The Institution of Engineers, Australia

Engineering Heritage Australia

National Engineering Oral History Program

# INTERVIEW TAPE LOG

**Interviewee:** Sir John Holland

**Tape Numbers** IEA.EHA: SB1,
IEA.EHA: SB2,
IEA.EHA: SB3,
IEA.EHA: SB4,
IEA.EHA: SB5,
IEA.EHA: SB6

**Interviewer:** Stella M Barber

**Number of Tapes**: Six (6)

**Dates of Interviews:** 9 June 2002 (SB1 & SB2),
11 June 2002 (SB3 & SB4),
21 June 2002 (SB5 & SB6)

**Place of Interview:** Tapes 1, 2 Sir John's home in Flinders, Victoria
Tapes 3, 4, 5, 6 Navy and Military Club, Little Collins Street, Melbourne

**Restrictions on Use:** Subject to proof reading by Sir John or nominee prior to any publication arising from the use of the recorded material.

| Tape: IEA.EHA: SB1, Side A | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Time/ Counter** | **Subject** | **Proper Names & Keywords** |
| 005 | Intro, 9 June 2002 | |
| 016 | Date of birth, place of birth | Clifton Vaughan Holland<br>Clifton Hill |
| 020 | Born Clifton Hill | |
| 025 | Confusion re Christian name, family name, story behind this | Vaughan |
| 045 | Knighthood and use of name | Sir Rohan Delacombe |
| 077 | Sir Clifton Vaughan, known as John | |
| 097 | Earliest childhood memory, playing cricket in backyard | Cricket |
| 106 | Growing up as one of ten siblings | Siblings |
| 114 | Family discipline | |
| 117 | Mother, leadership and affection | Parents |
| 123 | Influence of father and mother | |
| 130 | Community responsibility, church, philanthropy | Community |
| 135 | Father's involvement in lodge, shire affairs, civic responsibility | Flinders Shire |
| 145 | Childhood and play, parents playing with children | Philanthropy |
| 157 | Importance of sport to family life, tennis, cricket, | Sport |
| 163 | Tennis, cricket, swimming, country life | Leisure |
| 171 | Details of siblings and age differences, Harry eldest brother | Harry Holland |
| 180 | Rena, sister, marriage, religious bigotry | Rena Holland |
| 197 | Sister, Florence, brother, Tav | Florence and Tav Holland |
| 205 | Brother Albert (Brick), longevity of siblings | Albert (Brick) Holland |
| 214 | Brother Ian (Jim) | Jim Holland |
| 218 | Marriage in wartime 1942 | Marriage |
| 224 | Sister, Russ; life on the farm "The Rest" | Russ Holland<br>"The Rest" |
| 237 | Father's occupation, and farming | Queen Street |
| 259 | Keeping pigs, curing bacon | Farming |
| 281 | Grandmother and garden | |
| 301 | First car, Daimler | Motoring in 1920s |
| 316 | Horse-drawn transport | George Hotel |
| 325 | Travelling Flinders to City | George Hotel |
| 341 | Discipline and influence of grandmother | Grandmother Falkingham |
| 378 | Happy childhood, tennis parties, cricket, golf | Childhood, golf |

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| 385 | Flinders Golf Club | Flinders Golf Club |
| 398 | Country life | Country |
| | End of Tape SB1, Side A | |

| Tape: IEA.EHA: SB1, Side B | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Time/ Counter** | **Subject** | **Proper Names & Keywords** |
| 010 | Age 12, yearning to be an engineer | Aspirations |
| 021 | Sydney Harbour Bridge | Sydney Harbour Bridge |
| 027 | Influence of Shire Engineer | Shire Engineer |
| 035 | Desire to be a Civil Engineer | Civil engineer |
| 047 | "Meccano", building dams across creek | Meccano |
| 064 | Religious background, Presbyterianism | religion |
| 078 | Mother's philanthropy | Philanthropy |
| 090 | Building local church | Flinders Church |
| 098 | Mother's faith | Mother, faith |
| 113 | Religious values | |
| 125 | Queen's College, Methodist College | Queen's College |
| 146 | Anglicanism | Anglicanism |
| 159 | Respect of Royalty, respect of the Queen | Royalty |
| 175 | School studies, British history, imp of history | British history |
| 187 | Love for country, loyalty | Gallipoli |
| 194 | Brothers War service, World War II | World War 1 |
| 201 | Love for Commonwealth | Commonwealth of Australia |
| 204 | Joining forces, war effort | World War 11 |
| 208 | Schooling at Flinders | |
| 214 | Flinders State School 841 | Flinders State School |
| 226 | Composite teaching | Sport |
| 233 | Sport education | |
| 236 | Discipline at school, corporal punishment | discipline |
| 250 | Favourite subjects, curriculum | mathematics |
| 258 | Love of reading, macular degeneration | reading |
| 264 | Frankston High School reputation and education | Frankston |
| 285 | Academic abilities | Work ethic |
| 290 | University engineering course, career aspirations | Engineering degree |
| 307 | Quality of engineers | Jan Kolm |
| 310 | Sporting ambitions | Sport, cricket |

