



NOHANZ NEWSLETTER

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The National Oral History Association of
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NOHANZ Newsletter
Volume 32 number 1 April 2018

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We welcome contributions to the NOHANZ newsletter, published three times per annum. The next deadline is 1 July 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 welcomes the following new members:

Alison Day
Anna McGlashan
Canterbury Museum
Klara Sentirmay
Lyn Diedricks
Janine Irvine
Cheryl Ware
Mikaela Nyman
Sara Crawford
Sue Bradford
Nina Whittaker

Cover image: New Zealand Railways staff who worked on the Silver Fern railcar service.
Photo: courtesy Kathy Crook See story p. 6.

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 2018 is progressing well. The NOHANZ Exec team are looking forward to another vibrant year ahead, and we have been busy planning for our upcoming biennial conference, to be held at the University of Waikato from 27-29 November. We have some exciting speakers lined up and will announce more details about them in the coming months.

By now, many of you will have seen our call for papers and we encourage you to attend and present on your own work – we would love to hear what people have been doing in oral history. We are also planning to run our usual workshops the day before Conference begins and will provide details on these as well, in the near future. For more information please check our website, oralhistory.org.nz.

I would like to acknowledge two recently-completed PhDs: Maria Haenga-Collins, who has taken up a position at AUT and Cheryl Ware, who is now teaching at the University of Auckland. Both have completed excellent studies that drew extensively on oral history interviews in their respective fields. It is exciting to see the breadth and scope of oral history work that is emerging in and beyond academia. Our national conference this year hopes to bring oral historians from all areas together – whether running community oral history projects, doing oral history for personal and family study, working for various public institutions, independent free-lance researchers or undertaking Masters and PhDs that draw on oral history research. No matter where and what you are doing, we hope to hear from you. One of the best ways to do this is through our national journal, where we accept essays and short written pieces that tell us about your work. So if you have any work you would like to share please contact us so we can find ways to include it in newsletters or the NOHANZ periodical.

Please keep an ear and eye out for some of our local activities. We will be posting these to the website during the year.

Taku mihi mahana ki a kotou katoa

Dr Nēpia Mahuika

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

From the Treasurer

Members can expect renewal invoices towards the end of April/early May. If you have changed your email address, or know of others who have (given this may come via email) please advise treasurernohanz@oralhistory.org.nz

Dr Debbie Dunsford

News

NZOH Awards: closing 4 May, 2018

Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage invites applications for the 2018 New Zealand Oral History Awards (NZOH). The awards provide financial help for the recording of interviews relating to the culture and history of New Zealand Aotearoa.

Projects submitted for consideration should contribute significantly to an understanding of New Zealand's past and its diverse peoples and communities. Last year 16 oral history projects received funding covering a range of stories including women with disabilities, lesbian life, rowing, Māori arts and childhood.

Further information about the awards, criteria and how to apply can be found at:

<http://mch.govt.nz/funding-nz-culture/ministry-grants-awards/new-zealand-oral-history-awards>

2018 applications close on Friday 4 May 2018 at 5pm

Projects

HEI LISTEN!

*[NOHANZ member] **Prue Langbein**, a former RNZ audio producer based in Eastbourne, calls on her oral history training, networks and practical experience while working on a new platform to provide online content for children. She writes:*

Audio is now recognised as important in our development in so

many ways, including building literacy, empathy and imagination as well as being just plain entertaining fun!

In October last year I was lucky enough to receive funding to create an audio space on a new platform providing online content for children and I'm really excited about the interest and level of enthusiasm so far.

HEIHEI – Te Reo Māori for 'commotion' or 'chicken' – will launch in the first half of 2018, carrying a wide range of mainly local content for primary-aged children on a safe, ad-free platform. It is a collaboration between NZ On Air and TVNZ..." (<http://www.nzonair.govt.nz/news/articles/new-daily-childrens-tv-show-to-underpin-new-online-childrens-platform/>)

My site is called HEI LISTEN! and will be one of the collections available on the HEIHEI website. HEI LISTEN! is all about a listening experience for children. We'll be encouraging young people to take a break from watching a screen, instead, inviting them to engage their ears and their imagination. We especially want them to hear their own voices and have their worlds reflected and extended. Our aim is to create a collection within the HEIHEI site that offers a rich mix of audio-based stories, features, jokes, poems, games, music, interviews, and sound fun – creative material by and for children. Our audience age groups are 4-6 years old, and 7-9 years old.

