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APRIL 2006

NOHANZ

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

**We hope you enjoy this super-size edition to mark the
beginning of our three-a-year publication of newsletters.**

BEST WISHES FOR SUCCESSFUL ORAL HISTORIES IN 2006!

NEWSLETTER
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NOHANZ • P.O. BOX 3819 • WELLINGTON
www.oralhistory.org.nz

NOHANZ

Newsletter

Volume 20, number 1

APRIL 2006

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www.oralhistory.org.nz

Newsletter: We seek news and views from around the country about what is happening, courses that are being offered, reports on projects in progress or completed. Email contact is Rachael Selby at:

R.A.Selby@massey.ac.nz

who is looking forward to receiving your contributions.

NOHANZ news

Newsletters cut from 4 to 3

The newsletter has in the past been printed and sent out 4 times a year. As from 2006, it will be produced 3 times a year, but be just as good – with your support. Write and tell us what you are doing, what's happening with your project to date and what's been exciting in your world of oral history in the past year.

Snail mail or email

Snail mail in the post or email as a pdf file? How do you want to receive your newsletter? We have asked the question of a number of our members and not received a clear preference. Is it because we still like to find something interesting in the mailbox and/or we like to lie on the couch as we open the mail and read the news? We can meet individual needs, so please email us if you are happy to receive the newsletter by email – it will cut our costs as well! Email Emma Dewson:

Emma.Dewson@mch.govt.nz.

Issues for discussion

What are the issues that you would like to see aired in the newsletter? Here's an email from Jacqui –

"what do people think about some sort of 'discussion' re equipment, experiences etc which could perhaps be picked and extended by email at a later date? The kind of thing I am thinking about is, for example (my current personal struggle!) digitising analogue material and while the conference was helpful and Bronwyn Officer has been extremely helpful since, others may have additional experience and information on this type of thing that could be useful. Other people may have similar technical or ethical issues that they are struggling with and need support or info. I'm not sure how the format would work but perhaps some

sort of column to both air concerns and queries and supply info.? Does anyone have any thoughts on this?

Write to R.A.Selby@massey.ac.nz
I'll publish your responses in the next newsletter. – Put this deadline in you diary:
20 July 2006.

Annual General Meeting

The annual general meeting of NOHANZ will be held on Wednesday 14 June in the Lower Ground Floor meeting room, National Library, cnr Molesworth & Aitken Sts, Wellington, at 5:30 p.m.

Agenda

- Apologies
- Confirmation of the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting, 2 July 2005
- Matters arising
 - Judith Binney's life membership
 - financial matters – setting up a transaction facility on the website; changing the organisation's bank
- President's report
- Financial report
- Election of officers
 - President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - appointment of committee
- General business
 - archiving of records
 - oral history in schools

N.B. A report of the last annual general meeting were published in the June 2005 NOHANZ newsletter.

- Nominations are called for president, secretary, treasurer and executive committee



WORKSHOPS AND SEMINARS

Alexander Turnbull Library: Oral History Workshops

The Oral History Centre of the Alexander Turnbull Library is offering workshops for people considering using oral history in their work, community or personal projects. The workshops are taught by *Judith Fyfe, lawyer and oral historian*, and held in the National Library Building, Aitken Street, Wellington

Abstracting Oral History Saturday & Sunday 29 and 30 April 2006, 8.45am -1pm

The abstract is a comprehensive time-coded summary, which serves as a guide to the oral history researcher. Here is an opportunity to practice the comprehension and editing skills needed to compile a reliable and usable abstract. Completion of an 'Essentials of Oral History Research' or a recent equivalent introductory course is recommended but not required.

