleher
155-169	In charge of multi-storey buildings, such as Canberra Hospital, Woden Hospital, roads, schools and houses, as well as suburb development. Also in charge of an industrial undertaking section consisting of a sawmill, a quarry and a hot-mix plant and cements product factory.	Canberra Hospital Woden Hospital Schools Houses Suburb Development Industrial Section
170-187	The Mugga Quarry (side of Mt Mugga) supplied top class rock for the Tidbinbilla 72ft. dish foundation base.	Mugga Quarry Tidbinbilla Graham Kelleher
188-206	Government developed the Kingston Sawmill, the quarry and the cement products group to manufacture timber, paving materials, concrete, etc. to build the suburbs of Canberra. Government Committee (under Peacock) reviewed undertakings and industries sold to private enterprise.	Kingston Sawmill Cement Products Group Andrew Peacock, MP
207-229	Contractors constructed the multi-storey buildings, no longer day labourers. Day labourers undertook the maintenance work on houses and roads. Also in charge of Canberra Brickworks, Yarralumla, also located at Mitchell In the 1960s.	Contractors Day Labour Road Construction Canberra Brickworks Yarralumla Mitchell
230-275	Describes liaison role with the National Capital Development Commission (NCDC, instituted in 1958), an organisation similar to Snowy Mountains Authority. Liaised with Bill Andrews (was in same Squadron during the war), one of the staff at the NCDC. Talks about the relationship between NCDC and the Department of Works.	National Capital Development Commission (NCDC) Bill Andrews Sir John Overall Gordon Shannon Malcolm Latham

276-337	Interaction of Canberra Department of Works with other Departments. Attracting engineers to Canberra, many came from tropical climate work, such as Papua New Guinea. Ross offered to take all available prepared to move to Canberra.	Works and other Commonwealth Government Departments Staffing Acton Hostel Accommodation
338-400	Talks about investigative work in relation to Contractor's claims at the Rona Power Station, Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea. Moved into Deakin house in 1966, describes the search for the house.	Rona Power Station Port Moresby Papua New Guinea Deakin, Canberra
End Side A, Tape MP 14		

Tape: IEA EHA: MP 14, Side B		
Time/Counter	Subject	Proper Names & Keywords
000-054	Continues with changes in Canberra. Describes neighbour's opposition to Black Mountain Tower. Formed a special group to construct Telstra Tower, NCDC didn't want the Tower, opposed to the last, nor did environmentalists. Head Office architects involved. Design was done in conjunction with Telstra, discusses difficulties with the site and the politics. Discusses other projects = ADFA (Australian Defence Force Academy). Worked with Head Office architects. Talks about expansion plans and the redesign to develop building outwards.	Black Mountain Tower PMG's Department Telecom/Telstra Tower Rear Admiral Davis Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) (mid 1970s)
055-132	Describes attending the Administrative Staff College and breadth of course. Describes the arrangement of the Commonwealth Department of Works. Introduction of project management – formation of special committee, met in Sydney – forced responsibilities downwards, duty statements.	Administrative Staff College Alan Reiher Commonwealth Department of Works Project Management Duty Statements
133-160	2000 Admin. professionals and tradesmen in the ACT located in a variety of offices. Regional office in Woden. Depots in Belconnen (building), Dickson (building), Fyshwick (laboratory, building section and plant). 'Barton barns – 2 storey offices (opposite Anglican theological college)	Staffing in ACT Depot locations Woden, ACT Barton Barns
161-194	Effects of green bans on construction work, union representations, strikes, etc.	Trade Unions
195-222	Budgeting for the region. Women became more involved in the 1970s. Students were brought in for work experience, including the Director General's son.	Women Student work experience
223-259	Working as an engineer 'hands on'. Googong Dam overtopped twice in 3 days. Describes meshing work to secure the Dam.	Googong Dam
260-339	Bendoora Pipeline under construction when Ross arrived at Canberra works. Describes reasons for construction. Describes the terrain between Bendoora Dam and Stromlo – steep and rugged – a battle to get the pipes in. Design, construction and management of the Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre (sewage treatment plant). Describes workings of the plant.	Bendoora Pipeline Lower Molonglo Water Quality Control Centre Sewage Treatment Plant Gas line

340-385	Changes in the public service and Ross's reasons for retirement in 1984 at the age of 61. Alan Reiher moved out of Director General's position replaced by a non-professional.	Public Service Alan Reiher
End Side B, Tape MP 14		

