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# NOHANZ

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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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### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President:

Lesley Hall

Executive Committee:

Paul Diamond

Linda Evans

Susan Fowke

Alison Laurie

Taina McGregor

Rachael Selby

Lynette Shum

Anne Thorpe

Distance members of committee:

Loreen Brehaut (Picton)

Jacqui Foley (Oamaru)

Helen Frizzell (Dunedin)

Megan Hutching (Auckland)

[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

### NOHANZ COMMITTEE Profiles

**Lesley Hall** is the current President of NOHANZ and a Senior Lecturer in Gender and Women's Studies (GWS) at Victoria University of Wellington. Oral history is taught as part of undergraduate and postgraduate courses in GWS and many students use oral history as a research method.

'Better Red Than Wed: Gender Relations and the Role of Women in the Communist Party of New Zealand', Lesley's PhD research, used oral histories to examine how women members mediated political activity and family responsibilities. Gender relations and the role of women in the Party were examined in historical, political and social contexts. This particular research raised issues about confidentiality in oral history projects and Lesley has recently re-examined the topic.

Lesley is currently interviewing women scientists in Aotearoa/New Zealand. This is an oral history project that examines gender relations in the field of science with reference to factors such as educational experience, family background, mentoring, the benefits and limitations of positive discrimination, work/family balance, the impact of current funding regimes, and possible strategies for the future.

**Susan Fowke:** I am a freelance oral historian and Secretary for NOHANZ. I came to oral history with a background of experience as a television documentaries researcher. When I left TVNZ in 1987 I started picking up freelance work for the New Zealand Oral History Archive – then oral history was a new field of work. Now more than 20 years later it is well-established and I am still enjoying listening to New Zealanders' stories of their lives. I have worked on many projects including Gaylene Preston's film War Stories, and The Dames Oral History Project – for this project, carried out in Women's Suffrage Year, I interviewed about twenty New Zealand Dames

including Malvina Major, Cath Tizard and Silvia Cartwright.

**Anne Thorpe** is the treasurer for NOHANZ, her early training working for an accountant comes in useful for this task. Her later work as a probation officer meant she interviewed many people over her career, but she quickly learnt that the ethics and disciplines required as an oral historian were a new skill and she was very glad of the training given by Judith Fyfe. She is presently heavily involved in recording the stories of the people of Otaki for the Otaki Museum, and organizing a group of local oral historians who will assist in this work.

**Rachael Selby** (Ngati Raukawa and Ngati Pareraukawa) lives in Otaki, is a kaiawhina at Te Wananga-o-Raukawa and lectures at Massey University, Palmerston North. She has completed over 50 oral history interviews with Maori women and men for a range of interesting projects. Many of these have been for environmental projects focussed on memories of life in rural communities and small towns. Others have been based on memories of the importance of particular rivers and streams and the impacts of environmental pollution on Maori communities. Others have focussed on fishing practices and management of streams. Rachael continues to enjoy recording oral histories and helping others to record good quality interviews.

**Lynette Shum** is the co-ordinator for Haining Street Oral History Project and completed her MA in Asian Studies in 2008 using material from this project. She works for the Oral History Centre at the Alexander Turnbull Library, National Library of New Zealand/Te Puna Maatauranga O Aotearoa. Lynette has two children and lives in Plimmerton.

**Paul Diamond** (Ngäti Hauä, Te Rarawa, Ngä Puhī and Ngäti Pākehä) became involved with oral history through his work as a writer, historian and broadcaster. From 2007-2009, he managed the Vietnam War Oral History

Project for the Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

**Taina Tangaere-McGregor:** I got involved in oral history in 1993 whilst completing Teachers Training College in Palmerston North and became a foundation member of the C. Company 28 Maori Battalion oral history project research team. I continued to the Maori Department at Massey University and majored with an MA(Hons) in Education and Maori Studies.

Living in Pongaroa – a one-pub, one-shop, one-garage rural township in northern Wairarapa – I joined NOHANZ about 1995-96 so I could receive the NOHANZ journal and keep abreast of projects and happenings in the oral history domain.

It was the right decision as the journal exposed a broad range of people operating in the 'field' and the amazing range of oral history projects being undertaken nationwide. Totally unforeseen, was, that I would be employed in 2001 as 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. It was here that I and the rest of the C Company research team were trained in the ethical & technical practice of recording oral histories by Hugo Manson.

