



NOHANZ NEWSLETTER

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NOHANZ Newsletter
Volume 37 Number 3 December 2023
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Contributions to the NOHANZ newsletter, published three times per annum, are also welcome. The next deadline is 1 March, 2024.

Cover image: Meri Kirihimete: a Christmas pōhutukawa at Days Bay, Wellington (Image: Ann Packer)

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of NOHANZ, and information on services does not imply endorsement.

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NOHANZ

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From the President

Tēnā koutou

May I begin this report by expressing again my deep appreciation for the work of the executive, journal editors, and all those who have contributed to the work of NO-HANZ over the past year. Thank you too to our members who were able to join the AGM in November; it was lovely to see you all and your support and feedback are very much appreciated. The new constitution was passed, and this will be placed on the NOHANZ website for future reference. The website also has information (which will be added to progressively) about the November 2024 NO-HANZ conference in Auckland; please see the Call for Papers and the submission deadline: [NOHANZ Biennial Conference 2024](#).

In my written report for the AGM I touched upon concerns relating to the **availability of repositories for oral history recordings**, and I thought I should expand upon this briefly here. The executive hopes to undertake some research early in the new year to establish, firstly, the extent and depth of oral history recordings in regional and other repositories. Secondly, we would like to ascertain how many continue to accept oral histories, and the selection criteria they employ. We feel this information would be very helpful for members. **If you have any questions, information or comment on this topic, please do let us know.** In this context, may I also draw your attention to the Alexander Turnbull Library oral history collection which now collects oral history material focusing upon stated priority areas. For information about these, the collecting plan and process for oral historians, please see the following links on the ATL website: Oral History and Sound Collecting Plan: natlib.govt.nz/about-us/strategy-and-policy/collections-policy/oralhistory-sound#collecting-priorities. Offer material to the Alexander Turnbull Library: natlib.govt.nz/collections/donations

I do hope you have an enjoyable break over the summer and I wish you all the very best for 2024.

Noho ora mai,

Anna

Anna.Green@vuw.ac.nz



Above: SOHP volunteers at the December end of year morning tea, Invercargill Public Library.

Southland Oral History Project

As the year draws to a close it is always good to reflect on what has been achieved in the year. The information here has been taken from a report that I presented to the volunteer interviewers and abstractors at our end of year morning tea. I prefaced the report with the following whakatauki:

*Ehara taku toa i te toa takitahi, engari
he toa takitini.*

My success is not mine alone, but it is the strength of many.

Twenty-four new recordings have been added to the collection in 2023. The new recordings include eight from two wonderful ladies in Tuatapere who conducted interviews to provide material for a new book on local GP Dr Elder, which was launched in early December. The other recordings cover a great range of topics and localities.

A number of historic recordings have been digitised and included in the collection, including fifteen from the Gore District Historic Society and 62 historic recordings from the Fiordland Museum Trust.

Creating content is a vital part of the project but also important is making the content discoverable, via cataloguing in our database. Progress was made in this regard

over the year and there are now 548 oral histories searchable on the SOHP catalogue - up from 433 at the end of 2022.

A large part of this increase has come about due to the generous support for cataloguing from the Fiordland Museum Trust, the Gore District Historical Society and Southland Rural Women. Abstracting adds immense depth to our database and 381 oral histories are now abstracted, with 127 abstracts uploaded in the last year. Of these 90 came with the historic recordings and 37 have been written by volunteers this year.

Raising awareness of the collection and its value to the community is another important facet of SOHP work. In the latter half of the year a number of activities took place. The Southland Oral History Project was the feature of the July 31st edition of “Check it Out at Te Haeata” with the podcast focusing on two of Edith Ruddenklau’s interviews: Peggy Soderstrom and May Wilson. This is the fourth podcast to cover aspects of the project.

The exhibition “Southland’s Hidden Voices” had another outing this time being displayed at Te Hiko Museum in Aparima, Riverton in August. In November, I presented on Edith Ruddenklau and her work at the AGM of Heritage South in November. Also in November, I presented on the project to a group at Calvin Community Church in Gore and as part of a lunch time Zoom session organised by ARANZ on oral history, along with Rosemary Baird, Outreach Advisor at Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga, and Caroline Squires, of the Central Otago Oral History Project.

The volunteers now take a well-earned break and we will be back on board in early February with (hopefully) some exciting news about extra resourcing in 2024!

Rosie Stather
Oral History Coordinator, Invercargill City Libraries & Archives, Rosie@ilibrary.co.nz. 03 211 1444



Above: Dr Emma Jean Kelly and Melissa Matutina Williams at Te Ahu, Kaitaia in 2021.

Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage

*Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēna tatou katoa.
 Ko Airihi tōku iwi,
 Ko Kelly tōku hapū,
 Ko Emma-Jean tōku ingoa,
 He Pou Hītori Mātua Ataata Rongo ahau, ki Te Manatū Taonga.*

Kia ora all, I’m Emma-Jean Kelly, Senior Audio-Visual Historian, Ministry for Culture and Heritage. I also mentioned there that I’m Irish (diaspora).

