



The National Oral History Association of New Zealand
Te Kete Kōrero-a-Waha o Te Motu

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The Gift of Memory

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NOHANZ

Newsletter

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NOHANZ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

Ruth Greenaway

Secretary

Jiff Stewart

Treasurer

R Bester

Linda Evans

Helen Frizzell

Ann Packer

Lynette Shum

NOHANZ REGIONAL CONTACTS

We are building our network of regional contacts. Please feel free to contact the contact person for your area or another member of the Executive Committee

Auckland: [Megan Hutching](#)

Gisborne: [Susan Fowke](#)

Taranaki: [Claire Hall](#)

Wellington: [Paul Diamond](#)

Picton: [Loreen Brehaut](#)

Oamaru: [Jacqui Foley](#)

Dunedin: [Helen Frizzell](#)

www.oralhistory.org.nz

Newsletter

We welcome news and views from around the country about what is happening, courses that are being offered, reports on projects in progress or completed, websites and resources.

Send your news to:

NOHANZexec@gmail.com

Editor: Ann Packer

ann.packer@xtra.co.nz

From the President

The NOHANZ Executive Committee had a productive face-to-face planning day in Wellington on 28 November. This was the first time we'd been able to meet together in person this year. A very big thanks to Jiff Stewart, our dedicated secretary, for sharing her home with us, for her great hospitality and home cooking! Meeting in person is a valuable opportunity for us all.

We covered a lot in six hours: looking at improvements to existing core business, including how to more effectively respond to questions from members, and new and innovative ways of enhancing what we do.

We have had some feedback about the need to improve the NOHANZ website. We see this as a priority and early in 2014 will consider what might be done. We will provide further information about this through our newsletters.

We are also considering using social media as another communication tool. We would be interested in members' views on this subject: please email nohan-zexec@gmail.com under the heading NOHANZ – social media.

The 2014 NOHANZ Conference organizing committee's call for papers is included in this newsletter.

In the last few days the Recording Agreement Group (RAG) has had discussions with a copyright expert about ways to think about copyright in oral history recordings. RAG is working on the implications for the way oral historians approach copyright and how copyright is dealt with on the Recording Agreement Form. RAG will be reporting to the first NOHANZ meeting of the year. Watch the newsletter and website for information. Committee members shared their hopes and dreams for NOHANZ in other areas, such as how we might respond to

requests for further education / professional development from our members, and how to improve our networking with other historical groups working in regional areas. We are agreed that the primary purpose of NOHANZ is as a reference point for oral historians, and that through the work of NOHANZ since its inception we have a wealth of information to share. The website oralhistory.org.nz is the starting place for anyone needing information. You can also email us at nohanzexec@gmail.com with specific queries.

As this is our last newsletter for the year, I wish you all a safe holiday season, a blessed Christmas and best wishes for the coming year.

Ruth Greenaway



Reports

Adelaide conference: "She said: he said": Reading, Writing and Recording History

Four New Zealanders presented at the biennial national conference of the Oral History Association of Australia, which joined with the 21st State History Conference in Adelaide in September 2013.

NOHANZ secretary **Jiff Stewart** reports:

As a relative newcomer to the world and conferences of oral history I greatly enjoyed this conference. Adelaide is a beautiful and gracious city, proud of its free settlement history and graced by a

convenient central strip of core buildings – university, art gallery, museum, national library – with gardens and hotels nearby making it a great venue for a conference. The conference was spread over five days with tours and workshops fore and aft.

The joint hosting meant some sessions had a focus other than oral history. Themes related to contested histories – memory, technology and new developments in oral history; urban history; and indigenous history. New Zealand was ably represented by a small but vocal, engaged and noticed contingent.

Keynote speakers

I was most excited by the Friday night lecture by **Professor Alistair Thomson** from Monash University, who spoke about the Australian Generations project – 300 life histories, with 50 from people born in each decade from the 1920s and 1930s through to the 1980s. The intention is to track the stories of someone born in the 1930s, and the changing ways, for example, in which they related to their family across their lives; and comparing someone born in the 1950s to someone born in the 1980s – their different ways, for example, of bringing up kids.

Some of these interviews are available online through the National Library of Australia. An ABC Radio National series will feature some 50 programmes. My thought was – wow, how cool would it be to do something like this in NZ! So much smaller, so much more manageable!

<http://www.monash.edu.au/research/people/profiles/profile.html?sid=12774&pid=4373>



Image: museumvictoria.com.au

Rina Benmayor, Professor of Oral History, Literature and Latina/o Studies at California State University, Monterey Bay, directs the CSUMB Oral History and Community Memory Archive. Her presentation *Re-imagining Salinas' Chinatown: A 'third space' oral history walking tour* profiled an on-site and web-based walking tour which is part of a larger community effort to renew and revitalize the only extant Chinatown between San Francisco and Los Angeles. Drawing on more than 100 OH interviews and other documentation, the tour is a self-guided experience that mixes audio, video, archival images and soundscapes. The tour is available on <http://walkingtour.puntoalea.com/>



Keynote speaker Professor Rina Benmayor in Adelaide's Chinatown. Image: Lynette Shum

Parallel sessions and workshops

The parallel sessions programme was diverse – war; queer voices; history on the stage; sex, law and criminality; picturing the past: art; history and social welfare; women's voices; disasters; indigenous voices; re-thinking education; intercultural

crafting; migration history; history in a digital world.

