

# NOHANZ

The National Oral History Association of New Zealand  
Te Kete Kōrero-a-Waha o Te Motu

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# NOHANZ

## Newsletter

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### NOHANZ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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### NOHANZ REGIONAL CONTACTS

We are building our network of regional contacts. Please feel free to contact the contact person for your area or another member of the Executive Committee

Auckland: [Megan Hutching](#)

Gisborne: [Susan Fowke](#)

Taranaki: [Claire Hall](#)

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

### Newsletter

We welcome news and views from around the country about what is happening, courses that are being offered, reports on projects in progress or completed, websites and resources.

Send your news to

[nohanzexec@gmail.com](mailto:nohanzexec@gmail.com)

Editor: [Ann Packer](#)

Cover doodle: Ruth Low

NOHANZ December 2014

## The Gift of Memory - conference reports

### *From the organizing committee*

The 2014 NOHANZ Conference held in Wellington in September provided more than 70 members and visitors with a stimulating weekend of oral history presentations, workshops, film, panel discussions, reports, conversations and renewed relationships. The workshops held at the National Library on Friday demonstrated that oral history members want to upskill and learn new techniques. NOHANZ encourages high standards of technical skill and members show they want to participate in these activities.

The two-day conference programme was full six months in advance. There was a great mixture of presentations using sound, mixed media and photographic displays. Presenters were mainly New Zealand members although a third of the presenters made the trip across the Tasman from Australia. The President of the Australian Association attended the conference, providing an opportunity for building stronger relationships with Australian colleagues. Presenters were free-lance oral historians, students, academics and community researchers.

The next conference in 2016 will celebrate 30 years of NOHANZ. We invite members to provide thoughts about how we might mark this anniversary. NOHANZ conferences provide opportunities for members to gather, share and learn. This year's conference achieved all that.

***Rachael Selby, conference committee  
convenor and former NOHANZ president***



Paul Diamond and Rachel Selby  
Image: Caren Wilton

### **Conference reports continued - from Paul Diamond**

It was an honour to be asked to give closing address at this year's NOHANZ Conference. Thinking back over the rich programme spread across three days, I had in mind the three propositions/themes of the conference:

Understanding memory  
Reciprocity: Giving and receiving  
Sharing memory

Judith Fyfe's address the night before the conference began was a good scene-setting session. The topic was silence, and I'd expected Judith to talk about gaps in interviews. There was also a salutary reminder about the difference between listening compared with hearing. More surprising was the reference to voices that were silenced, and our role as oral historians in doing something about that.

Earlier that day, a well-attended series of training sessions run at the National Library covered a plethora of different topics. The sessions were a credit to the organisers, and the various hand-outs/resource sheets would be good additions to the NOHANZ website. One of the sessions covered how to include audio clips in PowerPoint presentations, so it was good to see so many clips included in data shows at the conference, to good effect. Some presenters used video and still images.

Learning about a good model for a manual

provided for interviewers was one of many highlights of a presentation by Debbie Dunsford and Kate Prebble about a project interviewing nurses who trained during the 1950s and 1960s.

There was a wonderful range of presenters at the conference, reflecting the breadth of the oral history landscape in this country – freelance, students, people working on commissioned projects, in institutional settings, and in the community. This made me think of other presences over the weekend. As you'd expect, there were many **voices**, including wonderful examples of **idiom** that's an integral part of oral history recordings. Just a few of the examples I heard: 'My eyes were all to blazes'; 'that's a bit on the nose'; 'bugger this for a lark'; and 'that war did them both in.'

Oral history always involves journeying into other worlds. At this conference some of these were overseas (Australia and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia); urban (Glengarry, a small suburban community in Invercargill); rural (the 'man's world' where the rabbiters, noxious weeds inspectors and animal pest destruction officers interviewed by Shona McCahon for her NZ Biosecurity Institute project worked); and presenters also took us into occupational worlds: (nurses, soldiers, freezing workers, River Rats (commercial fishers) in Golden Bay; and computing pioneers). Te Ao Māramatanga, a project recording the stories of Māori mental health workers, took us into a different cultural world, and demonstrated a model for working with indigenous communities. [Ed: this presentation will be published in the 2014 NOHANZ Journal.] We also heard an Australian perspective in Katrina Hodgson's talk about the challenges of oral history and Native Title, in Victoria.

