

NOHANZ

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

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NOHANZ Newsletter

Volume 25, number 3

December 2011

NOHANZ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Co-Presidents

Claire Hall and Sue Berman

Executive Committee

Rachael Selby - Past President
Michael Dudding (Treasurer)
Pip Oldham (Secretary)
Linda Evans
Helen Frizzell
Ann Packer

NOHANZ REGIONAL CONTACTS

We are building our network of regional contacts. Please feel free to contact the contact person for your area or another member of the Executive Committee

Auckland: [Megan Hutching](#)

Gisborne: [Susan Fowke](#)

Rotorua: [Penelope Dunkley](#)

Taranaki: [Claire Hall](#)

Wellington: [Paul Diamond](#)

Picton: [Loreen Brehaut](#)

Oamaru: [Jacqui Foley](#)

Dunedin: [Helen Frizzell](#)

Christchurch: [Lorraine Ritchie](#)

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:

nohanzexec@gmail.com

NOHANZ December 2011

NOHANZ news

President's Report

Tēnā koutou katoa

The Executive Committee has completed a demanding year with 8 meetings: 7 in Wellington and one as a new year planning meeting in Ōtaki.

The decision to hold the conference in Rotorua was made after an offer was made by Penelope Dunkley at the November 2009 conference, to assist with organising the venue. This was done immediately after the conference, so much of the focus of our work in the past year was on the 2011 conference: Oral History in the 21st Century - Voices of Identity in a Globalised World.

While Rotorua proved to be successful and was an opportunity to take the conference to a new venue, there is an increased burden on the organising committee based in Wellington. I wish to thank them for a very successful conference in April 2011. The feedback has been overwhelmingly positive.

Three conferences in the past decade have been held in Wellington and one each in Auckland and Christchurch. It is worth noting that most of our members are located in Wellington and it is the only region that has formed a regional group. We would be keen to assist Auckland members to set up a regional group to advance the objectives of the Association in Auckland as the other centre with a number of members. Christchurch has approximately 20 members and there has been support expressed from the current executive to assist in forming a regional group in Christchurch if the members so desire.

NOHANZ Membership is currently approximately 210. We provide members with a newsletter 3 times a year, a journal annually, a set of national standards in the recording and preservation of oral history, a Code of Ethical and Technical Practice, a very good conference biennially, opportunity to attend the Australian Oral History Conference at NZ members' rates, information about workshops, a website with cur-

rent news and information, support and advice on new developments. The subscription is \$40 per year and \$25 for unwaged members. The subscription is set at the Biennial General Meeting.

Members are encouraged to keep abreast of developments with funding available for oral history projects from both the Ministry of Culture and Heritage and the Lottery Grants Board. Both organisations provide small and larger grants for oral history projects. This year \$120,000 was available from the Ministry of Culture and Heritage. These grants provide support for projects throughout the country.

We have this year reviewed the activities of NOHANZ and we are satisfied that we are meeting the objects of the Association and providing significant benefits to members. I extend my thanks to the Executive for a very successful year, thank those who are retiring, and wish the new Executive well in the next 2 years.

Rachael Selby

Introducing the new NOHANZ co-presidents, Sue Berman and Claire Hall

E ngā mana e ngā reo, e ngā karanga maha, tēnā koutou, tānā koutou, tēnā rā tātou e te whanau whānui o te Kete Kōrero-a-Waha o te Motu.

Sue Berman, Tamaki Makaurau/
Auckland



Warm greetings to members around the country, and thank you for supporting our bid to share the co-presidency of NOHANZ.

Claire and I hope our vision and enthusiasm for oral history will add to the energy and imagination of

NOHANZ, and support the membership towards new possibilities and developments in their practice.

A little about me:

I have much experience in voluntary committee participation and governance, and have a healthy respect for process and participation in good decision-making.

I have event organising experience, from campaign management to educational retreats and workshops, and I know the importance of strategic and timely planning.

