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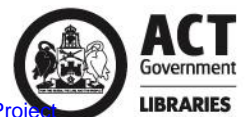
Planning Institute of Australia 2012-2013 Oral History Project

GEOFF CAMPBELL



HMSS 0359 Planning Institute of Australia 2012-13 Oral History Project

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Date of birth	1935
Address/contact details	See permission form
Date/s of interview	21/9/12; 25/9/12
Place of interview	Canberra
Length of interview	(1) 2:05:07 (2) 2:08:46
Name of interviewer	Mary Hutchison
Interviewer contact details	Mary.hutchison@anu.edu.au
Signed permission form	Yes (includes photos)
Photographs of interviewee	Provided by interviewer
Other documentation supplied	No
Recording equipment	Marantz recorder, Rode mic (stereo), WAV file, 48khz

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY

Geoff Campbell was born in Yass in 1935 before the family moved to Victoria. He attended five different schools, completing schooling at Wesley College, Melbourne and began to study architecture at Melbourne University in 1955. He completed his degree and a diploma in town planning and then worked as an architect in Melbourne and Brisbane. He married in 1964 before going to work in the UK in 1965. There he worked as an architect-planner, at Greater London Council and in Scotland on the development of Livingston New Town. With plans to return to Australia he responded to a recruitment drive by the National Capital Development Commission and after an interview in London was offered the position of Town Planner class 3. Geoff, his wife and young daughter arrived in Canberra in 1970 when he took up the position. Geoff stayed at the NCDC until it closed in 1988. He was Chief Planner from 1978-89. He was then appointed Chief Planner to the Interim Territory Planning Authority. With the completion of the new planning legislation and the draft Territory Plan he became a consultant to Deputy Prime Minister, Brian Howe on the Federal Government’s Building Better Cities program. In 1996 he joined the Centre for Developing Cities at the University of Canberra and was later involved in the University’s planning courses. He officially retired in 2008. He played an active role in the restructuring of the Planning Institute of Australia.

TIMED SUMMARY: GEOFF CAMPBELL

Interview: 21/9/12
Session #1

time	subjects	proper names
0:00:00	Introduction. Early life and schooling. Interest in architecture. Melbourne University	Yass, Loch, Gippsland, , Korumburra, Traralgon,





	architecture department as learning environment.	Wesley College, Portland, Deniliquin
0:05:08	Architecture department. Enrolment in new planning diploma; influence of British planning. Practice as architect while studying in office of Gawler, Churchman and Boardman; John Gawler's influence on planning for post-war reconstruction.	Professor Brian Lewis, Professor Fred Ledger, John Bailey
0:09:53	Work as architect; move to Brisbane. Marriage. Move to London in 1965. Employments as town planner at Greater London Council. Value of travel in Europe. Appointment to position of planner for Livingston New Town; office environment and colleagues.	
0:15:30	Experience of living and working in Livingston; growth of interest in planning and pursuing this career in Australia. Information about NCDC; response to advertisement for planners; interview in London.	The Gorbals, Peter Funder, Hans Westerman.
0:20:23	Importance of working as planner in association with development. Interest in planning response to social needs and experience of this in Livingston New Town . Intentions in taking position at NCDC.	
0:26:08	End of session	

Interview: 21/9/12

Session #2

time	subjects	proper names
0:0:00	Arrival in Canberra in middle of winter 1970; accommodation. Interest in Canberra as dominated by landscape rather than development. One of six new planners at NCDC; introduction to Commission	Brassey House, Acton Hostel, Alf Lester, John McInerny, Neil Dadge, Malcolm Smith, Steve Pazsit, Bob Lansdown
0:04:45	First experience of planning section of NCDC. Rate of expansion in Canberra and need for planning response at this time; work on neighbourhood and town centre medium	David Hain, Woden, Weston Creek





