



e-Bulletin

30 June 2020

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Hello Oral History Queensland members. Here is your sixth e-Bulletin for 2020. I hope you are coping well with the restrictions during this pandemic. It is pleasing to see some parts of our lives are returning to “normal”. Other than fairly new members, you will be receiving your renewal invoice very soon if you haven’t received it already. We look forward to receiving your payment very soon. When paying, please put your name as your reference or complete the [Membership Form](#).

If you have information to share in our e-Bulletin please email me at mulligan53@inet.net.au and use OHQ E-Bulletin in the subject line. If you have an event coming up, let me know as soon as you can to ensure it gets in the e-Bulletin in time. The editor reserves the right not to publish if any information is judged to be inappropriate. Please visit our web site: www.ohq.org.au and “**Like**” our Facebook page. We try to put some interesting information related to oral history on our Facebook page as well as on our Blog, particularly a lot of posts related to COVID-19. Feel free to add a comment. **All** feedback is very welcome.

Suzanne Mulligan

1. Welcome to New Members

Oral History Queensland is pleased to welcome the following new members:

Imogen Smith
Carmen Burton
Bruce Reimers
Bernadette McKinlay

2. State Library of Queensland – Social Media

Following a presentation by Anne Scheu and Myles Sinnamon on the benefits of social media, the following links enable you to access more detailed information about Social Media and the way it is used. This [list of URLs](#) referred to in Anne’s presentation encourages you to explore further.

3. A New Zealand COVID-19 Project

While the Upper Hutt & Covid-19 Archives Project is still ongoing, the photographic and oral history material gathered so far has been uploaded to a special section of the Library's local history website. This can be viewed [here](#).

Reid Perkins,
Community Heritage Coordinator

4. Lockdown 2020 in New Zealand

Oral History Advisor Lynette Shum says:

"First for me during this time was a blog – or more precisely, contributing to a colleague's blog about Covid-19 collecting, with recommendations for those interviewing during the crisis, particularly those who have not done any oral history before: <https://natlib.govt.nz/blog/posts/lockdown-2020-your-history-your-voices>. (Scroll down to see Lynette discuss oral history). I've been working on a couple of instructional videos that will appear on the National Library's YouTube Channel. Email if you'd like a copy of the *Using the Zoom H5 for oral history* video in the meantime."

5. 1918 Flu Pandemic

New Zealand Oral Historian Sue Berman says:

"You can tune into a presentation I gave on the [1918 Flu Pandemic](#) on our Podcast offer for how previous collections have come to be useful. Ironically I had a terrible cold that day – barely had a voice!"

6. Monto Project

The Monto community would like some assistance through community education and workshops to archive and utilise their collection. We aim for the collection to be presented in exhibition/art form, along with sound trails throughout the town and generally be more accessible to the community. If any OHQ members are interested in designing and leading such a project in collaboration with the arts and heritage sector in Monto, please contact info@ohq.org.au before 10 July 2020 so we can put you in touch for further conversations.

7. The Unimaginable Journey of Peter Ertel

Eight years ago, Joe Cahn set out to film an interview with a 95-year-old man who, he was told, had a very interesting personal history. His goal at the time was to capture his story for archiving in the Veterans History Project. The result of over 20 hours of interviews instead became "The Unimaginable Journey of Peter Ertel", an award-winning documentary about the extraordinary odyssey of a reluctant German soldier during World War II who defied overwhelming odds against his survival and became a U.S. Government agent. See website here - <https://www.peterertelfilm.com/>

8. Irish COVID-19 Project

Dublin City University has today launched the Irish COVID-19 Oral History Project. It focuses on orally archiving the Irish lived experience of the COVID-19 pandemic, for historical purposes. Led by Caitriona Ni Cassaithe and Professor Theo Lynn, the project will curate a collection of oral histories, detailing the Irish experience of the COVID-19 pandemic and how Irish communities are living through it, both at home and abroad. The findings are intended to be used by historians, researchers and policymakers in years to come to inform responses to future pandemics. It was inspired by work being undertaken by Prof Jason Kelly (IUPUI) on the US-based [COVID-19 Oral History Project](#), a partner project of [A Journal of the Plague Year](#), and efforts are being coordinated with the IUPUI project. For more on this story click [here](#).

9. Weaving It All Together

Redland Art Gallery (RAG) Capalaba is now open. Visitors can enter the gallery via the Capalaba Library. During the closure gallery staff moved half the RAG collection to a new climate-controlled storage facility. Watch the [behind the scenes footage](#) or access the film [Weaving it all Together](#), a story of generations of Quandamooka women and extended families on Minjerribah participating in Gathering Strands weaving workshops.

Anne Scheu, State Library of Queensland

10. Fellows and projects announced

The recipients of this year's Queensland Memory Awards were announced in a live-streamed event on 9 June, 2020. If you missed the event, [watch the recorded presentation](#) and meet the recipients and learn more about their projects to be researched over the next twelve months. This year former John Oxley Librarian Dianne Byrne was awarded the State Library of Queensland Medal for her contribution to State Library and the collections of the John Oxley Library.

Chrissi Theodosiou, State Library of Queensland

11. Member Profile – Pat Ryan

Here's another profile of an interesting OHQ member. Pat Ryan has been a member for many years. Read about her in our Blog [here](#).

12. National Archives Review

The National Archives is currently reviewing its selection principles for retaining archival material, and you are invited to submit your own suggestions. Please see [here](#) for more information.

13. An Introduction to Oral History – Scott McKinnon

On Saturday morning 27 June I attended Scott's seminar via Zoom: An Introduction to Oral History – Key Principles Everyone Should Know. This was a great way for any newbie oral historian to learn and understand the practicalities of doing oral history, right in your own lounge-room (or wherever you were). Scott first unpacked the definition of "oral history" then talked about "Memory" and how we all remember differently. He talked about the things people tend to remember such as people, places, and events. They struggle to remember dates, lists or statistics. Scott then told us how to plan our oral history project/projects. This was an excellent presentation which I would recommend to any aspiring oral historian and I look forward to seeing more of these on-line seminars. Here are Scott's recent published works:

McKinnon, S. and Cook, M. 2020. Five days of swirling fury: Emotion and memory in newspaper anniversary reports of the 1974 Queensland floods. *Emotion, Space and Society*, 35. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S1755458620300323>

McKinnon, S. 2019. Remembering and forgetting 1974: The 2011 Brisbane floods and memories of an earlier disaster. *Geographical Research*, 57(2): 204-214. <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1111/1745-5871.12335>
Suzanne Mulligan

"Our memory is a more perfect world than the universe: it gives back life to those who no longer exist." — Guy de Maupassant