



Fitzroy History Society Oral History Project 2015-2017

Transcript of interview with Tony and Mary Caroll

(Interviewed by Marijana Vanevski and Mary Lewis from Fitzroy History Society on 22 May 2015)

Antoni Shapardanis (Tony) was born in 1938 in Bouf (now Akrita) a small town only a few kilometres from the Yugoslav border. Tony's father, Chris Shapardanis, emigrated to Melbourne in 1939 leaving his wife and 6-month-old baby behind. The war intervened and Tony's mother died when he was 4 years old, forcing him to fend for himself. He arrived in Australia in October 1950. He was one of the 'lost' Greek children brought out by International Red Cross from Belgrade in the former Yugoslavia, to be re-united with their families in Australia (during the Greek Civil War many Greek children were removed from Northern Greece).

After arriving in Fitzroy, Tony sold newspapers in the streets of Fitzroy and was later apprenticed to a shoe maker and attended night school at the Collingwood Tech. He then established his own business in Gertrude Street. There were many shoemakers in Gertrude Street and competition was tough, but after Tony patented a design for motor cycle boots, his business took off. Later he had contracts for shoes and boots with Victoria Police and the Post Office.

Tony met his future wife Mary [Marika Aitsini] at a Macedonian dance in the Fitzroy Town Hall. Mary's family lived opposite Tony's shoe shop. They were married in 1962 and have one son, Peter, who now runs a Computer Services business in the same Gertrude Street building in which Tony started his shoe shop all those years ago.



START OF TRANSCRIPT

.... [no introduction]

Facilitator 1: A stranger from the street walked away and took [the baby].

Mary Caroll: Yeah, I remember that.

Facilitator 1: Yeah. But that happens so often.

Mary Caroll: Even today.

Facilitator 1: Today, yes. When we went travelling in Portugal...

Mary Caroll: [Unclear].

[0:13]

Facilitator 1: ...we were in the foyer of a very nice hotel, my friend sat her bag down like this, and someone - a well dressed person came in and sat in the chair next, then he dropped his coat over the bag, got up and walked out.

[Aside comment]

Facilitator 1: Tony, do you remember - where do you come from in Macedonia, your family?

Tony Caroll: In the Greek [side] Macedonian.

Mary Caroll: You were born there.

Tony Caroll: Born on Greek side of Macedonia and then I went and lived in Yugoslavia.

Facilitator 1: But you speak Greek?

Tony Caroll: Very little I speak it really, until I learned it from my wife.

Facilitator 1: Do you remember your homeland, your home...

Tony Caroll: Yes, I do. I go so often.

Facilitator 1: How old were you when you were there?

Tony Caroll: When I lived there I was 10 years old. ...In the birthplace.

Facilitator 1: Yes, do you remember it?



Tony Caroll: Yes, I do.

Facilitator 2: Have you visited since?

Tony Caroll: 10 times.

Facilitator 2: Oh that's good, so you go often.

[1:13]

Mary Caroll: The last time?

Tony Caroll: ...there. The last time was last year, year before.

Mary Caroll: 1913 (sic).

Tony Caroll: Yeah, I was there last time.

Mary Caroll: Not 19, 2013.

Facilitator 2: I was going to say [laughs].

Tony Caroll: That was our revolution [laughs].

Facilitator 1: The name of the town?

Tony Caroll: Name of the town is, at the moment they call it - before was Bouf, now Akrita, they change in 1956 after I left.

Mary Caroll: The Greeks.

Facilitator 1: So it's now part of Greece.

Tony Caroll: Yeah.

Facilitator 1: So what do you think of what's going on in Greece?

Tony Caroll: Oh, well I don't like what they're doing but I can't do nothing about it.

Facilitator 1: No, well you must be pleased you're here then.

Tony Caroll: Oh, I'm very pleased I'm here. I'm very pleased, oh yeah.

Facilitator 1: So when you left at 10 were you sorry?



