

Interview with Mrs Anne Brinkworth of Bassendean on 22nd September 2007 conducted by Maxine Laurie

EDITED INTERVIEW

ML: Now Anne could we start with you telling me your full name please?

BRINKWORTH: Anne Ivy Brinkworth.

ML: And where were you born and when?

BRINKWORTH: I was born on 2nd March 1938 at Midland and I lived in Caversham.

ML: And where were you educated?

BRINKWORTH: Caversham Primary School and Midland High School.

ML: What did you do after you left school?

BRINKWORTH: I worked at a local newsagency.

ML: What is your husband's name?

BRINKWORTH: Alan Courtney Brinkworth.

ML: Where did you meet him?

BRINKWORTH: At Wooraloo Sanitorium.

ML: What were you doing there?

BRINKWORTH: We were both patients – TB patients there.

ML: What was it like there?

BRINKWORTH: Scary. In those days it was open wards.

ML: You mean like open to the elements?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. It wasn't rooms, it was like verandahs and that's where you were. In my case for two years.

ML: What did you do there all that time?

BRINKWORTH: Well because you weren't allowed to exercise, I took a liking to embroidery, lots of reading. We had a radio programme that was specifically done for hospitals. I think it was the ABC, if I remember. I was the person that found out what everyone's requests were and I was a Slim Whitman fan. They used to hate me for requesting it all the time but I did. At that stage I ended up being the West Australian liaison for the Guy Mitchell and Rosmary Clooney Fan Club. [laughter]

ML: How did you get into that?

BRINKWORTH: I think through requesting them and my mother had to buy every magazine on stars and that. That was just a thing because I had worked in the newsagency. So every week my mother would bring me these – whenever there was a request. I obviously had nothing else to do. [laughter] Oh pen pals! I had pen pals all over the world.

ML: Did you keep on with any of them?

BRINKWORTH: Only one and unfortunately she died just a few years ago. In fact she used to work in the Civic Theatre with Max Kay.

ML: And you kept in touch all that time?

BRINKWORTH: We kept in touch all the time, yes – and met.

ML: Was your husband from Bassendean?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. He was from the same street. He has lived here forever.

ML: What number?

BRINKWORTH: 10.

ML: Could you describe the house for me?

BRINKWORTH: It was a typical 1930s, a very comfortable house with high ceilings, which we don't have now. A lounge room, dining room; the toilet was outside and a bathroom at the back but it was a very comfortable house.

ML: Is it still standing?

BRINKWORTH: It is. It has had several owners since then and they have done lots of renovations but I haven't seen it.

ML: Do you know roughly how old it is? At least 75 years?

BRINKWORTH: Yes.

ML: What was it made of?

BRINKWORTH: Weatherboard and iron roof.

ML: What were his parents' names?

BRINKWORTH: His mother was Myrtle Amy Rebecca Brinkworth and his father was Eric Courtney Brinkworth.

ML: So Courtney is obviously a family name?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. My husband is not really that keen on it.

ML: What did your father-in-law do for a living?

BRINKWORTH: He originally worked at the C & J shops, which was in Guildford. They were co-operative and general stores, I think. Then they opened one in Bassendean and he went there. After a few years he went in and bought the Central Provisions shop on the corner of Lake and Brisbane streets, Perth. He had that for quite a few years and then when the development started, he got out of there and then for the rest of his life he worked for Bert Hood, which was a...

ML: Was he a plumber?

BRINKWORTH: That type of thing, yes.

ML: Whereabouts in Bassendean was the C & J shop?

BRINKWORTH: That would have been Old Perth Road now – it used to be called Guildford Road then but it is Old Perth Road.

ML: Can you remember it at all?

BRINKWORTH: I can because the building is still there. It has got a lot of little shops now. Yes, I do remember it.

ML: So whereabouts – and could you describe it?

BRINKWORTH: It is opposite the hotel.

ML: Right. And did your mother-in-law work?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. During the War she worked with International Harvesters, which I believe were just up here in Scadden Street. Then later she worked for Richard Purser in Perth, which was agricultural machinery.

ML: You can't remember the building where she first worked?

BRINKWORTH: No.

ML: You mentioned that your father-in-law was on the Roads Board. Can you tell me about that?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. He had nine years and I can remember him being quite proud of his achievements there. That would have been in the early 1950s.

ML: Do you know some of his achievements?

BRINKWORTH: We used to have open drains. In fact when we built across the road - he was a great one for closing the drains - so they had pipes going in. I know he used to get quite frustrated because in those days there were no women on Council and I can remember him saying, 'they don't want to spend a penny'. That's why in the later time some of the Roads Board got criticized for spending a lot of money but that was the only way we got all these improvements.

ML: Did you have an open drain near you here?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. The children used to play in there – tadpoles.

ML: So it wasn't unsanitary then, in any way?

BRINKWORTH: No. With the more rains that seemed to flush it out but since they have closed those, they have opened these. We have got a drain next to us that meanders through the district and ends up down the river.

ML: Is that open next door?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. I wish that was closed.

ML: Do you have problems with mosquitoes or something from it?

BRINKWORTH: Not so much mosquitoes because there are active frogs there and I believe they get rid of them. So we are lucky. Every time I don't hear a frog for a few weeks, I ring up the environmental guy to make sure the frogs are still there and they come and check it but it's well maintained by the Water Authority. The only problem we have is the undesirables that use that as a getaway. They have done a robbery and they can hide in the drain so that you can't see them.

ML: So you have had a few of those in there?

BRINKWORTH: I have had a few of those. [laughter]

ML: Have you ever felt threatened by that?

BRINKWORTH: No but that's why we have got dogs.

ML: Do the frogs keep you awake at night?

BRINKWORTH: Not really. I like them; I prefer them to the crows. [laughter]

ML: Yes. Now getting back to your husband, where did he go to school?

BRINKWORTH: Well it is quite weird and he still doesn't understand why his mother kept changing schools. He started at Eden Hill for a few months – Eden Hill School up here in Ivanhoe Street. Then for a few months he was taken to St Michael's in Bassendean. Then he was transferred to the West Road Primary School and he went to Forrest High School, which was in Mount Lawley. That doesn't exist now.

ML: What did he do after he left school?

BRINKWORTH: He got a traineeship as an electrician but in those days it was hard to get work. Then he was called into the National Service. So he went up and did that and when he got out, he was found to have TB.

ML: Was that the Army he was in?

BRINKWORTH: Navy. Then he worked for Bert Hood with his father. He was in Musgroves. Oh before that he had actually done an apprenticeship as a cabinet maker with the Midland Workshops but when they finished their traineeship there were never any jobs for them. They just did the traineeship. He decided he had better do something

else so he put his name down for the Police Service and Fire Brigade but he was an active volunteer with the Guildford and Bassendean Fire Brigade. He was accepted and that's where he did his next 30 years.

