

Nelly O'Meara Interview Transcript

Amy: We're here on the 27th of April in Apollo Bay. It's Amy Tsilemanis recording this interview for the Apollo Bay and District Historical Society. So if you just start with your name and where and when you were born.

Nelly: Well, I was born in 39, 1939, and we lived in Holland then, of course, in the war. We spent four years in the war, very kind of sad. My mum was on her own. And we more or less got through the war. Mum was very upset about sometimes because she couldn't feed us enough food, because the last year of the war was really dreadful for my mom. She was, yes, trying to keep us alive, you know. So my brother Bill decided, in 1954, Bill came and told us that he wanted to migrate to Australia. So, Mum thought, well, maybe it would be a good idea if we all went. And then, a year later, we all came down to Australia. In 1956, we came, but Bill would have been here two years, and he already spoke English and everything. So, we came out at the time and it was a kind of isolation that I couldn't believe. I was 17 years of age in a small township, like Apollo Bay. My goodness. You know, couldn't speak a word of English. Then people were, came to the door. We would have been here a couple of months and they said somebody needed help at Greenacres. Because that, that used to be up to the side there, as a waitress, you know?

Mum said, well, it could be good for you to learn English. So that's where I started. The people were absolutely marvellous to us, Muriel and her husband, and they were just, took me under their wings and they helped me with all the language. Nelly, this is a cup. Nelly, this is a spoon. And everything I had to repeat all the time, so that's how that started.

So, yes, I worked there till, I suppose two years, and then, of course, in the wintertime, they more or less closed down and, and I, I could not stay at home because we didn't have any money. You know, mom and dad didn't have much money. So mum said, why don't you try Melbourne? I was, by this time I was 18. So the people down there, Muriel gave me a beautiful beautiful letter for like, if I could show people that I worked there and all that. So I got a job in Melbourne, and it was pretty good. I was in a hotel kind of business, and they had rooms on the side, so we had to keep the rooms clean for the guests and all that.

So I worked there for a year, but then I came back home again in the summer, back with Muriel, and Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, that were their name. And back to work there again. And then I met Don. And I was walking on the beach and all those lifesavers were sitting there and I was young and I had a bikini on and

all that. They said, Hmm, she looks okay. You know. So that's how it started, the romance. We were engaged for two [00:03:00] years. I went back to Melbourne still to work in the wintertime. So I saved up the money then for my wedding. So Don and I got married on the 28th of November in 1959. So we've been married this year, it would be 64 years.

Amy: Wow.

Nelly: It's a long time, isn't it? So that's what happened there. And then Don and I had this small little house in Apollo Bay opposite the Presbyterian Church at the time. Don done it all up. Beautifully done up. Everything was lovely. That's where we had Carrie. Our oldest daughter is now 63. And we spent about two, three years there. And then the farm came up the Barham River Road. It was a beautiful big homestead, but no power at the time. So what they had, they had a a motor down the bottom, and you get it going, and the power comes on. And every time when the power goes down, down, down, you gotta run down those stairs running all the time. Get the power again. So, Don got me a washing machine and, you know, was all done by this 32 power, they called it, 32 power. So we did that and then Don said he would like to buy a few cows and a few sheep. We had quite a bit about 90, 95 acres or something. So anyway, we bought the pigs. Well, that was something. Don bought the pigs from Ballarat and took them home and then it was supposed to be virus free pigs. Well, Don had a beautiful set of porkers. He had about 80 porkers. We had a lot of bills at the time. So we thought, well, we'll sell them. Then the hog got a sickness in them and they called it swine fever. The pigs, so the pigs all died. So I went back to work then again. I had the two girls, I had Carrie and Donna. Donna was born in Apollo Bay still. Then we had, then I had a big spell. You know, so I [00:05:00] went back to work to pay the bills that we couldn't pay because the pigs had died, you see.

So, and then after eight years, a bit of a surprise came into our family, we had Amber, and that was a big surprise. So, we, and by that time the pigs were gone, and Donna, we just had the cattle and everything. And then when we lived here, Don went to the butter factory, he worked there for a long time.