	density housing. Process of using control drawings. Public consultations.	
0:10:33	Initiative to change use of control drawings to principles diagrams. Liaison with Department of Interior and later versions of. Planning section responds to growth forecast for Canberra by finalising details of Y Plan - published 1970	Hugh Chalker, Serge Domicelj, Keith Storey, Peter Harrison, Growth Strategy Plan
0:14:49	Y Plan and Canberra development; intentions of Y Plan. Impact of change from government to private sector development of office space. Social needs basis of Y Plan.	
0:19:58	Y Plan as response to issues of much larger population than envisaged in Griffin Plan. Ongoing issue of movement of traffic. Light rail.	Gungahlin
0:23:27	1970s working environment at NCDC; system of delegated authority, Commissioner's management style; recognition of own approach to managing planning process for medium density housing. Character of NCDC.	John Overall
0:28:28	Scale of Canberra development; population statistics 1950-1988. Key figures in NCDC 1958-1970s. Varying use of consultants and staff. Structure of NCDC; co-ordination committee; principles and approaches to decision-making.	Bill Andrews, Clive Price, Roger Johnson, Des Paine, Laurie Killeen.
0:35:25	End of session	

Interview: 21/9/12

Session #3

time	subjects	proper names
0:00:00	Changes at NCDC 1970s; introduction of planning at national level 1972-3; movement of key staff from and within organisation; new staff appointments.	McMahon, Whitlam, National Urban and Regional Development Authority, Parliamentary Triangle, Belconnen Town Centre, Woden Town Centre, Gordon Shannon, Arnis



		Siksna
0:04:48	Election of Whitlam Government; establishment of Cities Commission and national Department of Urban and Regional Development; John Overall and Bob Lansdown head these respectively. Growth centres. NCDC sets up External Projects Division to assist Cities Commission. NCDC's response to new Labor government Civic Health Centre.	Pat Troy, Albury-Wodonga, Bathurst-Orange, Jim Connor, Ian Morison, John Mant, Alinga Street
0:10:34	NCDC senior level staff changes 1973-4. First discussion of self-government. New demands and changing nature of NCDC. Own work on town centres and appointment as head of new Corporate Planning Unit to review NCDC operations (1974-5)	Tony Powell, Colm O'Flaherty, Ken Myers, John Haskell, Tuggeranong Town Centre, Peter Emery, David Parkin, Tom Uren, Fraser.
0:15:31	Process, methods and outcomes of review; establishment of operational cycle. Own experience of Corporate Planning Unit.	
0:19:56	Integration of corporate planning and external projects into Planning Division. Value of model of management as refined by corporate review. Cyclone Tracey . Establishment of NCDC Library and publications program	Janet Smith.
0:24:25	Approval of site for new Parliament House and Fraser Government decision to establish separate authority to build. Construction activities 1974-5. Canberra Commercial Development Authority. Gungahlin in planning stage. Sacking Whitlam Government and election of Fraser Government. Cuts to Public Service and Canberra's growth.	Lord Holford, Paul Reid
0:29:22	Impact of cuts on Canberra building industry and NCDC. Reviews of planning issues. Model of neighbourhood unit replaced by 'territorial' unit in response to issues of demographic change in neighbourhoods over time.	Oskar Pumpurs, Trevor Gibson, Charnwood.

0:34:25	Planning of residential areas in Canberra over time reflects changing ideas and experiments. Value of seeing plans materialise. Cutbacks to Tuggeranong development as Canberra growth slows. Parliamentary Joint Committee inquiry into Canberra planning procedures. Establishment of formal procedures for planning and public consultation. Own work 1975-6.	Graham Moseley, John Gilchrist
0:40:56	End of session	

