



NOHANZ NEWSLETTER

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NOHANZ Newsletter
Volume 38 Number 1 April 2024

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Contributions to the NOHANZ newsletter, published three times per annum, are also welcome. The next deadline is 1 July, 2024.

Cover image: Rosie Stather delivers an introductory Oral History workshop at the new Gore District Library, March 2024.

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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NOHANZ is now on Twitter and Facebook. Follow us for regular updates and discussions about oral history. Please feel free to share information about your projects, recent publications, or events on either the Facebook page or by emailing

nohanzexec@gmail.com

Twitter handle: [@oralhistorynz](https://twitter.com/oralhistorynz)

Facebook group: facebook.com/groups/nohanz/

From the President



Above: The president made her first-ever Simnel cake for Easter, with the 11 apostles on top. The editor's mother, Betty Taylor, also made one every year so we thought you might find it interesting... Says Anna: "Really just an excuse to eat huge amounts of marzipan...." Of course, there will be Anzac biscuits too.

Kia ora—Hello everyone,

I do hope that you have all had a good summer, and that your oral history interviews and projects are progressing well.

First of all, an update about our forthcoming November conference in Auckland. The deadline for conference paper proposals has been extended to the end of April. The conference committee welcomes presentations on all recent oral history projects, topics and questions, and we do hope you will be able to come. It helps the planning committee a great deal at this stage to have a provisional sense of those who hope to attend, so please do send in that proposal! We are working on grants to support attendance, and other aspects of the conference, and information will be oralhistory.org.nz/index.php/home/

While on the subject of the conference, and although it

may seem a bit early to be broaching this subject, may I ask all our members if they would give some thought whether they might be interested in standing for election to the NOHANZ executive? The next round of elections will be held at the Annual General Meeting this November, at the conference, and a number of those currently on the executive will be standing down. If you would like to have an informal exploratory discussion about what this might entail please do get in touch with myself (anna.green@vuw.ac.nz) or another Executive member (see the list on page 1 of this newsletter). We would be really happy to answer your questions and discuss what is involved.

A small sub-committee, composed of Emma Powell, Pip Oldham, Megan Hutching and myself, has been wrestling with the Privacy Act 2020 and drafting some practical guidelines for members. These draft guidelines are now ready to be placed on the Executive agenda for the meeting at the end of April and, subject to approval, will be posted on the NOHANZ website after that.

I would like to end with some thanks. The new issue of the journal has just arrived and manages to look simultaneously immensely interesting and visually beautiful! Thank you to the contributors, editors Pip and Megan, and designer Joya Foxall (who has taken over the role from Jenn Falconer).

Finally, may I thank NOHANZ member Klara Szentirmay who has made us a very generous gift of over 400 unused prepaid C4 envelopes, worth in the region of \$2,200. We hope to be able to use the envelopes to mail out future issues of the journal which will significantly help our budget. **On behalf of all of us, thank you very much Klara.**

Noho ora mai,

Anna, Anna.Green@vuw.ac.nz

Voices of Karekare rōpū



Above: Voices of Karekare rōpū in Carolyn and Warren Grove's garden. Photo: James Hutchinson

Kia ora e te hapori o Karekare - Kia ora to the community of Karekare.

This was the opening line of a newsletter delivered in sodden weather to every letterbox in Karekare, 28 and 29 January 2023 – the weekend of the Auckland Anniversary Floods.

We wrote:

Kim Conway and I are happy to report a grant has been awarded by Manatū Taonga, the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, towards an oral history project about the 1993 Karekare shellfish rāhui. A rāhui is a deeply spiritual matter for Māori. Implemented for a variety of reasons, it is a sacred means of managing an area or resource, a method of indigenous conservation. The rāhui over Karekare beach was a means to protect the environment and allow time for shellfish to regenerate. The project, Karekare Rāhui, is from a tauwiwi / non-Māori perspective. It aims to record local memories, including voices from Te Kawerau-a-Maki. We hope to discover how the rāhui came about, how it came into law and its impact on the Karekare community... Public access to the recordings will be at Auckland Libraries. If you were at the rāhui ceremony, 2 May 1993 or were involved with the rāhui, please do

get in touch. If you know someone who should be interviewed, please tell us or pass on this pānui / notice.

