
NOHANZ newsletter

The National Oral History Association of New Zealand

Te Kete Kōrero-a-Waha o Te Motu

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**NOHANZ,
PO Box 3819,
Wellington,
www.oralhistory.org.nz**

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We seek news and views from around the country about what is happening in oral history, courses that are being offered, reports on projects in progress and completed.

Send your news and suggestions to Shona McCahon at: shonam@paradise.net.nz

Executive committee:

Rachael Selby: President
 Anne Thorpe: Treasurer
 Pip Oldham: Secretary
 Gillian Headifen
 Lesley Hall
 Linda Evans
 Michael Dudding
 Paul Diamond
 Shona McCahon
 Taina McGregor

NOHANZ NEWS

NOHANZ ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The AGM was held on 22 September in Wellington. See page 4 for the President's report.

EXEC COMMITTEE

The executive committee is the same as the year before but with the welcome addition of two new members, Pip Oldham and Paul Diamond, who are profiled on page 4.

The committee is already in action, having held its first meeting in October.

NEW REGIONAL CONTACTS

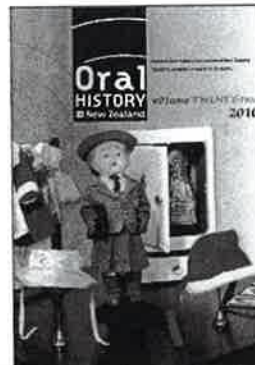
Thanks to our two new regional contacts for agreeing to take on this role.

Taranaki: Claire Hall
hall.claire@gmail.com

Wellington: Paul Diamond
paora@actrix.co.nz

NOHANZ JOURNAL 2010

Members should all have received their copies of *Oral History in New Zealand*, Vol 22, which was posted out in October.



Thanks again to editors Megan Hutching and Alison Laurie.



NOHANZ CONFERENCE 2011

ORAL HISTORY IN THE 21ST CENTURY: VOICES OF IDENTITY IN A GLOBALISED WORLD

2 - 3^{April} 2011,

Rotorua, New Zealand

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT RATES

TO QUALIFY FOR EARLYBIRD RATES, REGISTER BY 10 FEBRUARY 2011

Registration Forms are enclosed with the mail-out of this newsletter. They can also be downloaded from the NOHANZ website www.oralhistory.org.nz

CONFERENCE THEME

The 21st century is predicted to be a time of enormous change - changes that might involve large-scale migration, new technologies and adaptation in the ways people live. Climate change, peak oil and economics are forces that affect ordinary people but, at a global scale, are hard to comprehend or influence.

Faced with huge change in an increasingly globalised world, it seems that individuals and communities are looking back with growing interest to their roots and to past experience. Is this nostalgia for times past or are communities seeking to affirm their local identity and collective voice? Are there lessons to be learnt from how people responded to change in the past? Are past customs and practices becoming more relevant again?

At the NOHANZ 2011 conference we will explore changes and directions in oral history, ten years into the 21st century, including the ways in which oral history is being used and promoted by individuals and organisations, innovative ways of collecting and presenting interviews, and uses of new technologies. The following sub-themes are envisaged.

Indigenous voices

In recent decades, indigenous peoples have been rediscovering and asserting their cultures and identities. How is oral history contributing to this process of change, particularly for Māori, Aboriginal and Pacific Island peoples?

Identity and change

Oral history is often about aspects of identity and often involves reflections on change – whether a local history, the story of a social movement, or an individual's life experience. How are these aspects being explored?

Innovation

How are new technologies being used to make oral history more accessible and what are the implications to oral history practice? What new opportunities revolve around digital technology, including web-based oral history databanks, website-published material and E-books.

PROGRAMME

Key note speaker Lorina Barker

We are delighted to confirm as a keynote speaker, Lorina Barker, Associate Lecturer from the School of Humanities at the University of New England in New South Wales.

Lorina is a descendant of the Wangkumara and Muruwari people of western New South Wales and is currently completing her PhD in family/ community history. She specialises in oral history and is particularly interested in the way in which Aboriginal history has been recorded. Her main interest is in remodelling research methods and techniques so that they readily apply to, and are culturally appropriate and accessible to family and community.

NOHANZ CONFERENCE 2011 (CONT.)

Lorina gave the keynote address at the 2nd Australasian Narrative Inquiry Conference in 2009 in which she highlighted the largely undocumented history of Aboriginal people's contributions to the shearing industry in NSW.

Keynote speaker Prof. Michael Frisch

Michael Frisch, Professor of American Studies and History at the University of Buffalo, USA, has also agreed to give a keynote address, and we are currently awaiting the outcome of a funding application to bring him out to New Zealand.