Alongside these wonderful presences, I was also conscious of a couple of absences. One was **Anna Green**, who was present in other forms, via Nepia Mahuika and others she has taught, and her work was often cited. Another absence was oral history interviews/projects focusing on **Christchurch**, but it was good to hear about the new report *Movers and shakers: Women's stories from the Christchurch earthquakes*. This is



the final report of a research study undertaken by the National Council of Women (Christchurch Branch) between 2011 and 2014 with women living in Christchurch through the earthquakes. The report is available as a [free download](#)

As usual at NOHANZ Conferences, there was a lot of discussion about oral history practice and methodology. Sara Donaghey and Nepia suggested different ways of working with interviewees and communities. Sara talked about reciprocity, offering an alternative dimension to sharing authority. In his keynote ('The Gift of Memory: Oral History as a Treasure and Responsibility'), Nepia challenged practitioners to go back to first principles and ask themselves, 'what is the purpose of oral history?'

There was a valuable session about the latest iteration of the Recording Agreement Form, and an opportunity to acknowledge the work of the group behind this. One thing I took from the discussion was our growing and sharpening awareness of the people or parties beyond the interviewee and interviewer sitting together completing an interview. Other professional practice points were critical reflection about whether you're too close to your interviewee; the skills needed when asking people about something that's not obvious to them (for example, the French Revolution, the closure of the Picton Freezing Works, and feminism during the 1970s).

As is traditional in a conference summary, it's important to acknowledge the speakers, especially those who'd travelled from out of Wellington. And a huge mihi to the conference committee: Rachael Selby, Shona McCahon, Lynette Shum, Ann Packer, and Michael Dudding (who also kept the technical side of the conference running smoothly).

Looking ahead, there were a few announcements over the weekend of things to keep an eye out for:

- The Ilott Fund (full name: [Jack Ilott Oral History Education Operating Fund](#), a source of support for oral historians and their work, needs replenishment.
- The next [Australian Oral History Association conference](#) will be in Perth, 9-12

September 2015. Theme: Fast Forward: Oral History in a Time of Change

- The next IOHA (International Oral History Association) conference will be in Bangalore in 2016.
- At the conference, the Alexander Turnbull Library announced that its oral history collections can be viewed online [more about this later –Ed]

So in conclusion, it was gratifying to hear that so many people had responded to Judith's call to action, to ensure voices aren't silenced. The final conference presentation, 'The Gift of Memory' by Marina Fontein was a poignant example. Marina told us about her work towards creating an archive for the Lebanese community in Wellington, fostering an historical presence for a group which has made a significant contribution to the city. To borrow a phrase from Bernard Jervis' presentation, this was an example of oral history being about 'Lives shared', and like so many of the presentations, fulfilled the conference aim to address oral history practice and theory as a 'gift of memory'. Finally, a thought/meditation from a very moving presentation by Jacqui Foley, about her film about an exhibition by fabric artist Sue McLean (The Art of Loss). In the film, Sue spoke candidly about her grief and loss, but also about the process of learning to view loss as a gift. At one stage



*Keynote speaker Nepia Mahuika*

in the video, Sue talked about 'silence as a colour', an intriguing counterpoint to Judith's silence presentation.

### **Conference reports continued from Ruth Low**

While still wrapped in the warmth of post-conference afterglow I thought I'd quickly take time to write my lasting impressions of the 2014 NOHANZ Conference. Where to start? I think the strongest impression I have been left with is the overriding sense of collegiality amongst conference attendees. Despite the diversity in levels of experience and backgrounds – whether academic, freelance or community based – the common goal to ensure the gathering of high quality oral histories was front and centre and people seemed willing to graciously and unselfishly share their experience and knowledge.

Another lasting impression was the creative ways in which oral histories are being taken out to the community. Sue Berman's, Dominion Road presentation and Rebecca Amundsen's Discovering Glengarry's Com-

munity Spirit presentation tied together beautifully. Their presentations offered encouragement to look beyond simply collecting oral histories to addressing ways in which the gathered histories can be made accessible to the general public, ultimately giving opportunity for the public to engage with the past.

The amount of academic engagement there is with oral history was another element to excite me. It seems such a far cry from my university days when oral history hardly rated a mention and the recording equipment offered for use would make your hair stand on end! Dr Nepia Mahuika's Keynote Address was definitely a highlight and I'm eager to see it in the Journal so I can have more time to digest all that he ably and humbly presented.

