



# NOHANZ NEWSLETTER

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The National Oral History Association of  
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NOHANZ Newsletter  
Volume 31 number 3 December 2017

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**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Ann Packer

We welcome contributions to the NOHANZ newsletter, published three times per annum. The next deadline is 1 March 2018

**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

**NOHANZ Journal 2017**

The Journal, in colour for the first time, will be mailed with this newsletter. We thank retiring editor Megan Hutching and interim editor Pip Oldham for their collaboration on this edition.

**Cover image:** On board Reo Moana. Sir Bob Harvey brought his son and grandson along for the ride. Mokopuna McCahon Harvey was assigned to show passengers the model of the sea plane that son Fraser Harvey had made the week before. Photo: Sue Gee. See [story p. 16](#).

*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](http://www.oralhistory.org.nz)



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## From the President

Tena tātou kātoa,

Greetings to you all as we enter another year. We are now planning for our 2018 conference, which will be held at the University of Waikato in late November. Please keep an eye out for further details, early-bird registrations, keynote speakers and workshops. We would love to hear about your work, and welcome paper presentations or panels. We will call for papers shortly.

2017 has been an eventful year in oral history. New Zealand oral historians travelled to the Australian Oral History Conference in September, and we co-hosted an Australia and New Zealand stream of papers at the Australian Historical Association (AHA) Conference in June.

I was fortunate to attend the American Oral History Association (OHA) Conference at Minnesota in October, renewing old friendships, and offering a panel with colleagues on indigenous oral history. The American conference is well attended, and offered a range of fascinating workshops. Todd Moyer is now president of OHA, and their next conference is planned to take place at Montreal, Quebec in October 2018. While at this year's conference, I attended the Social Justice and Oral History Workshop, expertly run by Sarah K. Loose and Fanny Garcia. It was a very enjoyable and friendly workshop, where I picked up new ideas for my own work. We workshopped various projects together, and shared ideas and thoughts about social justice as a theme in oral history practice. While in Minnesota I was also fortunate to be invited to attend the dawn ceremony for Indigenous Peoples' Day. This was a fantastic opportunity to meet local indigenous Dakota leaders and other native peoples who were also at the event.

On behalf of our executive team, I want to extend my best wishes for the holiday season – travel safe and enjoy time with whānau and friends.

Ma te Atua koutou e manaaki,

**Dr Nēpia Mahuika**

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



## **From the Treasurer**

Thank you to all our members who renewed their subscriptions promptly in July and August. The very modest NOHANZ subscription really does provide excellent value in terms of professional support for our oral history practice not to mention the opportunities to network with fellow practitioners. A short list of benefits includes newsletters, the annual journal, conferences, regional events, the oral history website, and more. If you haven't renewed, please do so now or this will be the last newsletter you receive. You can email me to check your subscription status: [treasurernohanz@oralhistory.org.nz](mailto:treasurernohanz@oralhistory.org.nz) Subscription rates are \$50 waged, \$35 unwaged. Pay to NOHANZ, 02-0568-0405836-000. For those of you who have updated your email address recently, please let us know.

***Debbie Dunsford***

## **Exec news: Zoom!**

After 30 years, exec members are now able to sit at their computers, laptops, iPads and iPhones and talk face to face, through the wonders of technology. Invited by president Nepia, we dial up Zoom and can admire the native bush/bookshelves/office walls of each other's work environment. This means Ruth, from Timaru, does not have to travel to Christchurch to join our meetings, nor Sue Monk, Sue Gee and Debbie Dunsford across Auckland – a trip that probably took just as long. Democracy in action!

## **AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE**

### **Moving memories: oral history in a global world**

Oral History Australia's biennial conference, held at the Sydney Masonic Centre in the CBD 13-16 September 2017, was an exciting, stimulating and challenging conference which covered a huge range of oral history – everything from the core business of recording fascinating stories, to training and archiving, to the latest methods of



Keynote speakers Dalia Leinarte and Indira Chowdhury. Images credits: OH NSW and Lynette Shum

publication, including podcasts – and the issues involved: privacy, cultural safety, and the emotional cost to both subjects and interviewers. There were also two performances based on oral history interviews with migrants. However, with up to four concurrent sessions running on two floors it was often difficult to choose which presentations to follow.

