

# NOHANZ

## Newsletter

Volume 21, number 2

JUNE 2007

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President:

Lesley Hall

Executive Committee:

Emma Dewson  
Linda Evans  
Gillian Headifen  
Megan Hutching  
Alison Laurie  
Rachel Morley  
Rachael Selby  
Anne Thorpe

Distance members of committee:

Anna Green (Auckland)  
Marie Burgess (Gisborne)  
Ruth Greenaway (Christchurch)  
Jacqui Foley (Oamaru)  
Helen Frizzell (Dunedin)

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

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

Send your news to Megan Hutching at:

[meganhutching@hotmail.com](mailto:meganhutching@hotmail.com)

### NOHANZ news

#### Conference

Registration forms are now available. You will find one with this newsletter. Do join us in Wellington at the end of July.

E hoa ma,  
Have you been interviewing kuia, koroua, pakeke, aunts, uncles and wider whanau members in the past or recently?

Come and share your experiences with others at the NOHANZ - National Oral History Association of New Zealand conference, National Library of New Zealand - Te Puna Matauranga o Aotearoa, Wellington. (details [www.oralhistory.org.nz](http://www.oralhistory.org.nz)). Hear others relate their experiences. Nau mai - Haere mai - you won't regret it.

#### Membership records

In order for us to keep these up to date, can you please send your email address to Gillian Headifen: [Gillian.headifen@natlib.govt.nz](mailto:Gillian.headifen@natlib.govt.nz) Be assured that NOHANZ does not give or sell its membership list to any other organisation.

#### Snail mail or email

Snail mail in the post or email as a pdf file? How do you want to receive your newsletter? We have asked the question of a number of our members and not received a clear preference. Is it because we still like to find something interesting in the mailbox and/or we like to lie on the couch as we open the mail and read the news? We can meet individual needs, so please email us if you are happy to receive the newsletter by email - it will cut our costs as well!  
Email Megan Hutching:  
[meganhutching@hotmail.com](mailto:meganhutching@hotmail.com)

### **NOHANZ website designer**

We are looking for someone with web design skills to take over keeping our website up to date. This does not take up a huge amount of time – the busiest period is during the run up to the biennial conference. If you have the skills and are prepared to volunteer your time, we'd be very grateful. Please contact Lesley Hall: lesley.hall@vuw.ac.nz

### **Regional networks**

If you are interested in joining a regional network of NOHANZ, please let us know. If there is enough interest we will organise a session at the conference. Contact Taina McGregor: taina.mcgregor@natlib.govt.nz

## **Oral history in New Zealand ...**

### **Waitakere Library and Information Service** *Oral history gathering: 21 May 2007*

Waitakere Library and Information Services hosted a gathering of regional oral history enthusiasts as part of the Oral History Month celebration. The gathering saw a total of 25 people attending - some coming from as far as Tauranga. Members of the local West Auckland Historical Society, Piha oral history project members, Auckland Museum & MOTAT staff, Devonport Museum volunteers, Waitakere Library staff and members of the public made up the mix.

The meeting opened with afternoon tea and participants were welcomed by David Dromer, Waitakere Collection and Services Development Manager. After briefly viewing and listening to the exhibition - *Smorgasbord of Stories*, people gathered around the table in the J.T. Diamond Research Room to share experiences.

Discussion included a brief report from Catherine Joyce and Noel Andrews regarding their involvement in the Piha Project which is focused on recording older community members and bach owners. Kate and Jim Clark from Tauranga reported on their aviation project - due for publication in November 2008. Rose Young and Louisa Knight from Auckland War Memorial Museum talked of the 21 Infantry Battalion Project. Elayne Robertson reported on MOTAT's oral history collection and her own involvement with the Ministry for Culture and Heritage project – *Growing up in the 1920s and 1930s*.

Members of the West Auckland Historical Society shared stories and experiences. Ben Copedo talked about his work on the stream and the old Mill. Trevor Pollard told of his love of history and stories, and he and Jim Black offered information on the Henderson Mill model project, due to open in early June.

Participants from the Devonport Museum, Libby Eggleston and Jennifer Barton, both new to oral history, came wanting to learn and connect with people. This was a great event for doing just that.

General issues raised included difficulty in knowing which digital equipment meets recognised standards and the on-going management and care of recordings in both digital and analogue format. The advantages and challenges of using video were explored. When talking of funding, several people advised that they had applied to the Awards in Oral History 2007. The value of NOHANZ membership and attending conference in July was promoted. Like these gatherings, conferences are important for collegial support and connections. We look forward to future opportunities for regional based gathering.

