

# NOHANZ

## Newsletter

Volume 18, number 4

DECEMBER 2004

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Executive Committee:

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Anna Green

Ruth Greenaway

Bruce Ralston

[www.oralhistory.org.nz](http://www.oralhistory.org.nz)

**Newsletter:** We seek news and views from around the country about what is happening, courses that are being offered, reports on projects in progress or completed. Email contact is Rachael Selby at [R.A.Selby@massey.ac.nz](mailto:R.A.Selby@massey.ac.nz) who is looking forward to receiving your contributions.

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## **NOHANZ news**

**NOHANZ South Island regional meeting 20-21 November 2004**

The meeting was held over two days at the MacMillan Brown Centre, Canterbury University campus. It was very well attended with participants travelling long distances to attend – Wellington, Stewart Island, Dunedin, North Otago, Picton, to name a few. The two days were very well organised with an interesting mix of speakers, not to mention lovely food! The seminar began with Jeff Palmer, archivist at the MacMillan Brown Library, who gave an overview of the facilities and collections at the library. The MacMillan Brown currently has an oral history collection, is a repository for oral history material in Canterbury and also holds an impressive art collection which can be viewed online. Any queries about the library can be directed to Jeff at [jeff.palmer@canterbury.ac.nz](mailto:jeff.palmer@canterbury.ac.nz) – tel: 03 364 2816.

Over the week-end excellent workshops were run by Judith Fyfe, Linda Evans and Lesley Hall. Other participants spoke about their projects and involvement in oral history. These included: Bruce Russell, archivist at Rangiruru Girls' College; Ruth Greenaway, Peace Project; Nelson Tainui, archivist, Ngai Tahu; Steve Harteveld, Terry Nicholas and Theona Heaslip - Rakiura Project; Gerard Duignan – recording New Zealand broadcasters; Kim Morton - Raoul Island Project; Michelle Bradley - Lyttleton Project; Tania Nutiru and Dora Roimata Langsbury - Ngai Tahu; Loreen Brehaut – Picton Historical Society, Taina McGregor, Oral Historian, Maori, Oral History Centre; Nicola Robertson – Country Women's Institute; Dorothy McMenamin Anglo-Indian and South Pacific Leprosy Projects; and Jacqui Foley, reflections on the practice of oral history,

On Saturday afternoon, Judith Fyfe and Linda Evans ran a workshop entitled 'Tape To Type'. This covered standards, styles and ethical issues to consider when transcribing and editing oral history interviews for publication. The session clearly illustrated that making this transfer is not a simple or straightforward exercise. It involves many decisions and challenges, while always keeping in mind the fundamental question as to how to retain the voice and intention of the interviewee. A series of practical exercises illustrated just how difficult and time consuming making the transfer can be. I found this to be a wonderful workshop. It broke down into very accessible parts, the considerations and decisions that have to be taken when embarking on this type of project.

Another excellent session was held by Lesley Hall on Sunday morning. She examined issues of confidentiality and ethics in interviewing and oral history practice in general. There was a lot of discussion and questioning around these vital issues. I found this particularly useful to return to the basic fundamentals of oral history practice.

The conference concluded at lunch-time on Sunday with discussion and planning for next year's national conference.

I really enjoyed the week-end and congratulate the organisers on a well run, friendly and successful seminar.  
**Jacqui Foley**

The 2005 conference will be held in Christchurch from 1 – 3 July. The conference theme is 'Personally Speaking: reflecting on public events'. See the Call for Papers enclosed with this newsletter. We're looking forward to receiving your proposals for what should be an extremely interesting conference.

Please also note the call for papers for the next international oral history conference to be held in Sydney in July 2006. This is a great opportunity for New Zealand oral historians to participate in the international oral history community and we hope that New Zealand will be well-represented there.

## ***Project report***

### **OTAKI DISTRICT COMMERCIAL GARDENERS SOCIETY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

Earlier this year the committee of the Gardeners Society contracted Anne Thorpe to record Oral history's of the remaining committee members of the society in order to preserve memory and history of this historic yet declining society.

In 1942 the Society was formed with a bi-cultural constitution between the Chinese and European market gardeners of the Otaki district. The nomination for the committee members is 50/50 European/Chinese. It has remained this way since its inception and as a result both groups have a very close knit relationship.

During the 1960's and 70's the membership was over 250, today the membership totals just over 30 and not all these are active market gardeners. The issues that have been faced by this society, as horticulture in the area has declined, are the pressure from super market bulk buying, the decline of the open market system and the impact of urbanisation on the rural lands.