ML: With the volunteer fire brigade, where did they have their headquarters?

BRINKWORTH: In Guildford, opposite the hotel. I think it is Meadow Street. And in Bassendean it is Parker Street. It is still there.

ML: Did he have to attend any fires locally, do you know?

BRINKWORTH: Oh definitely. In Bassendean we had a big dry cleaning fire which burnt out everything and I remember just as a new bride being over there with my in-laws, petrified because it is a dangerous job as far as I am concerned.

ML: Yes. Now when did you first arrive in Bassendean?

BRINKWORTH: When I got married.

ML: How old were you then?

BRINKWORTH: 23.

ML: Did you come and live across the road first?

BRINKWORTH: We built there, yes.

ML: Where did you live while you were building that?

BRINKWORTH: We lived in Caversham. My parents owned another house, so we rented that off them while it was being built.

ML: Why did you choose this street?

BRINKWORTH: Actually I didn't choose it. My husband actually had bought it before he even met me. It was up for sale. He had actually bought a block in Greenmount but even before I came on the scene, my mother-in-law said, 'there is no mother of your child going to be pushing a pram up that hill'. She convinced him to sell it and that one came up. I think he paid £250. So it was just natural that we built there. I was quite happy.

ML: Can you remember who the builder was? Was he a local man?

BRINKWORTH: No, I don't remember. I would have it somewhere.

ML: Could you describe the house?

BRINKWORTH: The first house? Three bedrooms, lounge, one bathroom, shower. It had a lovely big bath because I love baths, a toilet and an enclosed sleepout and verandah outside and a double garage. It was solidly built in those years – brick and tile and floorboards then.

ML: You didn't have any problems building it?

BRINKWORTH: No. In fact it was built in 12 weeks.

ML: That was very quick. Did you make any alterations to it afterwards?

BRINKWORTH: No. That's why we decided to come over here. It was too complex for what we wanted having four boys. And I knew they all wanted to go to University, so they all needed their own private space and we desperately needed another bathroom and toilet. Having six using one was hopeless.

ML: So how long did you stay there before you built again?

BRINKWORTH: That was '61 and we built this one in 1975.

ML: Can you remember what you paid for this block?

BRINKWORTH: \$7,000.

ML: What had the block been used for before that?

BRINKWORTH: This was all opened. A Mr King who lived next door had all this land and he actually had horses on it. The children of the area who wanted to be in pony clubs and that, he allowed them to come and board their horses here. It was very rural.

ML: Do you know why he subdivided it?

BRINKWORTH: Well as he was getting older – he was in his 90s. Up to then the government wouldn't give him a pension if he had sold any land. The rules change when they turn 90 and we were the first ones he offered to sell to, so we were delighted to take that opportunity. He was our neighbour for a few years before he died.

ML: How many other blocks were made from the farm, do you know?

BRINKWORTH: It would be eight or ten.

ML: You mentioned the horses, did many other people in the area have horses?

BRINKWORTH: I don't recall. There was another horse-riding school right down the end of Anzac Terrace owned by the Dianne Bennett family. These were mostly on this side. Maybe their parents couldn't afford to feed them. There was so much grass and stuff here that it wasn't a problem. They would just bring their hay and that.

ML: Is Bennett's still there?

BRINKWORTH: No.

ML: What happened to that?

BRINKWORTH: I have no idea. They closed it many years ago. I think it got to be a health problem because I can recall my own doctor complaining about it – it brought flies and other things and it just wasn't suitable in an area like this.

ML: So are there houses on it now?

BRINKWORTH: Yes, it has all been subdivided.

ML: How do you feel about the subdivision down in Scadden Street?

BRINKWORTH: I think it is excellent. I am really proud of it. It has got rid of an eyesore and the whole 18 years I have been on Council it is one of the things I have been praying for. I think it will be a great plus to Bassendean and the people who are there are close to transport. They don't even have to have a car. So yes, I think it will be great.

ML: When you say "eyesore", what was there before?

BRINKWORTH: Well it was Hadfield's and goodness knows what was buried under there. As my husband said, as a kid he can remember trucks coming there and just dumping things because we didn't have tips like we have got now. You didn't have someone coming around and picking up your rubbish. So, yes there was a lot of that there and it was just left. It was overgrown and it looked awful.

ML: Did you have to clear your own block here?

BRINKWORTH: Oh no. The horses had done that. [laughter]

ML: What about power and water, were they connected?

BRINKWORTH: Yes.

ML: Was it easy to get Council permission to build?

BRINKWORTH: Yes.

ML: What about your sunken lounge?

BRINKWORTH: Mmmm. That was a bit of a...I desperately wanted a sunken lounge and in those days the policy was that you couldn't have the floor level lower than the road. So it wasn't permitted. We fought it and we went to our local Councillor. He rang me on the Tuesday morning and said, 'you can have your sunken lounge' and I said, 'Robbie it is too late. The concrete people are here now.' So that was the saga of my sunken lounge and I vowed then that I would get on Council one day and alter that policy.

ML: And have you?

BRINKWORTH: Well it wasn't mine; it was done automatically, I think, later. [laughter]

ML: Now can you remember the name of the builder you had here?

BRINKWORTH: It escapes me now.

ML: Or what you paid him?

BRINKWORTH: About \$30,000.

ML: Have you done any alterations since?

BRINKWORTH: Oh God, yes. We have extended the family room because we found that after having four boys all over six foot when they came they would put their legs out and when their partners came, it was hopeless. So seven years ago we extended.

ML: Did you have to plant a garden?

BRINKWORTH: I sure did. I planted it – every strand of lawn was planted by me. And my husband because of his cabinet-making skills, he built all the cupboards. All the built-in wardrobes – they were all done by him – and he laid all the bricks for the paving.

ML: That must have taken him a fair bit of time?

BRINKWORTH: It did. It was hard being a shift worker and then coming home and doing that.

ML: Were you living in it then?

BRINKWORTH: We were. When we first moved our bed was in here.

ML: In the lounge room?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. [laughter]

ML: It was probably just as well it wasn't sunken then.

BRINKWORTH: I know. And we didn't have any blinds or curtains for a year. I had Christmas paper all over the windows for 12 months.

ML: Did you end up making the curtains yourself?

BRINKWORTH: No. I saved money like mad and I got a professional in to do it. She did the whole lot. [laughter]

ML: We spoke a little bit about gardening, did you enjoy that?

BRINKWORTH: I love gardening. Every spare minute I go out in the garden rather than do housework.

ML: Is it good soil here to grow things in?

BRINKWORTH: No, it isn't. You have to add; it is a very sandy soil and I think Bassendean is well known for its bad soil.