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| 330 | Playing golf from age 6, hole in one after 73 years | golf |
| 340 | Importance of sport, fitness, friendship | |
| 347 | Visit of Chancellor of Melbourne University to family home re Holland's education as engineer | Macfarlane University of Melbourne |
| 351 | Assessment of university potential, costs of university, decision to send John Holland to Uni of Melbourne | |
| 368 | Contingency plans if university not economically viable | |
| 378 | Privilege of attending University in the 1930s | University of Melbourne |
| 382 | Family pride at his attending University | Tertiary education |
| 385 | Family background in engineering | Family engineering traditions |
| 390 | Attraction to engineering | Sydney Harbour Bridge |
| 395 | First visit to Sydney Harbour Bridge 1934 | |
| | End of Tape SB1, Side B | |

| Tape: IEA.EHA: SB2 , Side A | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Time/ Counter** | **Subject** | **Proper Names & Keywords** |
| 016 | Engineers university course<br>Friendship with Dr Bill Bradfield | J.J. Bradfield<br>Dr Bill Bradfield<br>Airport design<br>CAO (international Civil Aviation Organisation) |
| 035 | Notable engineers | |
| 046 | Experience at University of Melbourne, university procedures | University of Melbourne |
| 065 | Professor Kernow; intellect and skills; quality of engineering courses in the 1930s | 'Crunch' Kernow, Engineering Qualifications |
| 090 | Disappointment re lack of interest in the history of engineering; disappointments with course at Melbourne | B Eng content University of Melbourne course |
| 112 | Qualities of good engineers | Engineering discipline |
| 125 | Links between engineering and philosophy | |
| 142 | Leadership and engineering | Leadership |
| 162 | Friendships at University | |
| 174 | Benefits of University training | |
| 188 | Human and industrial relations | unionism |
| 200 | Balance between theory and practise in engineering training | |
| 204 | Working with Country Roads Board | Country Roads Board, Road design |
| 214 | Using a palimeter | palimeter |
| 220 | Early aspirations to build great bridges | Bridge building |
| 230 | Challenges of bridge building | Queen Street |

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| 236 | London Bridge., engineering feats of bridges | London Bridge |
| 241 | Emotional aspects of bridge building, linking communities | |
| 256 | Contribution to Australia's development, evidence of life's work through civil engineering | Value of engineering |
| 264 | Satisfaction in being an engineer | |
| 267 | Queen's College, University of Melbourne | Queen's College University of Melbourne |
| 281 | Discipline in studying | |
| 285 | University of Melbourne Engineering Club activities | University of Melbourne Engineering Club |
| 294 | Public Questions Society at University of Melbourne | Public speaking |
| 304 | Quality of lecturers at University of Melbourne | Professor Lay **check?** |
| 330 | Assessment procedure of course | assessment |
| 343 | Planned extension studies | Masters in engineering courses |
| 363 | End of course, thirst for knowledge | |
| 370 | Inspirational engineering projects | Eildon Dam |
| 394 | Pioneering engineering projects in Australia | Yarrawonga irrigation system, Eric Baldwin |
| | End of Tape SB2, Side A | |

| Tape: IEA.EHA: SB2, Side B | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Time/ Counter** | **Subject** | **Proper Names & Keywords** |
| 011 | Engineering processes, butt welding developed in Australia | Butt welding |
| 022 | Story behind first official job with C.O.R. (Commonwealth Oil Refineries) | C.O.R. (Commonwealth Oil Refineries) |
| 027 | Influence of Shire Engineer | Shire Engineer |
| 050 | Failure of subject at Melbourne University | |
| 070 | Interview with Baldwin at C.O.R. | Eric Baldwin |
| 084 | Reputation of C.O.R. | C.O.R. |
| 100 | Oil pipeline at Laverton for C.O.R. | Laverton |
| 111 | Managing field staff | People skills |
| 133 | Severing phone supply to Williamstown | Williamstown |
| 154 | Project manager, 1938, Hobart Oil Terminal, Hobart Marine Board | Hobart Marine Board |
| 162 | Marine engineering experience | Marine engineering |
| 176 | Story behind nearly losing his job at C.O.R. due to lack of tact | Brisbane |
| 215 | People management skills, leadership | Human resources |