The stories of many are inter generational, from fathers to sons, with now only a handful of family members still engaged in horticulture. The role of women in the horticultural world is also being revealed in the

interviews and could be the subject of another fascinating project.

Anne is an insider to this community having worked for the Secretary to the Society and her husband is a life member and President of long standing, this provides opportunities and yet difficulties as some interviewees think that she knows the answers to many of the questions and their responses reflect this. A project which has thrown up many challenges but is proving to be very enlightening. It will be completed mid 2005.

**Anne Thorpe**

## ***Off-tape***

Hello, I am an American historian, who is living and working in Wellington until October, 2005.

I have a long history with oral history in the USA. Among the people I have interviewed are domestic employees and political leaders, Holocaust survivors and World War II veterans, 1970s feminists and Quaker peace activists. Several years ago, I published in *Oral History Review* an interview I did with Sandro Portelli, the well-known oral history scholar at the University of Rome.

Most recently I directed a 4-year project on the history of the black civil rights struggle in Kentucky. We collected over 175 interviews, produced a 56-minute video, titled *Living the Story*. The project has received two national awards. The video went free to every secondary school across the state, along with teacher lesson plans and three websites for student research. These are also available to the public through Kentucky Education Television at [www.ket.org/civilrights](http://www.ket.org/civilrights) and the Kentucky Historical Society at [www.kyoralthistory.org](http://www.kyoralthistory.org). A theater performance was developed. A book and a CD-ROM are still in progress. It

was a great privilege to work on this project.

I am presently working on a study of oral history in New Zealand. I am interviewing some of your leading oral historians about their work and also about the history of NOHANZ. I welcome any suggestions you might have for this project.

Please contact me at [brinson422@verizon.net](mailto:brinson422@verizon.net) or telephone 4 385 4897 in Wellington. If you are close by and would like to meet for a coffee or tea in one of your wonderful cafes, please call me. I plan also to attend the 2005 NOHANZ meeting next summer.

**Betsy Brinson**

## **Sonja Davies Peace Award**

This inaugural award was recently presented to Ruth Greenaway (NOHANZ member) and Kathleen Gallagher by the Governor General Dame Sylvia Cartwright, for their work in producing a film about the peace movement in New Zealand. The film is entitled *Peace People*, taken from the publication of the same name, about the history of the peace movement, by Elsie Locke. The film comprises nine interviews with people who have taken a lead or been at the forefront of specific actions or initiatives to promote peace. The interviews and archival footage cover events from the 1930s to the late 1990s. Stories of revolutions being planned around kitchen tables, candles floating down rivers in remembrance of Hiroshima, surf boards and dinghies going to sea to stop nuclear warships, secret letters smuggled out to conscientious objectors, campaigns, protests and petitions for a safer, more peaceful world.

This is a project of the STRAW Umbrella Trust, following a series of oral history interviews with peace people that both Ruth and Kathleen

have been collecting over the past year. Funding for this work has come from the Peace and Disarmament Education Trust and now a grant from the Sonja Davies Peace Award which is administered by the New Horizon's Trust for Women.

For more information on this project contact: Ruth Greenaway, ph: 03 337-3465 or email: [straw@paradise.net.nz](mailto:straw@paradise.net.nz)

### ***Wanted to buy***

I'm looking for a transcribing machine to buy second hand. Perhaps there is someone who has one that they are no longer using, or not using at the moment.

**Pip Oldham**  
**04 475 3775**

### ***Call for papers***



#### **Call for Papers**

**XIVth International Oral History Conference**  
**Sydney, Australia, 12-16 July 2006**

#### ***Dancing with memory: oral history and its audiences***

Papers are invited from around the world for contributions to the XIVth International Oral History Conference hosted by the International Oral History Association in collaboration with the Oral History Association of Australia, State Library of New South Wales, University of Technology

Sydney, and University of New England.

Proposals may be for a conference paper, a thematic panel or a workshop session. Offers to convene a Special Interest Group Session are also sought. (See details below\*)

Proposals will be evaluated according to their oral history focus, relevance to the conference theme and sub-themes, methodological and theoretical significance, and sound scholarship.

#### **Conference theme** **'Dancing with memory: oral history and its audiences'**

Much of the research and reflective work in this field over the years has focused on those who carry out oral histories and the process of interviewing itself. But what has been the effect of telling stories largely through the sound medium over the last 40 years? As we move to a new age of digital storytelling which strengthens the visual elements, it seems timely to ask: who listens and how? Oral history is one of the ways in which people share memories and how people hear and respond to them is partly shaped by the contexts of their telling and listening.

