

## **Clem Jones Oral History Project**

**Interviewees:** Wal Dann, Ray Evans

**Interviewer:** Lindsay Marshall

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**Recording venue:** Brisbane Strikers' Clubhouse, 95 Abbotsford Road, Bowen Hills Qld 4006

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**LM:** This is an interview with Wal Dann and Ray Evans for the Clem Jones Oral History Project being conducted by myself, Lindsay Marshall. And the interview is being conducted at the Brisbane Strikers' Clubhouse at Perry Park in Brisbane and it's the 12<sup>th</sup> of December 2018. Wal, if I can start with you and then I'll ask the same of Ray, just give us a little bit of background about your early life, where you grew up, where you went to school and what your family did, that sort of stuff.

**WD:** Fine. I was born in Brisbane in October 1940. There were four sons to our mum and dad that grew up as a family. We were very much a working class family, typical of many in that era. Our parents had been through the Great Depression. They worked hard and made sacrifices for their children so that we could come up in a safe home environment, get the best education that they could provide and hopefully go to a nice future. Life was pretty simple in those days and I don't know whether we need to go into some of the examples, but certainly we couldn't afford a motor car. We had an ice box instead of a fridge and so on.

**LM:** What about your school? Where did you go to school?

**WD:** We lived at Teneriffe in my very early days and I attended New Farm State School for a couple of years. We then shifted to the Grange and we stayed there basically for the rest of our days until the boys were married and moved into their own homes. I attended school at Fortitude Valley because one of my brothers, Ralph, was unable to cope with everyday school work and he had to attend the Opportunity School which was then at Fortitude Valley. My other brother, Barry and I completed our schooling at Fortitude Valley at primary level and went onto high school to junior levels. Our oldest brother, Don, he attended Church of England Grammar School before deciding to take up apprenticeship and he finished up having established and operating his own engineering business for many years.

**LM:** You mentioned there about the family obviously not being flush with funds so to speak in those days. So what did you do to entertain yourselves and activities, that sort of stuff?

**WD:** As kids we had a pretty carefree existence. We had plenty of local friends, lots of kids in the neighbourhood. We had dogs that could run free without having had a leash on them and certainly we had big acres of open space and a creek to use as a playground. So we basically made our own fun. I guess when we got up an age group a little bit Saturday afternoon the pictures was a big deal for us.

**LM:** And what about sport, how did sport feature in your life then at home or at school?

**WD:** Well mainly the fact that at the Grange down the road, very close to our home, was a club called at that stage Thistle Soccer Club. Became Grange Thistle and still exists as a very strong club today. Lots of the kids graduated to there and that's what started us on our, I guess, sporting careers for one of better word through many years.

**LM:** Okay. Ray, your family, where were they located when you were born?

**RE:** Born here in Brisbane in '43. Dad was a building contractor of his own little construction company, and my two sisters, and we lived at Red Hill as I mentioned. Lived there most of my life until I joined the Air Force. We had a great childhood actually, apart from me being sick all the time. Had a lot of time at Gilbert Park where the Broncos' clubhouse is now, playing there and in Ithaca Creek. Had a whale of a time there. A lot like Wal, a lot of kids came around in the neighbourhood. Played a lot in yards. We had a big yard. So we had a great time.

**LM:** And what about schooling, where did you go to school?

**RE:** I went to Ithaca Creek State School and then to St Brigid's Convent.

**LM:** At Red Hill?

**RE:** At Red Hill, yes. There's no longer a school there.

**LM:** No.

**RE:** Went there.

**LM:** Okay. And your involvement in sport, how much did that feature in your life at home or at school?

**RE:** As a child, no sporting involvement at all.

**LM:** Is that because of your illness?

**RE:** Mainly because of illness and that's been about seven years in and out of beds and hospitals and the rest of it.

**LM:** And what was the condition?

**RE:** Rheumatic fever. I had it seven times.

**LM:** Right. And what was treatment like in those days, pretty rudimentary I'm guessing?

**RE:** A lot of penicillin.

**LM:** Right. But you survived.

**RE:** My backside was like a pin cushion.

**LM**

[Laughing] so the rest of your family, were they sporting in any way?

