



On Tape Newsletter

1 December 2012

Hello OHAA-Qld members, this is the latest newsletter which incorporates information that would have been in a November e-Bulletin. Our website is going through an upgrade so our Blog and Conferences pages are not up-to-date. You can send information for the e-Bulletin to Suzanne Mulligan at mulligan53@inet.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. Our web site is www.ohaaqld.org.au. Many of you will have now received your 2012 *Oral History Journal*. There will be a second mailout in January for those members who have renewed their membership since the first mailout. Hope you all have a great Christmas and look forward to being in contact with you in 2013.

Suzanne Mulligan

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Understanding the Dogs of War: The AAHU

Our member The Museum of Australian Military Intelligence is part of the Australian Army History Unit. The following essay by Lee Welch was first published in *INCITE*, the news magazine of the Australian Library and Information Association, Vol 32, No 10 October 2011. ALIA has kindly given permission for this to be reprinted here.

To understand the future, experts tell us to look at the past – and that’s a key objective of the Australian Army History Unit. The Australian Army History Unit (AAHU) is dedicated to promoting the study and understanding of the Army’s history and traditions – both within the Army and with the wider community.

According to the AAHU, history provides a starting point for new recruits and the public to understand why the Army works the way it does and, equally importantly, helps all of us understand what our Army does both in times of war and of peace. And, as the AAHU points out, given that we taxpayers are paying for it, we do have a right to understand it.

Military history attracts significant interest from military scholars and the general public alike. AAHU has two publishing initiatives in place specifically to cater for these very different audiences, one with Cambridge University Press to produce academic military history publications and another with Big Sky Publishing for the production of specialist military history titles, the bi-annual Despatches magazine and the Brief History of the Australian Army, which covers the history and heritage of the Australian Army from pre-European settlement to the present day (available free of charge on request).

In the last year the AAHU has published some 20 titles through Big Sky Publishing, ranging from histories of little-known battalions to specific campaigns. These have proven extremely popular with officers and soldiers as well as younger readers and school libraries. The Australian Campaign Series draws on personal accounts from those involved, providing real insight into the personal and emotional experience of war alongside military expert opinion of the strategic issues of battle. (This series is now also available in eBook and mobile phones app formats.)

It is a chilling fact that military history also provides the only objective quantitative assessment of tactics and weapons capability. The AAHU’s critical contribution to collecting, assessing, recording and publishing this aspect of history puts these publications in the realm of a unique form of technically refereed research.

Along with their publishing programs, the AAHU also presents the Chief of Army’s Military History Conference in Canberra each year, administers \$80,000 worth of research grants and manages the Army’s museum network. Their website www.army.gov.au/ahu/ is currently being expanded to enable access to key documents in Australia’s military history, and this will undoubtedly prove popular with both military and family historians through public libraries nationally. Military history eBooks are available at www.bigskypublishing.com.au.

The Age of Memories

David Mason

A graph compiled by the Australian Bureau of Statistics showing the percentage of the Australian population distributed in five yearly age groups indicates that only 10% of the population are over 70 years of age, being born before 1943; only 4% of the population are over 80 years of age, being born before 1932; only 2% of the population are over 85 years of age, being born before 1927, and consequently only a minute number were born before 1920.

The significance of this is that where history is viewed as that limited to the living memories of people, there are virtually no experiential memories, and ipso facto, no history, prior to about 1920. History prior to 1920 exists in either the stories told by parents and grand-parents and remembered by those born after the 1920s, or in recorded documents.

That is why it is very important for the remnant aging population to have their stories recorded for posterity. Similarly, where families of these older residents have family archives, it is important those records be preserved, and hopefully documented in published family histories. See

<http://www.abs.gov.au/ausstats/abs@.nsf/Products/3235.0~2010~Main+Features~Main+Features?OpenDocument>

Story reprinted with permission from Editor "Scenic Rim: Local History News & Heritage Stories: 7/2012"

Welcome new members - 2012

Camilla McRae
Australian Army History Unit
Anita Berry
Burdekin Shire Council - Robyn Elphinstone
Marg Doherty
Alison Early
Judith Ecuyer
John Christensan, Junction Park SS
Heather McKimmon
Mater Archives & Heritage Centre
Tim Milfull
Kris Patterson
Queensland Muslim Historical Society Inc
Margaret Ridley
Laurel Bayles, RM Williams ABLC
Tony Irwin

Oral History Workshop in Mackay

Ariella Van Luyn

Thanks to a Gambling Community Benefit Fund grant and the support of Lara Clarke at the Mackay library, facilitators Bryan Crawford and Ariella Van Luyn were able to travel to Mackay on 7 and 8 July 2012 to run an oral history workshop. This is her story:



Workshop in Mackay Old Town Hall

We arrived in Mackay at 8.30 on Saturday morning to find a keen participant already waiting outside the Old Town Hall for us to begin. Lara let us in through the big wooden doors at the entrance. The workshop was held in the arts space on the second floor. To get there, we climbed up a flight of wide wooden stairs with spherical decorations on the railings worn thin from contact with hundreds of hands over the decades. The

workshop space was a square room skirted

by arched windows that let the soft light drift through, and a verandah hemmed with iron balustrades. Below us was the visitor information centre. Throughout the workshop, participants shared their local knowledge with the tourists that wandered through.

Eight participants attended. Ruth Wegner from Walkerston and Janette McGrath from Mackay hoped to learn more about their family histories. Ruth wanted to interview her Father-in-Law about his time on the Kokoda Trail. Brian Osborn and Julie Worldon were from the Greenmount Homestead, five kilometres West of Walkerston. The

Greenmount Homestead ‘contains a number of buildings including a 1915 Queenslander homestead, which houses intact a collection of more than 20,000 historical items’ (see:

http://www.mackay.qld.gov.au/community/arts_culture_and_heritage/greenmount_homestead).

