

# ACT Heritage Library Manuscript Collection

## Interview with Jake Zutt - Timed Summary

JAKE ZUTT - TOPICS	TIMELINE (END)
Introduction – born 1920 Amsterdam – arrived at Broome on 3/3/42 – spent wartime in Canberra – worked with Canberra Electricity Supply 1949 – started at Powerhouse in 1953	3:09
First job at Powerhouse – log the instrument readings every hour – cubby house across from main switchboard – 10 minutes work every hour -	5:10
Power interruptions and crises: description of what he did when alarms went off -	6:21
Description of alternators: description of outside supply and closing down of Powerhouse – account of rapidly rising power demand made it hard to keep up supply – opening of new switch station in Ainslie – new operations branch was created -	10:10
Synchronising the alternators: description of running generators up to speed and switching them onto load -	11:52
Boiler room condensers pumps – did not have much to do with it -	12:47
Clock – master clock – mentions times but some confusion on times at which it was blown – 46 minute on the face of the clock was marked wrongly -	14:39
Switchboard – replacing manual board with push button one about 1954 – unclear of functions – provided better protection for the circuits -	16:42
Relation to NSW: did not think Kingston took its directions from Goulburn – engineers were responsible for matching supply to demand – description of penalties imposed for using power beyond agreement -	19:20
Magnetron at ANU: used a lot of power – big load – ANU had to notify Powerhouse when they wanted to switch it on – mentions that he would sometimes cause the demand measuring instruments of NSW to ‘misprint’ to avoid charges -	23:07
Noise/temperature/smell – alternator room was not very noisy – did not smell to him – temperature was OK -	24:41

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Other workers: 1953 – 57 – mentions other names – George Saint not liked by many but Jake got on well with him – Mick Ozerskis singled out for praise – talks of growing responsibility to his position	31:21
Safety, accidents and humorous stories: mentions Alf Farrer accident – once a flood of water in the lower rooms -	34:18
Social aspects: not every one drank at Kingston Hotel – fitters went to RSL club at Manuka -	35:12
Industrial disputes: pay levels – talks about only 5 being on operations team – and dividing time for each shift -	37:50
Mentions working from old Powerhouse as recently as 1983 -	40:18
Other stories/memories: increase from 66KV to 132KV – talks about handling complaints about outages in 1950s – flushing toilet caused radio reception to fail – turned out to be earth wire(!) – lonely job at night – and no security at all -	45:32
Swimming in Molonglo R – did not know	45:49
Status of Powerhouse and his position – not really -	46:35
Shift work – handled it pretty well – talks of ways in which he coped with sleep patterns – occasionally dozed off during night shift -	48:34