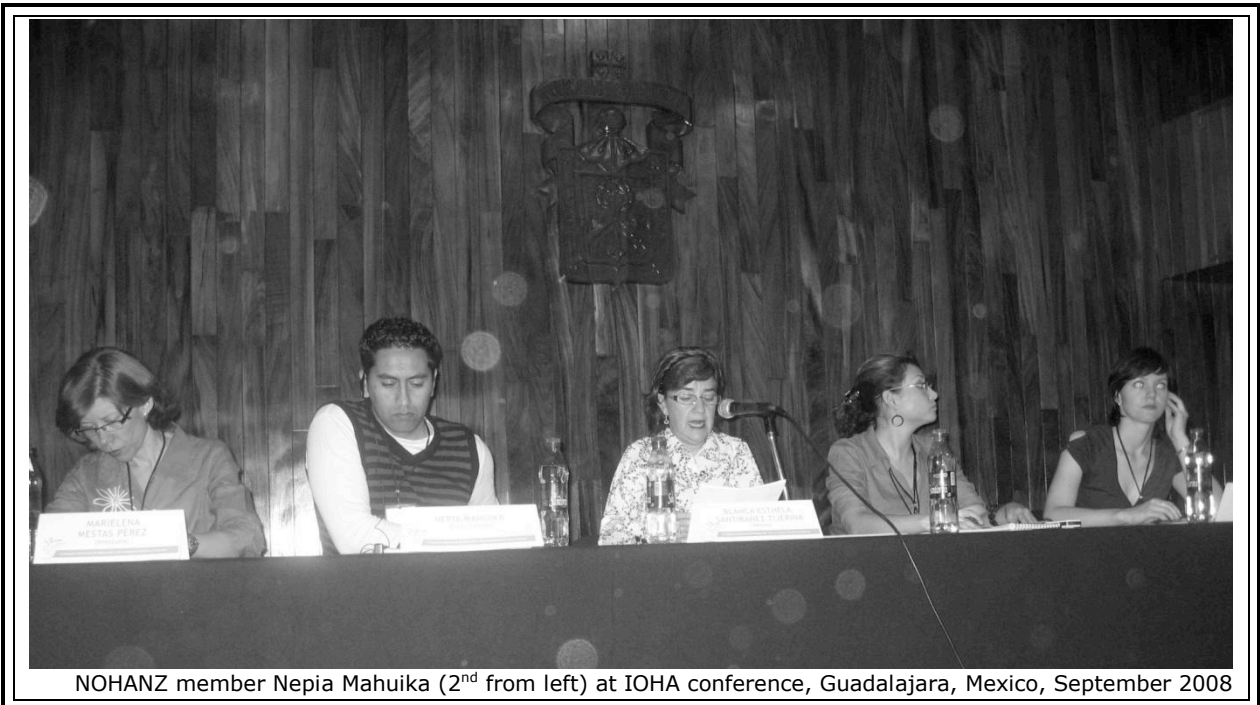


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# NOHANZ

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



NOHANZ member Nepia Mahuika (2<sup>nd</sup> from left) at IOHA conference, Guadalajara, Mexico, September 2008

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# NOHANZ

## Newsletter

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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 Megan Hutching at:

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

## Oral history in New Zealand

### He Rau Tumu Kōrero - Māori Historians' Symposium

Oral tradition and oral history were key themes at a hui held at the University of Waikato on 29 August. Hosted by the History Department and the School of Māori and Pacific Development/Te Pua Wānanga ki te Ao, the hui was organised to bring Māori researchers within Māori and iwi history together to provide support and impetus for future collaboration, networking and intellectual advancement within the field of Māori and iwi history.

The hui brought together people from history and other disciplines and while some presentations were concerned with history as recorded in documents, many featured oral history and tradition.

One of the organisers of the hui, Nēpia Mahuika gave a paper at the recent international oral history association conference in Mexico. Nēpia's wife, Rangimarie Mahuika gave a fascinating paper ('Oral history as a Māori research methodology?') which is of particular interest to oral historians. Using her own research based among her iwi of Ngāti Rangiwewehi as a starting point, Rangimarie argued that oral history, both as a theory and a research method has much to offer Māori researchers as a useful tool. As part of her research, Rangimarie completed oral history life narratives with members of her iwi. Feedback from iwi members led her to question whether she was in fact using oral history or simply 'doing interviews'. This led to her presentation, in which she explained what oral history is and 'why understanding the theoretical aspect is an essential part of doing history and not just interviews'.