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| 241 | Saunders and Ward offer to form a company with John Holland, early aspirations to form a company | Saunders and Ward |
| 252 | Place of C.O.R. in the history of engineering in Australia | Eric Baldwin, C.O.R. |
| 266 | Declaration of war | World War II 1939-1945 |
| 273 | Engineer cadets | Engineer cadets |
| 290 | University engineering course, Career aspirations | Engineering degree |
| 286 | Loyalty to Britain and Australia | Empire |
| 290 | Threats of chemical warfare | chemical warfare |
| 305 | Enlistment | Enlistment |
| 308 | School of Military engineering formed by Sir Clive Steele | Sir Clive Steele |
| 313 | Training engineer officers | |
| 316 | Military engineering, role of engineers in warfare (considerable details here) | Military engineering |
| 328 | Shattering feelings as engineers having to destroy engineering feats, bridges etc | |
| 334 | Comprehensive role of military engineers | Military engineering |
| 342 | Training at the School of Military engineering, nature of the course | |
| | End Tape SB2, side B | |

| Tape: IEA.EHA: SB3 , Side A | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Time/ Counter** | **Subject** | **Proper Names & Keywords** |
| 014 | introductions | |
| 017 | Commission as Lieutenant, engineering skills aided him in his commission | War service, engineering skills |
| 031 | Need for trained military engineers | General Sir Clive Steele |
| 045 | Role of engineers in advance in wartime | Engineering Qualifications |
| 055 | Using initiative for engineering construction in wartime **(note some very good quotes here)** | World war II, rationing |
| 066 | Building pipelines in Libya | Libya |
| 085 | Engineering feats that helped the allies | Engineering feats |
| 095 | Destruction of structures prior to the Battle of Bardia | Battle of Bardia |
| 115 | Engineering in Z force | Z force |
| 140 | Improvisation s engineers in Z force; Sir John's role as Director of technical services in Z force | |
| 145 | Speleology | Speleology |
| 164 | Fundamental role of engineers in wartime | |
| 167 | Japanese and German engineering skills | Japanese and German engineering skills |
| 173 | Mines and defusing mines | mines |
| 186 | Engineering feats, Colditz etc, general comments | |
| 194 | Values of engineering training, analysing problems | engineering training |
| 207 | Sir John Monash Scholarships | Sir John Monash Scholarships |
| 227 | Appointment to SOE (Z force), security | SOE (Z force) |
| 240 | SOA establishment and Sir John's role in it | Special Operations Australia (SOA) |
| 258 | Geographical problems faced by SOA, access to remote places | Cairns, Garden Island |
| 256 | Contribution to Australia's development, evidence of life's work through civil engineering | Value of engineering |
| 280 | Racial and physical personnel problems in wartime | |
| 290 | Z force: 81 operations, successes and failures of Z force | Z force operations |
| 300 | Problems with covert operations | covert operations |
| 308 | Make up of Z force personnel | assessment |
| 330 | Interruptions when Sir John says hello to a friend | |
| 335 | Soldier first, engineer second in the war | War service |
| 338 | Appointment to school of military engineering in Kasula | Kasula |
| 344 | State of nation in 1942 | 1942 |
| 357 | Training military engineers | |