But... two weeks later, February 13 2023, Cyclone Gabrielle struck. Due to the many losses, to confusion and anxiety, the rāhui project was put on hold. Kim and I realised there was an opportunity to expand the enquiry to include contemporary responses to Cyclone Gabrielle. This expansion received the go-ahead from MCH and an extension of time. Caroline Grove and Mel Blanks joined a steering group which we dubbed The Aunties.

The project has received wide community support. A call-out for more people to join resulted in over a dozen locals attending an introductory oral history workshop. This was facilitated in Karekare on 13 May, by Auckland Libraries' Sue Berman. The new oral historians learnt technical recording and interview skills; about access, repositories and ethical responsibilities. The project was renamed *Voices of Karekare*, with the mission statement *VoK. Preserving History, Recording Perspectives*.

Since then, monthly workshops to build on the introduction have increased knowledge and consolidated technical practice. Greater understanding of the arc of an interview, ethics and responsibilities, and the importance of abstracting brought our rōpū together, supporting each other and working as a team. At the start of each workshop we've come to know each other more deeply through a round of whakawhanaungatanga, relationship building.

It wasn't my plan but I've become accidental project leader. One satisfying task was to organise a Community Recording Weekend at Karekare House in November. Pita Turei and Sir Bob Harvey spoke warmly about the immense value of oral history. Locals brought masses of home baking, children played on the lawn and we recorded sixteen interviews. Stage two of the project is due to start soon and a further thirty people – residents, first responders and those who needed help – have said they would like to be interviewed.

The stories and perspectives VoK is recording are dramatic, emotional experiences. Many dangerous actions, risked and survived, are revealing new situations that resilience planners must take into account. Floods, tidal

waves, earthquakes and fires had been thought of and planned for, but massive volumes of moving earth had not. The findings from the VoK project will help inform future resilience planning and archive our stories for the community.

Interviewers are Mel Blank, Rachel Burrowes, Kim Conway, Sue Gee, Sarah Grohnert, Caroline Grove, Claire Inwood, Olivia Sheehan, Dr Deborah Shepard, Christine Simpson and Jacqui Tisch.

Sue Gee, Karekare, 8 March 2024

Into 2024 with the Southland Oral History Project

A new year in the Deep South has ushered in extra hours for my work on the Southland Oral History Project. I now have 20 hours a week and a new sense of purpose and renewed enthusiasm.

We started the year strongly in terms of new material – a number of our volunteer interviewers carried on with projects over the summer taking advantage of the chance to travel further afield and to capture the stories of ex-residents returning to visit family.

The project has been gifted a wonderful collection of 50 interviews along with photographs that form the project “Documenting Dipton Women” created by local historian Sandra Prebble. This project will take a significant amount of time to catalogue but will be well worth it in terms of the depth of information that it contains and the richness of the associated photographic images.

Further on the content front, we are embarking on a review of the material that we commission for the project. Historically we have tended to be rather reactive – taking material that volunteers create with no defined collection plan. We had a meeting of key library and heritage folk in March and identified priority topics for interviews, and I will be meeting with our volunteers in May to seek their input. We may look for some external financial support for some of the topic streams.

March was Heritage Month here in Southland and there

was a dizzying number of events of all kinds across the rohe, which were very well supported. My contribution was a lunchtime talk where I shared some of my favourite interviews from the collection. I also ran a short introduction to oral history and the project at the lovely new library in Gore. We are planning an interview training session here in June and inviting people from all over Eastern Southland to attend.

Further afield I have been invited to talk at a session on oral histories in June at the Australian Wider Local Studies Online Professional Development Seminar, organised by NSW Public Libraries. I had visions of a trip across the ditch but sadly the seminar takes place online!

And finally we took possession of two new ZOOM H5 recorders at the end of last year, which I have just now set up ready for use. This means we now have a total of 6 ZOOM recorders and these will replace our aging Marantz recorders that we are phasing out.

