



ORAL HISTORY  
— NSW —



*Giving Voice to the Past*

---

## ORAL HISTORY NETWORK NEWS

No.100, February 2020

ISSN 2206-866X <https://www.oralhistorynsw.org.au/>

*Welcome to the 100th edition of Network News, and our first for 2020.*

*We're taking this chance to launch the newsletter in a new format and welcome any feedback. A special and heartfelt thanks to our former editor Francis Good for his dedication, detail and care over the years in putting together so many excellent editions of Network News.*

*Our thoughts have been with everyone affected by the fires, smoke, dust storms and hail in this extreme summer. We have included information from Blue Shield Australia if your collection has been affected.*

*The committee is busy planning a year of events, workshops and more ways to celebrate, educate and share in the passion of Oral History. In 2020 we will continue our History Matters collaboration with PHA NSW & ACT, bringing you monthly seminars and lively discussions held at the State Library of NSW.*

*Updates on our activities will be posted via our website, facebook and right here in the newsletter. We'd like to hear from you with any feedback or suggestions for us, and look forward to seeing you throughout the year.*

*Maria Savvidis  
President, Oral History NSW*

# Oral History NSW & Oral History Australia

---

## **History Matters: The Commemorative Obsession**

5 February 2020, State Library of NSW 5.30pm - 6.30pm

History revolves around dates and marking time. For governments and community groups, anniversaries and commemorations provide a focus for understanding the past. What is the role of public historians and curators in anniversaries? In the first History Matters seminar for 2020, history practitioners will contemplate the highs and lows of anniversaries. Does it make good history?

[Tickets](#) \$5 for PHA and OHNSW members.

## **Seminar – An Introduction to Oral History**

21 March 2020, History House, 133 Macquarie Street, 11am-1pm

This seminar introduces historians of all kinds to the possibilities and pitfalls of ‘making memories’ or doing oral history interviews with people about their experiences of the past. It asks why oral histories matter as an historical source, and explores the various ways in which they can be used.

Join Oral History NSW Vice President Dr Scott McKinnon as he discusses the value of oral history and shares examples from his own work. [Tickets](#) \$25-30.

## **Workshop: Capturing Memories: Oral History In The Digital Age**

2 May 2020, History House, 133 Macquarie Street, 9.30am-4.30pm

A practical workshop for all interested in recording the experiences of family, friends, local communities, history of museum items or any other project incorporating memories of the past. This popular and informative workshop will equip you to undertake your own oral history interviews. Workshop leaders will be Janis Wilton, an experienced oral historian and Andrew Host, whose 40 years of experience as a sound engineer can help you get quality recordings that will stand the test of time. Places are limited and [bookings](#) are essential

## **New indexes for the Oral History Australia Journal now available online**

The indexes covers all issues of the journal from the first in 1979 to the latest, the Oral History Australia Journal No. 41. 2019. Many thanks to Beth M. Robertson, Elaine Peta Crisp and Francis Good for compiling and updating this important resource over many years.

The indexes are available on the main [OHA Journal page](#) or via [direct link](#).

## **CALL FOR PAPERS: Oral History Australia Journal No. 42, 2020**

Special Issue: *Intimate Stories, Challenging Histories*

Deadlines:

Peer-reviewed articles — 28 February 2020

Articles/project reports — 30 April 2020

Reviews of books and other publications — 30 April 2020.

More information and submission guidelines [here](#)

## **News & Events**

---

### **Bushfire Crisis in Australia**

Blue Shield Australia has put together a [list of resources](#) to support salvage and recovery of fire-damaged collections.

“With further evacuations and fires out of control in Victoria, New South Wales and South Australia, the critical bushfire situation across the country continues. Damage to some heritage property will only be known once affected areas are declared safe, and damage has been assessed and able to be reported. The sheer scale of the fires, the sensitive nature of many of the areas affected and with so many communities and wildlife displaced, the effort ahead is still ongoing and enormous.” More updates on the [Blue Shield Australia](#) site.

### **History Week Theme 2020 - *History: What is it good for?***

4 September 2020

History Week invites participants to share with their communities why history matters to them. From telling stories about the past to shaping our futures, the practice of history enriches our lives in so many ways. What do you love about history? Can history be life-changing?

History Week will be launched on Friday 4 September at the NSW Premier’s History Awards, an event run in partnership with the State Library of NSW. The Annual History Lecture and Awards will be on the night of 8 September 2020. With almost 100 events being staged throughout NSW in History Week, be sure to subscribe to the [History Council newsletter](#) for registration, updates and further announcements.

## Call for papers

### **Narrating Working Lives: Ruptures, Turning Points, Trajectories (Rethymnos, Greece)**

Greek Oral History Association, Rethymnos, 29-31 May 2020.

The conference intends to encourage the use of oral history and biographical research in order to explore the ruptures, the “biographical turns” and the transformations of identities and subjectivities voiced in the life stories of people in and out of work. In this sense, oral history, as a field of interdisciplinary and critical reflections, may bring an important contribution to the renewal of labour history. Proposals are welcome which use recorded life stories to document and understand the transformations of working lives over the last fifty years.

The conference languages are Greek and English.

[Proposals to be submitted by 10 February 2020](#)

### **Oral History Network of Ireland Conference: Storytelling and Oral History**

Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co Kildare, Ireland. 19 - 20 June 2020

Allowing participants to tell their unique stories in their own words is key to the work of oral historians. This conference offers oral history practitioners an opportunity to reflect on the role played by storytelling within interviews, the factors that shape the telling of a story and the potential future uses of those stories after the interview.