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| 372 | Faith in success of allies | victory |
| 375 | Americans entry into war | America and war |
| 385 | British morale | British character |
| 392 | Winston Churchill, Sir John's admiration of Churchill | Winston Churchill |
| 397 | End of war | Nagasaki, Hiroshima |
| | End Tape SB3, Side A | |

| Tape: IEA.EHA: SB3, Side B | | |
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| **Time/ Counter** | **Subject** | **Proper Names & Keywords** |
| 006 | End of the war | Atomic bomb |
| 028 | Moral support re dropping atomic bombs, relief at end of war | VP Day |
| 054 | Skills developed through war service | War service |
| 065 | Managing people | Leadership |
| 086 | Quality of Australian troops | |
| 090 | Importance of engineering skills and military skills to later success of Sir John Holland | |
| 095 | Personal attributes of Sir Clive Steele | Sir Clive Steele |
| 116 | Support of Colonial Oil Refineries (C.O.R.) during the war for its personnel | Colonial Oil Refineries (C.O.R.) |
| 126 | Return to C.O.R. after the war | |
| 139 | Formulation of ambitions while away at war | |
| 145 | Fundamentals to establishing his company along military lines with all military personnel | Career aspirations |
| 155 | Parallels between military training and engineering training | military and engineering training |
| 160 | Role of engineers in peace time | Engineers' role in society |
| 180 | Parallels between engineering and military activities | |
| 187 | Return from the war | |
| 190 | Post war experience with C.O.R. | C.O.R. |
| 200 | Satisfaction in engineering projects | |
| 215 | Military appreciation study of his life's direction | |
| 242 | Options post war | Kuwait |
| 254 | Problems that arose between ex servicemen and non servicemen | |
| 268 | Home-front war effort | World war II 1939-1945 |
| 283 | Establishment of John Holland Group and its company structure | John Holland Group (JHG) |
| 297 | Training programs at JHG | |

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| 305 | Registration of JHG, 1949; Stafford Fox, Sir John's partner | Stafford Fox |
| 312 | Support of his wife, Joan Holland | Joan Holland |
| 328 | JHG growth | JHG |
| 331 | Raison d'être of JHG | |
| 338 | Personal objectives in forming JHG | Personal objectives |
| 347 | Company objectives JHG | Company objectives |
| 359 | Fundamental philosophy, doing ordinary things differently | Company philosophy |
| 376 | Early projects, woolshed at Nareen for Fraser family | Nareen, Malcom and Tamie Fraser |
| 395 | Opening of new Parliament House, Canberra and comments of Frasers | New Parliament House, Canberra |
| | End Tape SB3, side B | |

| Tape: IEA.EHA: SB4 , Side A | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Time/ Counter** | **Subject** | **Proper Names & Keywords** |
| 014 | Nareen woolshed and Parliament House | Tamie Fraser, Parliament House, Canberra, Nareen |
| 023 | Engineering practise v administration during his career | |
| 049 | Captain Cook Bridge, Sydney | Captain Cook Bridge, Sydney |
| 059 | Intuitive feelings as an engineer | |
| 083 | Design and engineering skills, nostalgia for these | |
| 066 | Building pipelines in Libya | Libya |
| 085 | Engineering feats that helped the allies | Engineering feats |
| 098 | Feats of engineering | Westgate Bridge |
| 110 | Building petrol stations after the war | Service Stations |
| 123 | Feats of logistics | |
| 131 | Building his first bridge in 1961 | Jim Gillespie |
| 166 | Most rewarding contracts in the 1950s | Standard cable |
| 173 | Association with Austral Standard Cable | Austral Standard Cable |
| 173 | Mines and defusing mines | mines |
| 181 | Sorrell Bridge first major concrete bridge marine foundations | Sorrell Bridge |
| 194 | Awareness of success; success on Snowy Mountains Scheme | Snowy Mountains Scheme |
| 214 | Craft of adzing in Bridge building | Adzing |
| 220 | Lost techniques in engineering | |
| 234 | APM projects | Australian Paper Manufactures |

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| 248 | Use of tippler in early engineering projects | |
| 255 | Union problems on engineering projects | Unionism |
| 270 | Early association with Norm Gallagher | Norm Gallagher |
| 281 | Associations with union leaders and John Holland | |
| 290 | Management/union associations | |
| 300 | Union difficulties on engineering projects | Labour relations |
| 302 | Deregistration of BLF | Builders Labourers Federation |
| 315 | Labour stoppages | |
| 335 | Confrontation with unions | |
| 342 | Tunnelling skills learned from Scandinavians, skills of Australian workforce | 1942 |
| 348 | Glasshouse Power Station, construction details, unique – all glass cladding | Glasshouse Power Station |
| 358 | Skills of riggers | |
| 360 | Gas and Fuel contract, cancellation of projects, not seeking compensation | America and war |
| 374 | Honesty and integrity at JHG | Company ethos |
| 381 | SEC specification, tendering from German specifications, "doing ordinary things differently" | State Electricity Commission |
| | End Tape SB4, Side A | |

