



Elsie Kai Fong, front row, 3rd from right, watching soccer at Blandford Park at the annual New Zealand Chinese Sports Tournament, 1949 Photo courtesy of Elsie Wong (nee Kai Fong).

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NOHANZ • P.O. BOX 3819 • WELLINGTON 6140
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NOHANZ Newsletter
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NOHANZ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President Ann Packer

Secretary Sue Monk

Hon Treasurer Denis Packer

Committee:

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

Back issues are available on our website

www.oralhistory.org.nz



Newsletter Volume 30 number 1 April 2016

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TELL ME MORE

SHARING OUR STORIES

NOHANZ biennial conference

22-23 October

Christchurch

Keep an eye on our website for further announcements

[Call for papers](#)

From the President

Conference 2016: “Tell Me More” seems a lot closer now we have visited the venue, Christchurch’s Airport Commodore hotel. Lynette Shum, Limbo Thompson and I had a good look round the complex, enjoyed lunch in the restaurant (at our own expense, of course) and checked out the accommodation on offer. There’s a pleasant outdoor space in the centre of the hotel for breaks and pre-BGM drinks, and the rooms we will use for conference sessions and the Friday workshops are well set up. For those booking in, the pool looks most tempting, there’s a rack of mountain bikes to borrow and free bus passes to the CBD. The Commodore also runs a free shuttle to the airport for those arriving by air.

Proposals for papers closed as we went to press (contact us if you missed that deadline and are still interested). Earlybird booking dates will be announced shortly. Check the website for more information.

Lynette and I also enjoyed attending a meeting of Christchurch members held in Elizabeth Abbott’s home. See NOHANZ member Chris Macann’s report below.

One of the pleasures of oral history practice is meeting or catching up with colleagues, both formally at conferences and informally. Several of our members met Meena Menon, vice-president of the Oral History Association of India (who are running this year’s IOHA conference), when she visited Auckland.

Wellington NOHANZ member and Victoria University academic Janet Toland, who presented at Conference 2014, last year took research leave at the Charles Babbage Centre for the History of Computing in Minneapolis, USA, where they have an extensive and very well used collection of oral histories. She tells us about her time there, accessing their 300+ collection of recordings.

Auckland NOHANZ Exec committee member Sue Gee describes the experience of creating an exhibition from her oral history project with six NZBC – New Zealand-born Chinese. We hope to hear from her at conference this year. The Auckland regional meeting took place against a backdrop of that exhibition.

2015 Journal: Due in part to late renewals, we ran out of 2015 Journals. We have had some reprinted and if you know of anyone who believes they should have had one, please get in touch through nohanzexec@gmail.com. Invoices for the next financial year’s subscriptions, at the slightly higher rate of \$50 (unwaged \$35), will be sent out in April/May. Renew promptly to take advantage of the Earlybird Fee for Conference 2016 in Christchurch at Labour Weekend.

Ann Packer

A Visit to the Charles Babbage Institute: University of Minnesota

In 2015 NOHANZ member Dr Janet Toland from Victoria University of Wellington received an Association of Computing Machinery (ACM) History Fellowship and spent five months at the Charles Babbage Institute (CBI), dedicated to preserving the history of information technology. The Institute is located in the Elmer Andersen Library in Minneapolis which basically sits on top of a huge cavern dug into the local sandstone right next to the Mississippi river. Here records from the Charles Babbage Institute are stored alongside the Children's Literature Archive, The Immigration History Research Centre Archives, The Nathan and Theresa Berman Upper Midwest Jewish archives and the Tretter Collection of Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Studies, amongst others.

One of the cornerstones of the CBI collection is an extensive collection of oral histories with computer professionals that have been collected since the 1980s. The interviews are mostly available online see <http://www.cbi.umn.edu/>, apart from a few of the earlier ones for which permission was only obtained to store them in printed form. It was interesting to see just how easily accessible these oral histories are. You just have to go to the CBI website, search the index and click to bring up a full transcript. One of the aims of the Institute is to ensure that their oral histories get read and they keep a close eye how many downloads they receive. The most popular oral history is that of Edsger Dijkstra, the out-



Charles Babbage Institute Staff with Janet Toland (centre), from left: Katie Charlet, Jeff Yost, Janet Toland, Professor Tom Misa, Arvid Nelsen

spoken creator of structured computer programming. A clever idea used by CBI to increase the number of downloads is to make sure their oral histories are referenced in Wikipedia articles about famous computer scientists. Of course as they are a research institute they don't only want their oral histories to be downloaded, but also to be cited in scholarly works, and they do insist that anyone who uses them does make a proper reference to the interview.