[Proposals to be received before 21 February 2020](#)

### **New Zealand Oral History Conference: Ko wai mātou? Who are we?**

Victoria University of Wellington, 3-5 July 2020

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 Aotearoa New Zealand grapples 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.

[Proposals to be received by 18 April 2020](#)

## Reading & Listening

---

### **IOHA: 2019 ISSUE OF WORDS AND SILENCES / PALABRAS Y SILENCIOS**

The [current issue](#) features Keynote Addresses and papers from the IOHA 2018 biennial Congress in Finland; submissions from the international community on the 2018 theme “Memory and Narration”; and submissions focused on current reflections and trends in practice.

### ***Transcribing Oral History by Teresa Bergen***

[Routledge](#). Published August 2019.

Beginning with an introduction to the field and an overview of the many disciplines that conduct and transcribe interviews, this title offers practical advice to those looking to use transcription within their own projects. 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 an indispensable guide for those involved in interviews and transcription at any level of an oral history project.

### ***The McDonaghs: sisters of silent film, Radio National***

The turn of the 20th century was a time when rules for women were many. These Australian silent film stars defied most of them. The McDonaghs were Australia's first female film collective and the first women to form their own film company. From Radio National's History Listen show - The McDonaghs: sisters of silent film features oral histories conducted by Graham Shirley and Joan Long. Thanks to the National Film and Sound Archive of Australia. [Listen to the program here](#)

### **OHA BLOG: 5 Questions About: The Schizophrenia Oral History Project**

Started in 2011, [The Schizophrenia Oral History Project \(TSOHP\)](#) is an ongoing project collecting and archiving life history narratives (not illness narratives) of persons living with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder. With very few exceptions, the literature on schizophrenia focuses almost exclusively on deficits related to the condition, and the public view of those with schizophrenia is of people who are violently dangerous, incoherent, and incapable of insight. TSOHP provides a platform for such persons to speak directly to mental health professionals and the public, in order to counter existing prejudices.

[Read more about the project here](#)

## From our Members

---

Blank DAT/cassette tapes on offer (Sydney Area) :

- DAT tapes 4 X 120 mins
- 1 x 90min
- 1 x 60 mins
- 1 sealed pack TDK cassette tapes 4x90mins

Please contact Roslyn Burge ([rburge@ozemail.com.au](mailto:rburge@ozemail.com.au)) if interested.

# Conferences

---

## **International Conference on Oral History**

London Centre for Interdisciplinary Research, Birkbeck, University of London, 8-9 February 2020

The conference will focus on the connections between oral history, collective memory, and individual memory. [Conference website and more information](#)

## **GLAMSLAM**

Australian Centre for Public History, University of Technology Sydney, 6 March 2020

A day for all those working in or with Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums to come together and talk about the pressing issues facing cultural institutions and to share their work.

[Keynote speakers and fringe events will be announced soon.](#)

## **Narrating Working Lives: Ruptures, Turning Points, Trajectories**

Greek Oral History Association, Rethymnos, Greece, 29-31 May 2020

[More information and call for proposals](#)

## **Oral History Network of Ireland Conference: Storytelling and Oral History**

Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co Kildare, Ireland. 19-20 June 2020

[Conference website and more information](#)

## **International Oral History Association Conference. Harmony & Disharmony: Bringing Together Many Voices**

Singapore, 22-26 June 2020

As the IOHA conference enters Southeast Asia for the first time, the theme is also an invitation for reflection by the international oral history community to consider how we can help and support one another through friendships, networks and alliances.

[Conference website and more information](#)

## **New Zealand Oral History Conference: Ko wai mātou? Who are we?**

Victoria University of Wellington, 3-5 July 2020

[More information including call for proposals](#)

## **PHA National Conference. History Transmitted: connect – consider – challenge**

Brisbane 28-29 August 2020

[More information including call for papers](#)

Oral History Network News is published by Oral History NSW for its members and all others in the wider community with an interest in oral history. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Oral History NSW, and information on services does not imply endorsement.

Do you have a contribution for the next edition? Letters, comments, news items, links to projects and sites using oral history and relevant resources for oral historians are welcome.

Forward copy to the Editor: [networknews@oralhistorynsw.org.au](mailto:networknews@oralhistorynsw.org.au)

### ***What Membership of Oral History NSW gives you:***

- *Oral History Network News*, our regular e-newsletter keeping you in touch with current topics and events of interest to oral historians
- Regular seminars and workshops
- Opportunities for informal exchange of ideas and experience
- Awards and Grants – [find out more](#) about our awards & past recipients
- Biennial National Oral History Conferences around Australia
- Subscription to the annual *Oral History Australia Journal*
- As an affiliated member of the Royal Australian Historical Society NSW, our members receive discounts to the [RAHS](#) Conference, workshops and seminars



ORAL HISTORY  
— NSW —

***Oral History NSW acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which we live and work.  
We pay our respects to Elders past, present and emerging, and extend this respect to all  
Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.***

*Copyright © 2020 Oral History NSW Inc, All rights reserved.*

ABN 73.605.987.834 Editor: Maria Savvidis [networknews@oralhistorynsw.org.au](mailto:networknews@oralhistorynsw.org.au)

Our mailing address is: PO Box 261 Pennant Hills NSW

