

NOHANZ newsletter

The National Oral History Association of New Zealand

Te Kete Kōrero-a-Waha o Te Motu

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We seek news and views from around the country about what is happening in oral history, courses that are being offered, reports on projects in progress and completed.

Send your news and suggestions to Shona McCahon at: shonam@paradise.net.nz

Executive committee:

Rachael Selby: President
 Anne Thorpe: Treasurer
 Gillian Headifen: Secretary
 Lesley Hall
 Linda Evans
 Michael Dudding
 Shona McCahon
 Taina McGregor

NOHANZ NEWS

NOHANZ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & WELLINGTON REGIONAL GET-TOGETHER

4.30—7.30 pm Wednesday 22 September 2010
Loaves and Fishes Hall (behind Cathedral of St Paul)
Cnr Hill and Molesworth Streets, Wellington

You are warmly invited to our combined AGM and regional get-together.

This will be an opportunity to hear what the Exec has been doing and to catch up with other members.

Alison Parr, Senior Oral Historian with the Ministry of Culture and Heritage, will also give a talk about her recently published book, *Home : Civilian New Zealanders Remember the Second World War*. Alison's interviews with individuals who experienced the war years in New Zealand provide an insight into what life was like for civilians and how they coped.

NOHANZ EXECUTIVE POSITIONS

There are opportunities to serve on the NOHANZ Executive following this year's AGM.

Our secretary has signalled she will not be standing again. Other members have signalled a wish to stand aside.

Please consider giving some time to the Executive. We currently meet 5-6 times a year. We have an exciting conference coming up in April 2011. You could discuss the commitment with one of the current Exec if you wish.

NOHANZ CONFERENCE 2011: CALL FOR PAPERS

ORAL HISTORY IN THE 21ST CENTURY:

VOICES OF IDENTITY IN A GLOBALISED WORLD

2 - 3 April 2011,

Rotorua, New Zealand

The 21st century is predicted to be a time of enormous change - changes that might involve large-scale migration, new technologies and adaptation in the ways people live. Climate change, peak oil and economics are forces that affect ordinary people but, at a global scale, are hard to comprehend or influence.

Faced with huge change in an increasingly globalised world, it seems that individuals and communities are looking back with growing interest to their roots and to past experience. Is this nostalgia for times past or are communities seeking to affirm their local identity and collective voice? Are there lessons to be learnt from how people responded to change in the past? Are past customs and practices becoming more relevant again?

At the NOHANZ 2011 conference we will explore changes and directions in oral history, ten years into the 21st century, including the ways in which oral history is being used and promoted by individuals and organisations, innovative ways of collecting and presenting interviews, and uses of new technologies. The following sub-themes are envisaged.

Indigenous voices

In recent decades, indigenous peoples have been rediscovering and asserting their cultures and identities. How is oral history contributing to this process of change, particularly for Māori, Aboriginal and Pacific Island peoples?

Identity and change

Oral history is often about aspects of identity and often involves reflections on change – whether a local history, the story of a social movement, or an individual's life experience. How are these aspects being explored?

Innovation

How are new technologies being used to make oral history more accessible and what are the implications to oral history practice? What new opportunities revolve around digital technology, including web-based oral history databanks, website-published material and E-books.

Australia – NZ connections

In 1990 the Australian government gifted \$1 million to the people of New Zealand to establish the Australian Sesquicentennial Gift Trust for Awards in Oral History. The gift marked the 150th anniversary of the signing of the Treaty of Waitangi; the treaty signed between the Māori people of Aotearoa (New Zealand) and the British Crown. In 2010 only, awards under this fund are being granted specifically to projects that explore connections between Australia and New Zealand. Recipients of these awards, whose projects will be in progress at the time of the conference, will be invited to give brief presentations about their projects.

CALL FOR PAPERS

We invite proposals for papers addressing any aspect of the above theme or sub-themes; either as:

- 20-minute presentations, or
- 5-minute summaries about recent projects, including projects still in progress.

Proposals should include:

- a title
- an abstract of 200 – 250 words
- the duration of your presentation (as above)
- a brief biography (no more than 100 words)
- postal address, email address, and phone number.

Please send your proposal to:

2011 Conference Organising Committee
NOHANZ

Email: - michael.dudding@vuw.ac.nz

Or post: c/-PO Box 3819, Wellington

CLOSING DATE FOR PROPOSALS:

31 October 2010

We look forward to receiving proposals.