| Tape: IEA.EHA: SB4, Side B | | |
|---|---|---|
| **Time/ Counter** | **Subject** | **Proper Names & Keywords** |
| 012 | Profit sharing at JHG | Profit sharing |
| 054 | Value of profit sharing | |
| 065 | "doing ordinary things differently", State Rivers and Water Supply Commission cooperative effort with JHG | State Rivers and Water Supply Commission, Major General Sir Ken Green |
| 086 | Captain Cook Bridge and uniqueness of the project | Captain Cook Bridge, NSW |
| 095 | Construction Achievement Award | |
| 106 | Bosch project and initiative and originality of the project | Bosch |
| 140 | Story of Bosch company and Sir John's association with its founder | |
| 162 | Work in Latrobe Valley, association with SEC, John Holland Plantation at Morwell | Yallourn, Morwell, SEC, John Holland Plantation |
| 175 | JHG Design team | Loy Yang Power Station |
| 180 | World first engineering projects | |
| 200 | Westgate Bridge and engineering significance | Westgate Bridge |

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| 214 | Design skills on Westgate Bridge | |
| 217 | Townsville Sugar Terminal 1958, significance of project because first wharf built by JHG | Townsville Sugar Terminal |
| 235 | Cyclone risks with Townsville Wharf project | |
| 251 | Costing projects and tendering problems | |
| 254 | Tendering on projects that ended up being total losses | Yarra Thompson Tunnel |
| 278 | Problems on Yarra Thompson Tunnel project | |
| 296 | Profit and loss on engineering projects | |
| 300 | Myer Music Bowl; unique first cable staid structure in Australia | Myer Music Bowl |
| 305 | Engineering challenges of Myer Music Bowl | |
| 310 | Myer Music Bowl; joint venture with ASCOM | ASCOM |
| | End Tape SB4, side B | |

| Tape: IEA.EHA: SB5 , Side A | | |
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| **Time/ Counter** | **Subject** | **Proper Names & Keywords** |
| 012 | Westgate Bridge Project | Westgate Bridge Project |
| 022 | Tendering for contracts, three main contracts | |
| 025 | Concrete foundations and spans; discusses winning various contracts | |
| 037 | Third contract tendering with Dorman Long | Dorman Long, Sydney Harbour Bridge |
| 043 | Foundations in association with consulting engineers – Morgan? | |
| 071 | Preparation, design and construction of Westgate Bridge foundation work, ingenuity of design | |
| 082 | Launching trusses | Engineering feats |
| 105 | JHG taking over of management of original Dutch construction (plenty of detail about this in JHG company history) | Westgate Bridge |
| 130 | Sir John's fears at the time about the safety of the bridge, calls for assurances in writing | Safety and Westgate |
| 140 | Failure of Westgate Bridge | Collapse Westgate Bridge |
| 143 | Redesign of Westgate Bridge, joint venture with Dorman Long | Westgate Bridge Authority, Dorman Long |
| 158 | Engineering structures of Westgate Bridge | |
| 162 | Royal Commission into collapse of Westgate Bridge | collapse of Westgate Bridge, Royal Commission |
| 177 | Sir John's feelings at collapse of the bridge | |
| 187 | Loss of JHG people; 35 killed | tragedy |
| 196 | Importance of proof engineers | proof engineering |
| 200 | Labour problems on bridge | Industrial relations |
| 208 | Joint venture with Frankipile, harmonious association | Frankipile |
| 213 | Joint venture arrangements, preference for independent projects | Joint ventures |
| 227 | Construction Achievement Award for Westgate Bridge for approach spans in 1972 | Construction Achievement Award 1972 |
| 242 | Royal Commission criticism of JHG, frivolous in Sir John's opinion, problems with Royal Commissions | Royal Commission, JHG culpability |
| 255 | Significance of Westgate Bridge in terms of Australian and world engineering achievement and technical achievement | Significance of Westgate Bridge |
| 265 | Traffic management and bridges | Traffic management |
| 282 | Sydney Harbour Bridge and trams | Sydney Harbour Bridge |
| 288 | Animal Research Laboratory, Geelong, background to that commission, design team | Animal Research Laboratory, Geelong |
| 311 | Environmental quality of the design | Animal Research |