- Tony Caroll: Well, there was a revolution there, we had to leave. The big revolution, we had to leave [the place] just to save your life. It was bombarding, fighting every day and nowhere to live. ...We leave, 28,000 kids we left there.
- Mary Caroll: From the Greek side.
- Tony Caroll: Yeah, from the Greek side to guard Yugoslavia, all young ones. [2:19]
- They didn't force you to go there but if you want to save your life you can go, and we did.
- Mary Caroll: How does your father found you through Red Cross?
- Tony Caroll: Yeah, Red Cross yes, in Yugoslavia.
- Facilitator 2: After how many years?
- Tony Caroll: Oh, he find me in 1950s, he came [unclear] only lived two and a half something years there and he brought me by aeroplane, yeah, on the Dutch airline.
- Mary Caroll: I didn't know that. ...I didn't understand that.
- Tony Caroll: Why's that?
- Mary Caroll: So your father came here.
- Tony Caroll: He come 1939 my father here, he left me only six months old and my mother left me, I was four years old when she left me.
- Mary Caroll: But why did she...
- Tony Caroll: She passed away.
- Facilitator 1: Oh, and were you the only one left behind in your family?
- Tony Caroll: Well then, yes, I was only one. Staying with my aunty, my father's sister.
- Facilitator 1: So that's extraordinary, isn't it? How old were you then? He then came to pick you up?
- Tony Caroll: ...he didn't, no. [3:30]
- Mary Caroll: He went through the Red Cross. He lost contact with him, the Red Cross found him in Yugoslavia and he was one of the first immigrant from...



Tony Caroll: From Belgrade.

Mary Caroll: From Belgrade, with KLM airline because he couldn't remember the date when he come because he was a young lad and Tony never went to school. Because he was left an orphan, for him to make a living he had to work, he was a peasant boy and he used to take the animals from, I don't know about 40-50 animals can be, take them to the forest and look after them. So he didn't go to school in Greece because he did that.

When he went to Yugoslavia he didn't go to school either because he had to make a living and he used to beg for a piece of bread and then at evening he used to beg for shelter. Of course when he come here 1950, 30 October 1950 he arrived, and he found his father married, which is the stepmother didn't want him. So he was renting a room in Gertrude Street from 13 years old and he used to pay the rent on his own. So he had a very hard life and he didn't go to school here either. So he went to sell...

Tony Caroll: Newspapers, paperboy. I was the best paperboy, yep.

Facilitator 1: Then how did you get involved with... shoemaking?

Tony Caroll: Well I sell two and a half, two years, papers and I was getting to big, too old.

Mary Caroll: He was embarrassed.

Tony Caroll: I was starting embarrass and then I went to be apprentice at George [Damas], a shoe factory was in David Street, Fitzroy. I done my apprenticeship there. I done five years apprenticeship and 11 years night school I went there to learn all the trade completely. [5:28]

Yeah, otherwise he only learn one thing to learn, part of the shoes he learned but he don't learn all of it.

Mary Caroll: So he learned from a patternmaker or...

Tony Caroll: So you've got to learn all the trade yourself.

Facilitator 1: So you go to different people...

Tony Caroll: In different [sections]. Same school but different, like different class.



- Mary Caroll: He was an apprentice of the - not academically but in practice, because academically with Tony whatever he learnt, to learn to read and write in old age it's a little bit... Very hard.
- Tony Caroll: I wasn't old age, but that was old enough.
- Facilitator 1: So you didn't live with your father.
- Tony Caroll: After awhile my mother, she and her father live in South Australia and they wanted come...
- Mary Caroll: His stepmother we're talking about.
- Tony Caroll: Stepmother, yeah, my stepmother, and she wanted my father mother to come from South Australia to come live here. Well they decided [they'd stay] with my father and my father grandfather, they bought a place together... in 44 Gore Street, Fitzroy and my father said if your father live with us my son's going to live with us. That's what happened, everyone got together.
- Facilitator 1: So how did you get on with your stepmother then? [6:49]
- Tony Caroll: Oh, well she never did like me, she never did like me at all, she never did. She still doesn't.
- Mary Caroll: We're still looking after her.
- Tony Caroll: I'm looking after her for six, nearly six years now, she's...
- Mary Caroll: Seven years now.
- Tony Caroll: ...a widow and a widow for 18 years or 17, but since she got sick she got sick she...
- Mary Caroll: Father-in-law passed away 17 years ago so she's on her own. Now seven years now, she had a stroke and she lost her speech and we're the only one who look after her. So she doesn't want to aged care, so we go every morning, every evening to see how is she, prepare her meals, prepare her tablets to take them and...
- Tony Caroll: No keep going.
- Facilitator 1: You're noble people.
- Tony Caroll: Keep going, still going.



