
NOHANZ

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

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NOHANZ Newsletter

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JULY 2011

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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.

Send your news to:

nohanzexec@gmail.com

NOHANZ news

Notice of AGM

The NOHANZ AGM will be held on Tuesday 27th September at 5 p.m. Details of venue, agenda and guest speaker will follow separately.

Next NOHANZ Conference

At its first meeting after the NOHANZ Conference in Rotorua, the NOHANZ Executive discussed possible venues for the next conference in 2013. We'd love to hear member feedback about this – email your suggestions and comments to nohanzexec@gmail.com.

Oral history in New Zealand

NOHANZ Conference 2011

Rotorua, 2-3 April 2011

This year's conference theme, 'Oral History in the 21st Century: voices of identity in a globalised world,' attracted a diverse range of presentations from all around New Zealand, from Australia and even as far as the United Emirates! Within the two main sub-themes – 'Indigenous Voices' and 'Identity & Change' – we heard about Maori language revival; migrant, vocational and war-related stories; experiences of trauma and recovery; and connections to place and culture. Presenters also reflected upon their own approaches to oral history, sharing thoughts about both the challenges and rewards of their work.

Key note speakers, Lorina Barker from the University of New England in New South Wales, and Teresia Teaiwa from Victoria University of Wellington, were inspiring and thought-provoking speakers who both spoke about needing to find – and of finding – new ways of giving voice to the people they had interviewed. We are grateful to the Australian High Commission for its generous grant to enable us to bring Lorina out from Australia, and to Distinction Hotel in Rotorua (our conference venue), for our keynotes' accommodation.

The NOHANZ Executive took a calculated risk in deciding to hold the conference in a regional centre, which was more than justified by the more-than-100 registrations. Local pre-conference publicity encouraged attendance from the central North Island, and the

Saturday night retrospective about notable local historian, the late Don Stafford, by his friend and colleague Kerry Fowler was a conference highlight. Post-conference feedback from conference participants has been overwhelmingly positive. We'd like to thank all our conference participants, who helped make the NOHANZ 2011 Conference a success.

Thank you for presenting at the 2011
 Oral History Conference
 In Rotorua New Zealand
 The land of bubbling mud and strong
 sulphur smells
 Of gentle rain and cool mornings
 Daylight Saving
 In April 2011

Rachael Selby 2011



Lorina Barker, from the University of New England in NSW gave a keynote presentation: 'The language of research and ways of incorporating indigenous voices'. NOHANZ President Rachael Selby thanked Lorina with a poem, reproduced below.

Dear Lorina

Thank you for coming to Rotorua
 And New Zealand
 For sharing your research with us
 For telling us about your family
 For showing us your poetry
 Your films and your journals
 And people from Weilmoringle

Even though you only lost your Dad so recently

We hope you can return to New Zealand
 So that we can show you more of this country
 From Auckland to Rotorua and Wellington
 And in between

We want to see more of your work
 Your films and your poems
 Your writing and your creative works
 We will follow you with interest
 In the future



Teresia Teaiwa, from Victoria University of Wellington gave the other keynote presentation at the conference. With its intriguing title ('An Oral Fixation Worth Having: How Working At The Margins Of Historiography Can Save Your Soul'), Teresia's talk was a moving account of her interviews with three generations of Fiji women who served in either the British Army or Fiji Military Forces in different eras. NOHANZ President Rachael Selby's poem of thanks to Teresia is reproduced below.

Bula vinaka Teresia. Aloha

You went to England to interview
 Fijian women recruited into the British
 army, and FMS... aue...

They travelled half way round the world
 Exploring - new lives, new experiences...

