

Hello. [anonymous] here. Hey, [anonymous]. It's [anonymous]. How are you doing?

Good, [anonymous]. How are you? Fine. Look. It's only it's only three questions, and it's not that difficult.

It's just really to know a bit a bit about, I mean, some things. From [anonymous] just gone inside for a tick. I'll just go and get her, and then we can start. Sure. Thanks.

One sec. Nice day, isn't it? Yeah. It's great. It's not good for the plants, but it's good for us to have a little bit of sun as well.

Yeah. Oh, it'll it'll actually a bit of yeah. There's a lot of soggy roots of plants, so it it'll actually be good to have a few days to to dry out a bit. So the the plants will really like this sun, but they could have time to photosynthesize, I think. Yes.

True. Yeah. So things should look really good. I just Yeah. I I got I got a bit a bit when it's too rainy and too cold, Yeah.

It's it's difficult. Yeah. Yeah. Well, not much happens if it's too rainy and too cold. Yeah.

Okay. [anonymous] would be with us, isn't it? No problem. What have you been doing this morning? I I went I went for the for a walk a little bit because I wanted I wanted to see the sun.

Yep. And, just bought a coffee, come back home. And how are the kids? Yeah. They were sleeping, but I'm I'm going to to take them now for see the swimming pools on the on your castle beach.

I haven't I haven't been there be after the, like, fix it and everything else. Yeah. But it's it's it's it's good. There's still some work to do. But, yeah, it's enough that we take our

grandchildren to what they call the Canoe Core, which, it's right next to the the bars in Newcastle.

Anyway, we'll we'll get started, and then you can get back to your day. Okay. Thanks. Yeah. It's it's good that you you choose, you you talk separate separated so I can have a look at each, question separated.

The first one, it's just why did you choose to work with, plants in stone restoration? Like, why you why is the reason plants is important for you? Okay. I'll I'll let [anonymous] go first. That's yeah.

Look. That stems back. I can't quite put it, but I already had, how can I put when when I was a teenager and you're thinking about, what you're going to do growing up and other bits and pieces? Don't ask me what really but plants, I suppose I already, then already felt, you know, I felt very relaxed and in, it was yeah. It was just, the right habitat for me.

And if I could have done restoration work and worked in all bush regeneration and things when I left school, that's how I would have, probably gone. But I yeah. My career or, job wise was a bit different. And also coming and maybe seeing my parents to they're from the generation where, you know, you had you had to have a garden and other bits and pieces to really well, to survive. Yeah.

To survive. I mean, that's how they survive through the the war. They were lucky enough to have, their own main small property, but, they had, yeah, quite a few bits and pieces from fruit trees to a few animals and things on this property. And, not that I would ever thought about farming and things, but, yeah, that interest already started in high school. And then I was lucky enough as I got older and the children, you know, became older too.

They were in high school and work. I was only working part time, and I just thought I, yeah, want to pursue some of my interests. And so I did a course in bush regeneration, in 1999 or 1998 a while back, and I just thought it just, you know, having an interest in science and biology and all of that, it just, yeah, I just love the course and and and seeing so many positive things. Now I also understand that all of the things they're doing has been so good for my mental health, not just my physical health, but my mental

health and meeting other people that are like minded and also being able to so we're going on forever. No problem.

Able to work at on on the beach or coastal areas, which again was a big part. I mean, being Australian, the beach I don't know how to do beach culture, but it's a big thing for us as teenagers growing up and seeing, such a beautiful environment, and, yeah, a fairly natural and we're we were losing a lot of that coastline, that yeah. Those natural habitats and, for wildlife. But just, yeah, just the plant life, which is yeah. I find really interesting.

So that's my Excellent. It's You've got a you've got a book there now. Yeah. Yeah. So that's pretty much the same background.

My my dad especially was involved. He was a carpenter, but he was involved a lot with tomatoes, growing industry and flowers in the Channel Islands where I came from. So he always had a bit of a green thumb, and we just to grow quite a bit of our own vegetables. And then when my parents moved up to Nelson's Bay, they actually, ran a bush, regeneration place on Shoal Bay and removed mainly Bitu. So Bob and I got involved a little bit with that.

And at the same time, is that one of the people we met during birthing classes, she was, a bat For her children. With her children. She was a bat, specialist, but she ran Ash Island, rehab. So we got introduced that, and I took a real interest in [anonymous] doing the course. So, and I've spent quite a bit of time in Sydney and in Wollongong, and and a lot of the beaches down there are sand and then concrete and then buildings.