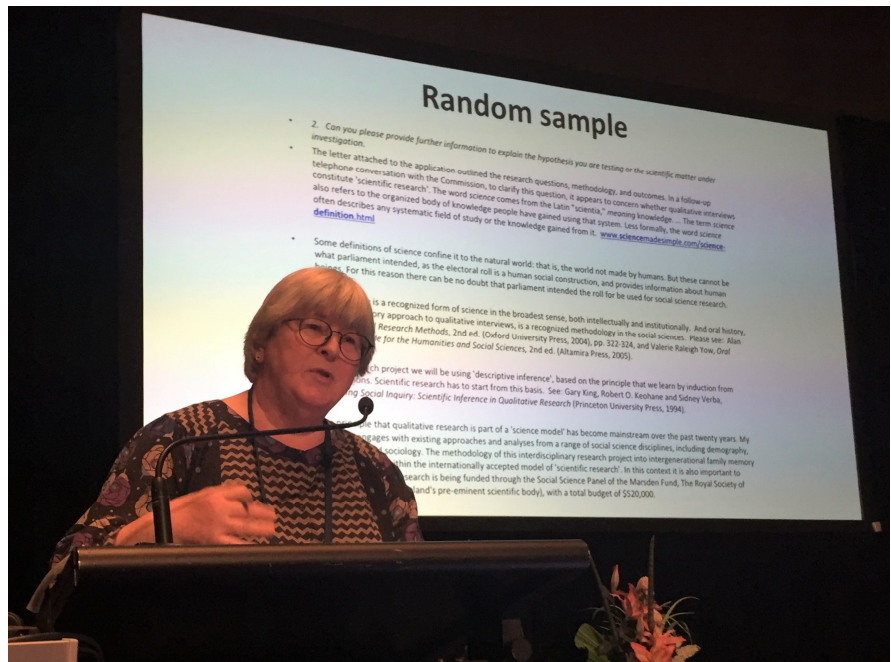
NOHANZ was represented by Professor Anna Green, Megan Hutching and Lynette Shum, with Australian Ben Morris, a Vietnam vet who presented at Wellington in 2014 and remains a member of NOHANZ, also presenting. Ann Packer and Ruth Greenaway attended.

Highlights included two international keynote speakers: Dr Indira Chowdhury from India and Professor Dalia Leinarte of Lithuania.

**Indira Chowdhury** talked about the relationship between memory and history as key to understanding the outbursts of violent nationalism that still occur in India – dating back to The Partition of India in 1947, when 12 million people were displaced. “People thought they were going for just a few weeks – and never returned.” Most never told their stories. Indira, who we had hoped would address NOHANZ members in Auckland and Wellington pre-conference, showed a charming animated film, *Mukand and Riaz*, made from a children’s

picture book. A tale of friendship based on the experiences of filmmaker Nina Sabnani's father that had never been told, it shows life before and during the partition from a child's point of view. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g6C9HWVsNd0>

**Dalia Leinarte** is chair of the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). Like Indira, Dalia talked about silence and amnesia in biographical accounts, in her case concerning Eastern and Central Europeans since WW2 – though it was not always because of trauma but sometimes



*Anna Green—Pakeha family stories*

because they had nothing to say: “there was little space for personal initiative”. Her work as chair of CEDAW made for harrowing listening, a systemic litany of women’s suffering on a global scale. Beginning with interviews with prostitutes who were in reality trafficked women, Dalia went on to talk about the consequences of war in Yugoslavia with mindboggling facts such as: of 50,000 estimated rapes only 40 have ever been prosecuted.

**Anna Green** presented on her Pakeha Family Stories project (<http://www.familymemory.nz/>) and also chaired



*Megan Hutching—ensuring stories are not lost*

a roundtable which included a Finnish folklore researcher and two Australians, one a sociologist and the other a family historian. They revealed how the study of history has dramatically changed with the range of sources now available. One member commented that while small historical societies dwindle as elderly members die off, young mothers are checking out Ancestry.com. "These communities need to have a conversation!"

**Megan Hutching** gave an entertaining presentation drawing on her recordings of oral histories of the first New Zealand women air hostesses, who worked on the early Solent flying boats. The danger is that when jobs no longer exist, stories will no longer be heard – "but by recording interviews with people who worked in occupations which no longer exist, we ensure that their stories are not lost."

**Lynette Shum** presented her project for the Alexander Turnbull Library, "Teaching them to fish", which discussed her role in assisting the Pakaitore Oral History Project Working Group to record oral histories 20 years after Whanganui's Pakaitore/Moutoa Gardens land protest of





*Remembering Palestine, a verbatim community theatre project*

1995. The project demonstrated how oral history has the ability to give hope of healing and transforming a community across groups and cultures.

