



NOHANZ NEWSLETTER

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NOHANZ Newsletter
Volume 37 number 1 April 2023

NOHANZ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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Committee:

Dr Rowan Light

Ann Packer

Lynette Shum

Dr Louise Tapper

Dr Cheryl Ware

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Ann Packer with Dr Michael Dudding

Contributions to the NOHANZ newsletter, published three times per annum, are also welcome. The next deadline is 1 July

Cover image: Green, Anna: "Tell us your own story..." Coffee mug.

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



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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](https://twitter.com/oralhistorynz)

Facebook group: www.facebook.com/groups/nohanz/

Website: www.oralhistory.org.nz



From the President

Kia ora koutou

Thank you to everyone who came, presented, and participated in the November conference. There were many wonderful presentations, and the number of papers and variety of subjects suggest that oral history is really thriving. The mug above (which I picked up in a museum shop somewhere) reflects the conference theme in more ways than one!

The executive committee met in January for a special meeting to discuss plans and operational responsibilities for the forthcoming year, and again in March for a regular meeting. We are moving forward on a number of initiatives arising out of "The Future of NOHANZ" report that Cheryl circulated to all members a little while back.

First of all, we are continuing to work on the draft of a new constitution. You may remember we signalled at the November 2022 AGM that this is required by recent legislation. In particular, we will be proposing that NOHANZ include the following three new provisions: a Treaty of Waitangi clause, a requirement for dedicated places on

the executive for Māori and Pasifika members, and a disputes resolution process. The draft will be circulated to all members when we have it ready for review, and voted upon by members at the AGM in November this year.

Nēpia reported that he is making progress on the Māori oral history book, and Robert is working on a review and refresh of the website. I am pleased to report that we have co-opted **Rowan Light** on to the executive to work with editors Pip and Megan on the journal. Cheryl is co-ordinating the scanning of past issues of the journal, and this will resume shortly. We hope to be in a position to put these online by the end of the year. We also discussed establishing, if possible, regional meeting groups along the lines of the very successful Te Wai Pounamu NOHANZ group, and potential grants for emerging and postgrad oral historians. Yet to be settled is the place and time for the 2024 NOHANZ conference and if anyone has any further ideas about this, please do get in touch with us. More work to be done on all these and other initiatives, but things are underway.

Finally, I do hope that everyday life is improving for those of you who suffered loss or damage because of the cyclone or torrential rain and flooding this summer? We are thinking of you and hoping that the repairs and recovery are well underway.

Hei konā mai,

Anna

Anna.Green@vuw.ac.nz

NOHANZ Prize in Oral History 2022

We are delighted to announce the inaugural winner of the NOHANZ Prize in Oral History 2022. This prize of \$1,000, to be awarded biennially, is designed to recognize the best published article or report published in the journal *Oral History in New Zealand* over the previous two years. This year's award covers articles and reports published in the 2020 and 2021 journals.

A panel of three: NOHANZ president **Dr Anna Green**, a member of the executive, and one of the journal editors, met on Zoom to consider which article or report best met the judging criteria, which are style and readability, quality of research and potential community or academic impact.

The decision was not an easy one: we met twice with a lively debate and discussion. Every article or report had significant value in terms of content and/or methodology, and we would like to congratulate all the authors for their thoughtful and interesting research. In the end we reached consensus that the prize should go to **Emily Anderson** and **Helen Frizzell** for “Hurunui Seismic Stories”, published in 2020. This oral history project on the 2016 earthquake in the rural district of Hurunui led to multiple outputs, including an exhibition and a book.

After an introduction, the report takes the form of an interview between Helen and Emily, which we found made the structure and content of the article very accessible and readable. The report explains the research process, for example how the sample of interviewees was identified and selected, the choice and editing of excerpts for the exhibition, problems attached to funding, and decisions around archiving. The report clearly fulfilled all three criteria for the Award and in addition to the impact upon the community, will have a wider impact as an accessible source of excellent advice and good practice for community oral historians.

