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NOHANZ Newsletter
Volume 38 Number 3 December 2024

NOHANZ EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

President Dr Anna Green

Secretary Dr Liz Ward

Treasurer Dr Rachel Baskerville

Committee:

Dr Rosemary Baird

Dr Janine Irvine

Natalie Looyer

Inano Walter

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 March, 2025.

Cover image: Emma-Jean Kelly's woven basket, created during the Indigenous Oral History workshop at the OHA Australia Biennial Conference, Melbourne, November 2024.

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

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www.oralhistory.org.nz



Newsletter Volume 38 Number 3 December 2024

From the President	3
Conference Reports	4
Southland Oral History Project	6
Te Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture & Heritage	7
Auckland Libraries Oral History Collections	8
Auckland Oral Historians	
Alexander Turnbull Library	
What's New	9

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nohanzexec@gmail.com

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From the President



Above: The president addressing the NOHANZ Biennial General Meeting in November, 2024.

Ngā mihi o te tau hou: Happy new year to all NOHANZ members.

I hope that you have had a good summer break and some consistent settled weather with warmth and sunshine, which has definitely not been the case in Wellington! The President's report circulated prior to the BGM contains a summary of activities over the past year. We ended 2024 with a wonderful conference in Auckland, with a wide diversity of interesting presentations, and we owe a major debt of gratitude to Cheryl Ware and her conference team. It was also great to see visiting oral historians from Australia, includ-

ing the exchange of information about oral history projects, and ideas about strengthening connections between the two oral history organisations. I am delighted to welcome the new members elected to the Executive: Janine Irvine, Rosemary Baird, Inano Walter and Natalie Looyer, with Liz Ward (secretary), Rachel Baskerville (Treasurer) and myself continuing. And, of course, our huge thanks to those leaving the executive for their contributions to NOHANZ over the past two years (and longer).

The first meeting of the new executive will be on **Friday, 21 February** when we will hold a full-day meeting to draw up plans for the next year or two. As you will all know, our budget is constrained and we will have to prioritize our activities and plan expenditure carefully. So please let us know if you have anything in particular you would like us to prioritize over the next couple of years. **Please could you also let us know if you are thinking about holding a regional meeting, or any sort of specific activity, especially if you anticipate that this could include an application for NOHANZ funds - please let us know well before 20 February. We will also be scanning the horizon for potential conference venues in 2026, so let us know if you have any suggestions or ideas.**

There are also ongoing matters that are carried over from last year, including the repository survey and information about the new Privacy Amendment Act and we will keep working on those and any other developments that relate to the work of oral historians.

Finally, may I conclude by conveying the appreciation of and thanks from everyone in NOHANZ to Ann Packer (editor) and Michael Dudding (technical/design support) for all their work on compiling, producing and circulating the newsletter.

Anna

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CONFERENCE REPORTS

NOHANZ Biennial Conference 2024: Working Together
Kōrero mai, Kōrero atu, 15-17 November 2024, Parnell Hotel and Conference Centre, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland.



Above: NOHANZ Biennial Conference delegates holding copies of Megan Hutching and Anna Green's new book, *Remembering and Becoming*. Left to right: Natalie Looyer, Cheryl Ware and Anna Green.

The biennial NOHANZ conference is a highlight for many of us working independently as oral historians. The chance to chat, swap stories and hear about other peoples' projects is always such a rich experience.

Highlights for me this year were the keynote address from Ngāti Whātua representatives Anahera Morehu, Ropata Pāora, and Te Kurataiaho Kapea, who gave us a glimpse into the art and tradition of being an orator, and some of the deeper aspects of being a holder of stories.

On Saturday morning I really enjoyed the presentations from Ahmed Aziz, Nicholas Jones, and Keri Mills from the James Henare Research Centre at Waipapa Taumata Rau, who shared insights into their research. They made us think more deeply about historical storytelling, using and protecting personal data, and about how the Auckland floods have brought attention to the waterways that used to run through the city until they were forced under-

ground.

On Sunday Sue Berman and Benjamin Brooking's presentation of their video and podcast project *Ngako: the collections talk*, demonstrated the amazing amount of work and creativity that went on behind the scenes to produce this appealing series.



Above: getting ready for the start of proceedings at the NOHANZ Biennial Conference in Parnell, Auckland.

Thanks to all the speakers, to the organisers, and to NOHANZ for supporting my attendance at the conference.

