



e-Bulletin

30 September 2013

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Hi OHAA-Qld members, here is your ninth E-Bulletin for 2013. If you have information to share we would love to receive it. Please also check out our Blog which is updated weekly – there are some reports about the National Oral History Conference. You can send information for the e-Bulletin to Suzanne Mulligan at mulligan53@iinet.net.au and use OHAA E-Bulletin in the subject line. The editor reserves the right not to publish if any information is judged to be inappropriate. Visit our web site: www.ohaaqld.org.au.

Suzanne Mulligan

1. Brookfield Historical Society Project

Brookfield Historical Society's oral history project commenced in 2002. It set out to record the life stories of the last of the local farmers. Some of the interviews have recently been published as *Brookfield Stories*. The focus has been on farming life as it developed following the end of logging. *Brookfield Stories* has been accepted enthusiastically by residents and has sold well, beyond our expectations.

In a sequel it is intended to publish interviews with a wider range of residents. In the first book there were no farm labourers, no employers of labourers and only one professional.

The focus of the next book will be a more sociological one. We plan to examine the social disruption caused to the close-knit community when farming declined in the 1960s and 70s. Then farmers were forced to sell land to newcomers. The population doubled between 1950 and 1970 as whole farms and parcels of land were sold off. We will be exploring the stresses experienced by farmers as their community became diluted with an influx of life

stylers, hippies, academics and professionals and exploring also the difficulties of the newcomers trying to fit in to the community.

Joy Stacey

2. Reminder – OHAA-Qld Annual General Meeting

Our AGM is scheduled for 10.00 am 12 October 2013 in the Bank of Queensland Room on the 4th Floor of the State Library of Queensland. We should have an interesting meeting with reports on the Adelaide conference and members sharing information about their projects. Please come along if you can and if you haven't done so already, let me know that you're coming.

3. (hi)story: entwining truth and narrative aesthetics

Summary - This project entwines oral history with creative nonfiction writing. The latter is a genre that combines the aesthetics of fiction with the qualities of nonfiction. The oral histories were collected from a Sri Lankan family who immigrated to Australia in the 1960s. The interviews focus on their family history and their experiences during the civil war. The project is conducted by a BA (Creative Writing) (Hons) graduate with a history major, who is about to begin doctoral studies into creative nonfiction historical narrative.

Jay Ludowyke

Read more about Jay's project (including audio) on the Projects page of our website <http://www.ohaaqld.org.au/index.php/projects> .

4. Oral History Basics Workshop, Brisbane, 26 October 2013

Helen Klaebe will be conducting an Oral History Basics workshop at Kenmore on 26 October 2013. She will provide an overview of an oral history project, ethics and permissions, introduction to interview techniques, file management and transcribing. You will also learn how to use recording equipment and photography to enhance your project. For full details see our website under Workshops - <http://www.ohaaqld.org.au/index.php/workshops?id=292>
Please spread the word through your networks!

5. Beyond RADF: Navigating the funding landscape

Free webinar. www.lgaq.asn.au. 2pm – 2.45pm, 18 October 2013.

With all levels of government tightening their belts, it can feel like there is little or no funding to be had. On top of this, both Arts Queensland and Australia Council for the Arts have radically overhauled their investment models. From RADF to RDAF, Linda Dreghorn from Arts Queensland will help you understand the regional funding landscape. Find out what funding is available to your council and community, and ask Linda your funding-related questions.

6. Museums Australia National Conference 2014

Call for abstracts. You are invited to submit an abstract for the eighteenth Museums Australia annual conference in Launceston, Tasmania from **16-19 May 2014**.

Museums Australia Tasmania Branch and the National Council are keen to create a conference that will energise and challenge people to maximise the impact of their work and to look to the future of the museum sector. We are seeking proposals that are fresh, proven, experiential, practical and filled with new thinking and ideas from the edge, that push, gain, maintain and draw the edges together.

It is an opportunity to examine creative links, collaborations and communities. Proposals are welcomed that explore how museums can push the edge into active and relevant futures; gain or maintain the edge where competition for resource, time and energy is increasing; examine what it takes to draw the edges of community and museums together; and how those "out on the edge" can be included in a very complex world.

If you have a great idea for a 'snapshot' session, a short paper or a whole 90-minute session, complete the abstract submission by clicking on this link www.ma2014.org.au/abstracts. For more information, contact Conference Logistics on 02 6281 6624 or email conference@conlog.com.au.
Editor's note – the link was very slow to open. Try going through Museums Australia website <http://www.museumsaustralia.org.au> and click on 2014 National Conference button.

7. Australian Community Heritage Website

The Australian Community Heritage Website was launched on 30 July by the Hon Mark Butler MP, Minister for the Environment, Heritage and Water.

The Community Heritage website is a place where individuals and groups can share information and stories about Australia's heritage. The purpose of the website is to encourage the collection and sharing of information, stories and anecdotes related to people, places and events that have contributed to Australia's heritage.