He first worked for a camp company in the bush. He was logging, you know, big truck he had and he was logging. But after that, he went to work for the butter factory. So he drove a cream truck. That's where he seen the farm, you see, when he drove past it. And he thought, for sale, this'll be nice. So we were there then, and then by the time... I worked in town and Don worked at the Butter factory. We had, after eight years or something, we had Amber. Everything went really well for a while and the girls are growing up. Carrie

went to Ayers Rock. She worked there for eight, eight to nine years. She worked there, she was always in accommodation industry and all that. So the girls, and then Amber was only young, of course, she was still going to school on the school bus. All the kids up the road on the school bus, about twelve children at once stayed on the school bus. Up the Barham and from the Top Road, Killala Road, you call the Top Road, we always say Top Road. So that's what happened. And then in 1982/3 a lady up the road, she came to see me, she had a lovely garden too, and she had tea rooms. And she said to me would you like to start tea rooms Nelly? I said, oh my god. She said, can you cook? Can you cook a scone? I said, yeah, I can do that. So I started experimenting and things. So we started [00:07:00] the tea rooms in 1983. And we done that, and we run that for 21 years, about 20 years altogether. So that was a big experiment. So, I have never met so many wonderful people in my life.

Because they're often, when they were holidaying in Apollo Bay, they came up and sometimes twice a week, three times a week, just to come up and in the end I knew them all by, by name, because I said the lady with the yellow hat or the man with, you know, that's how I did it all, had a big list hanging down, oh they're coming up, oh good, you know, so we made ourselves very popular, was really popular, and Donna, all those years Donna was working at Ayers Rock, she came home at Christmas, we used to have to pick her up because she was always just on standby. So Don went down to Geelong or Melbourne to pick her up from the plane. And she stayed with us four weeks to help us with the Devonshire teas. And she was marvellous, you know, she was. And then another friend of mine that stayed in our flat, we had another piece of paddock in front of the farm and they stayed there, and their daughter, Kate Hedrick, you maybe know Kate, or no? Anyway, Kate come and helped, we used to call her little roadrunner. She helped with us in the tea room for six years. So, you know, we done all that, and then after that, more or less, yes we got to the stage I was getting tired, you know? I was in my 50s, 60, nearly 60 then, yeah. And I said to Don you know, it's a bit tiring all this in a big garden because we won the award for the garden award up there. We've had a beautiful garden up there too. But yeah, I got to the stage, it's getting a bit much, you know. So I thought Don said he's seen this beautiful block of land in Apollo Bay. 31 Noel Street. He had a cherry picker because by that time Don was working for himself. He finished with the two jobs and he worked for himself for about ten years he was working for himself. So he took the cherry picker out here, stood up at the top and looked up and he said, Part of the ocean, you know. So he said, What do you think now? I said, Let's go and have a look, you know. So we went together and we decided, yeah. We sold two blocks of land on the farm. And then we had enough money to pay the block of land and we thought that'd be lovely to have a two story.

So, but at that time, things weren't so good with the government. We lost, you know, like with money and all that. So we thought we put two BnBs downstairs 'cause I was only 60 at the time, and I, and Don was helping he was finished with all his, the work that he did, you know, so we both started the b and b.

So we did it for about 20 years, 15 years and then we thought we had enough, you know, well, then my daughter Donna, she [00:10:00] said, mum, me and Ken would like to start the business for you. I said, yes, that'd be wonderful. You know, so Ken, Ken was here for all those years and doing everything. And then of course, tragedy struck two years ago now that Ken passed away.

He had cancer. And we were really upset, you know, we obviously couldn't get over it for a long time. I still feel like I am sometimes. So Donna took over. And she did a really good, she's doing a really great job. She's doing everything. And we were proud of her too, you know. She's got a job besides doing this. And her son, you know. The saddest part was there. Ken wanted desperately to go to Melbourne because Ken was in a band, and him and his mates were asked to play in the big opera hall somewhere in Melbourne. And because they were chosen out of quite a few other people, the band was so good. He was desperately trying to get there. He died of a heart attack. So that was the saddest part of our lives, you know, and, and then we more or less yeah, since then Donna's been running it and I'll help her a little bit downstairs, but I can't do a great deal 'cause I've quite peripheral neuropathy in my face, my feet, and not so good.