I've always had a particular love of producing material for and by children, since beginning work at Radio New Zealand as a story producer for the iconic *Ears* programme, established by Dick Weir in the late 1980s. I continued working at RNZ for many years with various changes and restructures to children's content as it moved from the weekly *Ears* show to Sunday's repeated hour long magazine show *Once Upon a Twice* to a week night *Storytime* slot to the current *Weekend Storytime*.

I love oral histories too – I've often wondered what children from another time might have sounded like – and I think children should be included in our own oral history collections. In 2012 I was awarded an Oral History grant to record *Seven by Seven – Voices of New Zealand Children*, interviewing seven children from the wider Wellington region about their life and times. Last year I was funded for a follow up – *Seven by Twelve* – with the same children.

It was wonderful to meet up with them again. They had, of course, all grown and changed, sometimes in quite unexpected

Design by Mary McIntyre





Image: Murray Reece

ways. Some had moved to a different place and many to different schools. Fortunately, I recorded them before embarking on HEI LISTEN! as this project has been fairly intense. Fortunately too, the writing-up process for *Seven by Twelve* is nearly complete.

My oral history training, networks and practical experience have been most helpful in working on *HEI LISTEN!* I've gained confidence, friendship, encouragement and affirmation in my belief that children provide an abundance of creativity, surprise, wisdom and delight.

I'm grateful to NOHANZ and my oral history networks for their support and practical advice. I hope to do a follow-up with my seven children in a few more years, and welcome any questions or ideas.

Prue Langbein prue.langbein@gmail.com.

ORAL HISTORY AT MOTAT

Megan Hutching, oral historian at Auckland's Museum of Transport and Technology (MOTAT), was inspired by NZR uniform skirts and scarves to begin a project recording Silver Fern hostesses.

I was speaking to one of the curators here at MOTAT who was describing and cataloguing pieces of New Zealand Railways uniforms. Most of the items were obviously worn by men, but there were some skirts and scarves. After a bit of fossicking around – thank you Google – we realised that they were part of the uniform worn by hostesses working on the Silver Fern railcar service which ran daily between Auckland and Wellington.

The curator was keen to know more about the uniforms, and as MOTAT's oral history archive is heavily skewed towards interviews with men, this seemed a good opportunity to record some information about the work of these women, and slightly repair the gender imbalance.

But how to find the former hostesses? The Silver Fern ran

from 14 December 1972 to 8 December 1991, and, at any one time, six hostesses were based in Auckland and six in Wellington so there were not going to be many around.

First, I asked the volunteers at MOTAT's rail section and was given the name of one woman who did not want to be interviewed and had not kept in contact with any of her former workmates. I then put a request on the MOTAT Facebook page. Nothing. The Rail Heritage Trust was my next hope, and they eventually came up trumps after they arranged for an item to be published in the Kiwi Rail newsletter. The wife of a current staff member, who had been a Silver Fern hostess, saw it and got in touch.

She had kept in touch with a number of other hostesses, and arranged a get-together to which the curator and I were invited. They brought photographs and other memorabilia to show us, including a manual with all the information each hostess carried with her while working which they donated to MOTAT on the spot. And fortunately, they were keen to be interviewed too.

Over the next few months I interviewed four of the women who had been based in Auckland. The interviews cover working conditions on the train, interaction with passengers, the hostesses' daily routine on a Silver Fern journey, accidents, special occasions and descriptions of the different uniforms they wore. Each day the hostesses going south would swap over with the hostesses going north just south of Ohakune. The two trains stopped next to each other, the hostesses got out and crossed the tracks to the other train, and the Auckland-based hostesses would travel back there with a new set of passengers. This was not always easy as they were starting to get tired by this time, having started work at 7:30 in the morning.

The hostesses took their job seriously. They were expected to have First Aid training, serve refreshments, engage with international tourists, broadcast a commentary on sights, look after unaccompanied children, and they spent a large part of their day serving alcohol at a time when New Zealand's liquor licensing laws were prescriptive. Despite the long hours – 7.30am to 8pm, many of the women worked for long periods as Silver Fern hostesses in conditions which were not particularly great.



