



NOHANZ NEWSLETTER

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The National Oral History Association of
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NOHANZ Newsletter
Volume 34 number 3 December 2020

NOHANZ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President Ruth Low
Immediate Past President Dr Nepia Mahuika
Secretary Susie Milne
Treasurer Dr Cheryl Ware
Committee:
Prof Anna Green
Ann Packer
Elisapeci Samanunu Waqanivala
Lynette Shum
Liz Ward

NEWSLETTER EDITOR: Ann Packer

We welcome contributions to the NOHANZ newsletter, published three times per annum. The next deadline is 1 February 2021

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:

Cover image: Your new committee: from left: Lynette Shum, Prof Anna Green, Liz Ward (partly obscured), Elisapeci Samanunu Waqanivala, Ruth Low, Ann Packer, Dr Cheryl Ware. Front: Susie Milne, Dr Nepia Mahuika

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

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

Website: www.oralhistory.org.nz



From the President

Tēnā koutou katoa

It's hard to believe that our biennial conference has been and gone. A huge thank you to all on the organising committee who worked to ensure the conference was such a success: Anna Green, Lynette Shum, Ann Packer, Debbie Dunsford and especially Debbie Levy who worked tirelessly over the weekend to ensure things ran smoothly. Thank you too, to all those who spoke – there was such a diverse range of thought-provoking and challenging papers this year. What a luxury it was to have the two streams running simultaneously – the hardest part was having to make decisions over which ones to go to. As usual I came away with my mind buzzing and a heart warmed by the collegial nature of our oral history whānau.

To be writing this in my new capacity as NOHANZ President is somewhat daunting. Nepia Mahuika has so ably led the Executive for the past four years that I feel I have very large shoes to fill. He has set in motion a process of reflection, growth and change that I believe will see NOHANZ become an organisation that continues to connect and engage with all sectors of our oral history com-

munity, within Aotearoa and internationally.

My goal while President is to ensure that the momentum Nepia's leadership has generated does not falter but continues to carry the organisation forward positively. The conversation between Julia Whaipooti and Tā Kim Workman [opening keynote] not only set the tone for the conference but offered much to reflect on. Two things particularly resonated with me – and I ask Kim's forgiveness as my lateral thinking perhaps takes them beyond his original intent. Kim spoke of keeping his life in balance through engaging with the different threads of his life, of which music was one. My lateral thinking takes that imagery to see the different threads of our oral history community – our diverse cultural communities: indigenous, Pasifika, community oral historians, academics and institutions, museums and libraries and Ministry. I feel that to keep moving forward and stay balanced the individual threads must entwine to become a stronger cord drawing strength and support from each other, moving as one to ensure the protection and building of our heritage. This doesn't happen without open and robust conversations. Which brings me to the other point of Kim's address that stood out for me: the ability to disagree with someone but still be able to go and have a beer with them afterwards. I liked this as a concept and think it is a pretty good yardstick to measure how well we are doing as an oral history community when we *do* face the tough issues and allow ourselves to have robust discussion. Kim seemed to me to exemplify openness, humility and grace and I feel his example and this "yardstick" could be a guide to us as we move forward as an organisation. Enough from me now!

Meri Kirihimete

Ruth



National Oral History Conference & BGM

Ko wai matou? – Who are we?

Our biennial conference, held at Victoria University of Wellington and the National Library in late November, was a resounding success. Whether it was the internationally resounding theme, or the feeling we were desperate to get out after those lockdowns, we drew 98 registrations to our biennial conference in association with Victoria University of Wellington's Stout Centre. Here is some of the feedback we've received.

...from **Julie Benjamin**

I particularly enjoyed the atmosphere this time around, very convivial and friendly. For me, the socialising was a highlight, including the Saturday night up at Kelburn pub.

I really enjoyed presenting my paper and answering questions on Saturday. It was a contrast to 2018's conference, when I presented on the Sunday afternoon and the audience was not allowed to ask any questions, because of

Image: Julia Whaipooti and Tā Kim Workman's opening keynote

time constraints.

I liked Janni Wilson's paper, and her singing. A refreshing and entertaining delivery.