I come back to Timaru having connected in a meaningful way with so many wonderful people and have a greater sense of being part of a much larger oral history community. To the organising committee a huge thank you – you did an amazing job.



*Alison Parr, Linda Hepburn and Ruth Low. Image: Caren Wilton*

## BGM

One thing missing from the excellent Committee Report, collated by Jiff Stewart, outgoing secretary, and presented at the Biennial General Meeting, was any mention of the sterling work by Jiff herself. So special mention is due for her work reviewing Committee roles – which is proving to be a great working document for the new committee – as well as leading the website review group and holding things together in the absence of a President. Our heartfelt thanks, Jiff. And best wishes as you follow your own projects, now you have a little more time!

The minutes from the BGM will be posted on the website in due course.

**Ann Packer**

### **Meet the new committee: in their own words – since that's what we're about!**

**Ann Packer**

I work from home in Eastbourne, Wellington, juggling freelance writing, editing, reviewing and oral history commitments. I trained under Judith Fyfe while working in community arts in the 1990s and have recorded and abstracted intermittently ever since. I also review children's books for the NZ Listener, contribute to NZ House & Garden and am working on a biography of the late textile artist Malcolm Harrison. I spend as much time as possible walking and reading with my toddler granddaughter, who lives in the next bay, and head for Sydney when I can to catch up with our other three grandies.

**Sue Monk**

Stories and voices of those around me have worked their magic, so much so that I'm now working recording memories. Themes in my life are Auckland, the sea, nursing, family and history. I look forward to getting to know more of you around this stunning country while serving as Secretary.

**Rosemary Baird**

I received my doctorate in oral history from the University of Canterbury in early 2012 and since then have been part of several oral history projects about the Canterbury earthquakes: The NCW Women's Voices project and the Remembering Christchurch project with the Ministry for Culture and Heritage. I am also completing an oral history project on the construction of the Manapouri Hydro Scheme. I'm also interested in heritage and public history – I work three days a week for Heritage New Zealand's Christchurch Office as Outreach Coordinator. I love oral history, my family, reading novels, outdoor adventures, pottery, and my dog Toby. And I love living in Christchurch amongst the rebuild – it's heart-breaking at times but also exciting to be part of history in the making.

**Belinda De Mayo**

A secondary school art teacher for 27 years, I've been slow to recognise it's my interest in people rather than curriculum expertise that fuels me. Love of people's stories is the common thread running through my life. Interviewing 12 students, at a school of 52 cultures, remains the most powerful thing I feel I've done in education. What we gained from those students from Kosovo, Iraq, Hong Kong, Ukraine and South Africa was beyond mainstream class learning. Similarly, in 1999, it was the people and their stories in India that overtook my initial kilometre-clocking cycling plan – the women describing their effort to seek prohibition and the two weeks spent with Mary Roy, mother of author Arundhati Roy, and at the time one of contemporary India's most influential women, in her progressive residential high school, listening to her stories of fighting attitudes through education.

A Ministry of Culture and Heritage Oral History award last year to record stories of creative education in Northern Maori schools 1954-59 was my entrance to what I plan to be years of oral history recording ahead. I've a blended family now with a partner and houseful of 11 to 14 year old girls. Mountain biking is another pleasure; partly for the peace.

**Marina Fontein**

I am an independent social researcher from Wellington. My other role as a resettlement





*Left to right, Back row: Sue Monk (Secretary), Marina Fontein, Sue Gee, Lizzie Catherall, Belinda De Mayo. Front row: Ann Packer (President), Lynette Shum, Rosemary Baird*

consultant reflects my interest in the experience of immigration and relocation. My grandfather emigrated from Lebanon as a young child and became a respected member of the Wellington Lebanese community. Working on a thesis in 2009, I found very little information on the experience of Lebanese migrants in Wellington and became committed to creating an oral history archive. In 2012 and 2013 I received awards from the Ministry of Culture and Heritage enabling me to begin work on this project.

