



# NOHANZ NEWSLETTER

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The National Oral History Association of  
New Zealand  
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NOHANZ Newsletter  
Volume 33 number 1 April 2019

**NOHANZ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**President** Dr Nepia Mahuika  
**Immediate Past President** Ann Packer  
**Secretary** Dr Alison Day  
**Treasurer** Dr Debbie Dunsford  
**Committee:**  
Ruth Low  
Susie Milne  
Lynette Shum  
Dr Cheryl Ware

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Ann Packer

We welcome contributions to the NOHANZ newsletter, published three times per annum. The next deadline is 1 June 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 member:**

Marlene Ditchfield of Masterton

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

Cover image:

Women and children at the Wellington Free Kindergarten. Wellington Free Kindergarten Association :Photographs. Ref: PAColl-0981-1-06.  
Alexander Turnbull Library. [/records/22344377](#)

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## From the President

Tena koutou katoa,

The first few months of 2019 have flown by, and it seems we are still recovering from our Biennial conference from November of last year (I know I am). The NOHANZ Exec committee met twice in the past few months. First, for a December debrief to critique the good and bad of the 2018 conference, followed by a February preparation meeting in Wellington to discuss new directions and possibilities for the year ahead. We welcomed on to our committee Dr Alison Day, Susie Milne and Dr Cheryl Ware and spent time discussing new events, our association's journal, the NOHANZ Founders project, and new ways to keep our members connected and invigorated.

Please look out for some of our events that will be held in Wellington and Auckland this year; these will also be addressed in this newsletter and posted to our website. We would love to hear from you and are keen to have our members write on their work and publish in our annual journal. If you have a project that you would like to tell us about then please contact Megan Hutchings and Pip Oldham (journal editors) or our NOHANZ exec team through the contact details on our website.

NOHANZ now has its own Facebook page for those of you who already use this medium to keep in touch with friends and other contacts. Please feel free to ask for an invite and our admin people will add you. This site allows us to keep in touch. NOHANZ will post news and events on our Facebook Page during the year.

Finally, we will soon be announcing the recipient of an exciting new award that will assist one of our members to attend the Australian Oral History Conference in October of this year. Applications closed 1 April. We want to encourage our members to present their research, and to continue to show our support for our Australian counterparts.

Ma te Atua koutou e manaaki, e tiaki,

**Dr Nēpia Mahuika, President, NOHANZ**

*Photo: Sue Gee (cropped)*

## Judith Binney Fellowship

NOHANZ warmly congratulates our president Dr Nēpia Mahuika on his recent award from the Judith Binney Trust. The late Dame Judith was a Life Member of NOHANZ.

Nepia writes:

"It is an honour to be the inaugural recipient of the Judith Binney Fellowship for 2019. The Fellowship offers a sizeable fund that supports travel to archives and assists historians to undertake research on a topic that fits within the scope of Judith's broad array of interests. As a Māori historian, my research has a particular resonance with the work that Binney – Te Toimairangi o te aroha – is well known for. She encouraged historians to be courageous, she supported the value of Māori oral history, and inspired future generations to promote an 'imaginative grasp of historical complexities'. The Fellowship is also supported by the National Library, who offer expert assistance and advice for the duration of the award.

"The Judith Binney Fellowship will support me in a proposed book project that examines a history of makutu in Aotearoa New Zealand. The book challenges the simplistic view that makutu is essentially witchcraft and black magic. It argues that makutu is a much more complex cultural belief that is not merely malicious, forbidden or immoral, and that our perceptions of it are drawn from a particular history that has overlooked its deeper nuances and instead tended to magnify it as backward, criminal, and deviant. This book presents a new perspective on the topic drawing on legal cases, contemporary newspaper reports, private correspondence, official government documents, and oral history interviews with experts in iwi and Māori history."

**Dr Nepia Mahuika**



Image: <https://alchetron.com/Judith-Binney>



### **New NOHANZ Exec members**

**Dr Cheryl Ware** is a Research Fellow in the School of Humanities at the University of Auckland. She is the author of *HIV Survivors in Sydney: Memories of the Epidemic* (Palgrave Macmillan, forthcoming May 2019). She is currently undertaking a Marsden Funded oral history project into the lives of women sex workers in New Zealand from 1978 to 2008.



