



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

## Inside:

- *Federation of Mountain Clubs oral history project*
- *OHS conference report*
- *Regional reports*

NEWSLETTER  
ISSN 01147447

NOHANZ • P.O. BOX 3819 • WELLINGTON 6140  
[www.oralhistory.org.nz](http://www.oralhistory.org.nz)

# NOHANZ

## Newsletter

Volume 29, number 2

August 2015

### NOHANZ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

**President** Ann Packer

**Secretary** Sue Monk

**Hon Treasurer** Denis Packer

**Committee:**

Rosemary Baird

Belinda De Mayo

Marina Fontein

Sue Gee

Lynette Shum

### NOHANZ REGIONAL CONTACTS

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

Auckland: [Megan Hutching](#)

Gisborne: [Susan Fowke](#)

Taranaki: [Claire Hall](#)

Wellington: [Paul Diamond](#)

Picton: [Loreen Brehaut](#)

Canterbury: [Rosemary Baird](#)

Oamaru: [Jacqui Foley](#)

Dunedin: [Helen Frizzell](#)

**Newsletter editor:** Ann Packer

We welcome contributions to the NOHANZ newsletter, published three times per annum.

[nohanzexec@gmail.co.nz](mailto:nohanzexec@gmail.co.nz)

Back issues are available on our website

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

## From the President

It's that time of year when conferences are popping up all over the place – we've emailed members about several recent history conferences here, and some of our colleagues, including Lynette Shum and Sue Berman, are off soon to the biennial Oral History Australia conference in Perth. "Oral History in a Time of Change" runs 9 – 11 September.

NOHANZ Secretary Sue Monk and husband Jon were fortunate to be in London in July when the Oral History Society (UK) held its annual conference. You can read Jon's impressions of the conference below.

Of particular interest was the work of plenary speaker Dr Doug Boyd – Director of the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History at the University of Kentucky and keynote speaker at Perth – regarding the cost of transcribing, curating and disseminating archived oral histories. It's an issue that concerns many of our members – particularly the cost of abstracting, which can slow down the completion of oral history projects. Your executive plans to set up a working group to discuss this and related topics.

We're also pleased to include a report from Julia Stace regarding the Federated Mountain Clubs Mountain & Forest Trust Oral History Project, which she is coordinating. We'd love to hear more from our members about the progress of their projects – email [nohanzexec@gmail.com](mailto:nohanzexec@gmail.com) with NOHANZ newsletter in the subject line.

Members for whom we hold email addresses will receive a follow-up letter regarding NOHANZ Executive's discussions with Ruth MacEachern of the Alexander Turnbull Library about ATL's training programmes. This is one way individual members can have real input into how programmes are delivered. We would urge you to feed back into this discussion.

If we do not have an email address for you,

please consider supplying one. You may still receive a printed newsletter if you wish – but we can contact you when important issues arise.

For those who did not receive the email, the ATL questions are included at the end of this newsletter.

#### **Ann Packer**



#### **From the Treasurer**

Those of you who have yet to pay your 2015 subs will have received an email reminder in the last week. We're pleased with the rate or response so let's see if we can make it even better!

#### **Denis Packer**



## **Reports**

### **Federated Mountain Clubs Mountain & Forest Trust Oral History Project**

The Federated Mountain Club has been involved in policy for New Zealand back country access and use since 1931, when the 15 or so mountaineering, tramping and skiing clubs already in existence joined together to form an organisation that could speak for their interests, for the public and for the future generations, with one strong voice.

To celebrate their 50th anniversary in 1981 they held an influential conference on wilderness, inviting relevant government departments as well as outdoor enthusiasts. For their centenary they plan to publish a book on their history and achievements. As part of the research material for this book they want a set of oral histories from long serving executive members about the campaigns in which they have been involved. The issues affecting the back country over the decades are those such as adding national and forest parks with appropriate facilities, creating wilderness areas with no facilities, high country tenure review, building, removing and rationalising tracks and huts. Their advocacy benefits all kiwi back country users, mountaineers, skiers, trampers, hunters, mountain bikers, kayakers as well as tourists.

FMC Mountain & Forest Trust plans to undertake four interviews a year with a total of ten, including the first two recordings that are about to be undertaken with their two oldest surviving members, now patrons.





**Hob nails:** 4012 HIS Nelson Tramping Club, David Blunt photographer, FMC Collection

FMC has always sought to have representatives who bring to its committees local knowledge from the length of the country, so consequently their interviewees are far flung. Is there an oral historian in Otago to whom this subject matter

appeals who might be interested in doing a paid interview or two in their area? This work will take place in 2016 or 2017.