### **Sue Gee**

My grandfather, Chan Sheen Chong, came to Aotearoa NZ from Canton China in the 1890's. My mother was born in Opunake and my father in Manaia, South Taranaki where I grew up. I moved to Tamaki Makaurau, Auckland in 1971, attended Teachers' College a year but worked as a wedding and portrait photographer for 25 years. I dabbled in writing and have done many years' volunteer work. I consider myself a life-long learner and gentle champion

of social justice causes. In 2006 I hopped on a bike and cycled to Cape Reinga, a one month dalliance of fresh air, camping and personal change. In 2012 I completed Treaty of Waitangi facilitator training and co-facilitate Tangata Tiriti – Treaty People workshops. I'm a member of the Chinese NZ Oral History Foundation. Oral history recording has been a drawing together of my various skills and I am happy to serve on the committee.

### **Lynette Shum**

I'm thrilled to be back, having been on the committee off and on since about 2007. This last year has been the busiest, however, with – in no particular order – work on RAG (the Recording Agreement Group), the website review, the 2014 Conference (I organised the workshops), Newsletter layout, helping organise Wellington regional meetings, and making bookings and video/audio linkups so the exec committee meetings can happen.

I was lucky enough to be able to first learn oral history from Judith Fyfe and Hugo Man-

son in the early 1990s, when I was starting a project about Wellington's historic Chinatown. That grew into a Master's thesis. Ongoing contact with the Alexander Turnbull Library led to a job there, and I am now the Oral History Adviser, charged with advice, support, training and advocacy of oral history. I am lucky that through my work I get to know members and projects around New Zealand, and that my employer supports NOHANZ through both my time and salary and the fantastic resources here. Outside of work and oral history, my interests are family, Chinese New Zealand history and cycling.

### **Treasurer**

The more alert readers among us may have noticed that we have no Treasurer. Do you have the skills and the time, and are interested in this position? The job description is on our website, please apply to [NOHANZexec@gmail.com](mailto:NOHANZexec@gmail.com) with NOHANZ Treasurer in the subject line

### **Stop press**

We have just heard the sad news that the newly elected Lizzie Catherall has had to step down for personal reasons. We wish her all the best.

## **Other NOHANZ matters**

### **Subscriptions**

At the recent BGM it was agreed to increase NOHANZ membership subscription rates over the next 2 years. For our individual members, the rate for the 2015/16 financial year (due 1 April 2015) will be \$45 for waged members, and \$30 for unwaged members (including seniors and students).

The rate for the 2016/17 financial year (due 1 April 2016) will be \$50 for waged members, and \$35 for unwaged members (including seniors and students).

Societies who are members of NOHANZ, including community groups, libraries, museums and historical societies with 50 or fewer members, or small businesses with 5 or fewer employees can pay the same rate as individual waged members (\$45 in 2015, \$50 in 2016). They will continue to receive one

copy of each newsletter and journal.

The institutional rate will increase to \$75. This allows larger libraries, museums, government departments, etc (or any other member who wishes to receive the benefits of institutional membership) to receive 3 copies of each newsletter and send up to 3 people to NOHANZ events at members rates. They will continue to receive one copy of the journal.

For community groups and institutions, please let us know if you have any questions about which category you fall into. We are also interested in receiving feedback about the institutional member rate, which will be reviewed again at the next BGM.

Please send all questions and feedback via email to [nohanzexec@gmail.com](mailto:nohanzexec@gmail.com) with "NOHANZ SUB" as the subject line.

Note from the treasurer: Invoices and receipts are available on request (receipts are not issued automatically). If you require a receipt for a payment that you have made to NOHANZ, please email [nohanzexec@gmail.com](mailto:nohanzexec@gmail.com) with "RECEIPT" as the subject line.

NOHANZ welcomes the following new members since our last issue:

Susan Jacobs, Lyndon Fraser, Etta Gillan, Nepia Mahuika, Elizabeth Abbott, Ben Morris, Waitangi Tribunal, Georgina Rose

### **Website**

With the help of the fabulous Jeff Hunt, our website is constantly being updated. One recent change is a Noticeboard, including things like work available. To post something, please email [nohanzexec@gmail.com](mailto:nohanzexec@gmail.com) with NOHANZ noticeboard in subject line.