Fee: \$180 (\$140)

Limit: 8

For further information concerning registration or funding, contact the Oral History Centre,
04-474 3162 or atl@natlib.govt.nz

More information on courses (including registration forms) can be found on the Nohanz website.

www.oralhistory.org.nz

Wellington Oral History Seminar series in April 2006

The National Oral History Association of New Zealand *Te Kete Korero-a-Waha o Te Motu*, Ministry for Culture & Heritage *Te Manatu Taonga*, and Alexander Turnbull Library present:
Asking Questions: talking about oral history

Oral history is about asking questions, but not all interviewers are comfortable asking the intensely personal or difficult questions that can add so much to our understanding of family dynamics and professions. In this series of talks our speakers will address this issue in the context of various projects

Thursday 6 April Margaret McClure
'When a happy marriage turns to custard': Women's divorce stories from the 1950s and 60s

This talk is drawn from interviews with ten women who divorced in an era when they risked enduring ostracism or poverty as a result. It traces common threads in their experiences, and comments on issues an interviewer faces in dealing with people's memories of intimacy, pain and guilt.

Thursday 13 April Taina McGregor
Wartime: partings and reunions – Maori perspectives

Thursday 20 April A presentation from the Oral History Centre, Alexander Turnbull Library

Wednesday 26 April Helen Frizzell & Judith Fyfe
An Arcane Practice Revolutionised: From oak panelling to paisley carpets and beyond

Otago and Wellington lawyers reflect on change in their practice and profession in the twentieth century. Time: 12:10 – 1:00 p.m. Lower ground floor meeting room National Library, cnr Molesworth & Aitkens Sts Wellington. Enquiries to: Megan Hutching
Megan.Hutching@mch.govt.nz

FUNDING

Awards in Oral History – Ministry for Culture and Heritage

Beginning this year we will consider an application for a grant of up to

\$35,000 for a nationally significant project. The size of the grant means that costs for interviewer/s and abstractor/s time, and that of an administrator, can be included in the budget.

Closing date for applications is 30 April 2006.

More information on the Awards can be found here:

<http://www.mch.govt.nz/history/oral-history.html>

Or email Megan Hutching:
megan.hutching@mch.govt.nz
Or tel: 04 496 6338



PROJECT REPORTS

Piercing Memories: remembering the past to protect the future

This project, begun in 2000, has been completed. Designed and run in the Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC) at the University of Auckland and funded by the Ministry of Health, the broad aim was to encourage informed immunisation. I recorded New Zealanders' memories of illnesses and epidemics to demonstrate the profound effects of infectious diseases that are now preventable. A more detailed account of the project was published in *Oral History in New Zealand* 2003;15:23-24.

Twentieth century infectious diseases epidemics are disappearing from the national memory. Elderly people's memories of early epidemics such as poliomyelitis, diphtheria, and the 1918 influenza epidemics were the first recording priority but subsequently I recorded more recent experiences of all the diseases currently vaccine preventable in New Zealand: measles,

mumps, rubella, hepatitis B, poliomyelitis, influenza, tuberculosis, tetanus, meningococcal disease, *Haemophilus influenzae* type B disease, whooping cough and chicken pox. The oldest participant was born in 1899, the youngest in 2002. Altogether, over 200 people contributed to the *Piercing Memories* project from all around New Zealand; from Te Hapua in the Far North, to Invercargill in the South; from the Prime Minister Helen Clark, who recalled measles complications in her childhood to a 15 month old who recently survived meningitis.

The project design was based on a face to face, semi- structured, audiotaped interview, using NOHANZ interviewing principles, lasting between one and two hours and usually held at the informant's home. In one group interview, five people, now in their seventies recalled being in the same ward in hospital with polio in the 1950s. Several family groups participated. Most interviews were audiotaped, some were videoed, some were telephoned, a number of people sent written accounts by mail or email. In the fifth year, in collaboration with the Department of Distance Learning at the University of Auckland we produced a documentary film about a group of young adults, all born with congenital rubella, all suffering varying degrees of blindness, deafness and brain damage, living together in a supervised home in Auckland.

