

Mark your calendars for

Connections

An Oral History Hui

Saturday, 27 November 2021
Tūranga Central Library, Ōtautahi
Christchurch

The South Island branch of NOHANZ would like you to join us for a hui where we will talk all things oral history for a day.

For those who are yet to do their first interview and those who have done hundreds.

Registration dates and programme to follow.
Please contact **Natalie** at natalie@looyer.net for more information.

NOHANZ **NEWSLETTER**

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NOHANZ Newsletter
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NOHANZ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President Ruth Low
Immediate Past President Dr Nepia Mahuika
Secretary Susie Milne
Treasurer Dr Cheryl Ware
Committee:
Prof Anna Green
Ann Packer
Elisapeci Samanunu Waqanivala
Lynette Shum
Liz Ward

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Ann Packer
We welcome contributions to the NOHANZ newsletter, published three times per annum. The next deadline is 1 July 2021

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

NOHANZ welcomes the following new members:

Pia Kahn, Candida Keithley, Michael Smith (rejoined), Sarah Ryder, Nergis Narayan, Margaret Pack, Mark Stevenson, Stacey Nicholas, Bev Wells, Catherine Groenestein, Karen Beker

The Newsletter editorial staff sincerely apologises for the late production of your newsletter. We are looking for new people to take on the tasks of editing and layout. If you can help, please contact the committee: nohanzexec@gmail.com.

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

nohanzexec@gmail.com

This and back issues in full colour are available on our website
www.oralhistory.org.nz

NOHANZ

Newsletter Volume 35 number 1 June 2021

Contents

From the President	3
Introducing Elisapeci Samanunu	4
News—Ministry for Culture and Heritage	5
Auckland Libraries	6
Alexander Turnbull Library	7
South Island hui	7
Events	8

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: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/nohanz/>

Website: www.oralhistory.org.nz



From the President

Tēnā koutou katoa

I wonder if like me, you are trying to grasp the fact that it is over a year since lockdown. Where has that time gone? Those weeks confined to our homes, the uncertainty, with fear of the invisible threat our constant shadow. All of us will have had a unique experience of that time. Some will have faced working from home for the first time, juggling everyday family life with the demands of your jobs. Others may have found yourselves at home on your own without the normal social interactions that enrich your lives. Some of you took to teaching online for the first time and others would have had to study online. Still others grappled with learning new technology and how to interview while social distancing. What memories we have of that time – the 1pm briefings, the teddy bears in the windows, the daily sanity walks, zoom meetings... all parts of the kaleidoscope of this time.

Some of you immediately sprang into action creating oral history projects to capture fresh memories of those days. I would encourage you to take the time to listen to *Kei Roto i te Miru: Inside the Bubble* podcasts created by a team headed by Dr Emma Jean Kelly of Manatū Taonga, the Ministry for Culture and Heritage and Sue Berman from Auckland Libraries. Beautifully produced, these podcasts are a poignant window into the

Image: Mark Low

lives of a cross section of our community during that time. At a recent South Island oral history hui, Dr Louise Tapper shared clips from a project she and Rachel du Plessis have started, collecting young women's experiences of lockdown in Christchurch. The echoes of fear and uncertainty were ever present in their voices. These interviews also covered the mosque shootings and earthquakes and were a stark reminder of the tumultuous times that so many have faced over these past few years.

The NOHANZ Executive were quickly up and running this year with a productive planning day held at the Stout Research Centre in Wellington in January. We continue the challenge that was encouraged under Nēpia's leadership: to increase the profile of NOHANZ; to continue to grow our Association; and to further support our diverse oral history community. To that end I would encourage you to contact the Executive if you have suggestions, concerns or questions regarding the Association or oral history in general. Work also continues on updating our Code of Ethical and Technical Practice, which has not been updated since 2001. Nēpia is co-ordinating a new edition of Māori and Oral History, and the Founders' project is moving forward with Megan Hutchings and Helen Frizzell commissioned to complete interviews with Judith Fyfe and Hugo Mason.

As I settle into this new role I have become aware, afresh, that the Association relies on the goodwill of many deeply committed individuals. I particularly want to acknowledge the hours of work Pip Oldham and Megan Hutchings commit to ensuring our Journal is so ably produced each year; Belinda de Mayo who for many years packaged and mailed out our Journals; and to Ann Packer and Lynette Shum who have dedicated so much time to ensuring we stay well informed in our oral history community through the newsletter. Thank you so much for all you do for NOHANZ.

Ngā manaakitanga,

Ruth



Introducing Elisapeci Samanunu

Bula vinaka | Kia ora tatou

It is an honour to serve as a new Executive Member for NOHANZ. Venturing into the world of Oral History professionally is exciting for me. I have interviewed and recorded some interesting stories and accounts of people's journeys. Seeing the start to finish of that gives a sense of accomplishment. First up, I loved the actual recording of dialogue with those being interviewed, and digging deeper into what matters to them. The abstracting aspect is something I am still trying to master!

