



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.*

*Our next History Matters will discuss 'Reflections on Biography'. Brought to you by Oral History NSW and the Professional Historians Association NSW & ACT and hosted by the State Library of NSW online, more information and free registration is available via the Library's [event page](#).*

*Applications for our NSW Regional Engagement Grant 2020 will remain open for a few more weeks until 24 July. This grant is offered biennially and aims to raise the profile of oral history in regional areas and extend its expertise and use throughout NSW.*

*Thank you to all who have renewed their membership, we will continue sending out the remaining membership renewal emails this month. If you haven't received your renewal email please check that it hasn't inadvertently been sent to your SPAM folder.*

*On Saturday we had a well attended online Introduction to Oral History seminar presented by Vice President Scott McKinnon, thanks to all who participated.*

*We'd love to hear your [feedback and suggestions](#), particularly around current and future events and topics you'd like to see more of.*

*Maria Savvidis  
President, Oral History NSW*

# Oral History NSW & Oral History Australia

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## **History Matters: Writing a Life: Reflections on Biography**

1 July 2020, online via Zoom 5.30pm - 6.30pm

Biography is one of the most enduring and popular forms of life writing. It attracts millions of readers and encompasses anything from celebrity gossip to a book size rescue of someone from oblivion. In latter years new forms of biography and personal memory sources have emerged which strengthen its claims as the best way to write history. Our two presenters this month discuss the strengths and challenges for the biographer. Speakers Helen Ennis and Margo Beasley will discuss the strengths and challenges for the biographer.

[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

## **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.pascoeleahy@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:carla.pascoeleahy@unimelb.edu.au).

[Submissions](#) due 29 June 2020

## News & Events

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### **Vale Ben Morris**

Ben Morris passed away on 14 July 2019. He was a thoughtful and committed oral historian who spent the last fifteen years recording fellow Vietnam veterans. Ben's obituary by Janis Wilton is in the [Oral History Australia Journal](#) No. 41, 2019, 86.

## **'Disasters in Australia and New Zealand' book launch**

2 July 2020, 5.30pm (online)

'Disasters in Australia and New Zealand: Historical Approaches to Understanding Catastrophe' is edited by Dr Margaret Cook and Dr Scott McKinnon. It compiles a diverse array of historical approaches and case studies - covering floods, fires, cyclones, and earthquakes. Join hosts Scott McKinnon & Margaret Cook to hear Emeritus Professor Tom Griffiths officially launch the book & chapter authors discuss disasters.

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

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

5 - 13 September 2020 #HistoryWeek2020

The History Council of NSW is pleased to announce that History Week 2020 will be available ONLINE! The theme for 2020 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. More information about this year's theme can be found on the History Council of NSW [website](#).

Registrations are now open and close 5 pm, Monday 27 July 2020.

## **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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### **Australian perspective of a pandemic: 1919 Spanish flu vs COVID-19**

Australian Story, ABC

Until COVID-19 struck, very few had ever spared a thought for the "forgotten flu" and the up to 15,000 Australians who died from the brutal pandemic that swept the globe during 1918-19.

For the first time on television, photos, video and oral testimonies have been pulled together to provide a unique insight into the time and discovered some remarkable stories of quiet courage and heroism from ordinary Australians. [Watch now](#)

## **Influenza 100: Sue Berman - The lived experience; remembering 1918-1920**

Ngā Pātaka Kōrero - Auckland Libraries

Join oral historian Sue Berman as she brings together an illuminating collection of first-hand accounts demonstrating vividly the impact of the Influenza on local New Zealand communities. [Listen now](#)

## **Oral History Projects that Challenge White Supremacy**

Columbia University Oral History Master of Arts

Many members of Columbia University's Oral History Master of Arts (OHMA) community have been using their work to amplify Black voices, end mass incarceration, and challenge white supremacy.

You can find [links](#) to these projects below along with more information about their creators and ways to support ongoing projects.

## **Royal Australian Historical Society**

In response to COVID-19, the June editions of the *Journal of the Royal Australian Historical Society (JRAHS)* and *History* magazine are temporarily available to everyone online.

[Click Here](#)

## **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.*

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**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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