From warm island climates to frozen fields
 From clear blue skies and rain baths
 To cloud covered horizons
 And English pounds £££ and villages

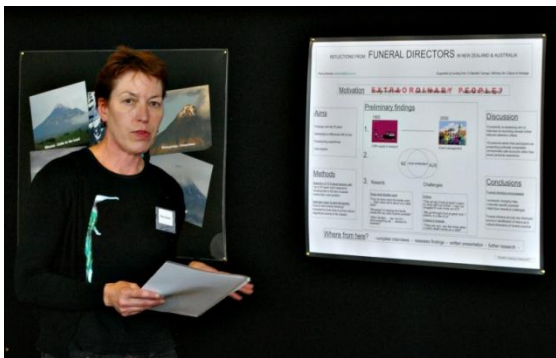
You went to England to meet these
 Pacific soldiers
 To share their stories too
 They took fright and hid
 Except for one who went to your Suva school
 And who agreed to meet you...

She told you on the train that you must
 be loaded ... She was right!

Teresia, you ARE loaded
 Loaded with intelligence and compassion
 Loaded with sensitivity,
 Empathy
 And aroha
 With understanding
 And loaded
 With beauty and brains and roimata for
 soldiers
 And oral fixations and archive envy

You brought tears to our eyes
 When you talked to us
 Shared the life story of one of the first
 Fiji women
 To serve in the British army 50 years
 ago.

Rachael Selby 2011



Penny Brander gave a poster presentation about her oral history project based on interviews with funeral directors in Australia and New Zealand.



During the conference awardees of NZ Oral History Awards gave poster presentations about their projects.

Conference Recollections

*Some of the participants at this year's conference have shared their thoughts about the weekend. **Perrine Gilkison** is a post graduate student at Victoria University of Wellington, and earlier this year completed one of the oral history workshops run by the Judith Fyfe for the Alexander Turnbull Library.*

Impressions on me, impressions on the oral historian

As a rookie oral historian, one of the biggest impressions that April's conference left on me was the impact that the practice of oral history can have on the interviewer. While I was somewhat familiar with concerns about effects on interviewees and communities, I had never really stopped to think about how conducting oral history interviews might affect me as an interviewer.

The Whanganui group that spoke about their Māori Vietnam War veterans project raised this issue very memorably. As they stressed the importance of their group debriefs and the rituals that they carried out after each interview, they illustrated the need to prepare for the possibility of second-hand trauma.

Through her oral history work, Lorina Barker got back in touch with the people of her hometown, renegotiating relationships as she re-entered the community as an academic and an outsider. As she became more familiar with oral history standards and norms, she was able to alter the practice to make it more amenable to herself and

her interviewees, creating for herself a unique identity within the field.

Teresia Teaiwa, never a dispassionate observer, spoke of the bonds formed between herself and her female Fijian military interviewees, who she referred to as her 'aunty heroes'. These relationships influenced the way that she would write about these interviews and her 'heroes'.

Julie Johnson alluded to the difficulties of separating her personal admiration for her interviewee, composer John Ritchie, from the critical analysis that her thesis must contain.

In a conference that focused on identity, the oral historians who acknowledged their own presence in the story, and explored the ways that their work contributed to their own identities certainly had the most impact on me. The identity and experiences of the oral historian were powerful undercurrents throughout the conference, and these issues have been sweeping around in my thoughts ever since.



Julie Johnson's paper gave an insight into her PhD research on composer John Richie. Her presentation combined oral history, video and sound recordings of the composer's works.

The Wide World of Oral History: Reflections of a Newcomer's Experience at the NOHANZ Conference 2011

Hina Kneubuhl from Maui Hawai'i works at the Bishop Museum and attended the conference. She also has a New Zealand connection: Hina and Kingi Gilbert from Rotorua were married earlier this year.

It is a belief of mine that because humans are such creatures of habit, we need to break out of our daily routines, push the boundaries of what we know about different subjects, and even, dare I say, try new things. Like a wheel in a well worn groove, I had become so comfortable in my little corner at the Bishop Museum in Honolulu, indexing one oral history after another, head buried in my work, thoughts focused on the task in front of me. I probably would have carried on without stopping to take a look at the bigger picture if it wasn't for a brief email that came through my work account. A woman named Taina McGregor from Aotearoa, New Zealand was inquiring about our oral history collection and practices. Being married to a Kiwi, anything from Aotearoa catches my eye and since it also had to do with oral history I thought it must be "meant" for me. Little did I know, our long email correspondence would result in my attending the NOHANZ Conference 2011 in Rotorua and her visiting my colleagues at the Bishop Museum. I am always amazed by how things work out in life.

