

TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH CLIFF HOOPER [transcribed in 2013 by David Spencer]

As part of the Gawler Oral History Project, this is Pat Sheehan interviewing Cliff Hooper at his home, 12 Barnett Road, Evanston, on the 6th of June 1991. Hello Cliff, could you start off by telling us your full name please?

My name is Clifford Wade Hooper the second son of Alice Maude and Thomas Henry Hooper from a farm on...near Agery about eight miles east of Moonta. I am the second son of a family of five - three boys and two girls. I was reared on the farm at Agery and we attended the Agery School. It was approximately 3 miles away and we drove a horse and sulky to get there, which was the main method of transport for most of us at the school except for some of them who lived close and they were able to walk to the school. Err...I do not know much about it, I went to the Agery School until I did the 7th grade and then my parents moved to Moonta and we moved with them naturally and I did the 8th grade at the Moonta School and then I did four years at the High School.

Excuse me Cliff, we have not said what years we are talking about, what year were you born?

Oh I am sorry, 16th of October 1908.

So when you were at school, you would have started school, you were about how old?

About six years old I would imagine I was, but I would not know for sure. I had an older brother who was nearly two years older than I was. He more or less did the organising of the horse and driving to school, and ah, as I said, we moved into Moonta and I did four years at the Moonta High School and unfortunately I did not complete my leaving certificate. I, err...to a certain extent, I blamed a teacher who was a first year out and she taught Latin and English and I did not pass either subject. I sat for a supplementary exam in English and I did not even pass that, but at that time my Dad who had missed out on education decided that we should...we boys should get a really good education so I sat for and passed a scholarship to Roseworthy Agricultural College and I went there in 1925 and I did three years there at Roseworthy to do their Diploma Course. Dux of first year, Dux of second year and in the third year I finished second.

Before we get into Roseworthy I reckon you would have some stories from your school days for us?

(Laughs)...Well a bit afraid I do not remember back too much. The ahh...I always think of... that in these days when you can't cane a student I think about a teacher Hilda Barbary, about five foot high caning Fred Pedler who stood six foot high and weighed twice as much as she did and he took the cane without any trouble at all. The other one I remember I suppose is about a chap called Ern Gregory. He was having trouble with his H's and er...she had him saying "It's not the jumping of the high, high hurdles which hurts the horses hooves, it's the hammer, hammer, hammer of the hooves on the hard, hard road." I also remember that in the ground of the school there was a square chain marked out by grubber and this square chain was divided into square rods and one square rod was divided into square yards so we had an idea what a chain was, what a rod was and what a square yard was. Err...there wasn't any sport in those days of the school, I...we filled our time in

somehow. At Moonta well I started to get into sport. I...ah.... we played some cricket, some tennis and also some football. In my last year at the Moonta High School when I was nearly sixteen I err...I was playing football for Moonta Juniors. At Roseworthy I went on with my sport err...finished up, I played football for the College 18 in my first year. In my third year I was the Vice Captain of the College football team. I also played cricket and a little bit of tennis.

How about you tell us some more about the sport at College please Cliff.

Well in the three years I went there, the College previously always played in the Gawler Football Association, but in those three years the Gawler Football Association had gone out of being and South's had been premiers for so many years that the other clubs did not have a chance, so while I was at College we played in the Students Association in Adelaide which meant coming into Gawler. In those days it was a five horse drag team to bring us in to catch a train in the morning. We went down to Adelaide, we played our football match, generally we stayed and looked at the... went to a picture show in the evening, that's if we did not go out with some girlfriend, and we came back on that 11 o'clock train to Gawler. And old Jack Daly, he would be there with this drag with the five horses in it ready to pick us up and to take us back to the College, and there were only two of we first years in the football team and we had to go up with Jack Daly and help unharness the drag team after we got home. So it meant it was fairly late by the time we got to bed. It was marvellous though. The fact we could get around in this drag and do the train trip and everything and still play a good game of football. After I finished College we...I went back on the farm. My dad now had bought a property at Nalyappa which is south of Moonta in that sandy country and my elder brother who finished Roseworthy two years before me was on the property doing the work. Well I had to settle down to do the work. I always remember harvesting err...at the College where we had a harvester. I suppose I had about a day and a half at the College on the harvester, five horses abreast, reaping a crop which was so even you more or less set the comb in the morning and you did not have to alter it all day. Well, my first effort at Nalyappa was a ten foot Howard Bagshaw which I had never ever seen before. Eight horse tandem up and down sand hills reaping barley about ten inches high. I reaped sand, I reaped air and my brother was coming behind telling me that I was throwing it over the tail and I said to hell with the tail I have enough trouble out in front. In any case I learnt in a day or two. Well, unfortunately we were having a bad season. It was the start of the depression, this is coming, let me think, I was twenty one, 29...1929...30. My dad died and unfortunately we had to walk off the property.