But what, what I wanna tell you too, look, Apollo Bay was a bit of a, it was beautiful. We lived on the front street first. Just for a few months, till we got a house on top of Tuxion Road, on the top of the hill. That was the most glorious views, you know. My parents could have bought it, because that was in the war. He could have got money from the Dutch government, but he never did. So we had to, it was sold then, it was only about 3, 000 or 4, 000 at the time, you know. But like I said, it was magic. Mom loved everything, and she loved the farm. My father went to work back in Melbourne, he was more or less a bit of a bachelor man, because he was in the war five years, he wasn't home or anything, you know.

So yeah, so mum used to come up in the school bus in those days, you know. You could do all that, but now you can't do it. She used to come up for the days, we had beautiful apple trees and peach trees all in the garden. So mum's peeling them, we're bottling them. In those days you had those big bottles, you'd bottle them up and put them for the winter months, you know.

All the things we did up there, you know. So we had a really great life. So we came down here and Rodney Mercer built our home here. That's 23 years ago now. So we're really happy here. I think it was good for Don, too. He's done so much work on the farm. He ploughed the farm up. I don't know if you've heard about it, but he had a plow with a tractor and he came from the hill down. We left. We went to the beach because I couldn't bear to sit and watch him do it. He did all that. Marvellous. And of course, I must show you later before you go what he was like in the sport because he was a great one in the sport. So here we are. So is there anything else you'd like to know?

Amy: Oh yes, I'll delve into a few of the things. Thank you so much. How was it that Apollo Bay was the place that your family came to?

Nelly: Yeah, well that's another story of course. Because my Uncle Nick and Auntie Mary, they already lived, he was working at the fish co op, you know, so Uncle Nick was there. And then Bill came the two years before we came. And he came straight away to Apollo Bay because he didn't know anyone, and he couldn't speak English either, so he learned, you know, so that's why we came to Apollo Bay. And that's another little story. You wouldn't believe it. We were in Melbourne, all of us, the five children, and Bill was there too, six of us, and we couldn't get accommodation. You know why? Because the Olympic Games were on. That was the month that 1956 the Olympic Games were on and we couldn't get anywhere to stay. My brother organized with two taxis. We had all those cases on. They put them on the top on the, on the taxis. And they drove all the way to Apollo Bay. So that was a bit of an experience because the roads weren't as good as what they are now.

Amy: How long did that take?

Nelly: Well, that took about, oh well, it was dark when we got here. So about six, seven hours, I think, at the time, because we did it slowly too. So there you are.

Amy: Do you remember which route?

Nelly: Yeah, we went over the Great Ocean Road. I'll never forget it. Because you thought, oh my goodness, you know, have a look at there. Yeah, because we weren't used to heights in Holland at all. Everything was very flat, you know. What a shock. Yeah, it was a bit of a shock. And then the next morning when we woke up, we heard the ocean, you know, during the night. We were up in Tuxion Road at the corner there. Amazing. So there you are. But it was a bit of a shock too, because when in Apollo Bay, there wasn't much here, you know,

and I [00:15:00] was 17, and I was like, Oh my God, you know, well, it wasn't really easy for when you're 17, you think by yourself, Oh, what did my parents do to us? But time goes and I met Don and that was all very good then, you know.

Amy: So would it have been part of like an immigration scheme?

Nelly: No we did not. Because mostly with the immigration scheme, they want, they send you to a like now what you call it, to a settlement. I think there was something in New South Wales, but no, that's why we didn't, because Bill got a house for us. He was 19, think about 19. He got the house for us on Tuxion Road, that's how we got straight away here. So no scheme at all. And we did get letters from the government to learn English. But when you're outside and talk, well, when I started work at Greenacres, it was better that way, you know.