The collection is very much alive and constantly being added to. After an interview is recorded it is fully transcribed and sent back to the interviewee for editing; it is this cleaned-up, edited version that is made publicly available. It is almost unheard of for someone to ask to listen to a recording of an interview. The interviewers are all highly qualified PhD level historians with training in oral history techniques and an in-depth knowledge of the subject matter.

The collection has been built up around a range of individual research projects; it is rare for the CBI to collect an oral history with someone just because they are well-known, though this does occasionally happen. Usually the researchers at the CBI will put up a proposal for a research grant related to a topic – such as computer security or women in computing – then they collect oral histories, related to that topic, which will form the source material for a scholarly book.

While I was there I was researching how the reacted [Association of Computing Machinery](#) to the social changes and political events that occurred during the 1960s and 70s. I used oral history interviews with the ACM presidents of that period and the founders of Computer Professionals for Social Responsibility, alongside letters, meeting minutes and memos from the archives. The ACM presidents all held very different views on how much the organisation should involve itself with the issues of the time, such as the use of computing technology in anti-ballistic missiles and the human rights of Soviet computer scientists. Some very heated debates took place.

I also became aware of other similar collections of oral histories such as those held by the [IEEE History Center](#) and [The Chemical Heritage Foundation](#). I realised that this is a specialist area of oral history that focuses on collecting research-quality interviews with elite groups, mainly for the purposes of academic study. One of the organisations I talked to – the IEEE History Center – did have a project where fellow engineers were interviewing each other but that was unusual. The exciting thing for me was to realise how many oral histories were available, and the potential that they have to contribute to research in the history of computing.

Janet Toland

FROM GUANGDONG TO AOTEAROA

NZ Chinese Voices
An Oral History Exhibition by Sue Gee



Image: KT Ho

From Guangdong to Aotearoa – An Oral History Exhibition

It was a huge pleasure to welcome nearly 80 people to the 4 February opening of my first oral history exhibition at the Waitakere Central Library in Henderson. Sound excerpts, "a little movie," and display boards of photos and written excerpts tell the stories of six NZBC – New Zealand-born Chinese. The interviewees are Watson Kitt, Elsie Wong, Suzanne Chan On, Gillian Young, Lily Lee and Connie Kum.

The interviews took place in Wellington and Auckland between 2012 and 2014. In March 2015 the recordings were ready to deposit at Alexander Turnbull Library and West Auckland Research Centre. A grant was received from Manatū Taonga, who administer the NZ Oral History Awards, and technical and file management support from WARC. The Chinese NZ Oral History Foundation Inc helped with recording equipment.

Smita Biswas and Liz Bradley at WARC suggested the exhibition in March last year, and we began work in October. Choosing sound excerpts was relatively easy as I had the transcripts to work from, a sense of emerging themes and no minute/second limitations.

Compiling the written excerpts was hell! There were word limitations. There was so much outstanding, interesting, fascinating content. Once I started transcribing some of the sound excerpts, I just couldn't stop. Each interviewee's story became more and more engrossing to me. Written words were accumulating. Just 24 hours before I had to deliver the final draft, desperate and frightened, I called friend and editor Stephen Stratford. Phew.

The photos came from the interviewees' collections. I bothered them, went to their homes, pored over their albums, drank their tea, borrowed and scanned the pictorial records of their lives. One reviewer has already described the exhibition as worth going to for the photos alone.

Now the hard work is behind me, I can say I really enjoyed the recording project and producing the exhibition. These are our stories. We think they are ordinary, because it's what we've always known but out there, the rest of the community say they are "riveting." So true.

I must acknowledge Esther Fung, who gave me the framework for the project. She helped me understand who we are, where we stand in this adopted country of Aotearoa NZ. I was able to write in the grant application: "There is a belief that runs strong in the NZ Cantonese community. It's the idea that through hard work, education and the willingness to take some risk, our children can have a life better than the one left behind in the Cantonese village." And, thanks to the wonderful interviewees, I was able to explore that idea in the recordings.

