

RECORDING PART 1

0.06 This is Felicity Morgan interviewing Mrs Marjorie Fitz-Gerald [OAM] on Tuesday 21st August, 2007 at her home, about her contribution to Don Dunstan's election campaigns in the seat of Norwood, and the ongoing support she gave him during the time he was the member for Norwood from 1953 to 1979. The interview will also cover the arts and community activities that Marjorie Fitz-Gerald was involved in during the Dunstan Decade.

This recording is being made for the Don Dunstan Foundation History Project and will be deposited in the Flinders University Library, Don Dunstan Special Collection, and in the State Library of South Australia.

0.47 Good morning Marjorie, and thank you for giving your time to make this interview.

Good morning Felicity.

0.55 Now, I believe you were very young when you first moved into St. Peters, which, for those who may not know, is one of the wards of the Norwood electorate.

That's right, yes. I moved into the St Peters area shortly after I married. I married in 1951, but I actually moved across into First Avenue, St Peters, in 1958, just prior to the birth of my third child.

1.22 I believe that you met Don Dunstan pretty soon after he'd received the Labor Party nomination for the seat of Norwood in '53. Can you describe the circumstances under which you met him?

Yes. My husband at the time was doing a managerial course with the School of Mines and he met a chap called Douglas Joyce (telephone rings). Excuse me, there's the telephone.

1.47 That's alright. We are stopping for the telephone.

RECORDING PART 2

0.04 Resuming the interview with Marjorie Fitz-Gerald on 21st August, 2007. Where were we up to, Marjorie?

Well, sorry for the interruption – telephones! We were up to the fact that my husband met Douglas Joyce at the Institute of Management during a course that he was taking, and Douglas said to him that he had met an interesting fellow – a young chap – called Don Dunstan, and he was coming out to his home to talk to a group of people and would we like to come. And so Brian, my husband, said we'd be delighted to come, so off we trotted, packed the kids up in the car and off we went. As a result of that, we were very impressed with this young kid who was very, very idealistic, and so we said, "Well we can get groups of people to listen to you Don" and, you know, "You sound like a keen fellow". So we used to get groups of twenty or thirty people on the verandahs of our

homes and have Don come around and talk to us, and we'd give them a cup of tea, and that's how it got started I guess.

1.14 And he was talking about his political ideologies?

Yes, exactly. His dreams for changes he wanted to bring about and...it was just very inspiring and, quite frankly, you know, so many years have gone past now that I can't remember the context of the words exactly but, truth to say, he impressed us no end, and very articulate, and we just decided - well we could give this guy a hand because we didn't know actually who represented us in the seat at that time - and we were just so impressed that somebody was interested enough, and we just bogged in and helped.

1.58 Mmm. Absolutely. Well, I was going to ask you next that Norwood, I believe, had been a swinging seat since its inception in 1938, but immediately before the '53 election, it had been held by the Liberal and Country League member, Albert Moir?

Yes, I remember that.

2.14 I wonder if it was the desire to regain the seat for the Labor Party that drove you and your husband to helping Don Dunstan, or was it Don Dunstan that was the driving force; that you wanted to hook your wagon to him?

Yes. I must admit that I came from a family that wasn't greatly involved in political viewpoints. I came from a working class family, but nevertheless I wasn't interested very much in politics at the time - I was busy producing children - but I was just so impressed with this young man's articulate-ness and his togetherness; how he saw a vision for the future, and I was just so impressed by the man himself.

2.59 Yes, that's most interesting. I believe once, once you'd sort of agreed that you would assist, you threw your own small party for him?

Oh yes (laughs)

3.10 Or a number of them, perhaps? (laughs)

Well, as the years went on, of course, they just went from strength to strength! As you might recall, or you may know of the fact, that St Peters area was being, at that time in the 50s, the early 50s, being inhabited by a significant community of Italians and Greeks that were coming out after war-torn Europe, and Don had this idea that it would be great to talk to them as groups. So that started many years of Sunday once-a-month lunches for roughly four or five hundred Italians to barbeques, and the kids all helped and so on, just on the back lawn, and gave Don an opportunity to talk to them. And I think years later it culminated in me having a thousand Greeks to tea. And that was a huge, huge excitement, and we fed them all and had a wonderful night and Don spoke to them all, and I think we got the front page of the *Advertiser* that time with Don Greek dancing in the back garden. (laughs)

4.17 That's tremendous. You got to know a lot of the immigrant population because you got involved with that *Good Neighbour* policy?

Yes. In fact my mother-in-law, Mrs Fitz-Gerald senior, she was with, oh I think, Country Women's or one of those groups in those days, and she had a sign on the door '*Being a Good Neighbour*' but, as a result - we were in industry at the time - we used to have lunch time meetings teaching the young Italian lads to speak English, and the young women that we employed to speak English, and on many occasions I would have them after work in my kitchen just running through and teaching them elementary English. That's how it came about.

5.09 Right. Well I can see that they were part of your network and it was....

Oh absolutely, because what had happened, of course, the young Italians that arrived in their late twenties and thirties and early forties had parents back in Italy, which they sent for, which, of course, could speak *no* English, and in many cases came from a very peasant background, and they just lived a very isolated life. And as a result of what we did, I think we helped in no small way, to integrate them into the community because, you know, because Italians and Greeks are very family orientated, and we, by admitting them into our homes, and having them in the garden, having them to a barbeque where they could have a glass of red and a chop, or whatever, and talk and be comfortable, it helped the integration much, much quicker, I believe.

6.08 And you got a sense from the start that they would be more, they would be Labor voters, or be more inclined to vote [Labor]?

Well, no, not necessarily. I don't think that was the case .I think it wasn't *desperately* that they had to be Labor, but I thought that they *desperately* ought to hear this young talented man and his views on life, and how he felt he could improve the situation of the people in the community. So I wasn't strongly Labor or Liberal, although I've never voted Liberal in my life (laughs) but, at seventy five, you know. But it wasn't high in my mind... it was just that...I guess it might have been higher in my husband's mind, Brian; he became then, later on, became secretary of the sub-branch and became very active from that point of view and, of course, it was his putting together of the maps of St Peters, the Norwood seat, and organising the teams of helpers to door-knock that kept the seat secure, I'm sure it was a contributing factor to keeping the seat secure.

7.20 Yes. I was going to ask you about the door-knocks, the pamphlet drops and so on. Tell me about how you organised that, because it was a pretty intricate system wasn't it?