So, the fact that we can work on coastlines here and keep our native June plants, which form a really good way of of preventing sand movement and erosion, it's you're always learning. So, in Bushri Jen, especially with Australian plants, how many plants there are? Like, there's more plants between Wollongong and Newcastle than the whole of Europe or plant species. So big biodiversity. I've always been interested in biology, and I recognized fairly early on that if you don't, and I was interested in the mammals and the birds and stuff.

If you don't have plants, you don't have the mammals and the birds. So yeah. Oh. And and it's it's it's creating, an eco-ecosystem. You you're creating something, and you can go and watch it grow and you end up, you plant a plant that's 10 centimetres, and in ten years' time, it's, 30 meters.

So that's just a pleasure to look at. Thank you so much. My second question is, what is your current opinion on robotic technology? I'll let [anonymous] answer that first. So I don't know enough about it.

If I maybe if I'd had more of a background of engineering and other bits and pieces, what I see where I have been exposed to robotic, yeah, it's, through, you know, through medicine with, the robots and things that they're using for surgery, other bits and pieces. And, and I think that's just amazing. But here's the thing. A lot of the robotics stuff and a lot of problems and things that, we as humans are trying to solve for things again. Nature has already, you know, figured these things out thousands, millions of years ago if you get kind of drift.

But I do think robotics stuff is, yeah, is pretty yeah. Things are you know, the technology that well, even this today, you know, doing this kind of interview on, a handheld kind of, well, phone or, you know, seeing that's that was all kind of science fiction when we were kids, and we're doing all of that. Yeah. So seeing all of that, I just think, yeah, it's amazing stuff. But there, I don't, you know, I'm alright at maps with other bits of pieces, but, yes, the robotics and all of, you know, I I suppose I don't know enough about it to comment really, really.

Yeah. But, you know, an informed an informed comment. But do you have a opinion, like, you like, you don't like? Oh, see I yeah. It's not that I I don't like I can't say that, maybe I can put you know, when I was again, when I was younger and when we first came out here to Australia and my parents brought all, you know, everything that they had in the house and and the whole bits and pieces.

And of course, they had a television set. When we first came to Newcastle, when we first came to Newcastle, Newcastle, I mean, television was here in Australia, but there was no station here in Newcastle, and they couldn't use their little, television set. And it sat in the corner. Not to say that that's, you know, total robotics, but that's, you know,

building on on all these kinds of things. And I just, yeah, you know, growing up with with certain things, I think they're essential.

We just yes. So humanity and I said, I can see the the big changes and the big benefits a lot of these things, have done. But I also know and and through work and everything, how I've seen, you know, a lot of people become ill and especially their mental health and things. What do we turn on? We don't always turn on robotic, solutions for for bits and pieces.

A lot of people need to, you know, get back to some of the basics and things. So I I I haven't got a kind to say that robotics are, you know, that I I I mean, I use robotics and and other bits and pieces. We all do in everyday life. And but maybe I'm a bit more bent, yeah, the the the nature way and looking back, you know, how, yeah, nature's evolved and and things like that. So that doesn't really help?

No. Yeah. That's that's exactly what I was looking for here. Okay. May may I have the question again, please?

What's your current opinion on robotic technology? Current opinion, it's it's exciting. And I know from the medical point of view, it's it's revolutionized, certain procedures and making things safer. So as as long as there's ethics in the robotic development, I think, it can only be sort of, on the whole, beneficial as long as it's used for beneficial stuff and, not but if yeah. Some of it will be turned into warfare type stuff, which is sad.

But on the whole, I think it's a a positive thing. And if we can get, the new generation really interested in robotics, that will give them a, a passion to follow, which I think is human beings. You need to have something that you can grasp that, gives you a a feeling of well-being and positivity. And for us, Landcare does that, but other people will be creating new programs and robots and stuff like that. Yeah.

Thank you so much. And the last question is quite simple. Do you can you imagining any way robotic technology could help reforestation and especially dune restoration? Oh, yeah. I mean, I can see and they have been talking about that, you know, vast areas.

I mean, that's where we've got vast areas here in Australia too where, you know, it's being deforested or, and all I knew was, you know, they were looking there at getting drones in at other bits and pieces to help with mass plantings and, things. And I can see you know, even, like, well, with robotics, even, you know, from making cars and all that kind of thing, you could easily set up. I'm sure well, I hear I'm saying easy set up. But, you know, from propagating plan and bits and pieces, repetitive, kind of work and and bits and pieces. If you had a, you know, a production line of little robots kind of putting up or doing seed work or planting or, and that's it.

