



NOHANZ NEWSLETTER

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NOHANZ Newsletter
Volume 33 number 3 December 2019

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We welcome contributions to the NOHANZ newsletter, published three times per annum. The next deadline is 1 March 2020

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:

Allanah Burgess, Maraka Consultancy, Christchurch

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

Cover image:

Te Rito Whānau (Ngāti Kahungunu/Rongomaiwahine)
Grateful thanks for permission to use this photograph

See [Ko wai mātou? / Who are we? Conference 2020](#) Call for papers, p.13

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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

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



From the Acting President

“Ko wai mātou? – Who are we?” With this conference theme in mind Lynette Shum and I have been meeting monthly at Victoria University’s Stout Centre with Professors Anna Green and Richard Hill, plus administrator Debbie Levy, to work on plans for next year’s gathering, to be held at VUW in early July 2020.

We have three exciting speakers lined up and awaiting final confirmation – Waskam Emelda Davis, founding member and chairwoman of Australian South Sea Islanders (Port Jackson) in Sydney, will be speaking on “Children of the Sugar Slaves”. Na Li, Research Fellow and Professor in the Department of History, Zhejiang University, China, will address “Oral History, Public Memory, and Political Identity: A Transnational Dialogue”. And we hope to hear from our own Dr Monty Soutar, Senior Historian at Manatū Taonga, the Ministry for Culture & Heritage.

The Call for Papers is printed on the back pages of this newsletter.

It’s been a busy few months in the unravelling towards Christmas, even for those who did not get to Brisbane for the OHA conference. If you’d like more information than is covered in Sue Berman’s excellent report in this issue, Oral History Queensland’s e-newsletter, compiled monthly by Suzanne Mulligan, has a link. <http://www.ohq.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/OHA-National-Conference-2019.pdf>

Suzanne Mulligan also notes the passing of veteran Queensland oral historian Sue Pechey and quotes from an insightful 2004 article by her about interviewers’ prompts on the recording, entitled *Hoist on one’s own Ums*.

New Zealand oral historians resident in Australia may be interested in two new OHA awards, one for a book and one for media. Significantly, the OH content does not have to be Australian.

President Nepia, who has been resident in Denver since July, promises a report on his time there for our next newsletter in April.

And finally, your annual NOHANZ Journal will be mailed shortly.

Ann Packer



EVENTS

Oral History Australia biennial conference: Sue Berman reports

In mid-October I attended the OHA conference: *Intimate Stories, Challenging Histories*, held at the State Library of Queensland in Brisbane.

As with our conferences the two days of presentations were a rich blend of new and experienced voices, community and academic approaches, audio and visual innovations and performance.

We were “welcomed to country” by Gaja (Aunty) Kerry Charlton. Gaja Kerry contributed across the two days giving a presentation within a concurrent session titled *Making Aboriginal Oral History* and she closed our time together as part of a plenary panel with Lorina Barker [known to us as a keynote speaker at our Rotorua conference], Sadie Heckenberg and the visiting Canadian key note speaker Katrina Srigley. This final session explored the theme *Indigenous Oral History: Challenges and Opportunities*.

It was a privilege to hear Katrina Srigley talk about her work alongside the Nippsing First Nation People. She focused much of her talk on ethics. She talked about the need for “listening slowly, listening deeply, listening well” and of her influence by feminist oral history practice. She talked of the space needed for unlearning and decolonisation and the ethics of love, humility and reciprocity and working in deeply relational ways. Katrina was a deeply reflective and inspiring key note speaker.

Additional highlights for me included a concurrent session I chaired on Archiving and Using Oral History which included an intellectually challenging paper on the collecting policies vs realities of the State and National Libraries of

Image: Gaja Kerry Charlton. Photography by Richard McLaren, courtesy of Oral History Queensland



Australia, a project by the Gold Coast Library to make visible their oral history collections, and a panel presentation by the State Library of NSW team on cocreation, collaboration and impact. My own paper landed in a session called *Performing Oral Histories* and I shared the session with a woman who was composing and performing music drawn from narratives recorded through oral history, and an academic studying the *Musical Memories of Jazz Heritage in Queensland*. There was a real presence for performance

with two other performance strands presented at lunchtimes and a spoken word poet/local body Councillor at the preconference evening drinks and welcome.