Finally, it was a treat for this editor to meet OHQ's **Suzanne Mulligan**, whose monthly e-Bulletins round up so much OH information and news from Australia and around the world. You can find links to her bulletins on the [Oral History Queensland website](#).

### ***Ann Packer***

Firstly, thanks to Oral History Australia for a fantastic, stimulating and well-organised conference. Centrally located, the rumble of passing trains was a constant feature.

I was struck by the similarities between the presentations of the two keynote speakers, Indira Chowdhury and Dalia Leinarte, and my own research experience in finding huge silences, gaps in the memory. Reasons that were suggested for this included survival—just coping, disbelief, political threats, too proud, suspicion, trauma/coping with loss and the stigma attached. It was good to meet the





Above:

Janis Wilton entertains during a useful session on teaching and learning oral history.

Lillian Rodrigues-Pang with her exhibition *A Mile in My Shoes*, featuring 'shoe stories' from members of SCARF (Strategic Community Assistance for Refugee Families).

warm and engaging Indira in person and to hear her speak, after the disappointment of the cancellation of her visit here.

For me, one of the standout themes was applied oral history—the products people have made with oral history—that are used in publications, eg online with transcripts as with some NSW State Library collections, E books hyper-linked to actual recordings, such as Al Thomson and Anisa Puri's [\*Australian Lives: an intimate history\* \(2017\)](#), which draws on the National Library of Australia's [\*Australian Generations Oral History Project\*](#); podcasts (I attended a masterclass taught by Siobhan McHugh from the University of Wollongong); apps, eg New Zealander Hamish Sewell's Nambour geo-locative audio app Soundtrails; and augmented reality. There were also 3D interactive representations of narrative, an exhibition and performances.

I also enjoyed a session on teaching and learning oral history. Here was proof of the presenters' words—that a sense of humour was crucial, and an insistence on maintaining technical standards. I heard a common refrain that they were resisting pressure to deliver training on-line.

The biennial conference is in the year between our conferences, and I encourage members to go if they get the chance.

**Lynette Shum**



Right: Outgoing OHA President Sue Anderson and new President Alistair Thomson. Spoiler alert: New Zealand oral historians will get a chance to hear Alistair when he presents as a guest at the NOHANZ Biennial Conference in November 2018

## PROJECTS

### **The Traveller: “Stories from the Woolshed” OH Project**

*With the interviewing for her shearers project nearing an end, Timaru-based NOHANZ Exec member Ruth Low reflects on some of the amazing opportunities her research has offered. Ruth received a New Zealand Oral History Award for this project.*

On two occasions I have had people respond “how boring” when I’ve told them that I am an oral historian. Their response has shocked me, firstly, for their lack of social filters and secondly, because I cannot believe that anyone would think that exploring the lives of others could be anything other than fascinating. Fortunately, their opinions matter little to me and I carry on my own merry way.

Of course, my interviewees are front and centre. The fact that people who do not know me are willing to open their doors let alone their lives to me is not something I take for granted. Many have graciously given hours to me recounting their own personal experiences of the shearing industry. The excitement of recording is tempered by the knowledge that I’ve yet to weave their stories into a book!

I have chosen to travel regionally to gather stories and I’ve clocked up some serious kilometres. The regional coverage has given variances in accounts and experiences, so I feel the travel has been worthwhile – although the driving has generated a few moments of stress. Being lost in the back blocks of Gisborne and arriving an hour and a half late to my interview was one such moment. Also, the drive up to the station meant I vowed I would be off the hill before dark. Feral goats running off the hills down on to the road also gave me heart palpitations, especially when the big billy goat ran in front of the car.



Muzzle Station. Image: Mark Low

The highlight of my travels, however, has most definitely been the time at Quail Flat, between the Seaward and Inland Kaikoura ranges, to watch Muzzle Station merino wethers being shorn. It is recommended that only experienced 4WD vehicles drivers take it on. Anyone who has just read Fiona Redfern's book *My life on Muzzle* will see an image of the zig zag track you travel on over the seaward range. Shearing contractor Barry Pullin generously took my husband and me in, and Colin Nimmo, Fiona's father and the previous owner of Muzzle, brought us out. Two hours to travel 30 kilometres should say it all! No photo can do full justice in capturing the vastness and magnificence of the landscape. I felt really privileged to be seeing it. The impact of last year's earthquake was evident and it's fair to say Mark and I were hoping there



would not be a repeat!