ML: You have got Bassendean sand?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. We are not fortunate like the other side. They've got clay. I suppose we were fortunate on this block because the horses had been here, they had fertilized it well. So we didn't have to add as much as probably other people did and I recycle all my vegetables – peelings and everything. I just automatically do that.

ML: Do you grow vegetables – or did you in the beginning?

BRINKWORTH: I still do. I grow my own herbs and I like to grow my own tomatoes, onions, potatoes – just enough for us. And I have fruit trees – I have a lemon, lime and orange tree.

ML: Were there some trees left on the block?

BRINKWORTH: No, it was very barren of trees.

ML: Did you keep any chooks or ducks?

BRINKWORTH: My second son in the beginning wanted chooks. We had them and as they got lice and that, he realized that it was a hard way to go. So, no we didn't.

ML: What about other pets when the boys were growing up?

BRINKWORTH: We have always had dogs and cats – always.

ML: I think you have got two of each, have you?

BRINKWORTH: At the moment, yes.

ML: What was the area like back when you first moved in?

BRINKWORTH: It was very quiet. That was one of the reasons I loved being in the garden at the front because when people walked, they had to walk near you because there were no footpaths. They had to keep away from the open drain and that's how you met all your neighbours and that as they were walking past.

ML: So the drain went down the side of the road did it – like on the verge?

BRINKWORTH: Yes.

ML: Were there many houses near yours?

BRINKWORTH: The ones across the road were built before us and that old house was there but actually, this area has always been quite full of houses really.

ML: And the house for the farm, was that an old house?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. It is next door. Originally he lived further down, which is a beautiful homestead and then the Hart family bought it. Mr King – I don't know what year – he built this place for his family, probably in the 1940s.

ML: Now did you keep working after you were married – well after you left Wooraloo? Did you go back to work?

BRINKWORTH: I went and worked as a travel agent in Boan's in Perth and still worked after I was married until I got pregnant with my first child. Subsequently I didn't work for quite some time. In 1973 I started the library at Anzac Terrace School because my children were there and there were no books. So I was asked if a couple of us parents could establish a library, which we did. Then the P & C employed me for one day a week to be able to do the book loans for the children. The whole school had to be done on the one day that I was there.

Then in 1975 the Education Department took over and myself and another one were part-time and shared the five days. So we did two and a half days each.

ML: So you were voluntary at first?

BRINKWORTH: I was voluntary at first, yes.

ML: Did splitting the job work out all right?

BRINKWORTH: Oh it was excellent. It gave us both opportunities because with both having children, if one was sick we would just ring the other one up and we could swap days. And we got on very well; it was an ideal situation.

ML: Did you get on well with the teachers too?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. Having four children there, we just didn't have any problems at all. It was great to be part of my children's education at the school. No, we got on very well.

ML: What was your title?

BRINKWORTH: In the beginning it was called "Library Ancillary" and then they changed it to "Library Aid" and then they changed it to "Library Assistant". So I had three titles in my years there.

ML: I think you said you stayed there 25 years, did your friend also stay – your friend that you shared with?

BRINKWORTH: She is still there.

ML: Now that was Anzac Primary – is that where your children went to school first?

BRINKWORTH: David did actually start at Eden Hill because Anzac Terrace wasn't built then. He had two years there and when Anzac Terrace was built the rules were that he had to transfer there. So he started in Grade 3 there and the other three boys all naturally went there.

ML: Did you become involved with Eden Hill as well?

BRINKWORTH: I was involved in the P & C. We had a fete and I actually put my heart and soul into it. Quite a lot of us had to move to Anzac Terrace and Eden Hill P & C were very kind to us and actually gave us a donation towards our new school.

ML: That was good of them.

BRINKWORTH: It was excellent.

ML: What sort of activities were the P & C involved in at Eden Hill?

BRINKWORTH: At Eden Hill at that stage it was mainly fetes and quiz nights. That was about all.

ML: Were there specific projects the money went towards?

BRINKWORTH: I think in those days it was mostly sporting equipment, library books; also instruments for the children to be able to play in the band.

ML: They had a band?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. That's all I can remember about Eden Hill because I was only there two years. At Anzac Terrace I know there were different things that we did. Oh a lot of projects – air-conditioning, books and books, sporting equipment and I think the P & C even paid for the air-conditioning in the library. It was ongoing. I think the government helps a lot more now than they used to.

ML: Could you describe the school back when it was first built?

BRINKWORTH: It was one of the first cluster schools. So it wasn't a traditional school like we know the others. It was in clusters and you had five or six rooms and they would have an area in the middle where they could do their different projects. Then you had another cluster and then another cluster. So virtually what it was, the junior lot had their own cluster and intermediate and then Years 6 and 7. The library was built many years later. When we started we had to work from this little bit in the middle. The library was built years later and that was a wonderful thing to have our own building.

ML: Did you have a say in what went into that?

BRINKWORTH: No, we didn't. I can remember we wanted a sink with running water to wash our hands when we had been handling the books and that wasn't given then.

ML: How big was the school when it started – do you know?

BRINKWORTH: When it first started it probably had 100 students. Then I think it got up to about 700 in its hey-day.

ML: So at the beginning were there split classes?

BRINKWORTH: Yes.

ML: So there'd be half one class and then extra?

BRINKWORTH: Yes.

ML: Who was the headmaster in the beginning?

BRINKWORTH: The headmistress was Beryl MacIntosh.

ML: And John Negus came after that did he?

BRINKWORTH: After that was Ray Rowe.

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START OF SIDE B, TAPE ONE

BRINKWORTH: In the Anzac Terrace school there were a lot of children that didn't really like to play sport and Ray Rowe, who was a great one for non-competitive sport, suggested that we start a chess club. So with a few schools around us – every Friday when the other children had sport, we would have quite a few coming in and playing chess. That was well received.

ML: Did you do that in your library area?

BRINKWORTH: Yes.

ML: So did you get to play too?

BRINKWORTH: Adjudicate it. [laughter]

ML: Did your children play?

BRINKWORTH: No. They liked their sport.

ML: Right. Now were there many other children in the area around here where you live for your children to play with?

BRINKWORTH: Not really. They were mostly older children in this area. So in the street there weren't really many at all.

ML: Did you and your husband get to know the neighbours?

BRINKWORTH: Yes.

ML: And would you socialize with them?

BRINKWORTH: Yes.

ML: What sort of things did you do with them?

BRINKWORTH: Oh we would have nights where they called us in to have a supper and different things. In those days Tupperware parties were the thing. So you depended on your neighbours to rally for that. And we babysat for each other if we had a problem. So that was never a problem.

ML: You mentioned Tupperware but I believe you work for Avon.