**RE:** Dad used to play a lot of tennis.

**LM:** And after primary school where did you go after that?

**RE:** Basically they took me out of school because of all my illnesses and I went and did primary correspondence and at the end of that they said I'll give you the job, so I became a projectionist at the Lyceum Theatre in George Street which is no longer there of course.

**LM:** That used to be the Old George Theatre in more recent times wasn't it?

**RE:** That's right, yeah. The Bug House they used to call it.

**LM:** Is that a commentary on its cleanliness?

**RE:** [Laughing]

**LM:** You also mentioned the Air Force.

**RE:** Yes, yes I joined the Air Force when I was 17. About six pretty good years there until I came home. Travelled a lot. South East Asia and throughout Australia.

**LM:** And Wal, after your schooling did you go onto any sort of training or further study or work?

**WD:** Actually I started working in the Queensland Treasury, that was in 1957 after my junior examination year. I transferred from there to the Queensland Audit Office where I spent most of my professional career and I obtained my qualifications at night which is often the case for young fellows in those days who couldn't afford the luxury of going onto senior and then university. I had a long time in the Audit Office. I left there at age 54 to pursue a more flexible lifestyle and I worked as a freelance accountant for quite a number of years until my recent retirement.

**LM:** And you mentioned earlier on at the Grange, you played for Grange Thistle.

**WD:** Yeah.

**LM:** What sort of player do you rate yourself as?

**WD:** Pretty poor.

**LM:** [Laughing]

**WD:** I think the works I used was that my administrative skills definitely outweighed my playing ability. Although I did play until the senior grades and a bit of, some reserve grade games but actually what happened was that someone recognised my talents lay elsewhere and I was elected to the executive committee of the club at the age of 21 when I was still a player. So that was the start of a long involvement in administration of football in Queensland I guess.

**LM:** Quite a relatively early age to be on the club committee isn't it? Even in those days.

**WD:** Yes, in fact it got worse or better whichever way you look at it because by the age of 25 I was the club president and three years after that I was made a life member, so it had a pretty hectic start.

**LM:** What attracted you to the administrative side of the game?

**WD:** I guess in those days the local club was much more to families than it is in this day and age. And many families looked at the club, in our case Grange Thistle, as really part of the family focus. And everybody in our family worked in one way or another to support the club. I was a player, my mum and dad worked for the club in all different ways. And so it was kind of a natural progression that if I could do something in that... and I was working in that sort of environment, sort of natural progression to help out in that area.

**LM:** So as you say, that local club level was really important in all sports and in all codes wasn't it?

**WD:** Absolutely.

**LM:** These days it's the big franchise clubs that get all the attention but in those days it was very much a local focus.

**WD:** Yes, there was none of that national team, national competitions. Even at the point my younger brother and I joined the club as kids the concept of junior football was just starting to take hold. And I think at the start the club had one what was called a junior team, and that was for players of under 18 years of age. The juniors of the day is just completely different and huge compared to what it started out with.

**LM:** And Ray, your playing career, tell us about that. Where did you play and what grades did you reach and how do you rate yourself as a player?

**RE:** I'm a lousy player. That's being kind.

**LM:** [Laughing]

**WD:** We're partners in crime.

**RE:** [Laughing] it was in '64, I was in the RAAF in Darwin. I started playing for them. It was very soon I realised that I wasn't a player. And then I got involved in the administration of the RAAF soccer team there in Darwin until I left Darwin and came back here to Brisbane and I went down with a mate to Latrobe Soccer Club at Gregory Park, he was a good player. They picked him up and I ended up secretary of the club at 23. So I went straight in.

**LM:** So you both had early starts in the administrative side.

**RE:** Absolutely.

**LM:** At that local club level at that time, what were the challenges you faced on the administrative side on committee and as president? Was it a lot of grassroots, trying to get people involved at the grassroots level?

**RE:** We didn't have a problem at Latrobe with that. It was a school ground so we had a lot of the kids from the school played for the club. So that wasn't too bad. The biggest problem we had was

funding it – finding funds as they do today. We got very little assistance from government in the way of grants in those days. You had to raise everything yourself by whatever means you could. That was the biggest problem I found.

**LM: And** I guess it's always a problem for any club that you really shouldn't raise all your money from your own members, should you?

