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The National Oral History Association of
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NOHANZ Newsletter
Volume 31 number 1 April 2017

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We welcome contributions to the NOHANZ newsletter, published three times per annum.

NOHANZ REGIONAL CONTACTS

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

Subscriptions

Thanks to those who've paid already. Subs for the next financial year (from 1 April) are \$50 (unwaged \$35).

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of NOHANZ, and information on services does not imply endorsement.

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This and back issues in full colour are available on our website
www.oralhistory.org.nz



Newsletter Volume 31 number 1 May 2017

Contents

From the President—Nepia Mahuika	3
Bio	
Debbie Dunsford	4
Profile:	
Lynn Abrams	4
Obituaries:	
Susan Fowke	6
Dr Teresia Teaiwa	9
Report:	
Auckland/Tamaki Makaurau regional meeting	10
Contributions:	
Alexander Turnbull Library	12
UK—Unlocking our sound heritage	13
Czech researcher	14
Upcoming conferences	14
Ministry for Culture and Heritage	15

From the President:

E aku nui, e aku rahi,
e aku whakatamarahi ki te rangi, Tena koutou,

It is with deep gratitude that I begin my tenure as Chair of NOHANZ surrounded by exceptional people who are driven and committed to growing our Association. I would like to acknowledge the executive committee, who have welcomed me with warm enthusiasm, and to the NOHANZ community more broadly for your vote of confidence in my election. Significant thanks should also be given to all those who have given their time, expertise and energy to the continuation of our national journal, balancing our finances, organising biennial conferences, holding regional events and activities, facilitating training workshops, and providing assistance and support whenever and wherever it has been needed. Tena koutou katoa!



So as I step into this role in 2017, I am grateful for the hard work of those who have enabled me to orient myself, albeit slowly, to the inner workings of this organisation. My visions for NOHANZ are not overcomplicated or intended to be disruptively transformational. Nevertheless, I hope to add my visions to an enhancing of NOHANZ, particularly in our connectedness with new and old communities in and beyond Aotearoa. This includes a strengthening of our international connectedness to other Oral History Associations globally, to new technologies, methods, and ideas, that can both support what we do here, and also our work as it speaks to international audiences' understandings of oral history. I have a strong commitment to oral history in the Māori community, and will seek to find ways in which NOHANZ might also strengthen these ties, especially as we find our own specifically Aotearoa New Zealand articulation of what oral history means on these shores. I look forward to working together with our NOHANZ whanau in these endeavours.

This newsletter serves as a reminder of what is happening in our community over the coming months, and I hope that you will find it informative and useful. It also acknowledges recent events and issues relevant to us all. I want to close my comments here as I began, in gratitude to all those who have given to this Association. And on behalf of the NOHANZ committee I would like to acknowledge the late Susan Fowke as one of those who has long supported this kaupapa, and as one we should remember. Na reira, haere koe ki te kaenga rua. Moe mai ra i te ringa kaha o mate. Haere, haere, haere atu ra.

Tena koutou katoa.

Nepia Mahuika

Photo: <http://tepouherekorero.org.nz/>

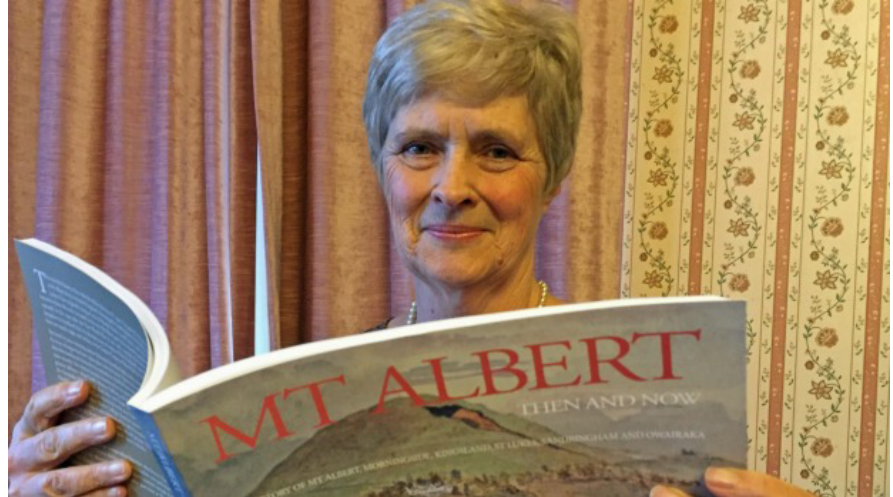


Photo: <http://www.stuff.co.nz/auckland/local-news/central-leader/83995983/History-of-Mt-Albert-published-in-new-book>

Bio

Debbie Dunsford, Treasurer

Dr Debbie Dunsford has regularly incorporated oral history interviews in her academic and public history research and writing projects. These have included interviews with women who nursed in Auckland from the 1920s to the 1940s, and interviews with patients and medical professionals about the treatment and experience of having tuberculosis in post-war New Zealand. Oral history interviews were also essential components of her histories of the Kumeu District and of the suburb of Mt Albert, Auckland.

