

# Connections: An Oral History Hui

*Waiho i te toipoto, kua i te toiroa*

*Let us keep close together, not wide apart*

*10am-4.30pm, Saturday 27 November at Tūranga, Christchurch*

## DRAFT Programme\*

\* This programme could be subject to minor changes before 27 November.

Registration is now open at: <https://forms.gle/tDD1JLibbtiZu8pU6>

Please email any enquiries to Natalie at [natalie@looyer.net](mailto:natalie@looyer.net)

TIME	PRESENTATION	
10:00-10:30am	Registration and morning tea <i>TSB Space and Activity Room</i>	
10:30-10:45am	Mihimihi Welcome <b>Ruth Low, Connections Organising Committee, NOHANZ SI Group</b> <i>TSB Space</i>	
10:45-11:30am	SESSION 1: Individual presentation	
	Korero Tuku Iho: Indigenous Oral History <b>Dr Nepia Mahuika (via ZOOM)</b> <i>TSB Space</i>	
11:30-12:20pm	SESSION 2 : Symposium <i>Telling the Stories</i>	
	STREAM 1 Death and dying in the time of COVID <b>Emily Anderson and Sue Berman</b>  Making the most of now: Young women's stories of Covid-19 <b>Dr Louise Tapper and Adjunct Assoc Prof Rosemary du Plessis</b>  <i>TSB SPACE</i>	STREAM 2 Use of oral histories in my Anglo-Indian projects <b>Dr Dorothy McMenamin</b>  Recording interviews for local historical societies: Some reflections <b>Natalie Looyer</b>  <i>Activity Room</i>

12:20-1:00pm	SESSION 3: Individual presentation	
	Why do we remember? <b>Adjunct Prof Anna Green</b> <i>TSB Space</i>	
1:00-1:45pm	LUNCH <i>Kitchen and Activity Room</i>	
1:45-3:00pm	SESSION 4	
	<p>STREAM 1: Symposium. <i>Getting Them Out There: Broadcasting and Podcasting Oral Histories</i></p> <p>Podcasts and Access Media: Another way to publish your oral histories <b>Pia Titus and Nicki Reece (PlainsFM)</b></p> <p>Podcasting: Give it a go <b>Dr Rosemary Baird</b></p> <p><i>TSB Space</i></p>	<p>STREAM 2: Workshop</p> <p>Help! A clinic for oral historians <b>Lynette Shum and Judith Fyfe</b></p> <p><i>Activity Room</i></p>
3:00-3:40pm	SESSION 5: Individual presentation	
	Ethics, emotion and oral history <b>Dr Emma-Jean Kelly</b> <i>TSB Space</i>	
3:40-4:20pm	SESSION 6: Forum	
	Share an Idea <b>All delegates</b> <i>TSB Space</i>	
4:20-4:30pm	Closing <i>TSB Space</i>	

## Speaker Abstracts and Biographies

### **Title: Korero Tuku Iho: Indigenous Oral History**

The first oral historians in Aotearoa were Indigenous peoples. Nepia will discuss how local iwi and Maori oral history matters to the field of oral history today. Drawing on his recent book, *Rethinking Oral History and Tradition* (Oxford, 2019), he will discuss a range of ethical ideas important to Indigenous communities, as well as various methods and politics that are relevant to the practice of oral history today.

**Dr Mahuika** is Ngati Porou and Ngati Maniapoto. He is the Convenor of History at The University of Waikato. Nepia teaches courses in Oral History, New Zealand History, Historical Methods, Ethics, and Theories, and Maori and Indigenous histories. He is a past president of NOHANZ, and is a current Oceania Representative on the International Oral History Association Council.

### **Title: Death and dying in the time of Covid**

In this session Emily and Sue will discuss how they envisaged the project and the reality of interviewing on this topic within an ongoing Covid environment.

**Sue** works for Auckland Libraries as an Oral History advisor and is actively involved in oral history projects and podcasting across the region. She has been integrating Oral History practice and projects into her working life since 1993 and still loves it!

**Emily** is a community oral historian based in Ōtatauhi Christchurch. She has her own company, Origin Stories, and works independently with communities, companies and families to help preserve and share their stories.