Yes. Well Don had a view that we should door-knock not letter-box, and there is a difference. To door knock on somebody then you get introduced to the person in the home and, even if they're not home, you left the material under their door so as to prove you went to the door, not to the letter box. And as a result, many people opened their homes and talked about Don Dunstan, which is what we wanted them to do, because in the very early days of course, Don accompanied us and went down street by street with us, but obviously...

I'm sorry we're going to have to stop

Interviewer coughing.

RECORDING PART 3

Low level background voice, not part of the interview

0.06 Continuing with the interview with Marjorie Fitz-Gerald on 21st August 2007.

Yes

We were talking about Don's...

...electorate and the means by which we maintained the seat. And I think a lot of credit has to go to Brian and his sub-branch. But Brian himself actually photostatted the whole of the Norwood electorate, street by street, and put it into little parcels so that people could door-knock, and he got a team together and they each had a section to do so nobody crossed over, nobody had the wrong idea. And he did this for years – every election he did this.

0.44 Covering every single street?

Covering every single street, every single house, and this way it became the jewel in the Labor Party crown, because the whole time then, once Don had the seat, it was held by him. He never lost the seat.

1.03 No. And some bitter battles?

Oh yes, there were some bitter battles and we worked all through that, you know (laughs) as everybody does, but nothing untoward, you know, it was just pure politics (laughs). Once you had a battle that was how it was.

1.14 That's right

You took it for granted

1.17 Now, I believe that it would be true to say that Don was somewhat vilified by many people in the area because of his political leanings at the start, which were at odds with his private school[ing], and his background?

Yes, well I, in the early days, of course. Don was a graduate from St Peters College, which of course is *the* most, one of the most, prestigious colleges in the state and a Liberal stronghold obviously. And they were absolutely disgusted that he should represent the Labor Party, and he said [even though] they were determined, that wasn't going to be the way he survived, and they said, well, "We'll get you in the end" (laughs) you know. They were quite determined, and he led a fairly rocky political life as result of it, because the Liberals never let go of him. It was like a dog and a bone.

2.11 They thought he was a class traitor did they?

Exactly. That's the sort of thing - they *expected* him to be a Liberal Party member simply because he went to Saints and he said "That's not where I'm coming from." So he was a very talented and...interested in...he never ever...his beliefs never shook, you know. He stayed right there with it the whole time through sickness and health he just stayed right on course.

2.37 Mmm. He remained a member for Norwood from 1953 to his retirement in 1979 which was twenty five years, and I think that was eight elections, is that right?

Well, I can't.. you'd have to get the archival records for that, I can't remember...

Yes, I think it was eight elections...

I know it seemed to dominate my life for a long time - Labor Party activities (laughs).

3.03 So you kept with him the whole time did you?

Oh, absolutely, Don knew he could ring me up and I would organise a function at the drop of a hat. By then we'd moved from number 6 First Avenue - we got terribly, terribly adventurous and we moved across the road to number 13. So that's where we lived from 1970 onwards, we lived at number 13 First Avenue, and that's where we had most of our big shows because we had a huge lawn at the back, and we managed to feed and educate (laughs) a lot of people from our back yard, you know. From Gough Whitlam, the whole lot of them, one after another, you know, they all came there...

At various elections

Yes, various functions, Margaret [Whitlam] and all.

3.49 Um, what was I going to ask you here. Do you think your efforts, and the other campaigners in the electorate were really responsible for keeping Don in his seat? If you hadn't worked so tirelessly do you think...?

I think it was a significant advantage to Don because we kept him alive in the seat. Because, as you know, I've spent fifteen years in local government, and I believe that was enough because you cannot help but lose touch because the pressures of the job take over to a degree, and it's very hard to keep yourself in front of people in the district, even in the local government scene. So it was even harder for Don and the pressures that were on him. So I believe it was a significant assistance to Don - those constant barbeques, the fact that he could meet with the Italian community at any stage...And not only my home. I did it, sure, but there were others that did it as well, maybe not on such a large scale but, you know, I got a lot of help from these people and they kept the community alive. It certainly was a focal point.

5.06 Don must have been incredibly grateful.

Indeed, he certainly was.

5.10 Over those twenty five years how would you say the electorate changed – in terms of people that you had dealings with in the election campaigns? And the issues - was there a huge or significant difference?

Well, I think it was almost like an absorption situation. In the 50s, you know, a lot of people won't remember this, but it was a very, very tight, married family – mother stays at home and looks after the children, daddy goes to work – type scene and a very, very closed community in my view, and this is a purely personal view of the situation. But let

me say, “after Don” the situation changed immeasurably. He’d fought for people being allowed to eat on the street, you know, I mean it was just not done, my friends, it was just not done. And of course he changed the way we ate, he changed the way we drank, he changed the way we dressed because we took on a more casual attitude. But the other aspect that I think was so significant was the fact that we started to think about politics. The community started to think about politics and I believe Norwood became one of the better thinking areas in that regard, especially those that were closely associated with Don. And they were aware of the changes he was trying to implement and the rights of people. And that, I guess, is the strongest thing I remember from Don; the fact that he was so keen to have peoples’ rights respected from whatever point of view they had. And it didn’t matter whether they were Greek, Italian, they were Australians as far as Don was concerned - they had a right to their space, they had a right to their viewpoint. And that was a very significant factor that came out of the legislation that he brought about, especially with people with different views on marriage, different views on associations and friendships. And it made the whole broader community much more open and much more aware of another person’s rights. I don’t believe it existed when I was younger.

7.40 No, well there were very entrenched ideas...

Very entrenched viewpoints, very establishment.

7.45 So you really felt that you were in the eye of the storm, as it were – this exciting maelstrom?

Oh, it was the most exciting period of my life. You know, in the same period, we started up a festival, the same period we built a festival theatre, the same period we built all the arts centres around the state – Don was responsible for getting that happening. You know he may not have been in power at the actual time of certain things happening, but it did happen in his period. It was *caused* by his action and that’s the thing. It was a great exciting time, and as a result I established *Carclaw*, the Youth Performing Arts Centre...

8.30 I’m going to get onto that in a minute, I was just wanting to finish talking about the electorate to start with, the grassroots electorate before we move onto the arts part

Sure..mmm

Tell me about the celebrations when you finally got victory on those election nights?

(laughs) Well, you know...it was like...I had wall to wall people in my house.

Were the celebration parties held in your house?