I was curious as an Indigenous Fijian woman equipped with inherent skills and know-how, plus Indigenous knowledge, to stumble into the world of Oral History – I found the defining words did not quite fit with what I grew up hearing about Oral History. The training taught me the

technical skills; it also gave me prescribed standards of ethics and procedural aspects of researching and conducting Oral History interviews through a Western lens. This was the first hurdle. But I needed a hybrid model... Besides doing my Oral History interviews, I tried to understand at which point the term altered its meaning for Indigenous Peoples from Oral History to Oral Tradition.

In my quest for answers, I signed up to attend few workshops and conferences. I was given the green light to present a paper at the NOHANZ Biennial Conference at Waikato University and also at the Australian Oral History Biennial Conference in Queensland. These experiences, coupled with my Oral History Project interviews within the Indigenous Fijian Community in Aotearoa, and a scholarly project on successful PhD & Masters candidates at Victoria University of Wellington, taught me intricate details of what Oral History Research meant. There were still gaps in my search for answers. I hope one day my curiosity to figure out the distinctions between Oral History versus Oral Tradition in its truest sense will emerge.



News

Kia ora koutou,

By the time of reading, Sue Berman from Auckland Libraries and I will have spoken (virtually) at a US based conference hosted by the Oral History in the Mid-Atlantic Region (OHMAR) group on [Oral History in Times of Crisis conference](#) on 1 May (2 May NZT). We'll have talked about "Kei Roto I Te Miru: Inside the Bubble".

A week beforehand on 25 March (level four lockdown anniversary), the first episode of "Kei Roto I Te Miru" was launched on Bryan Crump's "Nights" on RNZ; each episode followed for four weeks. Many of you will have heard our first try at podcasting on this topic - the excellent 'Jack's Story' <https://mch.govt.nz/kei-roto-i-te-miru-inside-bubble> with Will Hansen and his 'Queerintine' flatmate which was released for Pride in Schools last October.

Community based oral historians collected the recordings during lockdown from which the podcasts have been made – Debbie Dunsford, Jacqui Keelan, Caren Wilton, Will Hansen, Tuaratini, Pia Kahn, Lynda Chanwai-Earle, Cheryl Ware and Alex Mason. Each was paid a small fee per interview and supplied with koha for their interviewees.

Tuaratini and our Executive Producer for the podcasts Teresa Cowie will be speaking at the National Library, Wellington, on 7th April lunchtime, about the process of gathering oral histories during lockdown and the process to make them into what is essentially a documentary series for radio. There has been a huge amount of learning for us in this process, and if you attended Pip Oldham's excellent session at the NOHANZ conference you'll know it's complicated work. There's definitely some further workshops we could hold here in Aotearoa about the ethics of oral history work created for publication, and the emotional labour for interviewers and interviewees which often goes unacknowledged in the process.

Ngā mihi nui kia koutou! Thanks Anaru Dalziel, Audio Visual Guru for supporting, cheerleading, advising, recording and editing work on the project and our workplace Te Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Vision, in particular Chief Historian Neill Historian, and project coordinator Georgie Keyse.

Dr Emma Jean Kelly, *He Pou Hītori Ataata-Rongo – Audio Visual Historian from Manatū Taonga, Ministry for Culture and Heritage*

Auckland Libraries Mānawatia a Matariki!

This last quarter has seen a lot of change and some shifting! We are settling into a new operational structure with a big change for Auckland Libraries and our Arts, Community Development and Facilities teams at Auckland Council. We have come together as Connected Communities. My role sits in a unit called Heritage, Arts and Culture and it includes heritage collections, records and archives, preservation, digital assets as well as engagement outreach and programming . – digital as well as within a range of gallery/community spaces.

So that's the change – the reference to a shift is more physical! At the beginning of this year it became apparent that the roof remediation work would effect our ability to provide service from our reading room and to some of our collections housed at the Central Library. Some of the physical items have had to be moved from our usual storage in order to ensure their preservation and safety from potential leaks. We have been fortunate that the oral history collection is almost entirely digitised or born digital and the impact for access has been less for this collection than others. It has nevertheless been a somewhat consuming task for the team.

Unfortunately this happened just as we were preparing to open a new exhibition at the Central City Library: *Nga poi-to-o-te kupenga o Taramainuku - Islands of the Hauraki Gulf*. We hope we will get another opportunity when the space re-opens early next year. Meanwhile the exhibition overview and our curated content is available on the podcast platform. Tracks have been created from older oral histories from the collection. Check these out here <https://soundcloud.com/auckland-libraries/sets/hauraki-gulf-islands>

Recently the South Research team supported the Papakura Library and community on a small project that celebrated the local school Jubilee. From this project they selected a couple of tracks to share from interviews

<https://soundcloud.com/auckland-libraries/sets/voices-of-rosehill-college-an>

You will find all kinds of interesting podcasts on our platform from Books and Beyond, Heritage Concerts and Kura Tuturu – Real Gold interviews about special items in our Heritage Collections.