EARLY BIRD REGISTRATIONS

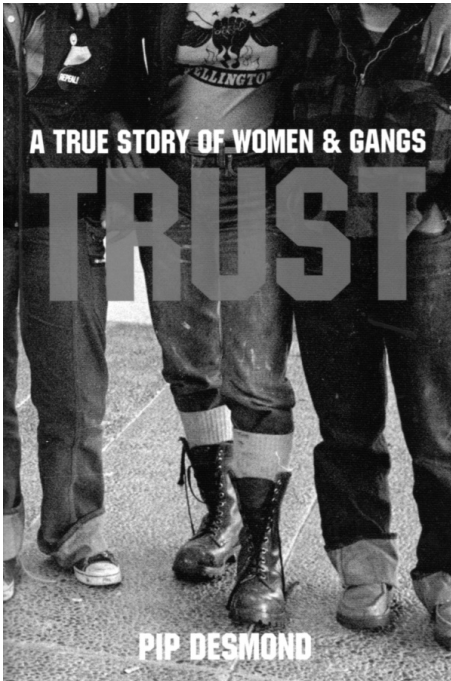
Note: early bird registrations, at a discounted rate, will be open from 1 December 2010 to 31 January 2011.

Keep watching the NOHANZ website, which will be updated with details of the conference programme and costs as these are finalised.

PIP DESMOND A NZ POST BOOK AWARD WINNER

TRUST, A TRUE STORY OF WOMEN AND GANGS

Congratulations to Pip Desmond, who has won the New Zealand Society of Authors' A.E.H. McCormick Best First Book of Non-fiction category in the 2010 NZ Post Book Awards, for her book, *Trust: A True Story of Women and Gangs*



Those who attended last year's NOHANZ conference will remember Pip's inspiring keynote address about the book.

In *Trust* Pip recounts her experiences when she worked in the Aroha Trust as a young woman, a work cooperative for gang women set up in 1977 in Wellington. Although the Trust eventually disbanded, it was influential on the lives of the women involved and was the source of lasting

friendships. Through her own story, and those of the other women involved, Pip reveals aspects of New Zealand's social history with an immediacy that brings to life the social activism of the 1970s as well as moving accounts of the women's own efforts to overcome their pasts.

An article based on Pip's conference address and a full review of Pip's book will be published in this year's NOHANZ journal (see below.)

The winner of the First Book category has been announced early this year in advance of the other categories, which will be announced on 27 August. In the meantime, those who have read *Trust* should be aware that online voting for the People's Choice Award is available at the New Zealand booksellers' website.



Pip Desmond

NOHANZ JOURNAL 2010

DUE OUT SOON

Oral History in New Zealand, Vol 22

The 2010 edition of our journal will be published in the near future.

The journal will include articles based on papers presented at last year's conference by Pip Desmond, Jonathan Kennett, Bronwyn Officer and Kate Hunter.

It will also include reviews of three books:

- *Trust* by Pip Desmond
- *Tino Tabak* by Jonathan Kennett, and
- *Journey to the Pass* by Stephen and Matthew Wright

Thanks to editors, Megan Hutching and Alison Laurie.

The journal will be posted to all NOHANZ members.

PROFILES: INTRODUCING REGIONAL NOHANZ CONTACTS

WHANGAREI: TEENA JELSMMA



Teena trained as an oral historian under Judith Fyfe's tutelage in 2007. Initially, Teena undertook the training to record her reticent grand-mother's story – there was only ever going to be one chance! It quickly became apparent that

oral history is the perfect means to capture life histories of the everyday New Zealander, and these stories are of huge benefit to the families involved. We make connections with others through their stories. Teena set up Your Legacy Ltd which uses oral history as the vehicle to produce life story books. Your Legacy has done oral history work for charitable trusts and continues to help everyday New Zealanders record their personal histories. As a regional representative for NOHANZ in the North, Teena would like to see a network of oral historians who are happy to share ideas, resources and skills.

Contact: teena@yourlegacy.co.nz

AUCKLAND: MEGAN HUTCHING



Megan is a freelance historian, specialising in oral history. Since moving back to Auckland in 2007, she has been doing commissioned oral history projects and has received funding from the Ministry for Culture & Heritage's Awards in

Oral History for two projects – one on the Auckland harbour bridge, and the one she's currently involved with, 'Mrs Schumacher's Gems: Domestic life in New Zealand from the 1940s to the 1960s'. She's doing this with Helen Frizzell, Judith Fyfe and Pip Oldham and says it's been great working with such a team.