Several of them, yes, several of them, many of them (laughs). But, you know, it was just joy unlimited, you know, you went around with an aching face and smiling. Everybody was excited and, I must say, I hosted Don’s fiftieth birthday and one of his dear friends, Tom Playford, came as a guest of honour to his birthday and drank a glass of champagne to toast Don’s health - from a man who was a total abstainer – and I was there and served him so I know it did happen, and they were great friends and he was a

great mentor to Don in the early days, and it was just a nice thing. You know it was good, good politics I felt, at least that was my reaction to it. That is what I got from it.

9.56 And how was Don on those nights of celebration, particularly the first one..

Jubilant! (laughs). He was jubilant because he, you know, was just a youngster - twenty seven, you know, he was only a boy really...

10.14 At the '53?

Yes, at the very first election. But he was just a boy in those days, but he just had such a head on his shoulders, that was the thing; he had such a brain, and everybody was delighted for him, and that's the strength of it. We were all just delighted for him and he never let us down. Never let us down.

10.35 And who would have ever guessed that, after the 1953 election, he would have gone on to do what he did?

Well, he was highly intelligent and a well educated young man. I mean he was a lawyer, he'd done the hard yards. But then, to use his brain for such an advantage to the community.... I mean it was just, it would have been just, so easy to have sat back and gone on with his law degree and so on, but he felt he had more to contribute. He was an absolute idealist and he was really, in those days, ahead of his time. Absolutely ahead of his time.

Yes, on a lot of the social inclusion and life-style issues....

Absolutely

11.22...he certainly was. I believe you helped Chris Hurford when he was standing for Adelaide as the federal [member]?

Yes, that was a little later

Was it. He was a good friend of Don's wasn't he?

Yes, yes of course. They had a very strong friendship and Chris was very strongly attracted to the Labor Party's ideals and considerations. But of course, he went for the federal seat of Adelaide and obviously by then, we were well entrenched with Don's group, (laughs) you know. So Brian and I helped fold the papers and do all the things that one does, and helped distribute them and so on, and had the fund-raisers and all that, but got Chris Hurford into the seat of Adelaide which was strongly held as a non-Labor seat.

12.18 Was it?

Mmm

He held it for a fair long time?

He did indeed. But again, you know, I have to say Brian - he really did a huge amount in maintaining the team, and the door-knockers, and all of that, you know. It was a huge amount that he did.

12.40 Was Norwood covered by the Adelaide federal electorate?

No. it was separate

So Brian, your husband, was actually moving out of his federal electorate to help Chris Hurford?

Yes.

12.51 Oh, that was tremendous. Um, apart from Chris Hurford I believe you met a number of Don's federal counterparts over the years, such as Gough Whitlam and so on. How was he when he was with his federal associates?

Well, you've got to remember again I'm of the earlier stage in society where I was sort of cooking and looking after people and making sure everybody was fed and watered, so my involvement with the various senators and so on that came through my door and had their chops and so forth in the backyard was limited because I was more interested in their comfort than their policies, to tell you the truth. Brian would come in and say "Have you met so and so" and I'd say "I haven't had time because I'm busy getting food", you know, and so on. But we had, on other occasions, smaller, intimate connections, especially with Gough Whitlam and later on with...the brain goes...I'm having a senior moment...

14.00 Do you mean Bob Hawke?

I mean Bob Hawke, yes, and his family and Hazel [Hawke]. So that was sort of on a more intimate basis, but we always had them turn up at the functions. If they were in Adelaide they'd come to the functions and always have something to say, and always we had opportunities for them to speak to the group and they much appreciated it.

14.23 I can imagine. And did Don, was Don, good at working the crowd in those social functions at your house?

Yes indeed. He made himself completely available to the groups around him. Don was a very, very private person, and in his private life he was a very, very private man in fact. But on occasions such as that, when we had big functions, he would make himself totally available to anyone that wanted to talk to him. Yes, he was right there with the people.

14.55 So, from your point of view it was mostly those sorts of occasions that you saw Don, you were not in an inner sanctum of his personal friends?

Well, I suppose I was, in a sense, but I didn't ingratiate myself into it, you know. I was right there; he knew he could ring me at any time and I'd do whatever was needed and wanted, but I didn't insist on being ingratiated right in. But I've been to Don's home many times, to functions and parties, private ones, and that was fine, and we did all of that between us. But I wasn't...I had a life to lead and a family of five to rear and educate and I was a busy woman, and so I was just used when I was needed, you know (laughs).

15.48 Absolutely. I wondered whether there was any significant difference, or no difference at all, between how Don presented himself in his public persona to the way he was when he was sitting around a private dinner table with you?

Not really, no. Don was always Don, and, as I say, he made himself available to people. He didn't really expose himself as a person; he didn't start talking about whether his big toe hurt or whether he had a bad tennis elbow or anything like that. That wasn't part of his persona at all. He only ever talked about what was happening for the people, to the people - that was in my company - you know, that's all I ever remembered of Don. He was interested in how we could approach [an issue], from what angle, how we could get the best out of it, or whether this legislation was going to work, you know, this sort of thing. But we didn't ever, it was never, ever, oh I don't know what you'd call it, what do you call your best sister or something, you talk all sorts of personal things, it wasn't like that.

17.00 You didn't get down to a personal level?

No, no, except during the period of time when Adele wasn't well and we, some of us, took shifts with her when parliament was sitting. But apart from that...

Did you go to their wedding?

Oh yes I did. I was there. I was there. It was the most lovely experience too. They really enjoyed each other's company. I could see there was a real feeling between them.

17.21 Because it wasn't a really big affair was it?

No, no, it was in his home. Yes, I was there and it was in his home in Clara Street, Norwood.

17.35 And I believe there was one occasion when he came to see you to tell you some news before it hit the newspapers?

Oh, that was years before, yes. It was when he was married to Gretel, and he actually came to us, to Brian and I, one evening and he told us he was separating from Gretel and that he wanted to let his friends know before they saw it in the papers, which I thought was very gracious and kind of him to do. He didn't have to do that, but it just showed the measure of the man.

18.02 Yes, absolutely. Well, he came under a lot of criticism and scrutiny in his personal life, and in some of the political decisions he made; he got a lot of brickbats over the sacking of Harold Salisbury, the....

