



NOHANZ NEWSLETTER

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NOHANZ Newsletter
Volume 32 number 3 December 2018

NOHANZ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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We welcome contributions to the NOHANZ newsletter, published three times per annum. The next deadline is 1 April 2019

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:

Tauranga District Council (Library Heritage Section); Dr Joanna Boileau, Auckland; Lois Mills, Rippon, Wanaka; Kim Moore, Auckland; Cambridge Historical Society; Dr Maria Haenga-Collins, Auckland; Iona Cussen, Papakura Museum; Andrea Oosterwijk, Te Aroha Museum; Heeni Kuni, Te Kohanga, Waikato; Denise Ewe, Opaheke, Papakura; Karu Kukutai, Nga-ruawahia, Waikato; Sandra Haigh, Tauranga

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

Cover image:

Field trip to Orakau. Photo by Sue Gee

nohanzexec@gmail.co.nz

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



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NOHANZ Conference impressions

From Elisabeth Gondwe, Oral History Queensland

As a child, it always puzzled me why we don't know everything that happened in the past. I have finally figured it out! The past (history) is erased, actively destroyed or forgotten to serve the power relationships of the present. This conference resonated strongly with me as it addressed many of the issues that are not being talked about in the "mainstream" Australian museum / history spaces. The deeply moving and thought-provoking field trip to Ōrākau provided a grounding for the rest of the Conference. The opening keynote by Dr Nepia Mahuika further provided a frame for the subsequent presentations. He got us thinking about power relationships that inform public history and challenged us to decolonize the form and methods of oral history. Make space, decolonize the methods of oral history, expand the Eurocentric definition of oral history, disband the division between "oral tradition" and "oral history". "Consciousise". I love the idea of a broader, living, less eurocentric practice and definition of oral history that includes hanging out and yarning and is multi-sensory. Different presenters shared different methods of [gathering] oral history and showed how other sources can complement oral history.

The discussions surrounding ethics and access to oral history and collection material were very thought-provoking. I was greatly heartened to hear the statement by Linda Evans of the Alexander Turnbull Library that the library will not shy away from permission restrictions as it will encourage potential users to use the material thoughtfully and engage with the owners of the knowledge. This to me is part of decolonising the process of history. This Conference spoke about "witnessing" the stories of our past, and what are our ethical and moral responses to that historical awareness? As Nepia said, "We must remember." Three days later, I am still digesting and thinking about the insightful and honest discussions that took place during the Conference.

Elisabeth Gondwe

Image: <https://www.abc.net.au/radio/brisbane/programs/evenings/elisabeth-gondwe/8832620>



Dr Debbie Dunsford, Sue Monk and Sue Gee at Conference

From Sue Monk & Keri Mills

"Te Waha Kairongoronge e - The Voice in Space and Time"

Rarely have I felt so moved as I did for the three days of this superb conference. Nepia Mahuika, Lynette Shum, Debbie Dunsford and Cheryl Ware had crafted a magnificent programme. They were helped by the capable and cheerful administrative assistant Frances Douch.

Many delegates stayed at the comfortable university halls, so our day began with cornflakes, tinned fruit and a cup of tea at the long tables. Waikato University has elegant, landscaped gardens: our walk to the lecture hall took us through a grove of totara underplanted with rengarenga lilies, setting the scene for this intimate, at times confronting, distinctly-Aotearoa conference. There were two presentations from Australia; the rest were local. We were treated to an exceptional range of material.

NOHANZ president **Dr Nepia Mahuika** presented a keynote address in place of the advertised speaker, **Tom Roa**, who was called away to a tangi. Māori were our first oral historians, Nepia said. "Oral History here was not established by professional interviewers, but by Māori orators, singers, artists and communities." It's time for us to make space for Māori definitions of oral history, he said. "It's time to reconsider the politics of oral history to include indigenous definitions as a legitimate part of what oral history is in NZ. Dismissing Māori oral history as



Dr Robert Joseph, Dr Nēpia Mahuika and Dale-Maree Morgan at Orakau. Photo: Lynette Shum

'tradition' is a significant act of colonial power and oppression."

The full text of his address can soon be seen on the [NOHANZ website](#).