Emily Anderson, Origin Stories, 021 889 969,
www.originstories.co.nz, was the grateful recipient of a conference attendance and travel grant.

Conference Reports (continued)

Oral Historian goes wandering, November 2024

Although I've done oral history interviews for many years now, I'd never been to the Australian oral history conference before, so it was absolutely a treat to attend both the New Zealand and Australian events this year. I presented at both conferences on ethics, data sovereignty and oral history with iwi Māori, focussed on Te Rau-paraha Kei Wareware podcast. The presentations were well received and encouraged conversations about similarities and differences of approach across different mobs, communities, hapū, iwi and groups.

Working Together: Kōrero mai, Kōrero atu: NOHANZ Biennial Conference, 15-17 November 2024, Parnell Hotel and Conference Centre, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland

It is always amazing to see the outcomes of the funding we distribute. Conference saw many successful funding recipients present their projects, including the earliest from my current role at Manatū Taonga – Megan Hutching on her object oral history project with Helen Frizzell and Pip Oldham. I was impressed that the presenters talked about their first funding proposal having been rejected, forcing them to refine their ideas and try again. This is helpful for less experienced oral historians who may assume those very experienced applicants always get funded. We learn most from our mistakes and the mistakes of others I reckon.

[Ed: Pip had an unfortunate accident just beforehand that prevented her from attending.]

We also heard from Stacey Kokaua and Emma Powell on "Akapapa'anga ō te iti tangata: stories from the Cook Islands community of New Zealand".

Stacey, Emma (and Chrissy Moeroa)'s project was fabulous because they were first time applicants who used their funding for training-related costs and the purchase of equipment. [Ed: Alexander Turnbull Library provided the actual training for free.] This meant five local Cook Islands people got to train in oral history in Dunedin, conduct interviews with their elders and spend time researching, in

the Hocken Library, the stories they were told. This included tales of working at Cadburys and the Methven Tap Factory. The outcome of the project was a number of oral histories in various Cook Islands languages (the community is insistent that they are not dialects) plus an exhibition at Hocken where the community could see the outcomes of the project.

Even as the oral historians were telling us about their work, at the conference, some of the others who were trained in that project were starting a Dawn Raids oral history in the community, using the same equipment.

An ongoing theme for the conference was Māori Data Sovereignty, and Ahmed Aziz and Nicholas Jones from the James Henare Research Centre demonstrated how as immigrant or indigenous people, working within communities to understand aspirations and needs was paramount, and slowing things down was often an important way to ensure ethical project development.

OHA Australia Biennial Conference, 2024: The Power of Oral History – Risks, Rewards and Responsibilities, 21 – 23 November, 2024, Narrm Melbourne, Australia



Above: Taragara Basket and raffia from the Indigenous Oral History Workshop.

For me one of the standout conference themes was oral history in place – out in community spaces: oral history while doing (such as weaving) and resistance to colonisation through arts and crafts (the Timor-Leste women’s weaving exhibition at Trinity College).

Many oral historians for some time have pushed to do recordings outside the soundproof room, and there were examples of this in action at the conference, one such being [Rotorua conference keynote speaker] Dr Lorina Barker’s work over many years recording her communities in their own places. This workshop was a chance for participants to learn to weave (even if in my case very badly) while hearing and learning from the Taragara Research team and sharing our ideas with Dr Barker (Wangkumara and Muruwari people, Adnyamathanha, Kooma and Kunja, and Kurnu-Baarkandji), Michael Brogan (Armidale man) and Eliza Kent (Pākehā). I loved this workshop with all my heart and it set me up to feel really positive about the Australian conference.



Above: Indigenous Oral History workshop, A Roadmap for Working with Aboriginal Communities: Hanging Out, Yarning and Weaving, Taragara Research.

Another presentation which stayed with me was by Bronte Gosper (Wiradjuri woman), who has recently completed the amazing Masters in Oral History at Columbia University in New York. Her work was about resisting the coopting of indigenous testimony and challenging linear time, a colonial imposition. Similar but different to kōrero about “spiral time” from people like Alice Te Punga Somerville and Patricia Grace, Bronte’s film, created with her people, demonstrated how challenging linear storytelling and chronology could create a compelling oral history.