Prof Frisch, author of *Shared Authority: Essays on the Craft And Meaning of Oral and Public History*, is the current President of the US Oral History Association and is a founder and principal of The Randforce Associates at the University of Buffalo's Technology Incubator. His work is in the vanguard of transformative new approaches to digital indexing and annotating audio and video recordings, which have the potential for making oral history much more accessible for both academic and public information purposes.

Other programme features

An interesting range of speakers responded to the call for papers, together with some suggestions for workshops and/or panel discussions on topical issues.

Recipients of the 2010 New Zealand oral History Awards will also give brief outlines of their projects, which this year focused on the relationship between New Zealand and Australia (see more about the awards on page 4).

We hope to finalise the programme in early December. Conference programme updates will be published on the NOHANZ website: www.oralhistory.org.nz

CONFERENCE VENUE & ACCOMODATION

The conference will be held at Distinction Rotorua, a combined conference centre and hotel situated at 390 Fenton Street, Rotorua.

The Distinction is holding 50 rooms for our conference delegates at \$139 per night (incl. GST).

Contact the Reservation Manager at 07 349 5204 or email reservations@distinctionrotorua.co.nz to secure your accommodation.

Conference dinner

A buffet dinner (\$42 per person) will be held on the Saturday night, followed by a glimpse into the life and work of the late Don Stafford, who was a highly respected historian regarded as an authority on the Rotorua area and its Arawa people, and was the founding curator of Rotorua Museum.

HELP NOHANZ PUBLICISE THE CONFERENCE

A Conference Poster (right) is enclosed with this newsletter. Extra copies can also be downloaded from the NOHANZ website www.oralhistory.org.nz

Please help us to promote the conference and encourage early registrations by:

- placing the poster in prominent locations at your work or suitable places in your local community, such as libraries;
- emailing people you know who might be interested with a link to the conference section of our website <http://www.oralhistory.org.nz/conference.html>
- telling people who might be interested about the conference.



Keep checking the NOHANZ website for updates—www.oralhistory.org.nz

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2010

Rachael Selby reported to the AGM in September on the Exec Committee's activities as follows.

Following a very successful conference held in Wellington in November 2009, the Executive has met quarterly to advance the business of the Oral History Association. We have enjoyed the enthusiasm of new Executive members and the wisdom of old.

Oral History in the 21st Century: Voices of Identity in a Globalised World, April 2011 Conference, Rotorua

A major focus has been to prepare for a conference in Rotorua in April 2011. This will be the first time we have held a conference in Rotorua and we are grateful to Penelope Dunkley who offered to find a venue, which she did before Christmas 2009. The Distinction Hotel, Rotorua, is booked and the Conference Committee has proceeded to prepare for the conference. Early Bird Registrations open on 1 December 2010 and close on 10 February 2011.

Journals, newsletters and the website

The 2009 journal was sent out to members in May and we anticipate the 2010 journal being available shortly. It may be time to review the journal to ensure that it meets the needs of members. We have not had an overwhelming response to publish in the journal especially Oral History Project reports

so it is time to review and to find out how we can ensure we meet the needs of members. Thanks to contributors and editors.

Shona McCahon has been responsible for producing the newsletters in 2010 and these keep members up to date with the latest information and notices. Please consider sending a contribution for the journal in the next year. Shona has also been the liaison with Pip Oldham who maintains the website.

Reciprocal rights with Australia

This year we have negotiated reciprocal rights for Australian members to attend the NZ Conference at the member's registration rate and the Australian association has agreed to offer the same to NOHANZ members who wish to attend the Australian Conference in Melbourne 30 September – 2 October 2011.

Regional Contacts

We have confirmed a number of regional contacts for NOHANZ and it is the Executive's intention to support the development of regional groups. The Wellington group has met regularly over the past three years and provided opportunities for members to meet.

My thanks to the Executive for their support and their contribution over the past year and to all members who contribute to the work of NOHANZ.

Rachael Selby, President

PROFILES : INTRODUCING OUR NEW EXECUTIVE MEMBERS

Pip Oldham is an independent oral historian working in the Wellington area. She particularly enjoys project work with other oral historians. Recently she has been part of the Vietnam War oral history project, with Vietnam veterans and their



families, and Mrs Schumacher's Gems, with women in their seventies and eighties about their experiences of domestic life. She is secretary of NOHANZ and maintains the website.

Paul Diamond (Ngāti Hauā, Te Rarawa, Ngāpuhi and Pākehā) became involved with oral history through his work as a writer, historian and broadcaster. From 2007 – 2009, he managed the Vietnam War Oral History Project for the Ministry for Culture and



Heritage. He works as a freelance writer and oral historian, and is completing a project (supported with an Award in Oral History) interviewing Māori who served in the Vietnam War.

