



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

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

# NOHANZ

## Newsletter

Volume 28, number 2

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### NOHANZ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President

*Position vacant*

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](#)

Canterbury: [Rosemary Baird](#)

Oamaru: [Jacqui Foley](#)

Dunedin: [Helen Frizzell](#)

[www.oralhistory.org.nz](http://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](mailto:NOHANZexec@gmail.com)

**Editor: Ann Packer**

[ann.packer@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ann.packer@xtra.co.nz)

## The Gift of Memory - our 2014 conference

We are on track for a stimulating 2014 conference, which promises to be a great opportunity to catch up with old friends, meet new ones and to listen to a great range of speakers. At closing date for abstracts we received more than we were expecting and have been pleased to present our members with a programme that deals with three key themes: Reciprocity, Sharing and Understanding memory. The keynote speaker will be Dr Nepia Mahuika from Waikato University who was a Fulbright scholar at the University of Illinois in 2013. He will explore oral history as "Playback, Memory and Tikanga". Also of considerable interest to members will be a session on the Recording Agreement used by NOHANZ members. It has been under review and was revised last year.

A feature of this 2014 conference at the Quality Hotel in Cuba Street Wellington, is that one third of the presenters are from overseas. We are excited about providing them with Kiwi hospitality while we enjoy their presentations.

We are providing a day of workshops on Friday 19 September at the National Library. They are in response to requests from attendees at the Rotorua conference for a range of oral history workshops. Topics cover technical guidance for sound recording, returning recordings to interviewees, managing files and documents, formatting, abstracts, managing projects and finally – one we have had several requests for – creating audio clips and embedding them in your powerpoint presentations. We hope that all presenters will use sound recordings with their presentations. Friday is the day to explore this.

Earlybird registrations closed 4 July. The Quality Hotel is holding a number of rooms for those who wish to make reservations early.

BGM: The BGM will be held on Friday evening at CQ Hotel with NOHANZ Life Member, Judith Fyfe, as speaker. There are many interesting places to eat in the street after the General Meeting and Election of Officers. Come and enjoy the meeting and the opportunity to get together.

Conference dinner: we have secured a very good deal at Arthurs, up Cuba St from the conference venue: [arthursoncuba.co.nz](http://arthursoncuba.co.nz). Book early as numbers are strictly limited in this restaurant, in one of the heritage Wellington buildings restored during the motorway bypass project.

The Conference Committee is: Rachael Selby, Ann Packer, Shona McCahon, Michael Dudding and Lynette Shum.

See you at the conference!

***Rachael Selby, Convenor***

## **Biennial Elections 19 September 2014**

The NOHANZ Biennial General Meeting (BGM) is to be held on Friday 19 September 2014 at 5.30 pm at CQ Hotel, Cuba St Wellington. At the BGM we elect an Executive Committee for the next two years.

The NOHANZ Constitution provides for an Executive Committee to manage the affairs of the Association, consisting of a President, Secretary, Treasurer, immediate Past-President and three other members. The Committee has the power to co-opt additional members as it deems fit.

We are seeking new members who wish to commit time and energy to the Committee. Ideally there is a mix of new members and people with past experience. Location is not a big barrier – we hold meetings using a mixture of single venue, videoconference and phone link-ins. We

are exploring ways of sharing tasks across the Committee to minimise the load on any one person.

In addition to these formal roles NOHANZ conducts its business through hosting a biennial conference, producing an annual journal, producing three newsletters a year and maintaining the website. Interest in contributing to any or all of these tasks is welcomed.

Please consider if you would like to stand for election to the Committee. Further information about procedures for doing this will be sent out by Email in advance of the BGM.

***Jiff Stewart (Secretary)***

## **More NOHANZ matters**

### **Responding to Requests for Oral Historians**

From time to time the NOHANZ Executive Committee receives a request from someone wishing to discuss possible Oral History projects or to commission Oral History work. We would like to be able to respond to such requests more comprehensively. To this end the Committee is considering establishing a list of Oral Historians available for such work.

