



# NOHANZ NEWSLETTER

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The National Oral History Association of  
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Te Kete Kōrero-a-Waha o Te Motu  
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NOHANZ Newsletter  
Volume 36 number 2 November 2022

**NOHANZ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

**President** Adjunct Prof Anna Green  
**Immediate Past President** Dr Nepia Mahuika  
**Secretary** Dr Liz Ward  
**Treasurer** Dr Cheryl Ware  
**Committee:**  
Dr Julie Benjamin  
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Elisapeci Samanunu Waqanivala  
Lynette Shum  
Dr Louise Tapper

**NEWSLETTER EDITOR:** Ann Packer

We welcome contributions to the NOHANZ newsletter, published three times per annum. The next deadline is **28 November 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

**NOHANZ welcomes the following new members:**

Nina Mercer, Roma Potiki, Jessica Seifert, Rowan Light, Zoe Moana Murray, Rachel Haselden, Clare Joensen, Ammon Apiata, Dilys Grant, Rachel Lynch, Michelle Edge, and Robert McClean

The Newsletter editorial staff sincerely apologises for the late production of your newsletter.

Cover image: Desmond Eyre, the father of our Secretary Liz Ward, has a spot of tyre trouble in his youth

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

[nohanzexec@gmail.com](mailto:nohanzexec@gmail.com)

This and back issues in full colour are available on our website  
[www.oralhistory.org.nz](http://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](mailto:nohanzexec@gmail.com).

Twitter handle: @oralhistorynz

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

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





## From the President

Kia ora

What a winter! I hope you have all survived the endless rain? It is still pouring outside the window in Wellington (1 October) – see today's precipitation in my rain gauge, the wheelbarrow.

The NOHANZ executive last met online in mid-August, and the main topic was the forthcoming conference which is shaping up to be really exciting and thought-provoking. We are looking forward to hearing the two keynote speakers, Professors Te Maire Tau (Friday) and Paula Hamilton (Saturday). Something like 35 proposals were submitted which is indicative of the strength of oral history, including eight panels/presentations on aspects of

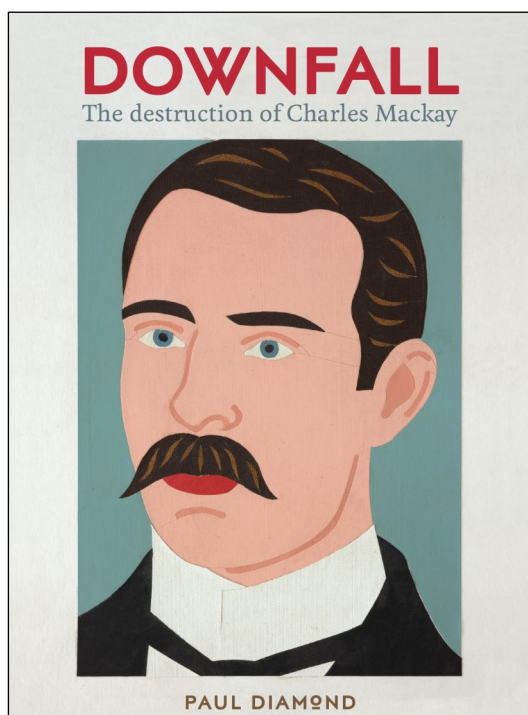
Māori oral history plus presentations by staff from MOTAT, Te Papa, Auckland and Invercargill Libraries, and the Alexander Turnbull Library. In terms of the conference theme, the presentations reflect a wide diversity of objects and oral history approaches, including puppets, seamen's discharge books, shearing tools, houses, a cathedral, photographs, war-related objects, and jewellery among others. We have been able to offer ten conference fee grants thanks to the generosity of the Ministry for Culture and Heritage, and NOHANZ has also made eight conference travel grants.

Other important events at the conference will include the presentation of the inaugural *Oral History in New Zealand* Prize for best article or report published in the journal over the past two years. Secondly, following up a suggestion at the last AGM for a survey of members, we have

organized a forum on “The Future of NOHANZ” so that we can collectively discuss the priorities and future activities for the Association. This will be followed by our AGM and election of officers/executive. We hope very much you will participate in the forum and the AGM and also think about whether you could stand for the Executive. If you are interested in learning about and supporting one specific aspect of our work (such as, for example, the newsletter, journal or website) please do think about standing. Nomination forms will already have been sent out with the AGM Agenda

I do hope that many of you are able to come to the conference and I very much look forward to seeing you there. All information about the conference is online, and registration is open! If you have any registration difficulties, please email our conference administrator [Debie.levy@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Debie.levy@vuw.ac.nz), or for programme queries please email me at [Anna.Green@vuw.ac.nz](mailto:Anna.Green@vuw.ac.nz).