All the recorded interviews were transcribed and teaching resources were produced from the edited stories. These include personal stories on audiotape, CD, video and DVD, a documentary film, a collection of written anecdotes and a series of stories published on the Immunisation Advisory Centre, University of Auckland website. Immunisation educators and other health professionals are finding the edited

stories valuable educational tools. Rapid developments in information technology have added considerably to time and budget; re- recording from a Sony WMD6C analogue recorder to digital CD, for example. I intend to seek further funding to publish more of the stories in a book and on completion, the tapes and videos will be stored in the National Oral History Archive.

A common entreaty from participants was: 'If they had seen these diseases they would immunise their children.'

Elaine Ellis-Pegler
Piercing Memories project manager

We support our troops – bring them home

The GI rights oral history project was initiated in 2005 by Betsy Brinson (an oral historian who lived in New Zealand for a year), and supported by the Quaker House of Fayetteville, North Carolina. While travelling in the USA last November I spent some time with Betsy on the first set of interviews for this project. I interviewed Chuck Fager, Director of the Quaker House; an interesting character who as a teenager, had spent time working alongside Dr Martin Luther King, in Alabama during the Selma protests in the 1960s.

The interviews for this oral history project were focussed on the rights of GIs wanting to get out of the military, the counselling of GIs (men and women) and on the work to raise awareness of these issues. For the GIs themselves these are stories of personal struggle, stories of facing a personal truth and a change of heart, of despair, harassment, imprisonment and a great deal of healing for themselves and their families.

Each person's moment of awareness is striking in the stories that emerged

from our interviews. As individuals, often in their late teens or early twenties, they are listening to their conscience, listening to something deep in side that says this is wrong. They also ask themselves, 'Why am I being treated this way?'

For information about the GI rights oral history project or the Fayetteville Quaker House visit:

www.QuakerHouse.org

Ruth Greenaway



CONFERENCES REPORT AND SYDNEY 2006 UPDATE

Oral history in film and performance in the USA

In November, 2005, I attended the USA oral history conference 'Voices of Dissent, Voices of Hope' in Providence, Rhode Island. There were many sessions of interest to me covering an array of topics from Rastafarianism in Jamaica to the geography of homelessness in Boston, to memories of the civil rights movement, memories of 9/11, stories of migrant communities and queer communities; and much more. Of course there was a New Zealand presence as Sue Berman has recounted in the previous issue of this newsletter. Whilst I enjoyed the varied subject matter of the presentations I went to, I realised that I was greatly inspired by those at the conference who didn't always call themselves oral historians but who had used oral history in very creative ways across many artistic mediums. Two such highlights of the conference for me were:

Street Pictures, Pamela Griffiths and Ruth Sergel. Together they form Street Pictures and they presented a

short film entitled "voice of 9/11" this was the first time they had shown any of the interviews they had recorded with eye witnesses and survivors of that day, in New York city on 11 September 2001. The project came from the realisation that people were being interviewed by the media but that this experience left people feeling cold. The interviews were often sensationalised or watered down. The real heartfelt experience and the need that people felt to connect with one another was not fulfilled by the media. Some people experienced great personal trauma by what they had seen on that day, it was noted by some people who told their story for this project that the media had failed to report any stories of the 'jumpers' from the twin towers. For some witnesses this seemed to just gloss over the real human tragedy.

This project took off about 8 months after 9/11. Ruth and Pamela set up a booth with a video camera in an Art gallery in New York City. For a year, people came and told their stories. People spoke directly to camera, on their own, for up to 15 minutes. Some people brought photos of loved ones, others just had a message or something brief to relay. Street Pictures did not advertise the project, people knew of it only by word of mouth. In one year 500 people recorded their story.

This is just one project of its kind in New York. At Columbia University a more structured and lengthier tape recorded oral history project has been undertaken, to record the stories of survivors of 9/11. Another project in the city is Story Corps. This is similar to Street Pictures in that it operates a video booth, in Central Station. Here people record memories of the city.

For more information about Street Pictures visit www.streetpictures.com or

www.hereisnewyork.org/gallery/voices.asp

Earsay, Warren Lehner and Judith Sloan are both writers and performers. They have devised a performance piece entitled 'Crossing the boulevard'. They portray the stories of new migrants in Queens, NY. For a period of 3 years they collected oral history life stories from people living in their own community. They both realised that they had the world at their doorstep; people who were first, second or even third generation migrants from countries as far as Thailand and Uganda.