- Mary Caroll: Well if I complain something he goes to me, you're not any better than her. So [laughs]...
- Facilitator 1: Well you are better than her then, yes.
- Mary Caroll: Not really, but what can we do? He had a very hard childhood [into it] and beside this he end up to be a very pleasant man. He doesn't want to hurt people, he's not pushing himself to [nobody]. Now how can I describe it, how he learn all those good behave for a human being, that's his nature, that's how - I don't know, but he's really very, very good. She never - I lived with them for 10 years with my in-laws.
- Facilitator 1: Is that down in Napier Street?
- Mary Caroll: 34 Napier Street.
- Facilitator 1: Can you remember when they bought 34 Napier Street?
- Mary Caroll: Of course he remembers. [8:25]
- Facilitator 1: When your father bought it?
- Tony Caroll: Yes, I remember that.
- Mary Caroll: But he never said it, he was paying off, he said it will be half his and on the end of it he said...
- Tony Caroll: Don't worry about that.
- Mary Caroll: ...to they was renting for living here so I can't give you nothing. So he's...
- Tony Caroll: So even after that my father and my, my father and grandfather, my stepmother father, they didn't go very well, living together. My grandfather said you've got to move out. We said no, we bought the place together, [and we got to] - and sell it, what we get we divide. My grandfather said, I want the place, I want to live in here. Well my father left but he didn't got anything after a couple of years, didn't got nothing extra.
- Mary Caroll: Whatever he put, like...
- Tony Caroll: So what he put it in there, that's what he had to take it out.



Mary Caroll: Like my son told your other half when you said the house had a lot of [unclear] my Peter said to him, okay I'll get it back, I'll give you whatever you gave grandpa [laughs].

Tony Caroll: Then from there we went to live in 60 Condell Street, Fitzroy. We lived there a few years and then that place was bought, 34 Napier Street and then we moved there from there.

Mary Caroll: But they sold Condell Street because they were the first Housing Commission [people], I don't know if you can [remember] Condell Street and Gore Street on the corner.

Tony Caroll: Yeah, Gore Street and George Street.

Mary Caroll: Do you know that corner? That was the first...

Tony Caroll: One of the first flats in Fitzroy like Housing Commission place. [9:56]

That was built there, they were the first ones.

Facilitator 1: So now, where do you live now?

Mary Caroll: Here but we sleep in [laughs]...

Tony Caroll: Rosanna.

Facilitator 1: A long way out then from Fitzroy.

Tony Caroll: It is, it is.

We've been there 40...

Mary Caroll: 1970.... '72, sorry, 1972.

Tony Caroll: Yeah, no '71 I think we moved out there, '71.

Facilitator 1: Well, I'm just wondering whether we'll put a stop - pause this for a bit.

.....

Mary Caroll: No, his grand-, like Tony's grandfather, my mother-in-law's father, he was the first one, Macedonian/Bulgarian priests in Orthodox in here in Australia. He was one of the first ones.



- Facilitator 1: What was his name?
- Mary Caroll: Do you remember - I don't know - there was a church we had on Young Street, well that's the... Yeah, well that's the - not this one... [10:51]
- Tony Caroll: It was further down.
- Mary Caroll: ...further down where the buildings are, where the - yes. ... Yes, I was married there so I took...
- Facilitator 2: When did that close, that one?
- Tony Caroll: When Housing Commission took over.
- Facilitator 2: Oh okay, so the '80s.
- Mary Caroll: Before you were born.
- Facilitator 2: The seventies maybe, yeah. ...What was the name then of your... Grandfather?
- Facilitator 1: Yes, who was the priest?
- Mary Caroll: The priest? He was [Filippo, Peter Filippo, Filippos] I think - write the name.
- Tony Caroll: Filippo.
- Mary Caroll: Let me write it on a piece of paper and you can copy it.
- Facilitator 2: When did you come to Gertrude Street?
- Tony Caroll: 30 October 1950.
- Facilitator 2: Did you meet, were you with Mary at that stage?
- Tony Caroll: No, no that's 10 years later. [11:45]
- More, 12 years, 12 years later. We knew before, I mean I met a couple of years before we been married, she come 1959, I come 1950.
- She come to here, she live in Gertrude Street. That's why met, we were at dances and we met at dances and we had to go to park weekends and that's where we meet.
- Facilitator 2: How old were you when you met Mary?



