



Lily Lee, Awi Riddell and Naomi Strickland at the recent Tamaki Makaurau regional hui Image: Sue Gee

NOHANZ NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 31 • NUMBER 2 • August 2017

The National Oral History Association of
New Zealand
Te Kete Kōrero-a-Waha o Te Motu
ISSN 01147447

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www.oralhistory.org.nz

NOHANZ Newsletter
Volume 31 number 2 August 2017

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We welcome contributions to the NOHANZ newsletter, published three times per annum. The next deadline is 1 November.

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). Please see Note from the Treasurer, p 4

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



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From the President

Tena koutou katoa! We hope your 2017 has been tracking well. This newsletter provides a recent update of various happenings in the oral history world, and some important news/panui for the coming months.

In early July, in my capacity as NOHANZ President, I was fortunate to co-convene an Australian-New Zealand Oral History stream at the Australian Historical Association (AHA) Conference in Newcastle. "Working With Memories" brought together oral historians researching histories of Australian mining communities, intergenerational experiences of closed stranger adoptions, insights from the production of commemorative stained glass windows, trauma and memory held by soldiers returning to fields of conflict, oral narratives of activism and empowerment from the LGBT community, and a session on Indigenous oral history. These were well received presentations that highlighted the deeply provocative and powerful impact oral history offers through the words and experiences of our participants. Newly completed PhD Maria Haenga-Collins, for instance, presented a deeply moving paper that revealed the pain, fear, hope, and rich reservoir of emotions expressed by families and individuals who have struggled with feelings of abandonment, uncertainty, identity loss, and reconnection. Dr Cheryl Ware offered a similarly engaging presentation outlining the experiences of gay men in Sydney who navigated severe social, physical and psychological abuse. I presented as part of a panel together with outstanding Aboriginal oral historian Dr Lorina Barker, and Dr Sue Anderson who is the current President of the Australian Oral History Association. This strand, organised in partnership with Alistair Thomson, reflected not only the outstanding and interesting work that is being done by oral historians in Australia and Aotearoa, but the ongoing and continuing bonds that exist between our communities. We hope to do more collaborative work and presentations in future.

We are disappointed to announce the discussions with Dr Indira Chowdhury *Unheard Voices and forms of cultural memory* in Auckland and Wellington in September have been cancelled, due to a visa application complication. Please keep an eye out on our website for information regarding other regional events. Stay safe, warm, and enjoy our latest newsletter. Ma te wa.

From the Treasurer

Please renew your NOHANZ subscription now!

Renewal invoices were emailed to members early in July and Treasurer Debbie Dunsford thanks all those who have already paid so promptly. She has enjoyed being in personal email contact with so many of you.

If you haven't yet paid, please spare a thought for your volunteer treasurer and save her the effort of sending out individual reminders about payment being due. If you have questions about your invoice, email Debbie (nohantreasurer@oralhistory.org.nz) and she will happily answer them.

Remember to put your full name as a reference for on-line payments – and email Debbie that you have paid.

Bank details: National Oral History Association of NZ, BNZ, 02-0568-0405836-000.

Oh, and check your junk mail box in case the emails have ended up there by mistake!

Debbie Dunsford

In Memoriam

Cliff Whiting, Te Whanau-a-Apanui, 6 May 1936 – 16 July 2017

Visionary, innovator, tohunga, teacher, scholar, master carver

Cliff Whiting trained as a Māori art specialist and was mentored by artist and visionary art educator Gordon Tovey, and tohunga whakairo, Pineamine Taiapa. He worked as a Māori arts and crafts specialist for the Department of Education for 15 years. He is recognized for his huge contribution to New Zealand arts and culture throughout a career spanning over 50 years. His work is represented across many areas including marae, education, administration and personal works. NOHANZ executive committee member Belinda De Mayo interviewed Cliff for her Northern Maori Schools' Oral History project.

"I spent a weekend with Cliff, in his Russell home, a year ago.