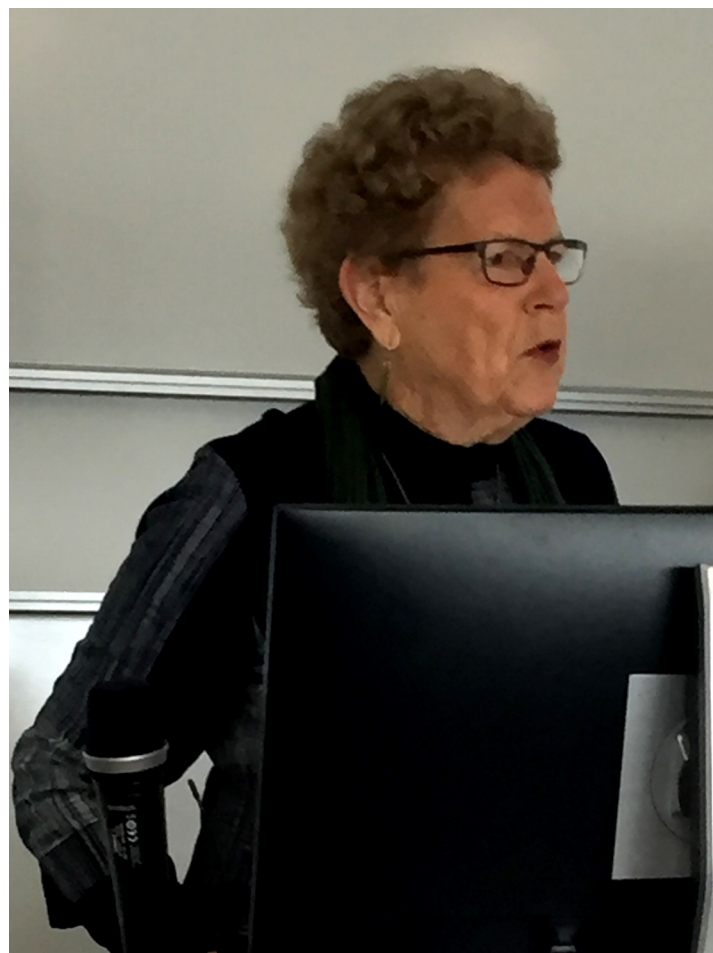
It was great staying in the Te Puni village (even though the facilities and food/drink were not that flash) and catching up with nice folk from all around NZ.

...from **Louise Rummel**

The most significant thing for me was how every presenter introduced themselves in the Maori language. It was most impressive. For me the total conference was impressive and all speakers were so interesting. I really liked [the session] at the beginning when those who wished to were able to present what research they were currently undertaking. For me, the man that came from Tokelau was so articulate and a joy to listen to. His need to have the stories of those who have lived and worked on the island – the peoples' stories – to be captured for the future, in case the island becomes submerged by climate change...that was just amazing. I was only able to come for the Saturday but thoroughly enjoyed the total



Immediate Past President Dr Nepia Mahuika and whānau finish his author's talk with a waiata



Prof. Barbara Einhorn presents conference. Thank you.

...from **Dr Emma Jean Kelly**

A number of staff from Manatū Taonga attended the NOHANZ Oral History conference at Victoria University this year, and we all really enjoyed the opportunity to hear from those around the country about their projects. I certainly learned a lot, and met many people with whom I'd only ever had correspondence before. Thank you to all the organisers from NOHANZ and the Stout Centre for New Zealand Studies.

...from **Jacqui Foley**

For the first time this year, NOHANZ awarded

travel scholarships to enable members to get to conference. Jacqui, who lives in Tokerahi, west of Oamaru, was one of them.

"As a freelance oral historian, NOHANZ conferences are an important event to connect and re-connect with people, learn about new projects, practices, technology, and storytelling and recording in general. This conference really delivered on all counts, I found it to be exciting and stimulating from the pre-conference workshops right through to the final presentations.

All of the presentations I attended were thought-provoking and interesting. I have selected a few which struck a particular chord.

Robert McClean "But it was a 'Very Nice Honeymoon'? Memory, Forgetting, and Heritage –

the case of the Vella family story". Telling a family story through animation, I found to be quite challenging initially – was this true to the memory of the family members? This was a very different approach. I was won over quickly by the humour, quality of the film and in particular, sensitive approach. Robert raised some very interesting questions about "revised oral history" in his very enjoyable presentation.

Bobby Hung "Capturing the story of NZ graffiti through participatory methods of oral history". I have very little knowledge of graffiti and usually have quite a negative response to it. Bobby allowed a glimpse into this world through his excellent videos, explanation of different styles (straight letters, slanted letters struck



Na Li presents by Zoom from California as a sign language interpreter translates

me as interesting) and reminded us that behind graffiti artists are people with skills, practice and meaningful art. This was a fascinating presentation beautifully illustrated by short videos.