Brief Oral History Bio:

I have been actively involved with recording oral history for 18 years including training at Victoria University, National Library with Judith Fyfe, and attending Alessandro Portelli's Masters class at an International Oral History Association conference.

I have a range of experience including completing personal, family, organisational, and institutional oral history projects; three of the projects have had Oral History Award funding.

I love the process of working with oral history narratives for finding a wider audience, especially through exhibition.

I have library- and archive-based experience, through the Waitakere and now Auckland City Libraries where I currently work on contract. I live in Swanson, Auckland with my partner Paul, our 12 year old daughter Bella and our cat Jasmine.

Claire Hall, Taranaki

Sue and I are really grateful for the support and direction NOHANZ has given us in our professional lives, and see this shared role as a chance to offer something back to the oral history community.

We've both convinced of the identity-building potential of oral history, and we hope build connections and capacity in the regions.



We acknowledge the strength of the membership in Wellington, the outstanding work previous committees and presidents have put in to grow NOHANZ.

Our last conference is evidence of our growth, and the talent and enthusiasm of members around the country.

We're keen to consolidate and continue the direction set down by previous committees, and to get some feedback from members around the motu on what they need from NOHANZ.

Bio:

Over the last 15 years I've worked as a journalist, freelance writer and parliamentary press secretary, and I've been working as an oral historian and project manager since 2005.

I've recorded a lot of war oral history - first with WWII veterans, and for the last four years with Vietnam veterans. I've run the Vietnam War Oral History and digital archiving Project for Manatū Taonga the Culture and Heritage Ministry since 2009.

I also run oral history and digital archiving projects in Taranaki for Te Reo o Taranaki Charitable Trust. I live in New Plymouth with my husband Craig and our children Felix, Angus and Hana.

NEW COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Helen Frizzell

I have had a career in oral history for over 25 years. From 1986-2006 I was oral historian at Presbyterian Support Otago where I also gained experience in reminiscence work, arts projects and managing archives.

Since 2007 I have been working as freelance oral historian. My work includes projects with the National Library of NZ and Ministry for Culture & Heritage, doing commissions for families, running workshops and mentoring oral historians. In 2011 Lesley Paris and I received funding from the Awards in Oral History for 'The Dunedin Double EP Oral History Project: the formation and early period of the so-called Dunedin Sound'

Ann Packer



I am a freelance writer, editor and oral historian living in Eastbourne, Wellington. I contribute regularly to The Listener, New Zealand House & Garden, The Dominion Post and New Zealand Quilter and have just revised Crafty Girls' Road Trip for the second time. My book *Stitch* (Random House NZ) won a Montana award in 2007.

I have worked in the arts industry as a community arts advisor and for three International Festivals.

Oral history experience since 1998 includes Porirua Pacific Islander OHP; Neville Lambert Memorial Archive; DANZ OHP; J R McKenzie OHP; NZ Institute of Architects Wellington OHP; Otaki, Waitohu Stream, Hokio & Maungapouri Streams OHPs; and private commissions.

RETIRING EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Anne Thorpe, JP NZOM, has been the treasurer of NOHANZ for the past few years and an Exec member for a decade. She has decided to retire as treasurer and devote more time to whānau and the Otaki Museum, which is one of her many passions. Nga mihi Anne.

Taina McGregor is a long-serving Exec member. She is the Oral History Adviser, Māori, at the National Library, and has made a sig-

nificant contribution to the Executive. Taina works nationally providing training for groups who receive the many benefits of her considerable experience. Nga mihi ki a koe, Taina.

Paul Diamond has retired from the NOHANZ Exec. He has been a valuable member liaising with the Wellington regional group, providing many links to his networks and always volunteered to make contact with key people who could support the Exec. Nga mihi ki a koe, Paora.

SURVEY ON YOUR IDEAS

The NOHANZ executive is keen to canvas the membership for your needs, wants and ideas in order to make informed decisions for planning the next couple of years. As such, we are designing a survey. Those of

you on our email list will be sent a link to a SURVEY MONKEY site which will allow you to fill the survey on line.