It’s been a busy last quarter, getting ready for the deadline of **Ngā Kōrero Tuku Iho Oral History Funding round on 15 April 2024**.

I travelled to Ōtautahi Christchurch in November to co-facilitate a funding workshop at South Library with the wonderful Rosemary Baird. She did a brilliant job of talking through in our brief time the basics of oral history, and I discussed funding and showed people the Zoom H5

kit, used by Lynette Shum for training. Lynette is also doing full oral history training in Christchurch soon which is brilliant. There was such a good range of people at the workshop, including four teachers from various schools who may band together to apply for funding to get equipment they can share. There were discussions of Chinese families' stories, the Ferrymead Heritage Park and lots of other great ideas.

Next I travelled to Panguru and Motuti in Te Tai Tokerau, the Far North, to support a funding workshop with the amazing Melissa Matutina Williams. If you haven't yet read her award-winning book based on oral history interviews *Panguru and the City: Kāinga Tahī, Kāinga Rua* (BWB 2015), it's so worthwhile. We also presented, with the fabulous Whina te Whiu, not only curator for Te Ahu at Kaitaia, but also Raiatea Whare Taonga at Motuti. The people who came to the workshop are doing some fabulous work, and I hope they'll apply for funding to support it, along with the Christchurch workshop group.

Our new podcast *Te Rauparaha: Kei Wareware* with Ross Calman (Ngāti Toa) and Popsock Media (Kirsten Johnstone, Ngāi Tahu and Melody Thomas, Pākehā) has been doing really well, getting to number one in the Apple New Zealand podcast charts for a hot minute. Check it out online or on radio, weekly from 7 January, at 7pm on RNZ.

Paul Roy's "Deer Wars" on RNZ is also doing really well, and was supported by oral history funding from Ngā Kōrero Tuku Iho.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou, have a great break, tabhair aire duit féin.

Dr Emma-Jean Kelly
Pou Hītori Matua Ataata Rongo, Senior Audio-Visual History

Auckland Libraries

Kia ora koutou

It has been a very busy year again at Auckland Council Libraries, but a terrifically productive one. I have been observing the incredible value to researchers that accessioned oral history recordings and collections are providing as primary material, particularly for studying twentieth

century social history. From student academics to family historians, topic-based research and those seeking specific experiences of places and topics our oral history collections are finding their way.



Above: Auckland History Initiative scholars are making use of the Auckland Library reading room to engage with the Library's oral history collections.

Currently we have a group of University of Auckland – Auckland History Initiative scholars doing research through our reading room and all of them really enjoy an opportunity to listen to voices from the past bringing to life their research interests.

I have conducted a number of full day training sessions over the last quarter, including in Kirikiriroa Hamilton [with Emma Kelly, Manatū Taonga] and Hauraki Thames [hosted by The Treasury] and the Auckland Heritage Festi-

val at Auckland Libraries. There is such a thirst for training and for project work that includes doing quality oral history interviews. The breadth and potential of topics of interest are great and I love using some the richness of our existing collections to illustrate the value of good practice.



Above: Nia Vavao and Pamata Toleafoa discuss the world of Ava in the podcast “[Ava, Kava, Kawa](#)” for the *Ngako* podcast series.

My role is Curator Oral History and Sound and as such I also do work in podcast and sound production and reproduction. Over the last two years I have managed an internal Content Creation Grant that has allowed me to produce nine films and eight podcasts in a series called *Ngako: The Collection Talk*. These celebrate our taonga heritage collections held at Auckland Libraries through a diverse series of stories. You may enjoy watching and listening to these over the summer break! If you are in Auckland you can come into the Auckland Central City Library to have a look at the in-house exhibition that connects these published stories with the collection items. aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/Pages/Ngako.aspx

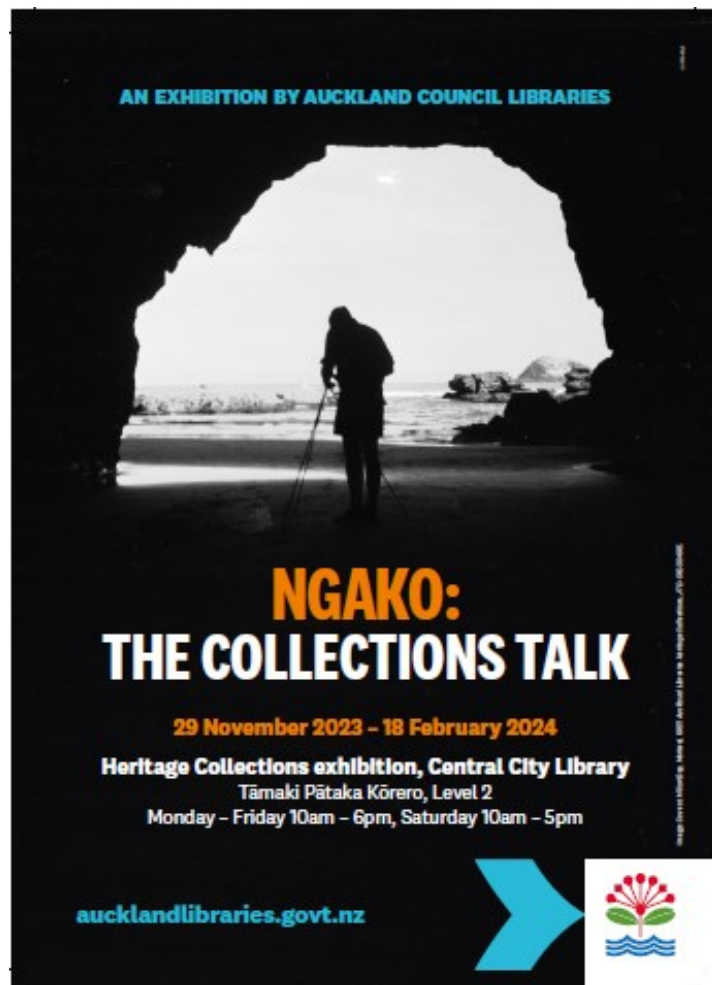
Wishing you a safe and celebratory summer season and look forward to seeing everyone in 2024.