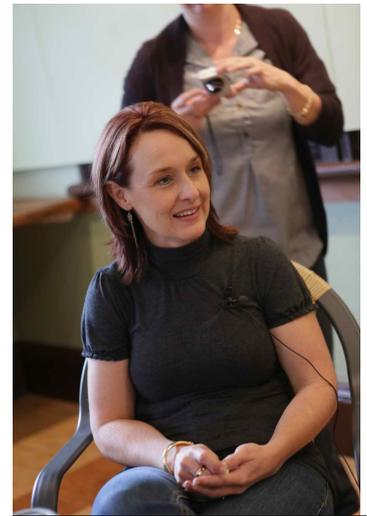
Brian and Julie hoped to collect oral histories documenting the rich history of Greenmount and surrounds. The Mackay library planned to launch the second phase of its ‘Mackay through the Decades’ project. In the first phase, Mackay community members donated over 200 images of the region to the library from ca. 1950s onwards (for more details on this project, see:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-jZEX_aEBSA&feature=youtu.be and

http://www.mackay.qld.gov.au/about_council/newsletters/content/council_connect_april_202).

Now, staff members plan to gather oral histories around particular images, capturing the rich and personal history frozen in the snapshots. Others came to simply learn more about oral history.

The workshop took participants through the steps in an oral history project, discussing budget, ethics and permission forms, equipment needed, using audio recorders, stills and video cameras,



Lara with lapel mic.



Brian during his interview.

conducting preliminary interviews, designing questions, outcomes and evaluation. The participants had a chance to design questions, conduct and record a practice interview. By the end of the workshop, participants were enthused and hope to start an oral history group in the Mackay region.

[All images by Bryan Crawford.]

What Happens After the interview? Introducing COWBIRD

COWBIRD <http://cowbird.com/> is an online space for creating stories with pictures and text, or pictures with audio. It seemed to me a possible place to create a life history with pictures and oral history.

Have a look at the short piece titled “Lipstick”

http://cowbird.com/story/7956/Love_And_Lipstick/. This is an application in the simplest fashion. Trying to edit hours of oral history interviews down to this ‘byte sized story’ may not be practicable, but it may be a useful place to create a ‘trailer’ i.e. a little advertising teaser that could be used to market full oral history collections. It may also offer a way to memorialize someone in the family as this woman did with her piece on her mother. Anyway - food for thought- check it out and decide for yourselves.

From “Oral History – Network News” (NSW) October 2012, reprinted with permission.

Oral History Project progresses at Australian Bush Learning Centre



The RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre is situated in the township of Eidsvold, Qld and comprises a learning facility, an exhibition area, interactive space and tourism section. Most recently, at the request of the Aboriginal representatives on the Board and Friends Groups, the Centre has provided training for Aboriginal community members to create a *Life of the Aboriginal Stockmen and Stock Woman's Oral History Project* through funding received from the North Burnett Regional Council's RADF program. Volunteers from the North Burnett community have been trained by professional Oral Historian Sue Pechey, working with Boultons Multimedia husband and wife team, Trevor and Annie Boulton. Sue was able to provide training for volunteers on interview techniques, consent forms and approvals and the gathering of oral materials. The Boultons also provided training for volunteers in basic audio and visual production; including setting up a makeshift 'green screen' studio at the RM Williams Australian Bush learning Centre where face to face interviews could be conducted with participating elders. Volunteer interviewers learnt about the importance of good lighting, how to film participants and tips for drawing out questions that could be better edited for the final touchscreen presentations.

Laurel Bayles works at the RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre and is one of the volunteers who have undertaken the training. "We are working on this project to highlight the input Aboriginal people had in regards to the beef industry. In our Interactive area we have two touchscreens that have stories of the famous RM Williams, and we are working towards recording oral histories of Aboriginal people to go alongside his stories," she said. "RM had a great appreciation of the workers he had on his property and we are now recognising the valuable work that Aboriginal people contributed for the benefit of the North Burnett beef industry within our district. With the support of property owners and our Elders, this project will give visitors a better understanding of the work and life that our Elders endured to survive the process of change - from living on the land as nomads, to camping on stations as an important casual labour force and finally being 'able' to move into townships and purchase or lease their first homes in town."

Laurel is well placed to understand the history and connection of the Aboriginal stockmen and their families in the North Burnett as her own mother worked in the Williams household, her father worked alongside RM as a station hand and later Laurel's brother learnt stockmen skills and also went on to enjoy success on the amateur Bull riding circuit. The interviews will be condensed into a series of touchscreen presentations for visitors at the centre to enjoy, including live footage, images and interviews of stockmen and women from around the North Burnett. It is hoped that the presentations were expected to be ready to coincide with an exhibition at the RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre Gallery space in late 2012, but now should be ready by March 2013.

With the support of the property owners from that era and the Elders, this project will give visitors and locals alike a better understanding of the work and life that the Elders carved out during the process of change in the 20th Century. The project has been generously funded by the

North Burnett's Regional Arts Development Fund and use of the filming equipment has kindly been donated by the Oral History Association of Australia-Queensland. For further information regarding this project, current and future exhibitions or workshops, please contact the RM Williams Australian Bush Learning Centre by phone on 4165 7272 or email info@rmwilliamscentre.com.au

Beyond Shangri-La, a new collection of Tibetan oral histories
Jenny Morgan (through H-Oralhist List)

I am thrilled to announce the launch of a new collection of oral histories of Tibetans and Tibetan-Americans living, either permanently or temporarily, in western Massachusetts. The project is a collaboration between Amherst College's Department of Asian Languages and Civilizations, Center for Community Engagement, students in the Five Colleges, and Tibetans in the local community. The oral histories were produced by students in the spring 2012 course at Amherst College, Beyond Shangri-La, taught by Professor Paola Zamperini.