**RE:** No.

**LM:** You've got to try get money from outside.

**RE:** Absolutely.

**LM:** So in the absence of government who were the sponsors or the supporters? Were they local business people?

**RE:** No. We used to get... We played in the first division then. We used to get reasonably good crowds, quite amazing crowds if you recall, Wal?

**WD:** Mmm. Yes.

**RE:** We used to get excellent crowds, we used to pick up some pretty good money from the gates. That's mainly the way we raised our money. We got very little from sponsorship. Shirt sponsorship didn't exist in those days. So you got very little from that and very little from the community as well.

**LM:** And what was the structure in those days of, you're talking about the local club you're involved with, but what was the structure in terms of the state and the national competition in those days?

**WD:** Going back into history I suppose, from about 1940 the state body called The Queensland Soccer Football Association, and a Brisbane affiliate which ran the game in the Brisbane and Ipswich area. So the connection was of course the club affiliated to that body and that body prepared the fixtures and did all the operational side in terms of allocating games and so forth. As Ray mentioned, at club level, well we had the advantage that there was much higher level of family involvement in those days but there wasn't much money. Apart from gate takings we would have an annual fete. We would try and run bingo games and various other things of that nature to keep ourselves in a good, reasonable financial position. As far as the governance of the game was concerned things took a very large turn in the early 1960s when the existing bodies..... I'm just trying to recollect the time, I believe it was 1962.

**RE:** 1962, yes.

**WD:** By that stage the game had changed quite dramatically with the arrival of thousands and thousands of football-loving Europeans who migrated to Australia in the post-war years. They had established what were so-called ethnic clubs. Those ethnic clubs became a gathering point for the community activities and understandably an outlet for their football passion and their enthusiasm for that sport. Now as these clubs that gained prominence, there was also a shift in the nature of the game from amateur to semi-professional football and rightly or wrongly there was growing dissatisfaction with what was perceived to be a fairly inflexible and amateur administration.

Out of that came the breakaway in 1962 where quite a number of the clubs, the state's leading clubs, decided to form a Queensland Soccer Federation. That happened relatively quickly and

indeed within about three years the whole of the state had gone over from the old governing body to Queensland Soccer Federation. That similar situation occurred in other states in Australia and so what was previously Australian Soccer Football Association, it was ultimately replaced an Australian Soccer Federation. And the federation system remained in force for quite a large time and indeed until about 2004 when Football Federation Australia came into existence.

**LM:** Just harking back to what you mentioned earlier about the popularity of the game and the support of the game and the involvement in the game of European migrants, I guess it's a question for both of you. At that stage that was obviously a positive but there were some negatives to that as well?

**WD:** I think, looking back the situation at that stage was entirely different to what it was now. Understandably we had whole large population of Europeans, some of whom didn't speak English, who naturally, quite naturally gravitated to a community of their own to try and make their way in the new country. And football was the natural outlet and it became quite passionate. There were a few clashes that occurred in those years particularly when you consider that some of the European countries were on different sides of the fence in the Second World War. But nevertheless, in the end the migrant population grew the game in Australia without a doubt. And what was previously considered to be a British game before that now became for much a cosmopolitan situation.

**LM:** In recent years there was a distinct effort but the administrators of the game to sort of play down or to eliminate the ethnic labelling of clubs and that and to give them more generic identities. Ray, do you think that's worked?

**RE:** From my point of view it worked, but from the point of view of some of those old ethnic clubs, especially down south, it didn't work and they hated it and fight vigorously to have it all lifted so they can go back to calling themselves whatever they wanted. And there's a move afoot for that to happen so I wouldn't be surprised if it does. But interesting, Wal was talking about the game started here 1884 to 1889. It was called the Anglo Queensland Football Association which goes to show it started off as a British type organisation to when all the immigrants came in after the war. Interestingly Ian Brusasco was a big mover and shaker about starting the Queensland Soccer Federation.

**LM:** So it's moved from British origins to being influenced by a multitude of European ethnic groups and now it's almost as if it shouldn't have an identity in terms of an ethnic base. I guess that's meant to appeal to people who may not otherwise take an interest in the game.

**WD:** There's no doubt at all the migrants had a very tough time in the early years after the war, coming here after the war. It was a huge shake up for this country when you think about it in hindsight. But it came to a situation where that all passed away and like a lot of other things that involves serious change, it's the next generation that has a different outlook all round, both ways.