Yes, the Police Commissioner

18.24 Did you see him in those dark times? I wonder how he was?

Oh yes. Well, it was a terrible strain on him physically because he wasn't a physically robust man. He was a slight, physically slight, man, and it took more out of him than people realised because he still had to front up on a daily basis and be the premier and

so on. And, because he was so approachable, made himself approachable to his Norwood electorate, he had, daily, people coming to him with problems, especially the Italian and Greek communities wanting problems solved with migration and various other aspects. So he had a huge task on his shoulders in those days, which I don't think a lot of the politicians of today have to the same extent - because those [immigrant families] are now several generations later and they're Australians, born and bred you see, from those Italian and Greek families, and from other families of course, Polish and so on. But he actually suffered a great deal from those slanging matches. It affected him greatly because he was never 'personally orientated'; he was what I call 'job orientated', and his only interest was in the state. And that was my view of Don Dunstan. The closeness that I had with him over the years he never really took things to how it was to him personally. He was really very, very job orientated.

20.04 But some of the decisions of course were personal decisions that he made and that would have – do you think he was fairly treated by the press or do you think on the whole...?

I think, on the whole, when anyone takes office, you're fair game, you're fair game, and therefore the press never let him go. Because Don was a colourful character as well, I mean - wearing pink shorts - well even I censure him on that - (laughs) because I'm a bit of a square - but, you know, people remember him for pink shorts which, of course, is a load of nonsense...

It only happened once, didn't it?

Absolutely, and a load of nonsense. But, because he had a flamboyant nature, and because he set up the premier's department once he got into office, which later became the arts department, you know, and because everybody said you're interested in the arts you must a pansy. Just nonsense stuff - I could not live my life without involvement in the arts. I mean, how do you get up in the morning if you can't sing, or you can't listen to some music, or you can't look at a beautiful painting? How do you explain all that, you know, that's what life's all about, the joys in life. (laughs) Handling the nitty gritty is secondary surely, you know, [daily] living is secondary to all of the joys in life.

21.27 Well he certainly took on a lot in his ministerial roles, in the portfolios, not only as premier, when he did become premier, but he was also minister for the arts and I think [he held] a couple of other portfolios as well. But obviously he was still very concerned about his electorate issues?

Absolutely, and not only about electorate issues; he was severely criticised when there was a run on the, you know, the Hindmarsh Building Society; a dear friend of mine, and his wife who were killed in a plane crash, was running it at the time. And you know he [Don] got down there with a loud hailer and told people to go home; that the government would back the situation. What premier would do that?

22.14 They had gathered outside Parliament House had they?

No, this was when they had gathered outside the Building Society in Gawler Place and that's when he went down. The one time on Parliament steps he left Parliament to go down to talk to the waterside workers - that was a different issue. He gave them confidence that he was behind what they were doing. He was an extremely articulate

and eloquent man in his ability to calm people and to talk to them - yet at a personal level. And even though the words just came out of his mouth, and he was just so talented in that regard, it wasn't above their heads; it was *to* them, and that was the difference, you know; he could talk *to* people he wasn't talking *above* them.

22.59 Mm. A remarkable talent.

It is, it is. He was an – one likes to think of Roman orators – that's what he was - he was an orator. And the thing is, behind the speaking, the oration, behind all that, was his humanity. And that's what gets across to people, because anyone can become an orator with enough study and training and so on, but it was his humanity that came from behind all of that. That was marvellous, because he was interested, he was *interested* in people.

23.40 And obviously concerned about them...

Absolutely, absolutely. And that's why, you know, he got condemned in many ways over a lot of his legislation, later on, when he thought that the homosexuality bills, and all of that, would go through: well why not? People have a right to be who they are and it doesn't matter whether you agree with it or not, you know; your next grandchild might be homosexual, you don't know, I don't know, and you can only pray that life goes on and that they are a happy contributing human being, regardless of their considerations, you know. So he made it okay for people to have a different viewpoint.

24.27 Yes.

It made it *okay*, whereas once upon a time it was thrown under the blanket; it was under the mat, or whatever. But he made it okay. I mean, some of my loveliest friends are that way inclined, and that's fine. I accept that in them. It doesn't mean to say I don't have them home to dinner, you know

24.47 But there were people in Adelaide, during his more adventurous or far thinking legislation, who got very upset didn't they?

Oh well, you know, as I think I said he was ahead of his time, at that time. Now, of course, it's all part and parcel of our lives - this is what people don't realise. If they take out that segment, if they were to take that out of our lives – that segment that Don had between those years – we would be a different community, and that's the thing. As I say to people: "How many people can say that one person, in fact, because of his idealism, changed the way you eat?" You know up until then it was three sausages, three veg and a sausage, you know. But now we eat Indonesian food with relish, Indian food, Thai food and all the rest of it, Italian food, Greek food, and it's part and parcel of our daily life.

25.48. Absolutely. I wanted to move on to your career a little bit if I might. Now, you went into local government – when was that?

1970.

26.01 And why?

The local mayor at the time came around to our home, and he was also a supporter of Don, but he said to my husband at the time, Brian “We need people like you in local government”. Brian said “I haven’t got time, get Marjorie to do it.” So, (laughs) typical, that’s *exactly* what was said to me, I swear on a stack of bibles. So I said “Oh alright.” You see, that’s how it happened “Oh, alright” because I’d been kindergarten secretary and been on the school committee and was helping to run a factory which employed, finally, about a hundred people, in Magill, on Magill Road, which is part of the Norwood electorate. And so I said “Oh okay, so long as you help me write my pamphlet”, you know. So anyway, time moved on and Brian was too busy, so it ended up I had to write my own pamphlet, get my own thing printed, and I went and door-knocked Stepney. And I got in and dislodged the sitting member for some ten years or something which again, indicated that people were ready for a change.

27.18 So you became a councillor?

I became a councillor. Then later on I went for the aldermanic seat which meant I had to go and door-knock the town, which I did, and then later on I became mayor for which I door-knocked the town and got in. So that’s how I went. So that was the beginning of my local government contribution (laughs). But, in the meantime, I’m still on the school council, and I established, in those days, the first Girl Guides in St. Peters, and I helped set up the March door-knock for the Red Cross, and I did all those sorts of things, as one does.

27.55 You’re a very community minded person.

Well, my dad, being a migrant in the ‘20s, with four children, had the other eight of us here, and he always said, with twelve children to rear – six boys and six girls - he always said “If a country can feed you, allow yourself to feed your children and educate them, you owe something back”. So I’ve always just given a bit back. And that’s me.

28.24 A marvellous philosophy. When you were in local government, particularly when you became mayor of St. Peters, did your dealings become closer with Don in terms of um was there collaboration between you as mayor and him as premier in local issues – building development, infrastructure, services, that kind of thing?