If you did not receive this newsletter by email but you do have an email address it would be great if you could update your records with us so that we can communicate with you this way.

Email: nohanzexec@gmail.com to update your details.

For those of you on snail mail only we will send a paper survey to return.

If you have any key questions that you would like to see asked of the membership through the survey we are happy to discuss. Please contact Sue on s.berman@hyper.net.nz or call 09 833 3421.



From left to right: Taina Tangaere McGregor, Rachael Selby, Paul Diamond and Ann Thorpe

ORAL HISTORY IN AUSTRALASIA

Te Whakapiringa o Taranaki Whānui Oral History Project:
“Exploring Relationships with Land, Language, Culture and Identity among Taranaki Māori Living in Australia”

Honiana Love

Te Whakapiringa o Taranaki Whānui oral history project explores relationships with land, language, culture and identity amongst Taranaki Māori living in Australia.

‘Whakapiringa’ refers to maintaining close contact, or a close physical attachment to something, or somewhere.

In this case, the attachment being explored is our interviewees’ connection to Taranaki - the land itself (through marae or haukainga, the traditional home ground), tikanga (culture), reo (language), and whakapapa (genealogy).

This was one of a group of projects funded in 2010 to explore relationships between Australia and New Zealand, the theme of last year’s Oral History Awards.

Rather than focusing on the destination, this project explores people’s motivations for shifting to Australia, and the subsequent impact on ties with Māori culture and identity.

It looks into the development and gathering of Taranaki Māori communities in Australia, the way reo and tikanga are nurtured or maintained - if at all.

The six interviewees, three men and three women across three generations, fall broadly into the following categories:

- Taranaki whānui who have lived in Australia most or all of their life. They know their whakapapa (genealogical) connections to New Zealand and have personal relationships with their families, but very little involvement with at marae or hapū level, and little or no reo.

- Taranaki whānui who have lived exten-

sively overseas, away from the haukainga (home) and who have now returned to Taranaki and into the whanau fold.

To put the migration trend into context, more than half of iwi Māori with whakapapa or ancestral links to Taranaki live outside of the geographic region, including many across the Tasman.

Rather than offering a definitive Māori or Taranaki perspective on Trans-Tasman migration, this is a collection of stories offers a cross-generational perspective on challenges in maintaining ‘whakapiringa ki Taranaki’, relationships with land, language and culture - even from just across the water.

Interviews were conducted in English and te reo Māori, in both Australia and Taranaki.

This pilot study has created a sample of interviews that can now be more closely analysed.

It has also put into practice an oral history approach to researching the impact of this modern migration trend, an approach that could easily be replicated and applied by other iwi.

Women Judges oral history project

Megan Hutching

When Augusta Wallace was appointed a magistrate in the Auckland Court in 1975, she was the first woman to have sat on the bench in this country. Silvia Cartwright was the next in 1981, and by the late 1980s women began to be regularly appointed. Now there are around 219 (Human Rights Commission Census of Women’s Participation 2010) or 26 per cent of all judges, although that does not reflect the percentage (42 per cent) of practising certificates which are held by women lawyers.

I was commissioned by the New Zealand Association of Women Judges to record interviews for an oral history project. The project has been given funding by the New Zealand Law Foundation and by an Oral History Award from the Ministry for Culture &

Heritage. The Law Foundation funding is for four interviews a year for three years, and the Award is for five interviews to be completed within a year.

The focus of each grant is slightly different. The three-year project is for interviews with retired and senior women judges, while the Award is for interviews with judges from diverse ethnic backgrounds or who have worked with those from diverse ethnic backgrounds.

So far, I have recorded four interviews. The focus has been on the woman's career prior to being appointed to the bench, and on her experiences of being a judge, especially a woman judge.

My background is not on the law so I have had to do a lot of reading about the structure of Law degrees, how the courts system works, how appointments to the bench are made and what the differences are between the courts – District, High, Maori Land, etc. As seems to happen with all my oral history projects, I have become a bit of a bore about the topic...