Silver Fern hostesses beside the railcar in Taumarunui. Photo courtesy Kathy Crook

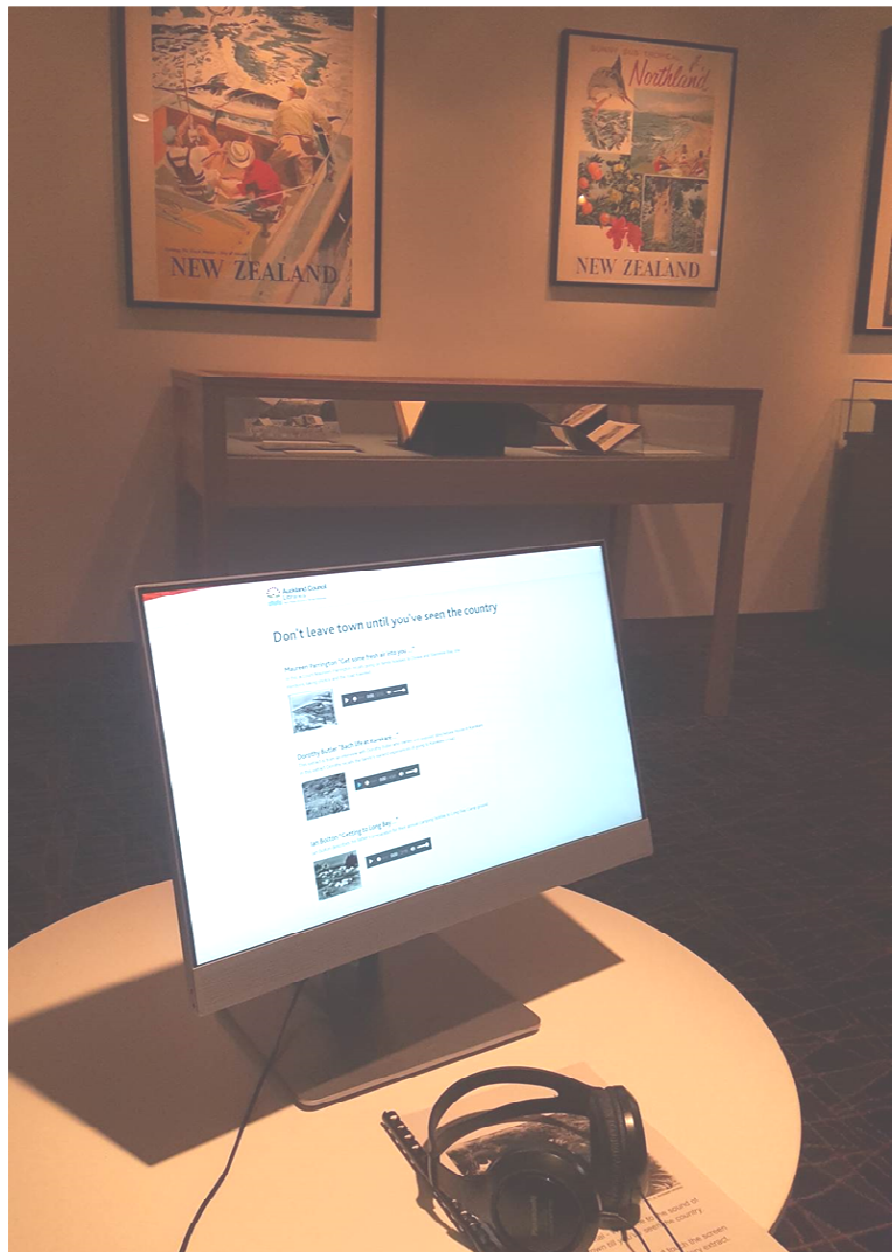
The galley was tiny, they had no place to rest if all the seats were booked, and there was the possibility of bad accidents. My interviewees recalled a couple of fatalities at level crossings and once a railcar came off the tracks, resulting in four deaths. I collected photographs and copied some paperwork, such as rosters and the script for their commentary, and added those to the interview files. One of the photographs has already been used in MOTAT's model railway exhibition which has a Silver Fern railcar, and we hope to use the interviews and the uniforms in a small exhibition in the MOTAT library some time.

The oral history archive is open to researchers for use in the library. To make enquiries or an appointment, email library@motat.org.nz

Megan Hutching

Auckland Libraries

In line with our commitment to collect, create and support access to oral history documentary heritage as a key part of Heritage and Research, there are several projects on the go that are building our capacity in this area – including a new Collection Management policy, and a brand new content access database that will combine the 19 different Heritage and Research databases into one wonderful format, including our



oral history collections.

Staff are enjoying the opportunity to curate from the collection to add a sound component to the current exhibition at the Central City Library. *Don't leave town until you've seen the country* is a nod to the 1980s tourism board campaign encouraging domestic tourism. We have a series of audio clips of people recalling camping, tramping, bach and beach trips to various "Just out of Auckland" locations.