BRINKWORTH: Yes, I have been doing Avon for 33 years and that has got me to really mix with the community. I find it great.

ML: Does that help you perhaps to keep in touch with people?

BRINKWORTH: It definitely does. Since I have been on local government – in fact everyone thought that I would give up Avon because it would be too much for me but I just found that was a benefit. Even now when I go to some of my elderly customers, they are waiting for me with little questions that they feel are not important enough to ring up Council but they need to get them off their chests. I find I can help them whichever way - give them guidance or just do a query myself.

ML: I take it this is not only your own ward but other wards as well?

BRINKWORTH: Yes - from all over Bassendean really. That's right.

ML: Now going back to your children, where did they go to high school?

BRINKWORTH: They went to Hampton High School.

ML: Did you get involved with the P & C there too?

BRINKWORTH: I sure did. I ended up getting on the committee and they were at the stage where they didn't like to have any fund-raising. We had this wonderful principal, Eric Straus, who desperately wanted a swimming pool. The only way we could get that was to fund-raise. So I took on the president's job and a friend took on the treasurer's job and we started having fetes, which were a huge success. We had lamington drives, we had pickled onion drives, we had quiz nights and we eventually got our pool.

ML: Where did you make the lamingtons and pickle the onions?

BRINKWORTH: [laughter] In the school canteen – much to the disgust of the canteen staff. We had coconut all over the place. It is funny how it hides. You think you have cleaned it up but it always seems to appear somewhere.

ML: Where did you hold the quiz nights?

BRINKWORTH: I think they were at the local Hampton Scout Hall, if I remember rightly.

ML: Who was the quiz master?

BRINKWORTH: It would have been one of the teachers.

ML: Would the students also take part or was it just the parents?

BRINKWORTH: No, it was just the parents - although children weren't excluded. There might be odd ones that couldn't find a babysitter that would come.

ML: Were there many migrant children in the various schools yours went to?

BRINKWORTH: At Hampton there probably was but at Anzac Terrace there were a few but not as many probably as some other schools.

ML: What nationalities were there? Can you remember?

BRINKWORTH: There would have been Croatians, Italians, Maltese. I remember we had Turkish, German, Asian and that's about it, I think.

ML: And were your children friendly with some of them?

BRINKWORTH: Oh yes. They were good friends with them.

ML: Now could you tell me about your Red Cross work?

BRINKWORTH: Yes, I got involved in Red Cross. My mother-in-law involved me in 1971 and she would send me off to the Thrift Shop, which they had then in Murray Street, Perth every Wednesday and I would work there. I then got involved with other things.

Because the Bassendean Branch were predominantly the older generation who had been through the War and done socks and that, it wasn't really the way I felt Red Cross should go at that stage with the younger ones. I was trying to get younger ones involved and my mother-in-law found out that Red Cross had these coffee clubs. So she arranged for someone to come out and see me and I arranged for a few friends and we got the Bassendean Coffee Club going. I think that was in 1975. So since then I have been the Liaison Officer for 30-odd years and I think we have achieved quite a bit.

ML: How often would you meet?

BRINKWORTH: We meet every second month at each others' homes. They are mostly working so we meet at night – that was the problem with the other one because that was a day meeting.

ML: What sort of other things have you been involved in? Like were you involved in the Door Knock?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. I can't remember what year but I took over the Door Knock, organizing it for my mother-in-law when she couldn't do it. At that stage I did Ashfield, Bassendean, Eden Hill, Lockeridge and Beechboro too then. We organized it. It was a hard job and we did very well but as the years progressed it was harder to get volunteers to door knock and so now we actually collect on a weekend down at Inglewood's Bunnings and we have found that to be really gratifying.

ML: What about on Anzac Day? Do you get involved in that?

BRINKWORTH: A few of us. We get in our uniform and we march at the local Anzac Day Parade and lay a wreath. We have been doing that for many years.

ML: Are you on call if there is a disaster?

BRINKWORTH: We were but now I believe volunteers don't get called. It's paid staff and that's probably because of insurances and that but no, we don't. The only call we get is if they are desperate for something. Like when the tsunami was on, it was a special appeal and they asked us to do special things. Or there might be a time that they need clothing for some family. It doesn't often happen but every now and again it does.

ML: I think you had to make baby clothes at one stage didn't you?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. We made little matinee jackets for King Edward Hospital. They required them for the premature babies. They gave us a pattern and a few of us did a few.

ML: Was that knitting or sewing?

BRINKWORTH: Sewing.

ML: And I believe you are currently growing plants too?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. We have a plant stall. Once a year we have what we call a Red Cross Plant Stall and I actually have it from my home. A lot

of the Red Cross members and friends are busy planting. We come there and we find that is quite profitable too.

ML: So you have like a stall at the front do you?

BRINKWORTH: Yes, it is like a garage sale out the front, yes. We have plants everywhere. [laughter]

ML: Do you make a reasonable amount of money from that?

BRINKWORTH: Oh definitely. We do well. I think because it is Red Cross people are quite happy to pay the price.

ML: What happens to the money you raise?

BRINKWORTH: We send it all into Headquarters and they distribute it to whatever programmes they've got that they need it for.

ML: Now can you tell me about the awards you have received through the Red Cross?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. I have received the 10-year, 20-year, 30-year medals and a Service Award and also last year I received the Distinguished Service Award, which I was very proud of.

ML: That's not for a specific project, that's for all your work over the years is it?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. It "recognizes the outstanding service to society over a period of at least six years with evidence of exceptional powers of leadership".

ML: Right. Now you just briefly mentioned them knitting socks during the War, did they do other things too – the Red Cross ladies?

BRINKWORTH: Oh yes. They used to make up parcels that were sent over, which the socks would be included in, I presume. I think they used to send cigarettes and handkerchiefs and little things for the men over there.

ML: Where would they meet? Did they have a specific place?

BRINKWORTH: They used to meet in the undercroft at the Council building over in Old Perth Road. They used to meet on a Tuesday afternoon once a month.

ML: Now could you tell me about some of your other charity work. I am thinking about the Christmas boxes.

BRINKWORTH: Yes. I have got involved in this Christmas Box. I have been doing it for five years. It is called “the Operation Christmas Child”. You do up a shoe box with seven items in it. It has to be a toy, something educational, something personal and something cuddly. They are sent to children all over the world that have experienced disasters, tsunamis and that. For instance, in 2006 it went from Albania right down to Zimbabwe and it covers many, many countries. They give out over a million of them that are done. This is a once-a-year thing and I am really proud to be a part of it.

ML: So it is some kind of international organization is it?