**Linda Evans** has been the curator of the Oral History Centre at the Alexander Turnbull Library since 1997. She is a qualified librarian and has a long standing interest in oral history and histories of communities. Her oral history training started at a workshop taken by Judith Fyfe and Hugo Manson in the mid-1980s. She has been involved in NOHANZ since 1995 and was president for two terms. She is also a curator of the Lesbian and Gay Archives Te Puranga Takatapu o Aotearoa (LAGANZ) and involved in the LAGANZ Oral History Group.

**Alison J. Laurie** is a Senior Lecturer and Programme Director of Gender and Women's Studies at Victoria University of Wellington. She has published nationally and internationally on oral

history theory and practice, as well as on gender and sexuality. She teaches undergraduate and postgraduate oral history courses in the School, including several online courses, and supervises MA and doctoral theses using oral history. She is an executive member of the National Oral History Association of New Zealand.

### ***Distance members***

**Loreen Brehaut** has been working in oral history since 1993. She began when invited to record life stories and cultural interviews with Australian outback people, including Aboriginals, while living in NW Australia. Four books were published based on her oral history work there. She was a Committee member of the WA branch of the Oral History Association of Australia for several years. On returning to NZ she has been involved in oral history for Picton Museum, private contracts, therapeutic biography with hospice patients, and is presently a contract interviewer for the Vietnam War Oral History Project managed by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage. She has been the recipient of many oral history grants in both Australia and New Zealand.

**Helen Frizzell:** From 1986 until 2006 I was Oral Historian for the Community History Programme of Presbyterian Support Otago. I have been a freelance Oral Historian since then. I have undertaken oral history projects for a large variety of organisations and individuals; and have experience with reminiscence work. Material from some projects has been presented back to the community through a variety of media such as exhibitions, theatre and murals. I have taught both trainee and experienced oral historians and supervised practicing oral historians.

**Jacqui Foley:** I live in North Otago at a small place called Tokarahi. I am a full time free lance oral historian. I have been involved in oral history since 1992. My work is quite varied with a mix of both local and work further afield and with a mix also of project and family interviews. Local work has been mainly

carried out through the North Otago Museum with the aim of building up an extensive archival resource for the community. This funding comes from the Waitaki District Council but unfortunately is currently under threat of being cut. I have interest also in filmmaking, video oral history and photography. I am very passionate about my work and feel very fortunate to be involved in this wonderful medium. I have recently switched to digital recording and, after some trauma about making the change from analogue, I am now a very definite devotee.

**Megan Hutching:** After working at the Ministry for Culture & Heritage in Wellington for sixteen years, and being closely involved in the NOHANZ committee, I moved back to Auckland in mid-2007. Since then I have been working freelance doing a mixture of oral history interviewing and writing.

### **NOHANZ website**

Thanks to NOHANZ member Pip Oldham, the NOHANZ website ([www.nohanz.org.nz](http://www.nohanz.org.nz)) is being updated with new material and resources.

A new section for Members' Contributions

(<http://nohanz.org.nz/members.htm>) has been added. Here you can find Michael Dudding's how-to guide to abstracting oral histories, and information about video editing which Lesley Hall brought back from the 2008 IOHA conference in Mexico.

We've also uploaded a photo of the NOHANZ Committee (<http://nohanz.org.nz/membership.htm>) and you can now download back copies of the newsletter

(<http://nohanz.org.nz/newsletters.htm>). We are very keen to hear from members about material they would like to share with other oral historians, and are also looking at including material on the website about digital recording. Any contributions and feedback about the website are always welcome.

**Website contacts:** Pip Oldham ([pip.oldham@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pip.oldham@xtra.co.nz)) or Paul Diamond ([paora@actrix.co.nz](mailto:paora@actrix.co.nz)).

## **Oral history in New Zealand**

### **Drovers Project**

What began as a pilot project of ten interviews funded by a Ministry for Culture and Heritage Australian Sesquicentennial Gift Trust Award in 2003 has grown arms, legs and a good part of a body as well. Another Sesquicentennial Award and a Ministry Research Grant enabled me to stretch the dollars further and the body is now a collection of some 50 or 60 interviews conducted while travelling with my family in school holidays throughout almost the length and breadth of the country.