Oral history was also at the core of a keynote paper given at the hui by Dr Monty Soutar. Monty spoke about the new history of the Māori war effort in the Second World War which was launched over Labour Weekend. The book was

written by Monty on behalf of the Ngā Taonga a Ngā Tama Toa Trust which also undertook a ground-breaking oral history project, interviewing 28 Māori Battalion C Company veterans and whānau.

In another paper ('Archaeology and Oral Tradition') Des Kahotea spoke about how iwi access heritage through oral tradition - a key theme of another paper ('The Role of History and Oral Tradition in Recovering Fagin's Ill-gotten Gains') given by a keynote speaker at the hui, Professor Margaret Mutu. Using the history of her own Ngāti Kahu iwi's Treaty claims as a case study, Margaret spoke about how the iwi had pushed for oral evidence and oral tradition to be considered and given due weight as part of the claims process. She also argued that ethical requirements were relevant when researching oral traditions. For example, researchers must have links to the hapū; have knowledge of Māori language; and be able to work directly with whānau and hapū.

The schedule for the hui, listing all the papers and speakers, can be found here: <http://www.waikato.ac.nz/wfass/subject/history/maori-historical-hui-schedule.shtml>

**Paul Diamond**



### **Southland Oral History Project**

The Southland Oral History Project was initiated in 2006 by the Southland Rural Heritage Trust. The Rural Heritage Trust, an organization whose mission statement is to safeguard and celebrate Southland's rural heritage through its living history, first prepared an Oral History Plan for Southland to provide a focus for the project. The plan identifies the project's focus as recording the oral histories of people born before the Second World War who have made a significant contribution to Southland's rural heritage, as well as documenting life in Southland during the Second World War.

Funding from Lottery Environment and Heritage and the Jack Ilott Fund as well as Southland-based funding agencies, the Southland Rural Heritage Committee, the Community Trust of Southland and the Southland District Council Community Development Fund provided the Project with 5 Marantz digital recorders and professional training for volunteer interviewers by oral historian Helen Frizzell. Further funding has resulted in the purchase of three more Marantz recorders and training for additional volunteers.

The project is now supported by more than 12 trained interviewers who live in various parts of Southland and undertake interviews on a regular basis. The fact that interviewers are scattered throughout the Southland region means the project is creating a comprehensive and varied source of interviews which is relevant to Southland as a whole. To date around 55 new interviews have been created.

The Southland Oral History Project is very lucky to have developed a strong working relationship with the Invercargill Public Library and Archive. They not only provide the project with a place to store the digital recordings but provide invaluable support in incurring some of the costs associated with making the recordings accessible to the public. It is hoped that eventually the project will become integrated into the library's regular activities and will continue to create these valuable oral histories for many years to come.

Most recently the project has received funding to employ a project coordinator. The coordinator now undertakes the task of ensuring the administration of the interviews is completed in a thorough manner and ensures the project meets all its ethical obligations. The coordinator feels that one of her most important tasks is to implement processes to ensure consistency with the record keeping involved in the creation of interviews. Her other vital role is to provide support and encouragement for the volunteer interviewers so they can

continue to gather these valuable recordings.

Publicity about the project has meant we have been approached by people who have recorded oral history interviews on tape for various projects or reasons. They contact the project because they would like their tape recordings transferred into a digital format because of concern about the lifespan of the tape recordings. The project, with the support of the Library, is currently investigating the practicalities of undertaking this task with the major concern identified being that many of these recordings do not have accompanying agreement forms or paperwork.

With such wide ranging and on-going support there is no reason why the Southland Oral History Project should not become self-sustaining and continue to safeguard Southland's precious stories into the future.

**Rebecca Amundsen  
Project Coordinator**

### **Wellington Regional Meeting**

Wellington region held their third meeting in July, the meeting was held to discuss the Agreement Form. This topic was chosen because for some time now there has been feedback from members who find the form difficult to understand, and therefore difficult to explain to interviewees and fill in correctly.