We would accompany such a list with a disclaimer such as: "In common with other organisations such as Oral History Australia and the Professional Historians' Association of New Zealand/Aotearoa, NOHANZ has no procedure for professional accreditation. Membership is open to all. Therefore, the inclusion of an Oral Historian on the NOHANZ list does not provide a guarantee of the quality of that person's work."

The list would be forwarded to people seeking an Oral Historian. At this stage

we do not plan to place the list on the website.

What do you think?

- Would you like to place your name on such a list of Oral Historians?
- Would you provide a brief description of your professional self to be sent to enquirers?
- Would you like to comment on the draft paper being prepared by the Committee "Commissioning Oral History – list of available Oral Historians, and Guidance"?

Please respond by 18 August 2014:  
[nohanzexec@gmail.com](mailto:nohanzexec@gmail.com)

## Website upgrade

A subcommittee has been looking at upgrading our website to something that is easy to use maintain, and is attractive and useful. In the interim we've been incrementally tweaking the current one. We are fortunate to enjoy the technical assistance of an associate Jeff Hunt. This is an ongoing project. Let us know what you think or if you would like to assist: Email to [nohanzexec@gmail.com](mailto:nohanzexec@gmail.com)

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## Auckland Libraries Oral History News

Auckland Libraries has been working in collaboration with Unitec School of Communication Studies, which has produced some exciting results. Students have engaged with primary material from collections – letters, diaries, images, and oral histories; have created their own recordings; and produced some excellent work including short documentaries, digital transmedia stories, postcards, maga-

zines, blogs... all on the theme "More than a War: Remembering 1914-1918". A brief presentation will be made at the upcoming NOHANZ conference and an exhibition of works will make up part of our offerings for the Auckland's Heritage Festival in September and October.

Oral History training and workshops are held regularly. A recent collaboration with the New Zealand Society of Genealogist



*Sue Berman interviews Murray and Elizabeth Francis, 5 April 2014 at the Auckland War Memorial Museum community event for the More than a War: Remembering 1914-1918 Project.*



Project montage for More than a War: Remembering 1914-918. Project description can be seen at [www.ww100.govt.nz](http://www.ww100.govt.nz)

progressed from an evening talk to a two-hour workshop, and in August there will be a full day of activity, including oral history practice. On July 10 I will be delivering a full day introduction training in Oral History in Orewa – please feel free to check if places are still available or to go onto a waiting list for future workshops.

Auckland Libraries continues to invest in resources and equipment that support OH in the community. We have recently upgraded microphones in all the digital recording kits available for loan.

Check the catalogue for new titles on an oral history theme, including these:

- *Preserving your family's oral history and stories* by Thomas MacEntee, St

Agnes, SA Unlock the Past, 2014.

- *Dedicated to God : an oral history of cloistered nuns* by Abbie Reese, New York : Oxford University Press, 2014.
- *Mad world : an oral history of new wave artists and songs that defined the 1980s* by Lori Majewski, Jonathan Bernstein ; foreword by Nick Rhodes; afterword by Moby. New York, NY Abrams Image, 2014

I look forward to seeing many of you at Conference in September.

**Sue Berman – Oral Historian Auckland Libraries**

**(09) 301 0101 x 42 7825,**

[sue.berman@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:sue.berman@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)



Participants with tutor Megan Hutching at a recent Auckland oral history workshop

## From the Turnbull

Gillian Headifen, the oral history specialist on the Research Access team of the Alexander Turnbull library has also been shopping for books. More next Newsletter on what she has bought.

Two series of our popular oral history workshops have successfully been concluded - in Auckland and Wellington. More are planned for the second half of this year, but we have not yet set the dates, nor the places. Keep an eye on our website, or email us: [atloutreach@dia.govt.nz](mailto:atloutreach@dia.govt.nz).