The conference committee had a strong focus on manaakitanga / hospitality and also on sustainability – the highlight being the conference bag hand sewn from reused fabric scraps and unique to everyone! The coffee and lunch catch-up opportunities and attending workshops beforehand enabled us to find old friends doing new projects and new friends doing innovative and thoughtful work.

The conference organisers from Singapore were there to encourage people to attend the next International Conference in June 2020. The Australian National OH Committee and conference team can take a bow for organising an intimate and enriching conference.

Sue Berman

Conference committee and Australian Association executive at the welcome drinks for conference



Auckland Regional meeting

Saturday 21 September, Massey University, Albany

Sharing Oral Histories: The Why and the How?

The morning began with a warm welcome from Associate Professor Jenny Lawn, Head of School of English and Media Studies, followed by introductions and a short discussion about what oral history meant to the attendees.

Denise Ewe and Shelley Chignell generously shared their experiences conducting OH interviews and some of the key themes that emerged from their research. Their talks generated thoughtful discussion about the sense of advocacy in OH and the importance of creating a forum where interviewees can discuss topics not previously recorded.

We then moved into a workshop on writing a journal article. Megan Hutching, Auckland regional contact for NOHANZ and co-editor of *Oral History in New Zealand*, shared important advice on publishing peer-reviewed articles, project reports, and book or exhibition reviews in the Journal. The research report is a particularly useful format for oral historians to outline current projects and draw attention to the rich range of OH collections that exist in libraries, archives, and museums across Aotearoa.

Janine Irvine, a PhD candidate at Massey Albany researching the telling of community local history and community stories through co-produced written texts in New Zealand, followed with a presentation on the

importance of publishing. She advised attendees to consider their intended audiences, preferred form of publication and whether they are writing about content or process. Publishing is not only an important means by which we can offer fresh insights and new interpretations of past events, but it also enables oral historians to draw attention back to the recordings. Janine also spoke to the value of oral historians' co-writing with the people who have participated in the interviews. She suggested *Otara: Where Ancient and New Technologies Meet* as an example of effective co-writing.

Sue Berman then delivered a valuable workshop on "Podcasting 101". Drawing on some of the podcasts she has created in her role as Principal Oral History and Sound at the Auckland Libraries – including "An Introduction to Curtain Up!" – Sue guided attendees through some of the creative and innovative ways in which we can share oral histories. She shared her process for selecting introductory music and identifying extracts from OH interviews to use in podcasts, as well as navigating methodological issues that can arise when using extracts with significant background noise.

Above all, the speakers offered insights into the rich oral history projects currently underway, and the range of opportunities available for oral historians to share their work and engage with others.

Our sincere thanks to all the speakers and attendees for their valuable contributions to the event. Thank you to Janine Irvine and staff at Massey University for your great organising and for being such welcoming hosts.

Cheryl Ware



News from Auckland Libraries – Oral History and Sound Archive

Kia ora koutou – warm summer greetings from Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.

This last quarter has been extremely busy for us at Ngā Pātaka Kōrero o Tāmaki Makaurau - Auckland Libraries with a few projects on the go and an increasing number of researchers interested in our sound and oral history collections. Check out Kura Heritage Collections Online—<https://kura.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/>

We are working on a project funded by the Maungakiekie-Tāmaki Local Board. This suburban area includes Glen Innes, Panmure, Oranga, Onehunga, Mt Wellington, Point England, Riverside... and more! These communities are experiencing rapid change due to high levels of housing and town centre developments and we are working with them to record their stories. Interestingly we had a good number of oral history recordings [40+] 1980s when the Borough Councils merged, and from early 1990s projects too. Megan Hutching is one of the Auckland Libraries Heritage Trust scholars and she is diving back into these early collections to find voices that will inform our current project. These will be produced to add to our Auckland Libraries podcast series -<https://soundcloud.com/auckland-libraries>.

Explore this podcast link to listen to other curated content. If you check out the recent Exhibition series – *Stepping back into the shed – Westfield Freezing Works* you'll hear both voices from past archives, including David Lange on growing up in Ōtāhuhu [recorded in 1987],

alongside recent interviews done especially for this 2019 exhibition.

Look out for the latest podcast of oral history curated content with our new exhibition Fun and Games which opens 11 Dec – 1 March.

Don't forget that we have equipment available to do quality recordings and I am always happy to review your content if you are looking for feedback. Also you are welcome to bring your recordings – analogue or digital for assessment for deposit into the Auckland Libraries collections.

