

NOHANZ Newsletter

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EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Lesley Hall

Executive Committee:

Maureen Birchfield
Emma Dewson
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Gillian Headifen
Megan Hutching
Alison Laurie
Rachel Morley
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Distance members of committee:

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Anna Green
Ruth Greenaway
Bruce Ralston

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. Email contact is Rachael Selby at R.A.Selby@massey.ac.nz who is looking forward to receiving your contributions.

NOHANZ news

2005 conference Planning is proceeding apace for this year's conference, 1-3 July, in Christchurch. Registration forms will be sent out shortly.

We have an interesting programme of speakers and surrounding social activities organised.

Remember that Friday 1 July is a joint day with the Australasian Sound Recordists' Association where we will be able to take advantage of their expertise and ask questions about equipment, things digital and archiving sound material.

We will also be holding the NOHANZ AGM at the conference. See last page of this newsletter for agenda and proposed changes to the constitution. Keep an eye on the web site which should soon start having regular updates.

We hope to see you there.

NOHANZ email list A reminder that if you want to add your name to the NOHANZ list and get sent information by email, send your email address to megan.hutching@mch.govt.nz

There isn't a huge amount of traffic so your inbox won't get overfilled. There are some things that we only receive via email and if they don't coincide with a newsletter, you may not hear about them any other way. And if you have information that you want sent to other oral historians, then please send it to Megan for distribution.

Project report

A hundred pints of whitebait

The Waitohu Stream runs from the hills to the sea, east to west, north of Otaki and supplies water to Otaki township. During the early and mid-20th century it was a significant source of food for the tangata whenua in particular and the community in general. The variety and abundance of fish, tuna, whitebait, watercress,

kakahi and other food supported large families who lived on the banks of the stream and its environs.

Two years ago, the Waitohu Streamcare Group asked Otaki environmental researchers Pataka Moore and Caleb Royal to conduct a number of interviews with local Māori families to record their memories of living near the stream and the changes which they have witnessed with the stream in their lifetimes. The Group applied for funding from the Lottery Board and were successful in receiving a grant to support this project.

At the end of February a small collection of interviews was presented to the Otaki Community, the Oral History Centre and the librarian from Te Wananga-o-Raukawa library. This collection builds on a previous project where tangata whenua were interviewed about their lives beside the Mangapouri and Hokio Streams in Otaki and Levin.

One of the most significant changes recorded is the loss of food and fishlife from the stream. One interviewee described an occasion when his mother got 100 pints of whitebait. The quantities and the recipes were mouth watering. The tales of childhood wanderings along the stream are wonderful. The changes in the water quality and the uses of the stream are reminders of the impact of urbanisation and a wakeup call to become more conscious of the potential of our rivers and streams.

Rachael Selby and Pataka Moore

Oral history workshops

Check out the NOHANZ web site for details on forthcoming oral history workshops, taught by Judith Fyfe, to be held at the Alexander Turnbull

Library in Wellington on 14 May and 15 June.

The first is an introductory workshop, teaching the essentials of recording and interviewing; the second builds on the first and covers topics in more detail.

Cost is \$150 for each, and numbers are limited to 14 at each.

Ring Gillian Headifen, 04 474 3162, for more details and a registration form if you don't have access to the web site.

Awards in Oral History

A reminder that the closing date for applications for this year's Awards is 30 April. For more information visit the web site

<http://www.mch.govt.nz/history/oral-history.html>

or contact Megan Hutching: 04 496 6338.

Oral history around the world

Annette Day from the Museum of London writes that the museum has recently completed a programme entitled 'London's Voices' that comprised a series of projects aimed at making use of its oral history collection, exploring London's diversity, and experimenting with the display of oral history. The projects ranged from exhibitions (at the Museum, touring and online) to artists' commission including a soundscape along the route of a new motorway in London and an Indian dance project that incorporated material from the oral history collection. The Museum has produced a short 'online booklet' sharing ideas, approaches and experiences. It can be found at: www.museumoflondon.org.uk/londonsvoices/casestudy

And an interesting street-based project from Southampton: The ORP

Road Project set out to look at the changes in a small, modest inner-city residential road through the buildings and surrounding environment which were seen as being 'silent witnesses of change'. Interviews with residents added a personal dimension as they described their memories of the area, their neighbours and the changes they had made to their houses.