Caren Wilton described her project interviewing sex workers that resulted in publication of *My Body, My Business*. Not wanting to dilute individual's experience, Caren decided to tell each separately to show the rich vein of stories, the background to which was the politics of decriminalising prostitution. Transcripts were reworked and approved by the interviewees.

From Fiji and Wellington **Elisapeci Samanunu Waqanivala** added a Pasifika perspective. She explained a difficulty between Oral History convergence and Oral Tradition divergence. Reading the Treaty of Waitangi in both languages, her reaction was "What happened here?"

The **Pākaitore Project** documented the 79-day occupation of Moutoa Gardens in Whanganui. The oral history project was started 12 years after the event and aimed to tell a 360-degree story. Most of the 45 interviews are available for listening at Whanganui Library and the Alexander Turnbull Library, and are stored at the ATL. Sandy Nepia

described the organisation, including a nightly 7pm karakia followed by meetings of such as the finance group. Rosemary Covey quoted James K Baxter "I wait for the taniwha in the heart to rise – when will that happen?" She and colleagues Jasmin Ratana and Mariana Waitai described the months of preparation for the interviews, gathering of memorabilia, challenge of media statements and the project checklist.

Perrine Gilkison reminded us that oral history skills are transferrable. She's enjoying life on the radio, making programmes on [Access Radio](#). Her work includes chatting to everyday people who make Wellington tick – "doing incredible stuff for our city". The interviews are later edited with Audacity, then loaded to Soundcloud. They are available as podcasts, downloadable with Spotify. And Facebook!

Michael Dudding's theme was architectural canons. Physicists look at separate events, but historians look for

Leeanne Tamaki, Dr Aroha Harris, Rangimarie Mahuika and Hineitimoana Greensill. Photo: Sue Gee





Dr Keri Mills. Photo: Sue Gee



Professor Alistair Thompson. Photo: Sue Gee

similarities. Canonised narratives, lived experiences, “we exist in times not time”. Exchange of gaze – reciprocity in the inter/view are fascinating themes.

Janine Irvine is tackling the topic of collaborative life writing in collective story making for her PhD. Participatory and co-designed experience and “how to create a good read” were some themes.

Ruth Low’s frank and searching report on interviewing an elderly Timaru woman provoked valuable conversation. Her message was that we need the less articulate as well as the more articulate in our interviews.

Tragically, **Taina McGregor**’s son was very unwell and, while she courageously came to the conference, ultimately she had to miss giving her presentation. Our hearts were and are with her, following his passing.

Dr Keri Mills’ presentation was deeply moving. Describing living in a Sydney apartment while studying for her PhD, she was unprepared for the emotions stirred by reading Waitangi Tribunal submissions. She shared poems that she wrote.

Hineroa Hakiaha described the Maori mental health nurses’ 1950 to 1990 *Tuia te Ao Marama*, set of 15 video interviews. This rich store of recordings can be watched on www.maorinursinghistory.com

All in all, a thought-provoking first day.

DAY TWO began with **Professor Alistair Thomson**’s expansive project. The Three Hundred Lives project, a collaboration between Monash University and the National Library of Australia resulted in the e-book *Australian Lives: An intimate history*. Two hundred interviews are accessible online, and are searchable by words such as shame and regret. *From Glory Boxes to Grindr: Dating in Australia from 1945 to 2015* is a website that originates from the project. “Do no harm” informs AI’s oral history decisions. He explained that, of the \$1 million-plus project, the interviews were the biggest cost.

Sue Monk, NOHANZ Outgoing Secretary

Tēnei te mihi ki a Waikato-Tainui, ngā tangata whenua o Kirikiriroa, tēnei te mihi ki te whenua. We met in Kirikiriroa on lands stolen from Waikato-Tainui, but we were