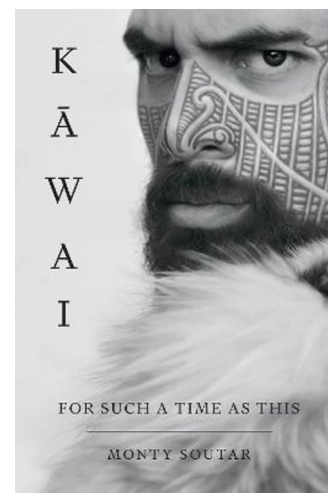
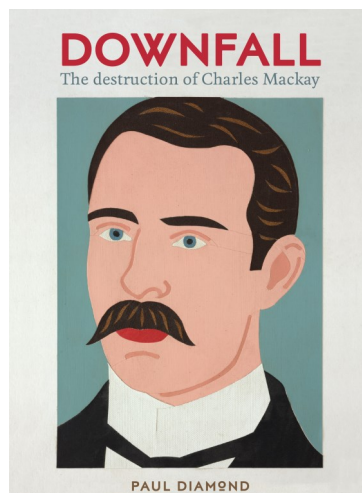
Cheryl Ware

Cheryl Ware's report on Conference 2022 will appear in the UK [Oral History](#) journal and in a longer version in [Phanzine](#).

NOHANZ news

Book awards finalists

We are delighted that two of our colleagues are finalists in the Ockham Book Awards, the winners of which will be



announced on Wednesday 17 May. **Paul Diamond's** *Downfall: The destruction of Charles Mackay* (Massey University Press) was reviewed by **Roger Smith** in our last newsletter. **Monty Soutar's** first novel *Kāwai: For Such a Time as This* (Bateman Books) is the first in a planned trilogy.

Regional reps

Janine Irvine has agreed to be the NOHANZ regional representative for Auckland. She will be in touch with Auckland members soon.

Zoom hui

As a result of members' expressed desire for more connection, the executive committee has decided to trial Zoom hui. The idea is that groups would meet over Zoom and provide support, encouragement and advice to oral historians and those interested in oral history.

A successful South Island group already meets by Zoom and we plan to use this as a model.

We thought that groups could be geographic, or interest-based. The geographic areas identified are Auckland/upper North Island, and a lower North Island group. We also recognise that Māori or Pasifika oral historians might

want to form their own groups to discuss issues relevant to them.

The executive committee is eager to see more connections built among the membership and hope this will enable the NOHANZ community to support and encourage each other in our oral history work.

If you are interested in running a group, or joining one, please email nohanzexec@gmail

Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage

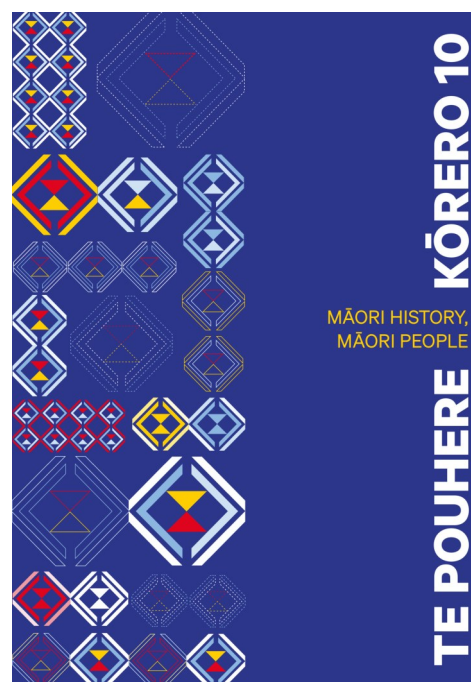
As most people are aware, Manatū Taonga has put a year-long pause on Ngā Kōrero Tuku Iho oral history funding, for the first time in thirty years. After discussions with community oral historians and NOHANZ executive, it was agreed that April is a better closing date for the funding than October, which we used during the Covid-19 lockdown period. Pausing gives us the opportunity to readjust our timing, as the administration for the funding round, organising of the panel and correspondence with applicants is considerable, and the team to do the mahi is pretty small (it's me and a very dedicated part-time administrator, **Catherine Slow**).

Delay to funding round link - mch.govt.nz/funding-nz-culture/ministry-grants-awards/new-zealand-oral-history-awards

I have been in contact with all recently-funded oral historians, a number of whom have been affected by the flooding and cyclone, and some by Covid. They have been offered extensions for their projects and we send kind thoughts to them at this really difficult time. If you know any oral historians who are currently struggling due to weather and other events, please offer them a hand, or let me know and I'll contact them.

Te Pouhere Kōrero, a collective of Māori historians – a number of whom focus on oral history, such as **Aroha Har-**

ris, Melissa Matutina Williams and **Nepia Mahuika** – celebrated the tenth edition of their journal in Wellington on 28 March. bwb.co.nz/events/te-pouhere-korero/



It was an opportunity to gather and celebrate their work, with **Paul Diamond**, Māori Curator and superb oral historian, facilitating the kōrero. This issue examines the opportunities and challenges of the new History Curriculum, and is available online for the first time, through Bridget Williams Books. Other contributors include **Liana McDonald** who was such a great speaker at a previous NOHANZ Symposium, sharing research from her work with Marlborough Schools learning history. Highly recommended!