The form in question is the 'Oral History Recording Agreement Form', approved by NOHANZ, and most generally used by NOHANZ members. This form provides a record of the terms and conditions of access and use agreed to by the interviewee, the interviewer, and the commissioning body. As well as those rights the form also records the other rights including copyright.

The form was originally compiled by Judith Fyfe and Hugo Manson, founders of the Oral History Archive (along with solicitor Chris Finlayson), when they set up the Oral History Archive (now morphed into the Oral History Centre at the Alexander Turnbull Library).

We were lucky that Judith was able to attend to the meeting as her knowledge of the form's content, the intent, and the meaning of the various sections, was instructive and valuable.

Judith told us that they started off with a form that was nearly three pages long in an attempt to explain and cover every contingency. In fact, she said, the detail provided by the form was counter-productive – interviewees found it daunting and confusing, which sometimes led to difficulty in getting an agreement signed.

On the other hand, she pointed out that the form is a legal agreement and as such should not be over-simplified as this can lead to the purpose of the form being lost.

She also reminded the participants that the Agreement Form is there to protect the rights of the interviewer as well as the other parties involved from any challenge by a third party.

There was a wide range of comment from group members group discussion ranged over many aspects of the form's various clauses – most discussion centred on the box pertaining to restrictions on access.

It was interesting to hear from Linda Evans, Curator of the Oral History Centre, that the Centre very rarely experiences any difficulty in the application of the terms use as specified by Agreement Forms. In fact, the few difficulties they do encounter are invariably due to the Agreement Form being incorrectly filled out.

By meeting's end the only firm decision made was that a Users' Guide (for both interviewer and interviewee) to the terminology used on the form should be put together – for instance: *publication* means public use - this could range from a school essay, to a thesis, a performance, exhibitions, radio broadcast, or use on a website. It was also agreed that the look of the form could be updated by changing the layout and using a more contemporary font.

Once again the meeting was well attended – at least a dozen people on a very cold winter's night! And once again thanks to Gillian Headifen for a tasty nibbles and good coffee.

**Susan Fowke**

### **NOHANZ Inspire Lunch, 22 October 2008**

#### *A Christchurch City Council Heritage Week Event*

Michelle Bradley and Nicola Robertson hosted an informal lunch for anybody interested in Oral History which had been promoted in the Heritage Week programme produced by the city council. The gathered group just managed to fit around the restaurant's largest table. Some of the diners were members of NOHANZ others have been at one time and the remainder were welcomed as newcomers.

Michelle and Nicola were joined by Kim Morton, Cilla McVeigh, Zoe Roland and Helen Brown (NZHPT), Barbara Moorehouse and Marion Ojin, city librarians, Ivan Hibbard (Belfast historian), Jane from the Canterbury Provincial Chambers office, and Shikako a student at Canterbury University (Art History).

The conversation and food were plentiful and enjoyable. After eating there was a round of introductions followed by a general discussion. Out of the discussion a few things were loosely settled upon.

Firstly, the group would like to work toward establishing a NOHANZ branch in Christchurch if this is readily workable. Although not entirely sure how this would be defined the feeling was that it would be great to meet regularly, share information and support each other's oral history endeavours. It was felt that the spirit of NOHANZ represented something the group would like to reflect in its establishment and activity in Christchurch.

Discussion also centred on how those just introduced to oral history might get hold of digital equipment (ensuring CD quality or better recordings and quality

microphones). Equipment hire does not currently seem available in Christchurch. So that was identified as another task to take on, namely organising for equipment to be available in Christchurch for those wishing to complete an interview.

Thirdly, a number of the group said they would like to get a bit of education about using digital equipment and necessary computer programmes to enable them to use this technology to complete interviews in the future. Marion and Michelle said they would meet to talk about what elements could be included in a day-long training to this end. There talk would include: what would be the content, who would tutor the material and where could such a day be held?

