



ORAL HISTORY  
NSW

*Giving Voice to the Past*

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## ORAL HISTORY NETWORK NEWS

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*The world has changed dramatically since our last edition, and we are buoyed by news of people looking after one another and their communities, and finding ways to keep in safe contact with each other despite our shared isolation measures. There have been numerous Oral History organisations around the world offering helpful guides and suggestions about recording interviews remotely, we've included a number of them in this month's newsletter.*

*The Oral History NSW Community History Award closing date for applications has been extended until the end of May, acknowledging the work of individuals or community groups who are recording the histories of their communities. We encourage you to share this with your networks and look forward to reading about the projects that are submitted.*

*The next History Matters seminar in May will be held online on the subject of Water and Drought Histories. Environmental historians will discuss their approach to contested histories and knowledge of weather and climate in Australia. Please be sure to [register](#) for the link to the event.*

*We hope you are all staying safe, healthy and supported. Updates on our activities will be posted via our website, facebook and in our newsletter. As always, we'd like to hear from you with any feedback or suggestions for us, and look forward to seeing you online and hopefully in person, soon.*

*Maria Savvidis*

*President, Oral History NSW*

# Oral History NSW & Oral History Australia

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## **Oral History Australia Awards - winners announced**

Congratulations to our incredible Oral History NSW Committee members past and present for their success in the inaugural Oral History Australia Awards - Shirleene Robinson, Scott McKinnon, Anisa Puri and Catherine Freyne. You can read more about their projects and awards [here](#).

## **Oral History NSW Community History Award 2020**

Applications have been extended for the 2020 *Oral History NSW Community History Award*. The award is designed to acknowledge the work of individuals or community groups who are recording the histories of their communities. Eligible projects may include the development of new oral history collections, digital and multimedia projects (including websites or podcasts) and printed publications based on oral history interviews. [Applications](#) close Monday 29 May 2020.

## **History Matters: Water and Drought Histories**

6 May 2020, online via Zoom 5.30pm - 6.30pm

The new decade has been heralded in Australia by drought, bushfires and flood capturing the attention nationally and making headlines around the world. Environmental histories in Australia bring into focus our challenging relationship with waterscapes, fire, drought and climate change and highlight the memories of those who live through these catastrophic events. How can professional historians help shape the dialogue around our environmental future? A panel of environmental historians will discuss their approach to contested histories and knowledge of weather and climate in Australia.

[Register](#) for free to receive the online event link.

## News & Events

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### **2020 Community Heritage Grants (CHG) Program**

The *Community Heritage Grants (CHG) Program* provides grants of up to \$15,000 to community organisations such as libraries, archives, museums, genealogical and historical societies, multicultural and Indigenous groups. The grants are provided to assist with the preservation of locally owned, but nationally significant collections of materials that are publicly accessible including artefacts, letters, diaries, maps, photographs, and audio visual material. Applications close 4 May 2020 5pm (AEST).

For details on how to apply, visit the [guidelines and application form](#).

## ***GATHER: A Virtual & Interactive Oral History Exhibit***

Oral History MA Program - Columbia University, 1 May 2020

For the first time in its twelve year history, OHMA presents a fully digital curation of students' fieldwork, providing increased access and longevity to the display. During this [digital-launch event](#) you'll be able to interact in real-time with the students who've curated this work. After the event, the exhibit will remain open for you to explore at your convenience, with channels to respond and ask questions

## **The Power of Podcasting for Storytelling**

Podcasting has become an increasingly popular way to tell stories, the number of podcasts grows each year. On this course you will explore exactly what a podcast is and why it's so powerful for storytelling. You'll develop your own plan for a podcast, produce a script, and finally investigate different platforms for publishing your brand new podcast.

[Online](#) course and more information.

## **Local History Back Up - Federation of Australian Historical Societies**

To coincide with Blue Shield Australia's annual MayDay campaign on the first day of May, the Federation of Australian Historical Societies is launching a national project to encourage historical societies to join the *Local History Backup*. One of the chief purposes of the project is to seek publicity and recognition of the work of your society and the importance of maintaining and preserving your collection. [More information and how to.](#)

## **One-Day Oral History Training Workshops with Columbia University Oral History MA Program**

9 May 2020, online (USA time zones)

Twice a year, OHMA faculty and alumni facilitate an intensive day of oral history training workshops. These workshops are open to the public and on a sliding scale. Attendees and prospective students around the world can immerse themselves in an introduction to oral history as well as its diverse range of applications.

[Read on](#) to discover the workshops on offer.

## **Sounds from the global Covid-19 lockdown**

Cities and Memory, online

With countless communities and countries around the world in lockdown and using social distancing measures to combat the Covid-19 pandemic, the world is at present a very different place.

[#StayHomeSounds](#) invites anyone around the world to send a sound recording from wherever you are, and speak a little about how things are wherever you live. You can also listen to the sounds and read the stories collected so far on the map.

# Reading & Listening

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## ***Advice on remote oral history interviewing during the Covid-19 pandemic***

British Library Oral History team and Oral History Society (UK), April 2020

This [guide](#) was written in the context of the Covid-19 pandemic of 2020 which has required the suspension of all face-to-face oral history interviewing. In response to increased interest in conducting remote interviews this document attempts to summarise the ethical, legal, methodological and technical issues that individuals and projects will need to consider before deciding whether or not to conduct a remote interview.

## ***Oral History at a Distance, Remote Interviewing Webinar***

Oral History Association (USA), 31 March 2020

This timely [webinar](#) addresses the dynamics of conducting remote oral history interviews.

A separate [Q&A session](#) is also available for viewing.

## ***Oral History of Disasters and Pandemics***

OHMA Columbia, 16 April 2020

[Listen](#) to a workshop led by Mary Marshall Clark, director of the Center for Oral History Research at Columbia University, on how to plan and conduct oral histories in communities affected by disasters and pandemics. Mary Marshall shared guidance on how to conduct life history interviews in the contexts of crises and disasters, including how interviewers can shield themselves from an overload of trauma, and how they can construct safe environments for narrators to tell their stories.

## ***Recording During The Coronavirus Pandemic***

Transom, 16 March 2020

Transom has prepared a [guide](#) to some best practices for in-person recording, along with a lot of alternate options for recording remotely. It includes mic sanitizing, windscreens, covers, and booms. It also discusses options for recording by phone and Skype, along with apps and devices.

# Conferences

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*Many previously advertised conferences have now been cancelled or postponed, please check with individual organisers and websites for latest news.*

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.***

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