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| | | Laboratory, Geelong, design |
| 320 | Working relationship with Government and other contractors during this project, all very harmonious | |
| 330 | Significance of this project in Australian and world terms | |
| 345 | Harker Construction Achievement Award, named in his honour | Bill Harker |
| 364 | John Holland Leadership Award in the army | John Holland Leadership Award |
| 384 | Sydney Entertainment Centre, first of its type in Australia | Sydney Entertainment Centre |
| 390 | Sydney Entertainment Centre, flexibility of design, multi-functional | |
| 394 | Sydney Entertainment Centre industrial problems | Industrial relations |
| | End Tape SB5, Side A | |

| Tape: IEA.EHA: SB5, Side B | | |
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| **Time/ Counter** | **Subject** | **Proper Names & Keywords** |
| 005 | Sydney Entertainment Centre industrial problems | Industrial relations |
| 020 | Premier Neville Wran, supportive of the project | Premier Neville Wran |
| 028 | Sydney Entertainment Centre, acoustic and engineering challenges | acoustics and engineering |
| 045 | Acoustics issues versus costs | |
| 054 | Restaurants and acoustic problems, ideal acoustics for restaurants | restaurants |
| 087 | Concert hall and acoustics | Melbourne Concert Hall |
| 104 | Architectural skills v engineering skills, blending of these disciplines | Architecture and engineering |
| 123 | Great Southern Stand, MCG, relationship between architect and engineers | MCG, Great Southern Stand |
| 134 | Sydney Opera House, design and problems with interpretation of design | Sydney Opera House, Utzen |
| 148 | Hornibrook and engineers on Sydney Opera House, interpreting Utzen's concepts so it could be built | Hornibrook |
| 160 | Inflated cost of Sydney Opera House | Sydney Opera House, costs involved |
| 180 | Engineers and architectural training | architectural training for engineering |
| 192 | South Eastern Freeway, first major freeway in Australia in 1961 | South Eastern Freeway |
| 210 | Steel spans used in freeway design | |
| 215 | Pre-stressed concrete projects | Pre-stressed concrete |
| 223 | Road building | Road building |
| 228 | Technology of road construction | |

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| 236 | Traffic management in building roads | Traffic management |
| 247 | Great southern stand MCG | Great southern stand MCG |
| 255 | Darryl Jackson's design of Great southern stand MCG | Darryl Jackson |
| 259 | Co-operation between parties involved in the project | |
| 270 | Major concrete structure: functional, economical and readily constructible | Qualities of the Great Southern Stand MCG |
| 276 | MCG redevelopment, current projects | MCG |
| 287 | New Parliament House Canberra | New Parliament House Canberra |
| 291 | Budget and flexibility in creating engineering feats | |
| 296 | Challenges of New Parliament House Canberra, logistics, time, changes in design, quality of materials | New Parliament House Canberra, quality assurance on project |
| 305 | Materials from Australia-wide, numbers of people working on the project | |
| 310 | Joint venture with Concrete Constructions, Sydney | Concrete Constructions, Sydney |
| 320 | Time challenges on project | |
| 328 | Stone masons from Portugal working on the project, industrial relations problems | Industrial relations |
| 334 | Erection of stainless steel flagpole, Parliament house | flagpole, Parliament house |
| 344 | Cost of project, $1 million per day at end of project | costs |
| 364 | Design competition for the project | |
| 370 | Opening of new Parliament House | New Parliament House Canberra |
| 380 | Sir john's pride in working on the New Parliament House, its grandeur | |
| 391 | Fast track system design and construction | Fast track system |
| | End Tape SB5, side B | |

| Tape: IEA.EHA: SB6 , Side A | | |
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| **Time/ Counter** | **Subject** | **Proper Names & Keywords** |
| 006 | Introductions | |
| 010 | Fast track system of design and construction | Fast track system of design and construction |
| 020 | Union stoppages at New Parliament House | New Parliament House |
| 038 | Beauty of New Parliament House and quality of finish | Industrial relations |
| 053 | Problems with budget restrictions in building great buildings and lack of natural will | Federation Square Melbourne |
| 065 | Church architecture | Architecture |
| 073 | Architecture in Australia | St Paul's Cathedral, Melbourne |