### **Title: Making the most of now: Young women's stories of the Covid-19 pandemic.**

What do young women in Ōtatauhi have to say about the impact of COVID-19 on their lives? Louise and Rosemary will report on an oral history project in which they listened to 13 diverse young women from Ōtatauhi talking about their experiences through the lockdown in March and April of 2020 and the ongoing impacts of the pandemic. How has life changed for them, and how has the pandemic altered their hopes and aspirations for the future?

**Dr Louise Tapper** has a background in education. She is a contracted qualitative researcher for The Collaborative for Research and Training in Youth Health and Development, in community-based youth related projects. Louise has trained as an oral historian through the Alexander Turnbull Library outreach course. She is enjoying her learning in this area of research.

**Adjunct Assoc. Prof Rosemary Du Plessis** is a sociologist and feminist researcher who taught sociology and feminist/gender studies for many years at the University of Canterbury. She was the research coordinator for the National Council of Women Christchurch Branch oral history project: *Women's Voices/Ngā Reo o Ngā Wahine*. Currently, Rosemary is a member of the University of Canterbury research team for the Marsden Funded project *Kōrero Mai: Tell us your earthquake story (again)*.

### **Title: Use of oral histories in my Anglo-Indian projects**

Anglo-Indians are a mixed-race group, being the legacy of European colonization in South Asia. They are Christians who, in India, live within a predominantly Hindu milieu, but in Pakistan amongst a Muslim population. Inter-marriage is highly transgressive for caste Hindus and culturally taboo for Muslims, both of whom traditionally kept women secluded from non-family males, unlike Christian Anglo-Indians.

Academic researchers in India had described Anglo-Indians as an impoverished marginalized group. In contrast, my research has demonstrated that in Pakistan Anglo-Indians held good jobs and prospered, until the rise of radical Islamist policies in the 1980s which restricted their lifestyle so that the majority emigrated.

My presentation will describe the value of oral histories and the methodology employed to pull together evidence for the thesis.

**Dorothy** obtained a PhD in history from Otago University in 2019 and this presentation discusses the use of oral histories recorded specifically for the project, and from earlier testimonies which had been lightly edited and published in *Raj Days to Downunder: Voices from Anglo India to New Zealand*, 2011, republished 2019. Her Masters project from Canterbury University had resulted in another publication *Leprosy and Stigma in the South Pacific: A region-by-region history with first person accounts*, 2011. Numerous articles and short stories have been published utilizing the oral histories recorded for both these research topics.

### **Title: Recording interviews for local historical societies: Some reflections**

I will be speaking about my experiences completing interviews for two local historical societies in Canterbury - the Lincoln and Districts Historical Society, and the Hororata Historical Society. I will give a brief overview of the respective projects and the mahi that these historical societies are undertaking to record local history and the voices of key people in their communities. I will also discuss a number of observations that I have made on the experience of the interviewees, particularly the challenges that the interviewees found themselves facing when being asked to recount their life stories on record.

**Natalie Looyer** trained as an oral historian at the University of Canterbury in 2018, and has since completed projects for personal research and a number of organisations including Environment Canterbury and Engineering New Zealand. She is hoping to begin a PhD in History, researching the development of rock and sport climbing in Aotearoa, at VUW in early 2022.

### **Title: Why do we remember?**

This is one of the central problems international theorists of memory have asked about memory and remembering. What, the psychologist Daniel Schacter asks, is the *function* of memory, what purpose does it fulfil? Is literal recall useful, he continues, when the present and the future are, in many ways, different from the past? In this presentation I will focus on two contemporary American psychologists, both major figures in the field of memory research, Daniel Schacter and Dan McAdams, whose research methodologies investigating episodic (experiential or autobiographical memory) are very different but who reach parallel conclusions. What do their findings mean in the context of my oral history research into Pākehā family memory?

**Dr Anna Green** is an Adjunct Professor in the Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies Victoria University of Wellington | Te Herenga Waka, Wellington. She has taught oral history at postgraduate level at Waikato, Exeter (UK) and Victoria universities, and is currently writing a book arising out of a Marsden-funded research project on family memory among descendants of nineteenth-century New Zealand settler families.