It was suggested all those who attended be invited to a Technical day in autumn 2009. Nicola took the name and contact details of everyone there and a communication group will be set up for updates of the formulating plans. Nothing was formalised but the group was energetic and enthusiastic about possibilities. So look out for further news. If you would like to be included in the contact list email Nicola Robertson: nicola.robertson@paradise.net.nz

**Michelle Bradley**

## **Conference report**

### **Viva Guadalajara! Reflections on the 15th International Oral History Conference, 23-26 September 2008**

My entrance to Guadalajara was somewhat traumatic as I arrived (virtually and unwisely) penniless, with no Mexican or US money on me and no money exchange office open so late at night. In retrospect I prepared inadequately as, without pesos or US dollars, acquiring a taxi to take me on the 30 minute journey to my hotel proved a challenging experience, especially after almost 24 hours air travel and following limited sleep beforehand. However, in my defence, at the time I landed I was still in relaxed holiday mode after five weeks in the UK and was therefore inadequately prepared

for my first trip to a non-English speaking country for some years. Still, enough of that; my harrowing arrival in Guadalajara is too long a story to tell here and in true oral history mode it will probably change in the telling many times in the process of becoming one of my set pieces in the future. What I hope this report achieves is giving non-participants just a taste of the experience of this IOHA conference, the first held in a Spanish-speaking country. I want to focus on my personal highlights of the conference, plus the three English-speaking oral history workshops preceding it, all held at the Department of History, Central University of the Humanities and Social Sciences in the Mexican city of Guadalajara in September 2008. The conference was run jointly with the Mexican Oral History Association whose aim was to give the conference a distinctly Mexican flavour.

Taina McGregor of the Oral History Centre, Alexander Turnbull Library and I attended the three excellent master classes offered. To our surprise these were not fully subscribed, an effect perhaps of the somewhat idiosyncratic conference organization that may have put some people off and/or prevented them from persevering with the vagaries of registration! As Alistair Thomson, the President of IOHA confirmed, there had been 'some technical hitches with the conference website' and also other communication difficulties. However, in my view, the conference did in the end fulfil Al's hopes that it would be 'an exciting, stimulating and enjoyable event, an opportunity to meet and learn from oral historians from around the world, and in particular to learn about oral history in Mexico and neighbouring countries.'

Mary Marshall Clark, Director of the Oral History Research Office Columbia University, was to be the facilitator of the first Master Class '*Memory, History, Trauma and the Practice of Oral History*'. However, she was unable to attend so Alexander Freund, ably supported for the first hour by Al Thomson, took her place. Alex was one of the 30 oral historians

involved with Mary in the *September 11, 2001, Oral History Narrative and Memory Project* within days of the attacks on the Twin Towers in New York. Many of the participants in the Master Class, all women apart from the facilitator/s, were involved in oral history projects with narrators who had lived through trauma of some kind such as during war or sexual abuse experiences. After a round where participants discussed their experience (or not) of interviewing people who had experienced trauma, a really interesting discussion ensued about questions such as: Is trauma a useful concept in oral history practice? How should trauma be defined e.g. psychological definitions may differ from other perspectives? How can narrators ensure that those who choose to tell us stories are not re-traumatized in the process? What are the ethical issues for interviewers of people who have experienced trauma? What is the impact on interviewers of listening to such accounts? Is it possible (or desirable) to maintain distance and empathy when, at the same time, connection with the narrator is essential to the oral history process? How do public accounts of traumatic events such as 9/11 become the dominant interpretation and how do they differ from the accounts of those who lived through 'the terrorist attacks' and their aftermath?

No easy answers to these questions were provided but the discussion was very useful and challenging for all concerned as we considered whether oral history can play a significant role in the aftermath of catastrophe (however defined); whether recording stories of survival can restore a sense of continuity to those who tell them and educate those who will listen about what needs to happen next. Clark has asked that we do not quote from the handout she provided for the Master Class but if you'd like to examine some early thoughts about the 9/11 project please see Clark's article in *The Journal of American History*, September 2002, pp.569-579.