I'm getting a number of queries from around the country about running oral history funding workshops in the second half of the year. I hope to get around much of the country, and it would be great to be working with oral historians in each region on those workshops. If you're interested in supporting a (free) funding workshop in your area, or attending one, please contact me: oralhistory@mch.govt.nz.

Travel for these workshops comes out of baseline fund-

ing, not the trust fund, so we're spending nothing from the oral history trust fund this year.

Sending warm regards to you all, I hope you can stay safe and well as we move towards winter.

Ngā mihi maioha,

Dr Emma-Jean Kelly, Pou Hītori Matua Ataata Rongo, Senior Audio-Visual History

Auckland Libraries

This year has begun with many challenges for the community of Tāmaki Makaurau and the work of Auckland Council. The Auckland Anniversary weekend's deadly floods, followed by Cyclone Gabrielle, forecast yet another issue to weather – the proposed annual budget proposition from the Mayor.

In response changes are afoot to the working structure of Heritage Collection and Research services and also to the grants and capacity for community to apply and find support for arts, heritage and cultural projects. The outcome is not yet fixed but we are certainly working in a changing environment with the proposed austerity measures.

What I do know is that I am still committed to supporting the community of oral historians; the development, learning and practice of oral history through training; the accession and integration of oral history and sound archives into our Auckland Libraries Collections that reflect the people and places of Tāmaki Makaurau. This will not change. It has been heart-warming seeing the ever increasing number of people requesting access to our oral history collections and using them as a basis for research.

This summer we had two Auckland History Initiative scholars whose primary source material was drawn from oral history collections. You can listen here to Queer Spaces and Auckland Acting Women for references.

soundcloud.com/auckland-libraries/sets/a-kura-tuturu-special-auckland

and also being published here: youtube.com/playlist?list=PLkMKU0JvwTBbCZ7G11puLx8UkyPJqQ4Cq

This last year Auckland Libraries supported through training and brought into the collection 10 long-form interviews through a community oral history project called Stories of Panama Road [Taha Awa - Riverside]. It was wonderful to see the skills built and expressed through a series of interviews, with all the work, including the abstracting, being done within the community. They are excited about the potential of making meaning with the recordings they have produced. Watch this space.

Aside from the business of training and collection management, I have continued to work in the engagement space and have delighted in the process of documentary making and ongoing podcast production.

Ngako: The Collections Talk is a documentary film series that explores taonga held in our Auckland Libraries Heritage Collections and Auckland Council Archives:

youtube.com/playlist?list=PLkMKU0JvwTBYA26wEa3Y62aEWiG7AOFOM



By end June, we are producing three more short documentaries and an eight-podcast series on a similar kaupapa. We may well integrate more voices from oral history collections into the podcast series.

Oral history interviews were conducted by my colleague **Pamata Toleafoa** to support a current exhibition at the Central City Library "O le fogava'a e tasi – One family" ex-

hibition which celebrates knowledge holders across Te Moananui a Kiwa and their measina (taonga). Produced for a podcast platform in support of the wonderful photographs and display of measina. soundcloud.com/auckland-libraries/sets/o-le-fogavaa-e-tasi-one-family

Lastly, a message to any practitioners in Tāmaki Makaurau – Auckland who have analogue [tapes] collections at home that you think may be of interest to a repository, please be in touch. I am planning to send a batch of cassettes for digitisation [preservation migration] shortly and so now is a good opportunity to have your material considered for accession into Auckland Libraries. This does not discount born digital material as well – of course! Please be in touch for a conversation.

Sue.berman@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz 02104144427

Lastly – I want to acknowledge **Sue Gee** [ex-NOHANZ committee member] and **Kim Conway**, Karekare residents whose lives have been turned upside down as a result of the Gabrielle floods. The community is still cut off and isolated as the result of slips and land closures. On the day that Gabrielle hit I was due to go to Karekare to deliver training for a Ngā Kōrero Tuku Iho New Zealand Oral History Grant community project they planned to lead. It was to record the story of community resilience and change, and the impact of a rāhui placed on the beach in the 1990s. I hope this project will still happen in the future – it will undoubtedly include the most recent community-building and resilience that is being expressed in Karekare. We are thinking of you.

Wishing everyone across the motu a safe and warm autumn/winter season.

Ngā mihi,
Sue.

