



City of Port Phillip Living Heritage Project
Edited transcript – Leonard “Dugga” Beazley
Interviewees: Leonard “Dugga” Beazley [DB] and Frances Beazley [FB]
Interviewer: Cathy Dodson [CD]
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Food

0.22.46

DB: That place in there, my grandparents place, everyone used to come there. Lofty.

CD: Who was Lofty?

DB: Big tall bloke. Used to have to bend down to get through the doors. Yes, Lofty and Daggs. Ned Kelly.

FB: Yes, they all had nicknames.

DB: Doggy. You know? All names like that.

CD: So you weren't the only one with a cool nickname?

DB: There was an old Chinaman used to come there. He used to bring them vegetables, you know? And they used to call him O. K. Lah. Yes, and there was another one there, he used to deliver petrol and that, Sid, you know? Yes, all the fishermen used to come there, you know?

CD: To your grandparent's house?

DB: Yes, yes. In and out all the time, they were, you know?

CD: Do you mean they were all coming at once or they were coming through the days?

DB: No, no, well, no they'd be different ones there all the time. They used to come around to see the old man, you know?

CD: And coming for a chat, or more than that?

DB: McIntoshs up the road, they were fishermen too, yes.

CD: Were they coming to share a meal or a drink, or were they just coming to talk?

DB: Yes, they used to come and sit in the kitchen and have a cup of tea. Always a big kettle on, not on the stove, in the fire. In the fireplace. Bloody big kettle.

CD: So there was always a cup of tea going? Sounds pretty nice actually.

DB: Mmm. When we were kids we used to play in the yard there. You know, I had a kid around the corner, Vicky Ralph, he was one of my mates, you know, we used to get in the yard there and we'd go in and say, "How 'bout a bit of bread and butter and jam Maud?" Maudie, we used to call her, Maudie. And she used to, there was no cut bread in them days, you know? Big loaf of stale bread, like that. Big knife. [*Dugga demonstrates cutting with his hands.*] Inch thick. Half inch of butter and a quarter of an inch of jam, apricot jam on the top. You know? Yes.

0.26.08

CD: Was the family eating much fish?

DB: Oh, I would say they ate a lot of fish. [*Laughs.*] They ate a lot of fish. Rabbits too. Rabbits.

CD: Where did the rabbits come from?

DB: They used to catch them.

CD: Whereabouts? Do you know?

DB: Oh well, we used to go all the way to Altona. [*Laughs.*] And all the way to Werribee. Yes, I can remember going all the way down the You Yangs.

CD: Would you take one of your boats? Somewhere near Altona for instance? Or -

DB: No, not to catch the rabbits, they used to go in my old man's truck. They used to have ferrets. Used to stick ferrets in the bloody hole. [*Laughs.*] It would get down there and kill the bloody rabbit and wouldn't come out and you'd be digging all day with a mattock, you know? I remember one day there, the bloody ferret was down the hole and they're trying to dig the bloody thing out, you know, and it wouldn't come out. Anyway, they're digging away at it with the mattock and chopped its head off. [*Both laugh.*] Not on purpose, you know, it was in there eating a rabbit. If they killed a rabbit in there they wouldn't come out. The idea wasn't to chase the rabbit. What they used to do, they used to put nets over the holes, but the warrens used to have bloody holes everywhere and the rabbits would be going in all directions, so they got the idea of making a net and putting it right 'round the warren and putting stakes in the ground, you know, and get the whole bloody lot. You know? Yes.

CD: So, there's a lot of, kind of self-caught food eaten by the family. The rabbits, and the fish of course.

DB: Yes. Yes. Well couda. Couda was a – Tonnes of it, tonnes of it.