<http://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/teahikaa/audio/201851888/he-matanga-toi-dr-cliff-whiting>

Nestled in a uniquely shaped, boldly coloured and lush Far North garden, his home, too, teemed with art. Flying machines made out of wire, a mighty carving in progress, mobiles, prints, paintings, photographs and drawings. Colour, form, texture and beauty. Like those of his contemporaries also interviewed for the project, his home spoke volumes of New Zealand's recent artistic riches.

Of his early art experiences he said "Oh, art's just making things and doing stuff."

"My life at home on the East Coast was over the war years – the 40s. Fantastic life. We made all our own things. Mainly out of flax stalk because you could cut it if you had a sharp knife, and use pins. We used quick, we called it. The long thorns on your thorn bush we used to pin things together.

"Cardboard was good because you could make wings for aeroplanes and the flax stalk floated so you made canoes and sailing boats...and trucks. Around the coast in those years sheep and cattle were driven by drovers. Later on they used big trucks. They fascinated us. Then, during the war, it was all that machinery. We'd make our model aeroplanes with flax stalks. Ten motors they'd have. We'd make propellers that you could stand in the wind and these things would turn and carry on.

"But we made little sailing boats too. We floated them out on

the sea and on river pools. One or two were traditional. My uncle showed me how to make flax leaf boats. We'd put ballast in them, mud or stones, and sail them. Had seats and everything – and a big flax sail. We'd sew the ends, stitched with muka and seal them with flax glue."

At 10 or 11 years old, he bruised the heel of his foot. "A specialist said it had TB so I ended up in Gisborne's Cook Hospital, with a cast on it. I had to sit in bed and was told not to move. For nine months. This thing in plaster with cage over top of it. And I wasn't allowed out of bed. So I drew. Brown sticky paper was magic. I made things with brown, sticky paper...and cardboard cartons. I made models.

"There was this Maori fulla next to me. He had TB in his spine. Had to lie flat. He'd show me how to stick things together, and cut and fold things. We made boats and all sorts of things out of cardboard cartons, brown sticky tape and scissors and a tray."



<http://www.thearts.co.nz/artists/dr-cliff-whiting>

Days after his tangi, in Wellington I took a group of Japanese high school students to Te Papa's marae, Rongomarearoa, to welcome them to New Zealand. All that Cliff had explained to me that weekend, lies within [that marae]. His powerful mix of imagery and visual languages, abstracted and explored. Wairua, literature and cosmology. Bringing together traditional Maori and contemporary New Zealand art ideas and forms.

Young and old. Maori and Pakeha. And also, in his uniquely formed custom board, 11yr old Cliff's hospital model-making experiments: brown sticky tape, cardboard cartons, scissors and a tray, cutting, folding and sticking things together. The spirit of partnership, the values and beauty that were Cliff.

Roger Hardie, also an art and crafts specialist for the Department of Education, worked closely with Cliff in the late 1950s. In our interview Roger spoke reverently of Cliff's brilliance. "Cliff realised his strength. Anything he touched turned to gold." He says one afternoon in Whanganui Pine Taiapa had gathered four of them at Cliff and Heather Whiting's house. "Pine began chanting. Heather disappeared. It was all to do with Cliff. It went on for quite some time. The air was electric. You could feel it. I believe it was Pine passing his mana to Cliff. He received the Cloak of Wisdom at that moment. It was a remarkable experience. To see tohungaism. It was there and so very real. When I saw a photo of Cliff, Heather and their three boys after the investiture of Aotearoa New Zealand's highest honour, the Order of New Zealand, I understood."

Watching the buses, vans and cars flocking to his Te Kaha Marae in adoration and homage, I shared their love, and understood. A modest man with a giving soul. We are a nation richer for Cliff.

Goodbye Cliff, e hoa, haere.

Belinda De Mayo



<https://www.stuff.co.nz/entertainment/arts/94776220/Cliff-Whiting-artist-and-member-of-Order-of-New-Zealand-dies-aged-81>

Delightfully immersed in sound and vision

Since Lynette Townsend took up the position of Historian – Audio-visual content at Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage, oral historians and members of the NOHANZ community have been hugely encouraging and supportive, she says. But since people are also curious about how this new role might interconnect with oral history research, we invited her to contribute an article highlighting some of the work she has been doing.