The oral histories featured are a cross-section of lived experiences as Tibetans across generations and continents. The Tibetans interviewed in Beyond Shangri-La have lived in Tibet, India, Nepal, Europe, and the United States. Some have never visited Tibet, while others cannot go back. Each story is thus a rich exploration of memory, place, and community. The project, in this sense, invites us to a space that is both documentary and reflexive, leading both interviewees and their audiences to reflect on the meaning of Tibetan identity through first person narratives.

Read the full press release here:

<https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/cce/about/news/node/437861>

Explore the website here:

<https://www.amherst.edu/academiclife/departments/asian/beyondshangrila>

For questions, contact Paola Zamperini at pzamperini@amherst.edu.

Special Issue of a/b: Auto/Biography Studies, “Framing Lives”

The editors of *a/b: Auto/Biography Studies*, in collaboration with Guest Editor Paul Arthur of the Australian National University, invite submissions for a special illustrated issue that grows from the 2012 International Auto/Biography Association Conference, “Framing Lives.”

As the conference materials explain, contemporary scholarship has experienced an extraordinary turn to the visual in the study of life narratives. This can be seen in the research being conducted on graphics and animations, photographs and portraits, installations and performances, and avatars and characters that come alive on screens, stages, pages, and canvases, as well as through digital and analogue technologies.

All submitted essays should have a relevant theoretical framework and participate in contemporary conversations within the field of auto/biography studies. The editors welcome essays that explore visual narratives in diverse forms, including, but not limited to, the following topics:

Visual culture and visual rhetorics

Drawn, painted, photographed, sculpted, and stitched narratives

Graphic novels, artist books, illustration, and illustrated narratives

The praxis of image and narrative

Televised, filmed, and digitized life narratives

Web 2.0, websites, blogs, RPGs, Social networking sites, and other forms of new media

Archives, archival work, and digital archives

Museum studies, exhibitions, and the ethics of exhibiting

Performance, performing, and performative narratives

Spectacle, the viewer, viewing, and the gaze

The Other and other-ing through visual representation

Visualizing Colonialism and Post-Colonialism

The racialization or gendering of visual narratives

The new spaces and places of autobiographical narratives

Essays should be between 7,500 and 12,000 words in length, including notes and the Works Cited pages, and must follow the format of the *MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers* (7th ed.). Authors must also include a fifty-word abstract and two to four keywords with their submissions.

All essays selected for the special issue will be double-blind peer reviewed by two additional scholars in the field. In order to ensure a blind peer review, remove any identifying information, including citations that refer to you as the author in the first person. Cite previous publications, etc. with your last name to preserve the blind reading process. Include your name, address, email, the title of your essay, and your affiliation in a cover letter or cover sheet for your essay. Essays may include a maximum of eight illustrations. All submitted images must be 300dpi. Please note that it is the author’s responsibility to secure any necessary copyright permission and essays may not progress into the publication stage without written proof of right to reprint. Essays not published in the special issue may be considered as general submissions to *a/b*.

All inquires and submissions should be sent to Ricia Anne Chansky at ricia.chansky@upr.edu. Please attach submissions as word documents to your email. Submissions will be accepted through March 15, 2013. Guest Editor, Paul Arthur, is the Deputy Director of the National Centre of Biography and Deputy General Editor of the Australian Dictionary of Biography at the Australian National University. He is inaugural President of the Australasian Association for Digital Humanities, and his recent books include *Virtual Voyages* (2010), the edited volumes *Recovering Lives* (2011), and, with Geoffrey Bolton, the award-winning *Voices from the West End* (2012). For more information about Dr. Arthur, see www.paularthur.com

For more information on the International Auto/Biography Association, please visit their website at: <http://www.theiaba.org/> . For more information about a/b: Auto/Biography Studies, please visit our website at: www.abstudies.web.unc.edu

International Museum Day 2013

The International Council of Museums (ICOM) has celebrated International Museum Day (IMD) since 1977 to encourage public awareness of the role of museums in the development of society. In 2012, almost 32,000 museums in 129 countries participated in the event by organising specific activities.

Next year, the IMD theme is *Museums (memory + creativity) = social change*. This optimistic theme in the form of an equation gathers several concepts that are essential to defining what a museum is today, highlighting the universal nature of those institutions and their positive influence on society. It summarises the complexity of museum tasks (reconciling their traditional mission of conservation with the innovation necessary for their sustainability) and recalls their remit to contribute to community development and unity.

For further information, please visit the official website at <http://imd.icom.museum>

“Stories of Life”

This wonderful project celebrated the stories of residents in the Graceville/Chelmer area and is a great example of how stories can be used in different ways to build community capacity and connection.



Benarrawa is a small Community Development Association who received assistance as part of the Flood Recovery Project. They wished to celebrate and acknowledge local residents: their lives, connection to place and to each other. With funding from the Brisbane City Council they were able to contract Red Thread Stories to undertake this project. We specialize in community and corporate engagement, oral history and hosting inclusive events and activities.

I started by conducting six Individual oral history interviews with a diverse mix of local residents. One resident, Betty, a delightful woman had lived in Chelmer for over sixty years and had worked for Channel 9 in the early years of television. Another resident, Michael, also had a long connection to the area while Pauline was a relative newcomer to the area. All told stories from their life and community including their experiences of the floods and their aftermath.

Those involved in these interviews were then invited to attend an interactive storytelling workshop along with other local residents. Most people did not know each other. With my colleague Kris Plowman, we assisted people’s stories to be told using creative techniques including mirroring, narrative, poetry, music and personal writing. Our approach focused on building people’s capacity to listen deeply and gently explore their creativity. We aim to be inclusive of all. Daniel Sala, another colleague, took some wonderful photos during this process.