The website allows you to create an individual profile or a group identity so you can enter information about places, people and historical events in Australia. For example, you make like to tell the story of how your ancestors came to Australia. While this is not a family history website, there are many Australians who have made a difference since they came to this country and telling their story is a way to get this known. You can also comment on stories and post notices about upcoming events related to your group's activities.

www.communityheritage.net.au.

8 Digital Story Recording with Chris Peckham

August just gone, I made the long trek into Brisbane (3 hours) to attend Chris Peckham's two day workshop in digital story telling. I am so glad I did. It was fun!

A group of nine of us all with varying degrees of technological expertise filled the room with our lives, interests and purpose for being there. A librarian, gallery curator, museum staff, uni student and representatives for land protection brought along their tools of the trade; these too were multiple and varied (iPads, different video equipment, audio recording equipment, iPhones etc). Quite a challenge for Chris to support each of us in turn, he offered practical hands-on assistance and advice. We each learnt how to get the best out of the equipment we owned and economical ways of improving the quality in order to achieve

the goals each of us pictured in our minds. He also advised us on suitable editing software – free and purchased.

First Day – Thoroughly covering aspects of planning and recording theoretically, we then each went on to use our own equipment, record a trial interview and experiment with the recording equipment available. Chris brought along plenty of his own equipment which was available for use on the day. As we viewed each others' stories at the end of the day, we were able to identify improvements and how to achieve them. It became apparent that Chris has plenty of expertise, not only in using equipment but in communicating with and listening to people. This showed. I felt listened to – queries were answered either during the session, on the phone or later in email.

It was great to view digital stories that Chris had made himself. He shared the context in which he had filmed them and how the stories had often arisen from impromptu conversation. Demonstrating an ability to understand and warm to people, Chris shared these somewhat intuitive skills. He also encouraged us to utilise our creativity. By recounting a wonderful story of a Vietnamese refugee, who, having no memorabilia or photographs to draw upon (he had lost everything), Chris demonstrated how between them they were able to recreate past moments metaphorically.

Second Day – This workshop was a fortnight later, primarily focussed on learning to use the editing software. We learnt how to keep our media (photographs, audio, video etc) organised during the editing process and combine different types of media into our story. I learnt how to edit out mistakes in the interview I supplied (ums and ahs), overlay pertinent photographs to highlight a particular part of the story being told and utilise music/narration as an introduction and/or exit to the story. We also learnt how to use different editing techniques to create a sense of smooth and natural visual flow to the story (video, photographs and audio), how to zoom in and out of a particular scene to create interest and how to modulate the audio maintaining a steady and clearly audible audio level. Another technique which I found useful was the addition of text if required, either on screens, similar to PowerPoint or on photographs themselves. As a final point we learnt about differing formats for saving our completed stories, which best to use and for which purpose, how to upload them to the internet, store them on CD etc.

An added bonus to the two workshops was the supply of a healthy lunch, snacks and refreshments. Mind you, we were so busy, we stopped only briefly to recharge. At the completion of the first workshop I received a summary of the main points from Chris via email and links to useful sources for software, digital sound library, equipment etc. At the completion of the second day, he again followed up with some great email links directing us on to training videos for the editing program.

The weekend after this workshop I completed a Vlog for uni, which incorporated all the above mentioned skills. It was designed as a conversation with my son, sharing some of our mutual history. Prior to this I had NO editing skills and I am amazed and really chuffed at the skills that I now have to build upon. I cannot recommend this workshop highly enough. I only trust Chris will consider running an adjunct to it so we can build upon the many skills learnt and uncover the next layer of skill awaiting us. Thanks Chris.

Nicolette Dixon

9. Australian Generations Project update

The National Library of Australia has delivered six of the AG project's interviews on their website. This is the first of the interview material that has been made available to the public.

A link to the available material:

[http://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Search/Home?lookfor=my_parent%3A%22\(AuCNL\)5973925%22&iknowwhatimean=1&filter\[\]=access_type:%22All%20online%22](http://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Search/Home?lookfor=my_parent%3A%22(AuCNL)5973925%22&iknowwhatimean=1&filter[]=access_type:%22All%20online%22)

They are planning on continuing to upload more interviews over the next few months.

10. Sydney Oral Histories



This site is only recently (unofficially) launched by the History Unit at the City of Sydney Council, which governs the inner suburbs and CBD of Sydney.

<http://www.cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/learn/history>

There are about 60 interviews on the site at the moment but a few hundred in the wings and collection is ongoing. They have tried to structure the site so that it is accessible for both the casual browser and dedicated researcher alike. Visit the website here.

www.sydneyoralthistories.com.au

Dr Margo Beasley is keen for feedback on the site and is particularly interested to hear from people outside both Sydney and Australia, to get an idea of how they might respond to the site. Feedback is welcomed by emailing mbeasley@cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au

Editor's note – this site has been placed on our Delicious page (see Newsletters/E-bulletins button).