**LM:** And you mentioned language problems there of the new arrivals that were interested in the game and involvement. Ultimately there would have been a lot of mixing that wouldn't have otherwise taken place between Australians who are here by birth and the new arrivals.

**WD:** That was ultimately very much the case and I suspect that people like myself of Anglo Saxon origin learned a lot in those years about tolerance and what was good for this country and its people. I don't know where the..... I'll leave that part. I'm not quite sure what I wanted to say there.

**LM:** Okay, that's fine. Now just going back to your presidency at Grange Thistle. You were a fairly young president as you've mentioned. You've told me previously that in that position was where you first met Clem Jones. Can you just give us a bit of background about that meeting.

**WD:** Before I ever met Clem, in fact I didn't meet him until the late 1960s by which time he'd been there for eight or 10 years. He pretty much already established quite a reputation as a public figure in Brisbane especially. As we all know, he was to become Brisbane's longest-serving Lord Mayor and became quite a, almost a national figure I think it's fair to say, throughout Australia during that 15 years of his lord mayoralty. The first time I met him was at Lanham Park at the Grange which was the home ground of Grange Thistle, not surprisingly and we were in the throes of growth and we had one small part of the area, there was one soccer field on it and we badly needed to expand. There was surrounding land which was scrub and various gullies and be part of a dairy at one stage.

To cut a long story short, we invited Clem out to have a look at it and to see if he would help us. That was when I met him. I really didn't know what to expect. I was still quite a young man at the time but I was really surprised and, I have to say impressed, at Clem's hands-on type approach. He tramped all over that ground, he saw for himself. He had a notepad and he made his own notes and when he went away, obviously he knew what he thought could be done in that place. I thought that was really quite a remarkable way of approach, when you think he was the Lord Mayor. He didn't rely on anybody else to do the job. He came and had a look. Ultimately, he made it possible for the club to proceed with a fairly extensive redevelopment project which gave us extra fields, floodlighting and various other things, with council support and a brand new lease for the long term. So it was great.

**LM:** Did he at that stage, tell you what his motivation was in doing that?

**WD:** Not really. Because of my connection with the club, through to the federation, I obviously knew that he had been very helpful to soccer at that stage, or round about that stage. The question of a headquarters for soccer was very much on people's minds and there was a degree of I guess disappointment, if not more, that soccer was seen to be treated as somewhat of a poor relation when it came to some forms of, shall we say, government assistance. Clem was one of a few people including Ian Brusasco who managed to, by dint of some rearrangements of club locations, for example Mayne Australian football club went from Perry Park to Windsor Park and Perry Park was made available under a long lease to Queensland Soccer. Clem, Ian Brusasco and another chap called Stan ...

**RE:** Webster.

**WD:** ..... Stan Webster formed a trust to a trustee group and they went ahead with developing Perry Park, building a grandstand and a club house, floodlighting it and so forth. They stayed on as the trust group for quite a number of years to see the project through. They arranged the financing and funding of the job and ultimately repayment and so forth through the soccer club and so on.

I knew a good deal about Clem's activities with soccer but I was to learn a lot more when I came to the federation myself as president in 1988.

**LM:** You were only the third president, I think you told me once before at that stage. There wasn't a big turnover in presidents.

**WD:** Ian was without a doubt, the driving force in establishing the Queensland Soccer Federation in 1962. He stayed on, he was the first president as well. He stepped aside at one stage and the

second president called Bill Waddell came in as president for a number of years and unfortunately Bill died in office and then Ian resumed as federation president until I came along in 1988. I came along in 1988 because Ian Brusasco had been appointed as Chairman of the Australian Soccer Federation and stool aside from his Queensland job. That's how I came to be there at the time.

**LM:** RE, at this stage, were you involved in the Soccer Federation?

**RE:** I joined the management committee the same time as Wal became president, to the same year, until about 1993 I was there. I served a few of those years as vice-president to Wal. I might add he was a really good president. Did a great job.

