



# ACT Heritage Library Manuscript Collection



## Planning Institute of Australia 2012-2013 Oral History Project

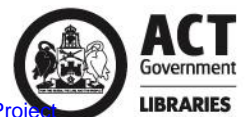
JILL LANG

Date of birth	1948
Address/contact details	See permission form
Date/s of interview	8/11/12
Place of interview	Canberra
Length of interview	1:25:48
Name of interviewer	Mary Hutchison
Interviewer contact details	<a href="mailto:Mary.hutchison@anu.edu.au">Mary.hutchison@anu.edu.au</a>
Signed permission form	Yes
Photographs of interviewee	No
Other documentation supplied	
Recording equipment	Sound Devices. Wav file 48khz



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

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**BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY**

Jill Lang was born in 1948 in Kingaroy, Queensland, where her father was a hardware and seed merchant. She completed her schooling in Brisbane and completed a BA (Hons), majoring in history, at the University of Queensland in 1969. She began a Masters in town and country planning at Sydney University in the early 1970s. During this time she became involved in urban development issues and was a supporter of the Green Bans movement to save Sydney heritage buildings. After the election of the Whitlam Government she moved to Canberra in 1973 as one of the foundation staff members of the newly formed Department of Urban and Regional Development. Her work involved contributing to regional policy in disadvantaged regions and she was directly responsible for the implementation of this policy in the Western Region of Sydney. After the change of federal government and with the downturn in Canberra's growth she left the Department and worked as a community development worker in Canberra with the organisation Jobless Action and then as a research assistant at the Urban Research Unit ANU. When the Hawke Labor Government came to power in 1983 she was appointed as a consultant to the Commonwealth Department of Territories and Local Government on employment issues in the ACT, and Chairperson of the ACT Employment Advisory Committee. In 1984 the Minister for Territories, Tom Uren, was instrumental in appointing her as the first woman Associate Commissioner of the National Capital Development Commission. She held this position until 1988 when the NDC was disbanded. She moved to Sydney and took up a position as lecturer in the School of Town Planning at the University of NSW. Since 1991 she has worked as a consultant and executive staff member for government and non government organisation in NSW and Queensland. She was the director of the Queensland Council of Social Service Inc from 2005-2011 and is currently working as a consultant, casual lecturer in the Faculty of Human Services at the University of Southern Queensland, and as National Co-ordinator of Anti-Poverty Week.

**TIMED SUMMARY: JILL LANG**

Interview: 8/11/12  
Session #1

<b>time</b>	<b>subjects</b>	<b>proper names</b>
0:00:00	Introduction. Family background. Mother's ambitions for daughters. Schooling. Study and political environment University of Queensland late 1960s.	Kingaroy, Jo Bjelke Petersen, Vietnam
0:04:44	Sense of future possibilities at the time. Honours studies. Background to studying Masters in Town Planning at Sydney University. Marriage. Urban planning issues in Sydney 1970-72. How position in new Department of Urban and Regional Development came about.	The Rocks, Gough Whitlam, Tom Uren.





0:09:38	Parents' influence on sense of social justice and attraction to planning on this basis. Aboriginal issues. Approach and content of masters course; across elements of planning; interconnections between issues; social reform. Teachers and students.	Denis Winston
0:15:03	Visiting lecturers. Student interest in Whitlam and Uren's ideas for regional planning. Move to Canberra. Department of Urban and Regional Development recruitment and people.	Tony Powell, McMahon, Cities Commission, National Authority for Urban and Regional Development, Pat Troy, Bob Lansdown, Bill Butler, Peter Till, Michael Keating, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD)
0:20:45	Own work at DURD in regional development; aims and activities of Area Improvement Program. Move of NCDC personnel to Cities Commission. Interconnection of ideas and people between Cities Commission, NCDC and DURD. Employment of women at the time.	Joan Vipond
0:24: 50	Impact of change of government on DURD personnel; own resignation; role of early DURD personnel in senior public service positions. Economic down turn in Canberra. Background to work with Jobless Action. Canberra activism; <i>Hard Times</i> newsletter and café.	John Mant, <i>cherchez l'homme</i> , Bob Whan, Eden-Monaro, Ainslie Hotel
0:29:42	Involvement with the development of Ainslie Village, work co-operatives and Revolve. Work at Urban Research Unit, ANU. Pregnancy and future plans.	Paddy Murray [correction to recording 'McGuinness') Annie Kavanagh, Dickson, Max Neutze, Bill Hayden
0:35:08	Move to northern New South Wales. Death of partner. Election of Hawke Labor Government. Decision to move back to Canberra with friends. Part-time consultant to Department of Territories on ACT community employment programs. Managing housing and childcare with friends.	Geoff Jackson, Nimbin, Lismore, Koonorigan, John Kerin, O'Connor, Lyneham
0:39:04	Appointment as Associate Commissioner NCDC 1984; democratising and restructuring NCDC; first and only senior woman at NCDC.	Malcolm Latham
0:43:16	Details of job. Controversy of appointment. People	Elizabeth Delaney,





	issues in planning and development. Establishment of social planning unit. Community consultation. Civic redevelopment. Tuggeranong development and environmental issues	Newcastle City Council, Peter Harrison, Murrumbidgee
0:48:25	Strengthening role of NCDC environmental unit in planning. Preparation of public consultation and appeals systems to be built into NCDC Act. Introducing new systems to NCDC	Robert Care, Greg Dees, Geoff Campbell
0:50:51	End of session	

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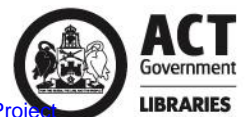
Session #2

time	subjects	Proper names
0:00:00	Working with grass roots interests at NCDC; Ainslie Village; Youth Centre. NCDC's budgetary discretion. Position of Department of Territories.	Griffin Centre
0:04:47	Women and NCDC work culture. Controversy about ACT community employment program's support of establishment of Tilley Devine's Café. Personal experience of position. Role as NCDC spokesperson and chairperson.	<i>The Bulletin</i> , Richard Farmer, Julia Gillard
00:09:35	Decision to take position of Associate Commissioner. Relationship between NCDC and Department of Territories. Difficulties and achievements at NCDC. Value of previous experience in Western Sydney	
00:13:42	Key issues in Canberra planning and development 1984-88; environmental impacts, public housing, urban infill. Value of established Canberra planning principles. Value of environmental planners. Social planning unit.	
00:18:09	Self government, review of NCDC and decision to disband it. Decision to move to Sydney. Position teaching regional planning and urban infrastructure at University of NSW. Importance of interconnectedness between planning and services. Reflections on social planning.	
00:23:09	Further career decisions. Interests in human services departments, NGOs and teaching. Reflections on NCDC experience. Interdisciplinarity. Living in Canberra 1970s-80s.	
00:28:56	Canberra's reliance on the car as transport. Peter	



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	Harrison's role in planning a decentralised city. Responses to present day Canberra. Impacts of planning Canberra through ACT departmental structure instead of Commission. Important aspects of Canberra's planning.	
00:34:57	End of session	