Droving is a topic that elicits the "what the???" response in most. Not commonly seen on our busy roads today, the movement of stock on the hoof was once the predominant means of transporting animals from different locales, and reflects a pace of life long since lost. While not having a farming background, you can imagine that the topic has been a steep learning curve for me: two toothes, polled cattle, heading dogs, handy dogs, leading dogs, it was all new to me. Of course, I asked my fair share of silly questions but on the positive side I couldn't assume knowledge so had to ask for clarification and gained insights into differing beliefs and ideas on farming practice.

Interviewees included stock agents who employed drovers, children of drovers, farmers who did a bit of droving and then those who were at some time a full-time drover. What I discovered was some were 'drovers' and some 'did droving'. The drovers are a special breed, taking great pride in their work despite difficult conditions, and with the determination to ensure their stock arrived in better condition than it had left. They all had stories to tell of adventures, accidents, and 'bloody townies'.

The men and women interviewed varied in age from their sixties into their eighties, all bar a few told me I should

have been collecting the stories years back when the real drovers were around. Despite the loss of many of the stories, I think what I have collected gives a good flavour for what the life of the drover was about. From what the drovers ate, drank and wore, a typical day 'in the life of', to old routes taken, animal husbandry tips and, thanks to a passing comment by Judith Fyfe at an oral history workshop in Wellington, a good collection of whistle commands for the dogs.

I have been taken on a four wheel drive trip around a large farm in the Kahurangi region by an 82-year-old gentleman only to be shown a photo of the Landrover he had written-off some weeks before; driven down Ninety-mile Beach in a ute with a gentleman showing me where stock once were driven and have had the pleasure of interviewing at 7 a.m. in the backblocks of the Waikato. It never ceases to amaze me how strangers willingly open up their homes and share their stories. All the interviews and adventures have been a huge privilege and something that I do not take for granted. I now, with the aid of another award, have the huge task of shaping the collection in to a book that ensures the story of droving in New Zealand is told.

**Ruth Low**

### **Te Reo o Te Haahi**

Te Taapapa o Te Manawa o Te Wheke is the Training Centre for lay persons and clergy of the Anglican Church. It was lunchtime when I arrived, and observed a group of people - some finishing their meal and some talking quietly over cups of tea or coffee. I guesstimated most to be grandparents like myself who'd finished collecting children from Kohanga Reo or Kura, unlike 80per cent of participants of previous workshops I'd worked with.

'Kia ora' resounded in my direction as I was being introduced by Rangī Nicholson, the project organisor; 'Kia ora' I responded as we all headed to the area we would be spending the next two days for the audio-video workshop. From the outset they were an enthusiastic and

diligent group of men and women - the bus driver and his wife, the guy who played the key-boards with the 'John Rowles' voice, the 'Helen Clark grandma', the archbishop, the video guy, the teachers - brother and sister who hailed from Tuhoe, and the others, all excited to be underway with the training phase of their oral history project.

As facilitator, I enjoyed it when participants had their five-minute interview exercises underway and then as a group reviewed and critiqued snapshots of each other's recordings. Most of all, the questions and discussions that occurred during these review sessions were stimulating - and at times fun. Both days the atmosphere was busy, with people enjoying working the audio recorders, then the video cameras. Everyone had a go - from the 40 something year old to the 80 something year old. Abstracting was a task I thought could be daunting for the group - not at all. Admittedly we worked till approximately 9 p.m. on a Saturday evening and a couple of hours the next day as they had organised a church service to end the weekend.

I was thrilled to be notified that the aims and objectives of the project had been achieved; therein capturing Maori language use by clergy of the Anglican faith. My thanks to Rangi Nicholson and the Amorangi o Te Taapapa o Te Manawa o Te Wheke and to the 'video guy', for he had captured on film the group's experiences during the workshop for their archives. It was an emotional service that 'special' Sunday; they sang my favourite of their hymns with 'John Rowles' - Haki Haimona on keyboards. Sadly, he has since passed on. Last year I was invited to attend the project hand-over ceremony, being held in Rotorua, to Alison Parr of the Ministry of Culture and Heritage. Alas, I had to send apologies due to a previously arranged commitment. My congratulations to all those involved in the project for their dedication and commitment. Ma te Atua koutou katoa e arahi, e tiaki, e manaaki.

**Taina Tangaere-McGregor**

### **Turnbull Library and National Library temporary relocation - let us know what you need**

The Alexander Turnbull Library's oral history collection and Oral History Centre staff, along with all other collections and staff, are getting ready to move to temporary premises while the National Library building in Molesworth Street is redeveloped.