The meeting closed just after 6pm and thirteen people continued socialising over a very pleasant dinner at the Falls Hotel.

Sue Berman & Mary Donald  
Oral Historians  
Waitakere Library and Information Services

**ORAL HISTORY EVENING**  
**6pm 23 August 2007**  
**at**

*ALLIANCE FRANCAISE de*  
*WELLINGTON*

Level 2, Dominion Building  
78 Victoria Street  
WELLINGTON

Speaker: LINDA EVANS  
Curator, Oral History Centre,  
Alexander Turnbull Library  
"Importance of Oral History"

Panel: 3 interviewees and an interviewer who took part in the Alliance Centennial Oral History Project

All welcome to this interesting evening

*For further information, contact Anne  
on 938 7792*

**St Andrews on The Terrace**

St Andrew's on The Terrace is a distinctive progressive Presbyterian congregation in the heart of Wellington. Its history goes back to the arrival of the first ships of European settlers in Wellington in 1840.

On Wednesday 18 April, a set of 12 oral history interviews with ministers and people of St Andrew's were handed over to the Alexander Turnbull Library. The interviews are with members and former members of the congregation, including the Very Rev John Murray, the Rev Dr James Stuart, the Rev Margaret Reid Martin, Professor Lloyd Geering, Hugh

Templeton, and hymn writer Shirley Murray.

A grant from the Ministry for Culture and Heritage funded the interviews, which have been undertaken over the past 12 months by three interviewers from the St Andrew's History Group. The interviews include both life history information and the interviewees' perspectives on St Andrew's and the wider church from 1920 onwards.

'St Andrew's is a forward-looking congregation, where some very 21st century conversations about life and faith happen, but we also honour our history', said the Rev Dr Margaret Mayman, current minister of St Andrew's on the Terrace. 'I am delighted that some of the stories of our congregation have been told in the oral history project and that they will be preserved for future generations of people who, like us, search for meaning while honouring mystery.'

Chris Szekely, Chief Librarian of the Turnbull Library, welcomed the donation to the Library's oral history collection and acknowledged the work of the St Andrew's History Group. 'These interviews with key members of the St Andrew's congregation will be invaluable for research into many aspects of New Zealand's social and religious history,' he said.

**Comings and goings**

- The Vietnam War Oral History project, the first large-scale project recording the stories of New Zealand's Vietnam War veterans and their families, is underway at the Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

Wellington broadcaster and writer Paul Diamond (Ngati Hauā, Te Rarawa, Ngāpuhi) will be working as an oral historian on the four-year project and started with the Ministry during June.

Paul says he's looking forward to working on the project. 'There's very little recorded about the New Zealand experience of the Vietnam War, so it's exciting to have the opportunity to add to the body of knowledge about the war.' In 2006 Paul received an oral history award to record the stories of some of the Māori who served in Vietnam.

Before starting with the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Paul Diamond was writing a biography of Makereti, a guide from Whakarewarewa (also known as Maggie Papakura) and has also worked in print and broadcast media.

The Ministry for Culture and Heritage has considerable experience in conducting oral history projects, especially in the area of war history. The Vietnam War Oral History project will build on this work and complement the official history of the Vietnam War, being written by Ministry historian and General Editor-War History, Ian McGibbon. The project will also have a website component so that people involved in the war can contribute their memories and memorabilia to a digital history archive (on [www.nzhistory.net.nz](http://www.nzhistory.net.nz), the Ministry's history website).

#### • **Megan Hutching Leaves Wellington for Auckland**

NOHANZ committee members and other oral historians in Wellington, and further afield, are sorry to say goodbye to Megan Hutching. Fresh fields are beckoning Megan as she leaves Wellington, her job as senior oral historian with the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, and her position as NOHANZ secretary, to live with her new partner in Auckland.

Megan comes from Northland, graduated in History from Auckland University and started work as an oral historian for the Auckland City Library. She has been an integral part of the development and practice of oral history in New Zealand since she took up the new position of oral historian with the Historical Branch of the Department of Internal Affairs, the forerunner of the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, in 1991. This position was set up to administer the Awards in Oral History from a gift by the Australian government in 1990 to mark the Sesquicentennial, as well as to carry out oral history projects for the Branch and other government departments, and to produce research and writing based on oral history.

For the past fifteen years Megan has provided ongoing advice, encouragement and assistance to Award recipients while they carried out their projects. Her patient, flexible and good-humoured approach to working with people has guided well over 200 projects to completion. Her first publication was the indispensable *Talking history: a short guide to oral history* (known as the Brownie to those on the same wavelength as Megan). Megan has set a high standard in her own oral history work and also promoted professional standards among other public historians. She has carried out innumerable oral history interviews as the basis for further publications, including six widely-acclaimed books recounting the New Zealand experience in the theatres of the Second World War.