Megan also works one day a week at the Museum of Transport & Technology, recording oral history interviews for their archive, and she runs workshops and does private commissions.

Contact: hutching28@gmail.com

GISBORNE: SUSAN FOWKE

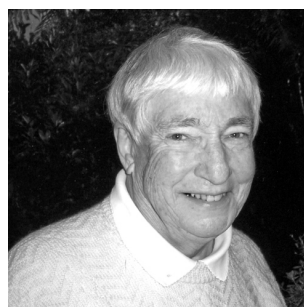
Susan worked as a freelance oral historian from the mid 1980s until last year when she retired. She

came to oral history with a background of experience as a television documentaries researcher. When she left TVNZ in 1987, she started picking up freelance work for the New Zealand Oral History Archive – then oral history was a new field of work - now early 30 years later it is well-established. She has worked on many projects including Gaylene Preston's film *War Stories* OHP, Wellington Zoo Centenary OHP and The Dames OHP. For the latter project, carried out in Women's Suffrage Year, she interviewed about twenty New Zealand Dames including Dames Malvina Major, Thea Muldoon, and Augusta Wallace. More recently she has worked on 'Between the Wars' (interviews with New Zealanders growing up in the 20s and 30s), the Vietnam War oral history project and 'J Force' - interviews with members of the post World War II occupying force in Japan.

After her retirement Susan moved to sunny Gisborne where she is happily settling in and enjoying a very relaxed life-style – but finds time to do some abstracting and an interview now and again. She would be happy to answer queries or give assistance to members in this region.

Contact: sfowke@clear.netz.nz

ROTORUA: PENELOPE DUNKLEY



After a 42-year career in nursing Penelope retired in 1995. In 1991, she started doing oral history training with Hugo Manson and Judith Fyfe in order to do a project on the history of neonatal nursing at

National Women's Hospital that year. From 1998–2004 she served as Quaker Oral Historian, completing some 50 interviews of Quakers and was appointed to the same position again in 2009. She also interviewed another 50 individuals of interest including a jeweller, sculptor, writer, rose breeder, weaver, dental nurse, archivist, professor, Catholic mother of six and butler. Funding has come from the Quakers, the Jack Ilott Education Fund and the Greta and Harry Hamblin Research / Publication Fund. Penelope says the instruction, help and encouragement from the Oral History Centre staff and through NOHANZ has been of immeasurable assistance and that the work has given her great satisfaction and enjoyment.

Contact: Ph: 07 347 0954

PROFILES (CONT.)

PICTON: LOREEN BREHAUT

Loreen has been recording oral history since living in the Australian outback in 1993. She published four oral history-based books during her Australian residence and, since returning to New Zealand, has been associated with Picton Museum and Marlborough Community Hospice. She is very committed to capturing the voices of those who might otherwise have been unheard. Apart from the hospice biography service, she has completed local history and theme-based projects and is presently interviewing Picton train drivers. She would love to form a group of oral history practitioners in the 'Top of the South'

Contact: brehauts@paradise.net.nz

CHRISTCHURCH: LORRAINE RITCHIE



Lorraine works as a Lecturer at the Centre for Post-graduate Nursing Studies, University of Otago, Christchurch. Her main area of research, interest and nursing background is in the care and study of older people in

society. She is interested in social aspects of ageing, narrative approaches to research and Arts and Health. She has conducted several oral history projects, particularly on the lives and work of nurses in NZ.

Lorraine lives in Christchurch (although her heart belongs to Dunedin) with her husband, cat and dog and has two adult daughters.

Contact: lorraine.ritchie@otago.ac.nz

OAMARU: JACQUI FOLEY



Jacqui is a freelance oral historian who has been involved in oral history since 1992. She lives in a country area of North Otago called Tokarahi which is about 40 kilometres from the town of Oamaru. She underwent her training in Dunedin with Helen

Frizzell, as part of a pilot training project run by Presbyterian Support Services. Since that time she

has carried out a number of her own projects as well as recording interviews for families and different organizations in her own area and further afield. She has worked on two national projects run by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage and found it particularly enjoyable working with a team of people. She has an interest in the use of digital film in oral history but to date has used this to a limited degree only. Other interests include photography and filmmaking.