Debbie has received two MCH Oral History Awards (Childhood in the Kumeu District 1910s-1930s; The Auckland suburb of Milford as an entertainment destination 1920s-1940s). She was project manager and an interviewer for the Nursing Educational & Research Foundation project to interview 60 nurses who trained in New Zealand during the 1950s and 1960s (2012-2014).

Profile

“Historians, oral historians and knitters...”: Professor Lynn Abrams in Wellington

In what may be a first for an academic department, a visiting lecturer recently welcomed her audience at Victoria University thus. Lynn Abrams from Glasgow, an avid knitter who has recorded oral histories with Shetland women, who tell their stories in stitch, had spent the previous evening at a knitting circle in a central Wellington wool shop; her “new best friends” were out in force to hear her speak about what she does in her day job.

The author of a user-friendly guide hailed as the “first integrated discussion of oral history theory”, the Professor of Modern History and Head of the School of Humanities at the University of Glasgow was in Wellington to talk about her research into UK women who grew up before and during the era of the women’s liberation movement, yet did not identify as feminists. Even though they may have been involved in such activist groups as the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, the National Childbirth Trust and Preschool Play Groups (the equivalent of our Play Centre movement) – what could be seen as an “everyday, lived feminism” – these women expressed guilt, shame and anxiety about the fact they had “not read the right books”.

Dr Abrams talked candidly about what she saw as the main shortcoming in her interviewing methodology – introducing “the F-word” (feminism) near the end of her interviews had had the effect of unintentionally closing down discussion. “The oral history interview is an opportunity to express the authentic self,” she says, “yet it was a question that cast doubt on the self they’d just narrated. If I’d just asked about gender equality instead...!”

She says the challenge for oral historians is how to talk “to



Photo: <https://nzha.org.nz/2017/03/26/vuw-public-lecture-this-isnt-very-feminist-at-all-talking-about-feminism-with-post-war-british-women/>

open up rather than close down" discussion. "It's a big deal to be asked to reveal yourself to someone you don't know. Interviewees endeavor to please. They're doing you a huge favour." Professor Abrams had no formal training when she began recording oral histories for *The Orphan Country: Children of Scotland's Broken Homes* (1998). She "jumped in the deep end", having been mentored by veteran oral historian Penny Summerfield at Lancaster University.

Unlike the New Zealand scenario, oral history in the UK – a mix of community and academic practice – has long been accepted by historians, becoming mainstream in the history of the post-war period. "It is now assumed that any postwar historian will undertake some oral history even if the topic is political history. It is seen as a legitimate methodology," she says, "which lends oral history heft."

Oral History Theory, first published in 2010 and revised last year, was developed as a result of Abrams' need for a textbook combining oral history theory and practice when she taught a course on that subject. She draws on the work of experts such as Alessandro Portelli, Paul Thompson and Michael Frisch, to present models of how OH theory has been used in different contexts.

For *Myth and Materiality in a Woman's World: Shetland, 1800–2000*, published in 2005, Dr Abrams drew largely on existing oral histories. "You don't have to do it all yourself," she says. "Life is too short to do repeated interviews."

Ann Packer

Dr Abrams' husband Callum Brown, a social historian, will be a keynote speaker at the Oral History Society's conference in Leeds this year.

Obituaries

Susan Dorothy Fowke 8 March 1944 – 13 March 2017

Susan Fowke, teacher, television researcher and oral historian, died in Gisborne on 13 March 2017.

Susan was born in Sri Lanka (or Ceylon as it was then called) in 1944, although the family came to New Zealand in 1947. Susan grew up in Plimmerton, attending Plimmerton School and Wellington Girls' College before training as a teacher at Wellington Teachers' Training College. She taught in Wellington schools before going to the UK where she lived and taught for many years. On her return to New Zealand, she was teaching again but then went to work at TV1 in 1978 as a researcher for *Fair*

Go and other television programmes.