**WD:** Thank you. I have to say he was a good mate of mine for 12 years.

**RE:** But it's very true, it was an exceptionally good job he did.

**LM:** Did you have much to do with Clem in your position then?

**RE:** Very little. Wal used to do most of the dealings with Clem at that particular time. I first met Clem here, they had a big tent in the middle of the park. I can't even recall the building, I think the building was here or they were building it and they had a huge tent in the middle of the park. They invited all us foundation members. I was number 121 of the Queensland Soccer Club. We had this big party and I remember Clem served me a beer. That was the first time I met him, it was really good.

**LM:** In terms of what is now the Brisbane Strikers, can you give me a bit of background about that, how that originated?

**WD:** I can probably start out and Ray can come to the latter part. We were in a situation where the national league had started in 1977 and it started with two Brisbane clubs in that league. That was Brisbane Lions and Brisbane City. They actually came to play for Queensland for quite a long time but by the mid '80s, both of them were out of the competition and there was no Queensland representation in our national competitions. We were quite concerned about that obviously at the time, not only then but now, Queensland soccer spent a lot on resources, technical development of players. Our junior base at that time had grown to a very large proportion and we spent a good deal of time on professional technical officers to give our kids the opportunity to make their way in the game. But without a team in the national league, then of course their avenues were somewhat cut off. We wanted to solve that problem.

To do it, we set up a national soccer league task force to try and find a way to gain entry. What we wanted to do was to have a team that had a wide community base rather than being that of say any one existing club if possible. That was how Brisbane United was formed. It was funded by some contributions by the Queensland Soccer Federation by about 20 of our clubs who put their money into the organisation and some money from individuals including Clem Jones as one of those contributors. Not only did Clem support the idea financially but he agreed to accept the role of chairman of Brisbane United for its first year which was great for us.

So the club played in the first year, finished sixth, that was 1992. But by the middle of the next year, there was a change of chairman in the second year and it became apparent to him and to his board that Brisbane United was going to find it very difficult to continue past the second year. It was at that stage that things started to change. But importantly, Brisbane United.... when we talk about Clem and his motivations, when we played the first game of Brisbane United at Perry Park, and he

was, as its chairman, wrote in the program about what was important about this club. It gave us and certainly gave me a real insight into what Clem was about when it came to sport. He said amongst other things, and I'll only quote a little bit of this. He said: "Soccer is a game which appeals to young people and it already has a great young following. We must do all we can to give them the opportunity to play in the latter part of their teenage years. Brisbane United can play a great part in this projecting great enthusiasm and support for the game." And most importantly: "Public awareness of the part it can play in dealing with problems of youth is vitally important if we are to achieve success."

So Clem saw that at not just a football team but a way of looking after the young people of this country through support.

**LM:** So RE, you saw that in Clem too, his interest in getting kids involved to prevent social problems and even drastic measures that sometimes events turn out to be like youth suicide.

**RE:** Youth suicide was a big concern of his and he felt that our game gave a better than the more rough and tumble league and union type of game, Aussie rules. He felt that soccer as it was called then, was the best way forward for sport for kids, for the boys. Yes.

**LM:** So Wal, the actual birth of the Brisbane Strikers, how did that come about?

**WD:** During the second season, of Brisbane United there was quite a lot of discussion and meetings to find a way forward and I have to say that there weren't many easy solutions at the time but in the end, a group of three people who were Ian Brusasco, Clem Jones, and another soccer fanatic by the name of Frank Speare, offered to form a trustee management group to take responsibility for the team, he and a cell team, and to endeavour to make improvements to Perry Park. That was done on the basis of some conditions which were agreed between those three as a trustee group and the Queensland Soccer Federation.

So it was the trustee management group that renamed the team the Brisbane Strikers and they operated for about five years. They had a very difficult task, there's no doubt about that, but they certainly had their successes. They managed improvements to the ground including floodlighting of our second field, but I guess the number one unforgettable experience was in 1997 when the team won the Ericsson Cup and we saw a sell-out crowd of 40,000 plus at Lang Park watching a club soccer match, great money. From the time after the trustee management group's term finished, the Strikers continued on a different basis and Ray was very much involved in the next part of the era

**LM:** Ray, you've mentioned previously to me the sort of avenues people, including Clem, explored to raise money and keep the club going.....

**RE:** Yes

**LM:** ....and that included trying to buy businesses to return profits to the club to keep it going. Can you tell us a little bit about those options that he explored?