- Tony Caroll: Oh about 22, two years we know each other, or not quite two years but say a year and a half or something and we got engaged and that's it.
- Facilitator 1: That's young.
- Tony Caroll: [Laughs], she was only 16. ...Yeah, when we got engaged, yeah.
- Facilitator 1: Where were you living then?
- Tony Caroll: When she came in I just opened a shop in the front, '59, I opened in 29 May 1958.
- Facilitator 2: Was it a shoe shop before?
- Tony Caroll: No, it wasn't, no. It was a residence, people live inside the shop. But we bought the building 1956.
- Facilitator 1: So, and you did your apprenticeship before that?
- Tony Caroll: Yes, I did my apprenticeship, started before that, yeah.
- Facilitator 1: For six years, did you say?
- Tony Caroll: Yeah, five years apprenticeship. [13:16]
But I went 11 years night school.
- Facilitator 2: How did you meet Tony?
- Mary Caroll: Well, I met him, Tony [was a very good] friend with my father. Father was immigrated earlier than us, 1956 arrive in Australia. Three years later mother, my brother and I we arrived and of course dad always used to talk to Tony be good boy to me because I'm bringing a daughter. So he was sending all his regards through...
- Tony Caroll: My love.
- Mary Caroll: ...through our friends because those days we rented in one house that I lived, 193 Gertrude Street, that's that house used to be. Of course there were five rooms and each room were renting it to a family and one of, all of them, they knew Tony because the Macedonia we always united together...
- Tony Caroll: Wasn't that many.



Mary Caroll: Yeah, and one day we're sitting on the tram stop going to the city and the lady said to me come on, I'll introduce you to the boy who sent you his regards. So I go in it and Tony was 21... 22, and with a just singlet and apron...

Tony Caroll: Summer time.

Mary Caroll: ...and I was only 15. I looked at him and said erk, you're too old for me.

[Laughter] [14:43]

Tony Caroll: That wasn't very nice, was it?

Mary Caroll: I know.

[Laughter]

Mary Caroll: So two weeks later we had a dance in Fitzroy Town Hall... that's where all the matchmaking and the romance were done those days through there. Of course he knew dad, he comes straight to the table we're sitting and without any doubt and before dad say, this is my daughter, he goes to me excuse me, do I still look old? Nice.

[Laughter]

Of course my mother looked at me, said he's not a bad catch, is he? I said, no. From then he was in love with my girlfriend which is they were renting one of our rooms and every second day he was coming to our house in 193 Gertrude Street and - with my girlfriend, they were going out - and of course sometimes she was getting into trouble. She said to him come on, we'll go the two of us and then we go home so I don't get into trouble.

All of a sudden I said to them, I can't stay any longer because I'll get trouble with my parents and I said, I'll go away. She said oh no, please, please, please wait and he looked at me, and I looked at him again, I thought ooh, and they had a fight the two of them and she went back to Macedonia, Yugoslavian Macedonia, [unclear]. She said to me, he likes you but don't you marry him because blah, blah, like always she said the best things and before she leave she said to me, I'm sorry I put you wrong picture of him. If you are like enough to marry him you have a wonderful life with him.



That's how we met and married. She still, she come back, this girl, we still are friends with her. But she marry a lovely man too from there. That's it, that's our story. [16:27]

We just had one son, live with my in-laws in 34 Napier Street and that's it and we moved in Rosanna. We move only for sleep because everybody ask me, where you live? In Fitzroy, they said why? I said, Tony's seven days a week, 12 hours a day here, only these last few years he's stopped a little bit not to work, he's still working. You know yourself [unclear], that's our story.

Facilitator 2: So, what I remember when I was a little girl was all the boarders you had...

Mary Caroll: We've still got them.

Facilitator 2: ...and you had a lot of interesting characters. ...Do you have any people that you have nice memories of or... something that you would like to tell us about...