I think you said something about the price of wheat at that time?

Well, I....I am not 100% sure but I know my dad got a five shilling advance per bushel of wheat for some of the wheat and when it was sold we had to find some more money because we could not get five shillings a bushel for it and I got an idea in the back of my mind that we got down to one and nine a bushel that year but I would not be sure of it. So you can guess what sort of mess we were in when my father died and as I say we had to get off the property. We moved back to Hawthorn in Adelaide where my mother originally came from, and then it was a job... a case of finding something to do. I worked for a while on seeding and harvesting at some properties in the Snowtown district. I later did the School of Mines Wool Classing course so I finished up working out in the pastoral country during

shearing and for a while for a year or two did wool sorting at Michels and Sons at Hindmarsh. There... they were the wool scourers. Their property...their mills were at Hindmarsh at that time. Err...fortunately to me the... it was not a full twelve month job. I had to look for something else so I did the Department of Agriculture milk and cream testing certificate. Once again Roseworthy College helped me get a start with it and I passed that and was made herd tester in the Mount Barker Herd Testing Association.

Now Cliff you will have to tell us what a herd tester did and why he did it please.

Well you... you had twenty two herds on your books. You went onto each property for the evening milking and stayed overnight and did the morning milking and you had a testing implement with you where you tested each sample of... I'm sorry, I get it messed up, each sample... you weighed the milk from each cow, you took a sample from each milk. Well the next morning you tested all this milk for butterfat content and the result was from so many pounds of milk there was so much percentage of butterfat and the dairy farmer could work out which cows were returning him the most money.

And he would have paid on the butterfat that he sold?

Yeah, he was paid on the butterfat test on the milk.

Yes

And err...well I mean you had Fresians that were not up to the Adelaide standard for milk and you had some Jersey herds that were very rich in butterfat. Well I went on with this job and then in 1940 I joined the army. I err... joined the...err...

Where did you go to join, to sign up Cliff?

Well, the recruiting area was at Keswick and err...we all went there to go through our medical exam and joined up. I joined the 7 Division Petrol Company and it was supposed to be a transport unit. We went to Woodside to do our training and then we sailed for overseas. At the time, the Moratania, the Aquatonia and the Queen Mary, three blinkin' passenger boats were the transport boats for the army.

Was it a luxury cruise?

Well I suppose it was... I mean... least there was four of us in a cabin, there was only two bunks and the other two slept on the floor (laughs). One of the things I always remember...they had a bar there. You used to get in there at night and had a few noggins and by the end of the night there would be so much spilt on the floor. As the boat rolled the spilt beer rolled across the floor and wet your boots but we got through it alright. We went onto India and then up to Palestine err...saw some service at the top end of Egypt and then went right up to...Syria...the boundary of Syria err...didn't get into...I didn't get into any great troubles err...Then we came back home, we had a few days leave. It was not a very good trip home for us, there were four cargo boats and we were loaded up with trucks so she was lightly loaded. We had a foot of the propeller out the water in a calm sea. We struck a rather big storm and we finished getting side on to it. They could not drive her enough to put her nose into the storm and she wallowed all night, you could go to one side and say hello water and then as she rolled over go to the other side and say hello water. We found

out afterwards that the crew wore life belts all night. They did not think she would see morning but in any case she did. We were meant to be the second fastest of the four boats and the slowest beat us into Fremantle by a week. In matter of fact we had been wiped off. We had a brief stay in Adelaide then up to Queensland and across to New Guinea.

When you were on that boat, how were the supplies holding?