Interview: 21/9/12
Session #4

time	subjects	Proper names
0:00:00	Issues of planning Belconnen Town Centre 1976. Contrast between Canberra Commercial Development Authority's and NCDC approach. Long term impact of traditional commercial approach on Belconnen Town Centre. Commission's response to decision against its own approach.	
0:05:00	1977-8 Urban renewal scheme Narrabundah and role of new Fraser government minister, Ellicott. Public consultation on the ground. Inner Canberra Infill Program.	Graham Scott-Bohanna.
0:09:56	Metropolitan Open Space system; role of Keith Storey. NCDC role in planning Dodoma, the new Tanzanian Capital (project initiated under Whitlam); personal role in review of this plan. Role as planner in developing management plan for Norfolk Island heritage area.	Julius Nyerere, John Tait, Cameron McNamara, Toby Hall.
0:13:51	Staff changes over time. Appointment as Chief Planner 1978. Introduction of environmental planning section. Planning of national areas. Cycleway system. Relationship with Department in charge of Canberra administration.	Yarralumla, John Nairn
0:19:24	Development of Draft ACT Subregional Plan	Greg <i>Deas</i>



	with NSW Planning Department. NCDC work with Parliament House Construction Authority. Norfolk Island report. NCDC committee system.	
0:22:37	End of session	

Interview: 25/9/12
Session #1

time	subjects	proper names
0:00:00	Introduction. Operational Cycle as major achievement of Corporate Planning group; its establishment and effects on NCDC organisation.	
0:04:34	Arnis Siksna's role in and contribution to urban design in 1970s. Three-dimensional thinking in planning. Role and contribution of Chris Pinder (later Purdon) in urban renewal work. Issues in introducing change to residential areas.	Purdon Consultants
0:09:26	First women employed in Town Planning at NCDC. Completion of Masters thesis in town and regional planning through Melbourne University, 1976. Social impacts of planning decisions.	Clare Middleton, Anne Freeman, Chris Pinder, Craigshill, Bathgate
0:13:43	Consideration of possible social impacts in NCDC planning; value of NCDC interdisciplinary committee system. Fatal flood in Woden stormwater channel; impact on Canberra and NCDC; response of NCDC.	
0:17:42	Issue of Black Mountain telecommunications tower and NCDC's legal powers; process involved in approval of tower. Tom Uren and Bob Ellicott as Ministers. National Institute of Sport. Summary of political and social changes relevant to NCDC during 1970s.	Governor General in Council
0:21:50	Position of NCDC by 1980. Canberra Development Board established to give advice on private enterprise initiatives; members of Board.	Malcolm Latham, Laurie Muir, Norman Tieck, Jim Service, Cusack, Daniels
0:24:46	Working with Board as Chief Planner;	





	investment in city that was also the national capital, changing ways in which development industry responded to Canberra Plan. Issues of further development of Monaro Mall across Ainslie Avenue.	
0:29:00	Staff changes and new Minister 1980-81. Landscaping of Lake Burley Griffin. Involvement in Korean Planners Association conference; legacy of conference discussion.	Rob Purdon, Michael Hodgeman, Dick Clough, Seoul, President Park
0:34:20	NCDC early 1980s; work culture. Capital Open Space report. Parliamentary Zone Development Plan. Hodgeman's approach as Minister. Experience of briefing ministers. Impact of election of Hawke Labor government on Canberra and NCDC.	Barry Browning
0:39:17	Discussion of future of NCDC; White Committee review. Difference of opinion between Planning Division and Commission concerning Tuggeranong Town Centre development.	
0:44:00	Reversal of decision to develop Erindale rather than Tuggeranong Town Centre. NCDC's capacity to manage disagreements. NCDC's response to growth and slow-down.	Malcolm Smith
0:48:06	End of session	

Interview: 25/9/12
Session #2

time	subjects	proper names
0:00:00	New growth period with Hawke Labor Government. Appointment of first woman Associate Commissioner. Establishment of Social Planning branch and through this development of more in-depth relationship with communities. Role as expert witness in court cases appealing NCDC decisions.	Jill Lang
0:05:03	1986-7 staff changes. Increase in public discussion of NCDC activities and role in this.	Robert Care, Stan Baker, Peter Leonard
0:09:37	Government decision to move	Gary Scott





