

OHAA On Tape

December 2003

Editor: Suzanne Mulligan

Email: mulligan@gil.com.au

Hello Everyone!

We're all counting down to Christmas so we've a busy time ahead. I've recently been on holidays at Caloundra on the beautiful Sunshine Coast. Even there, I had an opportunity to conduct an oral history interview with a very interesting Englishman who was the Queen's Harbour Master at Port Stanley in the immediate aftermath of the 1982 Falklands War. He was an oral historian's dream – a man with a good story to tell, and who could tell a good story. You can see the interview on my web site in a couple of months:

<http://www.home.gil.com.au/~mulligan>

We welcome new members:

Blue Umbrella Arts & Heritage
Services
Leigh Chamberlain
Susan Gillespie-Lawrie
Helen Klaebe
David Mewes
Erica Neate
Pamela Willis

Please email me with news of the projects you are working on or your particular interests.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the editor of the 2004 Journal is looking for contributions so if you have a paper that may be suitable for publication in the Journal, please contact Francis Good, GPO Box 462, Darwin NT 0801 or email him at:

francis.good@nt.gov.au

The deadline for contributions for the Journal has been extended to 30 April 2004.

After my wonderful experience at the Conference, I encourage you all to attend the next National Oral History Conference. I look forward to feedback from you all.

In this newsletter we have details of workshops we are running this year so you will all have an opportunity to improve your skills. Also please note our Annual General Meeting on 28 February. We'd like to see as many of you as possible come along for that.

Suzanne Mulligan
Editor



FROM ALL QUARTERS
ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA
JOURNAL 2004, No. 26



CALL FOR PAPERS

An invitation to contribute a paper for inclusion in the *OHAA Journal 2004*, No. 26.

Reports on oral history projects, or articles on theoretical, ethical and methodological issues reflecting the 2003 conference themes of diversity in practice and purposes are sought for the 2004 issue of the OHAA's annual *Journal*.

Papers presented at the OHAA conference in Perth, September 2003, which have not yet been published in the *Journal* are particularly requested. Other papers about issues and projects which authors wish to share with the oral history community are also welcome. Please include photographs and other illustrations or images with your submission, if possible.

Deadline for receipt of copy is 30 April 2004. Please apply to the editor for a copy of the *Brief Style Guide*.

Editor:

Mr Francis Good
GPO Box 462
DARWIN NT 0801

E-mail: francis.good@nt.gov.au
Tel.: 08-8924-7651 (Bus.)
08-8927-4747 (After hours)
04088 377 35 (Mob.)
Fax: 08-8924-7660

NTAS
Northern Territory Archives Service

The OHAA JOURNAL 2004 is supported by the Northern Territory Archives Service

Calendar of Events – 2004

- 28 February **Transcript & Editing Workshop** 10am-3.30pm (see Page 7 for details)
Annual General Meeting 3.30pm – 4.00pm **Venue:** New Farm Neighbourhood Centre
967 Brunswick Street, New Farm
- 17 April **Oral History Workshop 10am – 4pm**
(see Page 8 for details)
- 16 October **Oral History Workshop 10am – 4pm**
- 6 November **The History of the House – Written records and the spoken word – Seminar and lunch.** 10am – 3.30pm
Annual General Meeting 3.30pm – 4.00pm

---ooo00ooo---

NEW ORAL HISTORY LIST

Some months ago the secretary of the OHHA Qld Branch, Lesley Jenkins, posted an item to the International Oral History Discussion List. The request sought information about the existence and aims of organisations supporting Independent Oral History Practitioners. Lesley received a number of responses but the short answer was that no support arms of existing organisations existed and that there were no specific organisations for this group. Many replies referred Lesley to an organization based in the US for personal historians. Lesley was also interested in finding out how practitioners, and those commissioning them, ensure that 'best practice' prevails given that there is no credentialing system. This is an issue that the personal historians have been grappling with for some time. Lesley decided to tease this out a bit further and she conducted a workshop for independent contractors and those interested in the field at the OHAA National Conference in Perth in September.

Lesley circulated a form for those at the workshop which, when returned, indicated that there were more people interested in becoming independent contractors than there were people actually making any sort of living from this field. All this indicated to Lesley that oral history practitioners are a rare and endangered species and that perhaps they need to support each other. With that in mind she started an email discussion list. So far people have contributed long and detailed pieces that they wouldn't to the larger and more American focussed listserv. It has also been very 'chatty' but as Christmas approaches it has become quieter. A number of people overseas have joined up but the focus will remain an Australian one. The listserv was set up by a professional computer company, Blueprint Consulting, as a voluntary service so material is archived and there are no advertisements. As Lesley was also interested in furthering best practice in oral history it is mandatory that those joining are also members of the oral history societies wherever they may reside.

