



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

Alerts

Read inside about

- NOHANZ Symposium Auckland 10th—11th May
- NOHANZ General Meeting Saturday May 11th 2013
- Release of revamped Recording Agreement Form and new accompanying documents—look out for a regional meeting near you to discuss these

And more

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NOHANZ

Newsletter

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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

Newsletter

The Executive seeks material for the newsletters to be compiled in 2013. 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 re-sources.

Send your news to:

NOHANZexec@gmail.com

Editorial

*Tēnā koutou katoa, tēnā koutou i te kaupapa,
Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tātou katoa.*

Warm greetings to everyone active and interested in the practice of oral history.

It is hard to believe that we are in the final month of the 2012 calendar! The last newsletter for the year reflects just the ice tip of oral history work, projects, interests and outcomes being achieved around the country. We hope these stories and gatherings will inspire members to continue practising and promoting oral history - and share their experiences with the NOHANZ community - through 2013.

This newsletter reports on international connections made through the International OH Association (IOHA) conference in Argentina in September, and includes links to future international opportunities. One such close to home is the Oral History Australia (OHAA) conference in Adelaide, South Australia, 21 – 23 September 2013.

As reported earlier in the year, NOHANZ has moved the biennial conference to 2014 to enable members to take advantage of our shared membership entitlement with OHAA. We hope you will consider taking a paper or project to Adelaide, or attend for the pleasure and learning we gain from making international connections.

Meanwhile back home, NOHANZ is gearing up for a busy 2013. Planning is underway for a training and speaker symposium for May 2013 in Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland - see details in the newsletter. Also look out for a series of regional meetings to foster discussion on the newly revised recording agreement form (see recording agreement group report). There's also an opportunity to be a volunteer story gatherer at an Auckland Festival event - *Dominion Road Stories*.

NOHANZ has recently started a conversation with the Waitangi Tribunal following Judge Caren Fox's election to the IOHA board as the Oceania representative, and we look forward to exploring the shared interests

and connections possible through this relationship.

On behalf of the executive committee I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a safe and restorative summer season, and look forward to the new year together.

Noho ora mai rā,
Sue Berman
Co-president

NOHANZ News for members

Oral History Recording Agreement (revised), Explanatory Notes for Interviewers and Selecting a Repository

At its meeting November 30 2012, the NOHANZ Executive approved the attached *Oral History Recording Agreement, Explanatory Notes for Interviewers and Selecting a Repository* for use by the wider membership. These documents are also available on the NOHANZ website.

Background

The old *Oral History Recording Agreement* approved by NOHANZ has been in use since the early 1990's. Its contents reflect advice given to the New Zealand Oral History Archive. With the advent of new technologies and increasing focus on the Privacy Act 1993 questions have arisen about the content of the *Recording Agreement* and its fitness for purpose.

Earlier this year NOHANZ was invited to take part in a working group, chaired by Alison Parr at the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, to update the *Recording Agreement*. This process has produced relatively minor drafting changes (the objective was to amend not redraft).

The role Interviewers play when they collect recordings is vital. Information is collected from interviewees as a result of explanations and agreements reached between Interviewer and Interviewee about the purpose for the recording, where and how it will be held and how and when it may be used. As part of its role to promote standards in oral history interview techniques, and to provide advice to

members, NOHANZ took the opportunity provided by revision of the *Recording Agreement* to compile and issue some material that it is hoped will assist Interviewers and Interviewees with questions that arise from the interview process.

Your feedback is encouraged

Oral history practice varies around the country from community to community. Many interviewers are using the current *Recording Agreement*, and are required to do so in some instances (e.g. Oral History Awards Projects), but there are no doubt cases where different forms of agreement are reached. In the academic setting there are often additional human ethics requirements.

There will be an ongoing review of the *Recording Agreement, Explanatory Notes for interviewers and Selecting a Repository* during 2013 which will consider feedback, comments, experiences and alternative methods of recording agreements with Interviewees. As part of the review NOHANZ hopes to hold regional meetings in the main centres, and consult with Maori oral historians.

