



*Giving Voice to the Past*

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# ORAL HISTORY NETWORK NEWS

**No. 137, February 2024**

ISSN 2206-866X <https://www.oralhistorynsw.org.au>

Dear Member,

Welcome to the first issue of Network News for 2024. We all hope that you had a lovely and restful end to 2023 and have entered 2024 vibrant and ready to start collecting oral histories!

As we start to plan our schedule of events for 2024, we would love to hear from our members regarding the courses they would like OHNSW to offer. We always take our members' needs into consideration, so please don't hesitate to contact us.

*Studies in Oral History*, the journal of Oral History Australia, is still asking for submissions for reports and reviews. Reports are due by April 30, 2024. I am the Reports Editor for *Studies in Oral History*, and I am eager to hear from anyone who is considering submitting a report on their oral history project. If you have any questions, please let me know.

In addition, 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

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## Oral History NSW & Oral History Australia

### Oral History Australia Presidential Report

The report of OHA President Alistair Thomson to the 2023 Annual General Meeting held online on 10 October is now available on the website [here](#).

### Oral History Australia's Technology Report Released

The findings from Oral History Australia's inaugural technology survey are now available, with a big thanks to all those who participated.

In response to the survey results, Oral History Australia will be developing a dedicated technology page on our website and considering what technology-based training programs they can provide. There is clearly a demand for information about how technology impacts oral history practice.

Read on for the key findings or download the report with additional charts [here](#).

### 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 Reports: Studies in Oral History 2024

Submissions are invited for the reports section of the 2024 issue of Studies in Oral History and are due April 30, 2024. Reports may describe oral history projects conducted by academic researchers, museum curators, heritage professionals, consulting historians, community historians and more. Projects may have resulted in public outcomes such as websites, exhibitions, podcasts, theses, articles or books.

Please note the reports section is not peer-reviewed; notes from the field, updates on exciting new work, or reflections on the process and/or outcomes of oral history projects are encouraged. Reports which relate to the issue theme of 'Working Lives and Workplaces' are welcome but not mandatory.

The theme for the special issue, No. 46, is 'Working Lives and Workplaces'.

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.

## Call for Reviews: Studies in Oral History 2024

Studies in Oral History Journal is seeking potential reviewers of the following books. Please get in touch with the Book Reviews Editor, Gwyn McClelland at [gmcclell@une.edu.au](mailto:gmcclell@une.edu.au) if you would like to be a reviewer. Also, feel free to suggest another title. Thank you.

- Peter Read, *The Life and Work of Ante Dabro, Australian-Croatian Sculptor*
- Lynn Abrams, *Feminist Lives: Women, Feelings, and the Self in Post-War Britain*
- Summer Cherland, *Student-centered oral history: an Ethical Guide*
- Eds: Carol Payne, Beth Greenhorn et al. *Atiquput: Inuit Oral History and Project Naming*
- Jennifer Bond, *Dreaming the New Woman: An oral history of missionary Schoolgirls in Republican China*
- William H Chafe, *Lifting the Chains: The Black Freedom Struggle Since Reconstruction*

## Register of Oral History Practitioners

Our register is now live! Please have a look at our list of practitioners [here](#), and we encourage you to join as well.

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## News & Events

### Panel: Telling National Stories, National Film and Sound Archive of Australia 2 March 2024, in person at the Arc Cinema, Canberra

How do we understand our collective history? Where are the lines drawn between truth and mythology? How do contemporary interpretations shape perceptions of the past? And what role does the artist play in presenting historical events for modern audiences?

Join us for a special panel conversation as part of our month-long Unreliable Histories series, in which we invite audiences to question the framing of history and cultural mythology. See more [here](#).

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## Reading & Listening

### Inner Latin American Oral History Project

This is an oral and visual history project that will rescue, record and distribute to broad audiences personal and social accounts of the peak of Latin American refugee and migrant flows in Australia, and of global solidarity activism in key locations of the Inner West, between the 1970s and 1990s.

Hear eight captivating stories about the peak of Latin American refugee and migrant flows,

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and of global solidarity activism at Sydney's Inner West between the 1970s and 1990s. Listen [here](#).