Selecting the recipients of the 2017 Oral History Awards, along with a committee comprising academic and public historians and oral history experts, became one of my first responsibilities. It was a hugely rewarding and satisfying assignment. I was particularly excited about the variety of histories covered reflecting New Zealand's diverse cultures and multifaceted perspectives of our national story. Some of the most underrepresented aspects of Aotearoa New Zealand history will be captured, including the stories of Croatian immigrants, women and children, people with disabilities, rural and urban life, lesbian social life, sport and some unexplored angles on Maori history and culture.

A major focus for me recently has been Te Tai, a project that highlights treaty settlement stories and aims to inform New Zealanders about the settlements, the associated stories and iwi initiatives post-settlement. The project is underpinned by in-depth, filmed oral histories focusing on key people involved in each iwi's treaty negotiation. These are proving to be invaluable in terms of providing detailed information and an iwi perspective that hasn't been captured elsewhere.

The first story focuses on Ngati Awa in the Eastern Bay of Plenty, an iwi that had all its land confiscated as punishment for a murder that occurred in its territory in 1865. Dr Monty Soutar, Senior Historian at MCH, is leading the team working on the project. We will be using digital storytelling methodologies and, along with a website, we plan to utilise social media channels to disseminate key stories, audio-visual content, film and images. The project is underpinned by the team's focus on working with iwi to enable them to tell their own story, rather than the government recounting it for them.

Another project is focused on women's suffrage and women's rights. Next year marks 125 years since New Zealand women gained the right to vote. For Suffrage 125 I've been delving into the archives, searching for film footage and historical audio clips, and also listening to some excellent oral histories. A series of interviews by Jill Abigail focusing on key people who were part of the 1970s women's liberation movement in New Zealand is proving to be particularly illuminating. I'm keen to make use of existing material, particularly audio-visual content created in the 1970s and first-hand reflections on first and second wave feminism, as well as contemporary perspectives by women's rights activists today.

To date, my role at MCH has encompassed sourcing and acquiring a variety of audio-visual content and curating new audio-visuals. These will appear as part of Te Tai and Suffrage 125 content, as well as on Te Ara and NZ History. I'm finding this field of historical work to be extremely rewarding and I'm greatly enthusiastic about the aesthetic qualities of historical footage and the granular, tonal and sensory elements of oral history recordings – an area of research I plan to explore in the future.

Lynette Townsend

For a full list of the awards and information about each project go to the New Zealand Oral History Awards page on the MCH website, mch.govt.nz.

Conference report: SIGCIS

*NOHANZ member **Janet Toland**, School of Information Management, Victoria University of Wellington is a member of SIGCIS, The Special Interest Group in Computers in Society. She reports on a panel discussion at a recent conference.*

The Special Interest Group in Computers in Society (SIGCIS) is a community of academics and practitioners who study the history of information technology. At a 2017 SIGCIS conference five researchers discussed the different ways they use oral history in their research projects. The discussion was videoed and is available on YouTube. [[Links](#)]

The Tools, Techniques and Communities: Oral History in Soft-

ware History panel was led by Deanna Day, a research fellow from the Chemical Heritage Foundation, which has an extensive OH repository. Other members included David C Brock, Centre for Software History at the Computer History Museum; Melanie Swalwell from Flinders University, who is researching the history of home micro computing in Australia and New Zealand; Laine Nooney, Georgia Tech, who researches the history of the US video game company Sierra Online; and Brian McCullough, who produces a series of Internet History podcasts with over 10,000 subscribers.

The panel's approaches vary from traditional to more casual – Laine takes interviewees to a location where they feel comfortable, such as the Zoo, not worrying about background noise affecting the recording quality. While Brian set out to interview the developers of Netscape, as his podcasts became popular his project expanded; his well-known interviewees tell their stories in their own words, without editing. Melanie's unknown home users write their own history through "Play it Again", a popular memory archive where users of homebrew microcomputer games share their stories.

Panellists talk about how they select potential interviewees – often by word of mouth – and have found the engineer or secretary no one has previously bothered to talk to may give more revealing insights than the Vice President who has a standard dinner party story off pat.