There is interest in seeing the exhibition travel, and interest in expanding the project to include more people. Maybe there's in a book in it – who knows? Do go along and check it out. Henderson's not that far away. The exhibition will run till 30 April, but go now – don't leave it till the last day.

Sue Gee

Written originally for the NZ Chinese Association newsletter

A WTV Freeview 28 item about From Guangdong 2 Aotearoa from 16 March, starts around 34'36'' at http://video.936.nz/watch_video.php?v=RHXXHNHYA758

Regional Meetings

Technology, Copyright and those Recording Agreements: A pleasant evening in Christchurch

The Christchurch branch of NOHANZ met on March 21 joined by National President Ann Packer and Alexander Turnbull Library (ATL) Outreach Oral History Adviser Lynette Shum, wearing both her NOHANZ and ATL hats.

There are many enthusiastic Canterbury NOHANZ members with a range of experience, including loyal supporters in Timaru and Oamaru, and there is usually a new face at each meeting.

Members at the gathering were involved in various projects, among them vocational histories, family histories and earthquake-related memories. As well there were members involved with continuing the oral traditions of local iwi, Te Rūnanga o Ngāi Tahu.

Those that had been on an oral history workshop encouraged newcomers to take part, chiefly because of the great depth of the technological advice. As a result the group expressed keen interest in organising an oral history workshop in Christchurch.

The meeting noted there was not often an opportunity to get access to high quality recording equipment in Christchurch or to get a chance to have a “play” before deciding to buy it. As a result there was support for a workshop on equipment, to be linked to this year’s conference in Christchurch.

The group asked about accessing the resources of the ATL in particular how to find what resources are already held.

Lynette explained the use of the database to find content at ATL. It was important to know what is already held on your subject, she said.

Lynette explained and updated the group on recording agreements. Some were familiar and some less so with the necessity of formal written agreements.

She noted that it is a good idea to get people to fill out their own recording agreements where possible because in the future it would be interesting to look back and see what people’s handwriting was like, as well as ensuring the spelling is correct. She reiterated that care had to be taken over the “minefield” of copyright, and noted the role of the commissioner of an oral history project is often an office holder in an organisation and not the person themselves.

The group planned to investigate ways of linking the Christchurch conference at Labour weekend with Christchurch Heritage week running at the same time.

President Ann said she was reassured by the level of enthusiasm and commitment in the group and invited all to take an interest in this year's conference.

Chris Macann

Christchurch NOHANZ member

Recording Agreements, Technical Glitches and Chinese tea: Tamaki Makaurau tries a new format

For the autumn meeting of Auckland Oral Historians on 12 March we opted for a different format, meeting at the J T Diamond Reading Room and Gallery in Waitakere Central Library. Our start time coincided with the library opening time, so early arrivers introduced themselves and enjoyed a chat outside in the sun beforehand.

The change to a longer workshop style, on a Saturday, attracted members from Waihi and Cambridge, which was very pleasing. Cups of Chinese tea were served, in keeping with the Cantonese theme of the current oral history exhibition – From Guandong to Aotearoa is showing until 30 April. Sue Gee gave a short account of her motivation for the project, and how, working with WARC, it evolved into an exhibition.

Sue Berman and Megan Hutching led a discussion on the Oral History Recording Agreement, answering diverse questions from the group. Working in the public and private oral history domains, they answered from two different perspectives. Their input was tremendously valued.

Our lunch break enabled plenty of sharing and networking opportunities, with a delicious Cantonese lunch from the nearby Fu Lin Kitchen.

Members had been invited to bring sound clips from their own recordings to play and receive feedback. After lunch we played four clips through a laptop with portable speakers. Supportive comments on content, questioning style, technical aspects and sound quality made this a very satisfying aspect of the day and one we plan to regularly offer.

As most of us work in isolation, a key motivation in organising regional meetings is to get to know our fellow oral historians, to share good times and bad, highs and lows. Carolyn's *Reveal All Technical Glitches* clip, accompanied by a transcript for clarity, made us empathise and laugh. She showcased things that can go wrong on the day ... and more things that can go wrong on the day...

One topic that came up in general discussion was whether to put in a proposal to speak at Conference in October. We encouraged each other to do so, concluding it's members' sharing that makes our conference so valuable. Fourteen were present for an interactive and enjoyable meeting.