The women are not boring though. It has been interesting hearing about university student life in the 1950s and 60s, and comparing it with the experiences of the younger judges. It is fascinating learning how a court works and what a judge has to consider each day during a trial – and realising that a judge does not spend all her time in court on criminal cases. I read somewhere that the law profession in the 1960s was small, homogeneous and male and all my interviewees have agreed with that – the interesting thing, of course, has been hearing how they dealt with that and managed to succeed in their careers. Those who had children had to juggle childcare and their busy worklife; many faced opposition when they indicated they were interested in becoming partners in the law firms they worked for; some have had very different careers before they took up the Law.

The interviews will be archived at the Alexander Turnbull Library, and edited transcripts will be published on the Law Foundation's website in due course.

Conservation Covenants in Victoria

Shona McCahon

In April this year I travelled to New South Wales and Victoria to meet with organisations involved in nature conservation covenanting in Australia and then to record eight interviews with landowners in Victoria who are conservation covenantors. I was enabled to do so through generous funding from a New Zealand Oral History Award and a Churchill Memorial Trust Fellowship.

Conservation covenants are voluntary agreements on the part of a landowner to protect natural features and habitats on private land – usually in perpetuity. The landowner chooses to restrict their own and future landowners' options; they often limit the potential to generate income from their property and also take on time-consuming and costly ongoing maintenance.

My purpose was to explore their reasons for and experiences of covenanting compared to those of similar covenantors in New Zealand. I had, in 2007, carried out an oral history project for the QEII National Trust, which enables and administers nature conservation covenants here. The equivalent organisation in Victoria was set up at a similar time in the 1970s so the parallel histories presented a good situation for comparison.

I found many of the motivations for covenanting were similar in both countries. The interviewees commonly wanted to do something to combat local and global environmental degradation. Emotional ties to their land also motivated some to seek long-lasting protection. For some, particularly the farmers, the covenanted land also provided practical benefits such as improved water quality.

The greatest differences I found between those in New Zealand and Australia related to differences in natural environments and bureaucracies. In Victoria, for instance, interviewees were caring for a far more complex range of native fauna, and were also constantly mindful of bush fires. They also had to negotiate a far more complex federal and state government system to access funding and support, but there did appear to

be more assistance options available to them for and, perhaps, a greater readiness to take it.

I still have a mountain of abstracting ahead

of me but it's a great way to revisit the wonderfully welcoming people I interviewed. I hope to complete the project in the next several months.



Doug and Jan Pocock searching for the elusive mallee fowl on their semi-arid conservation covenant in central Victoria.

CONFERENCE REPORT

Communities of Memory Conference, OHAA 2011, Melbourne, October 7- 9

Claire Hall

I kicked off my Melbourne OHAA conference with two intensive workshops, one focused on strategies for engaging people on the margins, the second a session on the different ways we can interpret oral history sources, and 'hear' the recorded voice.

The first workshop asked participants to self-reflect, to consider the expectations and experiences they bring to an interview, the way their pre-conceptions can shape interview dynamics. The second workshop was, by contrast, an exercise in close listening. It encouraged us to explore the myriad ways

interviewees both subtly and explicitly deliver meaning, or context, to a listener.

This session was delivered by Al Thompson, who impressively packed four-days of lessons into a half-day session, giving us some tricks and tools to inspire 'thinking in red' - or critical awareness - when interpreting memories.

Thompson, from Monash University, was also one of the conference organisers, and a co-manager of the Australian Generations Project.

This project is a partnership between historians from Monash and La Trobe universities, the National Library of Australia and ABC Radio National.

It aims to record 300 life history interviews with Australians born between 1920 and 1990, and a digital archive of the audio and summaries (abstracts) will be hosted by the National Library of Australia.

Interviews will also be used to produce books, and a radio series on ABC Radio National.

It became clear in a public lecture on the project that while the historians and librarians were excited by the scope and breadth of the project, the journalist - ABC's Michelle Rayner - had some trepidation about turning the anticipated 1500 hours of recording into "Australia's most ambitious radio series".