Hei konā mai  
Anna



## Review

*Downfall: The destruction of Charles Mackay* by Paul Diamond,  
Massey University Press, \$45

The German word for downfall is *Untergang*. It has a special resonance when associated with the years between the First and Second World Wars in Germany, where the social, political and economic upheaval of the period was felt acutely. And it is here, on the violently contested streets of Berlin in 1929, that the New Zealander Charles Mackay’s life ends and Paul Diamond’s new book begins. *Downfall: The destruction of Charles Mackay* is the impressive culmination of a personal journey for Diamond that began twenty years ago as research with Prue Langbein for a radio feature, and is now a handsome and engagingly written book.

When Charles Mackay, Whanganui’s charismatic mayor,

shot and almost killed a young writer in 1920, it caused a sensation throughout New Zealand. The writer, D'Arcy Cresswell, had been trying to blackmail Mackay, and the price for keeping secret Mackay's homosexuality was that he would resign his mayoralty with immediate effect. Mackay's panicked response to Cresswell (who himself had same-sex relationships), his subsequent trial and imprisonment, and later exile to Europe, are the substance of the first chapters of the book. Here Diamond's research really shines, as he paints the clearest picture yet of one of the most remarkable episodes in New Zealand's queer history.

In social satire, where political and moral decline are frequently intertwined, the Fall of Man and the fall of *a* man become surrogates for each other. Mackay, in a fatal way, became the real-world embodiment of what happens when political hubris comes up hard against popular morality. The irony in Mackay's case is that his death comes precisely at a moment when personal reinvention, if not actual redemption, seems almost possible in 1929 Berlin – figuratively and physically a world away from Whanganui.

In the two final chapters of the book, "Nemesis" and "Erasure", Diamond addresses the concerted effort by numerous people and organisations over the years to obscure the history and wipe Mackay from the official record. From changing street names to physically erasing Mackay's name from the stonework of Whanganui's Sargeant Gallery, Mackay's story has been deliberately minimised in the hope that he would be forgotten. Yet the great triumph of Diamond's book is that he draws together the multiple strands of research by the many historians who have striven to understand who Mackay and Cresswell were, to surface queer history, and find the truth to what led to Mackay's downfall.

Ultimately this book is a magnificent act of reclamation, of recovering a history that has been long and deliberately erased, of reassessment of the two central figures, Mackay and Cresswell, and of putting back into the record

something which has been largely expunged in the century since the events described happened. We may never know what really lay behind Cresswell's attempt to blackmail Mackay, but we now have a much more detailed picture of its disastrous consequences.

**Roger M. Smith**

Roger Smith is a Wellington PhD student in German Poetry, and Rights Officer at the Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa.

## Te Wai Pounamu NOHANZ Group

Our group continues to meet bi-monthly via Zoom, acting to strengthen connections and networks for those involved with oral history in the southern parts of Aotearoa. Being able to offer support and encouragement to one another, in what is often a lonely working environment, does wonders for the morale.

Our July meeting focused on online resources and project funding opportunities. The Sources for Research Funding for Oral History Projects document put out by the Executive gave a basis for discussion around the struggles of successfully applying for funding. Members shared their experiences with applying for the various funding opportunities. A suggestion to ask Emma-Jean Kelly from the Ministry for Culture and Heritage to host a Zoom session answering any questions about the Oral History Grants came out of the discussions and this was passed on to the NOHANZ Executive and actioned. It's great to be able to pass on our members' ideas to the Exec and to have these positively considered.

Of particular interest when it came to sharing about online resources was hearing about the Tū Tonu Regional Museums Project, an exciting initiative out of the Otago and Southland Museums group which involves a range of online hui being offered on heritage topics.

One of the joys of the group is to hear about the work members are involved in. A moment of magic was when Jill Bowie, Digital Outreach Coordinator at Dunedin Public Library, shared about the Town Hall Dances Project that she and her colleague, Kay Mercer, are working on. As Jill shared, synapses sparked, triggering memories for others in the group.