Amy: Yeah, that's how you learned.

Nelly: But it wasn't easy. When you're 17.

Amy: Can you describe what Apollo Bay was like?

Nelly: Well, Apollo Bay was more or less more emptier, you know. Now it's much more, yeah, the hills are still fairly similar and everything like that but the township, it didn't really grow till about, I reckon, 20 years ago. We never used to see a caravan coming through Apollo Bay, never. Because, like I said, I used to go up the street and have a coffee with the girls, but now, it wasn't as much traffic, but now, this last 10 years gone, boom. And you can't ever buy anything here now. Just imagine what this would be worth. You know, you don't think about it because you live here, but yeah. Well, even that new area up the back there, well, you know, it's just amazing how many more new houses are down there and everything.

Amy: How do you find it?

Nelly: Well, I'm wondering. I'm sorry for the young ones. I really I am. I don't know how they can really...if they own something, it's great. But if they don't own it, no. I don't think they make a real living here. Yeah. For the young ones. But there's so many people that love it here because they've, a lot more people are much more conscious of conservation nowadays that wasn't in my day as much.

It's much more greater now and I'm admiring people to do all that. But yeah, we try to keep them here because they are the future. It's not us anymore. It's them. The young people is our future. And, and I really wish that they would help them a bit more. I'm not even sure if the preschool is, is it free or is it not free. I have no idea. I haven't, I haven't gone into that because of my children or grandchildren have all grown up, you know. And I've got no great grandchildren, so I wouldn't know. But that's what I feel. It's really hard for the young ones here. They've got to work. Mum and Dad have got to work quite a bit, haven't they?

Amy: Okay, so yeah, going back to when you were here, you were 19, what did you do for entertainment?

Nelly: Well, we had a lot of entertainment really. We had to dance. Well, what I enjoyed first, when I was at the farm, I joined the badminton club. That was great. And once a year we had a ball. But yeah, so the badminton club, and I played golf for 35 years, so that was wonderful. I can't do it anymore because I've got this peripheral neuropathy, it's in my family, it's hereditary. And when we were real young, well, we, we did go down the beach all the time with the kids, and it was wonderful, you know, we had wonderful times. I came from the farm, I took the whole day, especially after Amber, Amber and the bassinet on the beach, you know. And the girls had bikes, and they'd come down. But no, there was always something on. There was balls, and we had badminton then, and then we had other kind of clubs, the youth club was on, we went there with the kids and you know. And netball, all my, both my daughters played netball. I didn't do it, but they did. I used to go and watch them and you know, things like that.

Amy: Do you remember the fisherman's ball?

Nelly: Yes, that was the best. Oh, we had a great, great time. Ball dresses, always so very good because my mum sent me and my sister Jenny down to, in Holland we had to learn to sew. Well, I sewed everything in those days, making the gowns and, and I had a lovely girlfriend, Dorothy Beatty, and Dorothy Crespi, And we were the two, we're sitting there making beautiful gowns and everything for the ball. There was three balls, the badminton ball, the football club had every year a ball too. Football club, badminton club, and the Fisherman's ball, you know. Wonderful, they always put a bottle of drink on the table and we weren't used to drinking in those days much, but we'll have a little sherry, you know. And we were so, what a fun time. Yeah, we had great times, really.

Amy: Can you describe what it was like going to one of the balls?

Nelly: Well, it was great, you know, we were all dressed up, beautiful, long dresses on, and everybody really dressed lovely, you know. And the men too, they all had suits on, and ties, you don't see that much now. And they had all that and then we had a band in Apollo Bay. People played, and another thing we did was New Year's Eve balls too, and we all bring our own food on the table, you hire the table, and all had dances, and yeah, really a lot of fun. don't do those things now, but we had great fun, yeah. Well, I'm trying to think of the people. I can't think of their names. I see them in front of me, but yeah, no, I just can't, no.

Amy: What kind of music?

Nelly: It was always the old time music, you know, the pas de faire. The tango, we used to tango, well, that was a bit strange, being from Holland, we've had all that stuff over there, and yeah, and the foxtrot and the modern waltz, you know, oh, we did everything. Yeah, Don was a real good dancer too, and I've learned from him, you know, when you're young.