NEW ZEALAND ORAL HISTORY AWARDS ANNOUNCED

Kiwi migration across the Tasman featured large as a project topic in the 2010 New Zealand Oral History Awards, which were announced in August 2010.

Three projects out of eight granted funding will receive a total of more than \$40,000 to record the stories of New Zealanders who have moved across the Tasman.

Other successful projects in this year's awards will explore the work of funeral directors on both sides of the Tasman, conservation covenants, and the Australian influence on lesbian and gay communities in New Zealand. Nearly \$100,000 will be distributed through the awards to support and encourage oral history in New Zealand.

This year, the awards have undergone a name change. Previously known as the Australian Sesquicentennial Gift Trust for Awards in Oral History, they are now simply the New Zealand Oral History Awards.

Previously known as the Australian Sesquicentennial Gift Trust for Awards in Oral History, the awards are now simply 'the New Zealand Oral History Awards'.

The awards began 21 years ago following a gift from the Australian government to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Treaty of Waitangi. To celebrate this anniversary, applicants were encouraged to explore the relationship between the two countries.

Joining the committee of four historians who selected this year's successful applicants was leading international oral historian, Professor Alistair Thomson from Monash University in Melbourne, who was impressed by the quality of applications.

"Over the past 20 years New Zealanders have made wonderful use of the Australian government's gift of one million dollars for community oral history. This year the projects had to explore cross-Tasman experiences and issues – a subject of serious neglect in both academic and community research in both countries. The successful projects will set this right by illuminating complex, changing and

significant interactions between Australia and New Zealand."

The awards are administered by the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, and Senior Oral Historian, Alison Parr, is particularly excited about the migration projects which include studies of Māori and Greek communities.

"It will be fascinating to discover more about the Australian migration experience of such a diverse range of New Zealanders," Alison says. "Their previously untold stories will add a rich vein to our national history."

All the recordings will go into the Oral History Archive at the Alexander Turnbull Library, where they will be available to researchers.

Successful applicants for the 2010 Awards are:

Alison Laurie <i>Australian influences on lesbian and gay communities in NZ</i>	\$11,300
Athina Tsoulis & Evangelia Papoutsaki <i>Greek female immigrants to NZ – 1960s</i>	\$30,000
Bronwyn Hanna <i>Australia ICOMOS Burra Charter</i>	\$ 5,000
Gareth Watkins <i>AIDS Memorial Quilt – New Zealand / Australia</i>	\$ 9,985
Honiana Love <i>Taranaki iwi in Australia</i>	\$12,500
Linda Hepburn and Ruth Low <i>Cross Tasman migration from a small community – 1950s</i>	\$ 5,953
Penny Brander <i>Funeral directors in Australia and New Zealand</i>	\$ 5,000
Shona McCahon, <i>Australian conservation covenants</i>	\$15,000

2010 IOHA CONFERENCE IN PRAGUE

REFLECTIONS ON THIS YEAR'S INTERNATIONAL ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

By Loreen Brehaut

Four years ago, after attending the IOHA conference in Sydney, I decided I would probably not go to any more of their conferences, which I considered had got too big to be manageable. However on hearing that the 2010 gathering was to be in Prague, I was tempted again. My last visit to Prague had been in 1969 – the 'Prague Spring' had just ended unhappily with an invasion of Soviet tanks, and there were armed soldiers on street corners and a wary, disenchanted populace. I wanted to experience the city again under happier circumstances, and perhaps give IOHA another hearing.

First, the city. Not even the crowds of midsummer tourists, vigorous commercialism and a heat wave could spoil the beautiful city of spires. Walking through the busy streets in the evenings with the medieval and baroque buildings floodlit against the sky was like being on a film set, almost too perfect. The Czech enthusiasm for classical music which I'd noticed previously was even more evident – almost every church and auditorium seemed to be offering concerts on a daily basis, which I couldn't very well attend, having come for the conference.

One needs to attend these affairs both organised and laid-back. I came prepared with the programme (titles of papers and names of presenters only) and had made some quick decisions about which sessions seemed most attractive. But nine simultaneous sessions throughout, each with three–four speakers! It is impossible to make a choice, and we received the abstracts (some of them only) on the third day. How to eliminate? Start with the languages – don't go to any in Spanish, which is the Association's 2nd official language, avoid presenters from countries where English and Spanish aren't much used, as these poor people will hardly be able to pronounce their own English-language paper. This much I had learned in Sydney.

