

TRANSCRIPT Sunbathing on Binninup Beach audio interview

THERESA: Kathy and I were laying down there just talking, 'cause the Huntsman's went down with the kids on the beach...and...um, we were just layin' there talking, and then all of a sudden - we heard this...

KATHLEEN: it was a sort of a noise, but it was more of a, a loud swish.

THERESA: yeah

KATHLEEN: and then the sand just, went over me, and then I thought - what was that - and then you said...(whispers) it sounds like someone's shooting at us, and then we saw the sand hills thing at the back and then we thought, here we are, isolated, the kids are already...and I panic...I went 'come on'...and we went running down to the men, and we found this meteorite, just...

THERESA: where the hole was

KATHLEEN: just a metre away from where we were laying.

ALICE RYDER: So I can ask you each one at a time to tell me

ALAN: I'm Alan

ALICE RYDER: your name?

[Laughter]

ALAN: I'm not part of this.

ALICE RYDER: You're not part of this, okay, no worries.

THERESA: Well he is, *he is*. He really is.

KATHLEEN: Yeah, he drove the car.

KATHLEEN/THERESA (Together): Up today. (Laughter)

THERESA: Theresa Davies.

GORDON: Gordon Davies.

KATHLEEN: Kathleen Smith.

THERESA: So how old are you?

KATHLEEN: I was 40. I would have been around 40.

THERESA: And there's three years difference between you and I.

KATHLEEN: Mmmm

THERESA: So you'd have been 37.

ALICE RYDER: And you were visiting the beach this day, did you...

THERESA: We were on holidays actually...

GORDON: We were staying out in Binningup

THERESA: with the family, they were all family. There was eight of us. Had the four kids, and the adults. It's the Binnin-up...

GORDON: Binningup

ALL: Binningup

GORDON: Binningup, we were staying at a house in Binningup...

THERESA: ...beach, that's where we were.

ALICE RYDER: Can you tell me what the beach looked like? You said there were some dunes, in the background, big...

THERESA: That's right, yeah...

ALICE RYDER: ...and wavy, was it calm? What was the day like?

THERESA: It was quite calm I think the beach.

KATHLEEN: It was a nice day.

THERESA: Lovely day.

KATHLEEN: Mmmmm.

GORDON: Yeah.

ALICE RYDER: So what made you think it was a rifle? Was it the wooshing sound or was it the sand kind of blowing up at you?

THERESA: The noise...

KATHLEEN: The sound...But it made a funny a funny noise, and it certainly startled us. And then we...

THERESA: It was like a piercing noise...wasn't it.

KATHLEEN: Mmmmmm....and then the sand

THERESA: but when that sand came up

KATHLEEN: the sand came up and it sort of all happened at that time

THERESA: it was the guys that said it was a meteor, we wouldn't have had a clue - but you said...

KATHLEEN: well it came from the sky, it had be...

GORDON: it's got to be a meteorite.

KATHLEEN: It has to be a meteorite.

THERESA: Being black the way it was...

KATHLEEN: It didn't take much to think...you didn't have to think to much because you just knew on an isolated beach and something from the sky and it's hot and it's dark and it's

THERESA: Mmmmmm, yeah

KATHLEEN: in a hole. It had to be from the sky, so it had to be a meteorite.

KATHLEEN: You wouldn't think a little rock like that would make a noise as loud as that would you?

THERESA: Well I suppose the speed, the speed it's coming from, wherever it's coming...

KATHLEEN: So the noise, it would have made that noise before it hit the sand?

GORDON: Ah, let's say if you were standing there, I don't think you'd be, existed, if you...

THERESA: You wouldn't be able to tell the story would you?

THERESA: And it was still hot. You couldn't touch it.

ALICE RYDER: And you reached down and touched it?

GORDON: Oh yeah....we all had our hand on it.

THERESA: it was quite hot...

KATHLEEN: My hands I felt like they were tingling [laughter] and then Terry - aaaah it's radioactive! Oh my god! All the way home to Perth when Terry wouldn't have it in the car and I'm thinking well the worst that can happen is that my hands will fall off - they'll have to take them off - until Alex Bevan came out the next day he says, no, it's not radioactive.

ALICE RYDER: So, who from the Museum came to visit you?

KATHLEEN: Alex, and - those four. [Laughs]

ALICE RYDER: The four men in the photo.

KATHLEEN: The four men.

ALICE RYDER: So Alex Bevan, Dr Ken McNamara...

GORDON: They all come down for a ride, down to Binningup, the next day or something.

THERESA: Yeah, that's right

ALICE RYDER: And what did they say when they first saw you?

KATHLEEN: Well they brought, they came out and looked at it, and they said, not it's not radioactive, Bevan told us that, ah no, McNamara - and - um - where's all the rocks - and he had all he's rocks, he brought them all out and put them on the thing...

THERESA: Yeah, on the table...

GORDON: He didn't go down to Binninup did he?

THERESA: Dunno...

KATHLEEN: Alex did, with Brian.

THERESA: Yeah.

ALICE RYDER: So when Alex came from the Museum and he said, aw this is, I'm going to take this meteorite, how did he explain why it was special? Why it mattered that they were able to take that meteorite?

THERESA: 'cause of the age of it, and they wanted to...

KATHLEEN: ...because it was so fresh...

THERESA: fresh

KATHLEEN: it was so fresh, he said the studies that they could do on this was just amazing...

THERESA: it was, yeah...

KATHLEEN: ...and he was so excited because he was over from England and he wanted to take it back, and go further...and they sent us the report did they?

THERESA: yup

ALICE RYDER: So he brought a whole a whole sample of different meteorites?

THERESA & KATHLEEN TOGETHER: Yeah

THERESA: just to show us

KATHLEEN: to show us, yeah, and then they took that one away [laughs]. Bye bye!

ALICE RYDER: Did he explain why he took the meteorite away?

KATHLEEN: yes, because they needed to study it, and Alex was really excited, and that's when we knew it was going back to England so we thought, we sort of felt important didn't we [laughs]

THERESA: we did

KATHLEEN: [laughs] well we're in the history books aren't we, we're in the - we're in the Museum [laughter]...we've made a mark here...

THERESA: we have, but it helps them too doesn't it?

KATHLEEN: we like to think, the story's all there

THERESA: it continues on, yeah

KATHLEEN: it's a wonderful story, and our children, and everybody else's, but

THERESA: and they've learnt a lot from it too, is that right?

KATHLEEN: It's opened up a lot of area

GORDON: it has, yeah, and you're 35 now your 70 type of thing, so

[laughter]

KATHLEEN: alright, don't rub it

GORDON: you're aging just like the rock

KATHLEEN: oh god