Amy: Were there many people that had come from other countries at that time?

Nelly: Well, yes, when I first came here in 56, There was the Secco family, they lived over there. They came from Italy. There was about three lots of Italian families lived in Apollo Bay. There was two Dutch people, two Dutch, two or three Dutch people. Some of them had a farm up the Barham River Road. Then, yeah, Nick and Cheryl's mum, Paul his mom and dad, Mary and Nick. So yeah, there was but not really not, not really many, not in those days. It was just a handful, that's about all. Not, not like when you come in the city, you know, you got the not many German people here at all. I think one family was German here, but it was nearly all, a few Italians.

Amy: And when you came, did you feel isolated?

Nelly: You're young, you're 17. I had all those lovely boys in Holland. And we had to leave everything behind. See, it took us two years to learn English and everything. That's why I was so thankful to be, you know, down at Greenacres and all that.

Amy: Can you describe what Greenacres was like?

Nelly: Well, Greenacres was a beautiful place.

It was big. The front windows were the golf course. Beautiful big windows. The people, they had beautiful tables and chairs, all very good quality, you know. This was a really up to date place in those days, you know. And then, I still remember, this is the window here. People there, people there. And then you got the door here. You go into the kitchen. Big kitchen we had. The two ladies were cooks, you know. And then we had us three waiters mostly. So we down there, they have everything ready from the big table from here to there. Did all that.

Amy: What kind of food?

Nelly: Food? Well, it was a lot. Oh, well my girlfriend Sheree, her mum was the chef for the sweets. We're looking at the sweets. And, and beautiful flamboyant cakes and she had this beautiful strawberry cake. She put a pastry, a biscuit pastry on the bottom. Then they filled it with cream cheese. And then on top of that, put all the strawberries, that was one of the best things on there, and then on top of that, she got a jelly. And the jelly is nearly set, and then she spread, and it just sits there, beautiful. You know, and the food, they mostly had say lamb, a lot of lamb. Not as much chicken in those days. It was more lamb and beef and, and dishes like that. But the sweets were beautiful. All the flummery, you know, you have that big, a mixmaster that big and the flummery is going and we all want to lick off

Amy: Yeah. So would the supplies have come from local farms and things?

Nelly: Yeah, the one I worked for first up, they had the farm up the Barham River, and that's where all the milk and cream, everything came from the farm. Yeah, it was lovely. It was all new, really good quality things. Yeah, they had the farm, they owned the farm up the Barham, yeah. Delicious. Mr. and Mrs. Thompson, yeah, they were my first people, you know, like I said, they treated me very very nicely. It was a bit hard for all of us really, you know, like, the men will look at us and all that, but I mean, if you can't speak to them, it's pretty hard, you know.

Amy: So, I'm interested, I don't think you said your name before...

Nelly: Cornelia Joanna, and Johanna, my granddaughter's got the Dutch name. Have you met Joey? She's Amber's girl. She's 24 now. Yeah, she worked here, but then what do you call it? the pandemic came through, so now she's with her partner. They live in Perth. I've got two granddaughters- Selina. Selina Kate. And Joanna, Michelle. Michelle belongs to the my cousin Nick. That's his daughter's name. Because the two girls went to school together. Yeah. Amber and Michelle.

Nelly: So what was your maiden name?

Nelly: It was Deleew. It was terrible. Everybody, when I went down to the post office, they ask, always ask me that. And then what you believe when I married Don O'Meara- a lot of them didn't know how to spell that in there, and I had to do that one too. Yeah, a lot, because we run the business here for 15 years, and the phone calls came, and I took the names. In those days, there wasn't so much. And would you mind spelling your name out, your address, you know? There you are. And so O'Meara, that was an Irish name.

Don's family came from Ireland. And they more or less came here in the 1800s. So his mum is from the Cawood family. That was Don's mum's family. And the Cawoods are all around here, you know. So they were the first settlers, yeah, came from Ireland and England in those days.