We got very short of supplies and all meals were the same. They chucked some corned beef, tinned corned beef, on the table, some dried biscuits and said that's your meal and that's what we lived on. We got to Fremantle and one of my mates, Bill Muecke, his brother was a head doctor at the Perth Hospital. He took us out for a meal and err...when we got back on the boat the next day, course we had severe stomach upsets because the meal had been too rich for us (laughter). But...err...we went to New Guinea we were on supplies mainly...err...I...some of us had to go through the Ramu Valley effort but I didn't get in that. No that's not quite right. I am talking about over the range, when it came to the Ramu Valley I was in on that, we followed the infantry up the Ramu Valley as they pushed the Japs back, and err...one thing I remember and err...that was about...we moved forward one night. Course we did the movement in the middle of the night and we pulled up and the soldier was there to show us where to set up and err...he said "Would you like a cup of tea?" I said I'd love one. He said, "Well a hundred yards up there's a Salvation Army joker, he'll have a brew of tea ready for you". So it just showed what these Salvation Army jokers did during the war years.

And what sort of supplies were you carrying in Cliff?

Well, I don't remember too much about it Pat. I know we had dehydrated meat in a forty four gallon drum and the plug was pulled out and, alright, if there were 200 men in this unit they had to get so much weight of it - and that's what they got. When it got up there, well the cook soaked it for a while and made something out of it that was quiet eatable. I don't actually remember much else about what else we did in supplies. It was while we were up in the Ramu Valley that err...I got my first bout of...I got my first bout of malaria. The Japs had nearly all the quinine and we were on something else and it took a while to straighten things out. Err....after we finished this push in New Guinea and we came back to Australia and err...I...it was then I came down on leave and err...my brother used a bit of influence cause by then I was 35-36 years of age, that he got me out of the army because of my age. At the same time, while I was on this leave I got married.

Well you better tell us about who you married.

(Laughs) Well there was a girl years ago when I was doing my leaving exam... leaving course at Moonta High School, called Mureil Booka - fondly referred to as 'Morny' Booka. Well I had known her all these years and while I had been away in the army in the Middle East and so forth, I had written to her regularly. She'd written to me, she even made fruit cakes and sent over and we decided to get married and I mean...you might say why get married so late, but the time I should have been married was in the Depression. I did not have a job and I didn't have any money, so we had to wait till I got this job and I got married and we lived at Somerton Park. We...err...I was...I came out the army and I was...perhaps the first thing I say was I got out the army and the first thing I got was another attack of malaria, cause the

poor local doctor had never seen Malaria before and he did not know what the devil was wrong with me.

Poor Morny too (both laugh) she had probably not seen it too!

Well Morny knew. She put the hot water bag in with me. I was nearly shaking the bed to pieces, and put blankets on top of me and put the carpet on top of me. But he said well, the doctor said right, come...send for me when you get an attack and we did the next time and he had one look at me and said "Up to Keswick and into hospital". So I went into hospital and got those...malaria gradually straightened out. Well, we settled down to a married life. I was err...made Chairman of the Barossa War Agricultural Committee.

Now you still lived down at Somerton Park?

We were still living at Somerton Park at this stage. That's where Morny and her mother had been living.

Yes.

...and err...her mother went away shortly after she got married. Went away for a while and then came back and the three of us lived in the house. Err...it was quite a nice house but as I said I went onto this War Agricultural Committee. Their job was to enlist chaps that should be in the army. To issue orders for any tractors or machinery or supplies required by certain farmers that were essential. In other words the job was to cut down on supplies as much as we could. As the Barossa is, you all know, is a fairly big German District we had a few blinkin' problems with Germans.

Did you go up to the Barossa often?

Well, I travelled the Barossa every week inspecting this, inspecting that. That was the job. I had to do the inspection, then we would have this group committee meeting and we would decide what should be done. I always remember one case where a chap applied for a tractor. He lived just out of Gawler. We gave approval, well he got the approval and ah... about two months later was working on the Gawler race course. We did not think we did a too good a job there but, we did the best we could. Well that wound up fairly soon. We're now talking about 1945 aren't we?

1945 was the end of the war.

Yeah, well I came out in 44.

Yes.

So I had another twelve months before the war ended. Well then I got a job as a Field Officer in the Department of Agriculture.

Yes.

I worked mostly under a chap called Len Cook, an experimentalist, and I spent a certain amount of time under Bob Herriot in soil conservation.