Panel: 'What is Interviewing?' Anna Green, Helen Frizzell, Pip Oldham, Megan Hutching. The wealth of knowledge, skill, experience and wisdom from this panel of practitioners is beyond words. I was particularly interested in the premise that the balance of interviews mainly lies with the interviewer. Self-evident perhaps, but not something I had ever dwelt on. This point was only one of the many important and basic considerations raised by this wonderful panel.

Jani Wilson "Words, Melodies and Hooks: Waiata and Oral History". I came away from this presentation with a greater understanding and appreciation of waiata as oral history repositories. Dr Wilson explained in detail the role of melody as a vehicle for lyrics and the central importance of "the hook". Beautiful presentation with the bonus of sung examples.

Barbara Einhorn "Speaking and Not Speaking: The Transformation of New Zealand's Approach to Others". Barbara spoke from direct experience as the daughter of German-Jewish refugees. Her presentation raised both historic and current questions of how we see ourselves and how we see others. Barbara's vivid telling of her parents' experience and accompanying photographs was both moving and thought-provoking.

Thank you again to NOHANZ and presenters for a wonderful conference and to Stout Centre for hospitality.

...from **Ann Packer**

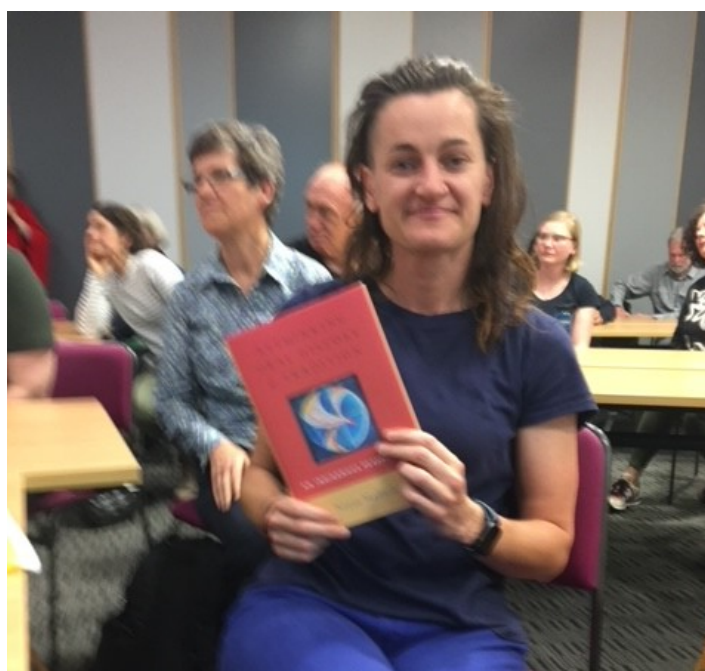
Conference for me was hectic but immensely rewarding, as it is when you've been part of the planning. Having missed Waikato, I was so

pleased our delayed get-together finally happened, even if we had to receive Li Na's excellent overview of Chinese oral history by Zoom rather than in person.

Having enough proposals to run two streams is both a treat and a torment, especially if you are chairing something wonderful that stops you popping next door to get the flavor of another presentation.

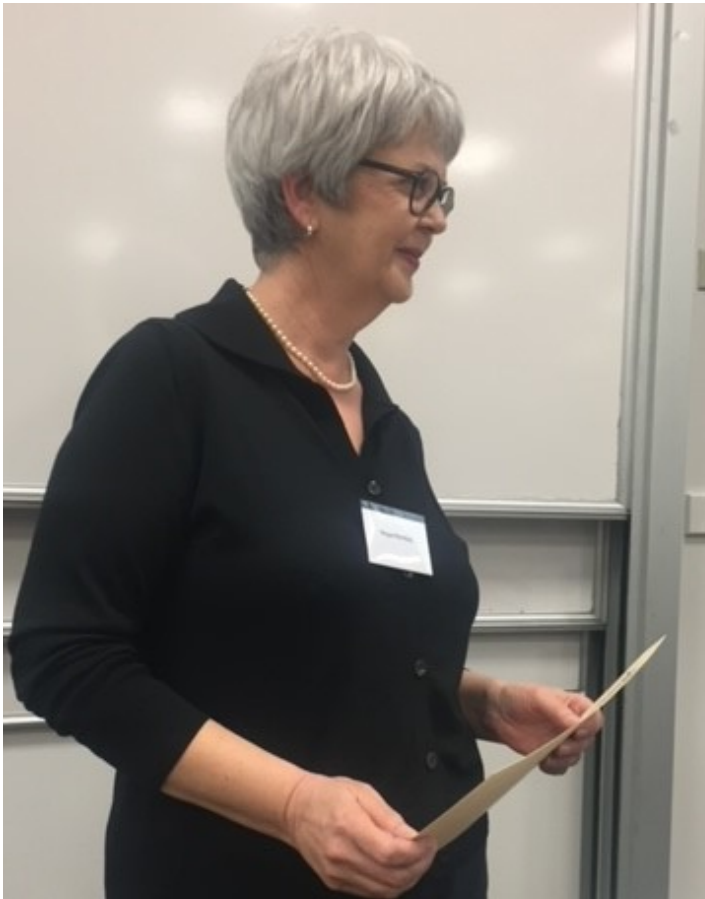
Looking back, the same presenters stand out for me as immediately after the event. Tā Kim Workman's moving dialogue with Julia Whaipooti, Barbara Einhorn's experience as the daughter of German-Jewish refugees and Nepia's apparently effortless ability to speak with insight.