A major redevelopment of the National Library building in Wellington was announced in May 2008. Work on the building is expected to start towards the end of 2009.

Carefully packing, moving and storing New Zealand's heritage collections before work on the building takes place is no small task. Finding spaces to store the collections safely, while keeping as much material as we can available during the relocation period, is also a complex operation. While these tasks are carried out and the building redevelopment is in progress, changes to services and collection access are necessary.

### ***Let us know your access requirements***

A summary of planned collection access is available at [www.natlib.govt.nz/building-redevelopment](http://www.natlib.govt.nz/building-redevelopment)

I encourage all oral historians who may need access to Turnbull or National Library collections for research during the relocation period to read this summary carefully and ask questions about any collections you anticipate using. The Library is inviting researchers and oral historians to let us know about material you would like to be available for your work. I am focusing on the oral history collection, but we welcome enquiries through the contact points below about all the Library's collections or services.

If you can tell us about the items you would like to access from Turnbull collections, we may be able to set specific items aside for you, or pack

them so they are easily retrievable. Although we can't make any guarantees, the more specific you can be about these items, the more likely it is that we can help you. Please provide this information by 5pm on Tuesday, 14 April 2009.

We will collect and assess these requirements, then make final decisions about collection access, the timings of the move and packing timetables. We will also let you know the outcome of your specific request.

You can submit your requirements online at:  
[www.natlib.govt.nz/building-redevelopment](http://www.natlib.govt.nz/building-redevelopment)

### **Oral history collection access**

Oral history abstracts and listening copies will be available for research in a reading room at one of the temporary locations in Wellington. However, only parts of the collection have been copied. If you wish to have access to specific recordings from the oral history collection during the Library's relocation period, it is important that you let us know as soon as possible so we can check now if there are existing listening copies.

Original recordings in the oral history collection will be stored in specialised conditions to keep them safe. While access to some original items may be available throughout the relocation period and requests for items will be considered according to their storage conditions and availability, it is likely that a large number of original recordings will not be available.

The relocation period does provide the opportunity for parts of the oral history collection to be digitised for preservation and access.

### **Oral history services**

Specialist staff will continue to provide advice, training and an equipment service. The workshop series offered at the National Library twice each year will not run in the second half of this year, but we expect to resume next year.

### **Building the oral history collection**

The Turnbull Library will continue acquiring material by donation and purchase. This includes appraising material, accepting donations and commissioning work. However, there may be periods, particularly during moving, when we may need to suspend these activities.

Do contact us with your enquiries and feedback.

For more information, please email [future.services@natlib.govt.nz](mailto:future.services@natlib.govt.nz)  
or  
call us on 04 474 3021 or view at [www.natlib.govt.nz](http://www.natlib.govt.nz)

**Linda Evans**  
**Curator, Oral History Centre,**  
**Alexander Turnbull Library**

### **Oral history for the Lesbian and Gay Archives of New Zealand**

Following a generous donation for the purposes of developing its oral history collection, the Lesbian and Gay Archives of New Zealand Te Puranga Takatapu o Aotearoa decided to pilot some oral history projects in the Wellington region. A group of lesbians and gay men has now been trained, learning how to research and prepare for interviews, how to carry out an interview, how to operate recording equipment and how to process material after an interview. This committed and active LAGANZ Oral History Group of about twelve people is presently interviewing selected narrators. The group has started two projects about important social and community venues. The first focuses on the Dorian Society, which was a club for gay men in Wellington from the early 1960s until the late 1980s. The second focuses on Club 41, a club for lesbians in Wellington from 1974 until 1977. The two projects document people's experience at the clubs and their social networks, as well as recording life histories covering their families, childhood, school, work and other experiences. Documenting the variety of lesbian and gay lives will contribute to understanding how race, class, gender

and sexuality interweave.

There are many ways to be queer in Aotearoa/New Zealand, and LAGANZ wants to record individual stories that reflect the diversity of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) communities. Using oral history, LAGANZ hopes to cover many aspects of the communities' histories not otherwise documented.

The project organizers and trainers are Linda Evans, a curator of LAGANZ and NOHANZ committee member, and Alison Laurie, chair of the LAGANZ board of trustees and also on the NOHANZ committee.

