

Kenmore Workshop – 1 June 2013
Suzanne Mulligan



Helen Klaebe facilitating
 [Photo S. Mulligan]

On Saturday 1 June OHAA-Qld held an oral history basics workshop at the Kenmore Library facilitated by Helen Klaebe and Bryan Crawford. Helen showed the participants a comprehensive overview of an oral history project including funding, ethics, copyright, organising interviews and what to do with the oral histories after they've been recorded.

After lunch Bryan Crawford provided information on photography and recording equipment. The participants were divided into three groups and shown by group leaders

Lena Volkova, Annie McAvaney and Bryan Crawford how to use the equipment. They then helped the participants use the equipment to interview each other. Each group was given a topic – first concert, wedding, and school lunches. These interviews were later played back for everyone to hear and Helen provided feedback. This was a very interesting and entertaining part of the day as we listened to some great stories.

As with all our workshops we had an interesting and diverse range of participants. Margaret Ridley and Jenny Davis intend to interview former Brisbane Girls' Grammar students. Margaret Curnow and Nicky Bricknell will be doing a similar project with St Peter's College. Warren Smith from The Green Mountains Natural History Association is working on collecting oral histories for the upcoming centenary of Lamington National Park in 2015. Jackie Chamberlin from Mater Archives and Heritage Centre is collecting oral histories from the Sisters of Mercy. Mary Slivka is a member of the Combined Unions Choir and would like to do some work with the



Bryan Crawford facilitating
 [Photo S. Mulligan]

people involved in the recent history of the Port of Brisbane. She plans to turn the interview stories into songs to be sung by the choir. Lynn-Marie Lewis is a teacher and wants to record the personal histories of her parents. Lois Kennedy is the Secretary of the New Farm & District Historical Society which is trying to collect stories from the remaining original residents who came to New Farm early on. Jennifer Allan has her own business Environmental Interpretation Services. She discovered oral history when she edited a book based on the recordings of 70 Franklin River blockade activists.



Participants use recording equipment [Photo B. Crawford]

Jennifer King is doing her Masters of Journalism at QUT with her major project being news obituaries. She has travelled to New York and London to visit their main newspaper offices to learn more about doing obituaries well. Justin Powell is from the Australian Army History Unit at the Victoria Barracks Museum where they are collecting stories from former Defence personnel. Jose Rodrigues is doing his PhD at QUT studying how dance teachers became experts. Kay Lane collects recordings for the Sisters of Mercy Archives and wanted to learn more about oral history. It is good to hear about so many projects happening in our community.



Standing – Helen Klaebe, Jose Rodrigues, Kay Lane, Warren Smith, Jenny Davis, Lynn-Marie Lewis, Margaret Curnow, Bryan Crawford, Lois Kennedy, Jennifer King, Justin Powell
Sitting – Suzanne Mulligan, Jackie Chamberlin, Margaret Ridley, Mary Slivka, Jennifer Allan, Nicky Bricknell
[Photo B. Crawford]

We received some very positive feedback about the workshop saying the venue was excellent and the presenters covered a huge range within the topic providing a sound base for participants to identify areas that need lots of follow up work. They enjoyed having the group tutor and found the hands-on work with recording equipment particularly valuable. Helen's anecdotes and stories were relevant to their situation and she was an interesting, very informative and helpful presenter. Bryan's advice about photography and recording equipment was greatly appreciated. OHAA-Qld is pleased to support this keen group of participants as they embark on their projects.