When I walked through the glass doors into the conference area of Distinction Rotorua, I had no idea what to expect. Going on a small leap of faith from an email by a woman I still hadn't met, I had to trust that my willingness to experience new things would pay off. I had no idea how true this would turn out to be and how wonderful of a time I would have learning about what I now call "the wide world of oral history".

The oral history interviews I mentioned earlier have been the primary focus of my attention for a little over a year now. Collected from about 1950 – 1980 by preeminent scholar and cultural expert Mary Kawena Pukui, they document the lives and experiences of Hawaiians and people of other ethnic groups, many of whom were native speakers of the Hawaiian language. They constitute a vast repository of information on culture and history (740 plus interviews) so different than what one gets from the pages of books. At the risk of sounding like a teenager, working with these oral

histories is the coolest job I have ever had. It is also my first job in the field, to which I come from the discipline of Hawaiian language. And while it is an honour to listen to the fascinating stories of these kupuna (elders) and learn about times past, I realize now that my experience of oral history up till the conference did not include face to face interactions with living people. It was also limited to one collection from one place in the world.

What I experienced at the NOHANZ Conference was a vibrant community of people from all over the world united by their love for bearing witness to and documenting the stories of peoples' lives. The richness of their experiences struck a deep chord in me, making me want to know the pleasure (and pain) of sitting face to face with people and, as keynote speaker Teresia Teaiwa reminded us, being transformed by their stories. I was transported to the Grand Mosque in Ras al-Khaimah, pastoral Weilmoringle, the battlefields of Vietnam, and the mines of rural Aotearoa, to name just a few. In so many presentations, I felt the vital force of those that shared their stories and I saw how both interviewee and interviewer were enriched by the experience. I got an inkling of the magic in the living moments that become the portals into our past. I was filled with the desire to be in these moments, rather than just peer into the portals years later. I was inspired, to say the least, and am now plotting how to get my own equipment so that I, too, can become an oral historian.

By opening ourselves to new experiences we have the opportunity to find new passions or dig deeper into things we love. Both of these things happened for me when I felt the warm welcome of the NOHANZ members and witnessed the fabulous conference presentations. I now see possibilities that I did not see before. I send a special mahalo (thanks) to Taina McGregor and Linda Evans, who generously gave their time and encouragement to a young woman from

Hawai'i whose world of oral history is now that much wider. Aloha.



Isobel Munro speaking at the conference. Isobel's paper ('Identity Revisited: Continuity and Change in Women's Life Histories') drew on her life history interviews with women over 75. The interviews form part of her PhD project 'Survival Strategies: Old women's management of resources.' Isobel's recollections of the conference are included below.

Isobel Munro: conference recollections

There was a wide range of presentations and I left with the feeling that Oral History was alive and well and contributing to our cultural history in many important ways. Of particular interest were the multicultural presentations of Lorina Barker and Teresia Teaiwa, and the session on migrants' stories. These stories were balanced by home grown histories of men and women, Maori and Pakeha in the mining industry, the military, train driving, the sex industry, music and film. At all points the historical themes of identity and change, both personal and national, came through. A lasting memory is of Linda Evans' and Megan Hutching's memorial of Judith Binney and Bernard Jervis' heart-wrenching research from Bosnia.

Conference Notes: Ann Packer

Wellington-based NOHANZ member Ann Packer, together with her husband Den handled conference registrations. Ann also presented at the conference, reporting on her project interviewing an 84-year-old Dutch New Zealander, raised in Holland and who was captured

with her Dutch husband by the Japanese in Sumatra, and transferred to a prison camp in Malaya.

