

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW SUMMARY FORM

Date of Interview	11 July 2024
Location of Interview	The Ilfracombe Centre, Ilfracombe, Devon
Name of Interviewee	Sharyn Hedge
Name of Interviewer	Abi Obene, Mark Langworthy
Length of Interview	01:14:00:21 / Just under 75 minutes
File format, storage format	WAV 44.1/16 XY STEREO

Tags:

Australia; "Britophile"; Poverty; Indigenous Australians; Indigenous rights; Discrimination; PhD; Environment; Ilfracombe; Librarian; Racism; Volunteering; Identity; Multiculturalism in Australia

Interviewee's wishes regarding interview use:

None

Interviewer's notes / any issues with recording:

Noises at approximately: 00:04:00, 00:04:50, 00:43:50 - 00:44:00, 00:49:00, 00:53:10 - 00:53:20, 01:02:45 - 01:02:55.

Also: Sharyn is quite quiet although the audio is clear, she may need to be adjusted up slightly / interviewers adjusted down to prevent volume issues.

Linked objects / photographs:

A variety of photographs provided

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Key themes and topics covered in the interview	Timestamp
Childhood in Australia.	[00:01:00]
Australian Health issues	[00:05:00]
Poverty driving family to Australia	[00:06:20]
Never seeing or being taught about indigenous Australians	[00:08:30]
Indigenous rights or lack thereof	[00:10:00]
Treatment of Italian people	[00:12:10]
Australia feeling like the end of the earth	[00:14:00]
Finding out about discrimination against indigenous Australians	[00:16:20]
PhD and why she stopped it	[00:18:50]
At 16 made very impactful decisions – no kids and come to UK	[00:22:20]
Environment and concern about environmental impact	[00:24:00]
Arrival in the UK	[00:26:30]
Work in the library and first Ilfracombe connection	[00:30:00]
Being Australian in the UK – “Librarian”	[00:31:30]
Racism more overt than today	[00:33:00]

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Key themes and topics (continued)	Timestamp
Surprises about the UK – and a poetry reading!	[00:35:10]
Career: librarian at a boys' school, council of one parent families, computer programmer, Sussex	[00:41:20]
Cornwall and Devon	[00:52:00]
Volunteering, “earning” being here	[00:55:30]
Identifying home / identity	[00:59:00]
Why here?	[01:03:00]
Multiculturalism in Australia	[01:07:00]
Proud of work as Union rep, a good mentor	[01:11:40]

Interview Highlights

Childhood in Australia || Sense of being British (or not) in Australia || Family escaping poverty in UK to live in Australia || Brief overview of Australian history + Indigenous Australians || Australia's struggle with xenophobia and racism
[00:00:51 - 00:14:35]

Philip Larkin Poetry Reading [0:38:05.0 - 00:40:34]

Volunteering at Ilfracombe || Coming to North Devon [00:54:33 - 0 0:58:41]

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