The project, which charted the history of the road since its beginnings in the 1860s to the present day through oral testimony, archival research, contemporary photographs and an architectural profile, helped to forge partnerships between the participants and the local community.

(from *Oral History*, newsletter of the Southampton Museum's Oral History Unit, April 2005, p.4.)

Tape history

In the 1930s the German firm BASF, building on earlier work by Thomas Edison, among others, invented a new way of pre-recording sound. Much of the impetus behind the development of quarter-inch magnetic tape came from Adolf Hitler, who was determined to have his voice heard as widely as possible throughout the Reich.

Thomas Morris, producer of a BBC radio documentary on quarter-inch magnetic tape, says that "Hitler could see the propaganda value of recording his speeches in perfect quality before they were broadcast. The technology was unknown outside Germany. Monitors at Caversham were baffled when they picked up speeches by Hitler apparently being delivered in two places at the same time. It was not until the Allies overran German factories late in the war that they finally became aware of these new tape machines."

After the war, the phenomenal popularity of tape was initially driven by the needs of broadcasting, but its

recording potential was discovered too. "Classical musicians were quick to get in on the act," says Morris. "Older wax discs could only record a few minutes at a time. Now, whole symphonies could be recorded on tape." Before long, popular entertainers had seen the light. Bing Crosby became a pioneer of the new technology and invested heavily in its commercial development.

After 70 years, however, quarter-inch tape will soon be a thing of the past, according to Morris. "The BBC has been gradually phasing out tape. In a few years it will only survive as an archiving tool." Whether digital technology, the new kid on the block, proves as durable remains to be seen. (Based on an article in BBC History, October 2004, p. 64)

Buy & Sell

Wanted to buy or borrow:

Sony Walkman WMD6C recorder and lapel microphone/s.

Please contact:
Helen Bollinger
Blacks Point
West Coast
03 732 8128
helbol@netaccess.co.nz

For Sale
Sony WM D6C Walkman Professional Cassette Recorder with ECM 145T clip on microphones, battery microphones, headphones and other accessories. Excellent condition. Minimal use. Worth \$1800.00 new, will sell for \$1200.00. Contact Sandra Robertson on sandrakay@xtra.co.nz or phone 03 52 86 474 evenings.

Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of NOHANZ will be held on Saturday 2 July during the oral history conference, at Our City, cnr Oxford Tce & Worcester St, Christchurch at 5:30 p.m.

Agenda

- Apologies
- Confirmation of the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, 8 June 2004
- Matters arising
- Financial report
- Election of officers
 - President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - appointment of committee
- General business
 - amendments to the constitution.

At the last AGM we agreed to look into changing the constitution so that we need not have the accounts audited every year. This was a result of advice from Rachel Morley that we no longer legally have to have this done, but instead have what is called a 'review engagement' which is quicker and therefore cheaper. The proposed amendment to paragraph 12 of the constitution is:

'12. Review Engagement

The committee shall appoint an appropriately qualified person, who shall not be a member of the Committee, to undertake a review engagement after completion of the annual financial statements. Their opinion shall be part of the financial report to members of NOHANZ. This person will be required to offer their opinion on the financial statements within three months of the end of financial year.'

At present paragraph 12 reads:

'12. AUDITOR

An Auditor, who shall not be a member of the Committee, shall be elected at the Biennial General meeting. A vacancy incurring to the office of Auditor during the year shall be filled by the Committee.'

- currently the constitution refers to Biennial General Meetings which is all we had to hold before we became an incorporated society. One of the terms of being an incorporated society is that annual general meetings must be held, so the executive committee proposes:

'That all references in the NOHANZ constitution to Biennial General Meeting be altered to Annual General Meeting in order to conform to the requirements of being an incorporated society.'

- other business

N.B. A report of the last annual general meeting were published in the September 2004 NOHANZ newsletter.