One of the challenges with this project has been that those I wanted to interview are busy working people and to pin them down for an interview has sometimes been difficult. So seizing every opportunity was necessary. However, my plans of interviewing our drivers while on the track dissolved as soon as I saw just what we were travelling on. We didn't wear seatbelts – being told it was best they were left off in case we needed to exit the vehicle quickly.

Of necessity, the trip out became about embracing the experience, and for Mark to take as many photos as possible. We camped a night on the Flat and were fed, along with all those on deck: the shearers, woolhandlers, presser, woolclasser, station owner, stationhand and cook. We listened to shearers' banter; watched as young shearers searched with binoculars for chamois, possible targets for a shoot; heard stories of past shears and quizzed Guy, the owner, on his farming practices. Such an opportunity has not only deepened my admiration for those in the shearing industry but given me understanding on a whole new level that can only help in further interviews and for later writing.

So – boring? – I think not.

***Ruth Low***

## **Te Onekiritea Hobsonville Point History Project**

A beautiful wooden bus shelter has begun a new life in Hobsonville at the corner of Sunderland Ave – a place to rest in the shade, read story panels and learn a little of the people and the area. In August 2015, Kathleen Waldock, Programme Manager – Place Making of the then Hobsonville Land Company, commissioned me to interview the family of John (Junk) Clarke and write about his life.



*Annette Clarke and family, December 3rd 2015 on the day of the dedication of Junk's Stop*

More information was required to flesh out the story, so I interviewed friends and colleagues, some by phone and some in front of the microphone. The loyalty they had for one another was striking. The story A Dedicated Serviceman was printed on brushed steel and backgrounded by a late sixties photograph of Junk with RNZAF mates in front of an Orion aircraft.

The recordings (all open access) were deposited at WARC and a new project begun – Te Onekiritea HPHP. In starting this project, Kathleen says, "We've always acknowledged the importance of the heritage of the site, the history to it that we didn't want to lose. When people know they're moving into a new development that has a past story, a community before, it helps build connection to learn about the history. Also, we always wanted to acknowledge the people who lived and worked here before."

Octogenarian Janet Beech had lived on base as a child. Her father, H G Wilson, was an RNZAF Squadron Leader. I recorded Janet's memories as she revisited No 2 Marlborough Cresc where she'd grown up. Questions from





Annette Clarke and service friends

current tenants made for a lively exchange and some surprising revelations. A recent news story provided some valuable publicity. <https://www.stuff.co.nz/auckland/local-news/north-harbour-news/98315492/former-hobsonville-point-resident-helps-to-tell-the-areas-history>

The project includes recordings made with armourers to inform writings about the rifle range and Number 1 E D, which had been the country's main explosives depot.

Colloquially known as The Bomb Dump and renamed Te Onekiritea Point after a 2014 Treaty settlement with Te Kawerau ā Maki, the area was considered the spiritual home of armourers in Auckland.

Interviews with marine captain Allan Jones revealed detailed information and proved so valuable The Allan Jones Special Collection was created. I was sent to photograph his model-collection and record his recollections of "The time the air force had a navy." In a red wooden box: RNZAF Marine Section Archives, he kept log books, maps, charts, newspaper articles, his own written stories, medals, photographs and seven micro-cassettes – self-recorded information, memories and anecdotes that WARC had digitized with funding from HLC.

Te Onekiritea HPHP has been growing organically, with interviews gleaned from contacts made along the way. It includes heritage talks recorded this year on board MV Reo Moana on the Upper Waitemata (see below). Next year's plan is to introduce some structure to ensure good representation, to include new high-tech stuff and information on pre-European history.

**Sue Gee**



Allan Jones with RNZAF Marine Section Archives, Whangaparaoa workroom, September 2016

## God Willing and Weather Permitting

On the first day of October, an historic cruise departed from the Hobsonville Ferry terminal as part of the Auckland Heritage Festival. The event borrowed its name from the title of the 2006 book by Malcolm Hahn: *God Willing and Weather Permitting*. Hahn, an Olympic Javelin thrower, formed The Guardians of the Upper Harbour, a group that lobbied the Air Force and government agencies to stop dumping sewage in Waitemata Harbour.