According to Taina McGregor, Maori have been particularly enthusiastic practitioners of videoing oral history so she was particularly keen to attend Master Class 2: *Video Editing for Oral Historians*. This was a presentation by an engaging and bilingual Juan José Gutiérrez of California State University and Maria Valladares, independent designer. The workshop started from the premise that oral historians need to examine new, swiftly changing technology and new communications systems like YouTube if we want to connect with the younger generation. Juan and Maria explained the advantages and limitations of two particular software packages they had found particularly useful and user-friendly for video and oral history. To save space I will not spend too much time discussing this workshop further as Juan has promised to email the workshop handout to me so that it can be put up on the NOHANZ website. However, I urge any NOHANZ members interested in the use of video for oral history to check the webpage as I hope this will be available soon.

*Preparing oral history interviews for publication* was the final Master Class held the next day before conference registration opened. Some of you will have met the presenter Linda Shopes, as she was keynote speaker at a NOHANZ conference in Auckland a few years ago. Linda is currently working on a Palgrave 'Studies in Oral History' series and the workshop focused on three of four types of books being published and commissioned: one consisting of a biography of one person; one focusing on a group of people with similar stories; and one that uses oral history, but with a more interpretive and/or methodological focus. Linda brought examples of the three types with her and discussed what made these particular books successful. The fourth type not discussed is a book based on oral history but more thematic in presentation.

Linda emphasised that not everyone will agree with her take on turning oral history into text so the aim of the

workshop was not to provide a set of rules. She claims that in oral history there has been too much tendency to protect narrators and that not enough has been done to advance social goals. In the final analysis, she claimed, each author has to make their own judgement call, but her view is that an individual story belongs to history and it is the responsibility of oral historians to make it publicly available. This was a particularly challenging part of the workshop for me as I have written extensively on confidentiality in oral history. Even so this workshop was a helpful guide to the publishing process that explained the need to edit, contextualise and interpret oral history interviews that are to form the basis of a book or other publication. For an Aotearoa/New Zealand perspective on this subject read Megan Hutching's chapter in *Remembering: Writing Oral History* (2004). In addition take a look at Richard Candida Smith, 'Publishing oral history: oral exchange and print culture' in *Handbook of Oral History* by Thomas Charlton et al (eds), Lanham: Altamira Press, 2006). I'll conclude this section with a final piece of advice from Linda Shopes:

Print cannot reproduce what was communicated orally in conversation, in the context of a relationship between narrator and interviewer. There is an inevitable alienation as we move from an interactive event to that which is fixed in print. Oral history in published form is thus something of a contradiction, or perhaps better a mediated account. Recognising these limits, we can only do the best we can, in hopes of opening up the circle of dialogue that began between two people.

A concluding highlight of the series of Master Classes was a shared dinner with some of the participants (from the US, Spain, England and Japan) where I was encouraged to try a Mexican speciality: Chocolate Chilli chicken. Don't let Taina's reaction – Yuk! – put you off. Although I found the meal a very rich one, it was

actually very tasty and I would recommend anyone who is not a vegetarian to give it a go.

The conference proper began on Wednesday 24 September and papers were divided into a number of streams:

- Memory spaces
- Migration and migratory experiences
- Gender
- Work
- Memory and politics
- Family
- The teaching of oral history
- War and violence memory
- Health
- Ecology and disasters
- Oral narratives/Oral history theory and method
- Time in the memory
- Oral history and visual image
- Oral tradition

With over 400 papers it is impossible to attend them all and one's choices don't always turn out to be the best. As a Senior Lecturer in Gender and Women's Studies it is not surprising that the gender stream was most often my first choice. Unfortunately, however, none of these sessions had simultaneous translation and I hope that in future organisers will consider spreading translators around more fairly among streams rather than confining them to just a couple: Memory spaces and Migration. Who knows how many more people might have attended the Gender sessions had translation been more readily available.



Coffee break during IOHA conference, Guadalajara, Mexico, September 2008

The lack of available translation meant that I could not understand many probably very interesting papers. Having attended a few translation-free sessions and others where many of the advertised presenters did not show up, I eventually selected English-speaking presenters only and chopped and changed between sessions where this was possible. For the purpose of this report I have selected just a few of the papers to discuss.