Your feedback on the attached documents would be invaluable to us, especially questions that arise during discussions with Interviewees, and difficulties you face completing the *Recording Agreement*, or having it administered.

We are interested to find out what changes would be required to the *Recording Agreement* to address cultural issues or particular difficulties.

The *Explanatory Notes for Interviewers and Selecting a Repository* will form the basis for training on the *Recording Agreement*. Two additional documents, FAQs and Alexander Turnbull Library's *Guidelines for Deposit*, are in progress.

If you would like to provide feedback in person please contact a member of NOHANZ Executive or comment via email to nohanzfeedback@gmail.com

Thank you.

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

Contacting Oral History Researchers

Pip Oldham, secretary, NOHANZ

Are you interested in being contacted for oral history recording work?

NOHANZ receives enquiries from people looking for an oral historian willing to do some recording for them. We do not recommend individual oral historians. Rather we point to factors to consider when engaging an oral historian (summarised in http://www.ohaansw.org.au/page/a_guide_to_commissioning_oral_history_projects.html). We also refer people to our regional contacts as they are often aware of people in their own areas.

While NOHANZ work does not extend to commissioning oral history or involvement in individual projects we do want to be able to facilitate oral history recording by our members. If you are available for oral history work and would like to be contacted about possible assignments please let us know by emailing mail-to:NOHANZexec@gmail.com.

Auckland meeting and NOHANZ General Meeting 2013

There will be no conference in 2013. The year of conference has been moved to 'even' years, so the next conference will be in 2014. We will have a symposium in Auckland 10th–11th May at which the Biennial General Meeting will be held and election of officers (as required by our constitution). Note the date in your diary – we will make sure that a stimulating week-end of events is planned.

NOHANZ General Meeting at the Symposium on Saturday May 11th 2013

Oral History Association of Australia

OHAA Biennial Conference 21st-23rd September 2013 in Adelaide – check the website:

http://www.ohaansw.org.au/page/ohaa_conference_2013.html

Recent journals and Newsletters

NOHANZ continues to receive journals and publications. Increasingly these are arriving in electronic format. If you would like to have any forwarded to you please let us know <mailto:NOHANZexec@gmail.com>.

Here is a selection of material received recently:

NSW Network News – September – notices of talks/seminars etc – links to an ABC documentary about the work of John Hockney in rest homes unlocking lost memories using songs, memorabilia and artefacts available at <http://www.abc.net.au/radionalnational/programs/encounter/the-story-teller/3324880> - and to the ABC project *ABC Open – Now and Then*, an online project inviting people to share stories about local people and places available at <https://open.abc.net.au/about> - and *Sound Bites Sound Bites*, a collaboration between the History Council of NSW and the Oral History Association of Australia (NSW Branch), to provide web access to oral history snippets – available at <http://historycouncilnsw.org.au/history-week/sound-bites-2/>

Otahuhu Despatch – published monthly – the August issue contains recollections of American Troops in Otahuhu, the September issue has a report of the Otahuhu Borough Council's Centenary function, the October issue has reports of the Auckland Heritage Festival and activities at MOTAT. Both recent issues have members' recollections of childhood in Otahuhu.

Our journals – summer reading

Back copies of NOHANZ journals are available and make good reading. We have

the following available:

Vol. 2, 8/9, 10, 11, 15, 16, 18, 19, 20.

If you would like a set of 9 journals from the above volumes, order them from the treasurer: Michael.Dudding@vuw.ac.nz. He can provide an invoice if you wish. He can send you the set of 9 for \$40 (while stocks last) and then if we run out of some volumes, a set of 8 for \$40 or a set of 7 for \$40. This includes postage and packaging. They may be useful for your local library when you have read them. Please take up this offer now if you are keen to top up your resources.