I did go to some wonderful sessions. I also went to some pretty bad ones, where one or more speakers didn't arrive, and sometimes no chairperson. One or two papers didn't seem to be based on oral history at all, which was puzzling. I have the utmost sympathy for those with language problems – how on earth did the Poles, the Finns, the Turks, or our hosts the Czechs, cope? – and appreciate their efforts and that it is part of being in an international

organization, but I personally found it often too difficult, and tended to fade out. There was a huge difference between the smooth and confident presentation by some speakers and many of the others. Clearly, many of the presenters had not bothered to time their papers to the very brief 12-15 minutes allotted them, with the result that sometimes they had barely finished their introduction before being asked to finish. There were the usual failures of technology which discomposed the speakers.

The only speaker from New Zealand, Sarah Gaitanos, represented us very well, describing her work compiling the biography of violinist Clare Galambos Winter. She gave a valuable discussion about the reliability of written records and their relationship to oral history and the possible discrepancies between them, a good example of all records throwing light on each other. This was an oft-repeated theme in the conference but rarely so clearly presented. The other Kiwis present were Paul Diamond and myself. Anna Green, now living and working in Exeter, also identified herself as a New Zealander. Several people asked where the usual interesting people from NZ were, so some of you must have made an impression in Mexico!



Sarah Gaitanos speaking at the Prague conference. In November, Sarah gave her paper again to the Wellington regional group - thanks, Sarah!



The New Zealand contingent at closing ceremony (left-right) Loreen Brehaut, Paul Diamond, Vera Egermayer, Jack Vowles, Sarah Gaitanos and Anna Green. Photo: Bruce Foster

Another fascinating session, well-constructed (although the chairperson didn't arrive and one of the audience stepped in) was one of the very many whose theme was war. This one dealt with British involvement in the Falklands War and Northern Ireland, and there were many similarities to our New Zealand Vietnam War Oral History Project. Victoria Woodman had, like us, addressed the experiences of wives and families at home while the Navy was in combat, Geoffrey Bell's project compared the memories of former soldiers with former homeland protesters, and Tomoko Sakai, a Japanese student, raised the issue of the potential division between the past and present self when recalling turbulent events. Her attention to temporality – the narrator remembering the past, telling in the present for the future to hear – was a theme which was repeated in many papers.

Violence, war and totalitarianism, plus exile and migration, were only two of the 14 conference themes, yet consumed almost 50% of the time. It reminded me how different our lives are in Australasia from the concerns of most of the world's population. In Australian and New Zealand conferences the focus of papers tend to be quite different; how fortunate we are.

With over 500 attendees from 58 countries, it was disappointing that there were no plenary sessions and no keynote speakers. This would have helped

build the collegial spirit which one had to construct for oneself. The recognition of our similar enterprise and goals in a wide range of environments and situations is always the high point for me.

My most memorable moment came unexpectedly. After a most impressive (and terrifying to this technophobe) demonstration of oral history-based websites from American universities, the young president of the newly-formed Polish Oral History Association was asked to sum up. Michal Kierkowski, who later told me that oral history is barely recognized as a legitimate pursuit in his country, remarked that there was much mention of the 'digital revolution.' "This digital revolution," he said, 'is simply a technological revolution, it isn't an oral history revolution. Our aim is still the same: to collect memories and interpret them.'" He reminded us that primary sources, and the collection of them, remain important, and how they are later used is a secondary matter.

This put all the gee-whizz interactive displays in perspective – it is valuable and interesting to use our work and put it on display publicly, but first we have to record it. That reminder made the whole trip worthwhile for me.

Loreen Brehaut

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

CONTAINED MEMORY CONFERENCE MASSEY UNIVERSITY, COLLEGE OF CREATIVE ARTS

9–11 November 2010

Te Papa Tongarewa, Wellington

Registrations are still open to the conference, which NOHANZ members may find this conference very interesting.

It brings together in a discourse on memory interdisciplinary and multidisciplinary perspectives from around the world, including anthropology, archaeology, art and media, architecture, art history, cultural studies, geography, history, memory studies, museum studies, musicology, neuropsychology, theatre and philosophy.

See more at www.containedmemory.org.nz

COMMUNITIES OF MEMORY OHAA CONFERENCE

07 October–09 October 2011

Victoria Melbourne, Australia

Planning is well underway for the Oral History Association of Australia's biennial conference. The call for papers closed at the end of October and three keynote speakers have been confirmed.

To find out more see <http://sites.google.com/site/communitiesofmemory/home>

SNIPPETS

NATIONAL RADIO PODCAST

How do I know who I am?

The fifth lecture in the 'Talking Heads' National Radio Royal Society Science 2010 Lecture Series makes fascinating listening for oral historians.

In her lecture, *How Do I Know Who I Am?*, Dr Donna

Rose Addis talks about her research into the relationship between brain function and sense of identity, with particular reference to memory and how it influences our sense of who we are through our lives.

Listen to the podcast at <http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/lecturesandforums/talking-heads>