welcomed. One of the special things about this hui was its connectedness to place. We learn from listening to land as well as to people, and standing on the memorialised strip of grass between fence and road to learn more about the battle at Ōrākau, [on the workshop day before Conference proper began] taught me something new about the marginalisation of the history of the New Zealand wars. Ngā whakawhētai atu ki ngā kaiwhakahaere o te hui. The conference flowed like a river, and from its single stream some big themes arose, about the nature of oral history and the ethics of our methods. Nepia Mahuika called for a broadening of the concept of oral history in Aotearoa to honour Māori ideas and practices about orality and about telling stories of the past, and it was a privilege at this hui to hear so many Māori speakers telling Māori stories, using Māori methodologies. It was a special privilege to hear Mariana Waitai talking about Pākaitore; ngā mihi nui ki a koe e te taniwha. Mā tāu mahi, mā te mahi a ngā toa pēnā i a koe, ēnei motu e whakaora. I learned a lot, and I'm sure we all did, from our wonderful and generous manuhiri, Al Thomson, in his workshop on Day One, and from his kōrero about the amazing Australian Lives project on Day Three. I learned a lot from everyone! It was a wonderful hui, a hākari: a feast of thoughts and stories, a festival of friends. This was my first NOHANZ conference and I will be back for more – ngā mihi nui e hoa mā.

Dr Keri Mills



The team from the Pakaitore Oral History Project: Mariana Waitai, Chair Dr Enoka Murphy, Sandy Nepia, Rosemary Hovey and Jasmine Ratana. Photo: Sue Gee



Ngati Tipa Oral Histories: Karu Hura Kukutai, Heeni Kani, Chair: Professor Tahu Kukutai, NOHANZ President Nepia Mahuika and Denise Ewe. Photo: Sue Gee

FROM THE TREASURER

BGM

The Treasurer's Annual Reports and the reviewed NOHANZ Accounts for the years ended 31 March 2017 and 2018 were passed at the BGM on 27 November at our Waikato conference. These documents have since been lodged with the Incorporated Societies website as required.

I was very pleased that the meeting passed the proposed changes to the NOHANZ constitution following some constructive discussion from the floor.

This means that, in future, we will hold an AGM each year (rather than waiting for the Biennial Conference). We hope this will become much more than just a meeting to pass our accounts but will include a wider gathering with workshop or symposium elements to it. Perhaps groups of members in different regions would like to bid to hold this event.

I'm very grateful that the meeting voted to trial a paid bookkeeper/assistant position to take over some of the Treasurer's workload. It will be interesting to see how this works out over the next year and I look forward to reporting back to the membership.

Conference

I enjoyed the Waikato workshops and conference very much and thought the whole event was warm and inspirational on so many levels. Many of us stayed on campus and enjoyed getting to know other members better in the evenings or over breakfast. There was a suggestion that the next step might be a NOHANZ Boot Camp!

We were very lucky that the University of Waikato events and catering people were so accommodating, reasonably priced and helpful. In particular, the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences sponsorship secured by President Nepia meant that we received very good discounts on the venue hire, and the services throughout the conference of Faculty Programme Manager Frances Douch. Frances was so friendly and efficient and her presence meant that the executive members were able to participate in every session rather than be involved with the hour-by-hour issues that arise in any event of this size. NOHANZ has sent a gift voucher to Frances to express our thanks.

We were lucky to receive sponsorship from the University of Waikato Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, and that plus two major budgeted costs that were not required at the last minute (headset hire and interpreting services, marae koha) means we made a healthy surplus on the conference of \$5,336.06.

Eleven new members signed up as part of their conference registration (making this a total of 25 new members since 1 April 2018 plus 157 renewing members). NOHANZ is looking strong in membership and financially, allowing us to plan for the next conference and smaller events in between with confidence.

Dr Debbie Dunsford, Treasurer,
treasurernohanz@oralhistory.org.nz

Symposium on the Family as a Mnemonic Community

VUW, Wellington, 29-30 November, 2018

Recently, I was privileged to attend a symposium which considered the family as a mnemonic community. The cross-disciplinary speakers explored the ways in which families kept memories, transferred them and how memories can be shaped over time.

One of the main themes which emerged is the role that women play as repositories of family memory. Professor Robyn Fivush spoke on her research recording families' conversation at the dinner table and asking teenagers what they knew about their parents' life history. She found mothers were far more likely to retell family stories. This was also a theme of Anna Green's work on Pakeha intergenerational family memory. She found through oral histories of sixty families that it was overwhelmingly women who held families' collective memories. Ashley Barnwell's excellent presentation on her research into intergenerational family secrets also showed that women were more likely to hold these, with eighty percent of those who shared family secrets with her being women.