**Lynette Shum, Oral History Advisor**

## Regional

### NOHANZ Wellington Regional meeting – 22 May 2014

The Meeting was treated to two presentations: one from Alison Parr and one from Linda Evans regarding their respective institutions. Alison's notes follow, and we will print Linda's in a future Newsletter:

### Oral history at the Ministry for Culture and Heritage: Alison Parr

#### A bit about history in general at MCH

In one form or another, the government has played a role in recording and publishing New Zealand history since the 1920s. In the 1940s the Centennial Branch of the Department of Internal Affairs published an 11-volume series marking New Zealand's centennial. Around the same time the first *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography* was also published. When the Second World War ended in 1945, the War History Branch was set up and over the next four decades it published more than 50 volumes – the largest-ever historical enterprise the country has seen.

In 1963 there was a name change to the Historical Publications Branch, which produced the *Encyclopaedia of New Zealand* in 1966. In the early 1980s a new *Dictionary of New Zealand Biography* project began publishing thousands of biographies, together with a parallel Maori language series. An online version of that dictionary was launched in 2002.

Since 2000 the renamed History Group has continued to publish books and increasingly web features on this country's involvement in state activities. One of our most visited web sites is [NZHistory.net](http://NZHistory.net)

#### Oral history

All oral history at MCH happens within the History Group. It first appeared in the mix after 2000 when Helen Clark, the then Prime Minister, went to the commemorations at Gallipoli. She took with her Maurice Shadbolt's book *Voices of Gallipoli*, based on oral histories with New Zealand veterans. She was so impressed by what she read and what it conveyed of the men's experience that she came home and said, 'We have to do this for the Second World War'.

My former colleague, Megan Hutching, was working in the History Group at the

time and she immediately began recording interviews with Second World War veterans – the first with men who had served in Crete. The following year the first of a series of books, based on oral history, was published. I joined Megan in 2003, and she left the Ministry some years later, but between us we completed the *Second World War Oral History Project*. More than 150 interviews were deposited in the Alexander Turnbull Library, and 10 books published, based on the interviews we recorded.

The last of this war oral history work, that we were committed to recording, came with the completion of a project on the Korean War. We contracted Pip Desmond to record those interviews and produce the book based on them that was published last year.

Some years ago, as a result of another Labour government move, the *Vietnam Oral History Project* was set up as part of a Memorandum of Understanding with Vietnam Veterans who felt they had been overlooked. That project was a separately funded, stand-alone enterprise managed first by Paul Diamond and then Claire Hall. Because of the special funding the Ministry was able to contract a team of oral historians to work on this project, which has produced an impressive web site as well as other exhibitions in public spaces. And in a couple of months Penguin will publish a book, produced by Claire, based mainly on the interviews from the project.

### Current work

In terms of oral history projects in the Ministry, the war is over! But the role of oral history in the History Group is now firmly established. All the work we do has to fit in with the Ministry's Statement of Intent which outlines and justifies planned work for each year.

After the Canterbury earthquakes it was agreed that we should do some OH. Because others, including ATL, began

recording OH almost immediately after the crisis unfolded, we decided to take a longer term view. The year before last I scoped all the OH that was going on in Christchurch. I found that very little work was being recorded with older people and it occurred to me that filling that gap would fit in perfectly with gathering some of the social history of what's been lost – both in the city and some of the suburbs: the human heritage of Christchurch.

Last year Christchurch oral historian, Rosemary Baird, and I recorded 20 interviews for the *Remembering Christchurch OHP* – ten interviews each. Our contributors are mainly in their 80s and 90s but we have slipped in a few in their 70s. I'm now beginning the process of editing those interviews, probably for a book and also for our website.

Because we are taxpayer-funded, the publication of work based on our oral history is really important. We record oral history research for archival purposes, but we have a dual obligation to bring some of what we find into the public light, now. So books and web features are a vital aspect of our work.