**Julia Stace, Manager FMC M&F Trust OHP,**  
[jbwstace@gmail.com](mailto:jbwstace@gmail.com)

## Oral History Society (UK) Conference

The 2015 Annual Conference of the Oral History Society (UK) took place at the Royal Holloway, University of London. The Victorian red brick Founder's Building at the centre of the college campus is considered one of the most spectacular university buildings in the world. In the midst of a hot English summer it certainly was.

The conference theme was "Oral Histories of Science, Technology and Medicine". There were about 110 delegates: half from academic institutions and most of the rest historians from hospitals, museums and libraries. A dozen delegates were from the USA, with a smattering from other countries outside the UK, including three from New Zealand.

Throughout the two days there were parallel presentations, ensuring that there was something of interest for everyone, but making it challenging when the topics of most personal interest clashed. Broadly the focus could be divided into two categories: the use of new technologies and methodology in oral history practice (eg software, video, object-assisted recordings); and oral histories about medical practices and past technologies (e.g. in architecture, animal genetics, lighthouses, surgical practice, the print industry, electricity supply).

A personal highlight was a plenary session by Doug Boyd from the Louie B Nunn Center for Oral History, University of Kentucky. Doug Boyd had spoken at an earlier session specifically



about the website/software developed under his watch at Kentucky, OHMS (Oral History Metadata Synchroniser, <http://www.oralhistoryonline.org>). The aim is to reduce the cost of transcribing, curating and disseminating archived oral histories, and to give priority to audio content. Putting aside the legal and ethical complexities associated with broadening public access to oral histories, the online tools made available (open source) by the Louie B. Nunn Centre are impressive. In his plenary session, Doug Boyd talked more broadly about the effects of the digital revolution on oral history, the challenges for archivists, the expectations of youth today in terms of video and one-click access, and the risks of “abuse” of publicly available recordings. The presentation raised plenty of discussion.

The place of video in oral history recordings came up in several presentations and discussions. Although video is becoming more common, there remain “for” and “against” lobbies. One interesting paper – presented by Nick Hall from the Royal Holloway – stimulated significant debate on the issues. A team at the Royal Holloway, led by Professor John Ellis, has a 5-

year grant to study historic television production equipment and techniques. The researchers reunited a group of men with working technology (camera, audio, lighting) they had used in the 1960s. They then used state of the art audio and video equipment to record the men conducting an interview using the 1960s equipment. The paper raised debate about the value of audio versus video recordings, the use of objects to stimulate memory and whether the recordings could do anything more than document how the historic equipment was used.

Another interesting session looked at agency and identity. When someone is interviewed, what factors are influencing their story: individual will; other people in their life (past and present); the effects of objects and places; agenda, politics and image. One paper by Paul Merchant from the British Library considered such factors in the context of life stories of science and Christianity. Another, by Yewande Okuleye from the University of Leicester, looked at how social network sites enable people to construct different identities, blurring the boundaries between the person and their “branded” or “networked” identity. This raises challenges for oral historians interviewing such people.

Throughout the two days there was plenty of opportunity to mix and mingle with other delegates, to share thoughts about presentations



*Royal Holloway - original building and Conference venue: Sue & Jon Monk*



and hear about a diverse range of research interests and oral history practices.

*Jon Monk*

## Regional

### Christchurch

Mulled wine helped warm Canterbury members who travelled out to Ann O'Grady's home at Ohoka for a midwinter meeting on 23 June. Peer review and discussion of current projects has become the preferred meeting format, with recordings included.

Look out for news of the next gathering on the NOHANZ website.



### Auckland Tamaki Makaurau

The Tamaki Makaurau Auckland Regional meeting on 29<sup>th</sup> July went very well. Twenty four attended and feedback was positive, with one person saying it was the friendliest meeting she'd ever attended. People had a chance to chat, with nibbles in hand, then we spent a good amount of time with the circle of introductions. Good connections were established, with five people new to oral history, attending. The Venue at Auckland Central Library was very suitable and easy to access.

Sue Berman welcomed people for Auckland

Libraries. We thank her for technical support, managing sound and power point presentation. Megan Hutching and Lynette Shum as senior oral historians led us into Te Whare Wānanga. Lynette said a karakia and gave the translation, much appreciated in Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori.