Megan will be missed at NOHANZ – she joined the committee in early 1992 and was president 1992-1995. Since then, she has been an outstanding secretary, ensuring the continuity and focus of the organising committee as other members have come and gone. Megan has edited

many issues of the journal *Oral history in New Zealand* and frequently either edited or, in the last few years, compiled the *Newsletter*. Her knowledge and experience as a practicing oral historian during the past 15 years, as well as her sense of humour, have been invaluable both to the committee and to the organisation.

Since 2006 Megan has been a member of the International Oral History Association Council.

While in Auckland, Megan will be freelancing, and this will no doubt include some oral history work. She will be continuing her association with NOHANZ as a distance member.

Haere ra Megan, we wish you all the best in your new ventures.

**Susan Fowke**

## **Oral History Centre staff and services**

**The Oral History Centre has had a few changes in the past year – both new people joining the staff and a change of role for existing staff member Gillian Headifen. We've all written a short description of our work below.**

**Feel free to contact any of us at [atl@natlib.govt.nz](mailto:atl@natlib.govt.nz) and do check the re-designed National Library website at [www.natlib.govt.nz](http://www.natlib.govt.nz). You'll find the Oral History Centre pages if you click on 'Go to the Alexander Turnbull Library' on the home page and then you'll find us under 'About the Turnbull' in the right hand column. You can also navigate to our pages lots of other ways. Let us know what you think and what else you'd like to see on our portal.**

Tena koutou,  
I'm **Taina Tangaere-McGregor** the Oral Historian, Maori in the Oral History Centre of the Alexander Turnbull Library within the National Library of New Zealand – Te Puna Matauranga o Aotearoa.

The main thrust of my role is facilitating audio-video workshops for Maori people in their own communities nationwide. The two-day workshops give participants an opportunity to use and appreciate clear sound and learn framing techniques when using a video camera. Participants also learn the ethical and technical practice of recording oral histories from a Maori perspective, preservation and archival of items created. I also promote oral histories and other services the Alexander Turnbull Library and National Library provide by attending seminars, national and international conferences to share ideas, develop and build relationships with colleagues in organisations that hold our indigenous tangible and intangible material – taonga.

My name is **Kirsty Cox** and I'm the Library Assistant for the Oral History Centre. I work mainly weekdays 8.30am to 1.30pm. My main areas of responsibility are managing equipment hire (recorders and transcribers), administration of oral history workshops, and assisting oral historians using our copying machines. I also help researchers using the Oral History collection onsite and also offsite via the National Library interloan system.

I am **Gillian Headifen**, the Oral History Librarian. You may know me from my previous position as Library Assistant who managed the hiring of the recording equipment and organised the oral history workshops. My role now includes being responsible for providing the reference service to

researchers, arranging and describing the oral history collection for access on the oral history database and assisting with providing services to oral historians.

I'm **Ellen Faed** and have been a library cataloguer for many years. I am now creating records for oral history projects and interviews on the Tapuhi database.

I'm **Linda Evans**, the curator of the Oral History Centre. I manage the Centre which includes a myriad of tasks, look after our acquisitions, provide advice and information to oral historians and others interested in oral history, and do training workshops for project groups.

We work closely with other sections of the Turnbull Library, including Conservation Services – more about that another time.

## Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of NOHANZ will be held on Saturday 28 July in the Lower Ground Floor meeting room, National Library, cnr Molesworth & Aitken Sts, Wellington, at 5:30 p.m.

### Agenda

- Apologies
- Confirmation of the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, 14 June 2006
- Matters arising
  - mentoring for oral historians
  - oral history in schools
- President's report
- Financial report
  - discussion on whether NOHANZ should accept donations
- Election of officers
  - President
  - Secretary
  - Treasurer
  - appointment of committee
- General business
  - increase in annual subscription. The following notice of motion has been received and will be voted on: "That the annual subscription of NOHANZ Te Kete Korero-a-Waha o te Motu be increased to \$40 per annum for waged members and stay at \$25 per annum for unwaged members to take effect from 1 April 2008."  
*Background:* Annual subscriptions at the moment do not cover outgoings: annual journal, newsletter, postage and conference expenses.

**N.B.** A report of the last annual general meeting were published in the August 2006 NOHANZ newsletter.

**Nominations are called for president, secretary, treasurer and executive committee. Send to Lesley Hall, [lesley.hall@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:lesley.hall@vuw.ac.nz) or P O Box 3819, Wellington**