But for sheer charisma, the splendid Sonia Pivac, ably supported by her interpreters, bowled me over. From her participation in the workshop session on archives to her own presentation on SignDNA, the archive she set up and runs, her commitment to Deaf culture



Sonia Pivac wins a copy of Nepia's book

and her drive were phenomenal and unforgettable. So much to get my head around – not least that Sign is a three-dimensional language!



AGM

Life Membership for Megan Hutching

A special feature of the AGM was the award of Life Membership to Megan Hutching, who coincidentally attended her very first conference at Victoria in 1990.

Megan completed a Masters' degree in History at the University of Auckland in 1990 and worked at Auckland libraries to set up their oral history archive, before joining the Historical Branch of the Department of Internal Affairs in 1991 partly to set up and administer the Australian Sesquicentennial Gift Trust

Awards in Oral History. Together with NOHANZ Life Member the late Dame Judith Binney, Megan shaped and influenced the Awards for their first 16 years, working closely with those who received grants. She left the Ministry for Culture and Heritage in June 2007 to become a freelance historian and oral historian based in Auckland.

Megan has held multiple positions within NOHANZ, as president of the Association for three years (during which time she worked on updating the *Code of Ethical Practice* to a *Code of Ethical and Technical Practice* with Hugo Manson) and secretary for 12 years. She has promoted and advised fellow historians on the methodology and ethics of carrying out and using oral history.

Megan has edited our oral history journal, founded in 1988, since 1993 and continues to coedit it with Pip Oldham; she intermittently edited the newsletter as well. Megan was deeply involved along with the executive in the planning for many conferences and regional seminars and also had an international presence, serving on the council and as council secretary of IOHA, during which time she developed strong links with oral historians in the UK and the US.

Megan has written 15 books, booklets, articles – including six books for MCH's series about New Zealanders in the Second World War – as well as content for museum and website exhibitions.

Her research projects outside the MCH include commissioned oral histories for law and engineering firms and women judges; the Political Diary project; recordings for museums and libraries, and her own current collaborative project "In my room", telling life stories through objects.

Megan's knowledge of oral history

methodology and theory, ethics, abstracting/transcribing, publishing and archiving oral history interviews is immense, and her contribution to NOHANZ outstanding. She has trained and mentored many oral historians and is very collegial and supportive of the work of others.

Megan has made an immense, unparalleled contribution to oral history in New Zealand and her career epitomises working on oral history across academic, community and public history spheres.

[This is an edited version of the citation read at the AGM. The full citation, prepared by Professor Anna Green, will be posted on the NOHANZ website soon.]

The AGM also saw our biennial election of officers. We have a new president – Ruth Low; Secretary – Susie Milne; and Treasurer – Dr Cheryl Ware, all existing committee members. And we welcomed three new committee members – Elisapeci Samanunu Waqanivala, and Professor Anna Green of VUW's Stout Centre for New Zealand Studies (both Wellingtonians) and Liz Ward of Palmerston North. Here are two of their bios.