I missed the beginning of Catherine O'Byrne's paper about women in the oil industry in Scotland. This was a pity because it shared many common themes with my own current research about women scientists. The original intent of the project had been to reveal an untold story about women working in a male-dominated industry but Catherine found that the issue of gender could not be denied and required sensitive treatment on her part. Like many of my narrators women in the oil industry want to be seen as a worker, 'one of the guys', not a female worker and they played down gender to such an extent that they would often distance themselves from questions directly related to the topic. The project has opened up a number of issues, not least of which is the dominant form of masculinity present in the oil industry. As with much of oral history the research has revealed information that might otherwise remain hidden.

This paper was followed by Jill de Fresne's presentation about her PhD topic: Scottish Herring Girls in which the working conditions of women who worked in the industry were shown to be harsh and the hours long. Women workers were renowned for their hard work, the speed of their knives, and the vast number of herring they gutted. However, they were also known for their quick wit, sense of humour, singing while they worked, and dancing and listening to music by night in the huts where they lived. Many of the women are now elderly and the extracts Jill played provided ample evidence of their strong characters. These were accompanied by many photographs



showing what British fishing communities of the first half of the twentieth century were like and what was entailed in this gruelling, transient work. The presentation examined the effect of stereotypes on identity by comparing and contrasting how the herring girls viewed their own lives with how they were viewed by others. Both of these presentations were engaging, professional and absolutely fascinating.

I was very pleased to finally meet Wendy Rickard at the conference as I have used her research in my own discussion of confidentiality in oral history settings. Wendy's paper was about how perceptions of HIV and Aids, and their markers, change over time. She captured this by re-interviewing people ten years after their original interviews at a time when they had not had an expectation of a long life. Returning to the project was driven by changes at the British Library which was starting to put oral histories online and so needed ethical approval from the narrators before doing so. What the new project revealed was transformations in the narratives. Wendy discussed how people's experience shifted and how they reinterpreted their lives now in an era when HIV/Aids is no longer viewed automatically as a death threat. The paper raised a number of ethical issues in relation to the process of putting oral history on the web. In addition it led to a lively discussion about the relationship between interviewer and narrator. I mentioned Alison Parr's research, presented at the last NOHANZ conference, in which she re-interviewed narrators many years after the original project, asking them about what the original oral history interview had meant for them as there seemed to be synergies with the two projects. Oral history from the perspective of narrators is still an under-researched area.

The last paper discussed is Eileen Guillory's one about elderly survivors of Hurricane Katrina. It was very interesting to compare the narrators' stories with the public accounts received in the New Zealand media. What Eileen's project revealed was that many elderly

people did not leave New Orleans at the time for very good and logical reasons, contradicting many media reports of the time. Some said that they had survived hurricanes before so saw no reason why they would not survive this one. Others would not leave because they were not prepared to leave their pets behind, and we all know how important pets are to many people, especially those who live alone. Others simply could not leave without assistance. This was a moving presentation that combined many of the themes of the conference: the elderly, trauma, health, diaspora, migration and, finally, ethical issues. As with the 9/11 project Eileen discussed the need to balance recording the stories while they were fresh in people's minds and free from the influence of public, often politically motivated accounts, with the need not to re-traumatise the narrators who had been the victims of Hurricane Katrina.

Other highlights were meeting Sherna Berger Gluck of *Women's Words* fame after she chaired a panel discussion of women's complex relationship with Communist Regimes and/or parties; meeting Alessandro Portelli again: in his paper he discussed how people make meaning of miracles in oral history narratives; Jeff Friedman, recently published in the NOHANZ journal, who discussed memory and the body; in addition to the many new relationships I forged with other oral historians. This networking was facilitated partially by 90 minute sit-down lunches eaten at circular tables with seating for ten people each. Many an interesting discussion of oral history, where to shop and eat, and what sights to see took place in this setting. Add to this the organised Mexican cultural events of concerts, art exhibits and fireworks and the conference really did go with a bang. Am I glad I persevered despite the frustrations of trying to follow instructions for sending a conference paper (that was not published despite meeting the deadline), or registration, or trying to pay master class fees. The answer would have to be yes because in the end it really was worth the effort. Personally, I found the conference to be

satisfying on a number of fronts, not least of which was the time spent with other New Zealanders: Sara Donaghy from Auckland; Nepia Mahuika from Waikato University, who wowed the audience with his rendering of waiata; Hugo Manson who recently spoke at the NOHANZ AGM and is now back in Scotland; and last but not least, Taina McGregor. The next conference is will be hosted by the new Czech Oral History Association in Prague in 2010. Prague is a beautiful city I am told and I hope to be able to verify that for myself.