I was asked to record heritage talks, commissioned by HLC (now Homes Land & Communities), on board MV Reo Moana. I was looking forward to hearing from Malcolm Paterson (Ngāti Whātua o Kaipara), Sir Bob Harvey and Tony McCracken, Glenfield Historical Society. Sound bites were required for the HLC website and the recordings were to be deposited at the West Auckland Research Centre, Auckland Libraries.

Malcolm's plan was to point out ancestral landmarks from the boat and talk about people and events associated with them, including old Ngāti Whātua waka that can still be seen. In the event, he declined the invitation to speak,

later saying "From bitter experience I know that in the conditions forecast I would have been providing more berry than korero."

On the day, a well-timed break in the weather allowed an enthusiastic capacity crowd to board without umbrellas. A two-minute sound check recording using the internal microphone of a Zoom H4 confirmed my expectation. Capt Andrew Somer's welcome and safety introduction was backgrounded by the very loud sound of the ship's engines.

Louelle Botes of HLC introduced Sir Bob Harvey, using a hand-held microphone with sound relayed through the ship's speakers. She passed it to Sir Bob. At the same time, I clipped a Countryman lapel microphone to his jacket. Once he started speaking, I could hear his voice getting louder and the sound of the ship's engine fading as I moved the microphone level on the Zoom up to 100%. It was a relief to see the peaking levels move closer towards something more appropriate.

Sir Bob described in detail, and with dramatic flair, the daring sea plane rescue of nurse Hazel Bedford at Karekare Beach in 1931. Prior to the talk, he'd written that he was looking forward to talking "...but it sounds terrible. The sound system on boats is never good and the story is complex...." Fortunately, the sensitivity of the lapel microphone overrode the ship's sound system.

By the time Louelle introduced historian Tony McCracken, I felt confident about the recording levels from the lapel microphone. Through my earphones, I heard him well but through the ship's sound system, he was faint. It took a bit of adjusting for Tony to feel comfortable bringing the handheld microphone right up to his mouth, but with audience encouragement, he managed. His talk focused on waterways – the rivers used by Maori and later Pakeha for transport. He invited the audience to go back in time and imagine a series of scenes starting with a heavily forested pre-historic NZ. He emphasised the importance of heavy forestation. With trees growing right down to the

stream banks, the rivers were deep, wide and navigable. They did not need cleaning up by harbour diggers.

Audience questions were informed and passionate. I recorded the ensuing discussion with reasonable success using the internal microphone and one lapel microphone on Tony, whose voice was soft. The lapel microphone had a very long cable so it was easy to take the Zoom close to querying audience members. Sir Bob's loud voice was picked up by Tony's lapel microphone.

NOHANZ recording agreements were filled out in advance, ready for the speakers to sign as they had agreed, prior to the talks, on open access. Steady rainfall, as forecast, during much of the cruise added to the atmosphere, didn't interfere with the recording and was appropriate to the name of the event: God Willing and Weather Permitting.

**Sue Gee**

### **Access to the Outdoors: Federated Mountain Clubs' Mountain & Forest Trust Oral History**

*Julia Stace, of Wellington, has been coordinating a project to mark the centenary of The Federated Mountain Clubs in 2030.*

I saw this job advertising for a manager in a Nohanz newsletter, and having done some earlier projects relating to the outdoors and being curious about the work of FMC, I applied. Subsequently I was lucky to engage two oral historians who were also interested in NZ/Aotearoa's outdoor history.

Since the project began in 2015 seven completed interviews have been lodged with the Trust and Alexander Turnbull Library. Four more will be completed by the end of this year. Access to all these interviews is unrestricted and early on we decided to make a note on the copyright form that any copyright connected to the interviewer



*Arnold Heine October 1959, at start of North Victoria Land traverse Scott Base  
Photo Warren Jackman US Navy*

would be given to the Trust as well. It could be ten years before the interviews are used as the research tool for which they are intended, so we wish to forestall any possible complications.

First, both Patrons, Arnold Heine and Allan Evans, were interviewed in 2015. In 2016, after receiving a MCH grant of \$5000, four more interviews were done: Mike Floate, Les Molloy, Dave Henson and Paul Green. This year interviews with Nick Jennings and Peter Strang have been completed. Oral histories currently in progress are those with Dave Crawford, Dave Mazey & Bruce Jefferies. All interviewees were suggested by the Trust, through their collective knowledge of relevant work done by those people.