## **Regional**

### **Christchurch**

It has sometimes felt like oral historians in Canterbury can be a little disconnected from each other and from NOHANZ central in Wellington. But at the latest NOHANZ conference we realized there were quite a few of us doing oral history here in the South



Island. Aided and supported by the NOHANZ Executive, a group met together on Tuesday 4 November. It was fantastic to have Lynette and Taina present to encourage us. There were 12 present, and more made their apologies. What was meant to be a quick introductory whizz around the circle turned into two-and-a-half hours of discussion, ended only by the call of bed! I was so excited by the huge amount of passion and laughter in the room. Everyone had their own interests and projects and there's a lot we can learn from each other. We plan to meet again in February and hope this will become a regular event several times a year. Any oral historians in the region are most welcome to join. Please contact regional coordinator Rosemary Baird at [rosemaryb\\_84@hotmail.com](mailto:rosemaryb_84@hotmail.com) for more information.

### **Rosemary Baird**

#### **Auckland**

At least twenty-five people gathered at Auckland City Library in October to hear Claire Hall talk about *No Front Line*, her newly published work on the Inside Stories of New Zealand's Vietnam War.

In 2006 the history group for the Ministry of Culture and Heritage began the project. A team of professional oral historians completed the 150 interviews. Claire Hall was involved throughout the project and took over from Paul Diamond as the project manager in 2009.

Inspired by an army padre's determination to be where God's people were, the historians resolved to go to RSAs, reunions and wherever veterans would be likely to gather. They hosted exhibitions in New Zealand and Australia, to meet yet more veterans.

Through the use of oral history, Claire and her team have given voice to the men and women who experienced the Vietnam War, and to their families' realities at home. Many are poignant stories – of young families, and wives feeling left to their own resources with little support while the men were away. Life changed for these women and their families, as it did for many of the returning soldiers. Returning home was tough. Claire told us about the depth of emotion as a veteran described a pub brawl in Parnell between university student protesters and soldiers who had recently returned.

The book contains many extracts from the oral histories, and Claire punctuated her talk with audio clips. Some of these recordings were recollections being told for the first time. There are gripping and heart-wrenching, human and funny stories. Photographs in the book span a wide range of topics too: on duty, off-duty, them and us, then and now.

As leader of the project Claire described the challenge of gaining the veterans' trust, and their relief and gratitude once the book was published and recording completed. Several said they felt their story had now been told. In her talk Claire modestly described this significant work of New Zealand social and wartime history, while showing great respect to the men and women and their stories.

### **Sue Monk**

#### **What's happening in your region?**

NOHANZ encourages people in each region to run regional gatherings and mutual support groups. Apart from Wellington, Auckland and Christchurch, Nelson is in the process of starting up. If you are interested in joining one of these, please contact the regional representative for your region listed on page 1 of this newsletter, or contact NOHANZ: [nohanzexec@gmail.com](mailto:nohanzexec@gmail.com)

## **Recording Agreements**

**Oral History Recording Agreement** (revised), **Explanatory Notes for Interviewers** (revised), **Selecting a Repository, Frequently Asked Questions** (new) and **Managing Copyright in Oral History** (new)

The Recording Agreement Group (RAG) is pleased to report that the current review of the *Recording Agreement* and *Explanatory Notes for Interviewers* has been completed, along with the creation of several supporting documents.

The review, which started mid 2012, has been a huge task. Along the way RAG has received feedback from the oral history community and assistance from experts, all of which has been invaluable. To all of you who have helped us with this work - thank you!

On 11 September 2014 the documents were approved by the NOHANZ Executive for use by the wider membership and are now available on the [NOHANZ website](#). There is one exception - *Managing Copyright in Oral History*, Version 1, distributed at the NOHANZ 2014 Conference, is under further review. Following the Conference RAG became aware that the document contains some inaccuracies. Therefore RAG does not recommend information contained in the document is relied on nor the document distributed to other parties. Finalisation of this document may be some time away.

NOHANZ may in future review and update the documents. If you would like to comment on the documents and/or contribute to any future review, please contact [nohanzex-ec@gmail.com](mailto:nohanzex-ec@gmail.com), putting 'Recording Agreement' in the subject line.

Thank you.

**Nohanz Recording Agreement Group**  
(Helen Frizzell, Pip Oldham, Linda Evans, Lynette Shum)

## Turnbull news

### Alexander Turnbull Library Oral History records searchable on the Web

Many of you have created and donated oral history collections to the Alexander Turnbull Library over the last several years, and the records about those collections have traditionally only been available on-site in the Molesworth building. The Library is pleased to let you know that the Oral History database is now available online. We have been working on this for some time and know that you have been looking forward to this enhancement.

