



NOHANZ NEWSLETTER

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NOHANZ Newsletter
Volume 36 number 3 December 2022

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Robert McClean

Ann Packer

Lynette Shum

Dr Louise Tapper

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NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Ann Packer with Dr Michael Dudding

We welcome contributions to the NOHANZ newsletter, published three times per annum. The next deadline is 1 March 2023.

Cover image: Professor Brigitte Bönisch-Brednich, Director of the Stout Research Centre, with a Taraute/Brown Trout puppet during the conference presentation by Jeffrey Addison and Whaitaima Te Whare, 'Te Ao o ngaa Kare-ao. The traditional and contemporary world of Kare-ao puppetry'. Photo: Anna Green, November 2022.

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

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

NOHANZ

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From the Editor

Around ninety people attended our biennial conference in Wellington, in association with the Stout Centre, in late November. *Te Reo a Ngā Taputapu: Memory, Oral History and Material Culture*, held at Victoria University, drew so many proposals we needed three streams for some sessions. As well as thought-provoking keynotes from trans-Tasman colleague Dr Paula Hamilton, and Professor Te Maire Tau – whose Friday evening presentation was almost scuttled by peak hour traffic – we were entertained by veteran Taupō puppeteers Toro Pikopiko, who generously handed around some of their many iterations of puppets used for telling traditional and more contemporary stories in schools. Also at the plenary session on Saturday, Sharon Moreham from Te Wai Pounamu moved many when sharing for the first time her search for the truth about her adopted mother’s identity.

At the BGM on Saturday, a new committee was elected: we introduce Robert McClean and Rachel Baskerville below.

Funding from the Ministry for Culture and Heritage (conference fees) and NOHANZ (travel grants) assisted many to come to conference. Hanmer Springs member Emily Anderson reports back on her experience.

The organising committee – Anna Green, Liz Ward, Ann Packer and Lynette Shum – is extremely grateful to Stout Centre administrator Debbie Levy for her work in pulling together all the strands that made up our conference.



Following the conference some 20 people sent their memories of the sterling service offered over many years by Stephen Buckland, whose [Sound Techniques](#) business has helped many members out of a hole. Anna Green pulled together a tribute book at short notice which Lynette Shum delivered in person to Stephen, who is undergoing cancer treatment in Auckland.

FOR STEPHEN BUCKLAND

From oral historians and the
National Oral History Association
of New Zealand |
Te Kete Kōrero-a-Waha o Te Motu
2022



Stephen Buckland with Helen Frizzell at the NOHANZ conference dinner, Waikato University, 2018

Above: The cover of the tribute booklet put together by NOHANZ for Stephen Buckland.

Left: Stephen thanks all the members who contributed to the testimonial booklet delivered by Lynette. "What an unexpected honour and affirmation that we worked so well together. It's been fun and I'll be looking for excuses to keep in contact with you all."

More from Stephen in the next newsletter.

Introducing: Robert McClean



Robert McClean is Principal Advisor for Te Rūnanga o Toa Rangatira, which represents the interests and values of Ngāti Toa iwi. He co-leads a major iwi project involving oral and documentary research into the maritime history of Ngāti Toa Rangatira to inform its response to the challenges of climate change and environmental degradation. A PhD candidate (part-time) in Museum & Heritage Studies at Victoria University of Wellington, his previous roles have involved researching claims before the Waitangi Tribunal, heritage planning, environmental management and climate change with diverse organisations including Waitangi Tribunal, NZ Historic Places Trust (now Heritage NZ Pouhere Taonga) and the Ministry for the Environment.

Robert has an honours degree in Environmental and Resource Planning and a Masters in Historical Geography from Massey University. He is also researching the history of the Vella whānau who settled on Mana Island, Porirua in the 1870s, and who hail from Dalmatia, Croatia; a glimpse of this research, including an animated film, was presented at Conference.