It's doing, great surveys, natural habitat surveys. They're using drones and heat sensors and bits and pieces to check out what really is in in habitats where before they used to have, you know, just people doing surveys from the ground and things. You don't you miss a lot of the arboreal kind of animals. And, you know, they had a, someone has bought a property up near Barrington, and he has bought some of these drones in. And he had them doing surveys before where they were spotting for koalas.

They found I can't remember. About eight koalas per, you know, a certain area. When they send the drone up and have their heat sensing, sensing and and their special, programs on these, drones, they found at least about 50 or so. So how many they had missed, you know, from, you know, humans kind of trying to do that. So I saw I can see it yet.

You know? There's a saying, robotics and technology and all those kind of things. There's so many wonderful uses for for all of that. And, also, I'm hoping that that yes. For young people, this is you know, that's the next kind of, there's a new industry in there for them to be doing the programming and robotics and and thinking about all of those kind of things.

So I see there's lots of possibilities. And my my little mind's probably fairly limited, but I'm sure there's lots of other things where, yeah, that combination of things. But I suppose even looking at, like, when they first, made solar panels and things, and they're looking at plants using chlorophyll and other bits and pieces of leaves. You know, there's a little factory there making and, sugars and energy and the rest of it. And then they've devised solar panels.

And and now, of course, we don't think twice about solar panels these days. The back of here so you can see is, you know, there's, those kind of things going through, yeah, our lifetimes and history and everything where things are are very beneficial. Thanks, Mark. Just to add on to that, so robotics in in June, preservation, great way to do surveys of large areas of, coastline, to pick out, levels of weed infestation using machines to, control certain areas, especially, say, cliff faces that it is just out of, same cost to get to. So, Jones, with the right equipment and the right sensing devices can be used to deliver herbicide onto areas that no one else as Bob was saying, using machines for planting, large areas, mainly by seed distribution, and surveying what animals and plants that there.

And also keeping an eye on making sure, there's no illegal clearing. Mhmm. And that's more looking at the satellites. You could say, well, this is an area that's, been devastated by people clearing, and it may be miles from any road. But, yeah, you could use technology to keep an eye on stuff, prosecute, check for weed species, and also planting.

So it's all very exciting. Yeah. It's also used in, with geology and things. See, that's the thing. We're we're here on the surface looking at bits and pieces, but, yeah, they're so so, you know, there's so much I mean, you would probably know so much more about robotics and machines and other bits and pieces that what they're using.

The things is there's so many. Yeah. Look. I'm sure. Yes.

Positive. And it could also be involved with education and also, using robotics to, maybe mirror a natural environment and how complicated it is. You you need to make it all work together as well as it should. There's there's a lot of folks. And, using robotics, you might be able to get that as an education to people and say, this is how complicated things are.

Thank you so much. Any other questions? No. It's all of this. Thank you.

Hopefully, that's been helpful. Yes. Hopefully, that's not too much. I'm well, you no. I can ravel on for ages and not actually say anything specific.

But No. No. I'll trans I'll transcript everything and and the data is only, for this survey. It's not gonna be published. So it's it's just, and it's gonna maintain as anonymous.

If it's gonna publish in in any paper, any information, it's all anonymous. Yeah. With it whatever's it it we're we're happy to put our names to anything if you need it, but that's fine. We're really of interest to yourself. Thanks again for you.

I thank you a lot for your participation. Yeah. And thank you for helping me out so much with the plantings. I'm just like [anonymous]. It it calms me down.

It's Yeah. Helps me more than I have than I have been. And and it's lovely. And there's so many things other little things maybe that you notice, I don't know. And and maybe, see, that's just in our human nature, those things.

But also, we found out so much more about, well, even our own town, like history and a lot of the indigenous history, their story, that's another yeah. All of these things are all kind of bonuses. And then so we meet we meet people like you as well. So it's been really good. It's been lovely.

You're gonna have to handle because I'm gonna be there for a very long time. Oh, that's really cool. We're gonna let you go so you can enjoy in some of this sunshine while it's soaking here and enjoy, the beach or the water or whatever, what you're doing. Yeah. Okay.

Bye. Bye. Thank you so much. Bye.