Nelly: But I must say, the tea room, the tea rooms was the best thing ever up the Barham. There were so many people that came and, and they just loved sitting there in the garden. I had a beautiful garden there too. So the garden's always been my biggest attraction because now, even though I can't do much anymore, but I'm still out there, you know, I'm going to keep it going and everything.

Amy: So you were at Greenacres, did that sort of get you into the tourism hospitality?

Nelly: Well, Greenacres was, how lovely it was that Mr. Coop, they came after the other people and he asked me to come back to work. And I had, I didn't have Amber, I only had Kerry and Donna. They would have been six and eight at the time. And he says, Can you come? I heard so much about you, Nellie. Would you like to work for me? And I said, well, yeah, but I can't. I said, I've got Kerry and Donna. He said, well, take them in to work. At eight o'clock you start. Oh, how I ever did all that. Eight o'clock, he took them down to school then with his children. Yeah. I did it for quite till about a year and a half, two years I suppose. And then I, well, yeah, about three years I worked still for him. Those days we didn't have much money. Yeah. Every penny meant a lot.

Amy: And it helped get you ready for the tea rooms.

Nelly: Yeah, that's right. Well, it was funny, the first day I started, Amber was there, and my girlfriend that was camping on the flat because their daughter, Kate Hedrick, she came over. Anyway, we had about 30 people for the day. I thought, oh my god, you know. Anyway, a man comes into the door. I charge 4.50 for a scone and a cup of tea. And he says, Dear, if I were you, I'd charge 5.

50. You'll still get it. I said, Oh, okay. From then on, I'll put 5. 50. Yeah, you know, he said it's too cheap. And I took his advice. I said, Okay. We'll make it 5. 50.

Amy: So can you describe Paradise? [00:30:00]

Nelly: Oh, well look, it was lovely. In those days, what they've done, there's nothing more. My children, Carrie, Donna, and the Wilmings that live next door, they were a Dutch family too, live next door to us. And they had a daughter, Alma, and she went, always played with our girls, you know. We used to walk through it. We took all our picnic things. Yeah, lovely. It was different altogether. Safe too. Safe.

Amy: Was there swimming there as well?

Nelly: Yeah, there was swimming down the bottom, the kids up in the water.

But that's what we had on the farm too. Where we pumped the water from to go up to the tank and then come to the house, we had a big pool there too, so in the summer the kids were in that pool there too, you know. All the kids swim in, in the reefs and all that, you know. We didn't go so much to the street or anything, not till we got older, you know.

Amy: And so the tea room's kind of right near the picnic spot

Nelly: Oh, no, no. That's about a kilometre. Yeah, up the road. Our farm was a kilometre higher up.

Amy: Okay. Did you miss it when you were finished?

Nelly: Well I did for a while but then we got here and then we had the B& B downstairs so we were busy still. Yeah. Because a lot of people came down in those years because you know, you didn't charge as much as what they charge now, you know, and we had a beautiful I'll show you downstairs in a minute Yeah, the units they're really lovely.

Amy: What did you love about being part of the tourism industry?

Nelly: Well, it was wonderful. You met so many lovely people I think it's the best thing anybody can do because I was never a shy person anyway so people always interest me, you know Like I did at the golf and, you know, I traveled away with golf. I did lots of things, you know. But with the tourism it was great

because you met so many lovely people. I've never really met anyone that says, Hmm, don't like it here, you know. Never. It was always, Oh, look at your garden. Oh, look at this, you know. What a lovely room, looking out in the garden. Yeah, so it's always been very positive. I think you can never go wrong having a beautiful garden. I think people, like, I was maybe not like you, young girls, and right into the environmental area. But in a way, I was too, because I loved the gardens. And I kept them beautiful, that people can admire. Yeah. I am with the U3A, so they're coming on Monday to have a look at my garden, you know, and then we go to Colac and have a look at other gardens and everything.

Amy: Oh, beautiful. Yeah. Was the garden a kind of bit of home that you brought with you as well, from Holland?