Finally, Tegan Burns is a Quandamooka woman from Stradbroke Island in Queensland and an Atlantic Fellow for Social Equity. After working at the local museum, she and her mob made a wonderful oral history, Connection to Quandamooka Country: GoompiForeshore youtu.be/Wk54Wy4BU20?si=OOFjxtCKZOG6-fTm which won an award at the OH Australia Conference for best multimedia oral history. It was great to hear from Tegan how she developed that project with her people, and the role of the land as narrator, which you’ll pick up if you watch it, well worth a look.

I had an extraordinary time and feel re-energised to support oral history work in 2025.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou!

Emma-Jean Kelly.

Southland Oral History Project

Celebrating the end of a good year and looking forward to the next

As 2024 came to a close, 16 volunteers for the Southland Oral History Project celebrated the end of an exciting and productive year with a browse around the wonderful gem that is “Ruth’s Museum”, followed by a cup of a tea and a muffin. The sun shone as we browsed around Ruth’s many and varied treasures and we shared stories and advice. The Southland Oral History Project is blessed to have so many wonderful people helping us on our journey.

He rau ringa e oti ai
Many hands make light work

I presented the group with an overview of the year's achievements: 36 new interviews were added to the collection along with 20 newly digitised archival interviews. Two training sessions were conducted in Gore, in eastern Southland, on interviewing and abstracting. Six hundred and six oral histories are now discoverable in the public catalogue (up from 518 at the end of 2023) - an increase of 88 oral histories that are now discoverable. Forty-six abstracts have been added to the collection this year. Twenty-five recordings have been provided to family members and 75 recordings have been accessed for research.

At our gathering we also recognised the incredible mahi of Judy Christie who recently completed writing her 50th abstract for the project since she started volunteering in 2021.

In November, I presented at the National Oral History Association of New Zealand's biennial conference in Auckland. My talk was "Working in Partnership with Communities" and covered how the Southland Oral History Project works to be both relevant to, and accessible by, the community it serves. Attendees were impressed by the range and scope of community involvement and the number of community groups we are involved with.



Above: Southland Oral History Project Gathering. Front L to R: Rosie Stather (SOHP Coordinator), Morva Tate, Diane Vincent-Collie, Margaret Casey, Heather McCorkindale, Patricia Conradson (Nurse Educator, SIT). Back: L to R: Wendy Muir, Jan Broad.

Also in November, a group interview with six maternity nurses who trained at the Dee Street Maternity Hospital in Invercargill in the 1950s and 60s was undertaken with Patricia Conradson, a nurse educator from the Southern Institute of Technology as "interviewer". It was a very successful day with a two one hour recording sessions, morning and afternoon, and a shared lunch. The ladies enjoyed the day enormously and Patricia did a wonderful job keeping them in order and asking all the right questions.

Looking forward into 2025, we kick off with Heritage Month in March, as usual packed full of wonderful heritage events across the region. The Southland Oral History Project is contributing a poster display with audio clips of material from interviews with a distinctly Scottish flavour. 2025 is also time to review the project's strategic plan, creating a road map for the next 5 years. We will be seeking input from across the region to ensure that the project continues to reflect the community that supports it.

Rosie Stather, Oral History Coordinator, Invercargill City Libraries & Archives, Rosie@ilibrary.co.nz. 03 211 1444

Te Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture & Heritage

It's been a wonderful time for getting together with other oral historians and ensuring we have open eyes and tarin-ga areare (open ears), as Megan Pōtiki reminds us in the wonderful new book *Remembering and Becoming – Oral History in Aotearoa New Zealand*. Manatū Taonga Senior Māori Historian Paul Diamond delivered a wonderful review of this publication on RNZ: [rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/ninetoonoon/audio/2018963321/book-review-remembering-and-becoming-oral-history-in-aotearoa](https://www.rnz.co.nz/national/programmes/ninetoonoon/audio/2018963321/book-review-remembering-and-becoming-oral-history-in-aotearoa)

[Ed: the 2024 Oral History Journal will also have a review of this collection of essays.]

I attended the brilliant NOHANZ conference in Auckland in November then went on to Melbourne for their amazing event – see above for my reports, including pictures.

Don't forget! Ngā Kōrero Tuku Iho Oral History fund closes 15 April, and I'll be running an online funding workshop before then, so keep your eyes and ears open for an invite

to that, on St Patricks Day evening, Monday 17 March, 6.30-7.30pm, via Zoom.