If members would like to sign up to the Independents List Serv they need to put this request to mailman@oral-history.com

PRESIDENT of OHAA (Australia) Inc REPORT
at the Silver Jubilee Biennial General Meeting at the
Constitutional Centre, Perth, WA, 3 September 2003

As always I recommend you read the individual branch reports in the current and in last year's OHAA *Journal*. This gives a detailed report of activities where it is all happening - at the coalface.

In general the Association has to report along with the positive and lively activity a somewhat disappointing decline in membership in several of the branches. Perhaps it is time to investigate why this is happening when we know that interest and activity in oral history practice is growing. Is it a result of the governance of the branches, a loss of focus of the committees, lack of profile and promotion of oral history in the region - or what? Are we failing the communities we are serving or are we just not encouraging membership strongly enough?

Some of the issues your National Committee has discussed follow. Are there more and should we have heard about them? Please let us know.

- *The Journal* has undergone a few changes (see No. 25 currently published). Future journals will have individual editors for various sections of the Journal - eg branch reports editor, and a special book review editor, a section which has been rather neglected of late.
- We are investigating expanding the information and adding more links to the website - clearly members of the public are accessing it more and it is surely a good promoter for membership.
- We are hoping to take an active role in updating the demands of the Ethics Committees in universities. These are still based on concerns relevant to medical research and therefore have not much relevance for projects in humanities and social sciences. There has been a panel in this conference to examine these issues. Much positive information as well as strategies have emerged.
- We are examining developing publicity materials - posters, films etc.-in order to promote oral history in the community. The new OHAA logo is now in use- this was to be step No. 1 in this process.
- The guidelines for fees for independent oral history contractors will be examined and updated.
- PHN (the Public History Interest Network) was dreamt up at the conference dinner in Melbourne in 2001, but I have not heard that it has taken root anywhere other than NSW. It is very useful for coordinating planned events with other associations and institutions as well as initiating (usually in partnership) visits and events of public interest. It is entirely under the umbrella of OHAA and has no separate organisation. Membership of OHAA qualifies anyone to join.
- It is likely that the branches need to investigate their state's privacy legislation and how it impacts on oral history. This will be spearheaded by the National Committee with reference to the individual states.

- On the state institutional scene, there is some movement and consolidation. Victoria has a new State Librarian, Anne-Marie Schwirtlich, a long time member of OHAA who supports oral history; and the National Library of Australia has very active support in Assistant Director-General Margy Burn. The State Library of Tasmania has recently initiated a training session there. Western Australia, South Australia and Queensland have each a Field Archival Officer who is responsible for oral history together with other original materials. There is a panel in the conference tomorrow (Sunday) which I urge everybody to attend. Its title is 'The place of oral history in historical collections: growth, stagnation or decline?'
- We note the death in December 2002 of the founder of the OHAA Jean Teasdale and have passed on suitable condolences to her family.
- Other news of Honorary Life Members - we report with regret that Richard Curlewis (Vic) has died. However, there is rejoicing from SA that Sue Marsden has moved back to Adelaide from Canberra.
- Beth Robertson has given permission to a Taiwanese academic for the *Oral History Handbook* to be translated into Chinese.
- The Directory of Oral History Collections in Australia which is online is consulted frequently. All oral historians are reminded to consult this, most useful listing and to add their own collections and projects.
- With the generous support of the National Library of Australia the list of oral history publications edited by Janis Wilton is about to be updated. Not only will this bring the list of published works up to date, but additions can be made with ease. As presently advised the listing will be available only on-line.
- With the enthusiastic endorsement of the branches the OHAA has offered to host the IOHA (International Oral History Association) Conference in 2006. This will be held in Sydney, organised by an interstate committee. There will be a strong effort to promote delegates' visits to other states in order to widen their Australian experience! Please send any ideas for this conference to your National Committee member in the meantime. We look forward to hearing from you.

Rosie Block
President OHAA (Inc)

Toowoomba Learns Oral Skills

The Museum Resource Centre for Southern Inland QLD (MRC), based in Toowoomba, services community museums, galleries and historical societies by providing professional expertise, training, publications, equipment and contacts within the museum sector. A priority for the MRC in 2003 was to establish an *Oral History Skills Development Project* to encourage the use of oral history in museum displays.

Seven people from six cultural heritage organisations within Toowoomba bravely joined the project in July. Participants attend two, one day workshops, then plan and develop a small oral history project for their museum/gallery and present the project at a third workshop. All this activity is to occur over a period of seven months.

The MRC received an RADF grant funding two trainers, Oral Historians Sue Pechey and Lesley Jenkins. Both trainers presented a workshop and having slightly different skills, experiences and approaches were able to provide a different slant, bouncing ideas off each other and expanding anecdotes.