BRINKWORTH: Yes, it is. I am not sure; I got involved because I just heard it on the radio and I contacted them. They are called “Samaritan’s Purse” and there is obviously a religious background in it. The idea is that the children are given these boxes and the message is about Jesus Christ but the children just love the boxes. A lot of them haven’t got anything – no family and at least at Christmas they get their own personal box and they don’t have to share. In some of these countries a pencil is actually shared by a whole class. When I heard that and when I realized how many pencils my children actually went through, that was actually when it hit me. So the first thing I get is pencils and a ruler for them, so they have all got their own pencil.

ML: Do you have help doing these boxes?

BRINKWORTH: My grandchildren help me. They love doing it and I think it teaches them responsibility. They have got it so easy and there are other children in the world that don’t. They love helping me and giving me ideas about what to put in.

ML: Okay we have talked a little bit about the Bassendean Council but when did you first stand for it?

BRINKWORTH: 1988.

ML: What made did you decide to stand – apart from your sunken lounge or lack of?

BRINKWORTH: There were a few issues. At that stage they were employing a town planner and we didn’t think they were going in the right direction. It was suggested that I go up and put up my views for

this ward because they felt that the planning issues were all dealing with the East Ward, and the West Ward was being very neglected and so it was. Ashfield has always been neglected. So I decided to have a go and I got in and here I am still there.

ML: Do you still think there shouldn't be a town planner?

BRINKWORTH: I changed my mind very quickly after that. I realized it was more the person probably or the way the person was attacking the position but since then I have realized good town planners are desperately needed.

ML: What did you do to canvas votes?

BRINKWORTH: Door-knocked. We had ads in the paper, put leaflets out but the door-knock was the main thing and that took a lot of effort because some people like to talk for hours. That is good though because that's the way you find out what their interests and what their problems are.

ML: Did you have a team that did that?

BRINKWORTH: I did most of the door-knocking. I did have some people helping but it came back that they wanted to see the person themselves, even when my husband was out door-knocking. They said, 'why are you door-knocking?' and he said, 'well she can't get to every house'. They said, 'but we would like to speak to her' and he said, 'well I will get her to come to you'. I think you have to do it personally.

ML: So he has given you a lot of support with this, has he?

BRINKWORTH: Yes, he has because he had been through it with his father and he knew what it was all about.

ML: Is that one of the reasons you think why you stood – because of it having been in the family?

BRINKWORTH: I probably had an appreciation of it but I never thought of doing it. That didn't prevent me but it probably did help me deciding and that's why my mother-in-law supported a lot of it because she had been in it, part of it. I was proud because I loved my father-in-law dearly and I thought he would be happy that I was there.

ML: What was he like?

BRINKWORTH: Oh he was a lovely gentleman – very honest, very caring.

ML: What about your mother-in-law? What was she like?

BRINKWORTH: She was a lovely lady too. She loved her grandchildren, loved the fact that we lived close by. When her husband died she would be up here every day. She was a lovely lady and very community minded, very charitable. She belonged to the church and everything.

ML: Did she help you with the children when you were working – as far as babysitting went?

BRINKWORTH: She didn't want me to go to work full-time while I had the children young. It was quite funny that she sent me off to Red Cross but that was different. I didn't start working until my youngest one went to school and because it was the local school, it was handy. It was school hours and school holidays.

ML: Now did you get onto Council the first time you stood?

BRINKWORTH: Yes, I did.

ML: And are you still a Councillor?

BRINKWORTH: I am still a Councillor.

ML: Will you stand at the next election?

BRINKWORTH: I'll think about it then.

ML: Now could you tell me about some of the sub-committees you have been involved with?

BRINKWORTH: Gosh there are so many of them that are short and sweet. I know the first one I was on was the Bicentennial Committee, which ran a New Year's Eve ball. That was only for a year. Then I was on the Technical Services Committee, Community Services, the Nomenclature Committee was going then, Local Studies, Cyril Jackson Recreation Committee. I was the delegate on the Community Policing then and subsequently it was changed to Safer WA and I continued on that. In fact, I ended up being the chair of that and from that committee I was on two or three other committees that were connected with that. That was my main focus – the crime prevention area. I can't remember anything else.

ML: Were you a delegate for the Midland region?

BRINKWORTH: Yes, that's right.

ML: Are you still doing that?

BRINKWORTH: No, that was disbanded about three years ago.

ML: And the Rolf Harris swimming pool, could you tell me about that?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. Many years ago Rolf Harris said he would like a swimming pool - an Olympic swimming pool - in Bassendean because as you know he was a great swimmer and he wanted to give back the opportunity he had been given to go in the Olympics. He ran a concert to start fund-raising.

A committee was started and my involvement was actually at the Anzac Terrace School. All local P & Cs and groups were asked to send two delegates. Myself and another one were volunteered to go. We were there as delegates of the school and subsequently got on the committee. We ran quite a few concerts, then somebody came up with the idea of having a charity queen, which I entered. I was talked into it and subsequently won. There were five of us and we had to raise money. That was hard work because we only had six months to do it. We had a dance every month which we all combined together. So those who sold the tickets, it went to their funds. Oh we had quiz nights, we had everything – raffles, a “100 Club”. No that was hard work and I was glad when that was finished but we did raise quite a bit of money.

Then I was involved in it executively and it took quite a few years and we weren't getting anywhere. Council had promised us a dollar for dollar but we just found it was hard going. Eventually we went to Council and gave them our money and they built just a water playground. The money had to be used in some water feature. Unfortunately, we have had to close it now.

ML: Yes, that was for health reasons but would it have been closed anyway because of the new library?

BRINKWORTH: Probably not – there was still room for it there but, because it was like a water playground, we didn't have a supervisory employee there. The rules were that children over 12 shouldn't go in there and children under 12 should be supervised by an adult. That didn't always happen and unfortunately we had unruly behaviour at night time when younger adults used it as a drinking place and

threw the bottles in. The poor ranger would have to come in the morning and get it out and we just felt it was dangerous, more so than the health problem. And I think insurance-wise we probably weren't covered with the new laws now. So it was a hard decision to make but it had to be made.

ML: Right. Now could you tell me about the Cyril Jackson Recreation Committee?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. That's shared by the local Council, Sports & Recreation and the Education Department. That was the only way they could get the hall built. Council has two delegates, the community has two delegates and there are two delegates from the school board. We meet every three months and our Recreation Officer is their officer. We discuss the finances because all the money that is raised from letting it out at night time goes into this fund and all that money is to be spent on Cyril Jackson, on ongoing maintenance. We have done the air-conditioning, insulation, bought new equipment, re-carpeted. It is ongoing because the school has the use of it during school hours and then the community has the use of it after school hours. So it is quite a complex thing but it has worked well and I hope it will continue because the community needs it and it is a school need.

