



Giving Voice to the Past

ORAL HISTORY NETWORK NEWS

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Dear Member,

Welcome to our September edition of Network News for 2023.

I hope everyone was able to attend some of the excellent events held by the History Council of NSW for History Week 2023. It was a wonderful showcase of the creative, curious, and compelling work being done throughout the state by historians and historical societies. Hopefully next year there will be another great showing of oral history events!

We're always looking for member projects to feature in Network News, so if you're working on an oral history project and would like to let everyone know about it, reach out! We'd love to showcase your work to our supportive and friendly community of practitioners.

Lastly, whether you're a new member (welcome!) or have been with us over the years, we'd love to hear your feedback and suggestions via our short [Member Survey](#). We look forward to seeing you throughout the year.

*Alexandra Mountain
Editor, Network News*

Oral History NSW & Oral History Australia

Keynote speaker announced: Alessandro Portelli for the Oral History Australia Biennial Conference 2024

One of the world's leading authorities on oral history, Alessandro Portelli, will deliver a keynote address at the next Oral History Australia Biennial Conference to be held in Melbourne from 21 to 24 November 2024. The conference webpage with more information can be found [here](#).

Call for Presentations: Oral History Australia Biennial Conference 2024

The conference features the theme 'The Power of Oral History—Risks, Rewards & Responsibilities'. A Call for Presentations is now available and proposals can be submitted up to the deadline of 1 April 2024. See the full Call for Presentations [here](#).

Call for Papers: Studies in Oral History 2024

Contributions for the peer review and reports sections of the 2024 issue of the OHA's journal Studies in Oral History are now being accepted. The deadline for submission of peer review articles is 1 December 2023 and for reports it is 30 April 2024. The theme for the special issue, No. 46, is 'Working Lives and Workplaces'. We have two guest editors for this issue – Paul Sendziuk and Nicholas Herriot.

As the Reports Editor for the journal, I'd highly encourage anyone working on any oral history projects to consider submitting a Report for the journal. If you have any questions, feel free to get in contact.

See the full Call for Papers [here](#).

Register of Oral History Practitioners

Oral History NSW is compiling a register of members available for different aspects of oral history work – interviewers, transcriptionists, whatever your area of expertise! If you would like to be included on the register, visit our [website](#) and fill in the form.

Call for papers

Public Sport History and Community Sport Symposium

5 December 2023, Macquarie University, NSW

This symposium will explore intersections between Public Sport History and

Community Sport. It provides an opportunity for reflection on scholarship that these topics have generated in recent years, and for collaborative discussion about current projects and the state of the field today. We encourage reflective papers that interrogate processes, practices, representations or understandings of Public History in community sports-related research projects or community sports history in the public sphere.

Contributions will be selected for a Special Issue of an international sports history journal such as *The International Journal of the History of Sport*, depending on the mix of papers. Abstracts due: 6th October 2023. Please submit abstracts to: tanya.evans@mq.edu.au. To see the call for papers, click [here](#).

Call for Proposals: AI in OH Online Symposium

For this online symposium, the Oral History Association invites oral history practitioners and scholars from all disciplines who utilize oral history in their work to submit paper or roundtable proposals detailing any number of intersections between artificial intelligence and oral history.

Submit your proposals within the OHA Symposium Portal by January 1st, 2024. If you have any questions about the submission process, please reach out to AI in OH program co-chairs Steven Sielaff (steven_sielaff@baylor.edu) & Sarah Milligan (sarah.milligan@okstate.edu). The symposium webpage with more information can be found [here](#).

News & Events

Royal Australian Historical Society Day Lecture: The 'Girls' Who Made Australia Laugh

4 October 2023, 1-2pm online

Hundreds of Australian women graced the popular stage in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Despite the racism, sexism and other cruelties of vaudeville, it gave them space in which to live unusually public lives, and sometimes to test conventional ideas about how women should behave. Their stories speak to the treatment of women in earlier times. But they also show what is lost to our culture and our history when imported entertainments are permitted to overwhelm local artists and their work.

A former documentary filmmaker, television producer and chief executive of Film Australia, Sharon Connolly has been involved in making many landmark history programs since her first film, Red Matildas. See the event page [here](#).

Opportunity to view documentary on pioneering oral historian, Wendy Lowenstein

8 October 2023, 2-3.30pm online

The 25-minute documentary 'What Wendy found' was produced by her children Martie and Richard Lowenstein. They are currently fundraising with a view to turning the documentary into a feature film.

Wendy Lowenstein recorded interviews with over 800 everyday people from around Australia over a period of 40 years from 1965. Her interviewees told her of their struggles to obtain better working and living conditions. She not only recorded their stories but wrote about them in several books. The webinar will be presented by Friends of the National Film and Sound Archive. Viewing is free but you need to book at Trybooking [here](#).

Columbia University's Oral History Master of Arts Fall 2023 Workshop Series: Experiments in Oral History Methodology

Oral history as a research tool has been at times almost synonymous with a certain kind of interviewing: one-on-one, biographical, long-form, recorded, and intended for the archive.

In this series of events, OHMA will explore other approaches to doing oral history, from using scuba diving to record the stories of underwater landscapes to creating chatbots to elicit oral histories and using AI to make sense of how interviews work.

See the series webpage with event details [here](#).

Reading & Listening

Cook River Oral History Project

There is a long history of Aboriginal associations with the Cooks River catchment found from the archaeological past, and oral and documentary history from more recent times.

