



ORAL HISTORY
NSW



Giving Voice to the Past

ORAL HISTORY NETWORK NEWS

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Dear all,

Welcome to the September edition of Network News.

As we enter the Spring season and the days warm up, there are an increasing number of events happening in the oral history world. Vice President of Oral History NSW Scott McKinnon will chair the upcoming History Matters panel on 7 October, discussing Floods and Bushfires, a huge ongoing issue for Australian communities, environment and politics.

The Oral History NSW Annual General Meeting will be held on 31 October online, and we will run an open online session earlier in October for discussing and sharing all things oral history with members of the committee and each other.

This issue includes reference to a number of new resources, such as the Oral History Review's most recent and fascinating Special Issue focused on oral history and Covid-19. Closer to home, Clare Summerskill has a new book published by Routledge on oral history and theatre, and a blogpost has been published about the Oral History workshop held at Gilgandra in September. For those looking ahead for opportunities to meet together, Oral History Australia is now calling for Presentations for next year's conference in Launceston (with an option of going online).

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 online throughout the rest of the year.

Gwyn McClelland

Editor, Network News

Events and News

Oral History NSW - training workshop in Gilgandra

Earlier in September Pauline Curby and Andrew Host presented the Oral History NSW workshop “Capturing Memories” to thirteen participants at Gilgandra. The training was well received and both presenters spoke warmly about the generous country hospitality as they were hosted by the local Country Women’s Association. You can read more about this on our [blog](#).

Finding Your Ancestors: Researching Aboriginal Family History in NSW (RAHS)

The RAHS have made available a series of short online videos created in collaboration with members of the NSW Aboriginal community and historians Paul Irish and Michael Bennett. This follows on from the recent online event series Finding Your Ancestors: Researching Aboriginal Family History in NSW, which aimed to encourage and help Aboriginal people to undertake family history research. Watch online via the [RAHS YouTube channel](#).

Capturing Narratives of Displacement, Divestment, and Dehumanization

October 8, 2020, 6:00 - 8:00 PM (New York Time), 8am AEST October 9, online via Zoom

Sarita Daftary will discuss her work on the East New York Oral History Project and the Rikers Public Memory Project. The East New York Oral History Project was designed to capture the personal experiences of people who lived in East New York from 1960 - 1970, during the time in which East New York rapidly changed from a primarily White to primarily Black and Latino community. Free registration via [this link](#).

Call for papers

British and Irish Sound Archives Conference

Call for papers (including pre-recorded video) for the British and Irish Sound Archives Conference which is taking place online, on Friday the 27th of November. The theme is “Old Sounds, New Media: the Creative and Ethical Use of Archive Recordings”.

Deadline October 11.

For more information click [this link](#).

Genealogy

This Special Issue of Genealogy invites essays on the topic "Articulating Continuity, Documenting Change: Life-Storytelling in Oral History and Folklore". Contributions, as an example, may focus on oral history (as practiced in once oral cultures), folklore (as a form of traditional expression), and research outcomes (as in oral history projects); the fields where life-storytelling has been actively pursued as a means to maintain or illustrate cultural, ethnic, national, and familial continuity.

[Proposals](#) due by 31 October 2020.

Studies in Oral History (Formerly Oral History Australia)

The first issue of the Oral History Australia journal under the new name Studies In Oral History will be based on the theme 'Oral history, place and environment'.

This special issue invites reflections upon the ways in which oral history can illuminate and expand our understanding of place and environment. We invite broad and varied interpretations of this theme.

To be considered for peer review, articles should be between 5,000 and 8,000 words (excluding references) and [submissions](#) are due 30 November 2020.

Reading & Listening

Creating Verbatim Theatre from Oral Histories

By Clare Summerskill

Supported by international case studies that cover a wide range of working methods and productions, including The Laramie Project and Parramatta Girls, this is a guide for oral historians producing dramatic representations of the material they have sourced through interviews, and for writers creating professional theatre productions, community projects or student plays. The full synopsis and Table of Contents is found [here](#).

Coffs Collections: Artefacts, Artworks and Archives

[This collection](#) includes oral history interviews from The Voice of Time oral history project - a collection of interviews with 150 people, descendants of pioneering families and long-time residents of the Coffs Harbour region. The original project was completed in 1988 as an Australian Bicentennial project.

Oral History Review, Special Section on Oral History and COVID-19

This content has been made free from paywalls. Follow the links in the table of contents from [this link](#) to the full articles.

New Resources from the Oral History Association (USA)

The Oral History Association has released a new suite of remote interviewing resources. These resources are a product of the COVID-19 pandemic and the requirement to cease face-to-face interviewing for the health of both narrator and interviewer. This guide is meant to be a resource to practitioners as they work through the numerous questions that arise with this method.

You can find the resources [here](#).

Conferences

Oral History Association - USA

21-24 October 2020, online via Zoom

The theme for the Oral History Association's annual meeting is 'The Quest for Democracy: One Hundred Years of Struggle', [find out more.](#)

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

Victoria University of Wellington, 20-22 November 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? For more conference information [click here.](#)

British and Irish Sound Archives (BISA) 2020

27 November, online

The theme for this year's conference is "Old Sounds, New Media: the Creative and Ethical Use of Archive Recordings". More information [here](#)

Oral History Australia Call for Presentations

Launceston, Tasmania from 14-16 October 2021.

Oral History Tasmania and Oral History Australia today released a Call for Presentations for the upcoming OHA Biennial Conference. The conference theme is 'Oral History in Troubling Times: Challenges and Opportunities'.

While we plan to meet in solidarity and optimism for our biennial conference in Tasmania in 2021, if that proves to be impossible due to COVID-19 restrictions we will run our conference online. CFP found [here.](#)

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

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



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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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