Olive Ashby recalls going to Beach Haven from Birkenhead for family camping holidays in the 1920s; Mary Woodward talks of Te Henga holidays [Bethells Beach]; Dorothy Butler of Karekare, Ben Capedo of Whatipu Lodge and Juliet Batten of tramping in the Waitakere Ranges. Content provided from the MOTAT collection rounds out the sound content with Maureen Parrington on trips to Orewa and Stanmore Bay and Lois Findlay on the bach at Cornwallis.

A podcast series is under development which will include this material plus more treasures from the collection, and should be available shortly. The best way to plug into our curated content from collections is to subscribe to Heritage et AL – <http://heritageetal.blogspot.co.nz>

At the end of last year Daren Kamali joined our team as the Pacific Curator Heritage. There are a couple of projects underway that will include oral history. One is to record the history of the South Auckland Poets' Collective and the other is working with the Kiribati community on their story of people and place. How is it that Kiribati comes to be the second most spoken language in the Warkworth area?

I continue to support Council colleagues, community practitioners and projects, to meet best practice with equipment and training and peer review. One of her favourite projects currently is a record of Graffiti artists' work across Auckland. She welcomes questions and connections anytime.

Sue Berman sue.berman@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz or
ph:0210414427

Alexander Turnbull Library

Oral history training continues. Recent courses have been held in Wellington and another will be starting in Auckland in May. Courses have also been commissioned in Akaroa and Wellington. One of my training highlights of the year so far, however, has been the opportunity to teach a week-long course at for the Wanaka Autumn Arts School, alongside the fabulous Judith Fyfe.

Next year, the school, which is set in pretty, flame-hued tree surroundings, will celebrate its 30th anniversary. Guest teachers fly in from around Australia and New Zealand to teach an astounding variety of courses under the aegis of the Upper Clutha Community Arts Council. It is superbly coordinated by Robyn van Reenen & Dennis Schwarz. Some of their students return year after year and the camaraderie between and within tutors and students is strong.

The extended course time of a whole week allowed us to get to know the students better. We looked at videoing and uses of oral histories and explored techniques, ethical and technical issues, in greater depth. We explored oral history practices in a way not usually possible in the more abbreviated courses. Even so, it is the same nervous hope I have for them all when seeing participants go out to the world... I can only marvel at what can be achieved at longer courses at universities and institutions around New Zealand.

The Auckland course (*The Essentials of Oral History Research* 26 May and 23 June 2018) is already fully subscribed. Please email atloutreach@dia.govt.nz for expressions of interest in further courses and courses elsewhere.

Lynette Shum, ATL Oral History Advisor

Briefs

The Wahine storm in Wellington has been recalled in a podcast by oral historian Pip Oldham. Based on an interview with Dave Douglas, then a 20-year-old butcher with a shop in Cuba Street, it is part of her 'Butchers' Stories' oral history project, held in the Alexander Turnbull Library Oral History and Sound Collection.

<https://soundcloud.com/iplham/wahine-day-1968>

Excerpts of interviews from the World War One Oral History Archive featured in an interview with one of its creators, Jane Tolerton, on an RNZ National ANZAC Day interview: <https://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/anzacday/audio/2018642159/jane-tolerton>

This collection is just one of the significant oral history collections relating to the First World War that can be found in the Alexander Turnbull Library. Go to <https://natlib.govt.nz/researchers/guides/first-world-war> or contact the Alexander Turnbull Library: <https://natlib.govt.nz/questions/new>

Megan Hutching was also interviewed on RNZ National the same morning, discussing her work conducting oral history with veterans:

https://www.radionz.co.nz/audio/player?audio_id=2018642160

Anna Cottrell's Great War Stories (series 5) appeared on Newshub (TV3) recently. See them all at <https://nzhistory.govt.nz/war/great-war-stories>

IOHA

THE 20th INTERNATIONAL ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE, UNIVERSITY OF JYVÄSKYLÄ, FINLAND

JUNE 18–21, 2018

Registration for the 20th Conference of the International Oral History Association is now open.

This year the Conference will take place in Finland and will focus on “Memory and Narration”. Details of the days, venue and the four keynote speakers are in the preliminary program available at www.jyu.fi/en/congress/ioha2018.

NOHANZ BIENNIAL CONFERENCE

**Te Waha Kairongorongo e:
The Voice in Time and Space**

**University of Waikato
Workshops 27 November 2018
Conference 28–29 November 2018**

See the NOHANZ website for the call
for papers

www.oralhistory.org.nz