Well, I’d have to say no to that. Because, I must admit, I strongly believe in local government and I don’t believe it should be party politics you see. I don’t think party politics should be part of local government. I think that’s a different kettle of fish, but unfortunately it’s crept in since I’ve left, and I always said that when party politics moved into local government I’d move out. Because, actually, I’ve never been a member of any political party, strangely enough, as people might believe, but that’s the case. So, no, I didn’t. And yet he was very aware of what I was doing and I was always still supporting him, and everybody knew I still supported him because I had so many functions at my home nobody could *but* know, when the streets were full of cars (laughs) – “Marjorie’s having another function!” So, there was no doubt that I wasn’t involved in the party politics as such, but I didn’t go cap in hand to try to inveigle anything from state...

29.53 ...anything specific...

No, or federally, no. But when we set up at one stage, with the town clerks and mayors, set up [a committee] with the six councils east of the city and I ended up being chair of that, and we then set to, at that stage, to try and work out how we could best allocate our opportunity of funding from federal government. So rather than us all be bidding for money for a library or a swimming pool or whatever, we talked it over as intelligent people and looked at the layout of the whole of the six councils east of the city and decided that “yes” let Burnside run with the library because it had a very good facility and a facility to expand; let Payneham have the Olympic pool because they had the space to have that happen, and so on. And so we weren’t competing with each other...

30.54 collaborating...

It was collaboration and it was very good. And then St. Peters got, because of its position as the funnel into the city, we got the child care centre, which was a federally funded child care centre and that was encouraging. The purpose of that was to encourage young professionals to have the confidence in placing their children in childcare and get back into the workforce, and that was the purpose behind that. It wasn’t for any other purpose than that. So that was the reason.

31.25 So you didn’t really have much cross-over with state government?

Not really no. We obviously had dealings with road problems and all that which was normal stuff, but nothing out of the ordinary.

31.39 That’s fair enough. Um, we touched a little bit on the sorts of things that Don Dunstan introduced when he was premier, could you describe what laws you think made the greatest difference to the lifestyle of ordinary folk in this state?

Well....

Is that too hard a question?

Well, I guess the one that’s uppermost in most people’s minds was his legislation regarding homosexuality, and in a lot of people’s minds that was absolutely ground-breaking legislation.

32.17 The first state?

Yes, the first state and ground-breaking legislation, and I believe it’s only made us a more generous-minded community, and I think it was just powerful legislation to bring in, and it brought him a lot of brick-bats and a lot of angst, but it was necessary because everyone in the community deserves to be recognised regardless.

32.44 One of the areas that Don was very involved in as we’ve just touched on, we touched on before, was in the arts....

Yes, that was the other aspect I was going to explain...

32.51 You explained to me that whilst you didn’t have any involvement with government policy or departmental issues particularly, you did in your words “wear a track to Don’s office” when you were trying to get support for an arts

endeavour at *Carclew*. Perhaps you'd like to describe what *Carclew* is, what were the plans you had for it and how Don assisted in those plans?

Right. Well, as I said, in the 70s I was a mother with five children. They were little bookworms which I was innately proud about - I just thought they were wonderful kids and they were great being bookworms - but I had the experience of hosting, through the children, billets from international activities. I often had as Japanese student staying or someone from Europe, and there was a period of time when I had several young Americans. And I know people have differing views on the American system, but I was very impressed with these youngsters and the way they could articulate and speak in front of a group – you know, be upstanding and be quite sure of themselves. And I looked at my five and I thought, gee, I'm missing out here somewhere, what am I not doing, or what is our system not doing? Marie Tomasetti was running the Bunyip Theatre in those days and it was a very successful little youth performing group where she would get children together and put on shows, her and her husband Tony Roberts, and it was a very nice little input of youth in doing drama and plays. So anyway, she had, for a peppercorn rent, taken over the old *Carclew* building.

34.46 This is *Carclew* in North Adelaide?

...in North Adelaide, which had been purchased from the Bonython family as a possible site for the Festival Centre. There were great discussions about that and we decided, the decision was, that it was not a good site because it was in a residential area and the building (Festival Centre) ought to be closer to the city and so the old baths were removed and hence we have the Festival Centre where it is.

35.16 I think Don did push for that didn't he?

Oh yes, he did, with much help from the sub-branch I must admit. You know, suggesting that it might be a good place to have it.

35.24 Don got a lot of electorate input did he?

Yes, yes, that's right, from St Peters sub-branch [who] were very active in suggesting that that was a better site, to my knowledge. Anyway to the extent that *Carclew* sat empty. So when we took, my girlfriend and I, we took something like ten children between us, took them over to *Carclew* to see what was happening with something on Saturday, we read in the paper that Marie was doing this thing, and I guess she was just looking for talent for her little shows. But anyway, we took the kids over and I sat there and watched what was happening and I thought, gee the kids were coming alive with this opportunity to dance around these big rooms in this old house, to speak in front of their peer group, and it was really quite exciting. I thought it was lovely to see this happening. So, after doing this for a couple of Saturdays I said to Marie "Why don't we start up a youth performing arts group?" and she said "Oh, I haven't got time" because this was her business to run the Bunyip Theatre. And I said "Would you mind very much if a group of us got together and did something about it". And she said "No, not at all". So, (I thought) it won't affect her, so I said "Alright." So with that I got a group of mums together and we started talking about how we would do this and the suggestion was we'd have a carnival to draw people's attention to this fact, and the upshot of it was we had wall-to-wall people...

37.03 On the day of the carnival?

On the day of the carnival we had wall to wall people right out to the walls of *Carclew*. It was massed with people. Up the stairs they were ten deep. Because of Don, because of what I was trying to do, we asked Don, because the premier's department in those days, there wasn't an arts department as such although it later became the arts department, so the premier's department was keen on furthering the arts, so I said to Don "Would you please open it?" He graciously consented to open it and when he came we had to fight to get him to the steps of the house because there was just no room, it was just absolutely shoulder to shoulder with people. Don spoke very graciously and he was so impressed and, as he turned to me he said "If this many people are interested you can have *Carclew* as its base"!

38.06 So this was a massive fund-raiser this carnival?

Yes, I convened this massive fund-raiser.