*Sue Berman [She/Her], Principal Advisor Heritage Engagement, Oral History, Heritage, Arts & Culture, Ngā Pātaka Kōrero o Tāmaki Makaurau - Auckland Libraries – Connected Communities.
Mob: 021 0414427*

Alexander Turnbull Library

Training continues apace across the motu, and I can see that there is some fascinating and useful work being done. Wellington workshops start in May, with only a couple of spots left.

But I am concerned that people are missing out through there being fewer public workshops offered this year, though commissions have increased. Still, please contact me if you or someone you know would like oral history training so I can add them to my Expressions of Interest List to build a case, or perhaps support outside of the workshop format.

Another worry of mine is that two main sources of project or training funding support have been lost this year – The Ministry for Culture and Heritage’s Ngā Kōrero Tuku Iho is due in April 2024, and now there will be no Alexander Turnbull Library-administered Jack Iloft Oral History in Education Trust grants for training.

Researchers in our Wellington reading rooms may notice some disturbances as preparatory work gets underway for the enabling structure for the low-level bridge connecting to the new Archives building going up next door, part of the Heke Puna Project. If you are intending to come in, please keep an eye on [our website](#) for further updates about these works.

Finally, I’d like to congratulate colleagues **Paul Diamond** (Curator, Māori) and **Nick Bollinger** (Lilburn Research Fellow for 2023) on their shortlistings for the Ockham book awards, major recognitions in themselves.

Mā te wā,
Lynette.

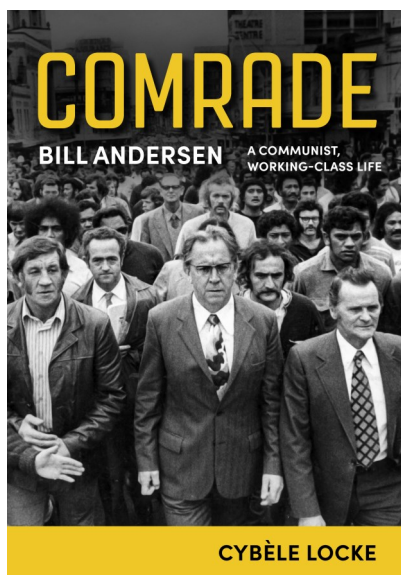
Lynette Shum, Oral history Advisor

What's new

Scarred Nations: Intrastate conflicts, legacies, and reconciliation/Titiro whakamuri ki anga whakamua

New NOHANZ Exec member, **Dr Rowan Light**, who joins the Journal team, is part of the group presenting this symposium at Auckland War Memorial Museum on 20-21 April. scarrednations.com

Comrade



NOHANZ member **Cybèle Locke**, who teaches at Victoria University of Wellington, collected a number of oral histories for her recently published biography of **Bill Andersen**, *Comrade*, which examines labour activism, communism and social change, from the 1930s until the turn of the 21st century. Available from all good bookshops.

Expressions of interest

The Department of Conservation (DOC) is developing an oral history project interviewing whitebaiters about their fishing experiences.

The project is likely to involve up to three interviews of about ten people. Each interview being about two hours in duration. Interviewees will mostly be located in the

South Island on the West Coast and Canterbury Regions, however some travel may also be necessary to the Kapiti/Wellington region. Deliverables are likely to include recordings and verbatim transcriptions. Anticipated project end date is 31 August 2023.

DOC is developing the necessary contract paperwork and would appreciate indicative contract rates and expressions of interest.

Please contact **Helen Ough Dealy** by 27 April 2023
hodealy@doc.govt.nz

Making Histories Together

Oral History UK's conference in Nottingham takes place on Friday 23 & Saturday 24 June 2023. For more information, see ohs.org.uk

International Oral History Association (IOHA) Conference : *Oral History in a Digital and Audiovisual World*

The School of Social Sciences of Fundação Getulio Vargas will host the IOHA conference in July 2023 in Rio de Janeiro. eventos.fgv.br/en/22nd-ioha-international-conference

Drying out

With the recent floods in mind, click [here](#) for advice on how to dry water-damaged belongings such as photographs, books, artworks and music collections and how to contact the National Library of New Zealand Te Puna Mātauranga o Aotearoa for help.

How others see us:

From Australian author **Louis Nowra**, interviewed on the launch of his excellent book *Sydney: a biography* (NewSouth) by the Australian Financial Review:

"There are two things I have learnt," he says. "The past is a foreign country, they do things differently there. You can't judge people in the past. And you can never trust an oral history – there will be at least two different versions."