In their performance they use the actual voices of the people interviewed, or enact each character to tell their story. They show slides of the people, the community and the huge boulevard that plays a significant part in these people's lives. The boulevard symbolises the continued journey of settling, finding a new home, new community, and being prepared to for what it takes to survive and to get by.

From this work other creative uses of oral history have been turned into books, CD and exhibitions. Judith also teaches a summer school course at Columbia University entitled "Cultural Identity and the Arts". She hosted a session at the conference; three of her students presented their work. Each student used oral history as an art form to communicate stories to a wide audience. One of the students, an aspiring actress, performed her work in progress 'I'll be with you in a moment' - 10-minute glimpses into the lives of waiters and waitresses. In New York City. Performed as a solo piece, it was hilarious, poignant and insightful. She threaded together the stories of 20 or so waiters and waitresses. I think it has the makings of a Broadway hit! For more information about Earsay visit www.earsay.org

Websites of interest in the USA include:

www.storycorps.net

Listen on this site to actual recorded stories, which are broadcast on NPR's morning edition programme.

www.salt.edu

SALT-Institute for Documentary Studies. There is a radio documentary course run by Rob Rosenthal, which utilises oral history. The students work with the Maine Folk Life Centre. Programmes are then broadcast on Maine Roots radio.

www.actuporalhistory.org/

The Act UP oral history project, a collection of interviews with surviving members of the AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power, New York.

<http://www.vermontfolklifecenter.org/>

Has a wonderful history of recording stories that capture life and characters of Vermont. The Centre relies mostly on volunteers to record stories, but much of its work has been used in exhibitions, publications, and on radio.

www.umaine.edu/folklife/

Another folk life and oral history centre in northern Maine. This centre works in conjunction with students from the SALT Institute.

Ruth Greenaway

IOHA - Dancing with Memory - Oral history and its audiences - Sydney 2006

The International Oral History Association Conference is in Sydney in July 2006. Check out the website www.une.au/ioha2006 These IOHA conferences attract 160 - 200 people and provide those who attend with an opportunity to meet other people with a passion for oral history, to learn more about how oral history is collected in other countries, to share ideas and successes, to deal with ethical and technical issues which others have worked on for some years, to grapple with issues we might not have thought about. Registration can

be for a day or for the 3 days of the conference.

This is probably the closest the international conference will come to New Zealand for some time so it is a great opportunity to attend a conference like this in Australia. The Conference website has suggestions for accommodation and other key information. The NOHANZ Executive committed to supporting this conference when the Australian Association put in its bid in Rome 2004. So, if you are going and you are prepared to offer assistance – by introducing or thanking speakers – sitting on a desk selling our journals or in other ways, please email Lesley Hall Lesley.Hall@vuw.ac.nz. She can then let the Australian Association know how many people we have who are prepared to assist. Your NOHANZ executive has resolved to make a \$1000 donation to the Oral History Association of Australia to assist with the conference.



PUBLICATIONS

Māori and Oral History (2005)

Edited by Rachael Selby and Alison Laurie

This collection brings together in one volume, twenty papers previously published in the NOHANZ journal. It includes papers written by Māori researchers and non-Māori who have published articles dealing with Māori issues or which largely included Māori participants. The first print sold out in October last year. The second sold out before Christmas. We are reprinting again. If you are interested in a copy, please send an order form (available on the NOHANZ website) to P O Box 3819, Wellington. Enclose \$25 and we will send you a copy.