38.12 And you advertised it and people came from far and wide?

I went to CSR and got bags of sugar. I went to [Fowler's] Lion Factory and got bags of flour. I went to the Dairy Board and got eggs and butter, and all this sort of thing. Then I took myself, because television was in its infancy in those days, and I was able to get on television during the kiddies programme, and I said to parents that if you're interested in helping me bake, come to my address and I'll give you the ingredients, you know. I figured that if I could bake two thousand items at a dollar an item I'd have two thousand dollars you see. So anyway, these women came in their droves and I weighed out flour and sugar and everything, and off they went. Of course the days before, I had said the biscuits can arrive early because they'll keep but any cakes bring on the Thursday and Friday. Well, the Thursday and Friday, and Tuesday and Wednesday, I didn't go to sleep for four nights, I just stayed up, receiving and icing cakes (laughs).

39.20 You had a constant stream of people?

I had a constant stream of people, plus what I was doing myself and my girlfriends and so on. I had a big old home with a forty foot passage, so we put trestles down the passage and all down the passage were these cakes which I then got over to *Carclew*. And we'd encouraged other people to take part – we had people with little arts groups showing their wares and so on. So, between us, and this was all on a voluntary basis...

39.48 And did you have stalls?

Yes, that's what I mean, stalls, they were all there with their stalls, and a young man, Ian Fairweather I think his name was, from the television, emceed it for us you know, and it was a great fun day. And we had musicians and they came and did their bit and I raised over ten thousand dollars! Which in those days, well you could buy a house for three thousand (laughs).

40.12 When was that, what year, do you recall?

Well it must have been about, it must have been 1970 or thereabouts. I'm pretty sure that's when it was. I'm getting senior moments here, but anyway it was about 1970 or it

might have been a little bit before, but not much before. Anyway the upshot of it was we established *Carclew* and then I sat on the money until I got myself a board of 'prominents'. I wanted to have someone with a high profile that would spearhead this idea. Because the idea I had was to get busloads of children from disadvantaged schools, go to the schools and bring them, forty at a time, into *Carclew*, the building itself, and have the best drama teachers, the best speakers, the best movement [teachers] and so on – all sorts of aspects of the performing arts, and they would be trained, these kiddies would be trained under them and have the advantage of learning to be comfortable with their peer group. And that's how we started out. Anyway the upshot of it was the government had to do this thing properly, so they loaned me a young man called Len Amadio, who was a little skinny kid at the time – great guy, lovely guy – and he and I nussed out a constitution for *Carclew* and.....

41.44 He, at that at that stage, was Don's arts advisor?

Yes, in the premier's department. So that's how it came about, and later on we got Dame Ruby who was given the chair ...

Litchfield?

Yes, Dame Ruby Litchfield. She was given the chairmanship and she stayed on then for many years as the chair. I was chair of the steering committee but then I was appointed to the board. That was Don's, the premier's, appointment. He always appoints one person to boards and so on, and I happened to be his person on that, and I was on the board then for ten years.

42.17 And of course it's gone from strength to strength?

Absolutely. We're just setting up now for the big world conference next year, you know, where we're expecting in excess of 400 delegates coming to this Youth Performing Arts [Conference] and people around the world *know* of *Carclew*. *Carclew* in Australia is the jewel in the youth performing arts crown, and around the world it is known for its youth performing arts programme.

42.45 And now it goes out to the...

.....and now it goes out to the schools. The schools programme is one of its biggest aspects, yes. But I still want to have that personal touch of bringing groups into *Carclew*, because you get a group of children – and I grew up at Semaphore and I know what its like - for children who have never lived in anything other than a small little [Housing] Trust home, to move into a building and to know it belonged to one family and to see that there are other things in life other than their own square patch. It helps them lift their game; puts their step up on the ladder; broadens their viewpoint.

43.27 And of course your beating this track to Don's office was to get the whole thing put together properly the way you saw...

And to have a responsible board appointed, and we did get that. Through the Department we did get that. And then to have a sensible grant to get us started, which we did. It was very small but it was the start, and it got us started, and now of course it's

a line on the budget which is what it should be because it's a very integral part of our youth. After all, people are our only asset, our only asset.

44.08 Absolutely. What a feather in your cap though? And did Don open it when it was officially opened?

Oh yes, and he still kept a close eye on *Carclew* and he kept in good touch. Of course Dame Ruby was a very upfront lady and she then carried on and beat the path to the door too. She kept more involved probably than I did because I was different, came from a different viewpoint, and that was good, that was excellent.

44.38 She herself came from a theatrical background?

Oh yes, and she was, what was she, a hurdler? A very fine sportswoman, she would have been an Olympic sportswoman in her day. She was physically a beautiful lady, a lovely friend of mine.

Yes, she's got quite a reputation

Yes lovely, great girl, great lady

45.01 Now, apart from your successes with *Carclew* you also served on a number of quite prestigious boards – Metric Conversion Board, Energy Advisory Committee – these were national boards. I was just going to ask you the question: do you think it was to do with your Labor Party grass roots and assisting with Chris Hurford and Don Dunstan that got you the appointments, that got your name put forward do you think?

Well, I think so, especially for the Metric Board. That was started from '70 to '80 – they had ten years in which to convert the country and the South Australian appointee was Garnet Glastonbury. He did the education change-over which was the first three years. So in 1973 the Metric Board was moving into the consumer affairs side of things and therefore - they didn't have a woman on the Board – and when the South Australian, Glastonbury, retired from doing the education stint, that was a vacancy for South Australia. So my name and Mrs Hausler from the Country Women's Association was another lady, and I don't know how many others, but I remember her being one of the people recommended. The names had gone forward and mine as well. Now I'm sure mine went up through Chris Hurford because he was the member for Adelaide at the time, and of course he would have got some thought from Don. But basically it was Chris Hurford put my name up as a possible person. I was then interviewed by the chair, John Norgard, former South Australian and a former head of BHP in those days, and I was appointed. I don't know that I was necessarily the first choice, but when he [Chris Hurford] put the names up to the minister I guess that the minister suggested that maybe I might be a suitable candidate. Now, whether that's a political decision or not I don't know, and I've not questioned it. I've never questioned it and I don't really know, because when I attended my first meeting John [Norgard] did say to me "Oh you've got friends in high places" and I said "Do you know such and such" and he mentioned the minister and I said "No, I've never met him, I don't know him at all" So he said "Oooh" (laughs). So I believe Chris Hurford probably suggested when of those, when he was approached being the member for Adelaide, when the federal minister spoke to him,

when he was asked who did *he* think was the most suitable he probably said I was the person. So.

47.42 And he probably got it quite right too!

Oh well. I then, instead of a three year appointment, I ended up being eight years on the Board, so (laughs).

47.50 Quite a long time. Tell me the funny story you told me the other day when I saw you about you having to leave for a meeting in Canberra?