Yes and you met up again with him later at Roseworthy (laughter).

Oh yes, he came up as Principal of Roseworthy College later on. Well, I...that went on for a year or two.

Where were you living at that time and where were you last?

I was still at Somerton Park.

Yes.

And err...I travelled up to Adelaide or had a car to go out into the country err...I err...then a job was advertised as the assistant manager at the Kybybolite Research Station in the South East. I applied and got the job. So we moved down to Kybybolite which is outside of Naracoorte. It was an experimental farm. Err... Jack McAuliffe was in charge of it. I err...I did do all the sheep work, as a matter of fact when it came to the shearing. I ran the shearing, I did the classing and did the whole show there. I also had my first experience with foot rot in sheep which got in rather a bad way.

How did you deal with that in those days?

We had to trim feet and then we bath the feet in Formalin. In other words it was a fairly long trough in the race and the sheep were made to walk through this and this really killed the germs in their feet. Err...it was not a 100% but it did a pretty reasonable job and after...cause at that stage I only weighed 10 ½ stone and I was dealing with half-bred Romney Marsh ewes that weighed about 2 stone more than I did, so it was a rather strenuous job for me and we trimmed feet for months trying to cure the foot rot. Err...well... I err...that went on...and then in 1949, the position was advertised of Lecturer in Sheep Husbandry and Beef Cattle at Roseworthy College and I applied for the job. I thought I had reasonable recommendations. I had been reared on a property where we reared some sheep, I held a Roseworthy College Diploma, I had done the Wool classing...School of Mines Wool Classing Course and at 'Kyby' as I said ran the sheep and did the shearing err...ran the shearing and did the wool classing. Well, I got appointed. So in 1949 we moved to Roseworthy College

Now Cliff...when you say we is it still just you and Morny?

No, there were three of us. Sorry, I did not mention this but we had had one...my wife had had one baby and this was a girl and she was known as Elaine Meredith Hooper and when we moved back to the College she was about four years old. So she had a year or so of settling down before she had to go to the Roseworthy School. Now...

Whereabouts on the college did you live Cliff?

Well, we lived first up...for a good few years we lived in a house on the North West side of the main building. I should not say North West side, across from the main building. We lived there for many years and then later we changed. We lived in a house facing the Principal's place up on the hill.

And that's the one that is the Childcare Centre now.

Ah...I knew it was something to do with it like that, but err...then I had the job of settling into Roseworthy College. It was in mid-term and I had to take over lectures. After two days

to settle in, I went to see Bob McCulloch the Principal and err...expected to be told "alright, your lectures will cover this...they are at this stage in their lectures at the mid year and here are some lecture notes". Well after the usual greetings he said "You are an old collegian?" and I said "Yes". "You know where your office is?" and I said "Yes" and he said "Well, we expect you to start lectures in a fortnight" and I walked out of his office thinking where...where do I go from here. Well, I was a bit lucky cause Phil Shinckle was in charge of the Animal Production Laboratory and his people had a property beside the Kybybolite Research Station and he came to light with a book on Sheep Husbandry written by Dr Callaghan, the Principal, and my predecessor, Thompson, and I found out roughly from this book that so many pages were first year, next few pages were second year, and the last lot were third year. Well, that gave me something on which to base my sheep lecture notes. You might notice that I have not said anything about beef cattle.

(Laughs) No.

I did not know anything about them. I knew Australian...South Australian beef came from the South West Queensland and the Northern Territory and that was all. At least it was before the big boom in beef cattle on the inside country and I had to start digging up notes and working things out. Well, I gradually settled in and err...I found out, for example, staff members were on night duty for about once every three weeks, where you sat in at tea time and then in between half past seven and nine o'clock, went around the student quarters marking a roll.

When you say...said you sat in at tea time, was that a formal meal?

No, the ordinary meal for the students and the staff who lived there.

Yes and you would start off with grace and...

No, nothing like that, it was just an ordinary...like a hotel meal really.

Yes.

And if you sat, if you were on duty, well you sat up the top table in the centre and you were in charge from then on. It was to make sure student behaviour was alright.

Was it?

