



ORAL HISTORY  
— NSW —



*Giving Voice to the Past*

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## ORAL HISTORY NETWORK NEWS

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*Welcome to our latest edition of Network News.*

*Following the success of the first online History Matters discussing Water and Drought, Oral History NSW and the Professional Historians Association NSW & ACT are pleased to be working with the State Library of NSW to bring you our June topic: Community Archives. Please visit the [event page](#) to register and for more information.*

*As our Oral History NSW Community History Award applications close, another opens. The NSW Regional Engagement Grant 2020 is offered biennially and aims to raise the profile of oral history in regional areas and extend its expertise and use throughout NSW. Applications are open until 24 July 2020 and we look forward to hearing more about your oral history projects.*

*We will be sending membership renewal emails this month, if you haven't received your membership renewal email by the end of June, please check that it hasn't inadvertently been sent to your SPAM folder.*

*Lastly, June will see a number of COVID-19 restrictions ease across the State, and we hope you are all continuing to stay safe and well.*

*Maria Savvidis  
President, Oral History NSW*

# Oral History NSW & Oral History Australia

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## **History Matters: Community Archives**

3 June 2020, online via Zoom 5.30pm - 6.30pm

Community archives are gathered by many history and heritage groups. Frequently these collections document social and community histories marginalised or excluded from major cultural collections. These community archives often evolve without clear collecting guidelines or an acquisition policy, and many groups don't even have the ability to provide public access to their collections. Speakers Scott McKinnon and Christine Yeats will discuss the challenges and responsibilities of historians in collecting and maintaining community archives.

[Register](#) for this free event via State Library of NSW

## **Oral History NSW Regional Engagement Grant 2020**

This grant aims to raise the profile of oral history in regional areas and extend its expertise and use throughout New South Wales. It is aimed at librarians, archivists, museum curators, artists, film-makers, independent oral historians or community groups based in regional areas in NSW who wish to develop an oral history project that illuminates some aspect of their regional area which is of significance or interest to others.

[Applications](#) close Friday 24 July 2020

## **Introduction to Oral History seminar - Oral History NSW**

June 2020 (online) -*tba*

We will be updating our [events](#) page and Facebook with more details about our online introduction to oral history seminar in June, presented by Vice President Scott McKinnon.

## **Oral History Australia Journal: call for submissions on the impact of COVID-19**

For the upcoming 2020 issue of Oral History Australia Journal, we invite brief reports from oral historians on how coronavirus has affected your work. This may be 200 words on how plans have been disrupted or it may be 1000 words on a new project that has taken off because of the pandemic. Please send your ideas, queries and/or submissions to Joint Editors Skye Krichauff [skye.krichauff@adelaide.edu.au](mailto:skye.krichauff@adelaide.edu.au) and Carla Pascoe Leahy [carla.pascoe Leahy@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:carla.pascoe Leahy@unimelb.edu.au).

[Submissions](#) due 29 June 2020

# News & Events

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## **Histories of the Spanish Flu in Australia - History Council NSW**

1-5 June 2020, 7pm

The 'Spanish flu' arrived in Australia in 1918. About a third of all Australians were infected and nearly 15,000 people died from it. In a series of talks across the first week of June historians will explore five different aspects of Australia's Spanish flu pandemic.

What were the effects on the Australian community during the Spanish Flu? How did it spread and how did people cope with what was the most deadly virus of their time? What is the evidence left behind that informs histories of the Spanish Flu in Australia?

For more information and to register [click here](#)

## **Oral history training - Dr Elaine Rabbitt**

2, 9 and 16 June 2020 (webinar)

Components of the accredited oral history training presented by Dr Elaine Rabbitt are now available to study online as a series of three two-hour online webinars.

In this practical training you will explore, plan and prepare for an oral history interview, and develop an understanding of the cultural protocols and ethical considerations associated with documenting community histories. At a later date there will be an opportunity to attend a one-day face to face practical recording workshop in Perth. Cost: \$195 for three sessions (includes student resources).

For registration and further information contact [elaine.rabbitt@gme.com.au](mailto:elaine.rabbitt@gme.com.au)

## **Annual OHV symposium: Oral history and the environment**

June 14 2020, 10am - 1pm (via Zoom)

In recent months Australians have had plenty of reminders that life on earth is severely threatened. An unfolding climate catastrophe. Years of drought, then flooding rains. A Black Summer of bushfire. And the coronavirus is changing the way we live while having subtle and dramatic impacts on the human and natural environments. In recent years, many oral historians have been listening to stories about people's relationships with our environment.

In this Symposium, leading Australian oral historians of the environment will share what they have learnt from their interviews about environmental history and about oral history.

For more information and to register for this free interactive event [click here](#)

## State Library of NSW Fellowships 2021

The State Library of NSW offers a number of prestigious and competitive fellowships to support the study, writing and teaching of Australian history and culture. Research topics have ranged from early colonisation of Australia through to investigations of contemporary life, using the Library's collections across all formats including oral history. [Applications](#) for the 2021 Fellowships close 5pm on 17 July.

## Reading & Listening

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### Oral historians in conversation: podcast

In the first episode conducted during the current Covid-19 lockdown in the UK, Andy Clark talks remotely with Montreal-based oral historian and activist Fred Burrill. The conversation gives fascinating insights into the challenges of doing oral history during the crisis, the relationships between research and activism, the ethics of co-production, and Fred's campaigning work.

Listen to their conversation [here](#)

### Irish Women at Work Oral History Project

This collection from University College Cork includes 42 oral history interviews focused on the working lives of women (1930-1960) living in three counties of Ireland (Cork, Kerry and Limerick). The accounts are woven into the broader narratives of their lives extending from childhood to adulthood and old age. Listen to the interviews and find out more [here](#)

## From our Members

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### Hanson Oral History Project

Seeking an oral historian/writer interested in recording and writing the memoirs of a 78 year old man in end-stage life due to cancer. Over the next few months he hopes to memorialise his life in a short book (anecdotal in nature rather than linear). Estimated 60 - 70 hours of paid work. Queanbeyan NSW region. For more information please contact Win Hanson by 30<sup>th</sup> June at [winhanson@hotmail.com](mailto:winhanson@hotmail.com)

## 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**  
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*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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