Despite working in IT, these panellists often find traditional approaches to interviewees such as letters to be a "safer" way of getting in touch than cold calling. A formal letter on official letterhead or a personal handwritten letter can "cut through the noise" and get peoples' attention more effectively. Handwritten thankyou notes were also widely used – as well as social networking sites such as LinkedIn and Facebook.

Oral history is an important tool in the computer historian's arsenal, adding a richness that is often lacking in other techniques. It can be carried out in many different ways for different purposes – sometimes the interview is intended for a formal repository while other interviews will be disseminated online or used for personal research. And as IT is relatively new, and its history only just entering the record, sometimes the only option

for researchers is to generate primary sources themselves. All panellists agreed that training in OH techniques was essential for potential interviewers.

The discussion panel was convivial and offered useful insights into the different ways OH can be used in the fields of science and technology. Oral history tends to be underused in these subject areas, especially as paper or online documentation is often available. Ironically, though much more data is stored online than on paper these days, much of it is password-protected and not readily available, making OH even more important.

However, as the panellists unanimously agreed, oral history unearths insights and connections that other methods don't. Hopefully discussion panels like this will raise awareness of the benefits of oral history for researchers whatever their field.

Janet Toland

A full version of Janet Toland's report is available on our website, www.nohanz.org.nz

Youtube link for panel discussion

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ziXWP7I3eyk&list=PLQsxaNhYv8dZLtHNYG0ygsOjVvvRg87c9&index=8>

Internet History Podcast

<http://www.internethistorypodcast.com/>

Podcast on the history of Sierra Online with Laine Nooney

<http://www.internethistorypodcast.com/2016/06/the-history-of-sierra-online-with-laine-nooney/>

Play it Again popular memory archive

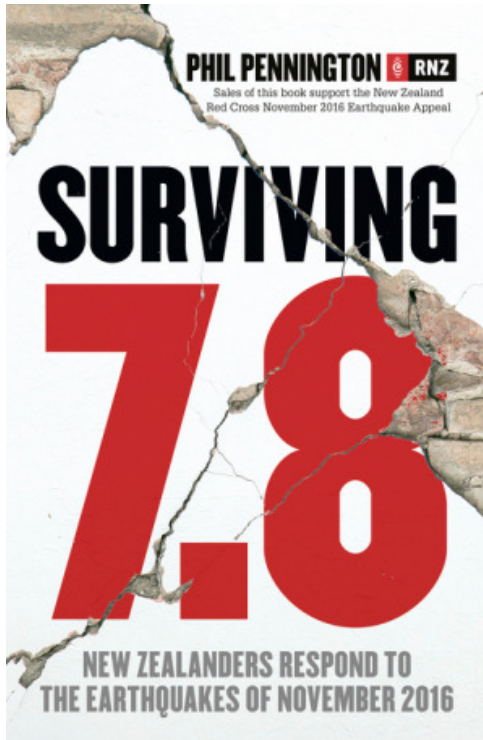
<http://web.archive.org/web/20170405032734/http://playitagainproject.org/>

Computer History Museum oral history repository

<http://www.computerhistory.org/collections/oralhistories/>

Chemical Heritage Foundation oral history repository

<https://www.chemheritage.org/oral-history-collections>



Book review

Surviving 7.8: New Zealanders Respond to the Earthquakes of November 2016, by Phil Pennington, Harper Collins, RRP \$35

Reviewed by Marina Fontein

The 7.8 earthquake that jolted New Zealanders awake on November 14, 2016 was the “world’s second-equal most powerful quake of that year”, according to RNZ journalist Phil Pennington, who distilled his reportage on the event for this book. While two lives were lost, it’s widely believed that many more deaths would have occurred had the earthquake happened during daylight hours.

Pennington’s book addresses the journalist’s “who, what, where and when” of the event in admirable detail. At its heart are the people he and his colleagues met and recorded. Pennington describes “trying to grasp the whole picture, rather like a jigsaw puzzle” and this metaphor is reinforced as he goes on to navigate and document the devastation of the land and its people in words and photographs. Alongside the testament of locals and tourists, he includes tweets and other communications from overseas, reflecting the way the news of the quake spread rapidly in social media shockwaves.