There was something nicely fitting about Rotorua as a venue for this year's conference. It's years since I've breathed the pungent air of the twin lakes district but with major highway upgrades it seemed closer to Wellington than I recalled, yet it still has a slightly exotic feel to one more used to the capital's bureaucratic vibe.

It's laden with history too – I'd just read a teen fantasy novel set in the area so was responsive to the swirling mists and layers of time that overshadowed us from the moment we arrived. Passing the Buried Village en route to and from the day's events may have helped. At the conference itself, I enjoyed the incredible variety of subjects and presentation. Were they deliberately spread evenly across categories of presenters – by my count, seven each were university students, seven academics, seven community projects and seven overseas presenters?

Still fresh in my memory:
The beautifully modulated "BBC" accents of subjects of earlier recordings: Lorina's grandfather, some Maori interviewees. Bernard Jervis's extraordinary account, recorded under harrowing conditions, of a massacre in Bosnia that I'd never even heard of. One in four killed, raped or dislocated; suicides of siblings of victims; the significance of the interpreter's role.

Teresia Teiwa's refreshingly personal insight into a world I'd known nothing of, that of Fijian women in the British military. She talked of 'archive envy', the importance of photographs as a prompt – the 'cookie tin archive', anti-heroes and 'aunty-heroes'.

Lorina Baker's and Noah Riseman's very different presentations about Aboriginal lives – similar subjects, two divergent approaches. More resonance: I'd recently reviewed a picture book about a child of the "stolen generation".

I enjoyed Doreen McLeod's longterm look at gold mining in Waihi, Julie Johnson's PhD research into the life of composer John Ritchie, the Reo Regeneration's work with Maori Anglican churches and the somewhat arcane architectural archaeology of Hamad Seray from United Arab Emirates University.

Oh, and the wealth of video material recorded by Don Stafford – a long session but truly impressive in scope.

A mass of facts and figures along with a huge wash of emotional content – so how to make sense of it all? Two key issues emerged for me personally from this satisfying symposium – how to protect your wairua as an interviewer (how to 'release stuff so you don't carry it home with you'), and how to decide on an appropriate viewpoint when packaging a life history for publication.

Ohariu Valley Oral History Project

Inspired by the principles of the Web 2.0 (http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Web_2.0) philosophy, where website users interact with the website and with each other, Wellington City Libraries staff brainstormed ideas for oral history projects.

They decided to focus on Ohariu Valley, a rural area behind Johnsonville. Apart from a school centenary history in 1970, very little had been recorded about the district.



Unidentified photo of car in Boom Rock Road in 1920s, from collection of Nikki Jackson.

With help from the Ohariu Valley Women's Guild, the library made contact with interviewees for an oral history project about the area.

The first interviews have been made available via a web page on the library website:
<http://www.wcl.govt.nz/heritage/ohariu/>
The site features MP3 files of the interviews, summaries, and in some cases images of related material such as photos.

For an example, see
<http://www.wcl.govt.nz/heritage/ohariu/ohariu-roykellahan.html>

The interviews were done by Gábor Tóth (the library's Local and New Zealand History Specialist), Ann Reweti (who grew up in Ohariu Valley); Toni Finkle; and Rebecca Waechter.

The web page is a great example of how to present oral history material in an accessible way, together with contextual information. For example, Gábor's interview with Roy Kellahan, who established a Country Club in 1973, is a fascinating insight into how New Zealand's liquor licensing laws worked at that time.

Archival photos of Ohariu Valley from Nikki Jackson's collection have also been included on the web page, to encourage users to contribute information about the photos.

The library has also created a web page to showcase an interview with Mervyn Kemp, a former mayor of Tawa, and one of the country's longest serving mayors.
<http://www.wcl.govt.nz/heritage/mervynkemp.html>

Gábor says the library plans to upload an interview recorded on tape with former Ohariu resident Seton Nossiter: (<http://www.livingheritage.org.nz/schools/primary/bellevue/nossiter.php>). Another website project will feature interviews with family members involved with Thornton's Confectionery, which began manufacturing in Manners Street from around 1881.