Anna Green

I was born on the Welsh border to a farming family, where I grew up. In 1972 I took off travelling and ended up studying at the University of British Columbia, where I met my New Zealand husband Jack. Since arriving in New Zealand in 1980 I completed my PhD at Auckland, and since then have taught at Waikato, AUT, Exeter (UK) and for the past nine years at Victoria, where I am currently Acting Director of the Stout Research Centre. I became fascinated by oral history pretty early in my life, and a book on the curriculum at school, *Ask the Fellows who Cut the Hay* (first



published in 1956) was a huge influence (it also spoke to my farming background). For my PhD I looked at the 1951 Waterfront Dispute, recording oral history interviews with both watersiders and the shipping company employers, published as *British Capital, Antipodean Labour* on the anniversary of the dispute in 2001. Since then my oral history research has focused on community oral history projects and museum exhibitions (Frankton Junction and Truro, Cornwall), the Torrey Canyon oil disaster of 1967, and most recently two projects on intergenerational family memory. I was very fortunate to be awarded a Marsden Fund grant for 'The Missing Link: intergenerational family memory' research project in 2016, which focuses on the family stories and experiences passed down among Pākehā family descendants of nineteenth-century European settlers in New Zealand. This will continue to be the focus of my research and writing for the next few years.

Liz Ward

I am an historian based in Palmerston North. I work part-time at Massey University lecturing

and tutoring in the Politics and History programmes. I spend the rest of my time working on my own or commissioned projects. My main interests are political and welfare history, but I have been involved in a variety of projects. Most recently I completed an oral history project with foundation and early staff of the Massey University School of Veterinary science.



NEWS

Ngā Kōrero Tuku Iho Oral History Awards 2020

[Note: Due to Covid-19 lockdowns, the ministry extended the deadline so recordings commenced between June and October 15 this year were still eligible.]

The 13 projects, which received a total of \$105,690, range from the experience of death and dying during Covid-19, to South Island train journeys to watch rugby games – both of which were the subject of presentations at our conference.

Over half the projects (seven out of 13) have a significant Māori focus and Manatū Taonga Chief Historian Neill Atkinson says there is also a broad geographical spread, with projects focusing on locations from Northland to Otago. NOHANZ congratulates all awardees, especially incoming president Ruth Low of Timaru on her award for a People's History of NZ Farming; Sue Berman and Emily Anderson, who are part of a team recording Living with Death and Dying under Covid-19; and Julie Benjamin, on that legendary Ranfurly Shield trip to Otago by West Coasters in 1949.

Dr Emma Jean Kelly, He Pou Hītori Ataata-Rongo – Audio Visual Historian from Manatū Taonga, Ministry for Culture and Heritage reports:

Kia ora koutou, I'm sure you're all as tired as me by this time, but it has been a very interesting year, and it's nice to reflect on it. Most recently, the oral history awards have been announced. We have decided that from now on we will continue with the October 15 deadline date, to align with the History Research Fund awards which are administered by my colleague Elizabeth Cox.

Congratulations to all the awardees, and to those who missed out this year, don't despair; please contact me with your next application and I'm happy to give feedback on your draft. This year we have made a number of changes to the terms and conditions of the award including the name. This reflects an effort to encompass all the kinds of oral history traditions and narratives in Aotearoa New Zealand. All

peoples from every community are welcome to apply.

In addition, the oral histories recorded with awards money no longer have to be deposited at the Alexander Turnbull Library. As part of the application process we recommend you talk to the repository you would like to deposit with, and add this information into your application. This approach is an attempt to support regional and smaller archives, libraries and iwi repositories, engendering a more place-based approach.

This year, my first as Audio Visual Historian, I chose not to be part of the decision-making panel. I had spent quite some time talking to many applicants, helping them refine their applications, so felt I had some conflict of interest in the decision-making process. The panel accepted this view, and I will continue to administer the awards and advise the panel without being part of the final decisions.

Finally, smaller museums and archives which are largely volunteer-run are now able to apply for oral history funding. This opportunity was not taken up this year, but we hope it will be in years to come.

Kei Roto I Te Miru: Inside the Bubble pandemic lockdown oral history project and podcasts

Our team is continuing to work on turning the 36 oral history interviews recorded during lockdown into podcasts, which will start to be released on 25th March 2021. This project, which has seen nine oral history enthusiasts from Chinese NZ, Pacific, Ngati Porou, Pākehā, Young Mums, Health Workers, Queer communities, rural and urban dwelling folks and those who live with physical and mental health challenges come together to share stories has been a great success. We believe it supports

the mandate of our Ministry to help support confident and connected communities and we look forward to sharing the results with you. It was great to kōrero at the NOHANZ conference about this work; thanks to Sue Berman, co-leader of the project for using her Paulo Freire teaching techniques to get us talking together, and learning from each other. The full oral histories are available from Te Pātaka Kōrero at Auckland Libraries.

