



# e-Bulletin

**31 May 2020**

1. Corona Diaries
2. Dear Australia
3. Member Profile – Elena (Léna) Volkova
4. The Battle of Coral Balmoral
5. Cooking the Past
6. Investigating the Australian Lebanese story
7. Impact of COVID-19
8. Funding Opportunities
9. Online Content from Museum and Galleries
10. The National Library of Australia
11. Recording Oral History during the Coronavirus
12. Amplifying the Voices of Queensland
13. Suzanne Mulligan Latest Project
14. COVID-19 Links on OHQ Website
15. Great for Teachers and Oral History

Hello Oral History Queensland members. Here is your fifth e-Bulletin for 2020 as we continue to deal with COVID-19 and the changes it's made to our lives. Australia has been relatively lucky that we are doing rather well. We all look forward to restrictions easing further so we can return almost to our "normal" lives. But our lives may never be the same as it used to be. Stay safe!

If you have information to share in our e-Bulletin please email me at [mulligan53@inet.net.au](mailto: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](http://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. Corona Diaries**

"Members of the 2019 Nieman group have launched a platform for audio stories from around the world about how people are coping with the coronavirus pandemic. Few people's lives are untouched by the coronavirus pandemic and, as the world continues to grapple with the health, social, and financial implications of the crisis, everyone has a story to tell about these unprecedented times." Read full story [here](#) and follow the link to the website to tell your own story, or go straight to the website [here](#).

## **2. Dear Australia**

"At Australia Post, we think it's important that we mark this moment in our nation's history. So we've created a national letterbox where, from now until 18 August, you can write a letter to share your experience of the COVID-19 pandemic. We're working with the National

Archives of Australia, where eligible [Dear Australia letters](#) will be kept for future generations. This will enable all Australians to record their impressions of this remarkable time.”

### **3. Member Profile – Elena (Léna) Volkova**

Members of Oral History Queensland are a diverse bunch so we plan to have a series of “member profiles” so we can get to know each other. Our first is Léna Volkova, a past President of OHQ. Read about her on our Blog [here](#).

### **4. The Battle of Coral Balmoral**

OHQ member Leonie Jones has created an interactive documentary from 150 oral history interviews conducted with Vietnam veterans who experienced the 26 days of the Battle of Coral Balmoral. Leonie’s PhD thesis ‘The Greatness and the Smallness of their Story’ : Developing an Oral History Interactive Documentary Creative Practice telling the Battle of Coral Balmoral, Vietnam 1968. This war was contentious and unpopular causing our returned soldiers 50 years of silence. This interactive documentary raises their voices by exploring the battles through the voices of the soldiers who were there. See Leonie’s work [here](#).

Editor’s note: we would be pleased to hear from our members telling us all the innovative and inspirational ways you are doing oral histories. Tell us about your work at [info@ohq.org.au](mailto:info@ohq.org.au) and we can share with members in the e-Bulletin and the Projects page on our website.

### **5. Cooking the Past**

“COVID-19 has brought so many of us into a new sort of relationship--fraught or otherwise--with cooking and food. We are struck by the way the coronavirus brings us together as a global community even as it separates us into the smallest iteration of "family" units. At the same time, we have found ourselves cooking and looking to the past for comfort, models, and inspiration to move forward.” We ask oral and public historians, as well as storytellers throughout the world, to share a food memory and a recipe that reflects on this pandemic [here](#).

### **6. Investigating the Australian Lebanese story**

Queenslanders of Lebanese origin owe their presence to a family member who migrated to Australia in the nineteenth, twentieth or even the twenty-first century. The focus of their personal stories and experiences of settlement are now the subject of a new initiative developed by the Australian Lebanese Historical Society Inc. (ALHS). Students of Lebanese heritage from around Australia are invited to participate in this inaugural competition.

