



# **NOHANZ NEWSLETTER**

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The National Oral History Association of  
New Zealand

Te Kete Kōrero-a-Waha o Te Motu

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NOHANZ Newsletter  
Volume 38 number 2 August 2024

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**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Ann Packer with Dr Michael Dudding and Lynette Shum  
Contributions to the NOHANZ newsletter, published three times per annum, are also welcome. The next deadline is 1 November 2024.

Cover image: Author, publisher, historian, bookshop owner and former Wellington city councillor Judy Siers listens to her life history recording in April 2023.

*Picture Ann Packer*

**Reminder:**

**Conference dates: Auckland, 15 – 17 November 2024  
– see NOHANZ website for details**

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

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# NOHANZ

Newsletter Volume 38 number 2 August 2024

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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](mailto:nohanzexec@gmail.com).

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



## From the President:

Kia ora koutou

I do hope that you are all well, despite the winter weather.

It has been a very busy spell for the NOHANZ executive, with lots going on. First of all, Cheryl Ware and the Auckland team have done a great job putting together the conference for November. The Friday workshops, walking tour and opening keynote that evening, "Reflections from Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei", will be a great start to the weekend. Over the following two days there is a wide diversity of presentations and topics, reflecting the breadth, depth and strength of oral history in Aotearoa New Zealand. I do hope you will be able to come (all the information is on our website) and we look forward to seeing you there. Earlybird registrations close 1 October.

Over the past couple of years the Privacy Act 2020, and now the Privacy Amendment Bill currently under consideration by Parliament, have absorbed quite a lot of my time and those of other NOHANZ members. We have now placed online, under Resources, some new *Privacy Act Guidelines* and a recommended *Interviewee and Project Information Form*.

The Guidelines, however, will be a continuing work in progress, particularly following the decision by the government to bring forward a Privacy Amendment Bill for consideration by the Justice Select Committee. My written submission to the Select Committee was circulated by email earlier and thank you very much to those of you who contacted your Member of Parliament or took other steps to support our position. **Both myself and Pip Oldham made oral submissions to the Select Committee, at the end of which the National MP Rima Nakhle (Takanini) asked me to pass on to all oral historians her thanks for the work that we do.** I was able to follow this up with an Op Ed in *The Post* and an interview with Jesse Mulligan on *Radio New Zealand*, so we really have tried our best to explain our concerns about the Bill. We hope very much that the government will add a new "collecting in the public interest" clause before it becomes law.

Earlier in July I also met with the Interagency Oral History Group, a voluntary group composed of oral historians employed in various government agencies, such as Defence, Primary Industries, MFAT, MCH and others, to discuss the Privacy Act

and Amendment Bill. We had a very interesting discussion which reinforced my feeling that NOHANZ should liaise more actively and consistently with all those engaged with oral history and public history. Without any diminution to our organisation or specific concerns, we could be part of a stronger collective voice at national level.

On a much happier note, I am delighted to let you know that we have managed to find a successor for the long-serving, absolutely inimitable, newsletter editor Ann Packer. We have been beyond fortunate that Ann has been willing to do the newsletter three times a year for so long that we can hardly remember when she started! Ann expressed the wish to step down, and we are extremely lucky that Janine Irvine from Auckland agreed to take up the position at the end of this year. Janine's bio may be found a bit later in this newsletter, and you will see that she'll bring versatile skills to the role. The newsletter is the essential form of communication for our membership during the year – so on behalf of all of us, Ann and Janine, thank you both very, very much.

This leads into my final request: have you thought about standing for the NOHANZ executive? Some members of the existing executive will be stepping down at the end of the year, and we will be in need of new members from around the country. Any member of the current executive (see list on inside cover and Website ) would be happy to discuss this with you further and answer any questions. Nomination forms will be circulated nearer the time, and available too on the website. You need to be a current member, so please renew your membership if you haven't already done so!

Ngā mihi

**Anna**

[Anna.Green@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Anna.Green@vuw.ac.nz)

## Introducing our new editor, Janine Irvine, PhD

A warm welcome to Janine, an experienced oral historian, life writer and editor who has written for a range of audiences across her career, including communications for intra-organisational content.

