



NOHANZ NEWSLETTER

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The National Oral History Association of
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NOHANZ • P.O. BOX 3819 • WELLINGTON 6140
www.oralhistory.org.nz

NOHANZ Newsletter
Volume 33 number 2 July 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 October 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:

Auckland Museum
Mary McTavish, Wellington

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

Cover image:

Ruth Low with her first sheep, after shearing lessons with Tony Dodds. See p 8. Photo: Mark Low

nohanzexec@gmail.com

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



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NOHANZ is now on Twitter and Facebook. Follow us for regular updates and discussions about oral history. Please feel free to share information about your projects, recent publications, or events on either the Facebook page or by emailing nohanzexec@gmail.com.

Twitter handle: @oralhistorynz

Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/nohanz/>



From the President

President's Address to AGM 2019

Tena tātau katoa,

Welcome to all new members of NOHANZ, and to our long standing affiliates; the executive team wants to acknowledge your ongoing support as we move into the second half of 2019.

We have just held our first video-linked AGM, thanks to hosts Auckland Library and the Stout Research Centre of Victoria University of Wellington.

We welcomed 18 members who joined us via video conferencing across the motu.

This AGM did not function as an election of officers. The Biennial General Meeting is a scheduled event in association with our conference, whereas this meeting was specifically focused to update and pass our financial reports in order to meet a yearly legal requirement. My brief Presidential report, then, accounts for a small, six-month window since last year's conference. In this time, the executive committee has been focused on this AGM, some other small regional events, and the new travel grant announced last year.

I am pleased to announce that we were able to turn a slight profit from our most recent Conference, and that we were also able to pick up some new membership subscriptions and renew these in 2019. Thanks to the hard work and vision of our team, we have also instituted a Travel Award to support one NOHANZ member to attend the Australian Oral History conference later this year. (In the future we hope to make this available to two recipients).

We are still working through the details of the Founders' Project, and hope to make an announcement on how the project is progressing later in 2019.

The exec team are still in the trial period with our new appointment (a book-keeper role), which we believe will help our Association to run a little more smoothly. We will be in a stronger position to review and comment on this by 2020.

We have met with our NOHANZ journal editors and are excited about the direction in which our flagship publication is heading.

Photo: Sue Gee (cropped)

At this stage, we are building an editorial team to assist chief editors Pip Oldham and Megan Hutching, with the aim of ensuring our journal caters for both academic researchers and non-academic practitioners to present their work. We are very keen for the journal to include the work of oral historians across all of our communities and to reflect the way Aotearoa perceives and practices "our" oral history.

There has been a number of small events (advertised on the website) held in the past six months, including lectures from Anna Green and Alexander Freund in May, and regular workshops on ethics and interviewing. I want to thank all of our local leaders for their work in supporting and publicising these events and workshops.

Finally, congratulations to those awarded 2019 MCH grants. See next page for the final list, which includes several NOHANZ members. If you applied and were not successful, please reapply next year. Perseverance and a little redrafting can make all the difference.

Nā reria, e āku nui, ma te Atua kōutou e manaaki, e tiaki. Tēna rawa atu kōutou kātoa

Dr Nēpia Mahuika, President, NOHANZ, 6 June 2019

Further message

If anyone in NOHANZ receives an email with my name attached to it asking for money - these are fake/scam emails and are NOT me. Some of the emails are now also making reference to our treasurer Debbie Dunsford, so we do not want any of our members to think these are legitimate NOHANZ requests. They are not.

We are working to see what we can do to solve this issue. In the meantime, please ignore and delete any suspicious emails that carry my name or Debbie's name.

Thank you

Nepia Mahuika

President



Skating In North Hagley Park by Kete Site Admin is licensed under a [Creative Commons Attribution-Noncommercial-Share Alike 3.0 New Zealand License](#). Sourced from [Christchurch City Libraries](#).

New Zealand Oral History Awards 2019

Women's sex lives, New Zealand's transgender community, Dungeons and Dragons gaming, ZEALANDIA and ice skating are just some of the fascinating topics covered in this year's New Zealand Oral History Awards, Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage Chief Historian Neill Atkinson says.

We congratulate the following members on their successful pitches and – echoing Nepia – encourage others to rework their applications for next year.

The 12 awards include one to NOHANZ member Caren Wilton,

author of *My Body, My Business*. For *Trans lives in Aotearoa New Zealand* she will interview people who were part of New Zealand's transgender community in the late 20th century, formed around late-night coffee bars and clubs in Wellington and Auckland.