Nelly: Oh yeah, the conifers. You see, we had conifers in Holland. A lot of conifers. It was colder climate, of course, but they grow here too, don't make any difference, you know. Yeah, the conifers. I had tulips here for a while. But then we travelled away for 13, for 20 years, Don and I, 22 years we travelled with a caravan. We went, every winter we went away, you know. And so I couldn't, because I never seen them grow, you know.

Amy: Do you have a favorite flower?

Nelly: Oh, well, I don't know. The hydrangeas were beautiful up the farm. They were blue, always blue, so there must have been something in the ground. That would be one of my favourite flowers in those days, up the farm. And like now, I suppose the conifers are my favourite too. Yeah, it's just, oh, really, all flowers are beautiful. It's hard to say which one you like the best, you know.

Amy: All the different kind of phases of your life thinking about communication, technology and how it's changed through time.

Nelly: Well, it has changed a lot really with, with the computer era, the computer. Well, I'm glad I've got the computer because I'm an opera fan, love opera. So, to have the computer there, you play, you switch it on, and the sound, and the phone. I'm on Facebook with the grandchildren, and you know, and it's Yeah, I think it's, in my opinion, it's been great, but in a lot of opinion, it's harder now too, every day you look at the television, there's the cyber, you know, the things that's happening now in the world, it's a worry, it's a worry for your generation really, you know, in my opinion it's been great, but not everybody would say that, you know, but I've always looked forward to things, it's not looking back, you know, you look forward, whatever happens, happens.

Yeah. But in my opinion, it's been great because I love the iPad at night when I watch a movie or do something. Don's got his room now and I've got mine because Don goes to bed, he's a wonderful sleeper. I'm not. So about 11. 30 we're fine, when we go to sleep.

Amy: Yeah. Do you have any favourite places that you go?

Nelly: Well, it was, the best was Maroochydore. We stayed there in the caravan park for 15 years. Every winter we went there. In the end we flew there. Amber used to take us out to Melbourne down to Geelong and you go on the gold bus and then you go. But I couldn't do that now anymore. See, Don's losing quite a bit of his memory. I have to look after everything. It's a bit, with my feet, I can't move correctly, you know. But really, and we went to towns for quite a few times. Townsville, and we did all that, you know, traveling around with, with the caravan, we traveled right around Australia. So you know, we've seen quite a bit.

Amy: Amazing. And do you get down to walk on the beach and things?

Nelly: Oh, when I first got down here in Apollo Bay, people didn't want any breakfast till about half past eight. I used to walk from 7. 30 every day on the beach. I did that for years. And the people you meet down there too, because all the same people nearly every day. How you going Nelly? Hello? You know, you walk, keep walking. You walk yourself? Yeah, it's wonderful. But I can't do it any now with my feet.

Amy: You've got a beautiful view here

Nelly: Yeah, it's lovely, isn't it?

Amy: Do you have any favourite spots in Apollo Bay?

Nelly: Well, really, I mean, just here I think. Yeah. here. I've got everything. I've got the hills there. Got a bit of the ocean there. This is really my favorite spot, isn't it? I can sit out on the veranda in the summer.

Amy: Oh, so, so much interesting stuff. But what I'm asking everyone is if you'd have any life advice you'd like to share?

Nelly: Oh, well, how do you mean by that?

Amy: Any like philosophy for living?

Nelly: Oh, we're so lucky. We, I said to, to my three girls, we're very lucky. We've had sadness with Ken passing and things like that, but yeah. And Brian, you know, my other son, Amber's husband passed away years ago. But you have to think we're so lucky, we're lucky. We are lucky people here in Apollo Bay. Living in Apollo Bay is one of the best things anybody can do because it is a lovely safe place, in my opinion.

But I don't know what the young one's thinking, but that's what I think. We're lucky. It's going ahead a lot now, of course, with tourism. And the people are happy because they make money. But really, some people wouldn't be so happy about it. But then, life goes on. You can't stop it. But, no, happy to be here.

Amy: Thank you so much Nellie.

Nelly: That's alright.