**Lesley Hall**

### **Call for Papers**

'Voice in Oral History', Oral History Society conference  
3-4 July 2009, University of Strathclyde, Glasgow

Oral history is spoken history. The core evidence we gather is the voice, the core vehicle of the evidence we collect is the voice. ... It is timely, therefore, for the OHS to bring a focus onto this essential aspect of the work we all do, to centre-stage the instrument and the notion of voice around which all our research, interviewing and technical expertise revolve, to look at what we are doing in terms of voice, voices, the voice. ...

*Proposals are invited on any of the following themes:*

- The nature of voice as evidence in oral history and its relation to period, culture and place. Voice as data, music, language, performance, political expression, literature, spoken text, memory, instrument, poetry, primary source. Voice and the mediation of speech, dialect, accent, tone, silence.
- Hearing voice in community through oral history. The voice and voices of communities, voice as an expression of being within and being without; voice in storytelling; voice and disability; voice and gender; voice and ethnicity; voice and environment; voice and reminiscence. Voice in the museum. Voice and power; voice and tradition.
- 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; rights and ownership of voice in the digital age; voice analysis; the mechanics of voice; voice and forensics; voice and translation; voice and the public media.

*Please send proposals of 200-250 words, for talks or presentations of 20 minutes, to [oralhistory09@strath.ac.uk](mailto:oralhistory09@strath.ac.uk) by 5 January 2009.*

For further information see <http://oralhistory2009.pbwiki.com/>

## **News**

Studs Terkel, 1912-2008, has hung up his headphones. Joe Lambert at the Centre for Digital Storytelling writes:

'At 96, he has left behind an enormous volume of work, scanning 8 decades of work as an interviewer, more than a dozen publications.

'He has been described as a champion of underdogs, but his contribution, like many of his generation of social change activists, was his humble, but unwavering, sense of justice. He listened to thousands of interviews, from world famous celebrities to local workers, but his ear was always attuned to a sense of righting wrongs, of giving voice to the oppressed.' [From H-ORALHIST]

## **IOHA News**

A new IOHA Council was elected at the organisation's general meeting in Guadalajara on 25 September 2008. It is a mixture of old and new faces. Pilar Dominguez from Spain is the new president, with Sean Field from South Africa, and Antonio Montenegro from Brazil as vice presidents. I was re-elected as the Oceania representative.

Two major decisions were made at the general meeting:

- the next conference will be held in Prague in the Czech Republic in early July 2010
- the membership fees were increased to €25 (students), €50 (individuals) and €100 (institutions), and a new category of €1000 for a life membership was introduced. Money raised from life

membership fees will be invested and used as a fund for scholarships to help people attend the conferences.

The other good news is that a new website is being developed. The address is: [www.iohanet.org](http://www.iohanet.org)

The site is still under construction.

**Megan Hutching**



Part of the venue for XV IOHA conference, Guadalajara, Mexico, September 2008

## President's annual report

**Executive committee:** Wellington committee members during the year were: Lesley Hall (President), Alison Laurie, Susan Fowke (Secretary), Linda Evans, Taina McGregor, Lynette Shum and Paul Diamond. Regular attendees during the year from Otaki (north of Wellington) were Rachael Selby and Anne Thorpe (Treasurer). Distance members were Jacqui Foley (Oamaru), Helen Frizzell (Dunedin), and Loreen Brehaut (Picton).

The Executive Committee has continued to hold monthly meetings in order to deal with NOHANZ business. Additional email discussions have occurred where necessary. An all-day strategic planning session was held in January in order to review NOHANZ processes and publications and to plan for the future. As all Executive committee members are also active oral historians, often with additional paid work or commitments, I would like to extend my sincere appreciation and thanks for their dedication to NOHANZ in the last year. Thank you to Susan Fowke for taking minutes, to Anne for doing a sterling job with the accounts and Paul Diamond for

his work on the webpage. Thank you also to Pip Oldham, who has worked with Paul on the webpage, and to Megan Hutching for continuing to produce the newsletter and co-edit the journal.