However daunting the task ahead may be, this is an excellent example of how organisations (including public institutions) can work together to build nationally significant oral history collections, while also making the end product more accessible.

And that was all before the conference even officially kicked off.

This gives you an idea of the pace of the three days that followed. There were many hard choices to make about what to see and what to miss, and rarely did a session fail to deliver.

The keynote speakers were all impressive, and Concordia University's Stephen High

struck a chord with his examples of collaborative oral history practice with survivors of violence and human rights violations.

Both in his keynote, and again in a post-conference public lecture, High spoke of the concept of shared authority - ways of truly collaborating with communities in the oral history process, as opposed to making them an object of study.

His work also exemplifies the way new media can be a powerful enabler in storytelling, both for the interviewer and interviewee. And there are some great tips and resources on his website here: <http://storytelling.concordia.ca/oralhistory/resources/tips.html>

One thing I'm keen to follow up on is his tip on the Stories Matter open source oral history database software. "Stories matter allows you to clip, index and export audio and video recordings - and so it represents a real alternative to transcription. It is also free."

<http://storytelling.concordia.ca/storiesmatter/about-stories-matter>

There was much debate in some sessions, and one I particularly enjoyed was around new media artist Jessica Tyrell's reworking of video oral histories for an interpretative art gallery installation.

Jessica's 'South Sydney Project' uses oral history within an interactive audiovisual installation. As source material, she uses an oral history video archive of interviews conducted in Sydney suburbs by historian Sue Rosen in 1994-5.

Jessica writes: "Over the past few years I have developed an installation practice based on the re-interpretation, re-processing and re-imagining of documentary and archival material. After stumbling across this archive, I became fascinated with the interviews and negotiated to access the material to re-interpret it into an installation artwork."

Much of this debate around Jessica's practice honed in on the way the original recording agreements were interpreted, and the ethics of physically altering an oral his-

Photograph Withdrawn.

tory recording for public display as art – was this honouring the voice and intent of the original interview?

A sample of her work can be viewed here: <http://eatingmywords.net/installation/the-south-sydney-project/>

Other highlights:

- Peter Read, Australian Research Council Professorial Fellow University of Sydney, speaking on the changing representations of memorial sites in Chile and the limits of oral history.
- Hearing interviewers from the Forgotten Australians oral history project talk about

their experiences of managing emotions and expectations within interviewer/interviewee relationships, and how difficult this can be in the context of remembering trauma.

- The conference dinner: Held at William Angliss Institute in a live classroom; both front of house service and cooking were done by students under instruction from their teachers. We enjoyed a 5-course Australian colonial dinner themed on colonial cookbooks and recipes by colonial cook and cookbook writer, Hannah Maclurcan. The food—mulligatawny soup, stuffed schnapper, beef with pickled walnuts, cabinet pudding and coffee jelly—was washed down with a selection of

wines from Tahbilk. Guest speaker Charmaine O'Brien did her best to dispel the myth that Australia's food heritage was mutton and damper by showing us a more inspired culinary history."

There was an excellent turn out from Aotearoa, with around a dozen New Zealand oral historians attending as delegates and presenters.

There were fledgling discussions with the Australian contingent about how NOHANZ

and the OHAA might make the most of our reciprocal membership agreement.

One suggestion was co-ordinating our conference schedules to complement one another (at the moment they fall in the same year) and this is a discussion I'm keen to carry on with members of both organisations in the months ahead.

The next OHAA conference is in Adelaide in 2013.

NOTICES

Recent Journals and Newsletters

NOHANZ continues to receive journals and publications. Increasingly these are arriving in electronic format. If you would like to have any forwarded to you please let us know nobanzexec@gmail.com.