Wishing you all a safe and healthy summer season – see you in 2020!

Sue Berman, Principal, Oral History and Sound

News from Alexander Turnbull Library

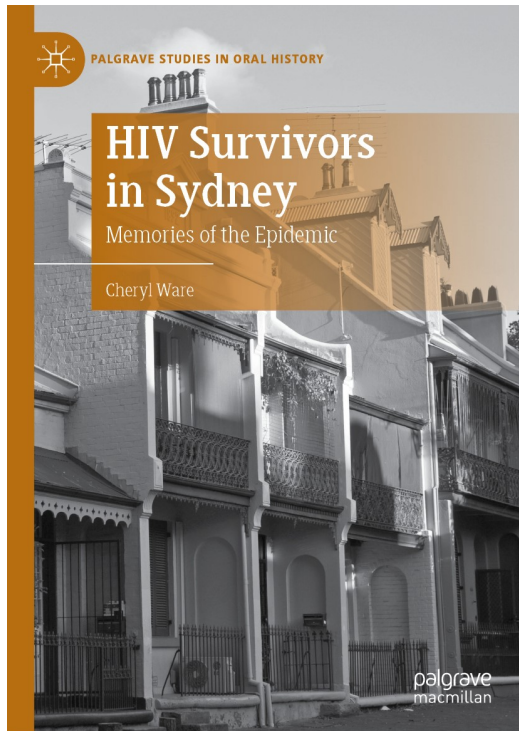
The last few months have flown by, with five two-day workshop series *The essentials of oral history research*, in Dunedin, Alexandra, Auckland and Wellington. I am conscious that the follow-up with these groups and individuals will be crucial to their ongoing success, and yet there is a need to balance this with the time that it takes to do so in a meaningful way—a tricky balancing act.

We were honoured with a visit to the Library last month by delegates prior to the Dragon Tails conference at Victoria University of Wellington. Forty people from both sides of the Tasman took the opportunity to view specially selected treasures relating to the history of Chinese in New Zealand from the collections of the Alexander Turnbull Library and Archives New Zealand. In addition I led people on a couple of walking tours of Wellington's historic Chinatown.

A plethora of workshops are scheduled for the first half of next year, but need confirmation from one centre before it can all lock into place. Keep an eye on our website for updates.

Ngā mihi o Hine Raumati ki a koutou—season's greetings

Lynette Shum, Oral History Advisor



Books to note

***HIV Survivors in Sydney: Memories of the Epidemic* by Cheryl Ware (Palgrave Macmillan, 2019)**

This book excavates the intimate lives and memories of HIV-positive gay men in Sydney, focusing on the critical years between 1982 and 1996, when HIV went from being a terrifying unidentified disease to a chronic condition that could be managed with antiretroviral medication. Using oral histories and archival research, it explores how HIV-positive gay men navigated issues around disclosure, health, sex, grief, death, and survival. *HIV Survivors in Sydney* reveals how gay men dealt with the virus both within and outside of support networks, and how they remember these experiences nearly three decades later.

Dr Cheryl Ware is a Research Fellow in the School of Humanities at The University of Auckland, and a NOHANZ Exec member who has been acting secretary for much of this year. Her current project explores the lives of women sex workers and is supported by a Marsden Fund Fast Start Grant.

***Transcribing Oral History* by Teresa Bergen (Routledge, 2019)**

Editor's note: In response to our comment about abstracting, rather than transcription, being standard oral history practice in New Zealand, the author says she covers the "pros and cons, debates about transcription, and the reasons it's important to listen to audio. One chapter is dedicated to alternatives to transcription, such as timed indexes."

Part of Routledge's Practicing Oral History series, this is a guide to the **transcription** of qualitative interviews, an often richly debated practice within oral history. It includes practical advice for those looking to use transcription within their own projects, a helpful how-to section covering technology, style guides, ways to format

transcripts and troubleshooting, and encourages the reader to consider legal and ethical issues, as well as the effects of troubling audio on the transcriptionist. It explains how scholars can turn recorded interviews and transcripts into books, films and museum exhibits, enabling the reader to understand the wider concerns surrounding transcription as well as the practical uses to which it can be put.

Based upon the author's personal experience as a freelance transcriptionist and interviews with more than 30 professionals working around the world in the oral history and qualitative research fields, this is for those involved in interviews and **transcription** at any level of an oral history project, including historians, transcriptionists, interviewers, project administrators, archivists, researchers and students.