Janine completed her BA Hons, specialising in Intercultural and Development Communications, in South Africa and joined the Institute of Social & Systemic Change at the University of Port Elizabeth (now the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University) until 2000. In addition to her research and academic work focused on community development, Janine was responsible for the Institute's academic publications for the Faculty of Arts, including occasional papers, scholarship books and a quarterly journal, *Iliso*.

Becoming a mum and moving to New Zealand took most of Janine's focus until 2010 when she joined Time of Your Life, a group of life writers in New Zealand. Janine researched, wrote and published a collection of individual, family and community histories and life stories over several years. Her most notable publications include *The pioneer story of the Roose family* (Pukekohe), *Eyes turned skyward* (the life story of Air Commodore Nugget Cohen), and *Rakaia: Our history*, awarded a commendation for the 21st Judging 2016 for the J.M. Sherrard Award.

From 2016-2020 Janine was enrolled in fulltime doctoral studies at Massey University, exploring the production of local history books as autobiographical and collaborative life writing (doctoral thesis: *Our Place: Reimagining Local History as Life Writing*). Since one of the goals of the research was to share lessons and insights from published projects with other would-be writers of local history books in New Zealand, in 2021 Janine worked collaboratively with those she interviewed in her case studies, to write and publish an





e-book *The stories of places – A literary guide to writing local histories* to make the information from the thesis more readily available as a community resource.

In 2021 Janine began accepting new commissions for life stories and oral histories, and now works as an independent oral historian and life writer, having assembled her own publication team to produce books under the banner Janine Irvine Life Writing Collaborations, the most recent publication being *From there to here: A passage of time* (Gordon Lamb's story). Several other books are under contract at various stages of research, writing and publication. In addition, Janine completes oral history work for individuals and organisations such as Friends of Tiritiri Matangi, the New Zealand Navy Museum, and Auckland Council.

She is a member of NOHANZ, New Zealand Historical Association, New Zealand Society of Authors, PHANZA (<https://phanza.org.nz/historian/janine-irvine/>) and the Royal Society Te Apārangi.

[janineirvine.lifewriting@gmail.com](mailto:janineirvine.lifewriting@gmail.com)

## **Into 2024 with the Southland Oral History Project: Shaping up to be a good year down South**

Winter has been a productive time in Murihiku at the Southland Oral History Project. The weather has been pretty mild and our interviewers have been very active with 15 new interviews recorded in the last 3 months, covering individuals from throughout the rohe with a wide variety of stories to tell.

Our volunteer abstractors have been busy too – the mahi they do is invaluable in making the material in our collection discoverable. Over the last couple of years one volunteer, Judy Christie, has produced 50 abstracts – listening to over 200 hours worth of recordings in the process. Kai pai Judy!

I have been working away on what I call our archival recordings – these are interviews that were recorded either before the project existed or for an earlier iteration of the project. Most are done on tape. We get them digitized and then seek next of kin to obtain permission to hold them in the collection. There are many gems among the recordings, and it's a real pleasure to share the voices of the past with their living relations.

Significantly we were gifted a collection of 17 recordings done in the 1990s in the Balfour area. These have now been digitized and I am looking forward to listening to the stories they hold. I very much wonder what other gems are lurking out in the community – these tapes only came to light

when someone was clearing out their house!

In June, local oral historian Rebecca Amundsen and I headed north to Gore to conduct an oral history interview training session with keen would-be interviewers from Eastern Southland and West Otago. We very much hope that this will lead to an increase in interviewing in these localities. The West Otago group in particular are very motivated and have been further buoyed by the fact that we will be keeping listening copies of the interviews that they do in their local library. I will be talking about this and other community projects at the NOHANZ conference in November.

I am very keen to see use of the collection increase and have started recording some stats so I can track what's going on: so far this year we have provided eight recordings for families, 51 recordings for research and seven for use in exhibitions. With schools very much focusing on primary resources for student research we hope to get more interaction with rangatahi and last month we were involved in hosting a group of 58 history students from one of our local high schools who were keen to explore the primary research sources available from the library and archives.

**Rosie Stather**, Oral History Coordinator, Invercargill City Libraries & Archives, [Rosie@ilibrary.co.nz](mailto:Rosie@ilibrary.co.nz)  
03 211 1444



## Te Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture & Heritage

Manatū Taonga had a fabulous round for Ngā Kōrero Tuku Iho Oral History funding this year. From the story of the Crayfish Goldrush of Lyttelton, to three Pacific oral historians exploring connections to Asia ("Talanoa on Asia") to New Zealand Women in Aviation, we continue to attract a wide range of applications for funding. It was particularly challenging as there were so many excellent applications.