It was there that Susan got to hear about oral history through her friendship with Judith Fyfe, Hugo Manson and others. In 1986 she went freelance as a researcher, and began her long and varied career as an oral history interviewer and abstracter. (Susan wrote about her life and times as a television researcher and oral historian in *Oral History in New Zealand* Volume 23, 2011.)

In 1993 Susan was given an Award in Oral History grant to record a project with New Zealand women who had been given damehoods. She also worked as one of a large group of interviewers on Gaylene Preston's 'War Stories Our Mothers Never Told Us' oral history project, and recorded interviews for the history of the Wellington Zoo.

When I worked as oral historian at the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, I commissioned Susan to do some interviews for a history of the New Zealand Police and the Office of the Auditor-General. She was the consummate professional – you asked her to do the interviews, briefed her on what the focus was and provided her with research, sorted out the logistics, and not long afterwards were presented with an interview, an abstract and completed forms, and an invoice. She was a delight to work with.

She was also a delight to know – amusing, a lover of cats, the owner of a beautiful cottage garden at her house in Parliament Street, and a great cook. She was sympathetic and interested in people and, Judith Fyfe reckons, adventurous.

The adventurous part of Susan showed itself in her decision to become a foster mother for an at risk teenage girl, her decision to become a real estate agent and, not least, her decision to leave Wellington to live in Gisborne where she spent the last years of her life.

We will miss her throaty laugh, her quirky sense of humour and her professionalism and skill as an oral historian. Rest in peace, Susan.

Megan Hutching

Susan Fowke: some observations from *Reflections on a Career in Oral History*

On empathy:

"Out of all the interviews over the years, I can only think of about three people of whom I walked away thinking, "I really didn't like that person".

I find this interesting and surprising because in real life I don't



Photo: <https://boomers.org.nz/stories/story/29/making-it-work-after-lifes-upsets>

like everybody I meet. And I wonder why I like my interviewees. Is it because you learn a lot about a person in very a short time and so you get to understand them?

In real life it is true to say that, generally, I prefer the company of women to that of men, but in oral history I enjoy interviewing men just as much as women – and feel I can interview them just as well as I do women.

I really do not have the answers but I mention both these things it because I think a good oral historian must be open to liking the interviewee, have a genuine interest in their lives and a respect for those lives, whatever they are like. If you cannot do that at least 99.9 per cent of the time, then get yourself another job."

On archiving:

"Most of my interviews and projects are sitting on the shelf, or stored on hard drive in the Alexander Turnbull Library. Many will have already been listened to by researchers, for whatever purpose, but some will not have, and may not be for many years to come.

That does not worry me in the least. In some ways, I think the

longer they sit there the better. It is a bit like storing a cheese – with time comes the depth of flavour. In 100 years' time, or longer, who knows what people will want from them or will get from them. I like that feeling of mystery, of not really knowing how an interview will be used or how it will be heard or understood by the listener. I find it quite tantalising to think about.

I'm glad that so many of the stories I have recorded are not immediately pinned down, dissected, analysed or reconstituted. Let's just leave them be for a while in all their richness and mystery, for people in the future to make of them what they will."

For the full text of Susan's based on her presentation to Conference 2009 in Wellington, see Oral History in New Zealand (NOHANZ Journal), Vol 23, 2011.

[<https://files.acrobat.com/a/preview/f9b18bc3-3de1-4853-87be-159b0e6d5f0a>]



Photo: <https://www.iwda.org.au/8862-2/>

Dr Teresia Teaiwa 12 August 1968 – 21 March 2017

The director of Va'aomanu Pasifika at Victoria University in Wellington, Teresia Teaiwa, died in March following a short illness. She was 48.

Dr Teaiwa, a poet, academic and author, was widely known and respected in the Pacific including for her research covering militarism and gender; contemporary issues in Fiji, where she grew up; and feminism and women's activism.

The Guardian, in 2009, described her as one of Kiribati's living national icons, and the University of Oregon called her "a groundbreaking scholar in the research of the culture of the Pacific Islands".



Born in Honolulu to an I-Kiribati father – displaced from Banaba to Fiji as a consequence of phosphate mining – and an African-American mother, Dr Teaiwa was raised in Fiji with two sisters. After graduating PhD at UC Santa Cruz, she taught at the University of the South Pacific in Fiji for five years before taking up a position at Victoria University in 2000.

Dr Teaiwa won several important academic teaching awards, was co-editor of the International Feminist Journal of Politics and published and performed internationally as a poet. She received a Marsden research grant for an oral history and book on Fiji women soldiers – the subject of her keynote presentation to the NOHANZ conference 2011 in Rotorua.