We would encourage anyone in the South, who is feeling like they would value making connections, to join us. At the upcoming NOHANZ Conference in Wellington in November there will be the opportunity for South Island members to meet over lunch on the Saturday (location to be advised).

**Ruth Low**

## Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture & Heritage

Kia ora koutou, ko Emma-Jean Kelly tēnei. I’ve been having a great time over the last couple of months promoting the oral history funding round, which closed this year on 25 October. I’ve talked to Radio Waatea, Radio Viti (Fijian

Access Radio), NOHANZ members and Southland Tu Tonu museums, archives and oral historians about the possibilities of the fund. One of the things I’ve been keen to let people know is that small volunteer-based archives and museums can now apply for oral history funding.

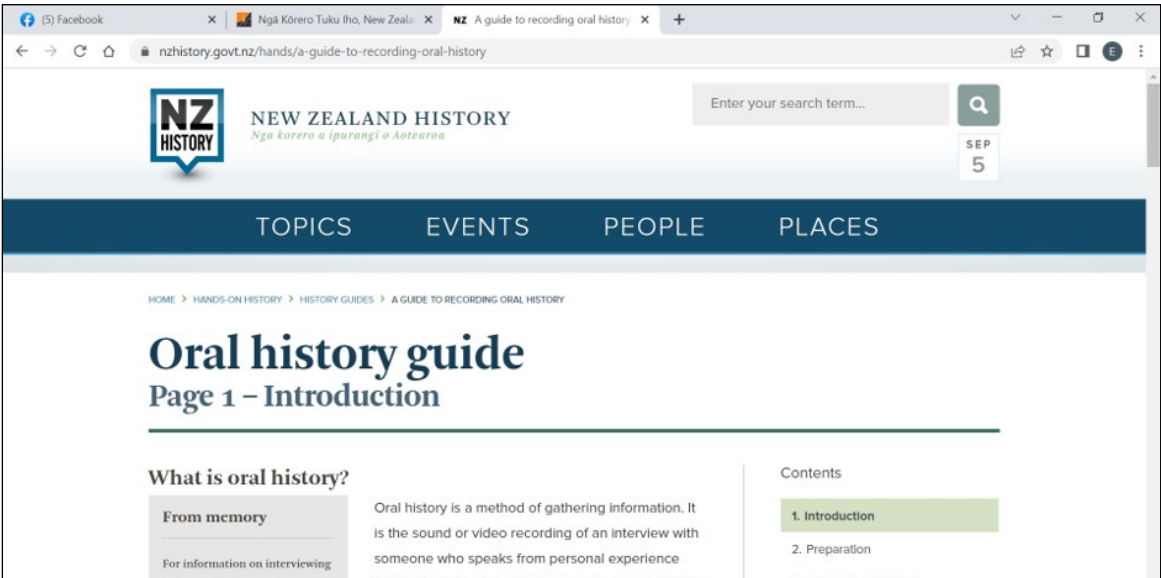
I’ve also been keen to promote the fact that we’ve updated the Oral History Guide on NZHistory, so check it out. I still go back to it to remind myself of all the steps I need to take to ensure I’m following best practice. Thanks to various oral historians and archivists and librarians across the motu who provided feedback for this refresh.

Thanks to everyone who has attended a workshop or contacted me with questions. The heart of my work is supporting people’s oral history projects, and it’s always amazing to me to see the depth and breadth of oral history kōrero occurring across Aotearoa. So good luck with your applications, and I look forward to hearing from you!

Ngā mihi nui (thank you in te reo Māori), tabhair aire duit féin (may you be well in Irish)

**Dr Emma-Jean Kelly**

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







## Auckland Libraries

Kia ora koutou

This last quarter has been a very busy time for the team at Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections.

We have continued to support many researchers with their enquiries related to our Oral History collections.

There has been a significant increase in use of our collections through their discoverability in Kura Heritage Collections Online. It is wonderful reconnecting families with voices from their ancestry as well as topics of interest by researchers. A couple of creative uses from collections have seen oral histories included in urban walking Apps and fringe festival events in the Panmure, Mt Wellington areas – it is very satisfying seeing these older collections come into their own and used to help build context and convey social histories of place and time.

We have a few new collections over the last quarter – particularly of note is the Oranga Collection and also a community generated project from the lesser known Riverside community area.