Another theme which ran through the speakers was how memories of traumatic events are transmitted through families. Alexander Freund, who joined us through a video link, and Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich both discussed how those who experienced state violence and displacement during the Second World War recounted their experiences to their descendants. She told a particularly moving personal story which highlighted how family stories can become fractured and incomplete, with each member having their own version. Nēpia Mahuika also spoke on the effect of traumatic events within a Māori context, and the role whānau play in transmitting the contested and marginalised views of historical events.

The symposium provided much for oral historians to reflect upon. For those of us recording family histories the speakers note we should consider what drives the choice to share certain events and look for the silences and unspoken assumptions. Another issue that was raised was the "filling in" of memory – when a descendant knew only a little about their ancestor, they might meld well-known historical events into the family memory narrative. There was also the consideration of how family memory can become part of a well-rehearsed narrative, an explanation of who we are, and we came from. This was illustrated aptly by Jane Moodie's work on the descendants of

Henry and William Williams.

As a teacher of history, I was again reminded of how family understanding of historical events can affect the way the greater historical narrative is viewed. For those of us writing, teaching or placing history in public spaces it is useful to consider what assumptions and knowledge are brought by those who "consume" the history we produce.

Anna Green deserves a huge thank you for organising the symposium and bringing together a wonderful array of national and international speakers. The discussions after each presentation were thought provoking, as were those less formal that happened over food.

Liz Ward



CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

2019 Biennial Conference of Oral History Australia

Proposals close on 1 March 2019 for INTIMATE STORIES, CHALLENGING HISTORIES, to be held at State Library of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia, **10-13 October 2019**

"Oral history drills beneath the big histories of state, society and politics, and illuminates ordinary people's extraordinary lives."

Oral History Queensland & OHA in partnership with State Library Queensland and Queensland Memory, welcome proposals for their 2019 biennial conference from all who use oral history in their work across fields and disciplines that contribute to community, professional and academic histories. They invite proposals for individual presentations, workshops, performances and thematic panels.

The main conference at State Library Queensland will be on Friday 11 & Saturday 12 October 2019, with training workshops Thursday 10 October and history walks and

tours on Sunday 13 October.

In keeping with 2019 as the Year of Indigenous Languages, a Keynote plenary panel will focus on **Oral History, Oral Tradition and Indigenous History** (with invited speakers from Australia, New Zealand and Canada).

Keynote speakers include: Associate Professor **Katrina Srigley** from Nipissing University in Canada, co-editor of *Beyond Women's Words: feminisms and the practices of oral history in the twenty-first century* (2018).

Conference sub-themes may include Indigenous Oral Histories and Oral Traditions; Migrants, Refugees and Ethnic Community Histories; Histories of Protest and Activism; Soldiers' Stories and War Histories; as well as New Approaches to Recording Lives, New Technologies for Documenting and Archiving OH; Ethical Issues in OH and Training Oral Historians of the Future.

Proposals for presentations in a variety of formats and media should involve oral history and be no more than 200 words. Contact the organizers at oralhistoryqld@gmail.com if you wish to discuss the format or focus of your presentation before submitting.

Presenters will be encouraged to submit papers to the refereed, online *Oral History Australia* journal, for a theme issue about Intimate Histories.

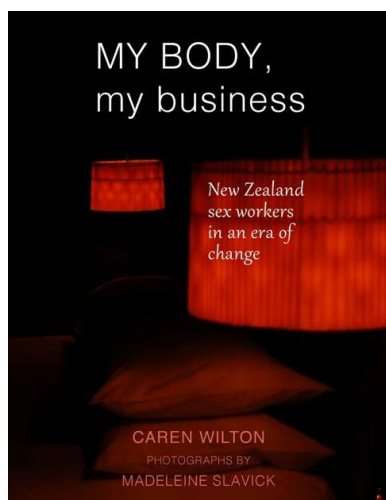
For conference information or to join the conference mailing list email oralhistoryqld@gmail.com or go to the conference website via the existing [OHA site](#)