After the workshop some people were inspired to write a short story. I also wrote short stories based on the oral history interviews and those told in the group. One woman, Enid, had previously written a story about the 1974 flood. She had been a long standing member of The Scribblers, a woman’s writing group. Meg Lethbridge, who worked at Benarrawa, found Enid’s story at the State Library and made sure it was also included.



A small booklet of these stories and photos was produced. This booklet is available online (www.blurb.com/books/3450478) and a copy has been sent to the State Library. Two of the oral

history interview recordings and interview summaries have also been provided to the State Library.

A celebratory event was then held to launch the book. The Red Thread Stories Playback Theatre ensemble performed some of the stories as told by people at the event. Playback theatre is improvised theatre, which is used internationally to build and enrich communities and acknowledge diversity of experience. One of the key stories told at the launch described the powerful impact of an indigenous healing ceremony held at Milperra School some time after the flood.

Stories and oral traditions help build resilient communities. They pass down local knowledge, provide advice, assist with connectedness and belonging, strengthen relationships and build networks of trust and co-operation. Research on community resilience identifies these as critical elements. This project assisted in strengthening connections within the community as illustrated in the feedback we received.

“The networking and friendships started added depth and connection to my community ...it helped me to feel I belonged” June Leonforte

Thanks to all the wonderful people who were involved in the project.

Jennifer Barrkman

Psychologist and Oral Historian

Partner Red Thread Stories

www.redthreadstories.com.au

www.facebook.com/RedThreadStoriesAustralia

Portelli Lecture: Launch of Public History Centre at University of London

To mark the launch of the new Public History Centre at Royal Holloway, University of London on 6 November 2012, Alessandro Portelli was invited to be the inaugural lecturer. The title of Professor Portelli's lecture was: 'Reflecting on a life in progress and the stories of oral history'.

Alessandro Portelli, Professor of American Literature, Sapienza, University of Rome, has played a leading role in transforming oral history. Through a number of key studies, he has promoted an appreciation of oral history as a literary genre that throws light on the significance of subjectivity in history. By interpreting the themes and structures of eyewitness testimony, Portelli has consistently demonstrated new ways of understanding memory. In this lecture Portelli reflects on his work to date, illustrating his intellectual journey with reference to the stories of the personal, and the historical, victories and defeats, that have inspired his critical contribution. Listen to Portelli's lecture here –

<http://backdoorbroadcasting.net/2012/11/alessandro-portelli-reflecting-on-a-life-in-progress-and-the-stories-of-oral-history/>

Oral History Project for the 40th Anniversary of the formation of the Royal Australian Corps of Transport

Tony Irwin

For my entire career since joining the Australian Army in November 1979, I have been a member of the Royal Australian Corps of Transport (RACT).



The RACT was formed on 1st June 1973 and is responsible for the movement of the Army, its equipment and personnel, using all modes of transport available, in Australia and overseas, in peace and in war.

On Saturday 4th June 1983, at Puckapunyal in Victoria, the RACT was presented with HRH Princess Alice's Banner.

Princess Alice (Aunt to HRH Queen Elizabeth II) at the time held the honorary appointment of Colonel in Chief of the RACT. Her Banner was carried on parades having special significance to the RACT and on other special occasions. The practice of carrying of symbols by military formations has existed for centuries, the eagle standards of Roman Legions are probably the best known. Of course these day's banners are not carried in battle but remain a focal point for members of the Corps and are held in high esteem. Princess Alice passed away in October 2004 aged 102 and in March 2011 HRH Princess Anne became Colonel-in-Chief of the RACT. Her Excellency the Governor General of Australia has been invited to present a banner on behalf of the HRH Princess Royal at a parade in Brisbane in June 2013.

As the presentation of the Banner coincides with the 40th anniversary of the RACT the parade will be a significant milestone in the Corps history. It is expected that members of the Corps past and present will either take part in the parade or come to Brisbane to witness the event. The parade and any associated activities will be recorded so there will be a visual record for future members of the Corps and the Army. In addition I have been tasked to gather oral histories from Corps members and assist in the production of digital stories as part of this record.

Recording oral history in the Australian Army has long been an indispensable medium which enhances written and official records and preserves the personal experiences and insights of individuals. With increasing frequency it is needed to add detail and create a more complete story.

As you can imagine this particular process has a number of hurdles to be overcome including the remaining time frame available to complete the project. To provide a cross-section of Corps members' experiences, my aim is to interview at least 20 members and ex-members of various

ranks in training, in peacekeeping and at war. Most interviewees should have their own images to complement the interviews and there are many other images available through ADF resources.

The digital stories will then be integrated with any other digital media to form a complete story of the parade, presentation of the banner and recollections of RACT members in peace and war. If all goes well the project should be completed in July 2013.

Until recently my experience recording oral histories was zero. I attended the workshop facilitated by Ariella van Luyn in Brisbane earlier this year and have since conducted a few interviews for the project. When I commenced the interviews about two months ago I borrowed the Zoom HN4 recorder available to members of the OHAA and Ariella gave me “a soldiers five” and some useful tips on its operation. I had my first recordings reviewed by a sound editor within the Defence organisation who assessed the recordings as of sufficient quality and suitable for the project. An idea I had was to use a sound proof hearing test booth to record my own recollections. This worked well and resulting recordings were excellent. I now have my own Zoom recorder which will also be used for later projects for the RACT. So far I have found the recorder to be extremely easy to operate and with careful selection of the recording location the results are good quality, although the use of wireless lapel microphones would be ideal.

I will continue to experiment and keep you posted as the project progresses.