The new Alexander Turnbull Library General reading room

News from the Alexander Turnbull Library

The team are now all back in the newly-opened, refurbished National Library Building in Molesworth Street. If you are in town, please call in for a visit, and take in the exhibitions, including Big Data, and the new research rooms and cafe. Please call us for an appointment if you'd like a chat

Forthcoming workshops

We're planning full series of workshops in Auckland, Wellington, Nelson and Dunedin in the first half of next year. The dates have not yet been set, so to put your name on our Expressions of Interest List, please go to the "Ask a Librarian" form in the top right-hand corner of the National Library webpage:

<http://natlib.govt.nz>

Recorders for Hire

Oral history recording equipment is available for hire by oral historians.

The recorders are Fostex FR-2LE, with AKG C417pp lapel microphones, headphones and card readers. We also have analogue tape recorders and transcribers. Equipment must be booked in advance and collected from the Library.

Free one-on-one training session with the Oral History Adviser, covering the use of the recorder and post-recording practices, is available by appointment.

The cost for all equipment is \$10 per day or \$50 per week.

For inquiries about hiring equipment, email Cellia Joe: cellia.joe@dia.govt.nz or phone 04 462 3935

Lynette Shum, Oral History Adviser
Outreach Services
Alexander Turnbull Library



Fiona Rigby (National Library), Hon. Chris Tremain, National Librarian Bill Macnaught, and DIA Chief Executive Colin MacDonald and Prime Minister John Key try out one of the Library's new AV pods

Photos: Mark Beatty

 **ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY**
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NEW ZEALAND
Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa

Part of Department of Internal Affairs Te Tari
Taiwhenua

Regional Meetings

Tamaki Makaurau Auckland

Join us for the last NOHANZ regional meeting for 2012 on Wednesday 12th December
Auckland Central Library
Level 2
Whare Wananga
5:30 - 7pm - Project Catch Up
Come and share your ideas and progress, questions, queries and quirks!
RSVP: megan@hutchings.co.nz or sue.berman@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

Te Whanganui-a-Tara Wellington

Tuesday 18 December 5.30pm
Guest speaker: Anna Green
38 Rawhiti Terrace, Kelburn (Pip Oldham's house)
Light refreshments will be provided

Parking is available in Rawhiti Terrace, Glasgow Street or Upland Road, where there is usually plenty of space at the time we will be meeting. You would be very unlucky indeed to strike a parking warden after hours.

Parking in the Skyline Car Park is not recommended.

Associate Professor Anna Green is recently back in NZ after a number of years in the UK. She has been a past co-editor of the NOHANZ journal, and of *Remembering: Essays in New Zealand Oral History*. She is currently at the Stout Research Centre, Victoria University of Wellington, working on two research projects in the field of memory and oral history.

We hope to have two further functions in the first few months of next year, hosted by the Alexander Turnbull Library in their newly refurbished building, one introducing you to the building and oral history processes, and one to discuss the newly refurbished Recording Agreement Form and associated documents. Keep an ear out for further announcements.

Reports

Dominion Road Stories – Call for NOHANZ Volunteers

Dominion Road story project

Auckland City Libraries Research and Heritage team are pleased to be working in collaboration with Auckland Theatre

Company on a project that will celebrate the people and stories of Dominion Road.

With the support of the Albert Eden Local Board, an oral history project has been established that aims to capture a diversity of experience, tales of love and loss, of work and play, of the ordinary and extraordinary lives lived on and around Dominion Road. Auckland Theatre Company will draw on the oral history record to create a theatrical experience for the 2013 Auckland Arts Festival in March. Photographs of this iconic place, provided from Auckland Libraries collections, will feature along the street.

Sue Berman, Libraries oral historian, recorded the early memories of Barbara Haynes whose childhood was spent next door to Potters Park, Balmoral. This was the first interview in what is anticipated to become a treasured collection.

Call for volunteers

One of the planned events at the Auckland Festival is a Theatre experience on and around Dominion Road including a free family event in Potters Park – Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th of March.