Here is a selection from material received recently:

Voiceprint - Newsletter of the NSW Branch of the OHAA

Volume 45 October 2011 (electronic) contains a report of the Melbourne conference, an article about Copyright for Oral Historians, recipient of the Hazel be Bergh Award Frank Heimans and Life Members Diana Ritch and Joyce Cribb, project reports on interviews with retired miners primarily for reminiscence therapy, a local oral history project in Camden, reports from members using oral history in academic study

Volume 43 (hard copy) includes: the retirement of Rosie Block, extracts from her oral history, Report of a seminar Moving from Analogue to Digital: Oral History's Race against Time, report of a seminar Oral History going to press: how to publish from the Interview, an article by Trish Levido about her attempts to digitise a cassette tape recording made by her mother in the 1970's A three Generation family Passion for Oral History:and Why we have to digitise our audio

tapes ASAP, an article about the Smithsonian's Storycorps project

(Volume 44 is not to hand.)

NSW Network News - published monthly (electronic) contains news from members, notice of seminars and grants, information of interest e.g.: the September issue announces the new South Australian Oral History Web gateway <http://ohaa-sa.com.au/category/interviews/> "that reflects the diversity of work that professional members of the Association have undertaken in South Australia and the Northern Territory" and the October issue points to "The Dictionary of Sydney project... an initiative of the Sydney City Council and the University of Sydney. The idea is to present the history of the Sydney area on line in an ever expanding series of contributed articles"

Indian Folklife , June 2011 entitled Kutiyattam: 10 years after the UNESCO Declaration

Otahuhu Despatch - published monthly (electronic) - the October issue includes a report of the Auckland Heritage Festival and a calendar of upcoming local events

SOUND BITES

'Home' web exhibition

Some of the voices from Alison Parr's oral history project on civilian life in the Second World War can now be heard on http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/media_gallery/tid/2992

A web exhibition based on the book HOME, published last year by Penguin, is on the Ministry for Culture and Heritage site, complete with audio extracts from the interviews on which it was based.

'The Occupiers' 2012 launch

And Alison has just completed another MCH oral history project, this time with New Zealand men and women who served in the post-war occupation of Japan. The book based on the project, The Occupiers, is due for publication in time for Anzac Day 2012. Other oral historians who recorded interviews for the project were Susan Fowke, Helen Frizzell, Jacqui Foley and Erin Flanagan.

2012 OHAA Journal—call for papers

The Call for papers for the 2012 OHAA Journal will be available shortly. Submissions must reach the editor by 1 April 2012; peer-reviewed articles will be considered for 2012 if they are submitted by 27 February. [Click here](#) for more details.

Lessons from Ruapeka Pa

A report on 'Recording tangata whenua oral histories and traditions: techniques and lessons from the Ruapekapeka Pa Oral History Project' can be downloaded.

Published in 2010, this report sets out advice on processes involved in recording oral histories and traditions, based on the author's experience of an oral history project focused on the Ruapekapeka Pa site in Northland.

NOHANZ December 2011

Download here:

[Recording tangata whenua oral histories and traditions: techniques and lessons from the Ruapekapeka Pa Oral History Project \(PDF, 270K\)](#)

Local History Online

West Auckland, North Shore and Rodney created a combined resource under legacy Councils and are now working together as Auckland Council Libraries. Local History Online allows searches on oral history collections, local newspapers, images and archives. Local History Online is a dynamic and accessible site searchable by places, subjects and dates.

<http://www.localhistoryonline.org.nz/cgi-bin/PUU>

90 Vietnam voices

Ninety Vietnam War oral history interviews and abstracts have now been lodged with the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington. For more information please contact the [Alexander Turnbull Library Oral History Centre](#)

Blue Smoke

Chris Bourke, author of Blue Smoke, The Lost Dawn of New Zealand Popular Music 1918-1964, the New Zealand Post Book of the Year, accepted NOHANZ's invitation to speak after the official business of the General Meeting in September. Paul Diamond introduced Chris. We were able to make an informal recording of the event and we are currently working out how best to provide the recording to interested members. If you would like to hear the recording please email <mailto:nohanzexec@gmail.com>

Conferences

IOHA The International Oral History Association convenes a conference every 2 years. The 17th Annual Conference is in Buenos Aires from 4th to 7th September 2012. Check the website:

lohanet.org.