For Jacqui NOHANZ is an important link to other oral historians and she greatly values the conferences, the NOHANZ newsletter and the website for keeping up with other oral historians and oral history practice. She says oral history has never lost its fascination for her and she feels very fortunate to be involved in such a wonderful medium as well as being part of the special group of people known as oral historians.

Contact: jacquif@actrix.co.nz

DUNEDIN: HELEN FRIZZELL



Helen lives and works in Broad Bay, a small community on the Otago Peninsula, Dunedin. Since 2007 she has been working freelance doing a mixture of oral history interviewing, training and supervising oral historians.

She became involved with oral history (and NOHANZ) in 1986 when she was employed as Oral Historian at Presbyterian Support Otago. During her 21 years with the organisation she conducted a large number of interviews with people from a wide variety of backgrounds and ages, presented recorded material back to the community through exhibitions, theatre and murals, ran oral history workshops, managed reminiscence and arts projects in aged care homes and a regional volunteer based oral history programme.

Contact: helen.frizzell@paradise.net.nz

WELLINGTON: SHONA MCCAHERN

See Exec profiles in previous issue.

Contact: shonam@paradise.net.nz

AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE 2011: CALL FOR PAPERS

COMMUNITIES OF MEMORY

BIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF THE ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA

30 September- 2 October 2011

Melbourne

In recent years memory has been an increasingly significant resource for many different types of communities: for survivors of natural catastrophe and human-made disaster; in country towns dealing with demographic and environmental change; for cities and suburbs in constant transformation; in the preservation of special places or the restitution of human rights; for the 'Forgotten Australians' and 'Stolen Generations'; for migrants and refugees creating new lives; among virtual communities sharing life stories online. Memories are used to foster common identity and purpose, to recover hidden histories and silenced stories, to recall change in the past and advocate change in the present, to challenge stereotypes and speak truth to power. The concept of 'community' can be enlisted for change or conservatism; 'communities of memory' can be inclusive and empowering, or exclusive and silencing.

Oral historians, in a variety of guises and combining age-old listening skills with dazzling new technologies, play important roles in this memory work. Our conference welcomes participants who use oral history in their work with and within communities of memory across the many fields and disciplines that contribute to community, public and academic histories. We invite proposals for individual presentations, workshops and thematic panels.

The conference will include history walks and tours that introduce participants to Melbourne's rich and diverse communities of memory. Oral history training workshops will be held on the Thursday prior to the conference (29 September).

Conference sub-themes will include, but are not limited to:

- Memory and Catastrophe
- Activist Communities
- Memory Work for Human Rights
- War Memories
- Indigenous Memory

- Generational Communities
- Place, Community, Memory
- Theories of Collective and Community Memory
- Communities of Identity
- New Approaches to Recording Lives
- Contested Communities
- New Technologies for Documenting Memory and History
- Communities of Gender and Sexuality
- Memory Work in Creative and Fictional Writing
- Migrants and Refugees
- Ethical Issues in Memory Work
- Communities of Work or Leisure
- Training Community Oral Historians

Keynote speakers include:

- Stephen High: Chair in Public History and co-director of the Center for Oral History and Digital Storytelling at Concordia University, Montreal;
- Nathalie Nguyen: Australian Research Fellow, University of Melbourne;
- Peter Read: Australian Research Council Professorial Fellow, University of Sydney.

We welcome proposals for presentations in a variety of formats and media, including standard paper presentations (typically 20 minutes); short accounts of work in progress (typically 5 minutes); participatory workshops; and thematic panels comprising several presenters. Presentations should involve oral history. Contact the organizers at ohaa2011@gmail.com if you would like to discuss the format or focus of your presentation before you submit it.

For more information and for instructions on how to submit proposals see the conference website at <http://sites.google.com/site/communitiesofmemory/home>

or, email kerrie.alexander@arts.monash.edu.au

Closing date for proposals: 31 October 2010

WELLINGTON REGIONAL MEETINGS

The Wellington regional group was set up in 2008, in response to requests from local members to have a forum for meeting and support. It was also something of a pilot to see how such a group might work and give ideas to other regions.

A summary of activities and discussions topic identified (but not necessarily covered yet) follows, which might be a good starting point for regional groups in the future.

