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# Jane Bennett interviewed by Nikki Henningham in the Rural Women of the Year Award oral history project [sound recording]

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| **Repository** | National Library of Australia, Oral History and Folklore Collection |
| **Reference** | ORAL TRC 6174/1 |
| **Date Range** | 9-Feb-10 - 9-Feb-10 |
| **Access** | Access open for research, personal copies and public use. |
| **Finding Aid** | Timed summary (6 p.) and uncorrected transcript (typescript, 69 leaves) |

## Details

2 sound files (ca. 135 min.)??Jane Bennett talks about her family background; growing up on the family farm; her decision to have a career in farming; her early understanding of gender roles on farms; dairy farming and the low status of the dairy industry in Australia in the 1980s; agricultural class system or hierarchy in Australia; the role of mothers on the farm, their importance to their children's involvement in the local community; social life off the farm, the Deloraine social set in the 1980s; religious diversity of the community; arts culture and the health of regional centres; hippies moving into the area in the 1970s; the importance of the establishment of the Rotary Club Craft Fair; why some rural communities are more successful that others; monocultural farming communities; geographical elements to successful communities and 'Island Culture'; her interest in genetic engineering; her father's decision to become a cheese maker; the start of a cheese factory in Tasmania in the 1980s; studying Dairy Technology at Gilbert Chandler College at Werribee; studying at Kent Business College in England in 2008; women as the agents for change in rural communities; Landcare; Australian rural cultural matters; effectiveness of government policies to change agricultural activity.??Bennett discusses the need for innovation, value adding, marketing and branding of food; Tasmanian economic future; how Tasmanian farmers must adapt to survive; the rate of change required being linked to developments in technology; the importance of the ABC Rural Woman of the Year Award to raising the profile of women; changing attitudes to women in agriculture over the last 15 years; their increased capacity to participate in farming activities; cheese making becoming fashionable by 2005; entering the ABC Rural Woman of the Year Award; the response of the Tasmanian community to her winning the national award; her role in the formation of a Rural Youth Club; her interest in education and training; becoming a delegate on the Rural Industry Training Board, rising to President; working in England, problem solving; the role of Global Communication Technology to the growth of her business; Aldi Supermarkets; the experience of working with people outside agriculture; her application for a Vincent Fairfax Fellowship; opportunities made available and lessons learned through winning the Rural Woman of the Year Award; the importance of service to the community; Nuffield Farming Scholarship; travelling to Taiwan; impact of the feminist movement on people of her age; difficulties associated with the family enterprise for women who want to work in agriculture; her male mentors.

**Author Details**
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