I have been busy on a project supported by the NZ Libraries Partnership Programme producing a series of films – *Ngako: The Collections Talk* which were screened as part of the launch of our Auckland Heritage Festival. These films are narrated explorations on diverse topics and illustrate the power and purpose of documentary heritage

collecting. They are not strictly oral history but you may enjoy watching them nevertheless - <https://www.youtube.com/user/AucklandLibraries>

I am looking forward to attending the NOHANZ conference. See you in November!

Ngā mihi,

**Sue**

**Sue Berman**

**Principal Oral History Advisor Heritage, Arts & Culture**  
**Ngā Pātaka Kōrero o Tāmaki Makaurau - Auckland Libraries – Connected Communities**

Mob: 021 0414427

## From the Alexander Turnbull Library

**Utaina**

The Library is currently working on a large scale multi-year digitisation project of audiovisual materials called Utaina. You can read more about the [project here](#).

You will still be able to access digitised audiovisual items as usual while we complete the project. Contact us via our [Ask-a-Librarian service](#) if you want to listen to an audiovisual item we haven't digitised yet, but please note there will be a delay in creating a listening copy. As soon as the item is digitised and ready to access, the recording will be available through [Tiaki](#); usual permissions apply. [We can help you](#) to get permission to access so that you can listen to the material as soon as possible after it becomes digitally available.

Ultimately, this will result in ensuring the ongoing preservation of these precious heritage items, and an enormous increase in the amount of material available to be accessed and used.

If you have any material you would like to offer to the Library, please [contact us](#).



## Privacy Act 2020

The implications of this are still sinking in, and the Alexander Turnbull Library and NOHANZ are both working on developing guidelines for interviewers and donors. The presentation by our Associate Chief Librarians at Conference is part of this process.

## Training

On another note, my workshops have more or less ceased for the year, as I gear up to the Australian and our own NOHANZ/Stout Centre oral history conferences. It's so exciting seeing people's ideas becoming reality, given the tools.

For me, it's been a year of experimentation with developing online and part-online training, and an interesting experience working with primary school-age children. Although feedback has been largely positive, especially where delivery wasn't possible while the pandemic was peaking, I must say that the hands-on, interactive, kanohi-ki-kanohi approach to training best suits our practice-based model. The value of allowing people to use a quality recorder, usually for the first time, being alongside them as they learn to use it, and listening back to the voices using quality (there's that word again) playback monitors, that's inestimable, along with the benefits of being together where you can easily share ideas and learn from each other.

The [Tū Tonu](#) project has contributed to a surge of registrations of interest in oral history training. Alongside our traditional introductory course *Essentials of oral history research* spread between two separate days about a month apart, I have been developing a three-day model. I've been participating in a handful of online meetings explaining to newbies just what is involved in creating an oral history project in an archival and ethical way. If you know someone who would like oral history training, please ask them to email [atloutreach@dia.govt.nz](mailto:atloutreach@dia.govt.nz).

Looking forward to seeing many of you at Conference,

Ngā mihi

Lynette Shum

Tumu Kōrero a waha Oral history Advisor  
Outreach Services



Pilot online workshop participants from 'Akapapa'anga nō te iti tangata/ Cook Islands Community Dunedin Oral History group for Te Vaka Cook Islands of Dunedin Inc.

## What's new

### OHS

The Call for Papers for Making Histories Together, Oral History UK's conference in Nottingham on Friday 23 & Saturday 24 June 2023, closes Friday 6 January 2023. For more information, see [ohs.org.uk](https://ohs.org.uk)

### International Oral History Association (IOHA) Conference

The School of Social Sciences of Fundação Getulio Vargas will host the IOHA conference in 2023 in Rio de Janeiro. Dates and call for papers will be announced in the near future.

NOHANZ is concerned to hear of the ill health of member and supporter Stephen Buckland, and the ensuing closing of Sound Techniques. Our best wishes go to Stephen, his family and colleagues.

Te Reo a Ngā Taputapu  
Memory, Oral History and Material Culture

## ORAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

Stout Research Centre for New Zealand Studies &  
National Oral History Association of New Zealand (NOHANZ)  
Te Kete Kōrero-a-Waha o Te Motu



*Immigration re-entry registration certificate for Lily Khouri, aged 44 and her 3 children, 1910 by Edward William Sorrell. Ref: IMS-Papers-11659 Alexander Turnbull Library*

18-20 November 2022  
Te Herenga Waka Victoria University of Wellington

<https://www.victoria.ac.nz/stout-centre/about/events>  
<http://www.oralhistory.org.nz/>



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