DISCUSSION TOPICS

- **Digital recording:** changing from analogue to digital, computer programmes to support abstracting such as time coding, how to manage oral history interviews, i.e. sound files, on computers, hiring equipment.
- **Funding issues** and the implications for projects if funding is limited or cannot be obtained e.g. implications for deciding on travel or the number and duration of interviews .
- **Impact of restrictions** on future use of material in publications and exhibition
- **Managing projects**, including managing volunteers working on a project and managing long or difficult projects
- **Managing interviews** with issues such as memory fading, interviewees' feeling that questions about personal information are intrusive, dealing with sensitive issues when asking questions, sensitivity to cultural issues.

- **Training** others with equipment if they can't attend a workshop.
- **Uses of oral history** for the web and exhibitions
- **Agreement form:** completing copyright segment, restrictions, public use review/release date line, internet box to tick, information for administering the form. (Note: the Oral History Centre is working on a revised agreement form)
- **Freelance oral historians** - experiences, being under valued, contracts, standard contract, fees for recording, fees for abstracting, sources of funding, eligibility criteria for funding, funding of projects, contracts, how to get commissioned work, referees.

TALKS

- Lizzie Catherall talked about her Tui project
- Julia Brook-White talked about the Molesworth oral history project she undertook
- Susan Fowke gave a talk on what it has been like being an oral historian over the years prior to her retirement and move to Gorsborne where she is now regional contact (see page 4).

Participants also found it valuable to share quick overviews of their own projects and/or ideas, and for feedback and simply hearing what others are doing.

SNIPPETS

ORAL HISTORY RESEARCHER WANTED

I have had an enquiry for an oral history researcher who might be interested in the following project. The interviewee is:

"Hilda is an 87 year old Dutch New Zealander who, with her Dutch husband, was captured by the Japanese in Sumatra and transferred to a prison camp in Malaya. After the war they were reunited and chose New Zealand as their home. She would like someone who is a Dutch speaking interviewer to capture some of her early memories in Holland, her wartime experiences and later life in NZ. Hilda lives in Central Hawke's Bay. "

If you are interested please contact me:

Rachael Selby: r.a.selby@massey.ac.nz

They're back!

Oral history training workshops run by the Oral History Centre plus equipment hire:

➔ *See overleaf*

NEW ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOPS ANNOUNCED

They're back!

The Oral History Centre of the Alexander Turnbull Library is offering workshops for people considering using oral history in their work, community or personal projects.

The popular workshops are taught by Judith Fyfe, lawyer and oral historian, and will be held in Wellington.

THE ESSENTIALS OF ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH

This is a two-day course. For anyone undertaking an oral history project we recommend attending both days.

Day One: Introduction to Oral History

Saturday, 12 September 2010, 8.45am-4.30pm

An introduction to oral history methodology. How to plan an oral history project, choose the best equipment, achieve clear audio recordings, select informants, follow ethical procedures, develop questioning techniques, process oral history and make the material available for use. Bring a recorder if you have one you intend to use for recording.

Day Two: Recording Seriously

Saturday, 16 October 2010, 8.45am-4.30pm

Recording Seriously builds on Day One: Introduction to Oral History, reviewing work completed and covering in more detail interview techniques, project planning and technical, ethical, and legal issues.

Some experience in recording or processing oral history is necessary.

Completion of an earlier Essentials course or a recent equivalent introductory course is required.

ABSTRACTING ORAL HISTORY

6 and 7 November 2010, 8.45am -1pm.

The abstract is a comprehensive time-coded summary, which serves as a guide to the oral history researcher. Here is an opportunity to practice the comprehension and editing skills needed to compile a reliable and usable abstract. Completion of an Essentials of Oral History Research or a recent equivalent introductory course is recommended but not required.

For further information concerning registration or funding, contact the Oral History Centre at:

(04) 474 3162 or

atl@natlib.govt.nz

ORAL HISTORY RECORDING EQUIPMENT FOR HIRE

The Oral History Centre of the Alexander Turnbull Library has sets for quality digital recording equipment for hire.

Suitable for oral history recording, they come with all accessories apart from memory cards, and with personalised training by appointment.

For bookings and enquiries, please contact the Oral History Centre:

Ph: (04) 474 3162, or

Email: atl@natlib.govt.nz