Oh well, Don was having one of his usual requests for a function, and so I had about 400 Italians to lunch and Don was there, and I said "Okay, I can do it, but I got to leave, I've got to be on the two thirty 'plane." And so I said "If I get everything organised are you happy about that?" And Don said "Oh, that's fine" you know, He said "What's it for?" And I said " We've got a contingent of Americans and Canadians arriving in Australia to look at the metric conversion programme in Australia and I have to be there, because I just *have* to be there for the big major dinner that night". So he said "Right." Well, the reception was that night. So that's what happened. I got everything happening, I did all everything lined up, all the ice buckets, you know, had my case packed the night before, and at two o'clock I said to Don "Well, have a very nice rest-of-the-afternoon" and I left him to my family and (laughs) off I went! And of course, when I arrived, John Norgard laughed and introduced me as just having left her own premier in her backyard to be here today. (laughs) It was a bit of a fun thing.

49.19 Quite a story

Well, you know, you do those things.

49.21 Tell me about the other arts and community activities that you've been involved with?

Well, I was ten years on the Festival Centre Trust, and at one stage, the longest serving member, and went through quite a lot of changes in that time; a very, very successful period from '83 to '93. And back in the '80s I was on the board of the Festival Fringe with Frank Ford as the chair and he had been on it for quite a few years, from its inception actually, and he asked me would I be prepared to stand as the chair. And so the agreement with the group was that I'd be uncontested. So then I became the chair of the Festival Fringe. So I was on the Festival Centre [Trust] (laughs) and I was on the Festival Fringe as well, and I think I was six or eight years chair of that, and then in the meantime oh, what was I doing?

50.36 Was it the Country Arts?

The Country Arts Trust came after the Festival Centre Trust, and I was the inaugural chair because at that stage the Country Arts [Trust] didn't exist as such. It was a group of isolated pockets around the state. Anne Levy was the minister at the time and she appointed me to that, and I took over and had to set up staff and everything on that.

51.07 Country Arts [Trust] was started originally by Don Dunstan was it, or not?

Well no. The theatres were built in various regional centres, and then there was an Arts Council as such and they did a certain amount in the regions, but it was very fragmented. The upshot of it was, by the time Anne appointed me they were trying to weld it together and it required a lot of travelling because virtually I was responsible for the arts and cultural activities of the state except the metropolitan area. So it was a huge task and Ken Lloyd was, I appointed him as the CEO, and between us and his team we travelled the state and pulled the whole thing together, and it's a magic organisation. Ken has tremendous strength, he studied under Len Amadio in the department [of the arts]. He has tremendous strength as an arts administrator, and the Country Arts [Trust] was born. I might say with lots of discussions, heated, rather heated, in the various communities, but they all came to finally realise that we were interested in their survival, not in trying to feather our own caps. We were just interested in the survival of the communities. And our goal was that no person in the state should be culturally disadvantaged by consideration of distance. Therefore we established a marvellous touring programme. And since then the theatre at [Port] Lincoln has been built and first class visual arts spaces have been established so they can take the big shows that require security and humidified areas as so on, which the country didn't have - the country had no means of having first class facilities - so that's now happening in two instances in the state and I think there's a third happening; I'm not au fait of how many there are now.

53.25 You've moved away from that now, but you're still involved with the Independent Arts Foundation?

The Independent Arts Foundation, [IAF] yes. I decided to help fund-raise for the Independent Arts Foundation. So I went over with my friend Veda Swain and got involved on the events committee; a very interested membership group of people, round about 300 strong, and they raise scholarships for young people. And my interest has always been in young people's improvement and development, and so I was very happy to assist with that. I did a stint as chair of that organisation and now I'm a life member, along with being a life member of the Festival Fringe - 'Life Member Number Two'. Frank [Ford] is "Number One" (laughs). And I'm still helping them [IAF]: we're putting on a breakfast at Government House at the beginning of book week - [Adelaide] Writer's Week, where we put on a *Book Lovers Breakfast* and raise funds for a literary scholarship. Well those funds contribute to the scholarship, which attracts - it's the only one that does - attracts equal funding from the government, so that equals two, which is great. We give money to the Festival Fringe for a playwright; we give money for master classes for the Cabaret [Festival] season; we send young budding artists overseas or give people help to further their careers if they want to study under specific people, and so on.

55.16 Pity there aren't more organisations like it.

Yes, and it's very hard because we need younger people because we're all getting very old! (laughs).

Yes. (laughs) But I don't know that this interview will be a national ...

...maybe it will generate that, but you never know!!

55.27 Now, just getting back to Don briefly before we finish. In 1979 when Don left parliament, did you keep in touch with him?

Oh yes, yes, right until three weeks before he died. Yes, I did because he had so much to give, even so, and he was much maligned in his latter years, he suffered. Personally he suffered a great deal as a man of his time you know. Usually the people with the talents he had, and being premier of the state, are given accolades and lauded and so on. But, no. In one sense I felt, personally, and this is a personal viewpoint, I felt he was shunned. I thought he wasn't given an opportunity to use his talents in ways that would have benefited the state in his retirement. He could easily been chair of various organisations and guided and used his talents considerably in that way. I believe he was overlooked a little, well not a little bit but significantly overlooked. So much so that he was actually appointed to a position in Victoria.

56.44 Yes, he went over to do a stint with the Tourist Bureau of Victoria?

Yes, and I felt that was even a slight to Don that he was even offered it, because he should have been doing things here, in this state. Even in my travels when I was on the National Energy Advisory Committee and Metric Board, when I was interstate, those people - and they were people from high places commanding excellent jobs: head of Esso, head of BHP and IBM and all these very prestigious companies, men on huge commanding salaries - *always* said to me, time out of number, "Where did you get a man like Don Dunstan from?" You know they so admired him, in the eastern states. And yet our own state, oh it drives me mad, to tell you the truth. Sorry if that's on tape, but it doesn't matter.

57.34 No that's alright. What do you put that down to?

I don't really know. Well, I think maybe because of Don's... the suggestion that Don was homosexual was may be the... one of the reasons, I don't know.

57.50 But of course that was all perfectly legal by then.

Of course it was, but you know it doesn't matter. But even so Don was a family man, he had children, he had various marriages, you know, and he adored his female partners, and I saw the evidence of it. I saw the evidence of it. And in the finish when he had a companionship, a male companionship, why not? I mean it would be like calling me lesbian if I happened to have a girlfriend be my companion for the rest of my life, you know. It's a nonsense thing. I don't believe it for a minute, and I just think that he had ahe dealt with these people because in many, many cases they are intellectual people, you know, and they are students of society and the arts and life. Don had an intelligent brain and he wanted to keep using it and by mixing with these people it kept him alive.