We finished at 2pm after a busy four hours, leaving plenty of time for

other weekend activities. Feedback indicated that the venue and content appealed. The next Auckland Regional Meeting will be on **Saturday 9 July** – put it in your diary, plan to attend. We hope to go to another part of town, perhaps the North Shore or South Auckland. Ideas are welcome. Till next time, ka kite ano, and happy recording.

Sue Monk & Sue Gee



Back row: Sharon Smith, Sue Monk, Sue Berman, Mary Donald, Megan Hutching, Sue Gee, Susan Hill. Front Row left to right: Jon Monk, Anna Fomison, Joanna Boileau, Tiriwa Watene, Deborah Shepherd. Absent: Bruce Ralston. Photograph by Carolyn Skelton;

Bernard Jervis 5.11.37 – 25.11.15

A tribute from Penelope Dunkley

Bernard and I met at a 90s oral history conference where I learnt of his work in Bosnia and San Francisco. I then did two oral history interviews with him, one on his life and the other on his work in Bosnia. These are lodged in the Alexander Turnbull Library.

Bernard was born in Birmingham, England, to a factory worker and hairdresser. Leaving school at 17, he started work as a clerical cadet before military training in 1956. In 1964 he came to New Zealand to work as a clerk with Tasman Empire Airways Ltd (TEAL) in Australia and Fiji. Four years later he returned to England to train as a teacher. He then



returned to New Zealand to Auckland University, receiving a BA in Education and Politics.

With a long interest in justice he became a parole officer in Papakura in 1977, progressing through the ranks to Senior Probation Officer and acting District Probation Officer. He designed a mediation programme for face-to-face meetings between victims and offenders. Fluent in French, he interviewed Alain Mafart in Paremoremo following the Rainbow Warrior incident. He served on the Wellington Prison Board for 10 years and as District Probation Officer and helped the police co-found Wellington Victim Support. He retired at 60 after 40 years' work.

Bernard moved to Featherston and took a five-month world trip. In 1996 he was appointed a JP to Masterton Court.

From 1998-99 he was Director of the Institute of Victimology in Sarajevo, Bosnia. He was profoundly affected by the conflict and the subsequent plight of returning refugees facing religious and ethnic conflict, visiting the country five times.

For three months each year from 2000-2007 he served as Assistant Relieving Manager at San Francisco's Family Link, a guest house serving families from around the world visiting loved ones with a life threatening illness or traumatic injury.

From 2003 – 2007 he undertook doctoral study at Massey University, including fieldwork in Tuzla, Bosnia, based on the 25 May, 1995 massacre when 71 young people were killed in the city square. This was a case study of the Bosnian community's initiative for rebuilding peace and included interviewing 47 individuals over five months using an interpreter. He subsequently wrote a play *Kapija*, adapted for radio by Michael Wilson and supported by the Peace and Disarmament Education Trust. It is dedicated to the people of Tuzla.

Bernard served on the local Red Cross and was the New Zealand member of the International Humanitarian Law Committee. Latterly he was involved in setting up the Featherston Camp Memorial Trust to create a memorial sculpture. His hobbies included reading, travel, choral singing, gardening, family history and spiritualism.

Penelope Dunkley

Image: <https://alumnionline.massey.ac.nz/NetCommunity/SSLPage.aspx?pid=637>

2016 Oral History Awards close 15 April

Applications for this year's oral history awards close at midnight on **Friday 15 April**.

The New Zealand Oral History Awards (NZOH), administered by Manatū Taonga, the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, provide financial help for the recording of interviews relating to the history of New Zealand/Aotearoa and its close connections with the Pacific.

Projects submitted for consideration should contribute significantly to our understanding of New Zealand's past and its people.

A complete list of recipients since the inaugural awards in 1991 can be found on the Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage website mch.govt.nz