This year the fund received 46 applications totalling \$356,465. As most of you know, we work with a fund that can only use interest each year, up to \$100,000 – and our 14 successful applications came to \$98,235. Thanks to the librarians, archivists, oral historians, public servants and storytellers around the country who helped promote the fund this year.

### Ngā Kōrero Tuku Iho, New Zealand Oral History Grants 2024

- Praneil Chandra, Why New Zealand became home for thousands of Indians from Fiji, \$10,000
- Sue Gee, Kim Abraham, Caroline Grove and Melanie Blank, Voices of Karekare follow-up, \$10,000
- Yang Yuanyong, Chinese Penjing (Bonsai) Art in New Zealand, \$9,799
- Professor Te Kani Kingi, Linda Tyler, Reg Ram, Ngā Kōrero o Ngā Tai Pakeke o Tipene St Stephen's School Oral Histories, \$6,100
- Steve McKelvey, The Crayfish Gold Rush, Lyttelton and the Chatham Islands, \$1,281
- Chelsea Wong She, Sidney Gig-Jan Wong, Eda Tang, Cantonese Heritage and Culture in Aotearoa New Zealand, \$12,614.56
- Rowena Cullen, Theatre Archives NZ interview with Mere Boynton, \$2,250

Image: <https://southlandnz.com/listing/gore-brown-trout-statue/826/>

- Lora Hagemann, The voices of Aotearoa Homeopathy, \$2,000
- Gordon Jackman, The Supported Life Style Trust Hauraki, \$10,000
- Jill McCaw, New Zealand Women in Aviation, \$8,500
- Ashalya Noa, Fine Lavoni Koloamatangi & Kaleb Uri-ke, Ōtautahi Christchurch Pacific New Zealanders' stories and connections with Asia, \$10,000
- Ruth Barton, Remembering King Edward Street, \$2,500
- Lynette Townsend, The New Zealand Busker: An oral history project Part Two, \$3,659
- Sarah Buxton for Charlotte Museum, Capturing Lesbian Sapphic Herstory, \$9,332

I ran promotional workshops on oral history funding in Waikato (with Sue Berman, Auckland Libraries), Te Tai Tokerau Northland (with Whina te Whiu and Melissa Matutina Williams), Ōtautahi Christchurch (with Rosemary Baird) and online with Joan McCracken (Alexander Turnbull Library). I also spoke online at oral history training workshops led by Lynette Shum (Alexander Turnbull Library) to promote the funding application process.

The Grants were promoted through the Ministry's website and professional networks such as PHANZA), the New Zealand Historical Association (NZHA), Te Pouhere Kōrero Māori Historians Network, NOHANZ and the Aotearoa Gender and Women's History Network. We used social media to reach diverse communities in English and Te Reo Māori as well as through the Ministry for Pacific Peoples' Communications networks. Of particular note, the Ministry for Ethnic Communities promoted the funding for the second time via their newsletters and other networks, which yielded a number of applications. I look forward to seeing what next year's round offers.

I look forward to meeting those coming to NOHANZ and Melbourne (OHA) conferences in November. I'll be speaking about ethical approaches to working with iwi, based upon my experience with *Te Rauparaha: Kei Wareware Lest We Forget*, our latest podcast, which we created with Ross Calman of Ngāti Toa and Kirsten Johnstone, of Ngāi Tahu and Popsock Media. This podcast won the Gold Award for Best Educational Podcast at the New York Festivals Radio Awards this year



## The backstory

In 2020 Ross Calman (Ngāti Toa, Ngāti Raukawa, Ngāi Tahu) published a new translation of his tupuna Tamihana Te Rauparaha's manuscript about his father's life. Housed for many years in the George Grey Collection at Te Pātaka Kōrero o Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland Libraries, many mistranslations of the manuscript by Pākehā authors had left Tamihana with a dubious reputation. Ross's work, supported by Piripi Walker, took many years to complete, but encouraged by Te Rūnanga o Ngāti Toa Rangatira, Ross ensured an ethical process was undertaken from writing to publication, and the mana of Tamihana and his father began to be restored.