This has been a soft launch, with no promotion as yet. We are letting NOHANZ members know as key stakeholders, so you can help us identify any potential issues with this new capability. We are undertaking extensive testing and would appreciate your suggestions for improvements. The database is not yet included in the National Library combined search, and it is not yet exposed to Internet search engines

such as Google, so please use this link to access the Oral History catalogue <http://tapuhi.natlib.govt.nz> and then please click on the oral history collection

We are conscious that that not all collections have been fully processed and we are continuing to add records as quickly as resources allow. Please do let us know if there is something you would particularly like to see made available.

Again, we would also like to take this opportunity to thank interviewers and interviewees for their contributions. The Oral History collection is a fantastically rich resource for researchers and will continue to add value for future researchers.

We will be launching the online catalogue with more fanfare when testing is completed.

If you have any feedback, please contact Rachel Esson, Associate Chief Librarian, Research Collections  
[Rachel.Esson@dia.govt.nz](mailto:Rachel.Esson@dia.govt.nz)

### Oral history publications at the Alexander Turnbull Library

A small area containing oral history reference publications is now located at the beginning of Book shelf number 13, in the General Reading Room of the Alexander Turnbull Library in Wellington. This enables immediate access to a variety of oral history publications for oral historians and researchers visiting the Library.

Some of the same publications are duplicated in the National Library Wellington General Lending Collection which means they can be interloaned via your local library if you live outside Wellington.

Other publications relevant to oral history are also held in the National Library Wellington General Lending Collection and can be interloaned. Some examples are:

*Voices from the grave : two men's war in Ireland* / Ed Moloney. 2010. This publication is drawn from the Boston College Oral History Archive interviews with Irish Republican Army and Ulster Volunteer Force veterans, known internationally as the "Boston Tapes".

*Remembering mass violence : oral history, new media, and performance* / edited by

Steven High, Edward Little, Thi Ry Du. 2014.  
*An intimate war : an oral history of the Helmand conflict, 1978-2012* / Mike Martin. 2014

*Everybody loves our town:: an oral history of Grunge* / Mark Yarm. ca.2011

The National Library-published collection can be searched on-line at <http://nlncat.natlib.govt.nz> or through the National Library website.

The Library also subscribes to *Oral History*, the British publication and *The Oral History Review*, the American publication. These serials cannot be interloaned. They need to be ordered through the National Library catalogue and read in the Katherine Mansfield Reading Room at the Turnbull Library in Wellington.

The index page of these publications is available for viewing at Book shelf number 13 in the General reading Room.

### **Recently acquired reference publications**

*Listening on the Edge; Oral History in the aftermath of Crisis* / ed. Mike Cave 2014

*Anzac memories : living with the legend* / Alistair Thomson. New ed. 2013

*Oral history in the visual arts* / edited by Linda Sandino and Matthew Partington. 2013

*Oral history off the record: toward an ethnography of practice* / edited by Anna Sheftel and Stacey Zembrzycki ; foreword by Steven High ; afterword by Alessandro Portelli. 2013

*The Routledge Guide to Interviewing oral history, social enquiry and investigation* / Sean McConville and Anna Bryson 2013

*Bodies of evidence: the practice of queer oral history* / edited by Nan Alamilla Boyd and Horacio N. Roque Ramírez. c2012

*The Oxford handbook of oral history* / edited by Donald A. Ritchie 2012

*Oral History and Photography* / edited by Alexander Freund and Alistair Thomson. 2011

*Place, writing, and voice in oral history* / edited by Shelley Trower. 2011

*Oral History for the Qualitative Researcher Choreographing the Story* / Valerie J. Janesick c2010

*Oral history theory* / Lynn Abrams. 2010

*Using Oral History in Community History Projects* / Oral History Association / Laurie Mercier 2010

*A Guide to oral history and the law* / John A Neuenschwander. 2009 [American law]

*Oral history and public memories* / edited by Paula Hamilton and Linda Shopes 2008

*Thinking about oral history: theories and applications* / edited by Thomas L. Charlton, Lois E. Myers, and Rebecca Sharples; with the assistance of Leslie Roy Ballard. c2008