Teresa Bergen is a Portland, Oregon-based freelance writer and transcriptionist who has transcribed, indexed and edited qualitative interviews for more than 20 years. She is a member of the Oral History Association whose articles appear in consumer magazines and websites.

<https://www.routledge.com/Transcribing-Oral-History-1st-Edition/Bergen/p/book/9780815350934>

CONGRATULATIONS

We're sure members will join with the NOHANZ exec committee to congratulate committee member Cheryl Ware & Phil on the birth of Ethan Ware Rowe, born on 4 December. We wish them all the best—including plenty of sleep!



Image: <https://soundcloud.com/emma-jean-kelly/labour-100-talk-labour-history-agm>

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM THE MINISTRY

Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage have appointed Dr Emma Jean Kelly to the role of Historian (Audio-Visual Content). Emma has been working for MCH for the last 9 months in a fixed-term role as educator/historian at Pukeahu War Memorial Park. She is a former recipient of an Oral History Award and has previously worked for the Waitangi Tribunal, VUW, AUT, the Labour History Project and the Tertiary Education Union.

SO LONG, FAREWELL AND THANKS

To Lynette Townsend, who has left her position as Senior Historian, Audio Visual Content at Manatū Taonga | Ministry for Culture & Heritage for a job at New Zealand Post. Thank you for all the help and support you have offered to oral historians during your tenure, good luck with your new job.

2020 JOURNAL

Please do not hesitate to contact the editors of the Journal *Oral History in New Zealand*, Megan Hutching and Pip Oldham, with ideas for topics, themes or content you would like to see in the 2020 edition of the journal. The editors welcome contributions, whether long or short articles, book, documentary or exhibition reviews, reports of meetings or conferences, or work in progress. They would also like to hear from anyone interested in being a peer reviewer for the long articles, or a book reviewer.

The deadline for contributions to the 2020 issue of the journal is 30 June for long articles, to allow for peer-review, and 15 August for other content. There is a *Guide for Contributors* on the NOHANZ website.

Contact: journalnohantz@oralhistory.org.nz



STOUT RESEARCH CENTRE
for New Zealand Studies

Ko wai mātou? Who are we?

CALL FOR PAPERS

New Zealand Oral History Conference

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

Victoria University of Wellington

3 – 5 July 2020

Ko wai mātou? Who are we?

A common thread runs through the contemporary work of many philosophers, economists, geneticists, historians and novelists world-wide. Who are we? What unites us? What separates us? As we in Aotearoa New Zealand grapple with the consequences of colonisation 250 years on, questions of personal and collective identity resonate on multiple levels. Do we share any form of collective identity?

We invite papers that explore “who are we?” in different and interesting ways.

- There are multiple social and cultural dimensions to identity – iwi/hapu, family, ethnicity, occupation, class, sexuality, generation, and gender among them.
- How do we navigate the personal and collective multiplicity of identities that are part and parcel of everyday life?
- In what ways are these identities perceived to overlap?
- How do we negotiate conflicting identities?
- Past or present – which matters more when considering who we are?
- Are our life narratives our self-identities?

Through the medium of interviews and life narratives oral historians are able to record a rich diversity of perspectives and make a contribution to understanding the question “Ko wai mātou?” or “Who are we?”.

Keynote speakers include:

Waskam Emelda Davis, founding member and chair-woman of Australian South Sea Islanders (Port Jackson) in Sydney, speaking on ‘*Children of the Sugar Slaves*’ and

Na Li, Research Fellow and Professor in the Department of History, Zhejiang University, China, speaking on “*Oral History, Public Memory, and Political Identity: A Trans-national Dialogue*”. To be confirmed.

Workshops:

There will be workshops on Friday 3 July at the National Library, Wellington.

To submit a proposal

Please send a title, 200-word (maximum) abstract, and a brief (two sentence) biography

To: Stout-centre@vuw.ac.nz

By: **Saturday 18 April 2020**

In all cases, to assist with later programme planning, please indicate clearly the focus of your paper within the broad theme. You will be notified by the end of April whether your paper has been accepted.

Registration for the conference will open on Monday 4 May 2020.

If you have any questions about the conference, please contact

Anna Green: anna.green@vuw.ac.nz

or

Ann Packer: nohanzexec@gmail.com

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