I have had Jacqui Foley as the South Island oral historian, and Shona McCahon for the North Island interviews, to minimise travel expenses. It is the first time in my life that I've been paid to "manage" people and they have been so good to work with. As I am an oral historian as





Arnold Heine 2015. Photo J Stace

well as Project Manager, I have done two interviews in Wellington. This has certainly helped me to better understand the work of the FMC.

Mostly trampers, some also mountaineers, these were people to whom access to the outdoors was of primary importance and so they got involved in FMC and allied organisations. These interviews have covered: formation of national parks, state forest parks, wilderness areas, the merging of government departments to form Department of Conservation in the 1980s, mountain safety and teaching of bush craft, search & rescue, tenure review, the formation of the Trust, editing the quarterly FMC Bulletin (recently renamed Backcountry) and much more.

Like other long-formed national groups, such as Forest & Bird, OSNZ (now Birds NZ) and local groups such as Botanical Societies, FMC has been involved in monitoring upcoming government legislation and speaking at select committees when necessary. All these groups are very influential as they work hard for their consistency in particular and the public in general. They have an eye to the future, preventing misappropriation of New Zealand's assets. A lot of executive members' time is spent considering the best course of advocacy as much notice is taken of their submissions at times of public feedback.

Perhaps the most important thing is that all FMC interviewees have been insightful, with an ability to look at their own experience in the context of the big picture of environmental and recreational trends and developments. What these people have done in their personal and career lives has shown them to be very able, informed and committed people. They reflect the values of FMC. Their recollections and experience fit this oral history brief well.

After the initial three year trial the Trust has decided to continue this project, retaining me as manager and using the same two interviewers. We will continue but at the reduced rate of interviewing three, not four, people per year.

***Julia Stace, Project Manager FMC M&F Trust Oral History Project***

## **Tim Jones — Oral history from scratch**

Tim Jones' fascinating presentation to a NOHANZ Wellington regional gathering on his experience setting up an oral history project at the Library in Bouganville was live-streamed from the VSA Facebook page. You can still see this at <https://www.facebook.com/volunteerserviceabroad/videos/1529730300440902/> His presentation starts at 6:50 in.

Christchurch members get the chance to hear Tim, Librarian for the Christchurch Art Gallery, present again. See back page for details.

## **ORAL HISTORY AT MOTAT**

**Megan Hutching** writes:

It was a typical Auckland winter's day – heavy rain all day. As a result, there were few people visiting MOTAT and even fewer came to the Walsh Memorial Library to record a story.

The oral historians had a good time catching up on news, however, and we vowed to try again before too long!

## **From the Alexander Turnbull Library**

Ruth MacEachern, the Associate Chief Librarian, Research Access, whom many of you may have met at the NOHANZ Conference in 2016, has left us for new directions. Mark Crooksten will be taking over many of her roles for the foreseeable future.

### **Wellington workshops February, March 2018**

*The essentials of Oral History Research*: A two day course with a month between them. Held in Wellington Saturday 24 February and Saturday 24 March 2018.

<https://natlib.govt.nz/files/oralhistory/workshop-wellington-early2018.pdf>

### **Auckland workshops May, June 2018**

*The essentials of Oral History Research*

For more information, please email

[atloutreach@dia.govt.nz](mailto:atloutreach@dia.govt.nz) or call the Oral History Advisor  
04 462 3977

## **NOHANZ events**

### **Christchurch**

**Monday 5 March 2018 6-7ish**

**Hagley College Library**, cnr Hagley Ave and St Asaph St

#### **Oral history from scratch**

**Tim Jones** reflects on his six months recently spent as VSA volunteer helping to set up an oral history collection for the Haus Stori, the public library in Arawa, Bougainville.

Preceded by nibbles and a group catch-up—what are you up to, what do you want to know?

Lynette Shum, Oral History Advisor for the Alexander Turnbull Library, will be attending

**All welcome: Please RSVP for catering purposes:**

Email [reourceshantz@oralhistory.org.nz](mailto:reourceshantz@oralhistory.org.nz)

### **Timaru**

#### **Oral history taster/meeting**

For those thinking of starting, or for the collegiality of those who are more experienced

**Tuesday 6 March 9-12am**

For more information, contact Ruth Low  
[ruthelow@outlook.com](mailto:ruthelow@outlook.com) or 027 699 3616

## **NOHANZ BIENNIAL CONFERENCE**

**University of Waikato  
20-22 November 2018  
Save the date**