Our books are published on a commercial basis. We work with publishers like Penguin and HarperCollins. We are expected to make a product that will have a life in the market place – books that will sell. So our interaction with the public is both in the gathering of oral history and in the disseminating of it in a way that reaches a wide audience.

Also underway at the Ministry is the *Wai-tangi Treaty Settlements OHP*. For just under a year now, a separate team has been employed to work on that and they have recorded the first interviews over the past few months – all on video. This project will continue to develop in the 2014/15 year collecting interviews with leaders in the Treaty field as well as working alongside iwi who are carrying out their own treaty-related projects. The

project continues to be supported by the Ministry of Justice.

The History Group also does some commissioned projects for government departments and these can include oral history. And, like the ATL, we offer advice to individuals and groups about oral history projects – public enquiries.

And of course, MCH administers and oversees the New Zealand Oral History Awards. All projects funded by those grants of course are archived in the Alexander Turnbull Library. This year's awards bring the total number of projects supported to 416 since the Awards began in 1999.

**Alison Parr**  
**Senior Oral Historian, MCH**

## For the record

*Another in a series of occasional columns of a mixture of opinions and advice on various aspects of oral history. As Oral History Adviser for the Alexander Turnbull Library, it's part of my job to support new and established oral historians out there in the field. So I'll address questions that often come my way that I think will be of more general interest. If you have anything you'd like me to consider, please ask. Oral history-related questions, that is, I'm no agony aunt! Of course, anything that follows is purely my own opinion and not necessarily that of NOHANZ or the Alexander Turnbull Library.*

One advantage of multiple-day workshops is we get to hear and give feedback on people's early attempts. My co-tutors for the recent workshops, Judith Fyfe and Megan Hutching and I have been really privileged to witness excerpts of some fine interviewing. But the overall quality of the interview stands not only in the

standard of the research, the questions and the rapport, but also by the quality of the recordings, and this is where some recordings (and interviewees) were let down.

This emphasizes to me the need for interviewers to use quality equipment, practise so we know how to use our equipment well, and to test it before we go to our interview. Then, just before we begin our interview and after every break, we need to check our record levels and then record a short test. We should then play this back and listen to it critically, using good headphones.

- Is it clean and clear?
- Are both voices of similar volume?
- Are the peak averages around -12dB?

If the answer to any of these is no, go back and try to fiddle with the levels and/or move your mics, and keep re-recording tests until you have got it right. This is easier on some machines than others and is something to consider when purchasing equipment. It's not worth starting the interview until it sounds good; keep in mind the NOHANZ Code of Ethics and Technical Practice.

But then what often happens during an interview is the interviewee will get louder or quieter. Please don't obsess over the levels, disturbing the flow of the interview and the quality of your rapport, but check the meter occasionally, and if either of you is consistently straying from the peak average of around -12dB, you will need to tweak this as you go.

If you would like further training on how to do this and are either in Wellington or passing through, please contact me for an appointment, or you can ask your supplier if they can help.

Please don't let your sound let you down

**Lynette Shum**  
[atloutreach@dia.govt.nz](mailto:atloutreach@dia.govt.nz)

## Sound Bytes

### NEW ZEALAND ORAL HISTORY AWARDS 2014

A total of \$103,456 was granted in this year's round of the New Zealand Oral History awards, ranging from \$2600 to \$20,000. The successful applicants and the amount granted are:

Pacifica Arts Centre The Stories of Pacifica Mamas and Papas – their contribution to Pacific art and culture in NZ	3,000
Ryan Bodman Rugby League and working class culture in NZ	5,700
Daniel Beban & Nicole Gaston The Braille Collective and Wellington's Creative Music Community 1980-1990	3,500
Kayla Ratima Oral histories of diasporic Ngati Porou descendants: 'Titiro ke uta ra, ke Hikurangi Maunga/ Cast your gaze inward – inland – toward Hikurangi.'	2,600
Claire Hall One, two, three, four! Protest Voices of NZ's Vietnam War	20,000
Linda Hepburn & Ruth Low History of Timaru's commercial fishing industry	20,000
Caren Wilton Selling Sex: the NZ sex industry	8,300
Rosemary Baird Migrants' Stories from the Manapouri Hydro 1966-1973	2,870
Pip Oldham Butchers' Stories	8,700
Jeanette Roose Charitable Trust for Mercer Art & History Museum Mercer: the four R's – Stories of the river, railway, Roose's and rowing	12,000