ML: Right. Now could you tell me about your work with the Local Studies Committee?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. This is an interesting one because I got involved in that when the Local Studies Committee started. Having a library background, I realize that a lot of things have to be retained. I got onto the committee and that committee just gives decisions to Council but we have a local studies coordinator and the librarian comes to our meetings and tells us what's needed. We have started lots of programmes and I think we are going a long way with that. They are interviewing a lot of people, so all those records are not lost because we have got some wonderful characters in this area, especially the migrant people that came in the beginning. I think it is important to keep that. Carol (Leigh) has done a huge job and is always getting snippets from things.

ML: Through that have you been involved with the Pensioner Guard cottage too?

BRINKWORTH: I haven't very much. It is another committee – the Historical Society has more to do with that one.

ML: And what about the construction of the new library? Were you involved in that?

BRINKWORTH: Yes, I was and I was proud of it. I know a lot of people are still not happy about the building but they forget this is a modern library and you have got different needs to what there used to be. Yes, I am very proud of that. I am really pleased we got that.

ML: Do you know who built it? Or how much it cost?

BRINKWORTH: Three or four million.

ML: Do you personally use it?

BRINKWORTH: Yes, I do. I go in there every now and again. Being a Councillor I really don't have much time to read but I am always in there looking for gardening books and bits and pieces to get information. Not so much into reading heavy books.

ML: Using it more as a research area?

BRINKWORTH: Yes.

ML: Now on the Council, do you get on well with the other Councillors?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. You have got nine Councillors and they are so diverse. I know I have been quoted as saying I can't believe we are all on the same planet but yes, you have to get on whether you believe in the others' ideas or not. You have got to respect each others' views and I try to do that.

ML: Do you enjoy meetings?

BRINKWORTH: Actually I do, believe it or not.

ML: Are there difficulties in the area being Bassendean? Perhaps something about it being a high rental area or something like that?

BRINKWORTH: There seem to be more rentals than there used to be but I don't know whether this is specifically Bassendean. I think when I go around and talk to people, especially if they are not looking after their houses – 'oh we are only renting it'. I have discovered, especially doing Avon as well, there is a high proportion and I believe it is more so than when we first came here but that could be

a good thing. Obviously people are quite happy to invest in the area.

ML: Now would you say you throw yourself into causes? Get in deep?

BRINKWORTH: I can do. I usually do. If I am going to do something I have to get into it 100 per cent. Yes, I do.

ML: Right.

END OF SIDE B, TAPE ONE

START OF SIDE A, TAPE TWO

ML: Have any of the developments you have been involved in been controversial? Developments on the Council, that is.

BRINKWORTH: Oh yes, there have been quite a few. There is one at the moment in Anzac Terrace which the Council didn't want to pursue but we were taken to the Tribunal and, as usual, Councils always lose those cases. So that development is going to proceed, much to the horror of all the Councillors and local people.

ML: Now what would you say has been your greatest success as far as Council goes?

BRINKWORTH: Getting all-night lighting. That was one of the things when I first came on and doing the crime prevention. I went on a safety audit and at night time there were hardly any lights on. Most lights went off at 11 and I know my son was a shift-worker and there'd be no lights at all. So I fought for all-night lighting. It took me two years but I got it through and it has still stayed. Since then different ones have wanted to get rid of it but it is still there. So that's a real...

ML: What about the changes around the station with the road changes?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. We were all part of that. I think it is for the best. There has been a lot of controversy about that actually – of the opening of Old Perth Road but I think it is for the future. We are so similar to Subiaco and it works there.

ML: Actually you are, aren't you with the shaping of the road.

BRINKWORTH: Exactly.

ML: What changes would you like to see happening in the future?

BRINKWORTH: Underground power I think is a necessity. I am sick of the trees being cut all the time that are under the power and we would have less power blackouts and probably less accidents. Many people hit them - I know the pole was there first but... I do believe that underground power is actually a State Government responsibility but it is going to be put on Council. In fact, we are discussing it at this stage now. The cost to each rate payer is going to be huge but it has to be done sooner than later.

ML: Yes. Now could you tell me about your Local Government award?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. I was presented with the Meritorious Service Award in 2004, which was awarded “for long and outstanding service to local government”. I was quite proud of that. [laughter]

ML: Who presented you with that?

BRINKWORTH: At that stage it was Councillor Clive Robartson. He was the president and Ricky Burgess is the Chief Executive Officer. So they actually both presented it at that stage. It was presented at the Local Government Week, which is held once a year in August.

ML: Right and could you tell me about the town’s centenary celebrations?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. That was in 2001 – our hundred years – and we had a committee of Councillors, community members and groups, quite a lot of committee, actually. And we met regularly and arranged celebrations all year. In fact, we had Rolf Harris come over for our 100th and we had a free concert for people. We had a ball; we had many activities. So that was a hard-working committee but excellent. I was very proud of that.

ML: Were you involved in organizing the ball?

BRINKWORTH: No, I wasn’t. Someone else was doing that. Actually we had a paid assistant for that because it was just too onerous. So we paid a coordinator who did most of the coordinating but we would assist voluntarily – serving or what had to be done.

ML: And could you tell me about your Lion’s Club award?

BRINKWORTH: Yes, I got the Lion’s Club International Exemplary Award in the late ’90s. It was given for “a quarter of a century of a wide range or activities and organizations” and I was very proud of that.

ML: Where was that presented?

BRINKWORTH: The Swan Districts Football Club and it was a surprise.

ML: Were you there for another function?

BRINKWORTH: I was tricked into going there for a Red Cross meeting and ’lo and behold it wasn’t a Red Cross meeting, it happened to be this presentation and it was quite weird because I had no idea. I was there, the members were there and in fact my husband was there.

He was invited for something else according to him. The guy came up and spoke – it was the Governor. I can't remember his name. He was talking about this person who had done all these things and I thought at the end, God that person sounds like me – or similar to me. When my name was called out I nearly died and I said, 'no wonder I am tired'. [laughter] It was a huge surprise; it was great.

ML: Did you follow the Swans Football team at all?

BRINKWORTH: I did as a youngster but once AFL came in I am afraid I have lost interest, much to the disgust of a lot of my friends. I don't really follow anyone. I follow the Swans – the local Swans.

ML: Did your husband play football when he was young?

BRINKWORTH: No, he played hockey.

ML: Did he play for a local club?

BRINKWORTH: Yes, it was. I have no idea but it would have been the Bassendean Club I should imagine.

ML: Did he play other sports?

BRINKWORTH: No. He is not really a sports' person.

ML: What about your sons?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. Two played football and two of them played soccer in the local clubs.

ML: So that was Swans for the football?

BRINKWORTH: And Caledonians for the soccer.

ML: Where did the Caledonians play?

BRINKWORTH: Jubilee Reserve.

ML: What were their team colours? Can you remember what uniform they wore?