*Recording oral history: a guide for the humanities and social sciences* / Valerie Raleigh Yow. c2006

*The oral history reader* / edited by Robert Perks and Alistair Thomson. 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 2006

*Gender & memory* / edited by Selma Leydesdorff, Luisa Passerini & Paul Thompson ; with a new introduction by Selma Leydesdorff 2005

*Memory and history: essays on recalling and interpreting experience* / [essays by] Paul Thompson ... [et al.] ; edited by Jaclyn Jeffrey and Glenace Edwall. c1994

**Gillian Headifen**  
**Alexander Turnbull Library**

### **The Jack Ilott Oral History in Education fund**

If you have benefitted from this fund in the past, perhaps you could consider contributing towards the capital so others can too. For more information, please contact the Chief Librarian, [alexander.turnbull-library@dia.govt.nz](mailto:alexander.turnbull-library@dia.govt.nz)

### **Wanted** – Abstractors

Are you competent in both English and Maori languages?  
Are you confident working with Microsoft Word?  
Are you interested in Oral Histories?  
For more information contact  
[taina.mcgregor@dia.govt.nz](mailto:taina.mcgregor@dia.govt.nz)



## Auckland Libraries

### Events of Interest

Exhibition of Unitec Student's interpretative work *Remembering 1914-1918* that includes oral history:

<http://www.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/EN/Events/Events/pages/morethanawar.aspx>

Web exhibition launched on November 12<sup>th</sup>

A community led project that includes oral history/ digital story telling within the Glen Eden Community can be viewed:

<http://www.aucklandcity.govt.nz/dbtw-wpd/virt-exhib/glen-eden-stories/index.html>

**Sue Berman**

**Team Lead - Readers Services**

Ngā Whare Mātauranga o Tāmaki Makaurau  
Auckland Libraries

## For the record

*Another in a series of occasional columns of a mixture of opinions and advice on various aspects of oral history. As Oral History Adviser for the Alexander Turnbull Library, it's part of my job to support new and established oral historians out there in the field. So I'll address questions that often come my way that I think will be of more general interest. If you have anything you'd like me to consider, please ask. Oral history-related questions, that is, I'm no agony aunt! Of course, anything that follows is purely my own opinion and not necessarily that of NOHANZ or the Alexander Turnbull Library.*

One of the joys of my job – new toys. I'm always interested in what new gear is on the market, and lucky enough that one of the Alexander Turnbull Library's suppliers lets us know when something comes out and lets us play. I sit down with the Sound and Video Technician and put the devices through a series of tests.

Earlier this year we were excited to receive

a couple of mics, the Fostex AR-4i and the TASCAM iM2, that both clip into an iPhone. I tried these with two different downloaded recording apps – Rode (free version) and Tascam – to my iPhone 4, and was not impressed. So cute and portable, but just toys. They were both a bit better than the built-in mic, but we couldn't get clean recordings, and it was relatively hard to monitor and adjust each of the channels.

But in contrast to that experience, the [Zoom H5](#) was a wonderful machine to use. It comes with little mics built in to the top, though we don't recommend using those, but using instead lapel mics that can be inserted to the XLR jacks on the bottom of the device. Using the lapel mics allows full independent control and balance, particularly important when the quality of the two voices, interviewee and interviewer are dissimilar, and does not allow any atmospheric noise to dominate. The major advance on the previous model is that now the two channels are easily monitored and adjusted. The recordings were crisp and clear, with a good dynamic range.

The Zoom H5 is lightweight, relatively compact and cheaper than other models of similar quality. It takes SD memory cards, which seem in plentiful supply for the time being. The Sound Devices 722 is still my device of choice, but if you have a smaller budget, this may be worth a look. Contact me for fuller reports.

One of my highlights of the OHS conference in Manchester in July this year was a presentation of work by two women, Isobel Anderson and Fionnuala Fagan. Their Sailortown project used words from people about a place in Belfast that no longer exists, and turned them into exquisite songs. The project was commissioned by the MAC (Metropolitan Arts Centre)  
<http://vimeo.com/69559760>  
<https://soundcloud.com/sailortown>

Normally I am more concerned with the collecting and archiving of oral histories, but this just blew me away. I have the cd too, just beautiful.