**RE:** They looked at the chemist shops.

**LM:** Is that from Ian Brusasco's background?

**RE:** Yes. And they looked at a chain of muffler shops, a chain of toy stores, and the prawn farms, which eventually came into being.

**LM:** You mentioned previously a couple of hotels they were interested in?

**RE:** Yeah, the hotel down the road here.

**LM:** The Breakfast Creek?

**RE:** Yeah, the Breakfast Creek and unfortunately it had just been recently sold and Clem was prepared to fund the purchase of that. But he funded the purchase of the prawn farms.

**LM:** And the Crown at Lutwyche?

**RE:** The Crown Hotel. Ian Brusasco was the main pusher behind the Crown Hotel, but in the end he advised against it because Main Roads were considering taking the front bar away for the widening of Lutwyche Road which, I might add, it didn't happen [laughs]. So it might well have been a good purchase.

**LM:** I think at one stage the old Crown Hotel at Lutwyche paid the highest license fees in the state because it had the biggest turnover.

**RE:** Yes, that's correct. Yes, yes.

**LM:** So the prawn farms, that's an interesting investment to fund a soccer club. How did that go? Where are they, Morton Bay?

**RE:** They're down at Cleveland and also up in Mackay, and Clem funded those operations, purchased the prawn farms and any profits made to help support the operations of the Brisbane Strikers. It turned out that at the end of the first year, that this was just unfortunately, it didn't work so we opted not to continue them.

**LM:** Did Clem continue to financially support the club?

**RE:** Yes he did. He was a great financial supporter and eventually became chairman of the club. He followed up with Dell Townsend taking over the chairmanship of the club. She was the first woman to be a chairman of an NSL club, followed by Ross Melville who took over from there.

**WD:** Clem was also very much involved in obtaining a second ground at Meakin Park.

**LM:** I was just going to mention the sort of satellite... it was meant to be a feeder club, is that right?

**RE:** That's correct, yes.

**LM:** How did that go?

**RE:** The idea was it was to be a Logan Strikers and he looked at grounds at Ipswich to have an Ipswich Strikers and that type of thing. So this one first came up, and we were originally talking with Souths Rugby League about doing a joint venture at Meakin Park. They eventually pulled out of that arrangement so we went by ourself and I can recall going in to see Clem, he had to sign the documents as chairman, and he's getting his place ready for his Christmas party.

**LM:** At Camp Hill?

**RE:** At Camp Hill. And he's in there weeding the garden, dressed in his old gear having a great old time and here's me trying to convince him and talk to him, that this was the way to go. So once he looked at the document he said: "Is Ross Melville happy with this?" I said "Yeah." He said: "Good." He signed it and I had to race it down to Logan to get it in on time, get the application in, which we eventually got granted to us.

**LM:** One of the problems down there I understood, was the issue of poker machines?

**RE:** Yes. The Logan City Council, they allowed us to put in an amount of poker machines and Clem wanted to increase the amount which we did and a lot of hassle, talking the council into agreeing to an increase of 15 I think it was Wal? I think an extra 15 gaming machines. Up to 50 anyway. Eventually we succeeded and we got that through. But the problems with that came to the fore really after Clem spent an enormous amount of money on doing up the club and making it really... it was a wonderful little club. Unfortunately just not in the right place. Then the AFL came along with their big club down there at Springwood.

**LM:** The Brisbane Lions.

**RE:** Yes, and that basically was the beginning of the end of our club.

**LM**

Because of the number of poker machines?

**RE:** The number of game machines. They were given some 200 I believe. So that was the finish of a lot of smaller clubs in the area.

**LM:** You mentioned there you tried to get Clem to sign the documents that needed to be lodged and he was getting ready for his Christmas party that year. His Christmas parties which no doubt both of you attended a number of them, they were fairly major events on the calendar weren't they?

**RE:** They were.

**WD:** Well if you had the opportunity to get an invitation in the mail, you very seldom didn't go because it was quite an afternoon wasn't it?

**RE:** Oh, it was fantastic.

**WD:** And typical Clem, at his home, on his grassed tennis court, up went the big marquees. It was like having a rock concert on Lang Park or something. The turf didn't look too good at the end but everything was done for folk to have a good time with Clem and Sylvia. It was a microcosm of the community that people who came from very important people to the normal workers who helped Clem with his Crackerjack Carnival and other... it was just typical of Clem's ability to mix with people of all types. It was his way of saying thank you to a lot of workers.