Oral History in New Zealand

Every year NOHANZ publishes a journal which is sent to all members. It is a great source of ideas, a place to report on projects, to analyse methodological and ethical issues, to debate and challenge our thinking and our practice. Please think about writing for the journal this year. If you are interested, contact the editors, Megan Hutching or Anna Green
Megan.Hutching@mch.govt.nz
Anna.Green@aut.ac.nz

Recent international newsletters and journals

The latest *International Oral History Association newsletter*, Number 14:1, 2006 is available at
http://www.ioha.fgv.br/ioha/english/newsletter14_1.htm

The latest annual *Oral History Association of Australia journal*, number 27, 2005, is on the theme Talking Families/Talking Communities. This journal is held by the University of Waikato Library and Alexander Turnbull Library

Oral history: journal of the Oral History Society, Vol 33 no 1, Spring 2005

Contents include:

Articles:

'Mythologising Al-Nakba: Narratives, collective identity and cultural practice among Palestinian refugees in Lebanon', Diana Allan

'Gypsy oral history in Serbia: From poverty to culture', Jelena Cvorovic

'Hearing women's voices: Female migration to Canada in the early twentieth century', Marilyn Barber

'I don't think they ever really wanted to know anything about us': Oral history interviews with learning disability nurses', Duncan Mitchell, Anne-Marie Rafferty

'Bury me in purple lurex: Promoting a new dynamic between fashion and oral

historical research', Geraldine Biddle-Perry

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Articles:

'Muscle Memory': Performing oral history', Jeff Friedman

'Oral history across generations: Age, generational identity and oral testimony', Sally Chandler

'Living in the lie: The Armenian intelligentsia in the Soviet Union', John Mason

'Flouting the law: Women and the hazards of cleaning moving machinery in the cotton industry, 1930-1970', Michele Abendstern, Christine Hallett and Lesley Wade

Public History:

'The Way We Speak': Web-Based Representations Of Changing Communities In England', Rob Perks and Jonnie Robinson

Education:

'Reminiscence and war trauma: Recalling the Japanese occupation of Singapore, 1942-1945', Kevin Blackburn

Abstracts of all articles may be found at

<http://www.ohs.org.uk/journal/33/index.html>

If you wish to request any of these articles by interloan through your local library, this journal is held by Massey University, Otago Polytechnic, University of Auckland, University of Otago, University of Waikato and Alexander Turnbull Libraries.

Recent Publications using oral histories

AfterWords: interviews and letters from survivors of the 1931 Hawke's Bay earthquake Interviews and compilations by Helen McConnochie

Friends of Hawke's Bay Cultural Trust, Napier: 2004. (Interviews archived: Oral History Centre, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington)

Hell or High Water: New Zealand merchant seafarers remember the war edited by Neill Atkinson; foreword by the Helen Clark. HarperCollins Publishers in association with the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Auckland: 2005. (Interviews archived: Oral History Centre, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington)

Ketchil: a New Zealand pilot's war in Asia and the Pacific Neil Frances Wairarapa Archive, Masterton: 2005. (Interviews archived: Wairarapa Archive, Masterton)

Ride: the story of cycling in New Zealand The Kennett Brothers. Kennett Brothers, Wellington: 2004. (Interviews archived: Oral History Centre, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington)

Spreading their wings: New Zealand WAAFs in wartime Bee Dawson. Penguin, Auckland, New Zealand: 2004. (Interviews archived: Air Force Museum, Christchurch)

The Desert Road: New Zealanders remember the North African campaign edited by Megan Hutching with Ian McGibbon; foreword by Helen Clark. HarperCollins Publishers in association with the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, Auckland: 2005 (Interviews archived: Oral History Centre, Alexander Turnbull Library, Wellington)

The Soldier and the Nurse: From Waimate memories of wartime service compiled by Joyce Cooper. Waimate Historical Society: c 2004. (Interviews archived: Oral History Archive, Waimate Historical Society, Waimate)

We Call It Home: A history of state housing in New Zealand Ben Schrader
Reed Publishing, Auckland: 2005.
(Interviews not yet archived)

Please let me know of any publications
to be added to this list.

Gillian Headifen

Gillian.Headifen@natlib.govt.nz

Selected Oral History Centre acquisitions for 2005

Art Taranaki oral history project.