Auckland Theatre Company (ATC) is looking for volunteers to make this day a success.

Megan Hutchings and Sue Berman have had some discussion with ATC on the idea of running *A Story Emporium* - inside a converted caravan where members of the public will be able to exchange an ice-block for a record of their narrative on Dominion Road.

We are looking for NOHANZ members willing to volunteer to support this project.

<http://www.aucklandfestival.co.nz/events/dominion-road-stories.aspx>

Are you interested in volunteering to record narratives with people on the day/s of the Potters Park festival or do you know someone with a Dominion Road story to contribute to the general project? We are keen to hear from you.... for people who have just trained recently this could be a great opportunity for recording/ interviewing practice!

Please contact

sue.berman@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz or Megan@meganhutching.co.nz

Auckland Heritage Festival 2012

Sue Berman

The Auckland Heritage Festival took place over the two weeks and three weekends of the September/October school holidays. The Festival saw an enthusiastic community response, with over 200 events.

One of the themes of this year's festival was "Learning & Encouragement" – events to upskill and inform the local community about heritage through workshops and

lectures. This was a great opportunity to run a practical oral history workshop.

Sue Berman (oral historian at the West Auckland Research Centre) and her colleague René from the Auckland Council Heritage Unit ran four introductory-level oral history workshops as part of the Heritage Festival, at each of the Auckland Library Research Centres (South, West, Central & North).

These events saw overwhelming interest from the community – with 57 participants in total. We have been inundated with positive feedback about these workshops, and many people are keen on more in-depth oral history training. Great opportunity for the National Library team to run more events & workshops in Auckland!

The following comment sent to us by one of the participants is just one example of many:

"The buzz after the workshop was very positive and people were keen to hang around and talk more about their experiences of the day and the projects they were inspired to engage in with these new skills."

We are grateful to the Auckland Library Research Centres for hosting these events, and a few more similar workshops are already in the pipeline for next year!

*Practice during an introduction to Oral History Workshop - North
Auckland Research Centre, Takapuna*



Our place, our stories

Dr Michelle Ann Smith

Historian/Researcher, Papakura Museum

Papakura Museum is a small, community Museum that is guardian of the town and district's rich and diverse history. One gap in the Museum's archives is the absence of oral histories from our older residents who have a wealth of knowledge and experience of the town and district – in many cases spanning 90 years or more.

Lack of resources has meant any oral history projects have been put on hold until recently. Two staff members undertook a two-day oral history training course in Auckland earlier this year, and then finally began an oral history journey in May that saw 10 local residents interviewed over a three month period (not all interviews have been completed due to ill-health of some interviewees). The Museum received Creative Communities funding for which they are very grateful, and without which this project could not have been started.

Over the next 2-3 months the remaining interviews will be completed, and abstracted, and all the oral histories will be saved and stored in the Papakura Museum archives. The focus of the histories is Growing up, living and working in Papakura and the changes seen over time, alongside national and international events such as war, depression and epidemics.

Papakura Museum hopes that the recording and collation of oral histories from local identities will continue, and are currently seeking further resources to enable staff to do this.

The challenge of the unimaginable

Ruth Greenaway

I recently attended the 17th IOHA conference, held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The theme of the conference was "The challenge of oral history in the 21st Century: diversity, inequality and identity construction."

One theme that held my attention throughout the conference was: How do we as oral historians approach stories of trauma? On

the first day I attended a three-hour master class with Dr Sean Field, Director of the Centre for Popular Memory and Senior Lecturer in the Historical Studies Department at the University of Cape Town. Sean has published widely on apartheid community forced removals, oral history methodology and trauma, memory and memorialization in South Africa and Rwanda. He is also currently conducting oral history research with Rwandan refugees in Cape Town, South Africa.