	Commonwealth office development to private sector; impact on areas of capital gain and intentions of Y Plan. Increase in public engagement with planning through land use planning appeals and formalisation of public consultation in planning procedure. Documentation of NCDC environmental policy.	
0:15:02	Secondment to Cameron McNamara for work on review of Dodoma plan. Management course at Melbourne University. ACT self government; abolition of NCDC 1989 and formation of two new authorities to manage Commonwealth and Territory land interests.	Brian Roberts, Rosalie Roberts, Brian Binning
0:19:02	Initiative role of all staff members in NCDC planning work and achievements. Key characteristics of NCDC and its achievements; Menzies and Overall; professional skill level; committee system; external advice; relationship with government; internal organisation; multidisciplinary task forces.	
0:25:00	Task force arrangement. Importance of being a development authority. Main aspects of planning for development and system of work.	
0:29:42	Relationship with drafting office; story of publication of Civic Centre report; social life within the organisation; gatherings, sport, annual lunches; 'Spoilers'; films. Publications for greater public access to planning process.	
0:35:03	Leadership of NCDC. NCDC as a dynamic organisation.	
0:37:21	End of session	

Interview: 25/9/12

Session #3

time	subjects	proper names
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0:00:00	Management training within NCDC and personal experience of Melbourne University management course. Decision to apply for position of Chief Planner at ACT Interim Planning Authority; appointed as head; responsible to ACT chief ministers. New experience of working within departmental structure.	National Capital Planning Authority, National Capital Plan, Rosemary Follett, Trevor Kaine
0:05:09	Preparation of legislation for Interim Planning Authority; first planning Act in Australia to integrate heritage, environment, transport, land use and urban design. Later changes to Act. Interim Planning Authority incorporates various planning disciplines. Preparation of Draft Territory Plan; consultation with National Capital Planning Authority; issue of identifying boundaries of national interest vis a vis Territory.	Bill Harris, Ian Lawrence, Lyndsay Neilson. John Mant
0:10:00	Briefings and presentations to Legislative Assembly. Completion of Legislation and Draft Territory Plan 1991. Decision to establish consultancy. Invitation to work on development of Commonwealth's Building Better Cities Program at National Capital Planning Authority. Scope of Building Better Cities. Invitation to continue working on Program in Office of Deputy Prime Minister, Brian Howe.	Brian Howe
0:15:03	Period of work with Minister; examples of redevelopment projects across Australia and their challenges; work with state governments and regional councils to develop area strategies.	Ultimo-Pyrmont, Everleigh, Bunbury, Elizabeth-Munno Para
0:19:48	Presentation of plans to Cabinet for approval. Better Cities continues until 1996 when government changes in 1996. Private consultancy work. Adjunct Professor at University of Canberra and involvement in its Centre for Developing Cities. Review and restructure of Planning Institute of Australia;	Hawke, Keating, Barbara Norman



	<i>Life Fellow PIA.</i>	
0:23:57	Enjoyment of range of work challenges. Review of interest of different work environments; teaching at University of Canberra; the importance of other people and their skills in NCDC and Interim Planning Authority	George Tomlins, Phil O'Brien, Ron Willard, Paul Cohen, David Wright, John Bolton, Shibu Dhata, Guy Gibson, Mary Mealey, Val Musgrove, Georgian Donato
0:29:10	Experience of working with people in enabling role. Major changes in approach to planning in Canberra and issues from Griffin's initial plan. Impact of NCDC. Value of Commission as planning and development authority as alternative to departmental structure.	
0:33:46	Major phases in planning Canberra; <i>New Town influence</i> ; YPlan; responding to ageing neighbourhoods. Development of social planning. Public transport as ongoing major issue.	
0:37:44	Planning Canberra today: urban change; pressure of development in region. Light rail as measure to address serious public transport issue. Experience of living in Canberra; possibility of relationship with landscape.	
0:43:26	End of session	