Workshops included: dealing with difficult histories; using oral histories in exhibitions and public programmes; and strategies for retrieving memories and creating personal life stories.

New Zealand presentations

Lynette Shum, Oral History Advisor at the Alexander Turnbull Library, whose brief is to train and support oral historians around the country, presented "With Both Eyes: Representations of Wellington's Historic Chinatown", which used photographs as one tool to prompt memories of Haining Street, Wellington – once alleged to be "the most notorious slum area in NZ". Lynette, a NOHANZ Committee member, presented her talk again to the November Wellington regional meeting. <http://www.stevenyoung.co.nz/the-chinese-in-new-zealand/Current-Historical-Research/REMEMBERING-HAINING-STREET-With-both-eyes-open.html>

Sue Berman, Oral Historian for Auckland Libraries, and immediate past co-president of NOHANZ, presented "The Dominion Road Stories: Collaboration, Creativity and Collections". (See Newsletter Volume 27, Number 1, April 2013). <http://www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/dbtw-wpd/virt-exhib/DominionRoadStories/index.htm>

Heritage researcher **R Bester** (NOHANZ Treasurer), presented "Where's the Full Story? – Contested Histories in the Public Realm", which considered the challenges faced in using oral histories commissioned by local government departments and libraries – interpretation, representation and responsibility for those interviews which remain in the public realm.

Dr Sara Donaghey presented "she said... she said: reciprocal peer reviewing within a transgenerational frame". A Senior Lecturer and Programme Leader, Undergraduate Studies at the Department Of Communication Studies, Unitec, Auckland, Sara's presentation explored a more crea-

tive collaborative technique which allows participants to fully engage in the interview process. The recording methodology explored was that of the reciprocal peer interview, which allows each pair to perform both roles as interviewer and interviewee, with the researcher taking on a secondary role as facilitator and observer. The nature of the research lent itself to this innovative recording procedure as it explored lesbian identity across generations. I found this a particularly interesting session, with strong parallels with the “participatory research” concept sometimes used in working with people with disabilities. The websites below review or give excerpts from Sara’s presentation.

<http://www.ohaaqld.org.au/blog/?p=1159>

<http://prezi.com/t8zqtwyapsgr/she-saidshe-said-adelaide-september-2013/>



Dr Sara Donaghey presents. Image: Jenny Scott
http://www.flickr.com/photos/adelaide_archivist/9913147235/

Another presentation of particular relevance to NZ was “Voices in Victoria’s Agricultural Heritage”, from **Colleen Lazenby**, chair of the heritage committee, Royal Agricultural Society of Victoria (RASV), an anthropologist and archaeologist with experience as an oral historian and cultural heritage resource manager in the US and Australia. The RASV’s new OH programme aims to provide voices to enrich the agricultural heritage and history across the state and provide insights into the development and operations of the Royal Melbourne Show, in particular.

The official Conference website is <http://www.ohaa.org.au/page/conferences.html>. At time of writing this was reflecting the conference as a future event. Some information was, however, available re the programme and keynote speaker. Some presentations are accessible via Google but others appear, at this stage, to be unavailable.

OHAA advise that:

- all sessions were recorded and have been given as sound files to OHA SA who are seeking permission before preparing them for access.
- one of the best run-downs on the conference is at <http://www.ohaaqld.org.au/blog/>
- the October journal for Oral History NSW, *Voiceprint*, also carries articles
- a large collection of photos can be accessed on Flickr: She said he said 2013 or State History Conference 2013.
- photos of some presenters are available on http://www.flickr.com/photos/adelaide_archivist/9913147235/
- <http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/australian-generations/>

Overall the conference was great – well organized, the venue at USA’s City West Campus convenient and handy to accommodation. The chance to talk (over many delicious meals and snacks) with oral historians from all over Australia – and beyond – provided riches to ponder.



Breaks were taken in the courtyard. Image: Jenny Scott.
http://www.flickr.com/photos/adelaide_archivist/9912902045/in/photostream/

Regional

Wellington

August's Wellington regional meeting featured two very different talks, one from **Gillian Headifen** about using oral history to fill in gaps about family history and a report from **Pip Oldham** who attended the Oral History Society's 2013 conference in West Sussex, England. **Marina Fontein** reports.