The Centre for Popular Memory (CPM) is an oral history research unit that focuses on the training, research, archiving and dissemination of marginalized groups' and individuals' stories, prioritising multilingual and multidisciplinary approaches to memory, narrative, identity, performance, space and the impact of violence and traumatic legacies in Africa. The centre runs a publicly accessible multilingual archive that contains over 3000 hours of audio and video. (<http://www.popularmemory.org.za>)

The master class was entitled: "The 'trauma' question: Recording and presenting oral testimonies of violence in post-authoritarian societies." I was interested in this topic because one of my past oral history projects was interviewing women from different parts of the Middle East and for some of these women their stories included elements of personal trauma. A significant part of their experiences was that of surviving war and of forced migration from their home countries to Aotearoa New Zealand. I realized undertaking this project that stories of trauma are a challenge for both interviewer and interviewee on many levels.

As the interviewer there is a need to be very sensitive, perhaps more so than in other interview situations. It is important to have empathy for the interviewee; to realise that the interviewee may or may not want to fully describe an event or series of events and that the interviewee may or may not regard the traumatic experience as integral to their own story, or as an important life changing event.

Then there is the experience for the interviewer – sometimes these stories are heart wrenching and can affect the interviewer a lot. How do we hold onto

ourselves during the interview and how do we look after ourselves once we've left the interview? I know for myself some of the stories I have heard about the survival of war, for instance, has stayed with me. Hearing a personal narrative of trauma has left me feeling somewhat helpless, teary-eyed and yet privileged all at the same time. I say privileged because I have been entrusted to hear a memory of such horrific events, and in some cases a story told in its entirety for the very first time.

The master class brought up many questions to do with how trauma is or is not part of an individual's personal narrative. A key question was "Does the experience of trauma and violence violate or compromise the constitution of memory which makes meaning for the individual?" Other points of discussion were: Does a traumatic event in one's life rupture the internal narrative about self and identity? Does it therefore create a disassociation of the self? We discussed how trauma was not defined just in terms of an event-centred narrative but also as a precondition of the actual oral history interview (that is, it becomes part of the context of the interview).

Trauma includes unframed images, laden with raw feelings of an unimaginable event. Therefore the trauma narrative may include past imaginary elements. For example, the interviewee may or may not see others' experiences of trauma also as their own experience. (Such as, in surviving mass genocide, war etc).

As interviewers we need to be aware that trauma can distort personal memory - it can be a stumbling block in someone's personal story. If the trauma is unarticulated in the interview then it may also haunt the interview with moments of fragmented stories of images that come through in the narrative.

Whether trauma is or is not articulated, if the interviewee has shared their story before and is confident in telling it, or if this is the first time they are sharing their story, the interviewer should still be aware that the interviewee may still experience moment of flashbacks, fragmentation and physical difficulty in sharing their story. Trauma is

more than a memory and to some degree takes on a life of its own.

However the oral history interview can also be a cathartic experience and one in which the interviewee can heal from the experiences of the past. They can find a sense of detachment from an event which happened to them but which is not part of them. Their own narrative can go on to nurture and enable a reawakening of a true self.

Suggested reading:

"The Empire of Trauma: An Inquiry into the Condition of Victimhood"
Didier Fassin & Richard Rechtman,
Translated by Rachel Gomme
"Writing History, Writing Trauma" by
Dominick LaCapra.
Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University
Press, 2001

*Ruth Greenaway is a member of NOHANZ and works as a freelance oral historian.
(www.tapestries.co.nz)*