Mary Caroll: Yes, we do. I don't know if you remember Gordana.

Facilitator 2: Yes, I remember Gordana, she was very colourful.

Mary Caroll: Very colour-, she was my age. But... she was a lovely...

Facilitator 2: Yeah, she'd kiss me in the street and I'd just be like this kid... wiping it off.

Tony Caroll: Yeah, that's how she was, yeah.

Mary Caroll: But on the ending her life of the last three years, 2000 she passed away, she got - she was going to Peter MacCallum and two [17:40] years she suffered and she still, she had a treatment, chemotherapy, but it was a [unclear] in her hand. A few times I took her there and I say to the people look, why don't you stop her. They looked at me, they said nothings we can do more, at least let her live happily. But she, quite a lovely.

Now, Tony's very kind to them, this is how Tony works in it. They all look at him as a godfather, I'm the bad person, I collect the debt collector. If they haven't got any money to pay the rent they borrowed from him, they can give me the money so I can give them a receipt. Because I go crook at them and it's alright, I suppose. Some of them they use him, but the majority they don't...

Tony Caroll: No.



- Mary Caroll: ...they pay him and he's got it on his mind like a control. I said, what do you do? He said, if they don't pay what they borrow they don't get anymore.
- He's not nasty, he'll just say to them no, finish what you owe me, then I give you some more. That's how. Some of them that have got paper from there, 25 years, 30 year they're living.
- Facilitator 2: Yeah, I was going to ask have you got any long term ones... that have been there for a long time.
- Mary Caroll: Yes. 30 years.
- Tony Caroll: Now when I think, what's the longest? Boris?
- Mary Caroll: Peter [Fraser]. Mmm. Gino - I don't know if you remember Gino?
- Tony Caroll: Boris has been a long time, Peter [Fraser] long time.
- [Over speaking]
- Mary Caroll: ... Alzheimer's, he just moved away last year. [19:07]
- Facilitator 2: I'm sure if I see a face I'll remember.
- Mary Caroll: She had a son which is a lost son for many years and then all of a sudden they found her and they took her in Adelaide.
- Facilitator 2: So that's quite a number of - oh, you've got from when they've started.
- Mary Caroll: Oh yes, I always am going to have that when I start them. I have to keep on record what I doing otherwise...
- [Over speaking]
- Tony Caroll: Anything goes wrong...
- [Over speaking]
- Mary Caroll: So I know it.
- Tony Caroll: ...something to do with law.
- Mary Caroll: It's all up here.



- Facilitator 1: Are they mostly Macedonian people?
- Mary Caroll: Oh no. ...We've got only one Macedonian, which...
- Tony Caroll: Two now.
- Mary Caroll: Who's the other one?
- Tony Caroll: Peter downstairs.
- Mary Caroll: Oh Peter, yeah, [Petrovsky]. ...Yeah, and...
- Tony Caroll: Who is the other one - [Sacho].
- Mary Caroll: Sacho. No, no Macedonian. ...Two. [19:56]
- Tony Caroll: We've got Romanians, English.
- Mary Caroll: Yeah, Australian.
- Tony Caroll: A Romanian, Australians and what's...
- Mary Caroll: New Zealanders, we've got two ladies.
- Tony Caroll: Two lady New Zealand. So a mixture, it is a mixture.
- Mary Caroll: But you can tell, here have a look at the... Different names, but they are...
- Tony Caroll: We've got Turkish.
- Facilitator 2: Starting at different...
- Mary Caroll: ...'96, this is the years they are start living in here. ...Mick [Schneider], he's...
- Tony Caroll: He's Slovenia. He's been here 20 years.
- Mary Caroll: Yeah, so they stay for quite a while.
- Tony Caroll: We look them after and they don't want to leave. The only way when they go when they pass away. That's what happens, no we look, I look after them. I love people and I like I spend time with them. I spend time and they like me and I...
- Facilitator 2: Yeah, because I do remember Gordana because we had the window across...
- Mary Caroll: The window across.