Liz Bradley's talk, an overview on her work managing the oral history collection at WARC, was most interesting and well received. Sue Monk spoke about her recent OH project and book on the Parnell Baths. I spoke about my recent project *From Guangdong to Aotearoa*. It was excellent to have both Lynette and Sue Berman there as support and to answer questions.

The meeting finished at 7.45pm and a group continued on to The Stables for more oral history conversation and an enjoyable dinner. **The next meeting is proposed for Wednesday 11th**



*Images:*

*Left: Liz Bradley presenting in Auckland  
Above: Sue Monk with Sue Berman looking on  
Over: Sue Gee*

**November**, which will be more of a discussion style with perhaps one speaker. **We are keen to receive discussion topics from members.**

**Please contact** [nohanzexec@gmail.com](mailto:nohanzexec@gmail.com) with *Auckland Regional Meeting Discussion Topic* in the subject line.

It is proposed to hold the Tamaki Makaurau Regional meetings three times a year, with the third being in March. The bulk of the organising was done by Sue Monk and Sue Gee. Also hav-



ing Sue Berman in the room made for a light-hearted running joke. *Sue to the power of three*, said Sue B. Extra people to help with future organising are invited. Please contact [suzannegeenz@yahoo.co.nz](mailto:suzannegeenz@yahoo.co.nz)

**Sue Gee**

## Wellington

Wellington's second meeting this year was to take place as this newsletter went to print, on 17 August at the National Library.

Prue Donald, Te Papa's Digital Content Producer, who was closely involved in the development of the exhibition *Gallipoli: The scale of our war*, was to give an overview of the process involved in delivering the exhibition's oral history content – the advocacy, research, production process and delivery – followed by a discussion around the role of oral history in museums.

Worth listening to on the same topic: Radio New Zealand's Tuesday Feature of 11 August, **Why Gallipoli?** "Why does Gallipoli loom so large in the imagination of Australians and New Zealanders? What are the realities and the myths? Kim Hill discusses these questions with historians Dr Christopher Pugsley, Dr Gavin McLean and Seán Brosnahan."

[www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/nights](http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/nights)

## Other news

### Auckland City Libraries

The city of Auckland is changing at an extraordinary rate. Ensuring our Oral History collections represent its diversity and capture the stories of its people is a priority for Auckland Libraries.

The past year has been remarkably productive, with new projects underway, collections deposited and preserved, and new directions undertaken.

The five Centres of Auckland Libraries' Heritage unit have been busy creating, cataloguing, processing, connecting with communities and supporting Oral History projects around the region.

The South Auckland Research Centre has tirelessly supported the wonderfully envisioned Mangere Stories Project, enabling great progress in the gathering of local stories by facilitating meetings, lending equipment, and processing and preserving recordings. Children and residents from all walks of life have had their stories captured by library staff and, with Anonymous Matt of the Auckland Theatre Company, created and recorded songs and memories through sound and postcards. The future holds exciting exhibition potential with oral history components and recording opportunities during Family History Month.

Special Collections and Central Auckland Research Centre, who have received some interesting collections over recent years, are working hard to preserve, obtain permissions and catalogue them to make them accessible. Particularly notable are the *Chinese Market Gardeners in Pukekohe* by the Chinese NZ Oral History Foundation, and *Women In The Acting Profession In NZ*, a collection of interviews from a PhD student. Staff at the Centre are keen to facilitate community initiatives, taking steps via outreach work on Waiheke Island to encourage much-needed projects.

Recent additions to North Auckland Research Centre include an interview with poet Kevin Ireland, stories of the campground at Long Bay in the 1950s and 60s, and stories from the Glenfield CAB celebrating their 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Staff are working on exciting projects on cinema-going in Auckland, and interviewed the niece of Birkenhead resident Don Stott who was a WW2 prisoner of war in Greece. Orewa Library staff have been busy capturing stories of Rodney residents.

Several major regional projects initiated by Sue Berman have seen collections deposited with West Auckland Research Centre in the last year. Sue will be taking two papers to the Australian OHAA conference in Perth in September – the *Glen Eden Stories* project and Unitec's *More than a War – Remembering 1914-1918*. The Centre's recent focus is on acquiring contemporary voices of the people and organisations of West Auckland, including ethnic groups and suburban communities. Inspiring enthusiasm and supporting groups in recording their stories is a crucial method of adding to our historic collections. Staff have also started exciting programs to preserve the memories of long-time residents, immigrants and dedicated community leaders.

Indexing, cataloguing and digitising analogue recordings from Auckland Libraries' collections continues, making the voices of our communities more accessible.