**Alison J Laurie**

Note: LAGANZ is owned by a community trust and housed in the Alexander Turnbull Library. For more information about the archives visit [www.laganz.org.nz](http://www.laganz.org.nz)



## **International Oral History Association**

The call for papers for the 2010 IOHA conference in Prague has been issued, and is available from the conference website:  
<http://www.ioha2010prague.com/>

The conference theme is *Between Past and Future: Oral History, Memory and Meaning*.

The new IOHA website has back issues of the newsletter and a new 'Debate' page where oral historians discuss matters of interest to our craft, at [www.iohanet.org](http://www.iohanet.org)

## **Conferences**

### **Hearing Voice in Oral History**

*The Oral History Society national conference, Glasgow 3-4 July 2009*

This year's national Oral History Society conference, to be held in Glasgow, has a focus that perhaps surprisingly has been largely absent from previous conferences in the UK and elsewhere, the voice.

Although the raw material of the oral history interview is the spoken voice, the conventional analysis and use of the recorded material is through the transcribed word, using the written form as the key reference.

This conference aims to consider the voice itself as evidence as well as and beyond what can be conveyed in print. It aims to centre-stage the voice both as the key conduit and provider of information on any particular topic, and as evidence in itself of what is being conveyed in the interview.

The three keynote speakers underline this agenda. They are Professor Steven High, Professor of Public History and Director of the Centre for Oral History and Digital Storytelling, Concordia University, Montreal, Anne Karpf, a British writer, journalist, broadcaster and sociologist and author of the acclaimed book, *The Human Voice: The Story of a Remarkable Talent*, and Rab Wilson, a Scots poet, recent holder of the Robert Burns Fellowship and winner of 2008 McCash Scots Poetry Competition. Rab is a former mining engineer and currently a psychiatric nurse.

In setting the stage with their strong focus on the role of voice in different contexts they will provide a fascinating background for the 60-odd other presenters from many countries (including New Zealand and Australia) whose contributions fall into three categories: The nature of voice as evidence in oral history and its relation



to period, culture and place, Hearing



## Islands of Memory

Oral History Association of Australia  
16th National Conference  
17-20 September 2009  
Launceston Tasmania

Navigating Personal and Public History

voice in community through oral history,  
and Voice in oral history in the age of

new technology: the implications of  
digitisation and dissemination of the  
voice through the internet and other  
digital media.

The conference attracted an unusually  
high number of presentation proposals  
from all around the world indicating a  
wide interest in the role of voice in oral  
history and, perhaps, the fact that it is  
an area deserving of more attention  
than it has been given by oral historians  
up to now. We hope that some material  
resulting from the conference will appear  
in the OHS journal.

Full information about the conference is  
available at  
<http://www.ohs.org.uk/conferences/2009.php>

**Hugo Manson**, NOHANZ Life Member, member of  
the British OHS Committee and Convenor of the  
conference planning committee

### **OHAA conference**

The 16<sup>th</sup> national conference of the Oral  
History Association of Australia will be  
held in Launceston 17-20 September  
2009. There will be 55 speakers over 4  
days.

## **Funding**

### **2009 Oral History Awards Application Deadline**

The deadline for applications for this year's Australian Sesquicentennial Gift Trust for  
Awards in Oral History is Thursday 30 April. Information about the Awards and how to  
apply can be found at:

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

The keynote speaker is Richard  
Whiteing, research manager/archivist  
from Robben Island Museum, South  
Africa.

Other speakers include:  
Alan Harris Stein, archival oral historian,  
Chicago State University: 'Rocking the  
boat: Studs Terkel's 20th century'  
Gwenda Beed Davey, AM, Research  
Fellow, Deakin University: 'Fish Trout,  
You're Out: sound recordings of  
childhood in NLA's Oral History and  
Folklore Section'  
Christobel Mattingley, 'A country  
postmistress, women artists, Aboriginal  
people, a tin miner, a Lancaster pilot  
and a refugee - publishing their stories'.

Earlybird registration closes on 30 June.

### **Further information:**

[www.qvmag.tas.gov.au/oralhistoryconference](http://www.qvmag.tas.gov.au/oralhistoryconference)

**Enquiries:** OHAA@qvmag.tas.gov.au  
or  
Jill Cassidy, President OHAA (Tas) Inc,  
Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery  
PO Box 403, Launceston Tasmania  
Australia 7250

If you have any enquiries please contact Alison Parr, Senior Oral Historian, Ministry for Culture and Heritage. Ph: 04 496 6331 Email: [alison.parr@mch.govt.nz](mailto:alison.parr@mch.govt.nz)