<https://soundcloud.com/auckland-libraries>

It was great to have a couple of people who were awarded Oral History Awards this year come and join myself and a number of staff members to do some training earlier in January. They are away with their projects now as new interviewees and seem to be going well. Auckland Libraries is involved with a number of projects that have oral history recording at the core, including a local history project in Oranga – a neighbourhood in the suburb of Onehunga – a project in the Avondale and Blockhouse Bay area, and some work on the story of Powertool Records as they celebrate their 20th Anniversary.

Of course we continue to digitise material as analogue collections are donated and support people to find access to research content though Kura Heritage Collections Online.

We welcome visits or send any enquires on all matters Oral History.

Stay warm and stay well

[Sue Berman](#)



Alexander Turnbull Library

Lately, my world has been a whirr of workshops, both commissioned and public. It seems as if Libraries around the motu have been making good use of the National Library Public Partnerships money, contributing to an unprecedented demand for oral history training. Or maybe, the word is finally getting around. So many wonderful people are doing amazing things in Aotearoa, and it is a privilege to help them where I can. Coming up are workshops in Auckland, Tauranga and Wellington. If you would like to commission a workshop for your group, or if you are an individual looking for training, feel free to contact me

[Lynette Shum](#), *Oral History Advisor/Tumu Korero a Waha Alexander Turnbull Library*



Selfie time—Lynette in Martinborough with co-tutor and co-founder of the New Zealand Oral History Archive and NOHANZ, Hugo Manson, and course co-ordinator Caren Wilton.

South Island hui, Tūranga, Christchurch City Library, Sunday 14 March 2021

A few South Island NOHANZ members took the opportunity to meet up at Tūranga recently for a catchup and to share experiences. This capitalised on the presence of Helen Frizzell and Lynette Shum who conducted a workshop at Tūranga the previous day. Eleven enthusiastic people met for a few hours in the morning then enjoyed a lunch at the library café (self-funded of course).

People chatted about their experiences around conducting private commissions and the importance of scoping a project well and having agreements in writing. It was interesting to share that working with families can involve a lot of time and sometimes the family wishes around content may not match what the interviewee wishes to discuss.

It was helpful to discuss repository resources, long term protection and safety of material plus the importance of organising your material well when submitting to a repository.

People shared their experiences around digitising older works, audio visual projects, scheduling backing up work, corrupted files, permission levels, safety and security. An interesting discussion ensued around how audiovisual projects differ from straight audio work. This led on to some useful tips around how to reassure and anchor the interviewee while also keeping the prospective audience engaged and interested. A particularly helpful tip was around focusing some brief coverage and discussion on an “object”, with the intention of providing the interviewee with a short break from being the focus of the filming while also adding extra interest for the audience. And as with all interviews, cultural perspectives are to be embraced.

People shared some of the projects they were working on and we were fortunate that interviewees in one particular project gave permission for their recordings to be shared, treating us to some fascinating recordings.

A useful link mentioned was the Australian Oral History website which has a three page document reference around a guide to commissioning projects. This document is on the NOHANZ website as a link. NOHANZ may also look towards creating a checklist around safely keeping material at home (in preparation for submitting to a repository).

There was discussion around thoughts of having a South Island seminar, which would be open to all NOHANZ members plus people external to NOHANZ. Ideas were shared around possible workshop ideas, with the focus being around encouragement and supporting each other and perhaps sharing work.

Oral History work can at times be rather isolating and this was a great opportunity to spend time together in a very relaxed and interesting setting. This was a friendly catchup where people were able to relax, share stories and experiences and enjoy each others company.

Susie Milne
NOHANZ exec member

Events

Oral History Australia Conference

Launceston, Tasmania 14-16 October 2021—
Registration now open

Oral History in Troubling Times: Opportunities & Challenges

<https://oralhistoryaustralia.org.au/biennial-conference-2021>

International Oral History Association Virtual Conference

23-27 August 2021

<https://www.ioha2021.gov.sig>

The National Archives of Singapore, an institution of the National Library Board, will host the XXI International Oral History Association (IOHA) Conference in 2021.

The theme of the conference is **Harmony & Disharmony: Bringing Together Many Voices**.

OHA (US)

“Moving Stories”

2021 OHA Annual Meeting

Virtual Meeting

October 2021 (Dates TBD)

<https://www.oralhistory.org/annual-meeting/>

CONNECTIONS

NOHANZ all-day hui

27 November 2021

Tūranga Central Library

Ōtautahi/Christchurch

Natalie@looyer.net