Preservation of Audio-visual collections

Vicki-Anne Heikell

Field Conservator

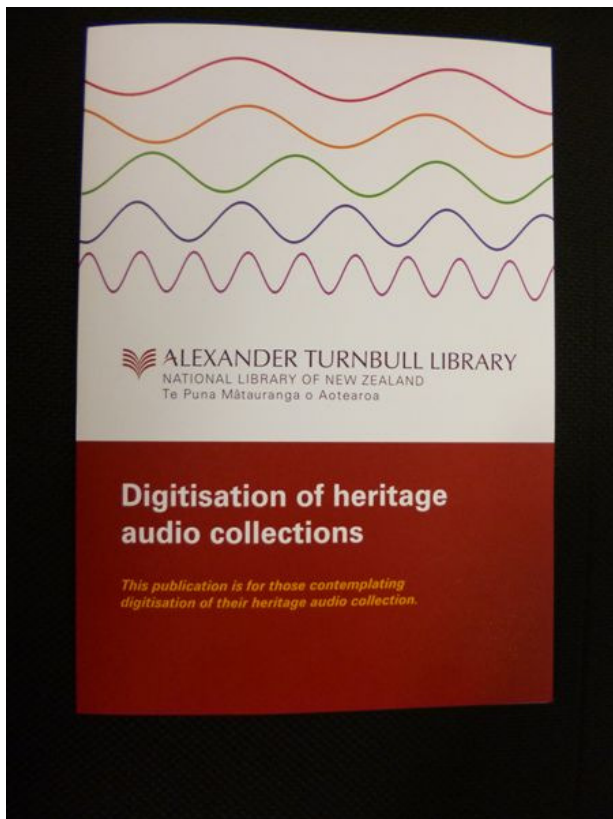
National Preservation Office Te Tari Tohu Taonga

The National Preservation Office Te Tari Tohu Taonga recently ran two workshops in Auckland and Dunedin on the **Preservation of Audiovisual Collections**. The workshops were scheduled to coincide with World Day for Audiovisual Heritage. UNESCO declared October 27 as the World Day for AV Heritage to raise awareness of the significance of these materials.

See <http://www.iasa-web.org/world-day-audiovisual-heritage> for more information.

As part of the workshop the NPO also produced a new publication: **Digitisation of heritage audio collections**. The Māori language equivalent **Te whakarorohiko kohikohinga pūoro tuku iho** will be available soon.

For requests for copies of *Digitisation of heritage audio collections*, please email Vicki-Anne Heikell:
Vicki-Anne.Heikell@dia.govt.nz
Or phone 04 474 3066



Opinion

Missing my microphones Ann Packer

What do you do when you're away from home and have forgotten a vital piece of equipment?

I woke early on the morning of my second visit to Nelson, in May this year, with a sinking feeling. About to continue recording musician Richard Nunns's life history, I'd checked before I left home that I had my recorder, clean memory cards, notebook, and extension cord. But had I packed my new mics?

Actually, I couldn't recall having ever unpacked them from their boxes. Worse, I

was not even sure where those boxes were. And no one back across Cook Strait was free to go and collect them for an overnight courier.

A quick check in the frosty dawn confirmed my worst fears. So how did this happen?

When I became the proud owner of a Fostex digital recorder, Sound Techniques didn't have any new microphones in stock so they loaned me some. I used them for the first recordings I did with Richard, best known for his part in reviving the Māori instrument movement. That was nine months earlier – for in spite of living with advanced Parkinsons, this peripatetic muso is forever tripping round the globe doing gigs with everyone from string quartets to ethnic combos, in places as out-of-the-way as Fingals Cave and the Faeroe Islands.

So, I'm stuck in Nelson sans mics. An early phone call to Linda and Lynette at the Alexander Turnbull Library ATL draws a blank – are there really no oral historians based in the sunniest city in the country? It would seem not. The muso has mics, of course, but not the sort I need.

The Nelson Provincial Museum, hosting us while we do our recordings, has hosted workshops with OHC people. But a drive out to Isel House, the museum's 'backroom', reveals the microphones they have are not compatible with my Fostex.

Back in town, Richard and I console ourselves with yet another cup of coffee – something Nelson is very good at. And I make the mental leap: I ring Stephen at Sound Techniques; he sends off a rental pair of mics in a courier bag.

We've lost one day but we make the most of the remaining two.

The recordings and abstracts are now in ATL. And when we continue our project, we'll be using my own AKG C417PP clip-on microphones – at last.

NOHANZ