Ngā mihi nui ki a koutou

Dr Emma-Jean Kelly, Pou Hītori Matua Ataata Rongo, Senior Audio-Visual History emma.kelly@mch.govt.nz

Auckland Libraries Oral History Collections

Sue Berman from Auckland Libraries will be running a Beginners Oral History workshop in March. It is filling up fast, so register today if you have a project in mind and want to up skill and learn what repositories require for deposit:

ourauckland.aucklandcouncil.govt.nz/events/2025/03/recording-oral-history/

We have ongoing work with our back catalogue of recordings, creating abstracts and improved accessibility to older material that was accessioned without these critical finding aides. Still doing this work in real time with humans....but for how long? The question and role of AI continues to be a dynamic conversation in our community.

There are some great new community projects in process including a project with people in the African diasporic community of Tāmaki Makaurau, final work close to deposit from the Penjing or Bonsai community in Aotearoa project which was a Tuku Iho awards project and a few others percolating out there.

We are about to launch a new exhibition called *Other Worlds*, focused on science fiction. Details **on** our website. There will be a podcast to accompany this...so listen up! soundcloud.com/auckland-libraries

As always support or questions on OH work is always welcome.

Sue Berman [She/Her], Curator: Oral History and Sound, Auckland Council Libraries, Library and Learning Services, Ngā Pātaka Kōrero me ngā Ratonga Akoako aucklandlibraries.govt.nz

Auckland Oral Historians

The Auckland regional group is only starting up in February so we don't have much to report at this stage unfortunately. We're launching the new year with an online catch up 24 February online from 4-5pm.

Janine Irvine, janineirvine.lifewriting@gmail.com

Alexander Turnbull Library

Last month, whānau from Parihaka visited the Alexander Turnbull Library for oral history training, part of the support provided by the Library following the signing of [Te Kawenata ō Rongo](#), the deed of reconciliation between Parihaka and the Crown on 9 June 2017. Following the deed, the Department of Internal Affairs, together with other cultural heritage agencies became parties to Te Huanga o Rongo, a Relationship Agreement between Parihaka and Crown agencies and local authorities in Taranaki.



Above: Kimberley Hurley and Kohine Tamati from Parihaka learning about oral history. Image by Lynette Shum.

Te Huanga o Rongo commits agencies to assisting the [Parihaka Papakāinga Trust](#) with its development aspirations and projects. The projects include Ranga ā-Kiri, a community-led oral history and archive programme. For

the first stage, kaumātua will be interviewed about their experiences living at Parihaka. The Parihaka settlement was established by leaders Te Whiti-o-Rongomai and Tohu Kākahi, as part of a passive resistance movement against Pākehā land confiscation.

Kohine Tamati (Taki Hautū Tikanga with the Parihaka Pāpakāinga Trust), is working with two researchers, Kimberley Hurley and Matehuria White Wharehoka, to record the interviews with koroua and kuia. The team travelled to Wellington for the oral history training, which was two days spread across two weeks.

The Library was grateful for the support and encouragement from Paul Diamond, Senior Historian Mātauranga Māori, with the Ministry for Culture and Heritage. The Ministry provided the two sets of recording equipment being used for the oral history project.

Otherwise, oral history training has started off promptly, with a public course in Wellington started, and Day 2 to come. I'm planning for Wairoa, Gisborne and Blenheim later this year. For these or other oral history training, and any oral history-related advice, please contact me:

lynette.shum@dia.govt.nz.

It's an occasional pleasure to highlight our oral history collections at other Library events, particularly where they intersect with other collections. For me, sometimes it's happily where my own first oral history project on the historic Chinatown that used to be in Wellington and the fabulous Doris Chung Collection come together. Some readers may recall the guided tour I offered as a pre-conference activity back in 2022. I offer these from time to time, and they continue to remain popular.

Lynette Shum, Oral History Advisor,
lynette.shum@dia.govt.nz 027 262 3282

Images: From top: hosts Annabel McCallum (l) and Dilys Grant; Paul Diamond drinks a toast to Anna Green (centre) and Megan Hutching (standing, centre left), editors of *Remembering and Becoming*. Next page: "Anyone for nibbles?"; NOHANZ president and co-editor Dr Anna Green.

What's new

***Remembering and Becoming: Oral History in New Zealand.* Ed Anna Green & Megan Hutching (Otago University Press)**

A gathering of Wellington oral historians enjoyed a glorious evening at Dilys Grant's home high above the harbour, to celebrate (again) the launch of Anna and Megan's new book, which will be reviewed in the forthcoming Journal and was the subject of an RNZ review by Paul Diamond.