**Dr Alison Day** has lived in Wellington for three years, having previously lived in Hamilton, Auckland, Singapore and Sydney. Originally from the UK, she came to New Zealand in 1996. She holds an MA and PhD in History from the University of Auckland and an MSocSci in Demography from the University of Waikato. She has held research positions at the University of Waikato and at a market research company and is currently undertaking further study while looking to pursue interests in history and oral history.



**Susie Milne** resides in North Canterbury and grew up in Marlborough. Susie's interest in oral history stems from curious and respectful thought around the stories and gifts that people hold. "It is a privilege to facilitate the sharing of these gifts." Susie works in the field of suicide postvention support so the sharing of stories resonates deeply with her. Susie is also a photographer and enjoys this as a form of visual story telling. Susie busies herself in the equine and outdoor world and is blessed to have an amazing and beautiful family.





*The NOHANZ Committee:*

*Lynette Shum, Ann Packer, Alison Day, Ruth Low, Susie Milne, Dr Debbie Dunsford, Dr Cheryl Ware, Dr Nepia Mahuika at a face-to-face plenary in Wellington earlier this year*

## **OH news**

A reminder that Suzanne Mulligan, of Oral History Queensland, produces a splendid monthly newsletter, OHQ e-bulletin, covering every aspect of oral history, from recording interviews to producing a book. She always includes a memorable quote (pardon the pun) – this from February:

“Memory, I was discovering, acts completely differently when you give it a little notice.” *He Said/She Said* by Erin Kelly.

<http://www.ohq.org.au/e-bulletins/current-e-bulletins/>

## **New Zealand Oral History Awards 2019**

Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage is now accepting applications for the 2019 New Zealand Oral History Awards. The closing date is fast approaching – **Friday 3 May 2019.**

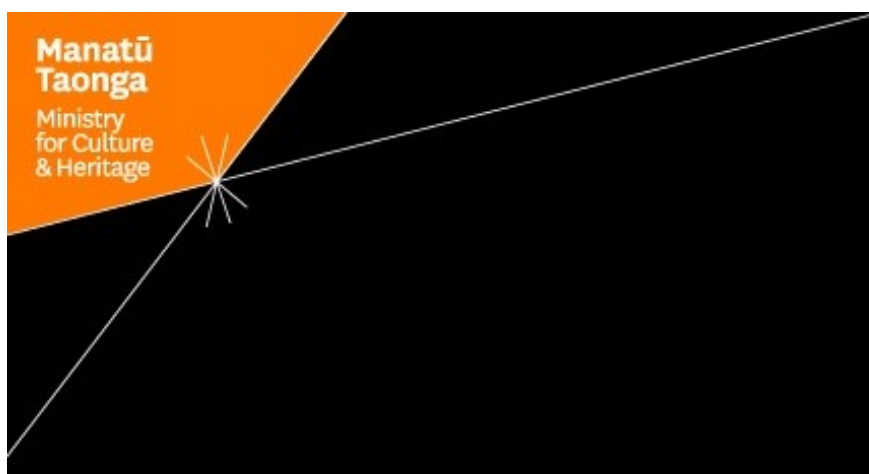
Every year the Ministry receives an exciting range of applications for projects covering a vast array of topics that reflect New Zealand's diverse people and histories. Manatū Taonga is proud to be able to support this important historical research which often records little-known stories.

We encourage applications from experienced and new oral historians – especially those who have undertaken Oral History training.

For information about the New Zealand Oral History Awards, including the terms and conditions go to the Ministry's website – Grants and Awards page <https://mch.govt.nz/funding-nz-culture/ministry-grants-awards>

For any queries please contact Lynette Townsend – Senior Historian, Audio-visual content  
[Lynette.Townsend@mch.govt.nz](mailto:Lynette.Townsend@mch.govt.nz)

*Editor's note: See also report on Lynette's presentation later this issue*







## Events:

### Wellington regional meeting, 18 March 2019

Dr Martin Nekola, visiting from the Czech Republic to interview elderly members of the Czech community – most of whom arrived after the invasion of Czechoslovakia by Russian troops in 1968 – addressed an audience of oral historians and others at the National Library, just days after the Christchurch mosque massacres. Alexander Turnbull Librarian Chris Szekely opened the meeting by acknowledging the recent events and apologising for the unusual need to search bags on arrival.