Conference “Digital Testimonies on War and Trauma” The Netherlands

Call for Papers (before 1 February 2013). To mark the completion of the video-life stories project Croatian Memories (CroMe) the Erasmus Studio for e-research (www.eur.nl/erasmusstudio) is pleased to announce the international multidisciplinary conference “Digital Testimonies on War and Trauma” to be held at the Erasmus Universiteit Rotterdam, The Netherlands, from 12-14 June, 2013.

The CroMe project is generating a collection of video interviews with testimonies on war-related experiences in Croatia’s past. As each interview is processed, transcribed, translated and subtitled in English, the project reaches out to both a local general and an international academic audience. Accordingly the interviews will be made accessible in two ways: in edited form on an online platform for the general public, and in their original form in a separate password-protected environment for researchers. For details about participation, schedule, registration, accommodation, venue and programme, please check the conference website (currently under construction): <http://digitaltestimonies2013.wordpress.com>

Forgotten Australians remembered



The National Library is releasing a commemorative booklet to mark the third anniversary of the National Apology to Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants. In 2006, the Library launched a national oral history project to record the stories of these remarkable Australians. Over 200 interviews have been recorded to date, with many already available. See [http://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Search/Home?lookfor=ORAL+TRC+6200*&filter\[\]=format:Online&filter\[\]=format:Audio&page=1](http://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Search/Home?lookfor=ORAL+TRC+6200*&filter[]=format:Online&filter[]=format:Audio&page=1) For ABC News story click here. <http://www.abc.net.au/news/2012-11-16/library-remembers-forgotten-australians/4376144>

Experimental Uses of Oral History (from H-Oralhist List)

I am attaching a link to a piece I created out of soundbites from 14 interviews that we did of survivors of a school bombing in 1986. While we have each of the separate interviews available to listen to along with their transcripts, I created this to tell the story but I, as the editor, didn't want to tell it...so I saved out sound bites from the interviews and edited them together allowing the survivors themselves to tell the story.

It takes knowledge of some kind of editing software - I use Adobe Audition CSS5. I think it could also be done on the free software Audacity. Happy to help whoever if needed.

<http://archive.org/details/SurvivorIsMyName-VoicesOfTheCokevilleElementarySchoolBombing>

Sue Castaneda, Wyoming State Archives

Two of my favorite experimental/multi-media oral histories are:

<http://www.thirdcoastfestival.org/library/10>

The Changes in Farming

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WYtDXpn49SU>

WHERE WE WERE NOT, PART I: Feeling Reserved, Alexis' Story, Saskatchewan

Elise Chenier

Director, Archives of Lesbian Oral Testimony (A LOT) Associate Professor, Department of History Simon Fraser University

8888 University Drive, Burnaby, BC, Canada V5A 1S6

Call for Papers – OHAA Biennial National Conference 2013



21-24 SEPTEMBER 2013, ADELAIDE
THE BIENNIAL NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF THE ORAL HISTORY
ASSOCIATION OF AUSTRALIA & THE 21ST STATE HISTORY CONFERENCE



The Oral History Association of Australia, History SA and the University of South Australia will jointly host this conference which will feature a range of themes relating to **contested histories; memory, technology and new developments in oral history; urban history, and Indigenous history.**

Please submit proposals to:

Email: statehistoryconference@history.sa.gov.au

Post: GPO Box 1836, ADELAIDE, SA, 5001

The closing date for proposals is Monday 11 March 2013.

Further details and enquiries:

June Edwards, contact@ohaa-sa.com.au (08) 8293 1314

Mandy Paul, Senior Curator, History SA, mpaul@history.sa.gov.au (08) 8203 9808

Karen Blackwood, Administration Officer, History SA, kblackwood@history.sa.gov.au
(08) 8203 9807

More information on the conference themes: <http://www.ohaa.org.au/page/conferences.html>

MAGNA and MAPDA Award Successes

At the recent 2012 Museums Australia National Conference, held in Adelaide, the Grove Library and the Subiaco Museum have both been highly commended for projects that include the innovative use of oral history interviews.

History in your pocket: a mobile application

The Grove Library won a major multi-media award for its “History in Your Pocket” mobile phone application, which showcases a selection of images, interviews and videos relating to the history of Cottesloe, Peppermint Grove and Mosman Park. The application was created by Community History Librarian, Sindy Dowden utilising the free software programme Conduit Mobile. Sindy developed the app over several months and since its launch last year, it has been downloaded by many mobile phone users, including from overseas in the US, Saudi Arabia, Mexico and Israel. The Grove Library entry was Highly Commended in its category, holding its own among major high profile entrants such as the National Library of Australia and the Art Gallery of New South Wales. Sindy accepted the award at the 2012 Museums Australia National Conference in Adelaide. The Museums Australia Multimedia and Publications National Awards (MAPDA) recognise best practice and innovation in the collecting sector and celebrate excellence in design and communication in museums and libraries across Australia.

About the app

This Application provides quick and easy access to historic images, stories about local history and oral history audio interviews in mobile format. The Grove Community History Library hopes to further develop the application by working with educators to package the oral history audio grabs into subject headings so that students can easily research particular aspects of Community History. For more information contact Sindy Dowden, Community History Librarian, email: Sdowden@thegrovelibrary.com

The direct link to **The Grove History...history in your pocket** via a mobile browser is <http://thegrovehistory.mobapp.at> or scan the QR code:

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2013 Annual OHA Meeting Call for Papers (USA)

**Hidden Stories, Contested Truths: The Craft of Oral History
2013 OHA Annual Meeting (USA)
October 9 – October 13, 2013
The Skirvin Hilton Hotel
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
Deadline: January 18, 2013**