Veteran oral historians, and NOHANZ members, Helen Frizzell, Megan Hutching and Pip Oldham (Voice + Ink) will take an intriguing new approach to memory with *In My Room*, centred on objects.

NOHANZ member Belinda de Mayo will be coordinator and lead interviewer for ZEALANDIA (Karori Wildlife Trust), *The First Fence: Voices of Karori Wildlife Sanctuary*.

And NOHANZ member Grace Bateman, with Paul Garbett, will interview people about their recollections of ice skating in its heyday to document this unique historical experience and "adventuresome recreation", which has been around in the central South Island since the 1860s, with the first clubs established there in the 1930s. A great potential book there, with loads of frosty historical pics!

For the full list of recipients and their projects for 2019 see: <https://mch.govt.nz/oral-history-awards-reveal-new-zealand's-stories>

Events

Wellington regional meeting: Towards an ethics of silence

A circle of fourteen oral historians enjoyed an informal workshop with Professor Alexander Freund, Chair of Canadian-German Studies at the University of Winnipeg and Co-Director of the University's Oral History Centre, at a NOHANZ event at the National Library in May. The session was moderated by ATL Curator Oral History and Sound, Linda Evans.

Professor Freund was in the capital for workshops at Victoria University's Stout Research Centre, where he worked with Associate Professor Anna Green's graduate students and gave a public lecture.

Participants in the NOHANZ session were encouraged to pre-read Alexander's paper: "Towards an ethics of silence: negotiating off-the-record events and identity in oral history", in which he examines in detail two specific instances early in his career where silence was problematic for him, for quite different reasons. Silences are a constitutive part of oral history interviews, writes Alexander, and oral historians generally have a troubled and troubling relationship with these silences, in particular those that emerge from "off-the-record" situations. "How can we attempt to contain these instances and maintain control of the interview while accepting the interviewees' silence as a form of agency?" he asks.

Alexander believes we can use silence in our favour, to get interviewees to talk – in the same way as do other professionals, in non-voluntary situations: parents, psychoanalysts, police and journalists.

Alexander's willingness to share his own experiences set the tone for the event and encouraged those present to bring up problems they had encountered.

One member had flown in from Nelson and another, from the Bay of Plenty, was on a course at the library, so it's worth casting the net widely when advertising our gatherings. A shared meal at the nearby Backbencher not only broke any remaining ice but provided Alexander with a crash course in Kiwi political personalities.

Our thanks go to the Alexander Turnbull Library and the Stout Research Centre for co-hosting this event.

Check out the Auckland Libraries
online collection at KURA:
[https://
kura.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz](https://kura.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz)

News from Auckland Libraries:

April and May are always busy months with the lead into the Ministry deadline on Oral History Awards. I enjoy seeing the potential projects in development and the increased use of the oral history collections in background research.

Auckland Libraries hosted Tamaki and Waikato members and even one from Tai Tokerau for our virtually connected AGM in mid-June.

We have a couple of projects on the go and are particularly enjoying working on an exhibition for October drawing on an archive collection from the Westfield Freezing Works, including voices from oral histories recorded in the 1980s and early 1990s in the Glen Innes and Mt Wellington area (suburbs where workers resided). We plan also to record some new interviews with those workers who recall their working years at Westfield.

Check out our new Heritage Database including a list of some of the oral histories in Collections at
<https://kura.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/digital/>

I am always available for advice, equipment support and project development so please feel free to be in touch. Wishing you warm and well Winter months.

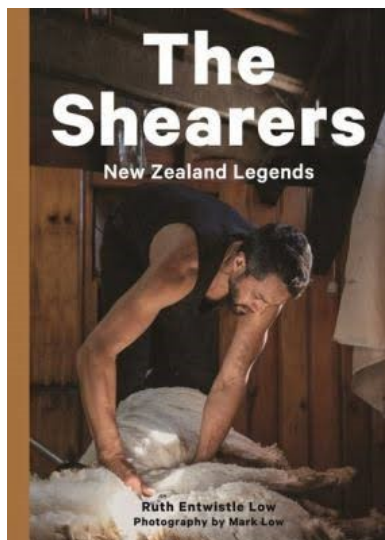
Sue Berman, Sue.Berman@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz

News from Alexander Turnbull Library

We were honoured with a visit last month by visiting Canadian oral historian Alexander Freund, who was so taken with our oral history section that he donated a copy of his oral history reader. If you are passing by in the vicinity of the Library, drop in and take a look at this and other books and journals in the oral history literature display, which our Research Access Oral History Specialist, Gillian Headifen, takes pride in keeping updated.