Seven interviews by Mary Donald with
artists who work in various media and
have a strong Taranaki connection.
Recorded from 2003-2005. Duration:
ca 24 hours. Project received an
Award in Oral History. OHColl-0469

Aviation memories oral history.

Sixteen interviews by interviewers
Roger Munns and Bill Rayner recorded
in 2003 and 2004. Duration: ca 28
hours. The Museum of Transport and
Technology (MOTAT) received an
Award in Oral History to undertake this
project. OHColl-0767

Doreen Blumhardt oral history project.

Recorded by Pip Oldham in
2004. A life history interview with
Doreen Blumhardt, a prominent arts-
crafts educator and internationally
renown craft practitioner and potter.
Duration: ca 7 hours. Commissioned
by the Blumhardt Foundation. This
collection also includes other audio and
video recordings of Doreen Blumhardt.
OHColl-0772

Interview with Lady Margaret

Liley. Recorded by Penelope Dunkley
in 2005. Duration: ca 4 hours. OHColl-
0777-01

Interview with Wolfgang

Rosenberg. Recorded by Alistair
Barry in 2004. Duration: ca 4 hours.
OHColl-0762-1

Lighthouse keepers and their wives oral history project.

Ten
interviews by Helen Beaglehole
recorded in 2005. Duration: ca 27
hours. Project received an Award in
Oral History. OHColl-0789

Lyndhurst CWI: An oral history of 70 years.

Ten interviews about the
Lyndhurst Country Women's Institute
by Nicola Robertson recorded from
2003-2005. Duration: ca 24 hours.
Project received an Award in Oral
History. OHColl-0765

Nga Morehu oral history project.

Ten video interviews by interviewers
Patu Hohepa, Scottie Morrison and
Reweti Te Mete recorded from 2002-
2005 with ten kaumatua aged between
seventy and ninety seven years old.
The interviews were conducted in te
reo Maori, the first language of those
interviewed. Duration: ca 15 hours.
Project received an Award in Oral
History. OHColl-0776

Second World War oral history project: North Africa.

Sixteen
interviews by interviewers Alison Parr,
Megan Hutching and Neill Atkinson,
recorded in 2003-2004. The
interviews focus on the war
experiences of fifteen men and one
woman during the North African
Campaign of the Second World War,
and formed the basis for the book *The
Desert Road : New Zealanders
remember the North African campaign*,
published in 2005. Commissioned by
the Ministry for Culture and Heritage.
Duration: ca 57 hours. OHColl-0798

Stories of diversity and success oral history project.

Seven
interviews with older women doctors
by Tree Cocks recorded from 1997-
1998. Duration: ca 22 hours. Project
received an Award in Oral History.
OHColl-0780

Waitohu Stream Care Group oral history project.

Seven interviews by

interviewers Pataka Moore, Caleb Royal, Rachael Selby and Frank Thorne recorded in 2004 about Maori use of the Waitohu and Mangapouri Streams in Otaki and Levin. Duration: ca 7 hours. The project was commissioned by the Waitohu Stream Care Group and funded by a Lotteries grant. OHColl-0796

Wellington Rugby Football Union oral history project. Ten interviews by Kevin Sinnott recorded in 2002. Duration: ca 10 hours. Project received an Award in Oral History. OHColl-0757

Why did the survivors survive?: an oral history of chartered accounting firms in New Zealand. Thirty seven interviews by Rachel Baskerville recorded in 2002. Duration: ca 65 hours. OHColl-0790

For further information on these projects and interviews please contact Kristin Garbett, Oral History Librarian, (04) 474-3000 x8818 or email kristin.garbett@natlib.govt.nz



Digital recorders: technical notes

Introduction

As our analogue recording machines wear out it is becoming increasingly difficult to replace them. It won't be long before manufacturers are no longer producing analogue recorders at all and recording media will also be hard to obtain. Therefore to maintain an oral history programme we will have to change our workflows and practices to move from the analogue to the digital domain.

If you are currently working with an analogue recorder then carry on as

long as your equipment is going well and can be maintained. There will come a time though when you will need to think about upgrading to a digital recorder in order to carry out high quality interviews.