Pennington begins by relating the shock to himself and his family as they react to the quake at his home, in Lower Hutt. Vicki MacKay, RNZ’s presenter that morning, stays staunch and the journalists rush to back her up with as much information as they can send. What follows is a step-by-step account of Pennington’s experience of walking through Wellington’s streets then flying above Canterbury in a helicopter, chartered by “cash-strapped RNZ”, to witness the unfolding reality of the damage.

In some ways, this book may be seen as a documentation of the event itself. In the tradition of oral history after a catastrophic event, it gives “voice to the disaster”, as Abigail Perkiss puts it. Another strength is its author’s acknowledgement of the place of this event in the life stories of the animate and the inanimate, including seashores, roads, buildings and animals, alongside damaged human hopes and dreams. Along with their owners, the experiences of a pet goat and Joey the galah provide some light relief.

Pennington is sensitive to the trauma of his interviewees, but primarily focuses on brief accounts of the events witnessed and experienced by those affected by the earthquakes of November 2016. At times he is evidently moved by the generosity of locals and provides memorable accounts of these actions – thankfully these appear more frequently than the reports of looting opportunists.

While *Surviving 7.8* conveys a sense of immediacy and involvement, its structure too closely resembles a jigsaw puzzle whose pieces don't quite fit together in a strong narrative framework. Some readers might have wished for a little more detail about the life stories of some of these New Zealanders in responding to the earthquakes of November 2016. That said, *Surviving 7.8* is a valuable document and Pennington's dedication to his reportage is admirable.

Marina Fontein, a Wellingtonian, confesses that her "active daily sense of wariness about our geological realities", saw her defer reading this book for some time.

Sales from this book will support the New Zealand Red Cross Kaikoura Earthquake 2016 appeal.



Auckland Regional Hui, 22 July 2017

On a wet, cold and miserable July day, Kinder House in Parnell, an 1850s gothic mansion of volcanic stone, was an appropriate setting for a cosy pot-pourri of history presentations and workshops which attracted 23 oral historians and supporters, including several out-of-towners.

After teas, coffee and muffins in the Tea Room we adjourned to the Dining Room to sit in a semi-circle on dainty wooden seats. Debbie Dunsford's measured opening remarks were followed by an opening karakia from Tiriwa Watene.

One Minute Introductions around the room were kept to a total of 30 minutes thanks to a humorous device: time-keeper Sandra Gorter held up a large "20 Seconds" card, as required. Practically everyone needed it.

Sandra's own presentation was based around the development of Newmarket and the construction company HEB [originally Harris, Etherton and Brownlee], which is now owned by a French company. Operating "under the radar" of the larger national companies, it developed the railway land at Newmarket, which many remember for the Post Office workshops, rail-





way housing and a long overgrown gully. Sandra included a sound clip of Ivan Meade, a laconic masculine voice. At one point, he was clearly pulling the wool over a gullible youth's eyes, but you had to actually hear the amusement in his voice to get that.

In response to Sandra's presentation, Tiriwa described how Māori viewed the whenua at Newmarket as tapu whenua, sacred land – making the point that for Māori, the relationship with the land is not simply geographic or economic but involves a deep spiritual connection.

Lily Lee, supported by husband Awi Riddell, brother Jack and sister-in-law Meilin, spoke about her Zhongshan Clan, an enclave of about 40 men who lived in Newmarket between the 1920s and 1940s. In 1939-40 three refugee wives joined the men, and children were born. Lily named families, streets and houses, occupations and the county in Guangdong they came from – a fascinating web of information that informed the bigger picture – and her sound clip revealed dialects and accents.

As usual, networking and catching up with friends over a splendid lunch was an enjoyable part of the day. Conversations and wine flowed – thank you Naomi Strickland for the red, and for taking photos. Jon Monk started the sound clip workshop with a swag of terms to whet the appetite of any oral historian. Debbie Dunsford's WAV pad demonstration was straight forward and easy to do. The hui finished on time at 2.30pm. All in all, a very satisfying day.