After taking time off from my job earlier this year to work on my book project, oral history training has recommenced apace, with commissioned workshops in Palmerston North and Porirua. Public workshops are scheduled in Auckland and Dunedin for August-October, while Wellington ones are not far off, and commissioned workshops are planned for Central Otago. For more information about these, go to the National Library website or email ATLOutreach@dia.govt.nz. For questions about other training workshops or advice, please email lynette.shum@dia.govt.nz

Lynette Shum, Oral History Advisor



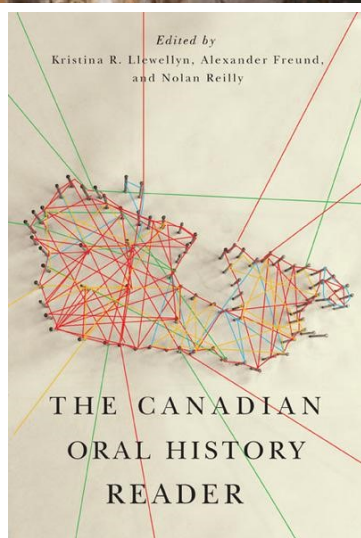
Books to note

The Shearers: New Zealand Legends by Ruth Entwistle Low, illustrated by Mark Low, Penguin Random House, \$45.

Exec member Ruth travelled some very dusty roads, with husband Mark, in search of subjects for this colourful account of the men and women, past and present, who have committed their lives to shearing in New Zealand.

The publisher says: "Their voices – in their own words, often brutally honest reflections on what it is to be a shearer – are at the heart of this book: their training, their tools, their camaraderie, and the gruelling, itinerant nature of the job."

A review of this book will be included in the 2019 NOHANZ Journal.

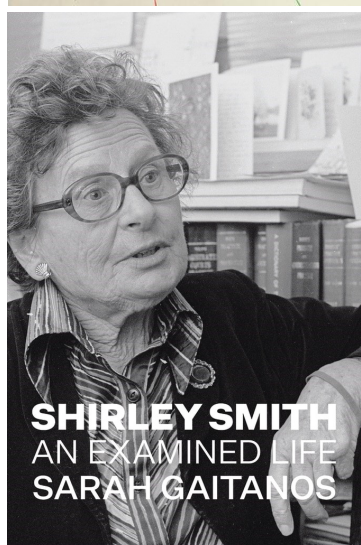


Mt Nicholas shearers. Photo: Mark Low

The Canadian Oral History Reader, ed. Kristina R Llewellyn, Alexander Freund and Nolan Reilly, McGill-Queen's University Press.

Professor Alexander Freund gifted two copies of this first-ever Canadian reader to the National Library and NOHANZ, when in Wellington in May.

A review of this book will be included in the 2019 NOHANZ Journal.



Shirley Smith: An Examined Life, Victoria University Press, \$40.

NOHANZ member, biographer Sarah Gaitanos, author of *The Violinist: Clare Galambos Winter, Holocaust Survivor* and *Nola Millar: A Theatrical Life*, chronicles "a life shaped by some of the most turbulent currents of the 20th century".

OH news

Indira Chowdhury writes that she has started a blog where she reflects on her experience as an oral historian. She encourages us to share the link and subscribe to her blog if we like it.

<https://theoralhistorian.com/2019/06/22/growing-up-with-stories/>

Courses

Winter School in Advanced Oral History

This course is designed for members of the public and post-graduate students who are thinking about starting a research project that includes oral history interviews. The course will benefit those with previous oral history or qualitative interview experience who wish to extend and deepen their knowledge of the field, and those interested in recording, understanding and contextualising family memories. application form for details on how to apply. [A limited number of Māori, Pasifika and financial hardship scholarships are available](#), but be quick, they are about to close. For more information see the website. <https://ce.victoria.ac.nz/courses/677-winter-school-in-advanced-oral-history-application-to-attend>

