



e-Bulletin

31 March 2020

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Hello Oral History Queensland members. Here is your third e-Bulletin for 2020 and hasn't the world changed since our last e-Bulletin! I hope you and your families are all well and free of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and continue to be so.

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. Feel free to add a comment. All feedback is very welcome.

Suzanne Mulligan

1. A River with a City Problem: A History of Brisbane floods

OHQ member, historian and author Margaret Cook has written a book about the flooding in the Brisbane River catchment. She still remembers the smell of the 1974 Brisbane floods. Her book looks at the politics surrounding these events, how residents were sold the narrative that Wivenhoe and Somerset Dams would protect their homes. For the full story which was published in Contact magazine click [here](#).

2. Memories and Places

“We all know our memories get worse as time goes on – your recollection of what you did yesterday is probably a lot better than for the same day three years ago. And yet we often have moments where old and seemingly forgotten memories pop back into mind. Perhaps you have visited your childhood home, walked into your old bedroom, and been hit with a wave of nostalgia. What triggers this rush of memories, and how can you suddenly remember things you may not have thought about for decades?” Read more [here](#).

3. Message from Royal Historical Society of Queensland

OHQ is a member of RHSQ. Here is a message from President Stephen W. Sheaffe:

“The COVID -19 pandemic is having a significant impact on the activities of the Society. The Commissariat Store is continuing to remain open at the moment but the position may be reviewed in due course. The position with regards to this issue is changing daily. To help protect our staff, and our mature aged guides and volunteers all school visits have been cancelled. We have also made the decision to either cancel or postpone future events.

1. The monthly lectures held on the Wednesday for the months of April, May and June 2020 have been cancelled. The planned lectures after June will be reviewed in due course.
2. The Cook Conference to be held on 23 May 2020 at the State Library has been cancelled.
3. The Cook Conference to be held on 29 May 2020 at Agnes Water has been cancelled.
4. The Queensland Day Dinner to be held at the Brisbane Club on 6 June 2020 has been postponed. The postponed date is still to be decided.

Please note:

If you have just arrived from overseas or have come in close contact with a person infected with Covid-19 you should self-isolate for 14 days. If you experience symptoms of fever, a cough, sore throat, fatigue and shortness of breath, please seek medical advice! Also practise safe distancing procedures and if you have the above symptoms or have been tested positive for COVID-19 you will be refused entry to the Commissariat Store. I thank you very much for your support with regards to this issue.

www.queenslandhistory.org

4. Singapore Conference Deferred

“In accordance with the WHO declaration of the virus as a world-wide pandemic, after much review and council discussion, the International Oral History Association is forced to postpone our Biennial Conference scheduled for 22-26 June 2020 in Singapore to 2021. This is in accordance with our Constitution which allows the Conference to be held every two to three years. It is now proposed to reassess the situation over the next months to determine when the Conference may be rescheduled safely.” For more, click [here](#).

5. The Power of Podcasting for Storytelling

Podcasting has become an increasingly popular way to tell stories, the number of podcasts grows each year. On this course you will explore exactly what a podcast is and why it’s so powerful for storytelling. You’ll develop your own plan for a podcast, produce a script, and finally investigate different platforms for publishing your brand new podcast. This free online course starts 20 April 2020. Tutors include Siobhan McHugh. Find out more [here](#).

6. NLA Applications for Grants and Fellowships

Applications are now open for the National Library's 2020 Community Heritage Grants (CHG) program and its 2021 fellowships program. For more information click [here](#).

7. Remembering Migration

Edited by Kate Darian-Smith and Paula Hamilton, *Remembering Migration – Oral Histories and Heritage in Australia* provides the first comprehensive study of diverse migrant memories and what they mean for Australia in the twenty-first century. Drawing on rich case studies, it captures the changing political and cultural dimensions of migration memories as they are negotiated and commemorated by individuals, communities and the nation. Find out more [here](#).

8. History Queensland Postpones AGM

OHQ is a member of History Queensland. Here is a notice from Hon. Secretary Valerie Thornton:

Unfortunately, History Queensland has to postpone the Annual General Meeting and 6-monthly Members' General Meeting at Queensland State Archives on Saturday 9 May 2020 due to COVID-19. Under our Constitution we should hold the AGM by 30 September, but in these uncertain times, we cannot set a date just yet. All members will be updated on the situation mid-August. Please also regularly check for updates on our website: <http://www.historyqueensland.org.au/> I also remind members that membership subscriptions fall due on 31 March 2020. If you have not already done so, please arrange your renewal. If you need a renewal form and payment details, email: secretary@historyqueensland.org.au

9. Face to Face Interviewing to be Postponed

OHA recommends that all face to face oral history interviewing be postponed until further notice. There are many remote means of interviewing people (such as Zoom, Webex and Skype) but they are not a substitute for face to face interviews, are often poor audio quality, and tend to result in digital files that cannot be archived. If interviews can be postponed, then OHA thinks this is the best course of action to maintain best practice. For information click [here](#).

10. 1918/19 Flu Pandemic

"The worst pandemic in recent history, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention was the 1918 so-called "Spanish flu" pandemic, caused by a virus "with genes of avian origin." This was caused by a different virus than COVID-19 – coronavirus, according to Johns Hopkins Medicine, hopkinsmedicine.org. Spanish flu hit America in the spring of 1918 and wasn't finished with us until the summer of 1919." For full story click [here](#). Here's a [link](#) to the transcript of an oral history done with a nurse who worked during the pandemic.

11. Online Oral History Training

Oral History Queensland has some online oral history training Links on our website. Also includes the video of member Pam Willis-Burden on our home page, www.ohq.org.au . If you have a link that you'd like to share, please email me at mulligan53@inet.net.au .

Unfortunately, due to the virus, OHQ is suspending oral history workshops that we expected to bring you this year.

“People don’t always remember events or conversations clearly, but they do remember with great accuracy how an experience made them feel.” *Maybe you should talk to someone* by Lori Gottlieb