The 2013 annual meeting of the Oral History Association will offer an opportunity to showcase the ways in which oral history has been used to unearth hidden stories and contest accepted truths. Through work to address silences, oral history provides a method by which unknown experiences and fresh perspectives can come to light and provide scholars and communities a more robust understanding of the past. It holds the power to defy stereotypes and challenge simple generalizations. Conference organizers invite proposals for panels or individual papers exploring the ways in which oral history has recorded and presented critical counter narratives, bringing needed diversity and enhanced complexity to the study of events, ideas, or issues. Our hope is that oral historians from a wide range of settings and disciplines will contribute to this discussion of how their work has uncovered new stories or defied popular notions. For more information see <http://www.oralhistory.org/2012/10/12/2013-annual-meeting-call-for-papers/>

Australian Generations Oral History Project

The Australian Generations Oral History Project has funds to conduct up to 20 life history interviews in up to three languages other than English (languages spoken by the migrant groups who have come to Australia since the 1940s) - as a way of ensuring the project includes a diverse range of Australian life histories. We hope to plan and conduct these interviews in 2013. We would prefer to do these interviews using a bilingual interviewer, rather than working through a translator. We believe that the type of life history interview we are doing for this project requires an experienced oral history interviewer (not someone who needs to learn how to conduct an interview) though we do provide project-specific training for our interviewers.

We are struggling to find experienced oral historians who are bilingual - and so have decided to look for interviewers who fit that bill and then make a decision about the migrant group or groups we will focus on depending on the interviewers that are available. I would be very grateful if any OHAA member who has interviewing experience, and who would feel confident conducting an interview in another language, would contact me to express an interest about interviewing for our project.

Al Thomson

Project Leader, Australian Generations Oral History

Project: <http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/australian-generations/>

Email alistair.thomson@monash.edu

OHAA AGM 17 November 2012

Oral History Association of Australia-Queensland Inc. held its Annual General Meeting on 17 November at the State Library of Queensland and was attended by 17 people. I am very proud to announce our outgoing President, Ariella Van Luyn last week received her PhD. This is her report for the last year, which she presented at the meeting:

President's Report 2011/2012



Dr Ariella Van Luyn

This year, the Queensland branch's activities have focused on promoting best practice in oral history in regional areas in Queensland, while still maintaining training to the Brisbane community. In the second year of my presidency, I have been so pleased to work with a dedicated group of committee members, to hear about and support the oral history projects of our members across Queensland, and to have had the opportunity to visit new places in the state. I very much look forward to staying on the committee next year as workshop officer, and to seeing the exciting changes that will take place. I welcome Catherine Cottle in her role as President, and Sandy Liddle in her nomination as Treasurer. I thank these new as well as the current committee members for their

commitment to the Association, and offer my support to them in their work with the OHAA Qld.

Members and committee members

This year, we welcomed 16 new members to our branch, making the branch 110 members strong. I have met quite a few members at workshops, through e-mail or via hearing about their projects on the blog or in the newsletter. I hope to continue these relationships and forge new ones; I welcome all members to workshops and to share their question and/or oral history projects via e-mail or on our blog.

Our committee members have continued in their dedicated work. Suzanne Mulligan, our Secretary, has again kept timely and accurate minutes; put together our newsletter; maintained the website's blog and frequently asked questions page with contributions, the latest oral history projects, and issues in the field; kept track of our members, and fielded questions and correspondence. Suzanne has also managed the logistics of our workshops with care and attention to detail. Under Suzanne, our blog continues to grow, and I encourage members to pursue this part of our website. There's some great stuff on there!

Kate Roberts, our Treasurer, has again kept accurate and careful accounts and reports for us. This is Kate's final year as Treasurer, and I would like to thank her for her clear and easy-to-read reports, and the time and energy she has dedicated to her role. I wish Kate all the best.

Karen Barrett, our Webmaster, has ensured the website is online again. Both she and Suzanne organised the website update after it was hacked in July this year. The update means the site will be cleaner, with links to our Facebook and Twitter pages. I encourage members to 'friend' us on Facebook if they haven't already. I also got to know Karen better this year, working with her to organise a one-day oral history workshop at the Cobb and Co Museum in Toowoomba. I very much enjoyed working with Karen, and it was thanks to her that we had a packed venue on the day, and the events ran smoothly. Despite her illness, Karen came on the morning of the workshop to welcome visitors.

Lena Volkova, our Loans Officer, has taken up a new and exciting role working at Griffith University investigating drama and storytelling techniques to explore narratives of soldiers. Lena has organised the purchasing of new equipment this year, and we look forward to putting up an instructional video on this equipment on YouTube in the near future.

Marsali Mackinnon has kept us regularly updated with news from the Australian Generations project, run by leading oral historian Al Thomson. Marsali has also organised promotional material for the OHAA Qld, most particularly sending out a media report that led to interviews with two radio stations in Northern Queensland. In these interviews, I invited Queenslanders to contact the OHAA Qld if they were interested in oral history workshops in their area.

Catherine Cottle this year has taken up a position as Digital Collections Curator, Queensland Memory, at the State Library of Queensland, and we have been very lucky to have her unique perspective on trends in capturing and preserving oral histories. Catherine also helped organise the venue for Sarah Gudgin's presentation. On 11 April 2012, Sarah Gudgin, who worked on oral history projects at the Museum of London, shared valuable insights into her experiences and new practices in oral history. I am very pleased to have Catherine on board as President next year and look forward to the new directions Catherine can take our branch.

I would also like to congratulate Helen Klæbe for her work as the 2012 Queensland Smithsonian Fellow, and look forward to hearing the outcomes from this project investigating methods for evaluating arts and community projects.