Sue Gee



Previous page: Awi Ridell, Mei Lin Chong, Sue Monk. Food image: Sue Gee. From top left: Sandra Gorter; Jenny Clay & Susan Hill; Philippa Temple, Wynne Parker & Jack Chong; Barbara Scrivens, Julie Benjamin & Guy King. Images courtesy of Naomi Strickland.



<http://independent.academia.edu/SueBerman>

Ngā Pātaka Kōrero o Tāmaki Makaurau – Auckland Libraries

Following a recent restructuring at Auckland Libraries Sue Berman has been appointed Principal Oral History and Sound. She joins a team of other heritage specialists responsible for Pouarataki Taonga Tuki Iho Māori, the NZ Print Collection, Photography, Rare Books and Manuscripts, and Archives. Also recently appointed, to a new Curator Pacific role, is Daren Kamali from the Auckland War Memorial Museum. Daren is a talented writer and performer with a strong interest in oral history and contemporary documentary, and is a welcome addition to the team.

The Principal Oral History and Sound role has a regional responsibility for the development of collections in both oral history and sound; for format shifting and preservation; identifying collecting priorities; and to provide training and outreach support work with communities. Luckily, there is a growing group of oral history enthusiasts and practitioners within the Auckland Libraries Research and Heritage network to support this work. A new digital team sits in the Content and Access unit – they will lead born-digital management and digitisation programmes as well as implementing a new content management system [database of heritage material] which will finally see all the heritage data bases integrated.

Oral history recording equipment remains available for loan and use for community practitioners and organisations through the regional research centres and Central City Library. We encourage researchers to access and utilise the existing collections in their research and to consider Auckland Libraries as a repository for life history or topic-based recordings.

Sue Berman, 021 0414427



NOHANZ at MOTAT, 1 October 2017

As part of heritage month, NOHANZ and the Walsh Memorial Library at the Museum of Transport & Technology in Auckland will be working together to record brief interviews with people on the themes of Cycle Stories, My First Car and Travelling the Main Trunk Line.

If you are interested in helping with the interviewing side, please contact me: hutching28@gmail.com

Megan Hutching

<http://www.motat.org.nz/about-motat/news-media/media-contact-and-images/>

From the Alexander Turnbull Library

For upcoming workshops, to register an interest in oral history training anywhere in the country, , including commissioned workshops for groups, or to enquire about equipment hire, please email atloutreach@dia.govt.nz or visit natlib.govt.nz

Have you visited He Tohu yet?



National Library building, Wellington, 10am—5pm Monday—Saturday

Lynette Shum, Oral history Advisor, Alexander Turnbull Library: lynette.shum@dia.govt.nz, 04 462 3977



Journal editor

We are pleased to announce that Pip Oldham, a longtime member who served for a lengthy period as secretary of NOHANZ, has been appointed interim editor of the annual NOHANZ Journal. She will co-edit the 2017 issue with retiring editor Megan Hutching, whose significant contribution over many years is much valued.

Coming up:

OHA conference, Sydney 13-16 September 2017

<https://dcconferences.eventsair.com/QuickEventWebsitePortal/ohac17/cs>

Inaugural Māori Oral Historians and Wananga PhD Graduates Conference, Whakatane, 24-25 October 2017





Kia Hiwa Ra – Kia Hiwa Ra! Welcome to the
Maori Oral Historians and Wananga PhD Graduates
Inaugural Conference 24-25 October 2017

Venue Te Whare Wananga o Awanuiarangi; 13 Domain Road, Whakatane 3120

The theme of the conference is '*Journeys*', side stories within interviews

Did you participate in the **Oral History Training** offered by the Alexander Turnbull Library?

Were you involved in the **Treaty of Waitangi Claims** process for your hapu or iwi?

Were you involved with **research for your marae or other project**?

Were you involved with the **Iwi Community Based Language Initiative** research?

What **research methodology was utilised, what iwi specific tikanga were practised**?

Come, share the *Journeys* encountered during your research projects

The full program will be out shortly.

A brief of no more than 250 words on any of the above research topics is required for presentations.

Contact: Taina Tangaere McGregor **Ph:** 022 041 8682 **Email:** taina.mcgregor@dia.govt.nz