The project has been challenging for all concerned however participants are well on the way to developing a variety of exhibitions, from a touch screen kiosk to a transportable display banner. More importantly, participants will have consolidated their newly learnt skills, been able to share these skills with others in their organisations and be able to continually add a new dimension to their museum display environment.

The MRC is an initiative of the Queensland Museum and Arts Queensland in association with the Toowoomba and Golden West RTA. The MRC acknowledges the kind support of the Regional Arts Development Fund (RADF), a State Government initiative in partnership with Toowoomba City Council.

Vicki Warden
Museum Development Officer
Southern Queensland

---ooo00ooo---

Suburban Voices - from all quarters

Lesley Alves

At the National Conference in Perth, Lesley reported on her project that explored the contribution of 20 immigrants from a variety of backgrounds including Italian, Greek, and Chinese to the development of the Melbourne suburb of Manningham.

In 1947 the largest non English speaking group were Dutch. Now the suburb is a multicultural community. She interviewed many people from different backgrounds. All the stories tell us that nobody is a stereotype, or fits into a mould. You cannot make generalisations. All the migrants came for different reasons.

The outcome of the project was a book and exhibition featuring the 20 individual stories, complemented by photographs taken by Tess Rice. The exhibition was shown at the Immigration Museum in Melbourne.

Copies of the book produced for this project, *Suburban Voices: Stories of Multicultural Manningham*, may be purchased for \$11.00 from the Whitehorse Manningham Regional Library Corporation, PO Box 65, Box Hill, Victoria 3128.



Transcript and Editing Workshop

The Oral History Association of Australia – Queensland Inc will be conducting a workshop on editing and editing oral history transcripts. The workshop will be facilitated by Sue Pechey an experienced oral historian and editor. The day will cover the following topics:

- . Transcript – Do you catch all?
- . Speech Patterns – Emotion and accents. What to include.
- . ‘Bad’ grammar – Take it or leave it?
- . Creative Writing -
 - tidying the text
 - adding in text
 - removing the interviewer
 - ethics

When: Saturday 28 February 2004
10am – 3.30pm
Where: New Farm Neighbourhood Centre
967 Brunswick Street, New Farm
Cost: \$60.00 (members) \$66 (non-members))

ENROLMENT ESSENTIAL

Please enrol by making cheques payable to the OHAA-Qld Inc and send to the secretary, Lesley Jenkins at 93 Petersen Street, Wynnum 4178. Mark the cheque on the back Editing Workshop. Email enquiries can be sent to Lesley at recordinghistory@optusnet.com.au

- . If you have a lap top computer bring it along.
- . Morning and afternoon tea provided. Please bring your own lunch.



Oral History Training

The Oral History Association of Australia – Queensland Inc will be conducting an oral history training workshop. Lesley Jenkins, an experienced oral historian, will facilitate the workshop. The day will cover the following aspects of oral history:

- . Introduction to oral history – what it is, how it can be used and what can be made from the recordings
- . Memory – its reliability, its triggers, its possibilities
- . The interview and interviewing techniques – researching, the questionnaire, the venue and ambience
- . Tapes, equipment, copyright and ethics
- . Making the tapes accessible – indexing, transcribing and logging

When: Saturday, 17 April 2004
10am – 4pm

Where: Bulimba Library, cnr Riding Rd & Oxford Street

Cost: \$60.00 (members) \$66 (non-members))

ENROLMENT ESSENTIAL

Please enrol by making cheques payable to the OHAA-Qld Inc and send to the secretary, Lesley Jenkins at 93 Petersen Street, Wynnum 4178. Email enquiries can be sent to Lesley at recordinghistory@optusnet.com.au

- . If you have a working tape recorder please bring it along.
- . Morning and afternoon tea provided. Please bring your own lunch.



Oral History Association of Australia
Queensland Inc.

ABN 16 832 377 060

Annual General Meeting
New Farm 28 Neighbourhood Centre
967 Brunswick St, New Farm
Saturday, 28 February 2004 - Time 3.30pm

1. Apologies
2. Minutes of the last AGM
3. President's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of Office Bearers
 - President
 - Vice-President
 - Secretary
 - Treasurer
 - On Tape Editor
 - North Qld Representative
 - Committee Members (2)
6. General business
7. Date of next meeting
8. Close



Oral History Association of Australia
Queensland Inc.

ABN 16 832 377 060

Nomination Form

Nominations are called for the office of :

President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, North Queensland Representative, *On Tape* Editor, Committee members
(circle the relevant office)

Name in BLOCK letters

Signature

Proposer

Secunder

Nominee

Nominations to be in the hands of the Secretary by 5.00pm Friday 27 February 2003 (although nominations will also be taken from the floor).

Mail to:

Secretary, OHAA Qld Inc, 93 Petersen Street, Wynnum North, Qld 4178