This year has also been a big year for me. I have successfully completed my practice-led PhD investigating how fiction writers and oral historians can enter a dialogue. The novel emerging from the project, a work of historical fiction set in Brisbane and based on oral histories, was shortlisted for the Queensland Literary Awards, Unpublished Manuscript category. This year I have spoken on four different radio stations, including ABC North Queensland and ABC Tropical, promoting workshops and the work of the Association. I have also published a peer-reviewed paper in this year's issue of the *Oral History Association of Australia Journal*, and maintained my role as Chair of the Editorial Board of the journal. I encourage you to read the journal, which should be delivered to all members in the mail shortly as part of your membership fees, if you haven't received it already.

Gambling Community Benefit Fund Grant

This year, we also acquitted a \$6200 Gambling Community Benefit Fund (GCBF) grant. The GCBF grant covered the costs of the facilitators' fees for workshops that involve the use of the sound and video recording equipment that was purchased in 2008 from the grant of the Gambling Community Benefit Fund and has been successfully used since then by the members of our Association for their communities' oral history projects.

Our application for the grant was prompted by one of our members, Cardwell & District Historical Society, requesting that we urgently provide oral history training following Cyclone Yasi. We responded to that request and used our own OHAA-Qld funds. We had recognised the need for other regional workshops but needed a grant to fulfil that need. The value of our regional training program can be measured by the fact that Cardwell & District Historical Society recently won the 2012 John Oxley Library Community History Award for collecting oral histories from the town's inhabitants in the aftermath of Cyclone Yasi.

We successfully ran oral history workshops in:

- Toowoomba, in conjunction with the Cultural Heritage Network, Toowoomba region, on 4 February 2012,
- Townsville, in conjunction with Townsville Library, on 19 and 20 May 2012, and
- Mackay, in conjunction with Mackay Library, on 7 and 8 July 2012.

Unfortunately, due to staffing issues, we were unable to run a workshop in conjunction with the Cunnamulla Library. The communities paid for facilitators' flights/petrol and accommodation, as well as organising venues and catering at the workshops.

In addition, the grant paid for Bryan Crawford to produce an online tutorial video on using the Oral History Association Equipment that is available for loan to members. The tutorial will allow rural communities to reinforce their training.

The workshops in Mackay, Townsville and Toowoomba produced the following outcomes:

18 attendees at the Toowoomba workshop, 18 attendees at the Townsville workshop, and 8 at the Mackay workshop, ranging from library staff members, museum staff and volunteers, members of historical associations, family historians and community historians.

44 new oral historians from rural areas were trained in understanding ethics, writing permission forms, conducting interviews, using equipment including digital recorders, stills and video cameras.

Townsville and Mackay both intend to start an Oral History Interest Group, based in the libraries.

The Townsville Oral History Group, consisting of community members trained as part of the program, met for the first time on 27 July 2012 to discuss their oral history project. Facilitator Ariella Van Luyn is copied into all the meeting minutes and provides advice during the discussions.

New networks of interested people formed in rural areas through sharing contact details gathered at the workshop.

OHAA-Qld provides on-going support for writing permission forms, grants, purchasing equipment and managing projects.

Sharing of resources, such as slides, example permission forms, between OHAA-Qld and communities, and between other interested community members who were unable to attend.

Three new OHAA-Qld members.

Capturing of practice interviews, images from the workshops, and details of participants' project, which were shared with OHAA-Qld members through the newsletter and website.

Feedback on workshops from participants that will help facilitators design future workshops.

Mackay has expressed interest in inviting Bryan and Ariella back to produce digital stories for their 'Digitising the Decades' project.

Online tutorial produced on using digital recorders to conduct oral history interviews at a quality suitable for preservation in local libraries and the State Library of Queensland.

Brisbane workshop

We also ran, and I facilitated, a one-day workshop in Brisbane, on 4 August 2012 held at the Toowong Library. This venue cost \$175.00 for the full day, with after hours access available. The venue was good for disabled access and had free parking. We had 14 participants attend the workshop. There was a strong interest in an equipment workshop in the future.

The future

Next year, I have arranged workshops in Warwick in mid-January, and a one day workshop at Moreton Bay. I look forward to facilitating these workshops next year.

Taking on the role of President has been a great challenge and opportunity for me. I am very pleased now to be inviting Catherine Cottle on board as our new President, and Sandy Liddle as our new Treasurer. I will be staying as a non-executive committee member and workshop officer.

I have worked with Catherine to put together a list of goals for the Association in 2013:

- Run two to three oral history workshops, at least one in a rural community,
- Maintain an active website,
- Promote the sharing of best practice and innovative approaches to oral history through the invitation of guest speakers and in workshop content,
- Facilitate the collecting of oral history through providing recording equipment,
- Increase the Association's membership through promotion,
- Encourage members to participate in committee meetings,
- Engage with State Library of Queensland (SLQ),
- Facilitate engagement within communities and social media platforms.

These goals are created with the understanding that committee members work in a voluntary capacity, and this brings a number of limitations to achievable goals. I feel that these intentions will ensure that the Association can deliver high quality services to our community, while working around the lifestyle and commitments of our valuable committee members. I look forward to working with you all in the future.



The new OHAA-Qld Committee

Standing – Catherine Cottle (President); Ariella Van Luyn (Training Coordinator), Karen Barrett (Webmaster), Lena Volkova (Loans Officer);
Sitting – Sandy Liddle (Treasurer), Suzanne Mulligan (Secretary and Newsletter Editor)

Blog Entries

Our website will very soon be upgraded after it was hacked a few months ago. In the meantime we are not able to make any updates until the transition is complete. Therefore, I have not been updating the Blog. The entries below would have been put on the Blog (and will be added later), but I thought you might like to see these entries now.