Yeah, no worries at all really and err...you had other staff sitting at the table with you. These were those who weren't married and had to live on the place, and err...as I kept saying to you then from half past seven to nine you went around the student quarters marking a roll. I don't know...I don't think it kept any students on the College if they wanted to go away, but to me it was a big help because I started to know the students by name - this was Jack Smith that was Bill James - and after a while somebody would ask you a question on sheep and next thing you knew you had six or eight students around you all asking questions and listening. It's a good way, means, it's telling them a few things. I found that...I was staff...certain staff were in charge of sports. I ran the golf for a while.

Tells us about the golf at College, we don't even have that now.

(Laughs) Ah...well its...it started there behind the Chapel. We went down that paddock there, across the road for a start, then down the paddock, then over a bit of a road and run near where Sheehan's used to live and then into the paddock at the back. Nine holes, the usual scrapes for greens. And err...we err...there was a few staff played, a few students played and periodically we'd run a tournament. It was some pleasure and it was something to do to help the students which was your job. Later on I became sports master.

Yes, and what did that mean?

Well, that means with a group of students appointed from the various sports at the start of the year, we allotted money and at the end of the year we had a trophy. We allotted Blues and Badges in the various sports and we also had a Trophy presentation evening where we invited somebody from a sporting body from Adelaide to come up and give a talk. Well it varied from athletics through, through to this. I always think of that year we had Beau Morton. Now this...you might think I'm a bit biased cause I was a Sturt barracker, but he was captain of Sturt at that time. We asked him to come up and he came up and, course, he gave a talk on football and he finished his talk and he came to question time and he said any questions, and one lad said "Well I am playing half back flank and the opposition wing man has made a break - what do I do? Do I tackle... go forward and tackle the wingman, or do I cover my man?" And Beau's answer was "Whatever you do, do something. Whatever you do will be wrong" and I thought that was a typical answer! The, err...but err...as I say, we had all various sportsmen come up and give talks. The err...at that stage I mean, we played tennis and rifles against the other colleges...ag college students.

Oh yeah, did you travel interstate?

No, I didn't cause I didn't run tennis or rifles.

Yes.

But the chaps who run the tennis and rifles, they travelled interstate with the lads. They took them over to compete against the other ag colleges of Australia.

Tell us a bit about the football at that time too please Cliff. I bet you were interested in it.

Well I followed football, I have always been a keen sportsman and err...I err...I had quite a good team and I mean it varied a bit naturally. Some left and we got good ones and we got...I always quote the Shorty Webber period. They came in as first years. They had eight of them in the first eighteen in their first year. They lived and talked football and in the first two years they took out the Premiership in the Gawler Association. In the third year we got beaten by the Souths in the final and I still blame Shorty Webber. Souths had a beautiful rover and Webber went in to get him, but he missed him and laid our centre man out!

Oh dear.

(laughs) And the result was we got beaten that day. Still there you are, no they are...they were good teams and err...the lads, they all played for College. I mean there was none of this going home to play on weekends and they had to play for College. We can name four or five who later on went straight into Adelaide and played league football.

Yes.

There was...I always quote Tony Goodchild, he went and joined Sturt. Played ten games and was in the interstate team.

Yes.

And err...there were several others who did the same thing. Well...we have talked...

And how did you get on with the teams in the holidays Cliff?

Well I can't remember that err...there was any great effect on the teams. I think the lads were so interested that they came back to College on the Saturday and played their game. Err...I might be wrong. I mean there could have been a few gaps. Well for argument, if Cliff Hooper had have playing and he went to Moonta for his holidays he would not have come all the way back from there. Err...but as I say I can't remember any effect. And the oval of course was still the same as it is now with that pavilion, and what I don't know how you get on these days, but in those days there were two or three staff who played football for College, such as Rex Krause and Ken Leske and err...also there were about ten of us staff members, we were on the boundary every week, barracking for College and I don't, as I say, I don't know what sort of support they get these days err...cause they had cricket, they had tennis and err...actually our daughter, she started playing tennis for Roseworthy College.

That was a College team, but it had girls in it even though there weren't girls at College!

Yeah. No girls at College, but they found enough ladies to make the team up. Matter of fact, when she started Barry Sumner was playing College tennis and, as we all know, he was well up in blinkin' overseas tennis at one stage and he helped coach our daughter, so she was a bit lucky cause her father never got any coaching. The, err...now I came on...I suppose I better start talking about work, haven't I?