Tape: IEA EHA: MP15, Side A

Time/ Counter	Subject	Proper Names & Keywords
000-019	Acted as Director in Brisbane for 3 months in 1983. Ross asked to take position on permanently but refused. Upon return worked in Head Office for approx. 6 months and then retired.	Queensland Regional Office Head Office
020-044	Describes feelings about changes that took place in the Department. Speaks about importance of corporate knowledge of specialists. Use of computers and effects of email on the lack of recording of information.	Departmental Change Corporate Knowledge Specialists Computers
045-094	Member of Institution of Engineers for 63 years. Talks about reasons for joining and significance of the Institution and how it has changed. Also discusses how the profession itself has changed, e.g. designing concrete beams from scratch. Reasons for becoming involved with Heritage Panel; mentions Bill Minty (formerly of NCDG) and his work on <i>Canberra's Engineering Heritage</i> . Held all positions at various times on the Heritage Panel in Canberra.	Institution of Engineers Professional changes Heritage Panel (Canberra) Bill Minty <i>Canberra's Engineering Heritage</i> Book
095-114	Describes work of the Heritage Panel = Heritage Week activities, open up Cotter Pumping Station, etc. Commemoration heritage work = plaques.	Heritage Panel (Canberra) Cotter Pumping Station Kingston Power Station Heritage Plaques Rob Breen
115-175	Describes the volunteer group, Dad's Army, a group of retired engineers (formed in 2003) at an Institution meeting. Discussion around water restrictions and a population of 350,000. Research conducted and presentations made. Dad's Army have spoken with ACTEWAGL and lodged a report with the Government in December 2003. Also lodged a subsequent submission in February 2004. Raises the issue of environmental flows and the Cotter.	Dad's Army (2003) Reg Goldfinch Ken Johnson Charles Speldewinde Water Restrictions ACTEWAGL Googong Dam Cotter Dam
176-240	Concerns for practicing engineers and the issue of insurance costs and professional indemnity. Offers advice for young engineers today. Changes in work styles, dual incomes, relocations and lifestyle expectations.	Engineering Profession Insurance/Indemnity
241-314	Describes story of his mother's twin sister (Eva) and the refusal of the family to attend her wedding due to a perceived scandal. Family never reconciled and Ross never met his Aunt Eva. Events which took place over 90 years ago.	Aunt Eva Bonfield
315-352	Ross talks about his career highlights – Snowy Mountains work, gives thanks for Mary's support. Didn't feel as close to workers in Canberra due to his position, but gained much satisfaction from his work in ACT – a very busy time.	Career Highlights: Snowy Mountains Hydro- electric Authority Canberra
353-362	A busy retirement (retired in 1984).	Retirement: Golf
End Side A, Tape MP15		

Tape: IEA EHA: MP15, Side B		
Time/ Counter	Subject	Proper Names & Keywords
000-074	Continues with retirement activities, including genealogy, (Ross has prepared his family history in a written document), gardening, Probus Club, recent ill health (late 2003) but recovering. Involved in organising the annual reunion of the staff of the Snowy Mountains Authority (32 nd Reunion in November 2004 – always held on the 1 st Sunday in November) held in Corroboree Park, Ainslie. Assisted by his former ACT Works Secretary, Pauline Rootes, also worked at the Snowy. Describes the event proceedings.	Retirement: Genealogy Gardening Probus Club of Canberra Snowy Mountains Authority Reunion Corroboree Park, Ainslie Pauline Rootes
End of Interview session on 14 May 2004		

Additional interview session on 19 May 2004		
Time/ Counter	Subject	Proper Names & Keywords
Tape continues at 082-169	Speaks about his induction into the Canberra Engineering Hall of Fame, an initiative marking the Canberra Division's 75 th anniversary. Talks about the engineers inducted and the occasion to mark the anniversary and Hall of Fame in November 2002. Certificates presented by representative of the ACT Government. The Hall of Fame consists of photograph and a brief statement to be placed on the National Headquarters in Canberra. Thanks his family for their support in his long-term career, especially his wife Mary.	Canberra Engineering Hall of Fame Canberra Division – 75 th anniversary (2002) Allan Jones Colonel Owen Sir John Butters George Redmond Professor Brian O'Keeffe
170-198	Raises the issue of the work of the engineer in the community - needs to be acknowledged.	Engineering Profession Consultants
199-215	The 'Red R System' – an ongoing volunteer engineering service in Africa/Asia.	Volunteer Engineers – Africa/Asia
218-300	Describes the working boat depot at East Basin and its services. A new work boat was acquired in the mid-1970s and christened it the <i>Marion Mahoney</i> , the wife of Walter Burley Griffen. Describes the Scrivener Dam and its gate system which was serviced by the <i>Marion Mahoney</i> , and the use of floating gates during the service. Also used to inspect structures and walls around the Lake.	Department of Works Boat Depot, East Basin <i>Marion Mahoney</i> – working boat Scrivener Dam Floating Gates
End Side B, Tape MP 15		
End of interview session on 19 May 2004		