



CHRISTMAS IN THE FAR NORTH OF NEW ZEALAND.

A. Forthwick, photo.

# NOHANZ NEWSLETTER

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NOHANZ Newsletter  
Volume 35 number 3 December 2021

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We welcome contributions to the NOHANZ newsletter, published three times per annum. The next deadline is 1 April 2022

**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

**Cover image:** Northwood, Arthur James, 1880-1949 :Christmas in the far north of New Zealand. A. Northwood, photo. Supplement to the Auckland Weekly news, special Christmas number, 1912. Ref. B-033-005. Alexander Turnbull Library <https://natlib.govt.nz/records/22884033>

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

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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](mailto:nohanzexec@gmail.com).

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Website: [www.oralhistory.org.nz](http://www.oralhistory.org.nz)



## From the President

Kia ora

Many of you will know that Ruth Low decided to step down as president of NOHANZ to enable her to focus upon recovering from a serious concussion. We miss Ruth very much on the executive and hope that she will make great progress and feel much better over the next few months. Meanwhile, the executive asked me to take on the role until the usual round of elections held during our next conference, and I am grateful for their confidence and support.

In November we held the Annual General Meeting, to pass the annual financial statement and discuss future activities and developments. Thank you to Cheryl Ware for doing such a great job managing the finances for the association. And it was great to see those who were able to join the meeting on zoom – thank you.

The following weekend I went down to Christchurch for the South Island hui, which was enormously successful and enjoyable. Congratulations to the team that organized the hui, they did a brilliant job. Before leaving some of us (continuing the debates and discussion) set out in the rain to have a drink at a bar on the beautifully renovated 1930s New Regent St. It was a lovely day.

We are still discussing options for the 2022 NOHANZ conference, and any suggestions or recommendations about this, or our activities for next year, are warmly welcomed.

I do hope you will all have a great break over the next couple of weeks,

Mere Kirihimete

Ngā mihi o te tau hou

**Anna Green**





*Celebrating the success of the Ōtautahi hui: Euan Crawford, Louise Tapper (organiser), Diana Shand, Ruth Low (organiser), Pip Oldham, Paul McGahan (partly obscured), Judith Fyfe, Emma Jean Kelly and Anna Green. Image: Lynette Shum*

## **Connections: An Oral History Hui, Ōtautahi, 27 November 2021**

I LOVED this hui. Having had a very busy few months with Ngā Kōrero Tuku Iho Oral History Awards workshops, administration and the actual panel funding round and decision making process, it was wonderful to be in a room with a bunch of enthusiastic oral historians. I spoke to a woman working on the history of the Catholic Cathedral Archives, to a newly minted PhD student, and to academics using oral history in their practice in the universities.

To be able to chat at the beautiful new Tūranga Library, and listen to the kōrero of Nēpia Mahuika, beaming in from the Waikato, to Natalie Looyer giving a great and

honest reflection on the methods she's used and ways in which she could make her interviews better (I think she was keen on taking the recording device out to the shed for the tractor tour next time by the time she'd listened to Nēpia!) it felt like an opportunity to really think hard about what we do and how we do it, with a bunch of like-minded people.

And I feel like the main "takeaway" for me was unity in diversity. We're all approaching our work from different cultural, ethnic, methodological perspectives. But we all want to create space for people to be able to tell their stories; to hear their stories about the lives they've led, and to learn from them.

I nervously presented an experimental piece on ethics,

emotion and oral history where I shared some thoughts on my own practice – on what has worked and hasn't in my own time recording oral history. I hope it resonated a little with others – I certainly had some great conversations afterwards. The main thing I discussed was the way in which I try and follow ethical guidelines which ensure the mana of all those I interview, no matter who they are:

- Aroha ki te tangata (respect the people)
- Kanohi kitea (the seen face, present yourself to people face to face)
- Titiro, whakarongo...korero (look, listen...speak)
- Manaaki ki te tangata (share, host, be generous with the people)
- Kia tupato (be cautious)
- Kaua e takahia te mana o te tangata (do not trample on the dignity, status, or humanity of a person)
- Kia mahaki (don't flaunt your knowledge)

These guidelines are not my own of course; they come from Linda Tuhiwai Smith, in her book from 2005 *Decolonising Methodologies*, Zed Books p.124, and others including Ngahuia Te Awekotuku. Melissa Matutina Williams, Aroha Harris, Monty Soutar and Nēpia Williams have also taught me many things through their lectures and writings. Recently I was lucky enough to co-present with Melissa at Te Ahu, supported by curator Whina te Whiu at the Museum at Kaitaia, and that was a master-class experience for me.

I've also been working lately with singing as a form of oral history, and Alessandro Portelli remains a touchstone for me, with his reminder that we are not seeking the truth from our oral histories, but to understand and learn from other people's meaning-making, as he says in relation to song in oral history. When a song is born, it reflects the moment of its birth, but also much of the history of its creators. It then continues to live and to react to history.