Oh yes. There must be...there must be more to college than talking about football and tennis (both laugh).

Well then I found out certain things...I...the students were allotted to the various sections on their work days. It was a case of trying to give them experience in the various sections and on sheep and beef well. There could be two or three or four students and they did... helped do the work under... mostly under one of the workmen. I err...they were also given work marks for their effort during the day and in general they got on quite well and did the best they could, and then I found out that I had a Merino stud. I had a South Down stud, I had a Poll Short Horn beef stud and I had never done stud work before in my life. So it was a case of trying to find out a few things. Well I also found out that they showed South Downs and beef cattle at the Adelaide Show and I couldn't ever remember going to an Adelaide Show let alone seeing sheep and beef judged. Well Merinos didn't worry me that much. I had handled that many sheep and that much wool I knew what to look for there. The South Downs...well Dennis Muirhead was in the Department of Ag and he was a mate of mine. I got him up a couple of months before show and we went through the sheep and picked out possibly to show sheep and he told me what to do about feeding and looking after them and then just before judging time, before show time, he came up and showed me how to trim a sheep to get it ready for show. Well I did all this and went down to show and Dennis said to me "That's a good ewe there, she might take some beating". Well, we lined up out there for the aged ewe class. She lined up fifth in a class of eight and she stayed fifth there. I'm

putting her back in the pen and two other exhibitors said to me "When you see the judge ask him what's wrong with that ewe? We thought she'd be the hardest to beat". So the judge came around in the afternoon and I said "What was wrong?" He went in and felt the sheep. He said "The wool's too dry". He said "I tell you what to do", he said "A teaspoon of neatsfoot oil, rub it on your hands, rub it on the wool, rug the sheep and put her out in the sun". So maybe a teaspoon full of neatsfoot oil is the difference between having a champion ewe and not winning a prize at all! In any case one year I did have a champion South Down Ram of the Show. The beef cattle, well I didn't know anything much about preparing those and just had to do a fairly lot...a fairly big lot of guesswork. I carried on for three or four years not making much headway and then things started to fall into line a bit and err...we switched from Horned Shorthorns to Poll Shorthorns. Old W J Dawkins of Gawler River, an Old Collegian of many years ago, bought three Polled Bulls from America and he wanted to park one out for a while. It's only as I was very friendly with him, he let me have this Poll Shorthorn Bull to use on the College stock and we gradually switched over to Poll Shorthorn and over the years we gradually improved. I don't want to boast, but I did the bull selection and I went to the Sydney Show one year and bought a bull and err...Rob...err...Bob Herriot said "Go on Cliff you go over and pick it. You know what you want". So I went over and bought it. I did not buy what I wanted cause I did not have enough money but that bull did alright for the college beef herd and we finished up one year taking Champion Poll Shorthorn of the Adelaide Show. So we did alright.

You must have found a bit about those beef cattle by now! (both laugh)

Well you found out...I often wished I was a lot younger and could have gone down and camped with the cattle at the Adelaide Show cause I reckon by talking with the other chaps I would have learnt a lot more. I always quote the story about...we were...I was with Don Barkley one night and we were doing the checking the beef section of the Adelaide Show which we had to do and we ran into a Hereford joker and we said to him "That bull over there, that Hereford Bull, that's a beautiful bull but its coat is brown instead of red" and this joker said "Oh...give it to me for a quarter of an hour and I will bring him back with a red coat!" "What do you do" he said "Oil the coat" - course we all rubbed oil in - and then he said "Rub it with newspaper, the ink comes off and you finish up with a beautiful red coat". So you learn lots of different things in different ways.

And a few tricks! (both laugh)

Yes, a lot of it was tricks. Well, that's getting away from the stock. We found out that err...we came to shearing time and err...they said "Oh yes, you got to be shearing instructor" and I said "No fear. That's something I won't do". So they appointed a shearing instructor. It was Stan Green for a start. I...the School of Mines did the shearing...did the wool lectures and they came up at shearing time and they put the lads through their paces over the wool table. The err...all I did was run the show and did the sheep in and out and also look after ten handpieces handled by students who were not very experienced.

What was some of the other Jobs you did around the College Cliff?