Check the Wellington City Libraries' heritage website
<http://www.wcl.govt.nz/heritage/>
for more information about Wellington local history resources.

Do you know of other libraries doing innovative things with oral history? Let us know: nohanzexec@gmail.com.

New Zealand Oral History Awards 2011

The New Zealand Oral History Awards provide financial help for the recording of interviews relating to the history of New Zealand/Aotearoa and its close connections with the Pacific. More information about the awards can be found here:

<http://www.mch.govt.nz/funding-nz-culture/ministry-grants-awards/new-zealand-oral-history-awards>

A total of \$120,000 has been granted to the following groups and individuals:

Deborah Dunsford - *Auckland beach suburb of Milford* **\$10,000**

NZ Assn of Women Judges - *Women judges in New Zealand* **\$8500**

Susan Fowke - *Gisborne and Tairāwhiti citizens* **\$10,000**

Carol Dawber - *Golden Bay fishing history* **\$10,900**

National Dance Archive of New Zealand - *Maori and Pasifika men influential in NZ contemporary dance* **\$8820**

Barbara Inch - *Christchurch School of Nursing graduates class 1971-1974* **\$8000**

Emma Kelly - *Older gay men in Auckland* **\$820**

Hineani Melbourne - *Nga Tama Toa* **\$12,056**

Helen Frizzell and Lesley Paris - *Formation and early period of the so-called Dunedin Sound* **\$9850**

Ann Packer - *Richard Nunns* **\$2856**

Caren Wilton - *The NZ sex industry workers* **\$13,400**

Erolia Ifopo and Sarah Hunter - *Samoa community in the Christchurch earthquakes* **\$10,000**

Julia Brooke-White - *New Zealand Wildlife Service* **\$11,000**

Beth Shalom - *Beth Shalom Progressive Jewish Congregation* **\$3900**

Oral History Centre: changes from 1 July 2011

Changes to the Alexander Turnbull Library's oral history staffing and services following the Library's restructuring were outlined in the last newsletter. The new structure came into effect on 1 July 2011. For the next year, until the Turnbull Library returns to the refurbished Molesworth Street building, oral historians will find the Oral History Centre spread over three Wellington buildings.

Oral history training, equipment hire and advice will be provided by Lynette Shum, Oral History Advisor, and Taina McGregor, Oral Historian Maori, with the assistance of Cellia Joe, in Outreach at 77 Thorndon Quay, Thorndon

Research services and access to oral histories that are available during relocation will continue to be provided by Gillian Headifen and other Research Services staff at Archives NZ in Mulgrave St, Thorndon

Curatorial advice and research services will be provided by Linda Evans, Curator Oral History and Sound, who will also receive all acquisitions at 186-190 Willis St. The Sound Technician will continue to provide technical advice and feedback and will also be based at 186-190 Willis St when a new technician is appointed. David Kilroy, the OHC Sound & Video Technician for the last three years, left

on 8 July for a new position at the State Library of Western Australia.

There is considerable overlap in these services and staff at all three locations will be co-ordinating to ensure oral historians are able to access services and collections as usual.

However, bear in mind the following limitations:

- All deposits of recordings and documentation for the oral history collection need to come to 186 Willis St. Please phone or email Linda Evans to make arrangements.
- All hire equipment needs to be collected from and returned to 77 Thorndon Quay. Please phone Lynette Shum or Cellia Joe to make arrangements.
- Access to the oral history collection is only available at Archives New Zealand.

Email for all enquiries:

Alexander.Turnbull-Library@dia.govt.nz

If you have used personal email addresses do continue to do so but do allow plenty of time for us to respond or to refer you if need be.