<http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/education/91548606/a-life-story--dr-teresia-teaiwa-leading-light-of-the-pacific-dies-48>

Report

Auckland/Tamaki Makaurau regional hui

Saturdays are proving popular for our Auckland Oral History hui. Our plan is to keep finding new venues, collections and regional themes in this vibrant and lively city. Can you suggest a venue?

The autumn hui was hosted by Sharon Smith, Research Librarian, South Auckland Research Centre, Manukau Library. The format was: round the room introductions, speakers, shared lunch, speaker and a tour of The Stacks. We began at 10am and finished at 2pm. Sixteen attended, making for an intimate and enjoyable occasion of connecting and sharing.

First up were Tio Sewell and Hineroa Hakiha from Tuia Te Ao Mārama, the Maori mental health nurses' project, who talked about capturing the era of kaupapa Maori nurses through the eyes of 15 of them who worked between 1950 and 1990. All were leaders in their institutions – and most of those psychiatric institutions are now gone.

These kaumatua are living treasures. They were leaders, change makers and one was a QSO recipient. This is a profound contribution to the oral history of Aotearoa New Zealand. We greatly appreciate Tio and Hineroa giving us a window into how the project was achieved.

Video was chosen over aural recordings to respect the mana of the speakers. Six interviews are in Te Reo Maori, nine in English and 120 short video clips are accessible online. <http://www.maorinursinghistory.com/>



Back Row: Tiriwa Watene, Raymond Davey
Middle Row L to R: Lorna Wong, Naomi
strickland, Sandra Gorter, Debbie Dunsford,
Sue Monk, Philippa Templeton, Julie
Benjamin, Sue Gee,
Seated: Sharon Smith, Hineroa Hakiha, Tio
Sewell, Lily Lee.
Absent: Anna Fomison Photographer: Car-
olyn Skelton

After a shared lunch, Lily Lee spoke about co-authoring, with Ruth Lam, *Sons of the Soil, Chinese Market Gardeners in New Zealand*, a beautifully designed, comprehensive book.

"Everyone wanted to be in it," Lily said, and 100 interviews were recorded. Being bilingual in Cantonese and English enabled her to draw stories from those market gardeners who did not speak English.

A desire to give back to her Chinese community led Lily to work on a project for the Auckland Zhongshan Clan – her parents come from this region, where an uncommon dialect of Cantonese called Longdu is spoken. When Lily told one of her mother's stories, in Longdu, about the Japanese invading, electricity sparked in the room. The sudden intonation and accent, and the depth of emotion were a reminder of why we record the human voice.

Lily also gave the group a taster of Chinese history in New Zealand, from Appo Hocton, who stepped ashore at Nelson in 1842, to her own childhood in a Newmarket fruit shop then a Mangere market garden. <http://zhongshan.nz/en/pioneers-stories/61-my-journey-lily-lee.html>

Sharon Smith gave us a quick internet guide to accessing Auckland Libraries' digital material, then led a 30-minute tour of col-

lections in The Stacks. "Definitely worthwhile" and "It's amazing what they've got in there" were the comments. We ran out of time for sound clips but will include these in the next hui, which will have a Newmarket theme.

Save the dates: July 22 or 29, 10am – 2pm at an Eastern Suburbs library, to be confirmed.

Sue Monk and Sue Gee

[Editor's note: the Maori mental health nurses' project was presented at 2014 conference]

From the Alexander Turnbull Library

Oral History collection availability

Due to the Kaikoura earthquakes, half of the oral history collection listening copies are still not available to access. The numbers range from copy cassette tapes OHLC-1 to 7207 and copy OHLCDs from 1 to 2108.

This part of the collection remains closed as the Library finalises the programme of work required for the continued safety of our staff and collections. The Library apologises for any ongoing inconvenience this may cause.

At the present time no date has been advised for when these listening copies will be available.

This information is available on the [National Library of New Zealand website](#) home page under the green tab titled Collection availability; click on "See what's available" for the latest information.

Interviews that are digitized are available through the search stations in the Katherine Mansfield Reading Room. Some may need prior permission for listening access. The oral history abstracts/transcripts are available to view.

If you intend to visit Wellington to listen to oral history interviews, feel free to contact the oral history librarian to check to see if the interviews you wish to listen to are available. Email gillian.headifen@dia.govt.nz

New workshops announced

Due to popular demand, a second Wellington series of *The Essentials of oral history research* has been added, on 8 July

and 26 August 2017. Details are available at <https://natlib.govt.nz/events/essentials-of-oral-history-day-one-wellington-july-08-2017>.