These notes are just a first approach to some of the issues involved.

Equipment will change and there are many different possible combinations.

Please feel free to contact us to discuss any issues before purchasing.

The prices mentioned are also very approximate and subject to change.

There are a lot of options out there for recorders, although not all are suitable quality.

Standards

Analogue recording systems capture sound in a way that mimics or is "analogous" to the way it is transmitted through the air. Changing air pressure waves are translated into changing electrical currents, which are recorded on magnetic tape.

Digital recording systems take samples of the audio at very fast and discrete time intervals. The number of times per second a sound is measured is called the "sample rate" and the depth or quality of the measurement is called the bit rate. The higher the sample rate and the greater the bit depth the more realistic the sound.

For example the standard for CDs is a sample rate of 44.1 kHz and a bit rate of 16 bits. In choosing a digital recorder we want to choose one that will record to this 'CD quality' at least but preferably higher.

It is important to consider the preservation of an interview at the time it is gathered. The current minimum standard for preservation is 48 kHz and 24 bit on a BWF file (enhanced .wav file) and this is the standard we are recommending for all digitally born recordings.

Of course the larger the file the more space it takes up on the media itself

(compact flash card) and the computer hard drive.

Note The specifications of equipment are not always easy to find but it is important to persist.

Avoid Digital Dictaphones and Minidisks

Don't be tempted to buy a handheld dictaphone (analogue or digital) for oral history recording. They are quite low quality recorders (8 bit), often creating data reduced (incorrectly called "compressed") files in proprietary formats. A built in microphone doesn't help either. Minidisk also uses a data reduction system to encode files. The new Hi-MD recorders, while they allow you to record linear (non data reduced) files get you with the proprietary software so are best to avoid.

Digital options

There are a couple of ways to go:

1. Solid state digital recorder that records to compact flash card or hard drive
2. Recording via a good analogue to digital converter or hard disk recorder, with microphone preamplifiers into a laptop.

1. Four major companies Marantz, Fostex, Tascam and Sound Devices offer the following solid state models: **Marantz PMD-660, 670, 671**

Oral historians have used some of these with mixed results. Some have been unhappy with the quality of the preamps in the PMD-660 and 670 models, even though the specifications match the CD quality of 16 bit, 44.1 kHz. The PMD-671 is capable of 24 bit recording and has much improved microphone preamps.

The cost for the 3 models ranges from \$1600 to \$2100. However you have to add in the cost of CF (compact

flash) cards, batteries, good microphones and headphones i.e. approximately \$1400. So a full kit with the PMD-671, including two AKG C417PP microphones could cost \$3500.

Fostex FR2, also capable of 24 bit recording in BWF format (enhanced wave file).

The Fostex recorder is more expensive, around \$2600 which makes the price \$3900 by the time you add in all the accessories you need.

Tascam HDP2, capable of 24 bit recording in BWF format (enhanced wave file). The cost is similar to the Marantz PMD-671.

Sound Devices 722 hard disk recorder, records to more than one format, internal HDD and/or CF. This is more expensive option than the others, although a cheaper model is on the way. Cost approximately \$6000 with the accessories.

Microphones

Microphones range from about \$300 for a single AKG C417PP Microphone (lavalier) to over \$2500 for a Sennheiser MKH 40.

Compact Flash cards

These come in a variety of sizes and brands and compatibility must be checked with the recorder purchased. Cost approximately \$250 for a 1 Gb card.

2. The laptop option involves using a portable ADDA converter such as Apogee Mini-me is more in the \$4,000 to \$5,000 range plus the cost of a good laptop. Requires IT skills and there may be an issue with noise from the laptop.

While I am not in a position to recommend a particular product I can say that we have been looking at the Marantz machines especially the PMD-671. So far this machine and the

Tascam HD-P2 appear to be the cheaper options that meet the required standards.

We have also bought a Fostex machine and will also consider the laptop option later.