**Lynette Shum**  
**Oral History Adviser**  
**Alexander Turnbull Library**

## Sound Bytes

### Conferences

The next conference for the Oral History Association of Australia (OHA) *Fast Forward: Oral History in a Time of Change*, will be held in Perth, 9 to 12 September 2015.

The 2015 Annual Conference of the Oral History Society (UK) will be held 10-11th July in Surrey and will focus on oral histories of Science, Technology and Medicine.

The next International Oral History Association (IOHA) conference will be organised by Indira Chowdrey and held at Bangalore in India in 2016

### Over the airwaves

28 September [Sounds Historical with Jim Sullivan](#) *No Front Line – Inside Stories of New Zealand's Vietnam War* by Claire Hall, Penguin ISBN 9780143571889  
Claire Hall discusses her oral history project recording the memories of Vietnam war veterans and others associated with the conflict.

30 November [Spectrum - More than a War](#)  
Conference presenters Sue Berman and Sara Donaghy talk about their project with Unitec Communication students devising an exhibition to get students to look at what was happening back home in this country, while many of the men were away at the 'war to end all wars'

30 November: [Sounds Historical with Jim Sullivan](#) *On the Hoof: The Untold Story of Drovers in New Zealand* by Ruth Entwistle Low. Penguin. ISBN 9780143571513. Ruth Entwistle Low talks about writing the book and introduces extracts from her interviews

### Online

*Where is Oral history heading? Trends in Oral history indexing*, a seminar by Michael Frisch, presented by Oral History NSW in collaboration with the State Library of NSW 15 November 2014, is now available online:

<http://www.oralhistorynsw.org.au/oral-history-papers--audio-recordings.html#ora8>

This link also contains other recordings of talks and papers: Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants Oral History Project by Dr Joanna Penglase and Dr. Joanna Sassoon, The Power of the Voice by Siobhan McHugh, Oral History and the 'Advanced' In-depth Interview by Roslyn Burge, Dancing through the memory of our movement: four paradigmatic revolutions in oral history by Dr. Alistair Thomson, Oral History Perspectives on Medical History by Associate Prof Louella McCarthy, and presentations to the National Oral History Association Conference 2013 in Adelaide.

Conference presenter Ben Morris (a new NOHANZ member resident in Woollongong) sent this link regarding Australian media response to his article in the OHAA Journal, just out. We expect to interview him for our next issue of the NOHANZ newsletter, in March/April 2015.

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/news/nsw/bombshell-claims-army-covered-up-truth-about-aussie-massacre-at-nui-dat-in-vietnam-in-1967/story-fni0cx12-1227088275150>

## Notices

### Mountain & Forest Trust Historical Research Project

The Federated Mountain Clubs Mountain & Forest Trust is seeking a Project Manager for their Oral History Project.

Applicants should be experienced oral historians with the administrative skills to manage such a project. They will recommend suitable oral historians to do the interviews and/or may do the actual interviews.

The initial round of up to four interviews will take place during 2015.

#### Applications close 16 January.

For more information contact the Trust Secretary, Phil Glasson: [fmctrust@fmc.org.nz](mailto:fmctrust@fmc.org.nz)

*Interviewing is not what people imagine. Before you try it, you think it must be like pulling teeth. You approach each interview fearing that you will not get enough. But what you learn is that you must humble yourself before the other. You have to let go of your anxious desire to control and direct the encounter. You have to live for a while in the uncertainty of not knowing where it's heading. You don't lead. You learn to follow. And then you are amazed at what people are prepared to tell you. People will always tell you more than you need to know – and more than they want you to know. This is not only because you are alert to their body language, as well as their speech. I think it's because most ordinary people can't really believe that anyone else is interested in them. In your average casual conversation, the listener is only just re-*

*straining himself from butting in with – Well, I –. As an interviewer you have to discipline your narcissism. You have to train yourself to shut up about what you did and saw and felt. You learn by practice to listen properly and genuinely, to follow with respect the path of the other's thoughts. After a while this stops being an effort. You notice that your concentration span is getting longer – longer than you ever thought it could become. Fewer and fewer things bore you. Curiosity is a muscle. Patience is a muscle. What begins as a necessary exercise gradually becomes natural. And then immense landscapes open out in front of you.*

[Helen Garner](#)

True Stories

Text Publishing, 2010







Credits for images on this and previous page:  
 From Workshops—Lynette Shum  
 From Conference—Caren Wilton  
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