The Cooks River Catchment Aboriginal History Project was undertaken by

history and heritage firm MDCA on behalf of the Cooks River Alliance between May 2016 and May 2017. The project grew out of the Alliance's desire to know more about the Aboriginal history of the catchment. As part of the project, Asher Milgate recorded interviews with twelve Aboriginal people with a connection to the river, together with photographic portraits. To see the collection, see [here](#).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander viewers are warned that this web page contains the images and voices of deceased persons.

Ken (Kandy) Johnson Oral History Interview, Pride History Group

The Pride History Group has created a collection of over 100 oral history interviews focused on Sydney's LGBTIQ+ past. You can explore these interviews below as a guide to the collection and glimpse of our history.

Kandy was the drag persona of Ken Johnson. By the early 1960s, Kandy was performing in drag at parties. He transferred drag performances to stage shows at the Surf City Night Spot in Kings Cross and later to a venue he opened in Enmore, an inner western suburb, called Kandy's Garden of Eden aka Kandy's Coffee House. He became a partner in the Purple Onion in 1967, which became the place to go for the late night 1960s camp set, international celebrities visiting Sydney and Sydney's demimonde. Listen to his story [here](#).

New Issue of the Oral History Review available!

This Fall/Winter 2023 issue is devoted to the theme of "Disrupting Best Practices." The authors contributed articles that investigated ways we shake up our methodologies. You can see the articles and more [here](#).

Oral History Australia is now on Youtube!

To see their new channel go to OHA YouTube channel, available [here](#). Their first videos are from our 2022 Oral History Australia Biennial Conference which was held in Launceston, Tasmania from 14-16 October.

Studies in Oral History Journal

The latest issue of Studies in Oral History Issue 44 focuses on Migrant Voices: Community Collaboration and Telling Migration Histories. This issue was co-edited by our very own Oral History NSW President, Maria Savvidis! To view or download the full issue visit the OHA [website](#).

Conferences

Oral History Association Annual Meeting 2023

18-23 October, Baltimore, Maryland USA

Oral history is the oldest form of education. For its 2023 annual meeting, the Oral History Association seeks to convene a variety of shared experiences that return the field's consciousness to its most basic and practical roots of dialogical teaching and learning. The politics of education today are contentious, to say the least. Stories of educators being silenced have become alarmingly commonplace, and the pandemic has driven many teachers, especially secondary level, out of the classroom altogether. At the same time, however, educators have been proving their resilience and capacity for innovation. Likewise, as a field, oral history is undergoing a paradigm shift towards radical inclusivity. In this transitional moment, we hope to find new possibilities, generate new approaches, and recall and refurbish the fundamentally humanistic impulse of oral history as/and education.

The 2023 OHA meeting will provoke many generative discussions about the fundamental roles that oral history can play in educational processes, and the ways critical pedagogy can inform oral history practice. What can the spirit and methods of oral history contribute to modern-day educational endeavors, at all levels? How might a learner's life be changed by an assignment of oral history work in college, high school, middle school, elementary school, or even for adult learners outside the classroom? How do we honor and maximize the educational potential of the oral history encounter, for both participants and audience members? The call for proposals can be found [here](#).

Royal Australian Historical Society 2023 Conference

21-22 October 2023, Wagga RSL, NSW

The 2023 RAHS Conference theme is "The Way Ahead: Local and Community Histories for our Future." The conference participants consider the state of historical inquiry in Australia, and ponder how local and community historians and heritage societies can move forward. The conference webpage (detailing an entire session dedicated to oral history on the 22nd!) can be found [here](#).

Australian Society for the Study of Labour History 18th Biennial Conference

23-25 November 2023, Canberra ACT

(Re)Sources: Historical Inquiry and Labour History Archives will enable us to reflect on the significance of archives and libraries to the study of history. Archives and collections provide individuals and communities, authors and historians, and unions and universities the opportunity to reflect on their pasts, recover lost voices, contextualise established ones, and check the facts. The conference webpage can be found [here](#).

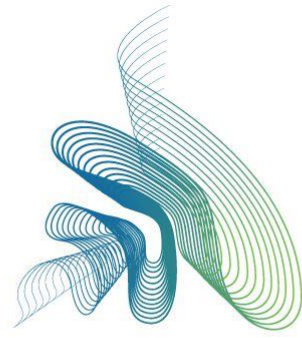
Network News is published by Oral History NSW for its members and subscribers in the wider community with an interest in oral history. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Oral History NSW, and information on services does not imply endorsement.

Do you have a contribution for the next edition? Letters, comments, news items, links to projects and sites using oral history and relevant resources for oral historians are welcome.

Forward copy to or contact the Editor: networknews@oralhistorynsw.org.au

What Membership of Oral History NSW gives you:

- Oral History Network News, our e-newsletter keeping you in touch with current topics and events of interest to oral historians
 - Discounts on oral history seminars and training workshops
 - Opportunities for informal exchange of ideas and experience
 - Awards and Grants – [find out more](#) about our awards & support for oral historians
 - Discount on the Biennial National Oral History Conference held around Australia
 - As an affiliated member of the **Royal Australian Historical Society NSW**, our members receive discounts to the [RAHS](#) Conference, workshops and seminars.
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ORAL HISTORY
— NSW —



Oral History NSW acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which we live and work. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and extend this respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

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ABN 73.605.987.834 Editor: Maria Savvidis networknews@oralhistorynsw.org.au

Our mailing address is: PO Box 261 Pennant Hills NSW

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