We encourage proposals which explore indigenous lives, and we envisage that some sessions will focus specifically on comparative indigenous perspectives and experiences.

The conference theme invites presentations which investigate that 'dance with memory' which occurs between the speaker and the listener, and between the performer or product and their audiences. We therefore encourage people who have worked with oral history in a wide range of environments such as museums, heritage agencies, academic

institutions, law courts, radio and television, performing arts, community projects all of which express a relationship to the past through a particular cultural medium.

The conference theme also invites reflective analysis of the ways in which, through past and current projects, 'dancing with memory' involves both pleasure and pain – for the subject, the interviewer and the audience – and the ways in which awareness of particular audiences shapes the focus and conceptual framework of individual projects.

Conference sub-themes offer an opportunity to tease out some of these issues as well as to extend discussion to include ongoing concerns within oral history scholarship and practice.

#### **Sub-themes:**

- **archiving memory** – methodological sessions which focus on interviews as evidence of the past for future researchers; reuse of interviews; electronic media and access; publishing oral history in written texts
- **fire and water** – environmental issues, natural heritage, disasters
- **healing memories** – oral history in health work, aged care, disability.
- **island stories** - island nations and nations of islands; their stories and connections; sea passages and borders.
- **memory and community** - where oral history has been central to the recreation of community in particular locations or used to document disappeared or lost communities.
- **memory and trauma** – in cases involving human rights, justice or restitution where oral history has

been utilized as testimony, surviving war, surviving terrorism

- **places and buildings** – lost places, localities, heritage issues and debates
- **pleasures of memory**– where the focus is on oral history as a sensuous engagement with the voice; relationship to seeing (still and moving image), touch (material culture and museums), performance (theatre and music) ; emotion and experience.
- **political pasts** – government agencies and corporate memory, politics, politicians
- **remembering the land** – particularly where oral history has been central to land claims or ownership of particular sites, and where oral history is used to map spatial histories
- **sharing/passing on beliefs** - religious traditions, oral traditions,
- **stories in translation** - diasporas, cross-cultural dialogue
- **talking to ourselves** – history of oral history, oral history as an international movement, 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of IOHA
- **teaching and learning** - where the audience is cross generational and oral history makes an intervention in passing on cultural heritage either through formal schooling or informal family or community traditions

If you are interested, please send us a single page proposal including an outline of your paper and the following details:  
- name (with your family name in CAPITAL letters)  
- affiliation  
- postal address

- email address
- phone and fax numbers
- relevant sub-theme
- whether an individual paper, a thematic panel, or a workshop proposal\*
- suggestions for Special Interest Groups\*

Proposals (and subsequent papers) must be written in English or Spanish. Presenters will be required to send their final paper in English or Spanish, with a summary in the other language. We strongly recommend that translations are done by professional translators. If none are available please notify the Association at [ioha@uts.edu.au](mailto:ioha@uts.edu.au)

Papers should, as much as possible, allow the conference audiences to hear the voices of narrators.

**\*NOTE:**

**Individual papers** – these will be grouped by the conference organizers into panels or workshops with papers which have a similar focus

**Thematic panels** – proposals for a thematic panel should contain no more than four presenters, preferably representing different countries

**Workshops** – workshop proposals should identify an issue or focus for a workshop, propose a structure and workshop leader/s.

**Performances** - segments (of no more than 30 minutes) from oral history based performances

**Special Interest Groups -**

There will be network sessions for Special Interest Groups to

meet, establish contacts, share resources and ideas.

Convenors will be required to organize each Special Interest Group. Suggestions and offers are invited.

**Master classes** - There will also be some oral history master classes or workshops available before the conference and led by internationally recognized oral history scholars and practitioners.

**DEADLINE FOR PROPOSALS:  
30 MAY 2005**

**SCHOLARSHIPS**

The International Oral History Association has a Scholarships Fund to provide financial assistance to attend the conference, particularly for participants from developing countries. Guidelines are available on the IOHA website (<http://www.ioha.fgv.br>). To be eligible for a Scholarship you must, in the first instance, have a paper or other proposal accepted. Please consult the IOHA website for details.

Enquiries and proposals to:

**Email:** [IOHA@uts.edu.au](mailto:IOHA@uts.edu.au)

**Mail:** Paula Hamilton  
Faculty of Humanities  
University of Technology  
Sydney  
PO Box 123  
Broadway NSW 2007  
Australia.

**Conference website**

From early 2005, there will be a link to the conference website from the website of the International Oral History Association:  
<http://www.ioha.fgv.br/>