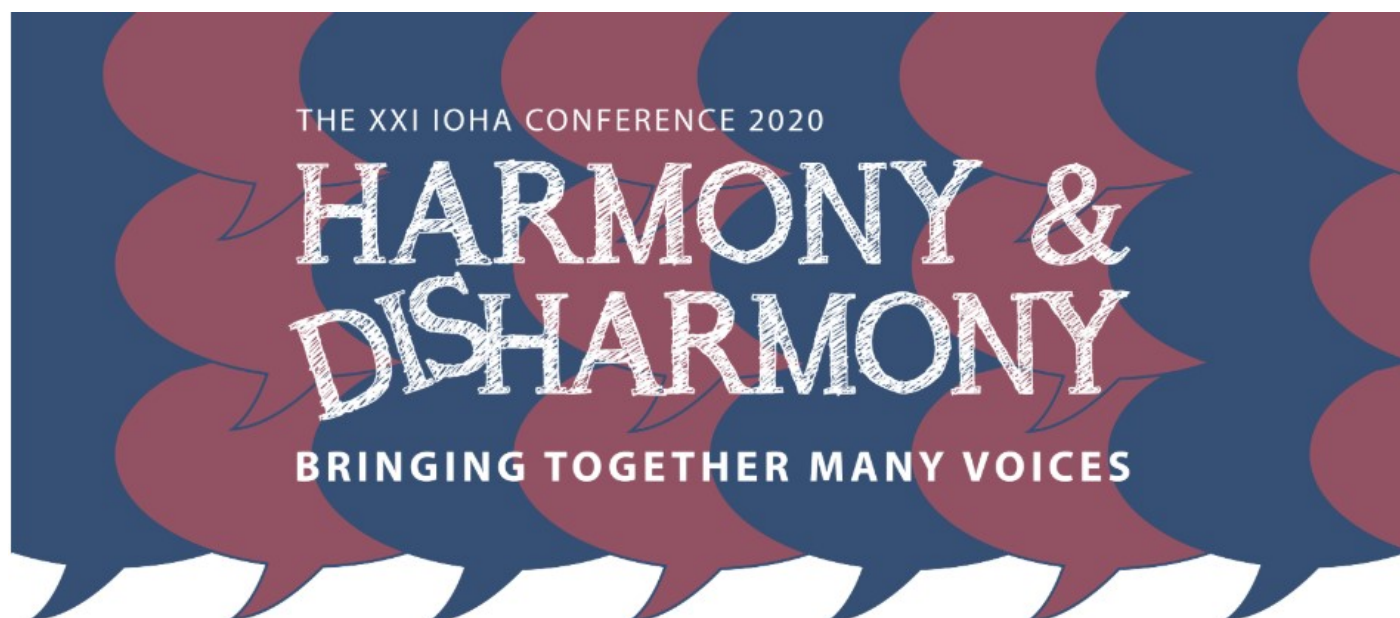
Online Introduction to Oral History Workshop - Baylor University

by Stephen Sloan

The Baylor University Institute for Oral History invites you to join its online, live audio workshop, "Getting Started with Oral History." The interactive workshop will provide six hours of instruction on two consecutive Wednesdays in August—August 7 and 14, from 10:00 a.m. CDT to 1:00 p.m. CDT.

This introductory workshop, designed to help participants plan and begin an oral history project, will be taught by Institute for Oral History faculty and staff members. Participants will create a project design and conduct an oral history interview as part of the course. The cost is \$100, which includes the two sessions, online access to all reading materials, and ongoing consultation for your oral history project.

baylor.edu/oralhistory.



22–26 June 2020 | Singapore | National Library Building

At the core of oral history is a desire for a more complex and nuanced understanding of the world around us. While we value each oral account as unique, personal and subjective, bringing together many voices – whether in agreement or disagreement – allows greater meaning to be gleaned, refined and accumulated. Oral history teaches us to be considerate and empathetic to different voices and perspectives. What does this mean in the context of oral history taking root in more places and different cultures around the world? Where it is used in more and different contexts and disciplines? Aided and even led by changing technologies? Presented in different forms and bearing multiple uses? This conference invites papers which shed light on the growing diversity, multidimensionality and interdisciplinary applications of oral history.

The organisers are calling for proposals to present papers, posters, audio-visual presentations and workshops, by 31 August 2019

<https://www.ioha2020.sg/programme/call-for-paper-workshop-proposals>

Return Address:
NOHANZ
P.O. BOX 3819
WELLINGTON 6140