Phone numbers:

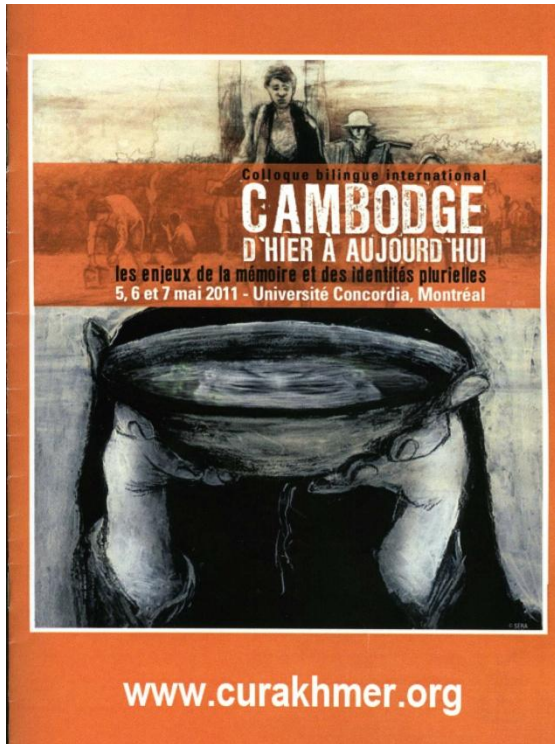
Lynette Shum 04 4623977
Taina McGregor 04 4623976
Gillian Headifen 04 4995595 ext 9458
Linda Evans 04 4623972

Conference report

In May this year Niborom Young attended an international colloquium at Concordia University in Montreal, Canada. The theme of the colloquium was: Cambodia, from then to now : Memories and plural identities in the aftermath of genocide

Niborom reports:

The focus of the event was the recent social history of Cambodia, in the aftermath of genocide.



Those presenting papers came from a very wide range of backgrounds and ages. The speakers were both ethnic Cambodian and European, presenting in English and French, with simultaneous interpreting provided. Some had survived the Killing Fields of the Khmer Rouge, others were lawyers, university academics, film makers, artists, researchers and journalists.

Just a few of subjects covered in the papers presented were

- : Khmer collective memory and its challenges
- : The paradox of perpetration
- : The preservation of the genocide records held in Cambodia
- : Legal aspects of the Khmer Rouge trials presently underway.
- : The effects of trauma on those displaced to adopted countries, covering both the physical & mental health of the survivors.
- : The situation for the very large numbers of aging widows now left in Cambodia
- : Aspects of recorded history : written, oral, film, dance and photography.
- : Refugee repatriation issues in 1992-93. The re-integration of former refugees returning to Cambodia.

For the past 10 years I have been working on an oral history programme featuring 10 Cambodian refugee women who lived through the Khmer Rouge years, and later settled in New Zealand. During this time, I have had nothing to measure my work against, as the project is unique in Australasia. In Montreal I was able to meet others who are interested in this specialised method of recording history, and learned of other projects with shared focus but differing method. It has allowed my project to be sampled by a wide international audience. I have been able to meet and talk with others in the field and to me, this has been of the greatest value. I am now able to look at completing my project with renewed confidence, having reflected on the response to my presentation. A networking discussion after the colloquium was very positive and most of the participants wanted to read about the journey of the 10 New Zealand refugee women.

Notices

Membership Database

As the 2011 subs come in we have been updating the members database. If your contact details have changed recently, or if you would prefer to receive mail from us electronically, please contact the committee by email <mailto:nohanzexec@gmail.com>

In future members who do not renew their subscriptions will not have the journal or the newsletters sent to them.

NOHANZ Domain Names

For some years NOHANZ has registered the domain names *oralhistory.org.nz* and *nohanz.org.nz*. *Nohanz.org.nz* has been pointed at the Nohanz website at *oral history.org.nz*. Unfortunately the registration for *nohanz.org.nz* lapsed and a non-member has purchased the name. At the moment a search for 'nohanz' may bring up some links that are nothing to do with Nohanz. The committee is currently investigating how best to tackle this problem for which we apologise.