CLOSING DATE FOR PROPOSALS: 1 MARCH 2019

ORAL HISTORY WORKSHOP

**IN THE MIND'S EYE: RECORDING ORAL HISTORY,
6-10 MAY, 2019**

CREATIVE MATAKANA is offering a five-day course in Oral History with Judith Fyfe & Lynette Shum. Bookings are now open for this inaugural course at Matakana, an hour north of Auckland. <https://www.creativematakana.nz/five-day-course/#oralhistory>



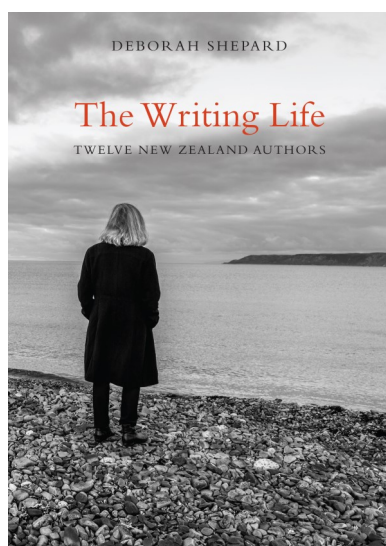
PROJECTS

Two NOHANZ members have been interviewed by Radio New Zealand about their recently published books.

Karyn Hay interviewed **Caren Wilton**, whose oral histories illuminating the lives of people from New Zealand's sex industry take centre stage in *My Body, My Business* (Otago University Press)

<https://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/lately/audio/2018669411/lately-with-karyn-hay-for-thursday-1-november> (starts 31:15 in).

Deborah Shephard's interviews with 12 New Zealand writers were published as *The writing life* (Penguin Random House). <https://www.radionz.co.nz/national/programmes/standing-room-only/audio/2018671732/the-writing-life-tessa-duder-and-deborah-shepard>



Huia novelist, playwright and screenwriter **Whiti Hereaka** references oral history techniques to give immediacy as well as the idea of many voices to her novel *Legacy*, the story of Riki, a teen who is hit by a bus and finds himself transported back in time to Egypt and a notorious 1915 incident involving Anzac troops. The recording process and his great-great-granddad's OH transcripts are used as well as a diary.

Whiti says: In my research for *Legacy* I didn't use OH directly – although I did read Jane Tolerton's book, which was based on her own research. I wanted to use the transcript device in *Legacy*, because I wanted to explore the idea of history being made up of many voices rather than an "authoritative" one. I wanted to give Te Ariki a chance to tell his own story. I also wanted to stretch the form of the novel a bit by bringing in some script elements into it.

The New Zealand Listener's 50 Best Children's Books of 2018 called *Legacy* "A riveting read to round off 2018's Great War commemorations".

Ann Packer





Photo: <http://www.oralhistorycentre.ca/users/alexander-freund>

NEWS

Alexander Freund visit

Alexander Freund, who had been scheduled to address in person the Family as a Mnemonic Community conference in Wellington in November is to visit the capital in May, 2019. He has agreed to offer a presentation or workshop to Wellington NOHANZ members. We'll keep you posted.

New IOHA president

NOHANZ members who were at the Wellington conference in 2014 may remember **Dr Sue Anderson**, who was elected President of the International Oral History Association at its biennial conference in Finland recently. Sue is the immediate past president of Oral History Australia and editor of the OHA Journal. A lecturer in Indigenous Cultures and Australian Society at the University of South Australia, she has worked for 25 years with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities as an oral historian, archaeologist, and cultural consultant. Her research interests are oral history, Indigenous culture and history, and Australian history.

<https://www.ioha.org/2018-2020-ioha-council-members/>

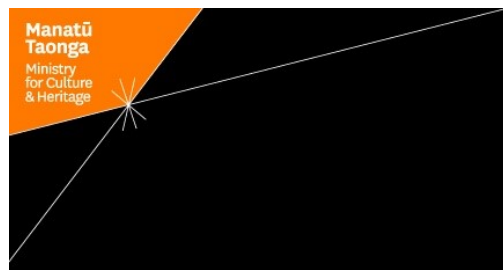
From the Alexander Turnbull Library

The general oral history advisory services have been suspended until late March as I take a break. I've been awarded a grant from the Chinese Poll Tax Heritage Trust (three of my grandparents paid this unjust tax) to work for three months on a book project based on my oral history project and Master's thesis on the history of Wellington's Chinese and the Chinatown that used to be here. On my return I'll have to hit the ground running, with workshops around the motu, including 5 days at Matakana with Judith Fyfe in May: <https://www.creativematakana.nz/five-day-courses/#oralhistory>. To register interest in an oral history course coming near you, please email atloutreach@dia.govt.nz. For the Oral History Advisor Maori, please contact atloutreach@dia.govt.nz.