I approached Ross after hearing him talk with Paul Diamond, then Māori Curator at Alexander Turnbull Library. Would they like to record their kōrero about the project? It then turned into something



much more ambitious than I could have ever imagined on my own. My mahi became to project -manage the development of the podcast and help Ross and Executive Producer Kirsten Johnstone (Popsock Media) maintain ethical processes to ensure the mana of mātauranga Māori was upheld for the iwi historians who became interviewees. This is not a traditional western oral history project, but one that uses the voices of descendants of Ngāti Toa and their traditional enemies, Ngāi Tahu and Kurahaupō iwi to tell the story of Ngāti Toa's early to mid-19th century experience across Te Ika a Maui and Te Wai Pounamu. Each of the full topic-based interviews have been returned to interviewees and their iwi repositories for safekeeping. Manatū Taonga do not own the copyright on the kōrero of the participants. The story is also told through taonga puoro music by Ariana Tikao, electronic sounds from Mokotron and artwork by Huriana Kopeke Te Aho. This was a kaupapa Māori production made with support from some Pākehā allies who learned a whole lot by being lucky enough to be involved. My kōrero at the conferences will be about this process, and the risks and rewards of podcast making.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou

**Emma-Jean**

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



"Talanoa on Asia" team (l – r) Kaleb Uri-ke, Fine Lavoni Koloamatan and Ashalyna Noa

## Auckland Libraries Oral History Collections

Kia ora koutou

I have been working hard with colleagues in our Collection Assess and Management team to maintain and update Kura Heritage Collections online. This is the place to go to search the catalogue for heritage collections.

<https://kura.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz>

The Oral Histories tile is preset to appear in Record ID Ascending order which means the records up top show our records linking to AV material items first. You can change the way the record appears by changing the sort by drop down arrow.

Ultimately it is probably easiest to put in a keyword in your area of your interest in the search field – this will show all of the Oral History, Sound Archive and Audio Visual materials. If you use the very front-page search

you'll also find all the other formats related to that subject of keyword.

This link will take you to the most [recently recorded material records](#). Arranged by date recorded. Here you will see links to the 2022 Ngā Kōrero Tuku Iho, New Zealand Oral History Grants project: [Korean Diaspora in New Zealand](#).

A new Auckland Libraries locally generated project of place from [Pakuranga Today \[18 interviews\]](#) is a follow up series of interviews from a project of interviews from a decade ago [Pakuranga the Early Days](#) – led by local history Librarian Karen Lawson; and in the Otāhuhu Tāmaki Estuary [Stories of Panama Road](#), a community-led project of 13 interviews about growing up and living in this rohe.

Soon we will release our newly revised Heritage Collections Plan. Thanks to NOHANZ participants who attended the recent Auckland meeting for your valuable feedback. We continue to welcome your projects for possible accession as a regional repository. As always it is best to have conversations at the beginning of a project to establish the needs of the repository alongside your own project plans and requirements. The NOHANZ resource [Selecting a Repository](#) is an excellent reminder of the sort of considerations worth making when starting out.

Noho ora mai,

### **Sue**

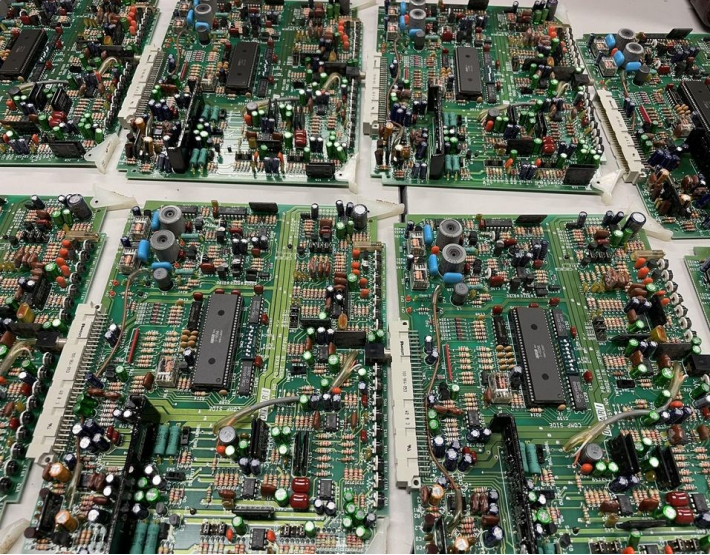
Sue Berman [She/Her] Curator: Oral History and Sound, *Auckland Council Libraries* | Library and Learning Services | Ngā Pātaka Kōrero me ngā Ratonga Akoako [aucklandlibraries.govt.nz](http://aucklandlibraries.govt.nz)