**LM:** I've been told by a lot of people I've interviewed in this that those parties are often the time where Clem would sort of buttonhole someone that he wanted them to take on some particular task. Did that happen to you two?

**RE:** No, he already had us [laughs].

**LM:** The other thing people told me is that he was hard to say no to.

**RE**

Oh yes, very difficult to say no to.

**LM:** I know he accumulated considerable wealth before he even went into politics and was a canny investor on a personal level. He seemed to be a very sort of low-key person in real life, like he wasn't spending the money on himself. How would you regard his lifestyle?

**RE:** His battered old Hyundai. His maroon Hyundai. That's the classic. It was so battered and unbelievable. I got in it once. I was ready to jump out, it was so old and battered. They did it up once while he was away overseas or something, so the staff had it all done up. He come back a month or so later, he was nearly as bad.

**LM:** You've also mentioned a Mercedes-Benz function that he went to. Tell us that story.

**RE:** Well he went there and the chap, the used car or the new car salesman, he probably sold used cars as well, took him for a tour around the car and he said to Clem: "What would it take for me to get you in one of these?" Clem said: "Oh, give me a front-of-shirt sponsorship for the Brisbane Strikers and I'll buy one."

**LM:** [Laughing]

**RE:** Clem said he just walked away from him and never saw him again.

**LM:** [Laughing] Oh dear. In terms of when he was Lord Mayor, did that put the weight of the City Council itself behind projects like the Perry Park development and others?

**WD:** I would like to suggest that we didn't know what the inner workings of the City Council were but Clem's obvious, what's the word....

**RE:** Influence.

**WD:** Influence as Lord Mayor, must have counted for something now and again.

**LM:** So the council was interested in projects that he was interested in so to speak?

**WD:** Well, I think so. The question of Perry Park was first of all a question of a home for Queensland soccer at a stage where people were saying hey, this game is being treated badly, we are second class citizens, and Clem wanted to do something about that. There's no doubt about that. I don't think that was probably a hard sell to the council, I might be wrong. But it was overdue, Ray, wasn't it?

**RE:** Mmm.

**WD:** Something had to be done and he made it happen.

**LM:** And when you had dealings with him, RE, how was he like in terms of running meetings and keeping records and that sort of stuff?

**RE:** Methodical. You'd go to his place and he had records going back... It's hard to imagine, it's hard to describe the amount of boxes and files that he kept, he kept minutes and notes of every single meeting that I think he'd ever been to. That's how methodical he was. And he was always jumping down my throat about not keeping a note properly or I went on about something too much or I should have been more precise in what I said.

**LM:** And the Christmas party we mentioned before and other events. He had a vast network of people that he knew and could call on at the drop of a hat I guess.

**RE:** Yeah, Coca Cola, he wanted a tent or he wanted some product or Castlemaine-Perkins. He needed something he'd just pick up the phone. He needed to get some bitumen work done here or over the other side there and he rang up somebody in, I think it was Pioneer Concrete, next minute it was being poured.

**LM:** You've also mentioned to me previously that you saw evidence of that when he read a story about a leak in the Sydney Harbour tunnel?

**RE:** That was amazing. There was a news report, "Sydney Harbour Tunnel is leaking". And he took out a business card from his wallet and said: "Oh", this man was a French man, he said: "I'll have to ring the Premier of New South Wales and give him this guy's number. He's an expert on fixing leaks in tunnels." That was just... He had a big wallet and he just pulled this business card out. It was just incredible. Incredible.

**LM:** And how hands on was he at the big events? Preparations, I know at Crackerjack Carnival he'd be on the tractor and digging fence posts and that sort of stuff. Did you see him in action?

**RE: Oh yes,** absolutely. I've seen him out here in the park on his hands and knees digging out weeds and the day at the Gold Medal at Shangri-La years ago, pouring rain, and Clem is out in his dinner suit with his tractor pulling cars out of the mud. They got stuck in the mud in the little field around the back at Shangri-La. And he's out there in the pouring rain, in a dinner suit, towing people out. That's how hands on he was.