11. Hot Dogs and Meat Pies



Hot Dogs and Meat Pies – World War 2 on the Gold Coast came about through oral history. It was through interviewing older residents of the Gold Coast for another topic that the Gold Coast's oral historian, Lesley Jenkins, became aware that there was a bigger story to be told about the location of thousands of US and Australian forces on the coast for rest and recuperation during the Second World War. She interviewed as many residents and former servicemen and servicewoman about this fascinating and little known aspect of the City's history as she could find. The outcomes of this project, which spanned a number of years, was a map which records all the known places of interest and use (including brothels)

and their GPS readings, two booklets, an exhibition and a collection of oral history recordings with accompanying historic photos. All this material can be found online at: <http://heritage.goldcoast.qld.gov.au/See-and-do/events/current-and-upcoming-events/hotdogs>

The Heritage Unit, part of City Planning at Gold Coast City Council, was fortunate to receive a silver heritage award at the recent National Trust of Queensland awards ceremony for this work.

Lesley Jenkins

To see all National Trust award winners see <http://www.nationaltrust.org.au/qld/GovernorsHeritageAwardRecipients> .

12 National Oral History Conference, Adelaide

I very much enjoyed the Conference which included historical tours and workshops. So I was there for five very full-on days. It was great to catch up with interstate colleagues whom I hadn't seen for at least a couple of years, more in some cases. There were many interesting presentations which you will learn more about in our Blog posts and next e-Bulletin. Please have a look at our Blog page <http://www.ohaaqld.org.au/blog/> which covers some of the papers presented and more will be added over time.

Suzanne Mulligan

13 New name for OHAA

At the Biennial OHAA held in Adelaide last week, members approved a constitutional name change from Oral History Association of Australia to **Oral History Australia**. Members felt that this modern and focused name will have greater meaning to a wider range of people and makes our aims more readily identifiable. Another significant change to the constitution is that the state oral history associations are now members of the national body.

OHAA-QLD will not have to change its name, but will need to make minor changes to its constitution to reflect these changes. OHAA-Qld will vote on any changes at its upcoming AGM on 12 October 2013 at State Library of Queensland – see <http://www.ohaaqld.org.au/> .

14. Social Media Training in Longreach

Expressions of interest are sought from historical groups and organisations, libraries, archives and museums interested in social media training for their members. The workshop will be offered at Qantas Founders Museum Board Room, Sir Hudson Fysh Drive at **9:45am - 4pm, both days on Tuesday 29 October and Wednesday 30 October 2013**. Includes lunch, morning and afternoon tea. Participants are required to BYO laptop (PC or MAC). Please note: iPads are not suitable for this workshop.

Schedule

Day 1 - Introduction to Social Media: General introduction to using and understanding platforms, and how to use social media in your community.

Day 2 - Hands-on Social Media: Choose either an all-day Blog workshop* OR a Popular Social Media Platforms workshop**.

*Blog workshop - Create a free WordPress blog or webpage for your organisation.

****Popular Social Media Platforms** - If you choose the 'Popular Platforms' workshop, please select 2 platforms you would like to explore further in the workshop of Historypin, Flickr, Facebook and/or Twitter.

After the workshop all participants will:

- Receive a manual including tips, useful websites and how to information and,
- Have established accounts in their preferred social media tools.

To be eligible for the workshop participants should:

- Be familiar with basic social media tools.
- Be familiar with their laptop and its capabilities.
- Have a web-based email account (e.g. hotmail; gmail, yahoo).
- Understand how social media is used on mobile devices.

To register your interest for the workshop:

- Make sure you are eligible (see above) - the workshop is not suitable for absolute beginners.
- Choose your Day 2 option - a Blog workshop OR a Popular Social Media Platforms workshop.
- Contact Museum and Gallery Services Queensland on 07 3215 0820 or freecall (within Queensland) on 1800 680 433 or email information@mqsq.com.au by **Monday 21 October**.

The workshops are free but numbers are strictly limited, places will be offered on a first-in basis.

15. Anzac Centenary Local Grants Program

This program is aimed at assisting and encouraging communities across Australia to undertake their own Anzac Centenary projects that commemorate the service and sacrifice of Australian servicemen and women in the First World War. Funding of up to \$100,000 will be made available for each Federal Member of Parliament to support projects in their electorate that commemorate World War I. Applications are now open and need to be submitted to your local Federal MP by February 2014. Funding guidelines and application forms can be found on the Anzac Centenary website at www.anzaccentenary.gov.au

16. "Saluting their Service" Commemorations Grants Program

The *Saluting Their Service* commemorations grants program supports projects and activities which directly commemorate Australia's servicemen and women who served in wars, conflicts and peace operations. The grants also promote appreciation and understanding of the role those who have served have played in shaping the nation. See http://www.dva.gov.au/commems_oawg/commemorations/grants/Pages/index.aspx

*Memory "can capture you, corner you or liberate you" – Elliot Perlman, **The Street Sweeper***