- Tony Caroll: Oh yeah, you get their [unclear]. [20:47].
- Facilitator 2: ...and it'd be like she'd be singing on the balcony and she was quite, she, yeah she was an alcoholic so she was always quite jolly and...
- Tony Caroll: Cheerful, very cheerful, yes.
- Mary Caroll: She walks through the door and she's wobbling and she goes, and then you sit there and she walks, don't push me [laughs].
- Tony Caroll: You got 50 metres away and [she says] don't push me. Poor Gordana.
- Facilitator 2: Also, Tony, your customers, I remember dad or Michael saying that you did the boots for all the Victorian fire fighters... and Vic police for a number of years.
- Mary Caroll: Yes.
- Facilitator 2: So your clientele, if you want to talk a little bit about that, who your customers have been and who you've made boots for. Because your boots are very good quality and...
- Tony Caroll: Very famous, yeah.
- Facilitator 2: ...they're very, very famous, that's right. So just about your customers.
- Tony Caroll: Now we've got a story written by me where there've been a book, they call me Macedonian marvel. That's what they call me. Well I had a contract with the Police, then we had for the councils...
- Mary Caroll: They used to ride motorcycle those days.
- Tony Caroll: ...and the posties. I had three contracts for doing all the boots I'm making. I've got too old now, I had to let them go because no energy not there, can't produce them.
- Mary Caroll: I think the thing in it was the best part of it, people with a different calves because the mass production they were standard calves, put standard, nothing. So for Tony they used to, he'd measure the feet in it and make them to fit them properly on the biggest calf or a skinny calf or...
- Tony Caroll: Whatever, whatever they needed. [22:31]
- Facilitator 1: So if you're making shoes for the police did you fit each of them individually?



- Mary Caroll: Yes.
- Tony Caroll: Yes, and then we keep the measurements.
- Facilitator 1: Yeah, and keep the model of the foot?
- Tony Caroll: The moulds, the moulds can be alternated but the measurements you know it's done, the patterns, everything's done ready and when they need another pair they only, they had to fax it, that number, works all the numbers [and they] said we need another pair, we just make another pair, keep making and keep sending. They keep coming in, repairs, keep saying that's what we need for...
- Facilitator 2: So how many years, what period or time was that?
- Tony Caroll: Oh, first I started account with the posties, so would be just 30 years. Yeah, long time.
- Mary Caroll: For postman...
- Tony Caroll: Maybe more, maybe more.
- Mary Caroll: Postman, yeah, we just sent a pair of boots for the postman here, they were 25 years in December for Tony to repair them. That was the many times and I've written a note, I said this is the last time I'm going to repair them because the leather was out and the lady who brought them yesterday, 30 years, no, 1977.
- Facilitator 2: Indestructible.
- Tony Caroll: Oh that one, yeah.
- Facilitator 2: Yeah, Tony's boots are definite-, I know my brother Michael owned a pair from when we were living here.
- Tony Caroll: Oh, it's a long, long time. [23:51]
- Mary Caroll: Well this is what I had all the measurements done, like and a number to each boot. Therefore...
- Tony Caroll: That's only for the...
- Mary Caroll: For everybody.
- Tony Caroll: ...everybody, just about [the main ones].



Mary Caroll: So yeah, it was '98. Tony, if I didn't work here Tony wouldn't keep the ledgers so when I come [unclear]...

[Aside discussion]

Mary Caroll: So all those are for [unclear] post.

Tony Caroll: Post office.

Facilitator 1: How far back would they go...

Mary Caroll: Well, after '96 I started writing and then - I'll look at the list. Oh, that's how we used to get the orders from the Police. [Unclear]. So it was notes, it's fascinating but Tony like used to go crook at me, why do I waste all this time and then later on in life he realised it did help him what I did in it, so [laughs].

Facilitator 2: Good team.

Mary Caroll: Yeah, a good team, '92 I've got, this most of the policemen I've got, I've got the number, serial number, and that's how I identify them, by their serial number.

Facilitator 1: But if your shop opened in the '50s, so that's very early on, were you making boots for the police then?

Mary Caroll: No. [25:22]

Tony Caroll: No, I start making shoes. But 1950 was a lot of immigrants coming, lots of it, '50s, and '60s as well. There was about half a dozen shoemakers here in Gertrude Street and everyone trying to - it was pounds and shillings...

Mary Caroll: Competition.