Martin Nekola, who has published several books about the Czech diaspora to countries around the world, talked about the waves of immigration into New Zealand, beginning with some 30 settlers in Puhoi in 1863. Some Czech names were well known to us – Fred Turnovsky, Lindauer and Bata (of Bullets fame). Others, such as architect Henry Kulka, whose Halberstam House in Karori Martin stayed in, were not. There are now about 1,000 New Zealanders claiming Czech heritage.



Then Lynette Townsend, from the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, talked about how to improve our chances of success with New Zealand Oral History Award applications, which close 3 May [see above]. MCH receives about 40 applications annually for the awards, funded by a gift from the Australian nation in 1990, so it helps to know what might help your pet project move up the list.

Lynette emphasized projects should be achievable in one year – and having received a grant some years ago, I can report that a year goes very quickly! She said pilot projects are good, rather than something more ambitious. Look at the scope of your project, allow time for abstracting, conform to ATL standards. Oh, and be prepared to hand in a progress report at six months – that caught me out. Best of all, my grant allowed me to invest in a recorder – yes, equipment may be funded.

Lynette reminded us that we need to outline a clear, concise explanation of our project, its historical significance, the background research already completed, and the

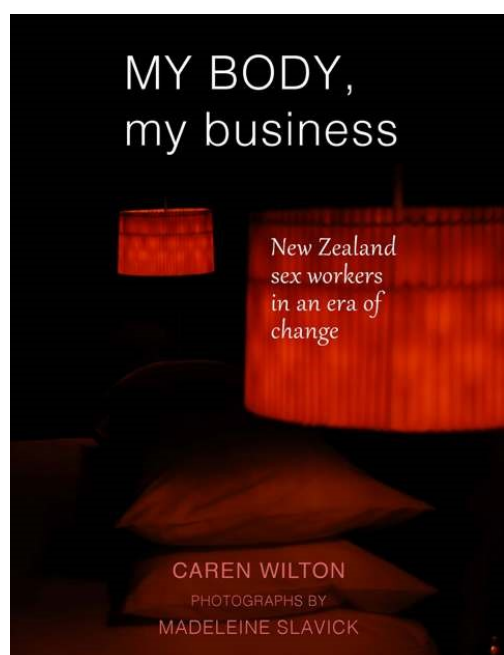
number of interviews planned, along with a list of possible interviewees. It helps to check out who and what projects have had awards in the past – these are all listed on the website, along with terms and conditions.

And most importantly, Lynette urged us to think about difficult histories, the histories we as a nation are *not* telling, and to think about taking “a deep dive into a topic”.

Those who were free joined Martin for a meal at the Thistle Inn, Wellington’s oldest hostelry, around the corner from the National Library.

Our thanks to the National Library for hosting this event.

**Ann Packer**



### **Caren Wilson**

On Wednesday 3 April, Caren Wilton presented a fascinating talk at the National Library, Wellington, on her recently-published book, *My Body, My Business*. The book consists of the words of 11 sex workers with whom Caren had conducted oral histories over eight years. It makes for

engrossing reading for these are, as Caren explained at the lecture, extraordinary stories of ordinary people – or was it ordinary stories of extraordinary people? It does not matter, for both are true. But having read the book, I found that hearing Caren talk and even more hearing the voices of the subjects gave a whole extra dimension to the project. As a reader I quickly became caught up in each woman’s personal journey – how and why she (or in some cases ‘he’ because there are several transgender people represented) came to choose sex work, how she related to her clients and work colleagues, her attitude to sexuality, her relations with family and why she stopped work, if she has. Powerful personal stories. But the presentation added several extra layers. For a start, just to hear the individual sound of the women’s voices, with their quite distinct class and ethnic echoes, was fascinating; and to hear at times Caren asking questions and responding to answers made the encounter into a very human interaction – quite different, I am not saying ‘superior’, from the smooth flowing monologues in the

book. In addition, the lecture format allowed Caren to put the accounts more firmly into the political context, so that her presentation focused quite explicitly on the revolution that had happened with the decriminalisation of prostitution in 2003. That material is fully there in the written text, but the lecture brought it out centre stage. So both experiences, reading the book and listening to Caren talk, were enjoyable and informative, but I came away from the talk with a new sets of insights which were valuable additions to my understanding. Thank you Caren for two great forms of presentation.