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| 095 | Government support of architecture | |
| 103 | Sir John's favourite buildings in the world | Cathedral in Florence |
| 125 | Byzantine architecture | |
| 128 | Australian Institute of Sport, quality of workmanship, JHG's role in this project | Australian Institute of Sport |
| 146 | Work on ANZ Bank board, his contribution in the financial arena, background to his appointment, involvement in various committees with the Bank | ANZ Bank Board |
| 180 | Team contribution among directors of the ANZ Bank Board, using engineering skills on the board | Engineering analysis |
| 197 | Retirement from ANZ Bank Board | |
| 200 | Banks and relationships with public | Banks and public |
| 230 | Juggling all his board appointments, time management, delegation | Board appointments, delegation |
| 246 | Support of his secretary | Secretarial support |
| 250 | Geoff Cook and Bridge engineering | Geoff Cook |
| 261 | Favourite board appointments, work on Churchill Trust, how he came to be involved | Churchill Trust |
| 280 | Churchill Fellowship program, overseas study | Churchill Fellowships |
| 286 | Appeal for funds for Churchill Trust | Churchill Trust |
| 305 | Involvement on the Queen's Trust Board, background to this organisation, study projects for recipients of Queen's trust scholarships | Queen's Trust |
| 332 | Chairmanship of Future Perspectives Forum, leadership development | Future Perspectives Forum |
| 337 | Sir Weary Dunlop Memorial Awards, Sir John's chairmanship of this association; friendship with Weary Dunlop | Sir Weary Dunlop Memorial Awards, Weary Dunlop |
| 354 | Outward Bound Movement, Sir John's role | Outward Bound Movement |
| 358 | National Capital Seminars | National Capital Seminars |
| 360 | Chairman, Rhodes Scholarship Selection Panel | Rhodes Scholarships |
| 363 | Support of education and leadership, importance of education | Education, leadership |
| 381 | Sir John Monash Scholarships | Sir John Monash Scholarships |
| 389 | Fellow of Queen's College | Queen's College |
| 391 | Quality of Engineering Education in Australia (world class) | Engineering Education |
| | End Tape SB6, Side A | |

| Tape: IEA.EHA: SB6, Side B | | |
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| **Time/ Counter** | **Subject** | **Proper Names & Keywords** |
| 005 | University education, costs, fees etc, scholarships and | University education |

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| | fees | |
| 025 | Sir John's greatest achievements, setting up JHG | Greatest achievements, John Holland Group |
| 047 | Fondest recollections of his life, family life, cricket, cricket tour of the U.K. 1961, playing cricket | Family, cricket |
| 078 | Centenary celebrations at Royal Melbourne Golf Club (Sir John was president at the time) | Royal Melbourne Golf Club |
| 094 | Mediterranean cruises | Royal Viking Star |
| 117 | Less than fond memories, bleakest moments in his life | Collapse of Westgate Bridge |
| 126 | War service in Greece, memories of refugees and destruction | World War II, Greece |
| 138 | Queues for food during Great Depression | Great Depression |
| 149 | Demise of JHG, story behind the change in ownership of the company | Demise of JHG, Pennant Group |
| 171 | Takeover of JHG by Pennant Group, sale by Stafford Fox of his shares, 1989 crash and affect on JHG, involvement of Johnson | Pennant Group, Stafford Fox, Johnson |
| 200 | Janet Holmes a Court takes control of JHG in 1990 | Janet Holmes a Court |
| 205 | Sir John's retirement from JHG | retirement |
| 208 | Sir John's sons' involvement in JHG | Jock Holland |
| 226 | Sale of engineering division | |
| 228 | Holland House, JHG HQ | Holland House |
| 232 | Confidence in future of JHG | future |
| 235 | Overseas expansion of JHG, 1972 | Overseas expansion |
| 241 | Expansion into Indonesia and elsewhere in Asia | Indonesia |
| 257 | Corruption in Indonesia | |
| 264 | JHG in Malaysia | Malaysia |
| 285 | Indonesian Projects | Indonesia |
| 294 | JHG's expansion into America, problems, American construction opportunities, problems with getting USA market share | America |
| 307 | Beaurocracy problems in USA, losing money in USA | Beaurocracy |
| 321 | JHG experiences in California, success in Atlanta, transit system | California, Atlanta |
| 333 | Engineers training, value of engineering skills to business | Engineers training and skills |
| 351 | Management consulting | |
| 356 | Engineering and education in school curriculum | Engineering and school curriculum |
| 372 | Engineering profession and general understanding of engineers and what they do, engineers contribution to modern society | Role of engineers in society |
| 393 | "Thank you"s | |
| | End Tape SB6, side B. End of Interviews | |