Tony Caroll: Yeah, competition. I used to put there £4 a pair of shoes and some people put £3 and a half, [£3, £2 and a half], some put £3. So cutthroat. That was very hard, very hard to gain or progress to make a bit money. When the Beatles come in I saw a boots, they are wearing a boot with a big buckle in the front.

Mary Caroll: '65.

Tony Caroll: Yeah, when they came here. I saw the boot, I liked the boot, I made a boot before anyone else, it went well. But people discover, again, they start making that. After that then I started making motorcycle boots, was no motorcycles boots here, there was only one English boot and I went to make that one. They start



going well, and don't have to change so many models, so many [unclear] so expensive, can keep the same styles. I only needed three, four styles and you could keep going forever. Then it went, no-one could copy me. When the boots are made it's a little bit different and no-one could copy it.

Mary Caroll: Yes, this is...

Tony Caroll: We had our own [patent] on it and then it well.

Mary Caroll: So this is all the police I had on, all those from there to there. So there was, no, for me it was interesting and they used to bring them all along as [student] before they get qualified for the full policemen; so they come and Tony will measure them and each of them different size. But they were, he never got, he never wanted any favours from [nobody], he never wanted anything in [reply].

I'll never forget one night we are coming from Springvale, it was evening and the policeman with the motorcycle come behind me and with the thing on...

[27:32]

...siren on, and he said pull on the side, so I pull on the side. He goes to me, don't worry, you've done nothing wrong, it could be a [random] check. He put the light, the torch in my face, said state your name and it is your car? I said no, my husband's car. So he put the light on him, he goes oh, Tony [laughs]. But still my heart goes beat, beat, beat. But I must admit it in all of them only a handful we can find them very aggressive. The majority they were very down to earth people.

Like one of them, I'll never forget, I used to say to him why do I get a shock when a policeman - he says, it's okay what I do, but he said one thing I can tell you, it's very hard to become young policeman because you haven't lived civilian. He said if I'm the law I will let them live until 25 or 26 at civilian and then promote him as a policeman, because it is very hard civilian to live. Sometimes from nothing they can pull you on the side, for no reason, but he said if you live - he said, I was 30 when I become policeman and I've got a feeling for everybody.

I thought how beautiful he put it, very, very nice. Because I was coming through here and I had my bag here without my safety on, thinking I've got the belt in here and he pointed, I said what, he said belt. Oh. He didn't pull me on the side and then I pulled the belt and put it in and lucky, I didn't know he was coming to see Tony and I told him, he said well that's - if you book someone for that he said



you're stupid. But he said a young one, 18, they feel they've got the power and they will book you, isn't it?

We went a lot of functions with the Police, but Tony could never mix. It's a different...

Tony Caroll: Because when you go there they swear, they do [laughs], they do lots of things, stupid things. [29:33]

Mary Caroll: They let go.

Tony Caroll: All young men, they all so - no, me I [unclear] we're just two young, not young couple, but two old couples.

Mary Caroll: Old couple, yes.

Facilitator 1: With the Macedonian community in Gertrude Street when you met were there regular dances, is that how...

Mary Caroll: Yes, every week.

Tony Caroll: Yes, every week, every Sunday.

Facilitator 1: What sort of music would you be...

Mary Caroll: Macedonian music.

Tony Caroll: ...and our...

Mary Caroll: English.

Tony Caroll: ...English too. Both. We had a bit of dancing in a circle and then we're... the normal dance, [folk] or whatever it is.

Mary Caroll: Folk dancing.

Facilitator 1: Folk dancing, and Macedonian musicians?

Mary Caroll: Most of the time.

Tony Caroll: Yeah, most of them Macedonian musician, yes. [30:21]

Mary Caroll: But if you find that book, the one I'm telling you in the '50s in the Fitzroy Town Hall that it's got a beautiful stories about Macedonian...