**LM:** And was that the event that replaced the Rothman's event?

**RE:** Yes.

**LM:** Was that due to the cigarette sponsorship being illegal?

**WD**

Yes. Not so much illegal but at the time, the Rothman's medal was held in quite a number of sports and it was really very prestigious. Indeed it was so good, the medal itself, they call it a gold medal and it was made of gold, that's how valued it was as a trophy if you like. But they also ran a very, very fine awards dinner. And it was when Australian soccer decided to move back from tobacco sponsorship that that ceased. And Queensland, we went for several years without a sponsor. We continued to have a gold medal dinner, or a dinner anyway, and occasionally we would have sponsors. Sometimes we did, sometimes we didn't. But eventually Clem came along and said I will sponsor. Another way in which he helped us in the game. I will sponsor this as the Clem Jones Gold Medal and that went on for quite a number of years as well. So it was good. And as Ray... when Clem does something in that line, it must be done well, that was Clem. There was no second class.....

**RE:** It must be done correctly and properly.

**LM:** Mmm.

**WD:** He was good like that.

**LM:** So looking back on the years you were involved with Clem and the various projects, how would both of you describe his influence on your life and your outlook on life?

**WD:** I guess I thought he was a person I could work with but I wasn't sure that I could work for him.

**RE:** [Laughing.] Oh.

**WD:** But I have to say this, the number of times that I went to his home and office at Camp Hill, every time I went there I saw the same loyal staff that had been with him for years and years. So perhaps my business about not working for him was pretty wide of the mark. So that was one thing about... He had a charisma of his own. He had an ability to attract people to him and get those people to help him to do something that he thought needed to be done. And he' was very good at that. And in particular I thought and probably a lesson to everybody, that Clem was always generous to those who were less fortunate than he was. I think that was probably one of the traits that he never blew his own trumpet in terms of what he'd done and how he'd helped people, but we knew. I know from other areas that for example Clem was, and I think his Foundation still does, provides something like \$100,000 a year to the YMCA for breakfast for school kids and things of that nature which people never hear about. But that was what Clem was doing. And that was a lesson to everybody, I think. The other thing that was always good is that I think he enjoyed coming to Perry Park and football games where he could more or less relax. He liked to chat, especially when the atmosphere was relaxing and didn't mind a convivial drink.

**LM:** Was he a bit of a story teller?

**WD:** Yeah. He would tell us a bit about his early days.

**RE:** He loved his stories. The thing I got mostly from Clem was this fact that he volunteered for anything. I think he won the Queensland Volunteer of the Year Award once and it sort of made me more determined than ever that I was just going to keep doing some sort of voluntary work. Because he made an art form out of it. That's the big thing that I got out of it from Clem was the fact that volunteering, you keep working and I decided I was never, ever going to retire. He said: "You can't retire, you've got to keep working." So basically I've just done that by volunteering.

**LM:** And what about his legacy with soccer? I know the game's had its ups and downs here, how do you view that?

**WD:** Clem's legacy is not just, there's certainly financial assistance that he's provided to the game of substantial amounts.

**LM:** And that continued in his estate as I understand.

**RE:** Yes it did.

**WD:** In terms of helping the Strikers that's certainly the case. The full of extent of that, I don't think it will ever be known. I don't think he wanted those sorts of things to be known. He wasn't doing it

for publicity purposes, far from it. He didn't want it to be known and I think those that do have some knowledge of some of the things he did financially would respect his wishes in that sense. But it wasn't just that he helped financially. His work with Perry Park, with the Brisbane Strikers, with the trustee management group, all of those projects was invaluable to us as well.

**LM:** And Ray, how would you see his legacy with soccer?

**RE:** Following on what Wal said, all of those things, but I still say the biggest thing was his desire for the code to be more generally recognised. I think that probably would be the way. And forgetting the money side of things – which he was extremely generous – he used to be able to get things done for you that you wouldn't ever have been able to get done. And simple little things like going to clubs and offering them the use of council equipment to do some work and if they couldn't afford a driver to use it he'd go and drive it for them. Somebody that does something like that, in his own time when he's obviously a busy man, it just speaks volumes about the guy.

**LM:** Okay. Thanks to both of you for taking part in this project and giving up your time and your thoughts and your memories on Clem. Thank you very much.

**WD:** Great pleasure to do so.

**RE:** It was a great pleasure, thank you.

[End of recording]