Gillian Headifen explored some of the ways family research can be enriched by accessing personal views of day-to-day life. The ATL's oral history collection is a valuable resource that can be a researcher's only recourse when family members have passed away.

Aiming to understand the experience of her mother and aunt – both of whom nursed in Wellington, at the Ewart and Fever Hospitals – Gillian accessed interviews recorded with other nurses. She described some of the challenges of using recorded histories for family research, such as the interviewer's choice of questions, and interviews with multiple narrators and also discussed the process of gaining access to oral history recordings, obtaining permission, and copyright implications.

Pip Oldham

Held in the distinctive, round Basil Spence-designed Meeting House at the University of Sussex on the 40th Anniversary of the OHS, the conference was the first dedicated to business and corporate history – a sector previously neglected in favour of the marginalised and powerless because of the ideological origins of oral history.

Themes discussed by Pip included: 'top down' versus 'bottom up' history; impetus for oral history (key events, commemorations etc); and moral, ethical, legal, privacy, licensing, and practice issues. Pip described the 'sheer breadth of corporate and institutional history' in universi-

ties, financial institutions, manufacturers and political institutions. A very interesting case for institutional history was then presented as Pip reflected on the meaning of (and need for) corporate stories.

Members who are interested in reading further can access the OHS (UK) site where the abstracts are available.

<http://www.ohs.org.uk/conference.php?conf=2&status=2013>

Marina Fontein

At November's meeting committee members had the opportunity to introduce themselves to attendees. Some were able to report back from the "*She said: he said*": Reading, Writing and Recording History Oral History Association of Australia conference, see Jiff Stewart's report this issue.

Lynette Shum

All Wellington regional meetings are held at the National Library, Molesworth Street, please enter from Aitken Street. 5.30pm nibbles for 6pm start, 7.30pm finish.

First meeting 2014 Thursday 20 February, tentatively second meeting Tuesday 14 May - to be confirmed

Freelance Oral History Support Group.

A small group of freelance Oral Historians largely from the Wellington region meets for informal discussion of their work every few months on a Saturday afternoon in members' homes. If you are interested please contact Jiff Stewart, jiffstewart@yahoo.com

Auckland

The next NOHANZ Auckland Regional Meeting will be on Saturday 1 February 2014, 10.30am - 12.30pm at the Central Library.

Reviews

A review of *IN LOVE AND WAR: Kiwi Soldiers' Romantic Encounters in Wartime Italy* by Susan Jacobs (Penguin, \$39.99) will be reviewed in the NOHANZ Journal, out soon, along with reviews of Jane Tolerton's *An Awfully Big Adventure* and Pip Desmond's *The War That Never Ended – New Zealand veterans remember Korea*.

From the Turnbull

The Alexander Turnbull Library have had a successful year of training, with 20 workshops in Auckland, Wellington, Dunedin and other places, and look forward to something similar next year. Please spread the word that workshops will be offered in the first half of next year in Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch. Dates should be announced before Christmas, please keep an eye on the website: www.natlib.govt.nz/events, or contact atloutreach@dia.govt.nz

From time to time Taina Tangaere McGregor and I, as the Alexander Turnbull Library's Oral History Advisers, receive requests to provide training and support for groups around the country. The groups can be well-established or newly-formed, of varying sizes and purposes, but all with the common goal of wanting their histories recorded through oral history.

One such group Turnbull Library staff have been working with this year have now formed the Pakaitore oral history working party. This comes 18 years after the 79-day occupation of Moutoa Gardens in Wanganui. The project aims to interview people with a wide range of perspectives on the 1995 events, from all sides.

The Project is also supported by Adult Community Education (ACE) Aotearoa and also by the Alexander Heritage & Research Library, part of Wanganui

Library.

Participants have spoken of the power of this project in its potential to heal and as a pathway to reconciliation. It's things like this optimism of the participants which makes my job so rewarding.

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/wanganui-chronicle/news/article.cfm?c_id=1503426&objectid=11099880

<http://www.radionz.co.nz/news/te-manu-korihi/129832/oral-history-project-wanted-for-moutoa-garden-occupation>

Lynette Shum

Sound Bytes

High Street Stories

Sue Berman, of Auckland Libraries' West Auckland Research Centre, calls this Christchurch project "a lively mixed media/heritage production using oral history".

<http://www.highstreetstories.co.nz/> "Get your headphones out – the stories are worth a listen," says Sue.

Writing funding applications

For information that might help yours achieve success, this link to LIANZA, the librarians' website. <http://tinyurl.com/nur5bl3>.

Membership subs

Just a reminder that NOHANZ subs for the 2013/14 financial year are now overdue. If you have not yet paid your subscription for this year, please arrange payment of your outstanding subscription – \$40 waged and \$25 unwaged – as soon as possible. This is also a good time to ensure we have your most current contact details. You can contact us at nohan-zexec@gmail.com to advise of any changes.

Subs for the 2014/2015 financial year fall due in April 2014.