### **Extraordinary General Meeting:**

An EGM was held on 11 December 2007 to represent the NOHANZ accounts for the year ending 31 March 2007. This was followed by a very enjoyable pre-Christmas dinner at a local Chinese restaurant.

### **Strategic Planning:**

In January 2008 the Executive Committee met for an all day planning session in which we discussed a wide range of topics including NOHANZ provision for members' needs (including training), increasing the membership, regional meetings, the newsletter and journal and the email/discussion list. An action plan was compiled from this and the committee has worked steadily towards the successful completion of the tasks identified as essential to the growth and continuing development of the association.

### **Autumn Lecture Series:**

There were two lectures held in this series at the National Library in May 2008. The presenters were Kristin Valentine (Arizona, USA) and Anne Thorpe (Otaki) and details may be found in the July 2008 newsletter.

A presentation and demonstration of digital equipment was organized by the Oral History Centre in March 2008 to which NOHANZ members were invited. Presenters were Stephen Buckland of Sound Techniques and Bronwyn Officer and Nick Guy (Sound conservators, National Library).

### **Newsletter:**

Megan Hutching has continued to produce the newsletter from Auckland and I wish to extend appreciation for her commitment to this as this has freed up other committee members to progress other tasks. The newsletters are compiled and distributed three times a year. Twice this year the newsletter has been emailed but we have continued to

send hard copies to either people requesting this or those without email addresses. Without continuing contributions the editor would have a difficult job so I would like to thank all those people who have provided material for the newsletter in the past year. These have often been committee members but we continue to encourage any and all members to send items in that demonstrate the vitality and diversity of oral history in Aotearoa/New Zealand.

#### **NOHANZ Journal:**

The journal, *Oral History in New Zealand*, consisting of articles, project reports and book reviews, was co-edited by Megan Hutching, Alison Laurie and Taina McGregor. Executive committee members, Rachael Selby and Alison Laurie's edited publication: *Maori and Oral History: A Collection* has continued to sell well and is into yet another printing. I took copies to sell at the Australian Oral History conference I attended in Brisbane in September 2007. We sold all our copies and took orders for others.

#### **NOHANZ Webpage:**

The website is now maintained by Paul Diamond and Pip Oldham and NOHANZ has moved its site to a different provider. In 2008 they have commenced work on updating and introducing additional material to the webpage. Paul will talk about the webpage in more detail under Any Other Business. Thank you to Jenn Falconer who has generously hosted the site since its launch.

#### **Email Discussion List:**

Alison Laurie, on NOHANZ' behalf, set up an email discussion list: <nohanz@lists.vuw.ac.nz.>. In the last year our aim has been to increase the use of the list.

#### **Consultation with other groups:**

Anne Thorpe has had discussions with the History Teachers' Association and NZQA about developing ways to have input into the teaching of oral history in schools. This issue is still being explored.

**Regional meetings:** One of the aims of NOHANZ is to provide a means of contact between oral historians. With this in mind the Executive Committee discussed the establishment of regional networks and this was discussed in some depth at the last Annual General Meeting. Gillian Headifen has convened several regional meetings in the Wellington area and these have been very successful. Thank you Gillian for all your hard work in getting local oral historians together. A newsletter appeal to gauge interest in regional groups in other areas has to date elicited minimal response but the committee will continue to investigate and facilitate this if there is the demand from the membership.

**IOHA Conference:** The International Oral History Association Conference will be held in September 2008 in Mexico and a number of NOHANZ members will be delivering papers at this. A report will appear in the next newsletter.

In conclusion I would like to thank each committee member for their efforts this year. I would like to give particular recognition to Wellington and Otaki members: Susan Fowke, Linda Evans, Taina McGregor, Lynette Shum, Paul Diamond, Alison Laurie, Rachael Selby and Anne Thorpe. All have contributed to NOHANZ's functioning in many different ways and have played a significant role in NOHANZ discussions and tasks.

**Lesley Hall, President, 12.8.08**



Lesley Hall at IOHA conference  
Guadalajara, Mexico, September 2008