[1]

It seems to me this doesn't just pertain to song, but to all oral history practice. When we interview someone they are speaking from the present, reflecting on the past. It reflects the history of the speaker; as Anna Green phrased it in her excellent talk on theories of memory, 'Ka Haere Whakamua, Titiro Whakamuri: We Walk Into the Future Facing the Past'. I'm not interviewing people to find out something I think I already know, or to prove a theory, but to allow them the space to explore and discuss their understandings of the world, in the past and in the present so that we may all learn and grow. And that's a pretty awesome thing to do.

This gathering organised by Ruth Low, Louise Tapper, Natalie Looyer and others from the South Island group of NOHANZ, face to face no less (which seemed itself a bit of a miracle during the pandemic) reinforced and reinvigorated my own desire to work on oral history projects, despite the emotional effort involved for all parties, despite the less fun bits like the abstracting process, so that others may also benefit from the kōrero we're honoured to record.

Ngā mihi o Hineraumati! Good wishes for the summer season, tabhair aire duit fèin (look after yourselves)

### **Dr Emma-Jean Kelly**

Pou-Hītori Matua Ataata-Rongo, Senior Audio-Visual Historian,  
Manatū Taonga, Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

*Footnote 1 Alessandro Portelli, 'Typology of Industrial Folk Song' The Death of Luigi Trastulli and other stories: Form and meaning in oral history, State University of New York Press, Albany, 1991 p.192. Originally published as 'Tipologia della canzone operaia,' in Movimento operaio e socialista [Genova, Italy], VI, 2 (May-August, 1983), 207-224.*

## Auckland Libraries

Kia ora koutou











Warm summer greetings from Tāmaki Makaurau and the whānau of Ngā Pātaka Kōrero – Auckland Libraries.

Amongst the “big year” we have all endured, here in our work we had another restructure with Libraries, facilities, and community arts and culture becoming one big directorate called Connected Communities. In many senses there is no change to the core mahi we do with supporting Oral History projects and for our Heritage Collections being a repository for projects or interviews. I continue to hold the position Principal Oral History Advisor with the Heritage Engagement Team and others across the business (primarily Liz Bradley with support from Philippa Templeton) who work on arrangement and description, and access and delivery for oral history and

sound archive formats. Of course, we work closely with our Digital Assets team who help with preservation, storage and support for digitisation of analogue content.

Lockdown does seem to be a time for people to sort through their “stuff”. We are grateful to be the beneficiaries of some of that sorting with a number of older collections – analogue tapes from projects decades ago – being ordered and sorted for deposit. These are critically important as time is running out for the preservation of these taonga. If this resonates with you or your organisation, historical society, business, interviews from your university thesis, recordings with Nana etc, then please do get in touch about how to ensure their preservation.

Much of our time is spent assisting people with their research and this year we once again will be supporting Auckland History Initiative students on their summer

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scholarships. So far there are have a number of scholars enquiring about the use of Oral History collections to ground their topics. It is always so pleasing to see the use and interpretation of this content.

Coming out in early January will be the Top 10 Tracks from our Podcast platform 2021. A number of these tracks have been created from fuller oral history interviews. The top track is “Kiribati to Aotearoa with Teri Taukoriri” was an interview I did about growing up in Kiribati with this track having a focus on food for the Food for Thought exhibition... analytics show that it travelled very well and was enjoyed across the Pacific.

You can follow us to receive notifications when new tracks or playlists are released: <https://soundcloud.com/auckland-libraries>

In the new year we are working on a new series called Ngako – The Collections Talk, which will be a series of visual stories centred on our Heritage Collections with potential to dig into the sound and oral history archives – as well as ongoing support to Oral History projects in development and in action!

Wishing you all well for the holiday season and the 2022 year ahead.

Ngā mihi,

**Sue Berman**, [Sue.Berman@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz](mailto:Sue.Berman@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz)

## Alexander Turnbull Library

Firstly, congratulations to the Canterbury-based team for the planning and pulling together of such a stimulating programme. As part of it, NOHANZ founder Judith Fyfe and I held a clinic and looked at common problems—sound and ethical.

Workshop programming continues to be disrupted, here's

hoping for a smoother 2022, but in the meantime I continue to be available electronically to discuss oral history, as are my colleagues, including conservators, digital archivists, curators, arrangement and description and access specialists, plus the National Preservation Office.