School desegregation (USA)

Paula Smith learned that the school desegregation oral history project is collaboration between Old Dominion University, which is hosting the project; Virginia NAACP; AARP; the Urban League of Hampton Roads Inc.; DOVE (Desegregation of Virginia Education) and several other agencies and colleges, all working to collect local oral histories and artefacts from that time. She arranged to meet with Sonia Yaco, the special collections librarian and university archivist at Old Dominion University, in Lynchburg to tell her story. Smith said she arrived at the travelling exhibit/oral collection site only to be greeted by ... herself, in a huge poster. For full story click here. <http://www2.godanriver.com/news/2012/oct/28/poster-child-traveling-exhibit-danville-ar-2314776/>

Veterans' stories (USA)

The oral history collection started in the 1990s when local writer and World War II Wilmington Home Front Heritage Coalition chairman Wilbur Jones approached the library to suggest preserving oral histories of veterans, Parnell says. The local Veterans of Foreign Wars arranged for interview subjects, while the library arranged for staff and students to record the interviews and provided space, a camera, VHS tapes, transcripts and a website. I know how important it is to record the history of these men and women before they die, Jones says. For full story click here. <http://www.wrightsvillebeachmagazine.com/article.asp?aid=871&iid=109&sud=27>

Czech's memories of World War II

Czech and Slovak Americans remember food shortages, forced labor and the horrors of concentration camps as part of their homeland experience during World War II. Oral histories recorded as a project for the National Czech & Slovak Museum & Library will shine a spotlight on that history during a special Veteran's Day event from 2 to 4 p.m. on Nov. 11. Since 2009, the museum's oral history project has captured the stories of Czechs and Slovaks who fled their homeland during the Cold War. Now, they're going back further into history and turning their focus to World War II. For full story click here. <http://thegazette.com/2012/11/02/museums-oral-history-project-captures-czechs-memories-of-world-war-ii/>

Vietnamese refugees' journeys (USA)

There are 300 stories being collected by the University of California, Irvine in an effort to create a digitized history of the Vietnamese-American experience and bridge the generation gap between refugees and their American-born children who are helping conduct the interviews, said Thuy Vo Dang, the project's director. For full story click here. http://www.washingtonpost.com/national/oral-history-project-records-vietnamese-refugees-journeys-before-they-are-lost-to-time/2012/10/28/26ac09be-2138-11e2-92f8-7f9c4daf276a_story.html

New library for Docklands, Melbourne

According to Mr Ian Hicks, the Docklands Library and Community Centre will be a place for people to learn, participate and connect in a physical and a digital environment. The facility will combine traditional elements of a library with modern technology and a range of community resources. Mr Hicks said the Docklands Library and Community Centre would be focused on bringing the community together. For full story click here. http://www.docklandsnews.com.au/editions/article/inside-docklands-library_8123/

Retirement Village collects videos

When friends gather over a meal at Carleton-Willard Village, telling “war stories” isn’t just a figure of speech. A look around the table reflects a range of roles during World War II. One repaired battleships. Another flew for the Royal Air Force. Here sits a former Red Cross nurse; there a younger sister who saw her elder brother for the last time as he departed in uniform. The residents of this Bedford continuing care community, now in their 80s and 90s, were young men and women in the days of the war — yet memories of their experiences are as sharp as they were seven decades ago. For full story, including video links, click here. <http://www.boston.com/news/local/massachusetts/2012/11/11/neighbors-bedford-retirement-community-film-oral-history-project-world-war/esYGhARoaZ0xZewFluUiVN/story.html>

Hurricane Sandy interviews

When Hurricane Sandy came ashore, it fell to the city’s leaders and the thousands of workers at their command to secure our coasts, to rescue those trapped by water and without power, to help the city rebuild. The Observer spent Monday and Tuesday talking with New York’s top public officials about Hurricane Sandy. These are their experiences in their own words. For full story click here. <http://observer.com/2012/11/the-committee-to-save-new-york-an-oral-history-of-hurricane-sandy/>

Report on Oral History Association Conference (USA)

A month ago, the Oral History Association hosted their 2012 annual conference, “Sing It Out, Shout It Out, Say It Out Loud: Giving Voice through Oral History” in Cleveland, Ohio. Through papers, performances, exhibits and roundtables, conference attendees examined “the ways many people express themselves within oral histories, and also the ways in which people craft existing oral histories into other means of expression.” Unsurprisingly, one topic that came up in both formal presentations and casual conversation was the field’s use of the latest tech. Below are two reports from conference by Jeff Corrigan and Melanie Morse that speak to technology’s increasingly importance to the collection and dissemination of oral history research (including QR Codes). For full story click here. <http://blog.oup.com/2012/11/research-tech-oral-history-association-2012-conference-recap/>

The following websites have been added to our Delicious site:

The Sophia Smith Collection

The Sophia Smith Collection at Smith College located in Northampton, Massachusetts, USA is an internationally recognized repository of manuscripts, archives, photographs, periodicals and other primary sources in women's history. It was founded in 1942 to be the library's distinctive contribution to the college's mission of educating women. See <http://www.smith.edu/libraries/libs/ssc/oralhist.html>

2012 WebWise Conference

A signature initiative of the Institute of Museum and Library Services, the WebWise Conference annually brings together representatives of museums, libraries, archives, systems science, education, and other fields to explore the many opportunities made possible by digital technologies. See particularly, Pre-Conference "StoryCorps: Every Voice Matters" Dave Isay, President and Founder, StoryCorps and Day Two “Digital Voices: Creating and Preserving Oral History Collections” Chair: Bob Horton, Institute of Museum and Library Services. Panelists: Doug Boyd, University of Kentucky Libraries; Eileen McAdam, Sound and Story Project; Dean Rehberger, Matrix, Michigan State University; Robert Warren, Illinois State Museum. See <http://www.tvworldwide.com/events/webwise/120229/default.cfm>

**What we remember from childhood we remember forever - permanent ghosts,
stamped, inked, imprinted, eternally seen. ~Cynthia Ozick**