I know from my own conversations with these people they are really....they have their finger on the pulse. They're...a lot of them are intelligent, they're not just all - excuse my expression - sex-crazed maniacs. You know, it's a load of nonsense. I just can't stand it, can't bear it, you know. I can't bear it.

59.13 That stereotyping, yes. I wonder whether people felt that Don had not only physically broken down, but was there a mental destabilisation, do you think?

Oh no, no

He had the death of his wife?

No, no, no, I think he was physically worn out. But when you say anything mental I don't think so, no. I was with him the week before he died and we chatted on old times, you know. I could see he was physically worn out and let's face it, he was dying. You know he'd had that cancer for many years. People didn't realise it, but I knew he wasn't well, but there was nothing wrong with his brain. I sat with him...he had a big...some friends gave him a big birthday party, his last birthday before he died. He died I think about 10 days later. I sat with him and chatted to him, it was just amazing, his brain never blinked, we just went back to old times. It was great.

Tape ran out suddenly.

RECORDING PART 4

00.00 Marjorie, this just a follow up to the last couple of questions for the interview of the 21st August. You were talking about Don Dunstan after he left politics and how he wasn't given the chance really in this state, could you just continue and elaborate a little bit on that for me?

Well, I think I did cover it, but in case the tape ran out I'll just reiterate a little bit. I believe that Don was, because he left through illness, was considered probably, that he did not have the necessary time or effort to put into office. But I know for a fact that Don could well have been a useful member in our society, and he was overlooked on many occasions, I believe. The fact that he was asked to go interstate to Victoria in regard to tourism was a slur, I believe, on his character, because he should have been used in this state; he had a lot to give, he had tremendous amount of knowledge, and occasionally he did get asked to open things, but it was few and far between, and I felt it was a loss of dignity for the man because he had so much, and he had given so much to the state and he should have been used more, once he had retired from political life.

1.29 He did start rather a successful restaurant in Norwood, did he not?

Oh yes, he did that, he did that with his friend and he was open to people in the street again, which was his love, of course; he loved his Norwood people and it was highly successful and it only ended because of his own ill-health, you know, in the last weeks of his life. But yes, it was very successful...

1.57 He put out a cook book too, I think?

Oh yes, I've got one signed back in those days, yes, a signed *Don Dunstan Cook Book*. Again, you see, he introduced us to different ways of cooking food. What premier does that? I mean that one person can do that? Obviously I'm a Don fan so this will go down in history as rather a pop fan looking at a past celebrity, I suppose (laughs).

2.27 Through rose-tinted spectacles! But you were close to him and as a result you did have a good overall view of how he operated, not just over his premiership but over a long time...

A long time, yes. Well really from 1952 until he died. I had knowledge of him, to do with him, involved with him and, as a person, I felt he was in later life very much overlooked for what he could have still contributed, especially in the arts.

3.13 Absolutely, absolutely. And as far as you are concerned the legacy he left, enormous?

Ah, I believe...I'm coming back in a hundred years time you know? Because I have no intention of not coming back to find out what the historians say about Don Dunstan. I'm determined to come back and find out, plus the fact that I love earth so much I'm not going anywhere else! (laughs). But no, his contribution was incredible; he had tremendous dedication, he was totally focussed on what he wanted to do for the state, he didn't have a hidden agenda, he was totally open. A marvellous man. I don't know of many who have got such a single minded view of how he could contribute to make something better than it was. You know he wasn't prepared to invalidate what was, but he knew there was a better way. He didn't invalidate people, but he said "How about we try so and so." You know you catch more bees with honey.

4.21 As you said right at the beginning, and this is doing the full circle now, that you could see right at the very start in 1952 that he was a young man with vision.

Absolutely, a man with vision, absolutely. And he was an idealist. He looked for the absolute ideal in life, and I think we are the recipients of it; we are the beneficiaries of it; we're the ones that are living now in the environment that he instigated, he started and caused to happen. I don't have any doubt about that at all. No other man since, and I've met some highly intelligent and capable ministers in my day over the years, interstate as well as South Australia, Hugh Hudson for one comes to mind - brilliant man. And there were many who had a lot to contribute, but they were in their own field, if you like, whereas Don was absolutely, what I call, 'pan-determined'; he had a vision so wide and he was determined for it to all happen, and I believe he succeeded.

5.40 A man for all seasons, yes, who did make an enormous difference. Well, I think that's about all my questions, but if there's anything you'd like to add, or anything I've forgotten that you think should be mentioned, you've got the floor.

No, only as a result of my involvement with *Carclew*, which I'm now patron of – they've asked me to be patron – but the one thing that was of value I think... with my involvement...was that, with Frank Ford, we harassed the Curriculum Board to have drama introduced as a subject in the schools, and I think that was a very good move. There was a small group – a sub-committee of us – that put forward that information at that time and that now is a subject in schools. I believe if we focus in on our youth this is where our greatest treasure is; that's our only resource. We might have Roxby Downs, we might have whatever, but our real resource is our people, our youth of tomorrow. We've got to do things; educate them, bring them forward, involve them and that's where our strength is, that's where we'll win.

6.59 I hope drama won't go the same way that musical instrument learning in schools is apparently about to go – out the back door.

Well you know, it'll go out the back door if not enough people are furious about it, you know. This is what happens in life because we are forced to create budgets because we all know how spiralling costs are and therefore there are limitations on what one can do. But I know for a fact, you only have to look at the size of people's incomes to know that budgets could be different, put it that way (laughs). I mean I'm not a wealthy person, I've never had big income at all, and I still have nice things around me, I still manage, you know.

7.47 Yes, well I wonder what Don would have said about all that, these kinds of things?

Well he did what he did, and he did it well, and I think we're very, very fortunate to have had him during that period of time. Whether he could have been as effective now, that's a different question. I think he's got young people that have been under him and trained under him that I believe have received enough 'rub-off' from his views to be doing a good job, and I think Mike Rann is one of them and there are others, in other walks of life, that have had that opportunity, and they will just keep building the society as a result. And we can only work with the material we have on the day...and history is history...we can only take the best in history, apply it today and hope it will do something for tomorrow.

8.46 Well on that note I think we might say goodbye, and thank you very much indeed Marjorie.

Thank you. It's been a pleasure

END OF INTERVIEW