### **Title: Podcasts and Access Media: Another way to publish your oral histories**

Nicki Reece and Pia Titus from Plains FM will share the journey of collaborating with Louise Tapper and Rosemary Du Plessis to broadcast *Making the Most of Now: Young Women's Stories of Covid*, an oral history project that became a radio show and podcast series. Nicki will introduce Plains FM and the Community Access Media sector, its kaupapa and how the 12 Access Radio stations across New Zealand work together. Pia will walk you through what went into the Making the Most Of Now project, what to think about when collecting audio and some tips on how your oral history could end up on air too.

**Nicki Reece** is Plains FM's Station Manager-extraordinaire! She has been with Plains FM since 1989 as studio operator, community media trainer, presenter, programme director, then as Station Manager from 2007. If there is something to know about radio, Nicki knows it! Her experience and connections with the community put her in a unique position to develop unique collaborative projects and take on new challenges.

**Pia Titus** is the Youth Content Coordinator at Plains FM. Pia is passionate about getting interesting stories on-air! She works mostly with young people to develop their content ideas, guides and trains them to be broadcasters in their own right. She believes everyone has a story to tell and the skills to tell it (even if they don't know it yet)!

### **Title: Podcasting: Giving it a go**

Rosemary will share ideas on how to use your oral history skills and recordings if you were thinking about developing a podcast. She'll cover concept development, recording and ethics, editing with DAW software and promotion. Rosemary is not a trained radio journalist or audio editor; these will be tips from one oral historian to another. "If I could give it a go, then you can too" says Rosemary.

**Dr Rosemary Baird** is the Outreach Advisor/Kaitohutohu ā-Rohe for Heritage New Zealand Pouhere Taonga's Canterbury/West Coast office. She has a background in oral history and has recently recorded and released the *Aotearoa Unearthed* podcast. She is currently working on a food history podcast for HNZPT.

### **Title: Help! A clinic for oral historians**

While making sure, as interviewers, that our informant has said what they meant to say and meant what they said, the quality of the recorded material is fundamental. This is a basic interviewer responsibility. At this hands-on session Lynette and Judith will cover tips and trouble-shooting for recording oral histories. They will provide some examples of common recording issues and invite you to bring your questions and own samples for feedback. If you are anxious about what happened

during an oral history project this session will either give you closure or restore your confidence that actually it wasn't as messy as you thought it was.

**Judith Fyfe**, Oral Historian and lawyer, was one of the creators of the New Zealand Oral History Archive, which became the basis for the Oral History and Sound collection at the Alexander Turnbull Library, and a foundation and life member of NOHANZ.

**Lynette Shum** is Tumu Kōrero a Waha/Oral History Advisor for the Alexander Turnbull Library, having trained in the 1990s with Judith and Hugo Manson, and is a NOHANZ Executive committee member.

**Title: Ethics, emotion and oral history.**

Emma-Jean's PhD thesis on Jonathan Dennis, founder of Ngā Taonga Sound & Vision included thirty oral history topic-based interviews with people who knew Jonathan, most of which (depending on interviewees' wishes) are archived at Ngā Taonga. Her thesis explored biculturalism and film archiving in 1980s Aotearoa from the perspective of a Pākehā. Emerging from this research and subsequent projects working with diverse communities to support their approaches to oral history work, Emma-Jean has developed an interest in the role of emotion in oral history for both the oral historians and interviewees. Her presentation will unpack some ideas around relationships, ethical practices, the sharing (or not sharing) of emotion and the importance of recognising and supporting diverse cultural perspectives in oral history work.

**Dr Emma-Jean Kelly** is Pou Hītori Ataata-Rongo, Audio-Visual Historian for Manatū Taonga, the Ministry for Culture and Heritage. She administers Ngā Kōrero Tuku Iho Piki Ake! Kake Ake! Oral History funding round and led 'Kei Roto I Te Miru: Inside the Bubble', a lockdown oral history project recorded in 2020 with nine community based oral historians.