Auckland Libraries

Whakamihi and kia ora to the Oral History Conference team who produced a stimulating three days of workshops, keynote speakers, papers and panels. It was really a fantastic turn out from all round the motu.

Auckland Libraries are enjoying trialling a Virtual Reading room experience with Alexander Turnbull Library. This is an opportunity for Auckland researchers to potentially access digital content held at ATL through registration and connection with the Auckland Libraries Heritage Collection team/reading room. If you would like to know more about this or have something in mind to access please feel free to be in touch. Best call to make a time – Sue Berman 0210414427

A reminder that Oral Histories that have been accessioned into the Auckland Libraries collection can be viewed here <https://kura.aucklandlibraries.govt.nz/> We are uploading material all the time so keep checking back on your research subjects. At the moment we have two Auckland History Initiative scholars who are both enjoying the oral history collection as part of their research on Malaysian Migration and the Dalmatian Community of West Auckland.

Lastly some listening for your enjoyment over the summer break. We have a full and diverse

Podcast offer that includes literary content through Books and Beyond and Book Bites, plus the monthly Kura Tūturu | Real Gold series to discover highlights from Auckland Libraries Heritage Collection; catch up on Heritage Talks and Concerts and engage with our current exhibition Food for Thought through recent interviews and selected content from older oral history interviews. <https://soundcloud.com/auckland-libraries/sets/food-for-thought>

Congratulations to recent Oral History Award winners for 2020/21. We look forward to offering support to these projects as needed. Don't forget, Auckland Libraries membership enables you to borrow ZoomH5 equipment to record your projects and ongoing interviews.

Wishing everyone a safe and relaxing summer break. Ngā mihi

Sue Berman,
Principal Oral History Advisor
Sue.Berman@aucklandcouncil.govt.nz



Alexander Turnbull Library

It was a joy to meet up again at the conference with all those around the motu who have been involved in training, as attendees or presenters. The pre-conference workshops included a fantastic opportunity to work with NOHANZ to support those who may be stepping up to archive Ministry award projects for the first time. We are fortunate to be

resourced by a whole team of specialists from across the board to fulfil our mandate to look after material in perpetuity, but also to advise others.

On behalf of NOHANZ and the Alexander Turnbull Library, I am about to launch a survey of repositories, large and small, to feed into a national digital database, updating the hard copy publication of the early 1980s. Please keep an eye out and respond when it comes your way.

Requests for advice from individuals and groups have remained steady, and the frenetic workshop schedule is taking a short holiday break, but is picking up anew in the New Year.

After an extended disruption due to Covid, the *Essentials of Oral History Research* training in Wellington was able to be completed, as well as a couple of commissioned workshops.

It is always an honour to assist individuals and groups to research and archive their histories, and to support them along their journey. One such recent group was the Parihaka Papakāinga Trust, in Parihaka, where the history is so palpable. On these occasions, I was supported by Paul Diamond and Cellia Joe. Our generous hosts included the gentle and genial Ruakere Hond, who took time out of his busy schedule each time after our training sessions to take us around the village and to explain the thriving community before and the shocking invasion by Government troops in 1881. I had not realised that other iwi had been invited by Tohu Kākahi and Te Whiti-o-Rongomai to build marae in the village. Our visit made real the words and the sites from the waiata *E rere rā* that I had sung.

The schedule for 2021 has not quite yet been finalised, but it will be extensive. Please email ATLOutreach@dia.govt.nz to see if there will be some training coming near you.



Ruakere Hond looks over Parihaka from Te Pūrepo, the hill where the army invader positioned its big gun. The maunga that rises behind the village remained coy on this occasion, hiding behind the clouds

Our new Curator Contemporary Voices & Archives has been appointed and will be announced soon. I have yet to assess where this overlaps with the existing Curatorial role.

Finally, a fond farewell to my colleague Taina Tangaere McGregor, who, after about 19 years at the Library as Oral Historian Māori then Oral History Advisor, Māori, has decided it was time to hang up her headphones and retire. Taina was a NOHANZ committee member from 2007-2011.

Haere ra, e hoa. Ka mahi te tawa uho ki te riri.

Lynette Shum

Oral History Advisor/Tumu Kōrero-a-Waha
Lynette.shum@dia.govt.nz



NOHANZ Journal

The 2020 *Oral History in New Zealand*, edited by Megan Hutching and Pip Oldham, will be posted in January.

Sender:

National Oral History Association of New Zealand

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