There are still places remaining on *Abstracting oral history* in Auckland 17-18 June 2017: <https://natlib.govt.nz/events/abstracting-oral-history-auckland-june-17-2017>, and in Wellington 12-13 August: <https://natlib.govt.nz/events/abstracting-oral-history-wellington-august-12-2017>.

For enquiries, please email atloutreach@dia.govt.nz or call 04 462 3935



NEWS FROM THE UK

Unlocking our Sound Heritage

The British Library has launched a major preservation and access project that will enable the formation of the first ever national network of sound preservation centres. This network will come together with the British Library to save almost half a million rare and unique recordings threatened by physical degradation or stored on formats that can no longer be played. Unlocking our Sound Heritage is part of a core British Library programme, Save Our Sounds, which pledges to preserve the nation's sound heritage.

These recordings tell a rich story of the UK's diverse history through traditional, pop and world music; drama and literature readings; oral history; regional radio; dialect; and wildlife sounds from around the country. Oral histories from World War I and II, plus Welsh, Irish and Scottish traditional music, are among the culturally significant recordings that shed light on the past and the world we live in, providing a reminder that history is recorded in many forms. The stories of communities, migrant workers and marginalised groups will be told alongside those of notable historical figures, local histories against the national and international; sounds, memories, music and traditions in all their manifold wealth.

More at: <https://www.bl.uk/press-releases/2017/april/major-funding-boost-for-unlocking-our-sound-heritage#sthash.6V129kIi.dpuf>

Seeking ex-pat Czechs...

A researcher from Prague working on a Czechs Abroad project wants to contact historians interested in East European migrants to New Zealand.

Dr Martin Nekola, who has already carried out detailed research in the US and Australia, has turned his attention to the history of the Czech community in New Zealand. He plans to visit Wellington later this year, to consult the Alexander Turnbull Library and National Archives in search of any interviews with Czech Cold War immigrants, recorded as part of oral history projects at universities, libraries or research centres.

Historians interested in East-European migrants to New Zealand are invited to contact Dr. Martin Nekola PhD, marnekola@gmail.com

Snippet

Jean Stein, who used oral history in the US to chronicle wealth, fame and influence, dies at 83

https://www.nytimes.com/2017/05/02/books/jean-stein-dies-chronicled-wealth-fame-and-influence.html?emc=edit_th_20170503&nl=todaysheadlines&nlid=67682755&_r=0

Upcoming conferences

July 2017

Australian Historical Association 2017 Conference

"Entangled Histories". 3-7 July 2017, Newcastle University, NSW. There will be a New Zealand and Australian Oral History Strand co-convened by Alistair Thomson and Nepia Mahuika.

For more information see <https://www.theaha.org.au/call-for-papers-entangled-histories-aha-annual-conference-2017-3-7-july-2017/>

Working with Memories: Australasian Oral History

Strand: contact Dr Nepia Mahuika (nmahuika@waikato.ac.nz) or Professor Alistair Thomson (alistair.thomson@monash.edu).

September 2017

Oral History Australia Biennial Conference, Sydney, September 13-16.

For information see <http://www.oralhistoryaustralia.org.au/oha-biennial-conference.html>

October 2017

OHA (US) Annual Meeting will be held October 4-7 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

For more information see <http://www.oralhistory.org/annual-meeting/>

June 2018

International Oral History Association's (IOHA) next Conference "**Memory and Narration**" will be held in Finland 18-21 June 2018. Deadline for papers 31 August.

For more information see <https://www.jyu.fi/en/congress/ioha2018>

FROM THE MINISTRY FOR CULTURE AND HERITAGE

Lynette Townsend will become the newly appointed Historian (audio-visual content) at the Ministry for Culture and Heritage in May 2017. In her role as history curator at Te Papa she worked with many community groups, and curated audio-visual content in the development of exhibitions exploring 20th century New Zealand history, Aztecs, Air New Zealand, and the Italian Community in New Zealand. Recent research projects have focused on New Zealand childhood and LGBTIQ+ histories.

Creating, curating and researching audio-visual content was an important aspect of her previous role and she is excited about continuing with this at MCH. A key project will be the Te Tai Treaty Settlement Stories project.

Lynette is greatly looking forward to helping with the management of the Ministry's annual Oral History Awards funding and working closely with NOHANZ in the near future.