Lynette Shum



ALEXANDER TURNBULL LIBRARY
NATIONAL LIBRARY OF NEW ZEALAND
Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa



New Zealand Oral History Awards 2019

The closing date for 2019 applications is Friday 03 May 2019.

The New Zealand Oral History 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. More information at mch.govt.nz

Review of the Copyright Act 1994

On 23 November 2018, the Minister of Commerce and Consumer Affairs announced the release of an Issues Paper for the review of the Copyright Act 1994. This is the first stage of public consultation on the copyright regime.

<https://www.mbie.govt.nz/business-and-employment/business/intellectual-property/copyright/review-of-the-copyright-act-1994>



Announcing VT Untapped, the podcast of the Vermont Folklife Center

VT Untapped, the podcast of the Vermont Folklife Center, has gone live with the first two episodes up.

Episode 1: The Rainbow Cattle Co. looks at a drag troupe that was based at a gay bar in Dummerston, VT

Episode 2: Deer Stories explores deer hunting in VT from the perspectives of the hunters themselves

<https://www.vermontfolklifecenter.org/untapped/>

Andy Kolovos

Further south on the Appalachian chain, Talking Across the Lines also has a new podcast called, of course, "Talking Across the Lines," on wit and wisdom on race, class and community survival from the coalfields and frack fields of West Virginia.

There are four episodes up now, two hour-long programs in our Hope series:

- "Game Changer: Football as a Catalyst for Peaceable School Integration"
- "Dollars and Cents: Race and Class in the West Virginia Coalfields"

Six shorter ones are waiting at the ready, all featuring stories of race relations, class and coal. "Singing the

STOP PRESS

Following the financial success of the Waikato conference, the biennial Kanohi ki kanohi/Face to Face meeting of the incoming NOHANZ Exec agreed to offer two scholarships to assist NOHANZ members to present at the Oral History Australia conference in Brisbane in October 2019. Further details to follow.

It was also decided to set up a private Facebook page for members to keep up to date about our events, potential grants, interesting pieces we read, and any exhibitions or book releases by members. We'll include a link in the next newsletter.

Blues" is just that, spoken and performed by Nat Reese. "Pay Dirt" features a multi-lensed perspective on oil and gas extraction in central Appalachia. And woven throughout is compelling music.

Subscribe through SoundCloud or iTunes. Read more and download directly from <https://soundcloud.com/talkingacrossthelines>. For more info visit: <http://wvhub.org/new-podcast-talking-across-the-lines-looks-at-race-class-and-community-survival/>

Carrie & Michael Kline

Migrant Journeys

The first episodes of Arrow FM's podcast Migrant Journeys, based on the book by Adrienne Jansen and Liz Grant about New Zealand taxi drivers (BWB) are now available to download.

<https://www.bwb.co.nz/news/first-episode-podcast-based-migrant-journeys>

ABSTRACTER AVAILABLE

Standard rates. Contact Ann Packer:
ann.packer@extra.co.nz

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

Fostex - FR - 2LE Field Memory Recorder with shoulder strap and carry bag

Input 12 VDC. GB Transcend Card 133X with

Two Isomax Microphone Countryman Associates Made in USA. With protective caps and clip-on pegs in original cases.

\$1000

AVCAM Digital Video Recorder with suitcase for storage

AG-HMC82EN - With battery, charger and AC adaptor, lens hood, eye cap, I set headphones, two Cards, wireless remote control, shoulder strap, Operating instructions manual. \$900.00 for video equipment

All items in excellent condition. We have had no trouble with these items.

Pick up or arrange freight with vendor.

Contact Penny Robinson: penny@robinsonassociates.nz