Mōa Kingi, Riverside Community Centre, Mount Wellington, 2022, Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections, 1789-225



## Alexander Turnbull Library



The insides of some of the machines the Turnbull has recently purchased to process some of its Collection, being serviced.

*Image: Bronwyn Officer*

Tēnā tatau

I'm pleased to hear that delivery of oral histories to the remote reading room is working out really well, having moved from pilot to for-real, and it has understandably proved popular for our researchers. And together with Utaina!, our mass digitisation project, and the recent project to tackle the digital backlog, the Library has been able to enhance access to our fabulous collections. I hope that we'll be able to provide fuller reports on both of these projects in the next issue.

Demand for oral history training around the motu remains strong, both commissions and from the public. We have had to raise prices slightly, but feedback remains positive about the workshops and the value for money. Participants have also welcomed the updated content about the Privacy Act 2020 provided by NOHANZ, and we all watch

with interest to see what account is taken by submissions to the Select Committee considering this from the Library, NOHANZ and other GLAM sector advocates. Please let your contacts know that they can email

[atloutreach@dia.govt.nz](mailto:atloutreach@dia.govt.nz) to be put on an expressions of interest list for upcoming training.

I'm really excited to observe the range of projects people are doing, and the thought taken by those developing archives as to the care that they need to provide.

Hoping to see as many of you as possible at Conference

**Lynette Shum**



Children's time—with bubbles—at the fabulous Rototuna North Library, one of the facilities I've been lucky enough to visit recently  
-Lynette

## **Oral history in New Zealand – a note from the editors**

We are assembling content for the 2024 volume of the Journal which will be printed early next year. In the meantime we would like to thank Natalie Looyer for giving us permission to put up her work, [A Bibliography of Oral History Scholarship in Aotearoa New Zealand](#), on the NOHANZ website alongside scanned copies of past volumes of the journal. Word searching the list in your browser is one way of locating journal material that might be of interest (another is the index printed in the 2016 volume, currently being updated).

Please let us know if you have suggestions for content or ideas for making the journal more accessible to a wider audience.

**Megan Hutching, Pip Oldham, Perrine Gilkison**

## **What's new *Peace is Her Song***

A new book by Eastbourne writer and journalist Anne Manchester, formerly one of the editors of *Kai Tiaki Nursing New Zealand*, is a good example of how useful oral histories lodged in public repositories can be to researchers.

*Peace is Her Song: The life and legacy of hymn writer Shirley Erena Murray*, published by Philip Garside Books, draws partly on recordings made between 2006 – 2008 for the St Andrew's on The Terrace oral history project, which are held in the Alexander Turnbull Library.

In a career spanning four decades, Shirley Murray, born in Invercargill in 1931, wrote over 400 hymns, which appear in more than 140 collections internationally. She began writing contemporary lyrics to go with her husband John Murray's sermons. As minister at St Andrew's on The Terrace from 1975 to 1993, he is remembered for