To search most collections based in the North and West use

<http://www.localhistoryonline.org.nz>

To access content held at Auckland Central and South contact the Research Centres via 09 3010101.

**Liz Bradley**



NOHANZ August 2015

## Alexander Turnbull Library

NOHANZ Exec has received the following request from Ruth MacEachern, Associate Chief Librarian, Research Access, following the online survey earlier this year:

"A key consideration is how to offer sustainable services. In this context, "sustainable" includes humans (access to expertise) as well as financial affordability.

It would be very helpful to have NOHANZ input into questions such as:

How do we determine priorities for training from a wide range of suggested topics?

What support do iwi and Maori communities need?

How to meet the demand for peer review and practice sessions, particularly outside the Wellington region

What types of on-line content are suitable to reinforce or replace some training content

Whether different training is appropriate for personal projects that will not be deposited in a repository

What practices and approaches you feel that the Alexander Turnbull Library should be considering as options during this assessment"

Your comments on these, and other topics, are welcome - as early as possible, to [Ruth.maceachern@dia.govt.nz](mailto:Ruth.maceachern@dia.govt.nz)

## Training

There are still a couple of spots left in the remaining workshops for this year:

### Auckland

Abstracting oral history:

Saturday and Sunday 31 October—1 November 2015 8.45am-1pm

### Palmerston North

The Essentials of Oral History Research

Saturdays 10 October & 14 November 2015 8.45am-4.30pm

For information please email

[atloutreach@dia.govt.nz](mailto:atloutreach@dia.govt.nz)



## Digital Refresher

**Friday 30 October 10am -12**

National Library, Stanley Street, Auckland

Uncertain about your practice? Need some technical feedback? This session may be for you

- Good recording, file management and digital processing

Suitable for people with some prior training

Free, but registrations essential:

[atloutreach@dia.govt.nz](mailto:atloutreach@dia.govt.nz)

## Worth reading

Due 1 September from Penguin Random House New Zealand are two books which will be reviewed in depth in the NOHANZ Journal in December: Alison Parr's *Remembering Christchurch* and Jane Tolerton's *Ettie Rout: New Zealand's safer sex pioneer*

## Conference

The International Oral History Association (IOHA) and the Oral History Association of India (OHAI) are pleased to be hosting the XIXth International Oral History Conference at the Srishti Institute of Art, Design and Technology, Bengaluru, India from 27 June to 1 July 2016. For more information go to <https://iohaconference2016.wordpress.com/>

## Waitangi 175 Oral History Awards

The Waitangi 175 Oral History Awards decisions have been made, but they are not yet publicly available. Visit the Waitangi 175 Oral History Awards webpage for full details.

<http://www.mch.govt.nz/waitangi-175/news-and-events/waitangi-175-oral-history-awards>

## Marketplace

### Collectors' items

NOHANZ members **Ian and Elayne Robertson** of Palmerston North are downsizing and have copies of *ORAL HISTORY IN NEW ZEALAND* journals

(not Newsletters) to give away for the cost of postage from Palmy to wherever. They have Volume 2 (1989), and the complete series from Volume 5 (1993) to Volume 26 (2014). 136A Amberley Ave., Palmerston North 4412, 06 354 4768, [ian.elayne@xtra.co.nz](mailto:ian.elayne@xtra.co.nz)

### Equipment for sale

- All in immaculate condition, as new: TACAM DR-100Mk11 Linear PCM recorder
- Microphones 2 X B3P4FF05B/41567401. Countryman Associates
- Headphones Sennheiser HD 203
- Plus all the necessary flexes

\$1400 for the lot

**PLUS** (thrown in for free)

- A lovely backpack that holds all of the above
- Pedal Phillips LFH 2330/00 USB pedal for transcribing

Penelope Dunkley: [pdunkley@xtra.co.nz](mailto:pdunkley@xtra.co.nz)



### Free to any Museum or Collector:

Grundig Transcription set for a Grundig TK30 tape recorder. (1958-1962) Set consists of:

- Transcriber Earphone and Clip.
- Grundig Condenser Microphone. Also have a Phillips Condenser Microphone
- A Foot Control Pedal.
- Stethoscope Fork
- 2 cables with plugs
- Information pamphlets

You will need to pay the postage!