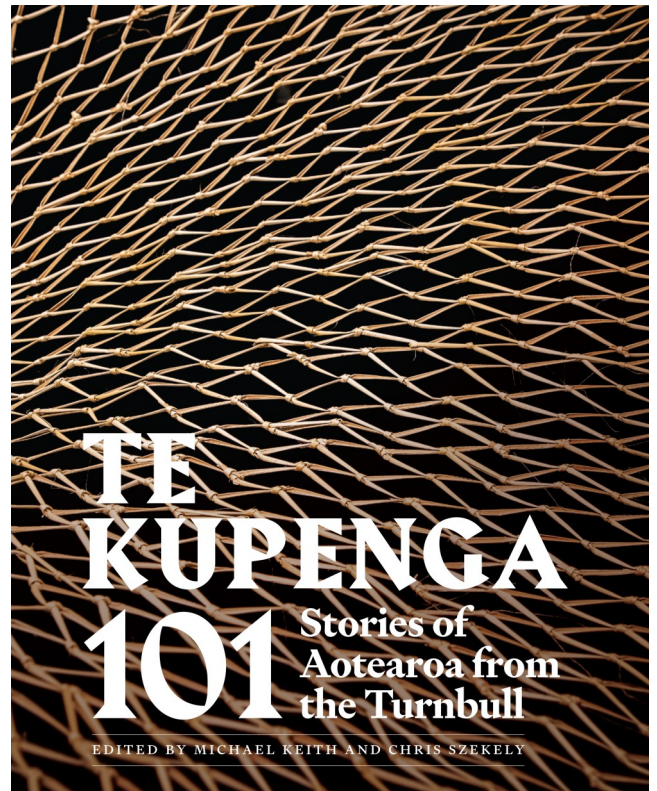
<https://natlib.govt.nz/researchers/oral-history-advice>  
<https://natlib.govt.nz/collections/caring-for-your-collection>.

A project of quite a different nature that I've been involved with recently is the production of the beautiful book *Te Kupenga: 101 stories of Aotearoa from the Turnbull*. Edited by Michael Keith and Chris Szekely and full of illustrations, it's a brief introduction to the taonga of the Library, celebrating its 101 years. In it, I've highlighted a couple of oral history projects—Niborom Young's UNESCO World Heritage-listed Cambodian Oral History Project, and my own Haining Street Oral History Project.

Wishing you joy, good health and peace this season, noho ora mai

**Lynette Shum**

*Oral History Advisor/Tumu Korero a Waha*





## What's new

### Ngā Kōrero Tuku Iho, New Zealand Oral History Grants 2021

A total of \$130,558 has been granted to the following groups and individuals:

- Jackson, Jade, *Lesia v Attorney-General of New Zealand*, \$6,000
- Vaeluaga, Seila (Natu), *Our journey from Fale Sanilai-ti*, \$9,700
- Liua'ana, Rev Dr Featuna'i, *A History of the CCS/EFKS Churches*, \$6,000
- Te Vaka Cook Islands of Dunedin Inc, *Akapapa'anga nō te iti tangata*, \$8,000
- Mackintosh, Rochelle, *Life experiences of ngā uri o Te Rimu Trust*, \$5,000
- Vadasz, Viola and Peter Farago, *Wave by wave, story by story: Hungarians in New Zealand*, \$9,982.95
- Hamilton Cook Islands Association, *Taro Patch Series*, \$8,500
- Raharuhi, Nina, *Hiringa A Rangi 2018, A Tohorā washed up on our shores*, \$10,000
- Woods, Reuben and Bobby Hung, *100 Aotearoa Graffiti Artists – A Survey of New Zealand Graffiti 1980-2021*, \$10,000
- Pene, Rangitahi, *Covid-19 Te Arawa's Response 2020-2022*, \$9,300
- Manu, Ilai, *Fagatua, the indigenous wrestling of Tokelau*, \$6,500
- Herbert-Pickering, Maraea and Harata Herbert, *Three Marae, One People*, \$12,810
- Walsh-Tapiata, Wheturangi, *Wai-o-Turi Marae, Parara -ki-te-uru (Turi-Captain of Aotea waka-spring)*, \$7,875
- Tibbble, Paora Te Kakapawaho, *Hato Paora College Oral History Project Whāia Te Tika*, \$10,890

### How to Put Yourself in the Story from Oral History

Queensland's e-Bulletin, 31 October, 2021.

Sarah Rood and Carla Pascoe Leahy participated in a podcast for the University of Melbourne's Narrative Network about a joint oral history initiative. Listen to *How to Put*

*Yourself in the Story* on Spotify or iheart. In this "How To" episode of Narrative They explore a question that may cross the minds of many narrative scholars, that is, how to include the author or researcher in the story that is being told. How we that answer question might also depend on what story is being told. They speak to two oral historians, Carla Pascoe Leahy and Sarah Rood, about their unique approach to this question.

<https://www.iheart.com/podcast/269-narrative-now-72385888/episode/episode-3-how-to-put-yourself-81813435/>

**Books:** As well as *Te Kupenga*, keep an eye out in your favourite bookshop for the just-released collaboration between Megan Hutching and Ruth Greenaway (both members and ex-Presidents) — *Threads of caring: A history of the Anglican Trust for Women and Children*, and David Young's *Wai Pasifika*.