- Tony Caroll: The immigrants here. ...In Fitzroy.
- Mary Caroll: Yeah. Because she was - and I'll tell you who you should interview, I don't know if she still lives there, like the daughter of this old man I'm telling you. She used to have them, her name was Mary and she had a husband...
- Tony Caroll: Herb.
- Mary Caroll: Herb, no Mary [Paparoussi], what was her husband?
- Tony Caroll: First one or the second one?
- Mary Caroll: The second one. The one we were in Hong Kong. ...West. Don't you remember them? They had a daughter.
- Facilitator 2: I'm sure if I see their face, I can't...
- Tony Caroll: It's been a long time.
- Mary Caroll: They had a daughter, one daughter.
- Facilitator 2: Where did they live, whereabouts?
- Mary Caroll: Just on the corner where the second hand store, now is the restaurant.
- 1967 my son run away from school because he was, he was naughty, he didn't want to go to school. He was with a boy who was born in Yugoslavia Macedonia and so I said to him, I'm coming to the school tomorrow to see the teacher, what are you doing.
- [31:39]
- So he was too afraid to face me, so the boy said to him come on, we go to Yugoslavia and my son said to him, I'm born in Australia, I haven't got another country [laughs]. He said I'll take you Yugoslavia. So they walk from George Street - Napier Street, the Napier, yeah? ...Napier Street, up to Malvern. ...On their way to Yugoslavia.
- Tony Caroll: Yeah.
- Mary Caroll: [Laughs] All Gertrude Street, every shop was looking after my, to find my son. So we went to the police station which was in Town Hall now, [unclear] when you run away from school...



Tony Caroll: 24 hours.

Mary Caroll: 24 hours and then I went to Russell Street, it was the main police, and I said to them look, 24 hours on seven year old kid - isn't it? By this time it was in July, you know how quickly it gets dark and of course my son knew our telephone number - if you ask him now he'll tell you a story, he said to the policeman we've been kidnapping. He said after we told all the lie the policeman said to them, now the real story [laughs].

He said, but I'm from Fitzroy - this is my boy - and he said, I know my telephone number. So they rang - because everybody, we everywhere, except my brother, the one who left, stayed home in 34 Napier Street in case they ring because my in-laws they couldn't, they didn't want to speak English. They rung and they told him where he is and they went and picked him up. I'll never forget as long as I live [unclear].

Facilitator 2: I can imagine. [33:13]

Mary Caroll: You can imagine. Now you've got a child you know what it's like. You don't know they're [unclear], that was the hardest part of it. But...

Facilitator 2: So how many hours was he missing?

Mary Caroll: From eight o'clock in the morning until eight o'clock in the evening, 12 hours.

Facilitator 2: Oh God, that's 12 hours of torture.

Tony Caroll: [Unclear] to help my son, Peter.

Facilitator 2: Oh, so you gave up the shop so that Peter could take... over the shop.

Tony Caroll: Take over.

So not to pay rent somewhere else and I thought, said I will retire. That's [why I] come over here, brought my things here and still doing it, I was doing it.

Facilitator 2: So you never had a break, you just moved here.

Tony Caroll: Just moved here, yeah.

Mary Caroll: Overnight, mind you.



- Tony Carroll: No, weekend we moved in, weekend.
- Facilitator 2: I thought maybe you took... a bit of a break and you realised that you missed work and...
- Tony Carroll: No, no. Not really.
- Facilitator 2: Okay, so you didn't really stop.
- Tony Carroll: No, until we put this together and straight things up. That's all, nothing much, no, but as I said only three days a week now though...
- Facilitator 2: Yeah, that's good. [34:06]
- Tony Carroll: ...work. ...But we had helping, only my son, he said dad, I'm paying big rent and it's very hard to survive. I said, well in that case work, he take the shop and I...
- Mary Carroll: No, but the place where he was paying rent we didn't make that money, because he said he works for his son. I said to you don't, I said the amount of rent he pays, you don't earn that amount of money. Because you know how much the rent is downtown in the city, and he said... he asked him, he said Peter, do you want the shop? He said, only if you retire dad. He said I'm retiring [laughs]. He's a good boy.
- Tony Carroll: Oh, well I've done enough since 1958 and I'm still going, that's, what's that, 60-something years?
- Facilitator 2: You lose count.
- Mary Carroll: Yes, yes.
- Tony Carroll: Yeah, you [unclear] lose count. ...That's right.
- Facilitator 1: Oh, well thank you very much.
- Tony Carroll: No problem.
- Mary Carroll: It's been very interesting.

[35:00]

END OF TRANSCRIPT