

Maitland City Library Oral History Project 2023

Interviewee: Jesse Clarke

Interviewer: Bryce Doudle

Date: 22nd June, 2023

Interview log:

Time	Subjects	Proper names
<i>Interviewer introduction</i>		
00:00	Discusses where he was born and raised	Maitland hospital Phoenix Park Hunter River
01:34	Details returning to the farm after studying and working elsewhere, then returning to work for his parents.	
03:37	Discusses his experiences of flooding as a child growing up in the region.	Morpeth Morpeth Bridge
05:08	Details his recollections of the 2007 flood, including flood preparation, flood response and recovery.	Pasha Bulker Phoenix Park
09:58	Discusses experiencing the 2015 flood by himself. Topics covered include flood preparation and differences from previous flood experiences.	Kurri Kurri Carly
13:15	Discussion of the July 2022 flood. Details flood preparations. Compares different flood events and discusses the process of cleaning up after flooding.	Singleton Muswellbrook Belmore Bridge Phoenix Park Hinton Paterson river Pasha Bulker Carly
30:15	Outlines assessing flood impacts on crops and the soil, including the loss of vegetable crops.	

32:34	Carly and Jesse decide to take a break from farming and make the decision to focus on farm education programs.	Carly La Niña
35:55	Jesse discusses how his background as a science teacher informs his understanding of weather and flood events.	Pokolbin
38:55	Jesse discusses the important role that flooding has played in the development of agriculture in the region. Topics include soil erosion, and soil structure.	Lower Hunter Maitland
42:20	Describes changes in water quality in the river and the impacts on fish species living in the river.	
45:00	Details knowledge sharing about organic farming practices with another local farmer.	John Wright Morpeth bridge
46:00	Outlines which crops grow well in the heavy clay local soils, including pumpkins and potatoes.	John Wright Maitland
48:02	Describes the changing nature of farming including rising costs and the financial impacts of flooding on farming practice.	
49:00	Jesse reflects on his future as a farmer and the role of farm education in those plans.	Carly
	<i>End of interview</i>	