Introducing: Dr Rachel Baskerville



Rachel was involved as treasurer for NOHANZ in the 1990s and finds it a very different organisation 25 years later. Now a professor emeritus, Rachel retired from Accounting at Te Herenga Waka Victoria University in 2020 but enjoys family history research projects, bridge, live music of all forms, sea swimming, and her chooks.

Conference 2022 feedback

The highlight of every NOHANZ conference is being around other oral historians who are endlessly curious and encouraging. For those of us who work alone in oral history, the conference is a three-day feast of learning and sharing. My weekend started with the Wellington walking tour of Chinese history by Lynette Shum and Nigel Mur-



The conference was preceded by a day of workshops and a walking tour, put together and (in the case of the tour) led by Lynette Shum. Image credit: Julia Stace Brooke-White

phy. It was a privilege to be shown this hidden history and finish the afternoon with a special chrysanthemum afternoon tea at the Poon Fah Association rooms. Saturday's highlight for me was being spellbound by Sharon Moreham's presentation of photos and stories that helped unravel the mystery around her mother's identity. On Sunday, Erin Ramsey's presentation on the narrative power of objects from queer life gave an insightful look at how the objects around an interviewee's home hold so much meaning and story potential. Over the whole conference, the exploration of the theme of material culture gave me a fresh perspective on using objects within interviews. It was fun to enjoy Wellington's waterfront and restaurants – thanks again to the committee behind the conference, and to all those who keep NOHANZ going. They do a wonderful job of keeping us all informed and connected.

Emily Anderson

More conference feedback will be presented in the next newsletter, out early March.

Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture & Heritage

After discussion with a range of oral historians across Aotearoa, the Ministry has decided to return to its pre-Covid fund closing date of April. The next funding round for [Ngā Kōrero Tuku Iho New Zealand Oral History Grants](#) will close on 15 April 2024.

Ngā Kōrero Tuku Iho New Zealand Oral History Grants are available for community-led projects reflecting diverse identities and perspectives. Administered by Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage, this funding provides financial help for oral history projects relating to the history of Aotearoa New Zealand and Aotearoa New Zealand's close relationships with the Pacific.

In 2023 we will run a number of oral history funding workshops across the country and online to connect with oral historians and potential oral historians and hear about their projects. If you would like to find out more, send us an email at oralhistory@mch.govt.nz

Dr Emma-Jean Kelly, Pou Hītori Matua Ataata Rongo, Senior Audio-Visual History, Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage.

Alexander Turnbull Library

I can't believe the year is hurtling to a close, and what a year!

I've just wrapped up a trial of a new three-day course with a Crown/iwi group where the government department is supporting the iwi representatives to carry out their own research so they can use some of the results in a governmental report for redress. The project is particularly important because no written evidence exists of their grievance, but there is plenty of anecdotal material around. At the same time, governmental historians are taking the opportunity to brush up on their skills. I think

the format worked really well, and everybody seemed to come away happy but tired, especially me. It seems a fitting climax to a year that included experimenting with online methods of delivering training as well as in-person, and where the demand out there continues to be steady and strong. Now is a good time to let me know if you would like to see some training in your region, as I map out my schedule for next year.

I was involved in or authored the publication of four small articles by the Turnbull – three in the hard-copy and online publication Te Kupenga, <https://natlib.govt.nz/schools/teaching-and-learning-resources/te-kupenga-stories-of-aotearoa-nz/the-draw-of-haining-street>, <https://natlib.govt.nz/schools/teaching-and-learning-resources/te-kupenga-stories-of-aotearoa-nz/cambodian-journeys>, and <https://natlib.govt.nz/schools/teaching-and-learning-resources/te-kupenga-stories-of-aotearoa-nz/a-taxing-imposition> – although only the first two relate to oral history – and then most recently the cover story in the latest Turnbull Library Record (Vol. 54, 2022) on our fabulous Doris Chung Collection.

It was a privilege to be able to attend the Australian Oral History Association's biennial Conference in Tasmania in October, and I hope to include a report in the next Newsletter.