From the Alexander Turnbull Library

New workshops in Wellington and Auckland announced

The Essentials of Oral History Research

A two-day course, a month apart

Day One: Introduction to Oral History

Wellington: Saturday 30 April 2016 8.45am-4.30pm

Auckland: Saturday 14 May 2016 8.45am-4.30pm

Day Two: Recording Seriously

Wellington: Saturday 28 May 2016 8.45am-4.30pm

Auckland: Saturday 18 June 2016 8.45am-4.30pm

\$300 (\$220) for both days. Limit: 12

Abstracting Oral History

Wellington Saturday and Sunday 25 & 26 June 2016 8.45-1pm

\$180 (\$140) Limit: 8

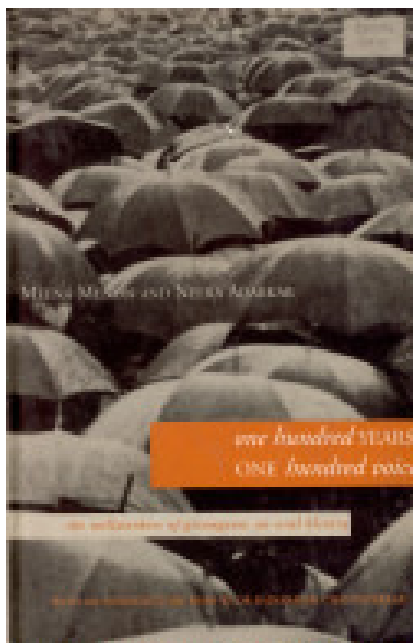
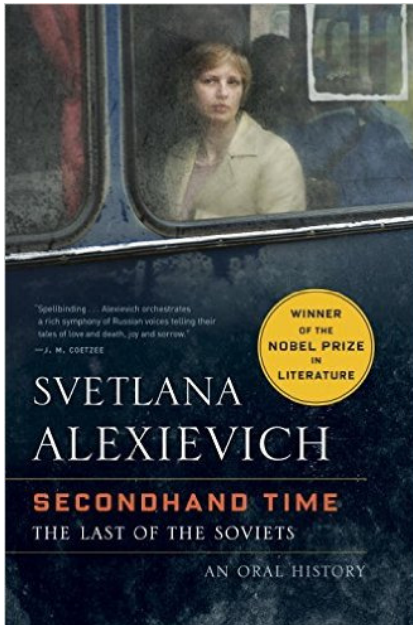
Please register your interest for an Abstracting workshop in Auckland

For more information and registration forms, please visit natlib.govt.nz

Tiaki Live

Our unpublished collections system Tiaki is now live, and for the first time, researchers who are offsite will be able to request material online to view in the reading rooms. Please [contact us](#) if you have any questions or need help using *Tiaki*.

Lynette Shum



Snippets

1 Australian Society of Archivists 2016 Annual Conference

“Forging links: people, systems, archives” 17–21 October 2016

The conference will be held in Parramatta, Sydney. The program will explore the themes of collaboration, sustainability, accountability and transformation, looking at how technology is changing the work of archivists and record-keepers and our relationships with users and content. See the [conference website](#)

2 International Oral History Association Conference in India

A reminder that the IOHA Conference will be held in Bangalore, India from 27 June to 1 July 2016. For more on conference themes, fees and contact details, see <http://www.iohanet.org/next-congress/>

3 Call for Papers: The New Zealand Journal of Public History

NZJPH is soliciting articles, short critiques and commentaries for NZJPH4: Ethics in Public History by 1 June. For further information (including a style guide), please contact the NZJPH editor [Dr Nadia Gush](#) directly.

4 Finders Café: a global social history project

Launched March 2015, Finders Cafe is a user-content driven, social history website that’s Australian designed and owned. FindersCafe.com

5 Nobel prizewinner’s OH-based chronicle out soon

2015 Nobel Prize for Literature winner Svetlana Alexievich’s *Secondhand Time: The Last of the Soviets*, an epic chronicle of the emotional history of the Soviet and post-Soviet individual told through a carefully constructed collage of interviews, is due out late May from [Text Publishing](#), NZ\$40.

6 OHA India vice-president visits

NOHANZ members in Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch were pleased to meet Meena Menon, vice-president of the Oral History Association of India (which is running [this year’s IOHA conference](#)), when she visited the country to catch up with family recently. Meena is an activist, researcher and historian working on labour, public policy in urbanism, and social movements. She co-authored *One Hundred Years, One Hundred Voices*, an oral history of the Textile mill precinct in Mumbai, now in reprint, which has won “some small acclaim”.. Her next book is on radical student movements of the 1970s in India.

7 New Great War Stories series

By oral historian, film producer/director and NOHANZ member Anna Cottrell, the third series of short stories about New Zealanders in World War I is moving, at times entertaining but never celebrating war. There is a skilful blend of international and New Zealand archive, photos interwoven with evocative music telling compelling stories of those caught up in the terrible events of 1914 - 1918. **TV3 18 - 24 April 2016**