Well, there was slaughtering. The sheep section did practically all the killing for the College kitchen and I fell into the job of instructing students how to kill and dress a sheep. Being only a very rough bush slaughterman I had to learn a lot of things, but it's like everything

else though - if you gotta, you do it and I must have improved because a few years later the cadet and I, we did a pamphlet.

Cliff you were telling us about that booklet that you wrote.

Well it err...between us...we go to...we took photos and gave a demonstration of slaughtering, dressing and skinning a sheep and it was used by the Department of Agriculture to hand out to various people and I...it got me two or three years later when one chap came up and congratulated me on the booklet. He had it and reckoned it doing quite a good job. We also had to slaughter beef cattle for the college kitchen and that was something I was very rough at, but we got the skin off in the long run. The, err...it came to mating time and err...the Merino Stud was an experimental flock and there were fourteen different groups to be mated. I had to find fourteen different paddocks which took a bit of doing at the time, but we sorted that out and then we had err...as far as the students were concerned, we had all the sheep jobs of the year to be done like tailing, castrating, mules operation, drenching, vaccination, crutching...all those jobs you tried to get as many students as possible to have a hand in it. So when the time came to later on, they could say, yes, I did a little bit of that when I was at Roseworthy College. As far as the beef cattle went, well righto, it was just a case of mating and finding out whether everything got in...hoped every cow got in calf and then you came to the Show we talked about before. You had to bring...you make your selection, bring it in and start feeding it as soon as you could. One thing about the cattle, I never did any foster mothering. It became a common thing amongst the beef cattle people to err...foster mother the calf going to the Show. I did not think it was fair dinkum and never did it. Well this went on...

You put the calf with a mother of a different breed sometimes or...?

Yeah, that's what...when the mother of the calf started getting a bit low in her milk you introduced another cow of a different breed. It could have been a Jersey at Roseworthy College and the calf fed on that until it went to Adelaide Show at 16-17 months of age. Well it helps the growth rate quite a bit but err...as I say, I wasn't too keen on it. Ah...I had to set exam papers and as I went down to mid-term and then I woke up that in five months time I had to set the exam papers and one of those would be for third years which will be their Diploma in Agricultural exam and I thought...well...what have they been told? Did they tell them the same as I would have told them? I went to...I was told that the old exam papers were in the library so I went and read through them which gave me some idea of the questions to be asked and I set the exam papers. Ah...I always remember the third years held an 'after diploma' dinner and they invite a certain [number] of the staff. I'd been invited this first year and I had not said yes or no and I thought after the third year exams I'd go and find the council man and tell him I'd be pleased to take on...to come and I found him and said thanks very much for the invite and I'd be pleased to come, and he said "You should not have been bloody well asked". So I had an idea what he thought of the exam paper (laughs) but in any case I did pass him so it was alright. Well roughly I think that is the main things, we got on...I got on well with Ray Norton as Farm Manager and we worked together and sorted things out. And then three years before I retired they became a College of... Advanced Education?

Yes that's right...CAE.

And err...I was not allowed to lecture because I did not have a degree even though at one stage I'd lectured to university students doing the Ag Science course. The only lecture I did was...the School of Mines altered and the two chaps retired down there. Bob Herriot called me in and said "Cliff, you can do the wool classing lectures". I said "Fair go" and he said "Course you can, you don't have to do any for two months". So I did the wool classing lectures and the wool classing instruction to finish up. I err...so for the last three years apart from that, was run the stock and look after them. I err...consider it's been a very enjoyable life. Admittedly like all cases, you strike an odd stinker, but in general students were quite willing to carry on. Well it was 1973 and I retired. I err...we moved to Gawler and I thought it was a good idea cause that's where all my mates were really, apart from the College and err...we built a house and moved in alongside my daughter's place. Err...things went alright for a few years then suddenly my wife got ill health and she passed on about ten years ago. I've been on my own ever since. I'm getting by doing this, doing that. I'd played a lot of bowls at Gawler. At present I'm the Patron of the Club and err...I go to a blind luncheon once a fortnight and I have got a lot of good people to help me. I say thank you to my family. I say thank you to my cousin Meril, who lives out at East Gawler and I say thank you to a lot of other people who make sure that Cliff Hooper gets around and can enjoy what's left of his life.

And I think there are probably a lot of people who would like to say thank you to Cliff Hooper. Thanks for this interview very much, goodbye.

Bye.