Noho ora mai,

Sue Berman [She/Her]

Curator: Oral History and Sound

Auckland Council Libraries | Ngā Pātaka Kōrero o Tāmaki Makaurau | Ph: 0210414427



Alexander Turnbull Library

Poof! And just like that, there goes 2023. Following recent Northland workshops (commissioned and public), some new oral historians are starting their journey. Oh the places I've been, the food I've eaten, courtesy of our generous hosts! It's an eye-opener to see what those in the provinces are up against. It's also been a privilege to work alongside Stephanie Tibble (Rongomaiwahine, Ngāti Kahungunu, Rongowhakaata and Ngāti Hine), and I look forward to more of the same in 2024.

There has already been strong interest in the public 2024 Christchurch and Wellington workshops, without much publicity yet. I maintain an Expressions of Interest list, which helps me determine where throughout the motu

the need is greatest, but this of course cannot account for those whose needs may be greater. I wish there was a way to offer more widespread and immediate training without compromising on the hands-on practical and personal feedback model we have developed, without limitless budgets and cloning! In the meantime, if you hear of anyone who would like training, please get them to contact me to be put on the list, or ask them to call me to discuss.

As the noisy building and demolition work continues, so do our reduced Reading Room hours, but we can see the light at the end of the tunnel. Our reduced hours of service are Monday to Friday 10am to 2pm, while Saturday hours will remain the same - 9am to 1pm. You can check for any updates: natlib.govt.nz/visiting/wellington/opening-hours. But you can call or email me outside of those times.

I wish all our readers a blessed, safe and restive Christmas holiday, ngā mihi o te Kirihimete me te Tau Hau.

Lynette Shum
Oral History Advisor

What's new

We were saddened to hear of the passing of one of our longest-standing NOHANZ supporters, **Penelope Dunkley** – best remembered for (almost) single-handedly getting a very successful Rotorua conference off the ground. Arohanui, e whaea.

Our heartiest congratulations to NOHANZ committee member **Dr Cheryl Ware** on being awarded one of two Judith Binney Trust writing awards.

Congratulations to committee member **Dr Rowan Light** whose book *Why Memory Matters: 'Remembered Histories' and the Politics of the Past* (Bridget Williams Books) was featured on RNZ Nights on 7 December. [Why Memory Matters | RNZ](#)

Chris Szekely, Chief Librarian at Alexander Turnbull Library is pleased to announce that NOHANZ member and ATL Curator, Māori **Paul Diamond** has been seconded to Manatū Taonga, the Ministry for Culture and Heritage in the position of Senior Historian, Mātauranga Maori. Paul's secondment commences on 15 January until 19 April 2024. He will be working on the Ministry's Te Tai Treaty Settlement Stories project, collecting, preserving and sharing the history of Treaty settlements, as well as contributing to other Manatū Taonga history projects. Congratulations Paul from all of us. Kapai!

From the Editor: Sometimes two of my worlds intersect. So it was last week when I interviewed, for *The Eastbourne Herald*, a Mahina Bay documentary maker who has published a small book on his 30-year association with the Cook Islands. Ken Redmond's friendship with premier Sir Tom Davis began around the time of the Sixth Festival of Pacific Arts in 1992, when he was contracted to produce television coverage of the event. Later, he assisted journalist Tony Haas to record an oral history of the late medical doctor, space medicine pioneer and statesman, who died aged 90 in 2007. Ken and his wife got to know Sir Tom in those last years of his life, and some of his reflections on that time are included in *Drawings from Rarotonga and Beyond*. For ten years after his death the Redmonds, at the request of Sir Tom's widow, Carla, were custodians of his house.

Interview with Sir Tom Davis is part of the ATL Oral History collection ([OHColl-0901-01](#)).

Drawings from Rarotonga and Beyond is available for \$20 from ken@kenzotv.com

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