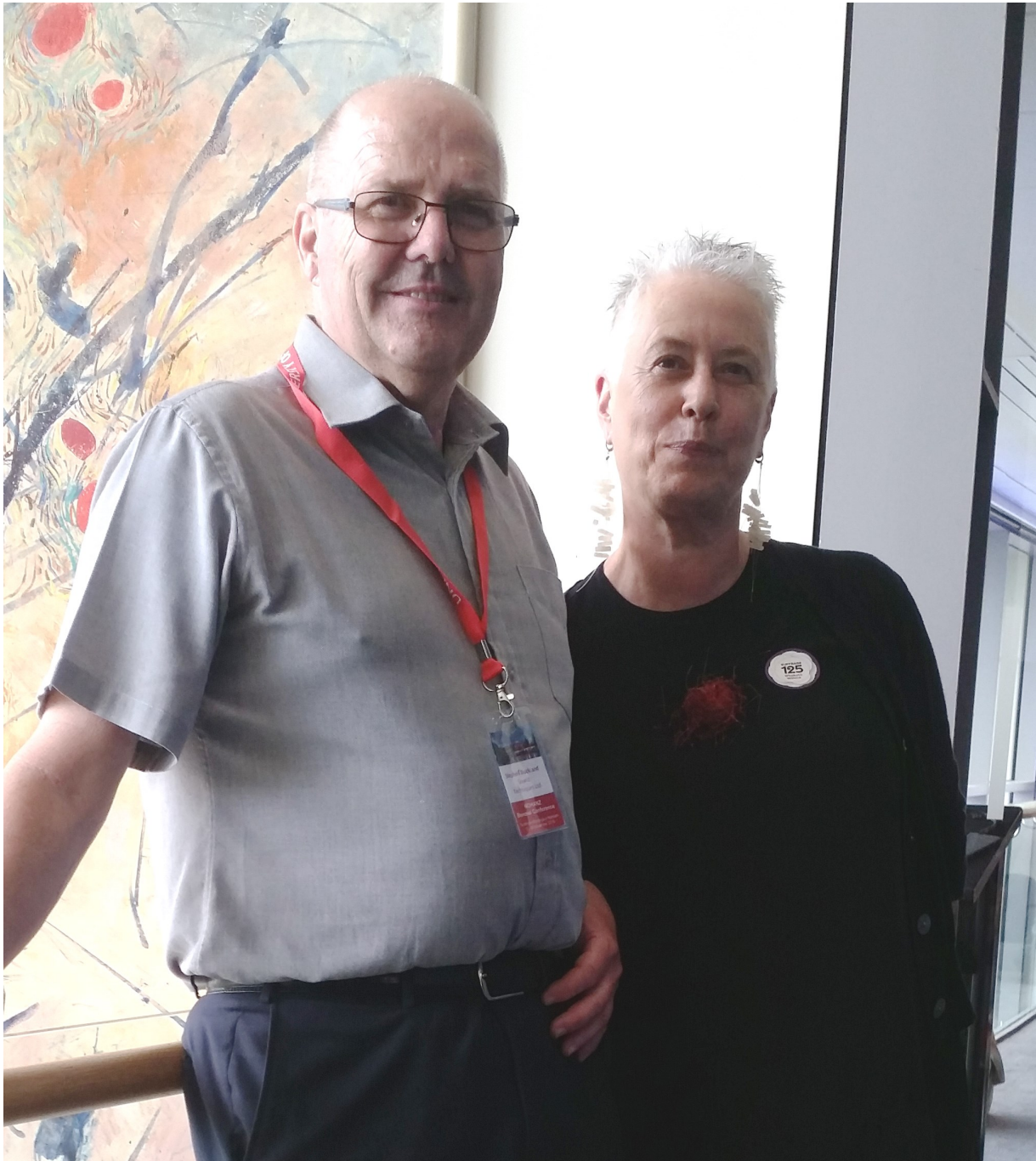
his outspoken views and leadership on issues such as poverty, racism, social justice and peace, and his wife's hymns encompassed all these themes.

Although the author first met and interviewed Shirley Murray in the late 1980s, the biography has been written since the funeral of Shirley Murray, in 2020, when Colin Gibson, who composed tunes to go with many of her hymns, laid down the wero for a biography.

*Peace is Her Song: The life and legacy of hymn writer Shirley Erena Murray* can be purchased at [www.philipgarsidebooks.com](http://www.philipgarsidebooks.com) and selected independent bookshops. RRP \$50.



**Sad news:** Stephen Buckland, our wonderful and valued friend, died on Wednesday, 11 September after a long illness. We are saddened to hear that we have lost this dedicated and trusted supporter of us and our work. Stephen's loyal attendance at conferences (and at the end of a phone line) was marked by a book of tributes assembled by Anna Green, following the Wellington conference, and we were pleased to have had the opportunity to acknowledge his service to oral history in Aotearoa New Zealand.



Stephen Buckland (seen here with Helen Frizzell)

## Reminder



**15-17 November 2024**

**Parnell Hotel and Conference Centre**

**Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland**

– see NOHANZ website for details: [Oralhistory.org.nz](http://Oralhistory.org.nz)