Ph (03) 473-0777

Or email us at [pcanzarchives@knoxcollege.ac.nz](mailto:pcanzarchives@knoxcollege.ac.nz)

Ask for Myke

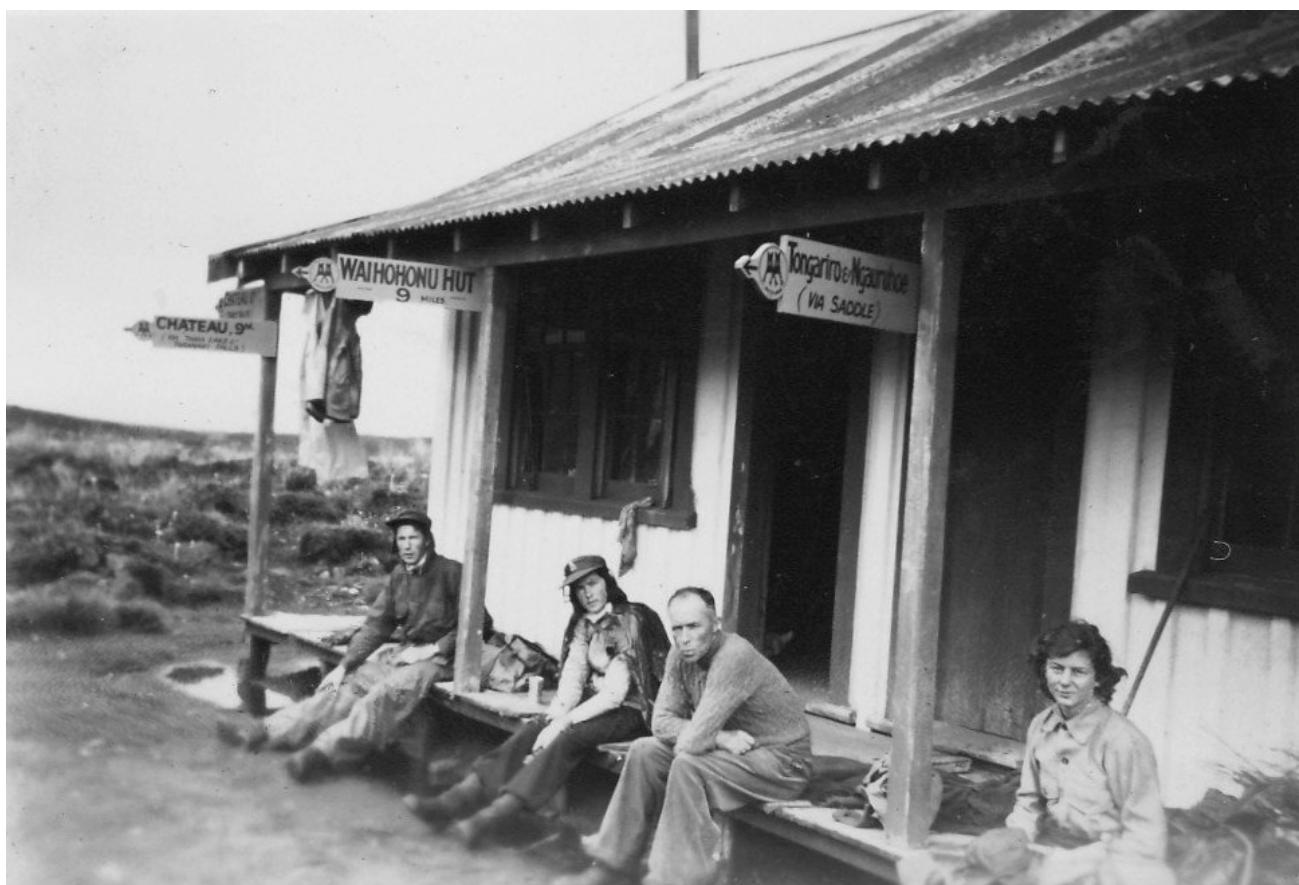
## Looking ahead

NOHANZ Conference 2016 Christchurch October 22-23, with workshops Friday 21 October, to align with Heritage Week. Labour Day 2016 is Monday 24 October.

Check the website periodically for any regional meetings—or organise your own!

\*\*\*~

**Māori in Oral History** has now been reprinted. Copies available for \$20 from [nohanzexec@gmail.com](mailto:nohanzexec@gmail.com) or [taina.mcgregor@dia.govt.nz](mailto:taina.mcgregor@dia.govt.nz)



Tongariro Mangatapopo Hut 1947 (from left Angus, Mary, Fred and Kath): 4009 HIS Nga Tapuwae Tramping Club - Yan Ping Sun photographer, FMC Collection

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