I haven't had a chance to test a Tascam HD-P2 yet but they seem promising and would probably be a similar price to the Marantz 671.

National Library of Australia Survey

The National Library of Australia who employ contractors to do their recording have purchased the laptop option as replacement for their DAT machines. Incidentally you might be interested in a powerpoint presentation evaluating field recorders given at last years sound archiving conference in Christchurch. It is already out of date but might be helpful. It is by a National Library of Australia staff member.

<http://lists.natlib.govt.nz/~billingj/ASRA%20Field%20Recording%20Technology.ppt>

Important issues

As you are creating audio files with these machines, often transferred from compact flash (CF) card to computer, you will need to think about how you are to store the files, name and maintain them (i.e. hard drive space and backing up) and what sort of access copies you will be using e.g. CD. Also how you will do abstracting.

It is important to choose good quality recording media, flash cards that are compatible with your recorder and a card reader for downloading files.

Your computer will also need to have enough space and processing power

for large sound files. These files will need to be maintained in their original form, at least until they are deposited in an archive. Sample conversion software will also be required to convert from large resolution files to those that can be burnt to CD i.e. 16 bit, 44.1 kHz.

Vendors

I cannot recommend particular vendors but it is well worth getting quotes from a number of different vendors as prices can vary considerably. Two vendors that we have used for purchasing equipment are:

AVW (Audio Video Wholesalers)
Simon Webby, Product and Sales Manager
114 Harris Road, East Tamaki,
Auckland, New Zealand
Ph +64 9 271 4000, Fax +64 9 271 4010
Email: simon@avw.co.nz Web page: www.avw.co.nz

PROTEL - Professional Television and Audio System
Scott Simpson
15 Walter Street, Wellington. There is also an Auckland branch.
Ph: 64-4-801 9494, Fax: 64-4-384 2112
Web page: <http://www.protel.co.nz>

Bronwyn Officer
Senior Sound Conservator
National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa
Email: bronwyn.officer@natlib.govt.nz



BUY AND SELL – RECORDING EQUIPMENT

Hiring and borrowing recorders – do you have one?

A number of projects have been successful in receiving funding for recording equipment and there may be recorders being underutilised in bottom drawers or carefully stored unused for significant periods. If you have a recorder that you would be prepared to hire to an oral history researcher for a week or a month at a time, please email me. I will keep a list of people around the country in this position and put others in touch with you.

Rachael Selby

R.A.Selby@massey.ac.nz

Equipment request from Rakaia

In one of our newsletters last year we asked people who may be prepared to lend or hire equipment to other researchers to let us know and we would put them together with those wanting equipment. We have had requests for equipment, but so far no offers! Here is such a request and although, we were unable to put the Rakaia people in touch with anyone with equipment to lend, this snippet tells you what is happening in oral history in Rakaia and provides a great example of getting people together for a weekend session!

I am one of a group of people in Rakaia working towards the celebration of Rakaia's 150 years of settlement. (In 1856 the first accommodation house was built on the northern river side.) We have decided to have a weekend of celebratory

events in November, compile of a series of booklets on Rakaia subjects over the next few years and collect some oral history from mainly our older residents. We have a tutor for a training session for six people in two weeks time and I said I would ask around for a loan of recording equipment and so far have only a tentative offer of one machine. Can you help us ?

You could contact me by email or contact our History Project convenor, Euan Grigor

mandalay.pub@xtra.co.nz.

Thank you, Miriam Cutforth

Sorry Marion that we were unable to help on this occasion, but do remember that the Oral History Centre has audio-tape recorders for hire in Wellington.

Wanting to hire a recorder in Wellington

I'm looking to hire a SONY WMD 6C tape recorder or similar for a period of about 6 months, this year. I live in Wellington. Please could you put me in touch with any organisations which might be able to hire one out to me.

**Julie Macdonald - celebrant &
researcher 04 970 6248
julie@healthbydesign.co.nz**

***The next newsletter will be
published in July/August 2006.
Please send items for the
newsletter by 1 July 2006.***