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

NOHANZ Tāmaki Makaurau

On 8 March, several Tāmaki Makaurau members met online to have a thought-provoking discussion about koha and compensation for participating in oral histories. We shared perspectives from our different practices and the wide-ranging discussions we have been following globally. At the end of a highly engaging hour, we decided we needed a whole lot more discussion and look forward to inviting others to join the conversation at Conference later this year. We are enjoying working together with the amazing regional team in the South Island, with a scheduled meeting for 6 May at 7pm.

Ngā mihi nui

Dr Janine Irvine (she/her), Life writer, oral historian and research scholar, +64 276872938, janineirvine.lifewriting@gmail.com, writingwithjanine.co.nz/

Te Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture & Heritage

Kia ora koutou! I've been having a lot of fun meeting oral historians and potential oral historians around the motu through a series of in-person and online oral history funding workshops to publicise the 15 April 2024 annual deadline for Ngā Kōrero Tuku Iho (the stories passed down) Piki Ake! Kake Ake! (rise up!) Oral History Funding.

From Panguru in the Hokianga where I was lucky enough to be welcomed onto Motutū marae and given the grand tour of Pā Henare's iwi whare taonga Raiātea with Whina te Whiu and Melissa Matutina Williams, to the new whare pukapuka Rototuna in the Waikato with Sue Berman, to Ōtautahi, Christchurch's South Library with Rosemary Baird, I was able to meet great people interested in a wide range of oral history projects in their communities. Thank you to the experienced oral historians and librarians who supported these workshops, and all the new keen faces who came to learn.

Because I couldn't get to as many places as I wished, we also had some online opportunities to discuss funding, with Sue Berman of Auckland Libraries presenting oral history funding information to one of her training workshops, and me beaming into some training sessions run by Lynette Shum, as well as a full session of discussion about oral history funding hosted by Manatū Taonga. Thanks again to all those for helping me out with the logistics for these workshops.

Over the last year or more I've been working with the history, production and communications teams at Manatū Taonga as well as Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira, Ngāti Toa historian Ross Calman, Ngāi Tahu podcaster Kirsten Johnstone and many others from three distinct iwi groupings who have been intimately impacted by the actions of Te Rauparaha, chief of Ngāti Toa Rangatira in the early to mid-19th century. He led his people from Kawhia Harbour in the Waikato to the Kapiti Coast, and into Te Waipounamu (the South Island). A powerful and still controversial figure, the influence he had upon his Taranaki allies and his Ngāi Tahu and Kurahaupo (top of the south iwi including Ngāti Kuia and Rangitāne o Wairau) enemies was im-

mense.

I'm happy to say the resulting podcast *Te Rauparaha: Kei Wareware Lest We Forget* has been announced the winner of the Gold Award for Best Education podcast at the New York Radio Festivals Award. I acknowledge all the iwi historians who contributed their kōrero tuku iho to this production. Each of the full interviews recorded for this project is deposited with the corresponding iwi archive. You can listen to this podcast, and also see how we navigated the complexities of copyright on a Mātauranga Māori project, via our website:

mch.govt.nz/our-work/heritage-sector/te-rauparaha-kei-wareware

My first four years in this role at Manatū Taonga have seen many changes, and I anticipate more to come. But rest assured, Ngā Kōrero Tuku Iho, Piki Ake! Kake Ake! Oral History Funding, originally provided by the Australian Government for the 1990 Sesquicentennial and converted into a Trust Fund, is in good health. As changes may occur in Manatū Taonga itself, I am working hard to ensure that the funding will remain available to new and experienced oral historians, so we can continue to pass down the stories from the ancestors to future generations. As the saying goes, **Waiho i te toipoto, kua i te toiroa** (Let us keep close together, not wide apart).

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou

Dr Emma-Jean Kelly, Pou Hītori Matua Ataata Rongo, Senior Audio-Visual History emma.kelly@mch.govt.nz

Auckland Libraries Oral History Collections

Kia ora koutou, warm greetings from Ngā Pātaka Kōrero o Tāmaki Makaurau.

It has been lovely to connect with various members of NO-HANZ over the last six months with the variety of activities that have been organised.

Auckland Libraries has been busy supporting a number of recording projects across the region and collections acquisition work in the community.