I was delighted to meet new people as well as reconnect with more familiar faces at the Stout/NOHANZ Conference recently. Thank you for your support in re-electing me to the committee. Enthusiastic feedback about the quality of the Conference manaakitanga as well as the programme and presentations themselves made efforts worthwhile. I was responsible for organising the pre-Conference workshops. After a slow start then a late run, the workshop registrations were healthy, although I was sorry to have to turn away people from the Chinese Footprints walk, guided by yours truly and Nigel Murphy. The weather gods were with us, and the predicted downpour cleared just in time. Locals will have another opportunity

to go on this walk in January (Chinese New Year) and February – look out for these on the National Library website. I thank Rosemary Baird, Pip Oldham, Valerie Love, Sue Berman, Zach Webber and Nigel Murphy for their support in leading the sessions.

The Library will be closed from 1pm, 23 December, 2022 until 9 January, 2023. I wish you all a wonderful, safe and healthy festive season

Ngā mihi Kerihimete me te tau hou.

Lynette Shum, Oral History Advisor, Alexander Turnbull Library

Help! Do you recognise this location?

On Sunday afternoon of the 2022 NOHANZ conference I presented a paper titled “Had a Few Too Many”, focusing on an oral history interview of my mother Valerie (Val) Benjamin in 2021, and Box Brownie photographs taken by my father Harry Benjamin.

I showed two photos from a sequence of four showing Harry's friends Archie Forsyth and Fred Barry, an older acquaintance called Joe Comerford, and Harry himself during an excursion train trip from Westport to Dunedin in July 1949. They were all members of the Old Boys rugby club in Westport, and they were supporting Buller rugby team's challenge of Otago for the Ranfurly Shield.

In her interview, Val recalled a story, set in Westport the following year, that was prompted by her viewing one of Harry's rugby trip photos.

I have always been keen to find out exactly where Harry's four photos were taken, and several NOHANZ members at the session wanted to see the entire sequence.

My investigations lead me to believe that the building in the background with the white fluted column the group may have been (or may still be) located in Oamaru.

The bright sunlight indicates it may have been taken some

time in the morning, but not in Dunedin. The weather in the afternoon of the match at Carisbrook has been described by interviewees as being overcast, but dry. (It had rained the day before.)

On the way down, the train was scheduled to stop in Oamaru for refreshments at 8am on Saturday 30 July 1949. This would have been around 13 hours after the supporters had left Westport. Many of the younger males on board would not have slept, and would have drunk a lot of alcohol. This fits the bleary eyed, hungover mood of the photographs.

In fact, the train was running late by around 30 minutes, as a drunk supporter had turned the emergency lever in his carriage, thus stopping the train in the Otira tunnel. So the photo sequence was probably taken just before 9 am.

I do not think it was taken on the journey back home, as the train left Dunedin at midnight on Saturday, and stopped at Ashburton around 5am then later at Otira.

If you recognise the building in the images below and overleaf, please contact me at jben005@gmail.com

Julie Benjamin





Oral History Awards

NOHANZ members who presented at Conference 2022 are among recipients of this year's [Ngā Kōrero Tuku Iho, Piki Ake! Kake Ake! New Zealand Oral History grants](#), announced in Wellington on Friday 16 December.

Dr Margaret Pack and Elisapeci Samanunu Waqanivala are joined by members Caren Wilton, Sue Gee, Lynette Townsend and Prue Langbein in successful bids.

Grants are awarded annually to support community-led projects which record interviews and conversations around a topic significant to the study of Aotearoa New Zealand history and society.

Ministry Deputy Chief Executive Glenis Philip-Barbara said 14 projects will receive \$108,540 to record oral histories across a range of communities and subjects, such as interviews with buskers and street performers, and a 1996 rāhui on shellfish at Karekare Beach on Auckland's West Coast.

More information on oralhistory@mch.govt.nz.

What's new

Parent Swap: Perrine Gilkison asks if anyone is keen on a parent swap. She's keen to get some OH interviews with

her parents but not to do it herself.

perrine.gilkison@gmail.com

Reminder: 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

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.