BRINKWORTH: No.

ML: Who did they play against?

BRINKWORTH: The soccer? They played against a lot of the northern suburbs clubs because they would be traveling a fair distance. That was in their junior years. Once they got to high school they didn't play sport.

ML: Do you think the Caledonians were successful while they were playing for them?

BRINKWORTH: Of course they were! [laughter]

ML: Did they also do Cubs or Scouts?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. They were in Cubs and Scouts for quite a few years and my husband was also involved as a Venture Scout Leader.

ML: Where would they meet?

BRINKWORTH: There's a hall down in Kathleen Street in Bassendean and it was every week.

ML: Is that still there?

BRINKWORTH: Yes, it is still there.

ML: Did the boys go to Sunday School at all?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. They went to the local Presbyterian Church which is just around the corner. They all went to Sunday School.

ML: Who ran that?

BRINKWORTH: Joyce Hosanne was one of their teachers, Enid Hocking was another one that I can remember. They have all since passed away.

ML: Did they learn music when they were young?

BRINKWORTH: Yes, they all played an instrument. Three played the guitar and one played the organ. That was all given away once they went to high school.

ML: Did they go for lessons locally for that?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. The organ teacher came to the house; the guitar was a local guy down in Kenny Street. We used to walk over with the guitar and all because I never used to drive a car.

ML: How would you get to work if you didn't drive?

BRINKWORTH: Rode my push bike. I rode my bike everywhere. Even to Caversham to see my mum.

ML: Golly, that's a long way.

BRINKWORTH: It sure was but in those days you didn't have the cars that we have got now. There is no way I would do it now.

ML: You must have been very fit back then.

BRINKWORTH: I was.

ML: Could you tell me about you and your husband's involvement in the Railway Museum?

BRINKWORTH: Oh yes. My husband because of his background with the workshops, he has always had an interest in trains and especially restoring. A club was started and he joined and naturally he joined me in. My only practical bit there was actually working in the train when it opened on Sunday and people came to visit. They could come into one of the carriages and buy cups of tea, coffee, cake, cool drink and that but that doesn't go on now because they have got their own proper shop, a canteen and that. But my husband is very involved. He is there three or four days a week, full-time.

ML: What sort of things does he do there?

BRINKWORTH: I don't know - he does everything. [laughter]

ML: Restoration?

BRINKWORTH: It is restoration work, yes – and they have done a beautiful job. There is no doubt about it. There is a lot of agonizing though because they are always after funding and, unfortunately, we get a lot of graffiti artists coming in, which upsets the guys because they are all getting on and all their hard work has to be redone.

ML: So they actually paint the carriages?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. I think that's a real asset for Bassendean and the Council has actually been a quite good supporter – not financial but support in

other things that they do. They have a Rail Fest once a year, which is a wonderful event.

ML: Is there an association involved in that? Like a club or something that runs the railway museum?

BRINKWORTH: They are actually a membership, yes. They have their president and that and then they have their subcommittees for finance because there is quite a lot involved down there. Different committee members are in charge of different areas, in their expertise obviously.

ML: Now just before we finish, could you tell me about your spoon collection?

BRINKWORTH: Yes, I stupidly started collecting spoons when we first started going on trips. We took the children through Asia and everywhere we went I bought a spoon. Since then every friend that goes overseas brings Anne back a spoon and I have got literally hundreds of them. I am quite proud of them because they remind you of the places you've been or the person that has given it to you. They are very hard to keep clean and I may have to eventually sell the collection.

ML: Your husband – you said he was a good cabinet maker – has he made the boards you have got them hanging on?

BRINKWORTH: Yes, he has – some of them he has because you have got to have special equipment to do some of the things, which he hasn't got. He made the original ones and since then I have got the other ones.

ML: Now you mentioned going on holidays, so you were able to get away when the boys were young?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. It was always during school holidays. Sometimes we would take two or three days off before the holidays or after to fit in but we believed in taking them. That was our getaway. People thought we were mad that we took four young ones right through Asia.

ML: Yes. Was that difficult for you?

BRINKWORTH: We didn't think it was at that stage. The safety was a concern because when we went through Indonesia there was an uproar and I know when we went to Bangkok we may have had to cancel at the last minute because of the war that was going on and the

uncertainty but we managed. We made sure that we had a special tour guide that just looked after our family but I think it was a learning curve and the kids really appreciated it; and because they all travel in their jobs that has made them more confident in traveling.

ML: What did they do after they left school?

BRINKWORTH: They went to University. David did Computer Science and he is a computer programmer. Mark went to Murdoch University and he is also a computer programmer. Stephen went to Curtin University. He wanted to do engineering but after a year he had had enough of it. I can always remember he came home and said, 'will you iron my shirt please Mum. I am going to look for a job.' He did the whole of St George's Terrace and ended up getting a job and he is also into computers. Craig – he ended up doing different odd jobs because it was hard to get things. He did a year at University and thought that was enough. He has done well and he is working with Toyota in charge of the dealership for all of Australia. So I am quite proud – they have all done really well.

ML: Yes. Was it difficult having the four of them studying at the same time?

BRINKWORTH: Yes, because we had to pay for everything. It was very difficult. There were no government handouts, there was nothing. It ended up my husband had to work another job just for us to be able to pay for their fees upfront.

ML: What did your husband do?

BRINKWORTH: On his shifts off the Fire Brigade he would work for Armaguard as a security officer. They virtually depended on shift workers. He did quite a few trips down to Kalgoorlie when they had to take the gold.

ML: When did he stop doing that?

BRINKWORTH: Well virtually when I started work in 1975 because the tax would have been killing him. So he gave it up then because at least I was getting an income.

ML: Now do any of them live in the area – any of your four sons?

BRINKWORTH: Our second son lives in Eden Hill.

ML: Which one is that?

BRINKWORTH: The one you just met.

ML: That's Mark?

BRINKWORTH: Yes.

ML: Has he got a family?

BRINKWORTH: No.

ML: Also I can see you have got a doll collection. Can you tell me about that?

BRINKWORTH: Well these are actually Avon awards that are presented to top sellers annually and I have been lucky enough to get each one of them. There are quite a lot there – I don't even know how many years. I have been doing it for 33 years and I think this has been going on for probably 20 years.

ML: Does that mean that you are the top seller in the State?

BRINKWORTH: No. I am one of the top sellers. I was the top seller in the district for about five years but no, you have just got to be top in Australia and there are quite a lot of top ones. [laughter]

ML: Do you have a team of people under you?

BRINKWORTH: No, I don't. I used to but I don't now. With my Council work, I have got enough to cope with.

ML: How many hours a week would you say you devote to the Council?