Creative Arts Trust/Artsenta  
Creative Arts Trust/Artsenta: The First 25 Years 5,000

Erloia Ifopo  
Afio Mai Christchurch 11,786

### Australian Generations Oral History Project Conference

Melbourne 30-31 October, 2014.

Pioneering US oral and public historian Michael Frisch will be an international participant at the Australian Generations Conference to be held at Monash (Caulfield Campus) in Melbourne. He will join members of the research team for a one-day workshop on 30 October, in which project researchers will discuss a set of draft articles presenting empirical and theoretical findings from the research project.

Michael Frisch will deliver the Conference Keynote Address in the evening of Thursday 30 October at the State Library of Victoria and the public launch of the Australian Generations project findings will take place on Friday 31 October at Monash University Caulfield. The conference is open to the public and it is hoped that many of the project's advisors and interviewers will be able to attend. Email [anisa.puri@monash.edu](mailto:anisa.puri@monash.edu)



Image: <http://ohda.matrix.msu.edu/about/authors/frisch/>

## A Timely Warning

In what's become known as the Boston Case, police in Northern Ireland recently arrested Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams Wednesday in connection with an infamous 42-year-old slaying – based on allegations contained in taped interviews recorded for a Boston College history project on the conflict in Northern Ireland. This has implications for all involved in recording oral histories.

The session presented at Conference by the NOHANZ subcommittee that has been working on the revisions of the Recording Agreement (RAG) will address some of the confidentiality issues involved.

<http://tinyurl.com/m22tlbr>

The Oral History Society (UK) has issued an excellent statement on the issues raised:

<http://tinyurl.com/n4m3axk>

## The Armstrong and Arthur Charitable Trust for Lesbians

Applications for the second round of funding grants close 31 July 2014

The Armstrong and Arthur Charitable Trust for Lesbians was established in 2001 by the late Bea Arthur for the benefit of lesbian community groups in the Wellington region. The Trust is named to recognise and remember the 57 year relationship of Bea and her partner the late Bette Armstrong. The Trustees invite applications for funding assistance, as grants, for projects and activities that will benefit all or part of the lesbian communities in the Wellington region.

Activities the Armstrong and Arthur Charitable Trust funds are:

- Education, research and social development
- Lesbian individuals and lesbian community groups that benefit the lesbian community such as help-lines, library facilities, radio programmes, art exhi-

bitions and theatre productions and other cultural activities intended to further community development

- The provision of other services such as rehabilitation and health activities

The Wellington Region is defined as the Lower North Island South of the Manawatu Gorge.

The next round of grants closes 31 July 2014. Application forms and guidelines for applications are available from:

The Secretary  
The Armstrong and Arthur Trust  
PO Box 199  
Waikanae 5250

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## Some dates:

### Australian Generations Conference

30 – 31 October 2014, Melbourne, Australia

### 2014 Oral History Association Annual Meeting

Motion, Movements, Transformations & Power of Story

8-12 October 2014, Madison, Wisconsin, USA

## And don't forget:

### NOHANZ Conference 2014

#### The Gift of Memory

Saturday & Sunday 20 & 21 September 2014

CQ Hotel, Cuba Street, Wellington

#### Workshops

Friday 19 September 2014

Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington

#### Biennial General Meeting and Guest Speaker, Judith Fyfe

Friday 19 September 2014

5.30pm, CQ Hotel, Cuba Street Wellington

## Have you registered yet?

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