**Dr Jock Phillips**

*Editor's note: This talk was part of the Ministry for Culture and Heritage monthly Public History series and is available at*

<https://newzealandhistory.podbean.com/>

**Auckland regional meeting, 30 March 2019**

Fifteen NOHANZ members and guests gathered in the Waitematā Room of Auckland Central Library on Saturday, 30 March for four hours of conversation about oral history practice. Two sessions were divided by a casual lunch.

The room was quiet with attentiveness during author and NOHANZ member Deborah Shepard's talk on her recently completed project. *The Writing Life: Twelve New Zealand Authors* is the result of an oral history project commissioned by the Society of Authors. As the online blurb says, the book based on the interviews is a "unique, candid and intimate survey of the life and work of twelve of New Zealand's most acclaimed writers".

This was such an insightful and thoughtful talk about a significant project completed within daunting deadlines. Deborah skilfully interlaced the ups and downs of her own "interviewer" experiences with quotes and audio clips from the interviews and the dramatic black and white photos taken by John McDermott. The candour and perception with which Deborah shared her project journey gave the group much to reflect on.

After lunch, Sue Berman, Principal Oral History and Sound, at Auckland Libraries led a session of discussion

and contributions on the topic of Ministry of Culture and Heritage Oral History Award applications. Lynette Townsend of MCH generously allowed access to the paper she gave on this topic at the NOHANZ conference last November.

During the introduction round we recorded people's Interests, Questions and Issues and finished our session with short but useful discussions on three topics – Using Oral History as a method for academic study, grappling with contradictions in interviews, and working with volunteers in community projects.

Thanks to Auckland Libraries and Sue Berman for hosting this event.

***Dr Debbie Dunsford***



### **News from Auckland Libraries**

Nga mihi nui kia koutou katoa – warm greetings to the oral history community across the motu from Ngā Pātaka Kōrero o Tāmaki Makaurau – Auckland Libraries.

As I sit to write this newsletter on the first day of April, the shock and reverberations of the 15 March Christchurch Mosque massacres still holds a real presence in my mind and a deep effect of spirit. Over many decades, as recorders of people's lived experiences, many of us have heard the stories of personal and institutional, passive and violent racism that is throughout the colonial history of this country. We know the value of listening deeply and of providing a platform to elevate voices less heard. I believe that recording and sharing lived experiences helps us to sharpen our understanding and provides motivation and evidence for the need to build better ways of being with our difference alongside our commonalities.

It was heartening to host and bring together a recent NOHANZ meeting in Tāmaki Makaurau/Auckland – and I thank Deborah Shepard who before sharing her work *A Writing Life*, invited us all into a silent space to remember.

### **Kura – Heritage Collections**

Auckland Libraries has newly released a collections management system and data base Kura – <https://kura.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz> Kura as a noun means container and the verb is to educate. It's a fitting name for our Heritage and Research Collections.

It is good news for researchers and for those of you who have deposited collections with us over the years. Keyword searches will help you research across the different formats. Filters can be applied to browse just one format if you know you only want a photo, or map or an oral history. Work is in progress to upload the records from over 25 pre-Council amalgamation databases – so there is a lot more to come.

The oral history collection has just 1300 items showing at the moment. These records are from Local History Online from the North and the West Research Collections. The Central and South collections are not too far away from being loaded. Some records have photos or a small sound clip attached too. There is a tremendous amount of clean-up of data and organisation of collections happening to provide the best possible descriptions and provenance. If you see any errors or have any questions we welcome your input and feedback.

### **Audio Archives and podcasting**

A recent project to promote Sound Archive and Oral History collections sees us publishing on the podcasting platform Soundcloud <https://soundcloud.com/auckland-libraries/sets>. A regular series includes our lunchtime Heritage Talks and Concert, Books and Beyond recorded literary talks, Real Gold which talks about featured taonga in our special collections and curatorial content related to exhibitions – the most recent from Kinaki embedded in the Blog Post Heritage et al here: <http://heritageetal.blogspot.com/2019/03/kinaki-nga-reta-maori>



[-exhibition.html](#). Many of the exhibition features include oral histories, including the *Wahine Take Action* podcast featured in the recent NOHANZ Journal.