This is an activity that is very safe to do in our present Covid 19 pandemic situation. It can be done at home, within the family, using computer access to resources such as the ALHS website, the National Library of Australia website with its Trove section full of wonderful resources, as well as local and overseas online libraries and resource centres, and a very rich source - older family members who can be reached by phone, Skype, Zoom, FaceTime, WhatsApp and all the other safe means of communication.

Choices of entry include an Individual Research Essay or a Multi-media Presentation. The details can be read [online](#). Entries close Monday 10 August 2020. Please forward the links to everyone you know across Queensland so we get many entries.

*Antonia Simpson, Australian Lebanese Historical Society Inc.*

## **7. Impact of COVID-19**

For the upcoming 2020 issue of *Oral History Australia Journal*, we invite brief reports from oral historians on how coronavirus has affected your work. This may be 200 words on how plans have been disrupted or it may be 1000 words on a new project that has taken off because of the pandemic. Read more [here](#). Submissions are due **29 June 2020**.

## **8. Funding Opportunities**

Museums & Galleries Queensland has compiled a list of grant opportunities available for museums, galleries and other cultural organisations in Queensland [here](#).

## **9. Online Content from Museum and Galleries**

Thank you to those who joined the conversation, 'How are you connecting with your audience?' on 23 April. Some online programs and content these organisations have made available [here](#).

## **10. The National Library of Australia**

The National Library of Australia is tasked with the preservation of Australia's national story and is ensuring that the stories and experiences of Australians during the COVID-19 pandemic are preserved for the next generation, in a variety of formats. The Library plans to conduct oral histories with a group of diverse interviewees to capture the different perspectives and experiences they've had. Find out more [here](#).

## **11. Recording Oral History during the Coronavirus**

Ligonier Valley Historical Society in the USA has produced a short video on doing oral history during the pandemic. It is an example of some of the oral history work being done in that country. Not all of it will apply to us in Australia but it is interesting. You can watch it [here](#).

## **12. Amplifying the Voices of Queensland**

State Library of Queensland invites researchers and historians to join the Amplify community online. Amplify is a platform designed to help improve the quality of oral history transcriptions of digitised voices of Queensland. Discover the [sound collections](#) State Library has added to Amplify and while you are listening, improve the speech-to-text quality of the transcripts.

Gavin Bannerman, State Library of Queensland

### 13. Suzanne Mulligan Latest Project

I'm pleased to have completed my latest project, John Preece. He worked at the Tracking Station at Carnarvon during the first lunar landing in July 1969. I met him while on a driving holiday in Western Australia last year. We happened to be in Carnarvon on 20 July and learned there was to be a 50-year reunion of Tracking Station staff that evening. I saw John at the breakfast buffet, and we had a lengthy conversation. He lives in Perth and I arranged to interview him while we were in Perth at the end of that week. You can see his story on my website [here](#). Scroll down to the bottom of the list.

### 14. COVID-19 Links on OHQ Website

COVID-19 has had a huge impact on our lives, for some much more than others. It is an historic time in our lives and future generations will be learning about this era in their history classes. Technology has enabled us to provide a lot more information for our descendants. We have some website links on our [Links](#) page which can be used by Australians. If you know of other similar links please email us at [info@ohq.org.au](mailto:info@ohq.org.au) so we can add them to our page. There are a number of websites in other countries like USA and Britain which are examples of what is possible. These are featured on our [Facebook page](#).

### 15. Great Time for Teachers and Oral History

"The Museum of the City of New York's Frederick A.O. Schwarz Education team has been hard at work brainstorming how we can best serve teachers and students during the move to remote learning. This is the third in a series of Education posts on the MCNY Stories page highlighting how the Museum's resources—from digital collections, to lesson plans, to professional development opportunities—can help teachers and students navigate the waters of online learning during the COVID-19 pandemic." See full story [here](#).

*"Do you remember those days? Back porch, sunshine, mason jars" - she paused at remembered sweetness - "we were so foolish then...thinking there was a big ol' world out there to conquer." — Melissa Marr, Graveminder [from GoodReads quotes]*