BRINKWORTH: At least 20 hours because you have got to remember you are not just going to the meetings, you have got to read all the agendas and that. In my case, because I can't comprehend everything at once, I have to read it twice to get it right - so at least 20 hours.

ML: So you like to get well prepared before you go to a meeting?

BRINKWORTH: You have to be. If you don't get prepared you are just going to lose it because you just don't know what's going on. So yes, I like to be well prepared.

ML: Could you tell me about your involvement with Wind in the Willows?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. When I got on Council I realized they had a committee called the Wind in the Willows Committee which was predominantly for our babies to five-year olds – a day care centre. I was very honoured to be on that because my friend and colleague many years ago, Beatty Chape, actually started that. I served on that committee for a few years and the process was that we gave support to the centre and to the director and formulated policies and guide-lines. Yes, because it was a Council-owned property we were there for support, guide lines and that and I don't think that committee operates any more now because we did what we had to do. So I was on that for quite a few years.

ML: And what about aged-persons' housing? Have you had anything to do with that?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. Many years ago we actually established three hostels, one in each ward, and they were for 10-bed accommodation. Absolutely beautiful buildings and I would have been proud even if I ended up in there. That went on well for quite a few years but due to a Government change of rules, it got to the stage that it was unprofitable for anyone to have a hostel of less than 60 or 80 beds. So reluctantly, after a couple of years' debate and concern, we decided that they had to be closed and we sold them off, which was very unfortunate but, due to financial restrictions, we just couldn't continue.

ML: What about other senior services like maybe Meals on Wheels?

BRINKWORTH: I was on the committee a few years ago on the Senior Citizens' Committee, which runs the Meals on Wheels. We actually employed a supervisor who arranged for tours. Every day they had something on at Seniors – bowls or knitting days, sewing days, they would have a fete once a year. Day trips they would book - and not just day trips, they had two or three days where they would go down to the Lord Forrest Hotel in Bunbury. That was good. That is not as involved as it was, we don't have a coordinator but they have their own committee of a few people and they just arrange things. They have the volunteers doing Meals on Wheels. The meals are not made there now, we get them from another shire, and we just have the volunteer drivers. That is still going.

ML: Thinking about volunteers, did you get involved when your husband was a volunteer fire brigade person? Did you get involved in some of their activities?

BRINKWORTH: No, because in those days the wives weren't really acceptable. [laughter]

ML: Did he compete in competitions?

BRINKWORTH: No. He was never a competitor.

ML: Well going back to the Council. What about sporting grounds? Were you involved in the development or care of those?

BRINKWORTH: Well I was involved in the care. I belonged to the Ashfield Reserve Committee. It was the Ashfield Soccer Club, I think, and because they had their premises on the Ashfield Reserve, it was important that we maintain the ovals because it is so well used. The country soccer club juniors come down annually to use that facility. So we have been involved and actually the Fire Brigade track is on there now too, so they could be utilized, and the cricket club has their little, special corner. I firmly believe that reserves and sporting grounds should be shared by other groups, not just one group and that's what we have achieved at Ashfield.

ML: That has been a specific policy?

BRINKWORTH: Yes.

ML: Will that happen with the other reserves?

BRINKWORTH: Well Jubilee in a way is. That is shared by the Caledonians and the Stan Moses group there – the junior football club. They do share that. Swan Districts Oval – well it is predominantly the Swan Districts Club that has it but we do utilize the oval for other areas. There are motor shows, we have had our big open day down there – so it is shared but obviously during the football season it can't be because the grass has to be 100 per cent when they're playing.

ML: With the motor show and things like that, is it rented out to them?

BRINKWORTH: That's right, yes. So it's a bit of an income and it brings people into the area as well.

ML: And the buildings too?

BRINKWORTH: Well Swan Districts actually owns the building themselves now. So if they want to rent out – I know they do because I know there have been quiz nights and that there – that goes to them.

ML: What about other Council properties, do they get rented out for functions?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. We have got our old Faulkner Hall in Eden Hill, which is rented out. Our tennis courts are rented out; our Community Hall is rented out and obviously the Cyril Jackson one is rented out, which goes straight to the Cyril Jackson Management Committee. Yes, so we have three or four but we are still short of space. We don't really have anything for someone to have a wedding at, for instance. No, there are no plans at the moment, just wishful thinking.

ML: Now with the ovals, have there been problems with flooding?

BRINKWORTH: Not while I have been on.

ML: What about in the general area? Can you remember flooding?

BRINKWORTH: The BIC used to be flooded. I remember taking my children over to kindergarten and because I didn't drive, I would go over Guildford Road and it would be too hard to push the pram because it was too wet. So I would have to send the little one across and get someone to wave to me when they got there. So that used to get wet a lot but that is lower than a lot of the other places.

ML: So you had difficulty just having to cross the line?

BRINKWORTH: Definitely.

ML: Where was the kindergarten?

BRINKWORTH: In Hamilton Street.

ML: Who ran that?

BRINKWORTH: That was the Council then actually but that's not there now. What's happened is that the schools have got this pre-primary so actually that building is hired out now. Council still owns the building and they rent it out to Montessori School.

ML: How long have Montessori been there? Do you know?

BRINKWORTH: Quite a few years. They were finding it difficult to find somewhere and that just happened to be there but at this stage I think they are attracting so many students that they are actually looking for somewhere else, which I don't believe in Bassendean we have got any space for them, which is a bit sad.

ML: Have alterations been made to the building there?

BRINKWORTH: They would have made the alterations – whatever had to be done educationally – at their cost. We own it and they pay just a peppercorn rent, I think.

ML: Now you mentioned having trouble crossing the line, would you go across into Old Perth Road to do your shopping?

BRINKWORTH: Yes. I would take the children to kindergarten, then push the pram up to a shop called Freecorns. That's where I would do my shopping and then try to get over the line again and back home with all the parcels.

ML: So it wasn't easy?

BRINKWORTH: No, it was not easy.

ML: Did not many people do deliveries then?

BRINKWORTH: They probably would if you had requested it but, because I took the children over every day, I just did a bit every day. I have never been a weekly shopper.

ML: Would you go to the pictures over there?

BRINKWORTH: No. They'd finished. The only ones we went to - when we had a couple of kids we went to the drive-in theatre which was in Morley but, unfortunately, with the four kids we never went out much. Well TV was in then so...

ML: Right. Well that brings me to the end of my prepared questions, is there anything you would like to add about your time in Bassendean? Or your work on the Council?

BRINKWORTH: It has all been very pleasant and I have really enjoyed the whole time. I love living in Bassendean and I can't see us ever moving away. It is just such a lovely place.

ML: So would you say it is a good area to bring up children in?

BRINKWORTH: Definitely.

ML: Right. Well thank you very much for a most interesting interview.

BRINKWORTH: You are welcome.

END OF INTERVIEW