### **Equipment and Project Support**

It has been very encouraging to see so many people go from training to practice in the community. I really encourage people to keep coming to us to borrow the equipment (if you don't invest in gear yourself) and to feel free to check back in with us about your project progress as you go – no problem is too big to solve and it's always best to have someone peer review your work to help improve practice. Auckland Libraries welcomes conversations before projects begin to help clarify repository issues or concerns. Of course, completed projects or older recording in old formats such as cassettes will also be accessed as donations. We have an active and ongoing digitisation project to migrate our older formats (reel to reel, cassette and VHS) to digital files – it's exciting to be able to make this content more accessible to researchers and the community.

Wishing you all the best for the coming Winter season. Perfect project planning and doing time!

**Sue Berman**

### **News From Alexander Turnbull Library**

Tēna koutou, asalaamu asalaikum,

Business has restarted apace since I started back after a break while I worked on my own project. Apart from general advice and support, I have ramped up planning for training around the motu, with a series in Wellington already started, and ones for Palmerston North, Auckland and Matakana coming up soon. A South Island course is also on the cards. Please pass on the word and contact [atloutreach@dia.govt.nz](mailto:atloutreach@dia.govt.nz) if you would like to know more.

Because of my privileged position, I get to hear about and occasionally advise many individuals and small institutions all around the country, and is heartening to see so many of them embrace oral history, though I also have concerns about the level of support that has been given with

this mandate.

With the support of our team of conservators, curator, digital archivists and research librarian specialist, I and the Alexander Turnbull Library welcomes any enquiries you may have about your project or collection.

**Lynette Shum, Oral History Advisor**

<https://www.creativematakana.nz/five-day-courses#oralthistory>



## Upcoming Wellington events

### **Origin stories and Pākehā intergenerational family memory**

1 May 2019 from 4.10 pm - 5.30 pm

Stout Research Centre Seminar Room, 12 Waiteata Rd, Kelburn

Family Seminar Series. Presenter: Anna Green

<https://www.victoria.ac.nz/stout-centre/about/events/origin-stories-and-pakeha-intergenerational-family-memory>

After the disappointment of Alexander Freund not being able to come for the Family Memory seminar last year (see report in the previous newsletter), locals will be excited to hear that he will feature in three events in the near future, one especially for NOHANZ.

### **Research Interview Workshop**

8 May 2019 from 9.00 am - 12.00 pm

Stout Seminar Room, 12 Waiteata Rd, Kelburn

Facilitators: Professor Alexander Freund (University of Winnipeg) and Associate Professor Anna Green (Stout Research Centre, Victoria University of Wellington).

**Bookings essential:** Number is limited, no cost involved.

RSVP to [Deborah.levy@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Deborah.levy@vuw.ac.nz)

<https://www.victoria.ac.nz/stout-centre/about/events/research-interview-workshop>

### **Family Memories of War and Flight**

8 May 2019 from 4.10 pm - 5.30 pm

Stout Research Centre seminar, 12 Waiteata Rd, Kelburn

Presenter: Professor Alexander Freund

<https://www.victoria.ac.nz/stout-centre/about/events/family-memories-of-war-and-flight>

Last but not least , NOHANZ is pleased to announce a workshop co-hosted with the Alexander Turnbull Library:

### **Toward an Ethics of Silence? Negotiating Off-the-record Events**

With Professor Alexander Freund, moderated by Linda Evans.

Friday 10 May 6-7pm

Ground Floor, Alexander Turnbull Library.

Our thanks to Anna Green and the Stout Research Centre.

Participants are welcome to join us at a user-pays meal at the historic Thistle Inn afterwards.

Enquiries to [lynette.shum@dia.govt.nz](mailto:lynette.shum@dia.govt.nz)

**Professor Freund** holds the chair in German-Canadian Studies and is Director of the Oral History Centre at the University of Winnipeg. He has published widely in oral history and migration history. **Associate Professor Green's** publications in oral history encompass labour, community,



and environmental history, and her research currently focuses upon family memory and historical consciousness. For more information please see: <https://www.uwinnipeg.ca/history/faculty-staff/alexander-freund>

## Snippet

### Podcasts

These are an excellent option to share your oral history. Apart from the Auckland Libraries ones mentioned earlier this Newsletter, check out NOHANZ member and Journal Editor Pip Oldham's charming podcast: <https://soundcloud.com/iplham/greeks-from-romania-arriving-in-wellington-on-the-mv-goya-in-1951>



*Immigrants on the Goya. Evening post Collection. Ref: 114/290/06-G. Alexander Turnbull Library. [/records/23207851](#)*

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