We have most recently received for assessment and acqui-

sition an oral history collection of migrant stories which cover decades of migrations back to the 1940s, created by the Auckland Danish Society; an in-depth interview with a community garden leader who has had a lifetime in horticulture and growing experience; an interview with Elizabeth Whiting of theatre design fame on her work in the Auckland Theatre scene, a recording with Riemke Ensing, poet, artist and writer; a collection of interviews from the Tiritiri Matangi OH Project; a long form interview with photographer John Miller; and some sound recordings of a number of Pride-related presentations and events.

We are undergoing a review and refresh of our Collection Development Plan and some new processes related to acquisitions into our permanent collection. I look forward to sharing that plan in the near future. Meanwhile, we are able to support people in their collecting work with the use of Recording Kits that will give you the quality your interviews deserve. I am available also for advice on best practice and training resources.

Our current and most recent exhibition at the Central Library is called *That's So Last Century* – what we wore 1950s-1990s. It's a nostalgic romp through decades of fashion and fashion-making from home sewing to High Street design. This short podcast draws on Oral Histories from our Collections to talk to the themes of the exhibition.

soundcloud.com/auckland-libraries/sets/thats-so-last-century-1950s-to-1990s-what-we-wore

If you are particularly interested in this subject you'll enjoy this episode from Ngako: The Collections Talk series – Streetwear.

youtube.com/watch?v=iNUrXkbtNy0&t=8s

Please feel free to be in touch any time with questions or if you have a proposed project that is looking for a repository – between the various collecting institutions I am sure we'll find the best fit!

Noho ora mai

**Sue Berman [She/Her], Curator: Oral History and Sound,
Auckland Council Libraries / Ngā Pātaka Kōrero o Tāmaki
Makaurau | Connected Communities, +64 21 0414427**

Alexander Turnbull Library

Demand for commissioned and public workshops continues steadily, with three courses in Christchurch and one in Palmerston North completed, and a Wellington one halfway through as I write. I have Hamilton, Auckland and Dunedin waiting in the wings to be confirmed, with Blenheim, Wellington and Marton at least on the horizon. If you know of anyone interested in training in these places, or elsewhere, please ask them to contact atloutreach@dia.govt.nz to receive more information.

On another note, I am also unable to keep up with demand for my Chinese footprints walk, such as the ones done earlier this year as part of the Alexander Turnbull Library's Connecting to Collections series of events. This tour is based on my Haining Street oral history project on the historic Chinese community of Te Aro, Wellington, and the fabulous items of the Doris Chung Collection. When I embarked on the project, many years ago, I had no idea this would be one of the outcomes, but I'm thrilled to see so much interest in it. Sure, anyone can see traces of Chinese here and there if they know where to look, but these stories make the place come alive.

Finally, it's great to see the return this year of the Ministry For Culture and Heritage's Ngā Kōrero Tuku Iho oral history awards. Especially in these tough times, this fund provides essential support enabling the recording of the multiple people and facets of Aotearoa that might otherwise be denied the opportunity to contribute.

Lynette Shum, Oral History Advisor

What's new

From Stuff, a feature about the founding of **MaGRA** (Manawatū Gay Rights Association, later MaLGRA - Manawatū Lesbian and Gay Rights Association).

[stuff.co.nz/culture/350172772/back-issues-shouting-silence](https://www.stuff.co.nz/culture/350172772/back-issues-shouting-silence)

At Pataka Art + Museum in Porirua until 26 May is the exhibition *Te Ara o Raukawa Moana*, organised by Exec member **Robert McClean**. The culmination of climate change research led by Te Runanga o Toa Rangatira over Te Monana o Ruakawa (Cook Strait), it features oral histories from wānanga, interviews and site visits by boat.

deepsouthchallenge.co.nz/research-project/te-ara-o-raukawa-moana/
pataka.org.nz/whats/exhibitions/te-ara-o-raukawa-moana/

Last Word

This issue's last 'word' (a picture being worth a thousand of them, after all) goes to **two past presidents**, Ann Packer and Ruth Low, who are hatching who knows what plans at a recent catchup in Christchurch.

MD



If you have anything share with members, images, quotations, thoughts, etc. please get in touch with the editor—we'd love to feature it here.