### **Becoming a Mother: An Australian History, by Carla Pascoe Leahy**

*Becoming a mother* charts the diverse and complex history of Australian mothering for the first time, exposing the ways it has been both connected to and distinct from parallel developments in other industrialised societies. In many respects, the historical context in which Australian women come to motherhood has changed dramatically since 1945. And yet examination of the memories of multiple maternal generations reveals surprising continuities in the emotions and experiences of first-time motherhood.

Drawing upon interdisciplinary insights from anthropology, history, psychology and sociology, Carla Pascoe Leahy unpacks this multifaceted rite of passage through more than 60 oral history interviews, demonstrating how maternal memories continue to influence motherhood today. Despite radical shifts in understandings of gender, care and subjectivity, becoming a mother remains one of the most personally and culturally significant moments in a woman's life.

### **Sue-Ellen Rosenberg 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.

Sue-Ellen Rosenberg grew up in Sydney's eastern suburbs. She grew into her lesbian sexuality as an adult. Venues such as Ruby Reds, the Exchange Hotel, the Playground and the Play Pit became her stomping ground during the 1980s. Sue-Ellen also won an award for her Mardi Gras artworks.

To listen to her story, go [here](#).

### **New Issue of Studies in Oral History!**

Issue 45, which is freely available online, features the same theme as last year's OHA Biennial Conference 'Oral History in Troubling Times: Opportunities and Challenges.' It was edited by joint editors Skye Krichauff and Carla Pascoe Leahy, with Reviews edited by Gwyn McClelland, and Reports edited by Alexandra Mountain. To access the full issue or download separate articles and sections, go [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](#).

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# Conferences

## **HEX Conference 2024 - Memory, Temporality and Experience**

**11-13 March 2024, Tampere University, Finland**

The new history of experience seeks to comprehend the complex, multidimensional relationships between history and experience. As a burgeoning field of study, it is self-reflective and dynamic, with scholars constantly refining their approaches, and indeed reassessing the notion of experience itself.

To develop the history of experience into a robust historical approach, scholars continually ask probing questions regarding sources, concepts, methods, and methodologies. In this vein, the organisers of the sixth annual HEX conference have chosen to interrogate the concepts of memory and temporality as modes of experience.

This thematic focus aims to encourage scholars to reflect on experience beyond its external traces, and to mine the more elusive spheres of the internal, the cognitive, and the unconscious. To learn more, go [here](#).

## **Australian Historical Association Conference 2024 - Home Truths**

**1- 4th July 2024, Flinders University, Adelaide**

The search for truth and the dispelling of lies sits at the heart of popular understandings of the task of the historian. Our discipline aims to bring enriched understandings of the past that assist in confronting contemporary challenges. In a world where denial and doubt are viable political strategies, the perhaps impossible demand for the discipline to provide simple and actionable truths remains urgent and insistent.

Whether at the centre of political debates or within the minutiae of grassroots community discussions, historians are seen as offering necessary complexity to the process of uncovering truth. Meanwhile, historians have their own complicated and contentious history with 'truth' and the possibility of a historically enriched way of knowing the present. To answer these questions and others, the 2024 Annual Conference of the Australian Historical Association will meet at Flinders University on Kaurana Country in Adelaide. Proposals are due February 23.

For more information on the conference, check out their website [here](#).

## **Oral History Association 2024 Annual Meeting - Bridging the Past, Present, and Future**

**30 October - 2 November 2024, Cincinnati, Ohio**

Inspired by past, present and future oral historians and oral history projects, the 2024 Oral History Association Annual Meeting looks to reflect not just on oral history work throughout its nearly 70 year history, but also to explore how that work has had an impact on the work we do today and how the work we do today will influence and benefit practitioners and communities of the future.

The deadline to submit proposals is February 23. To learn more, visit the conference

webpage [here](#).

## **New Zealand Oral History Conference**

**15-17 November 2024, Tāmaki Makaurau Auckland**

The National Oral History Association of New Zealand invites proposals for presentations for its 2024 biennial conference with the theme Kōrero Mai, Kōrero Atu: Working Together. Successful oral histories are built upon creative working relationships between interviewers and interviewees. The 2024 conference encourages discussion about 'working together' and the stories people tell, to whom, when, and why.

Two key themes will be explored. Kōrero mai, or 'speak to me', focuses on relationship building in oral history. It reflects upon questions of trust and reciprocity that underpin oral history work and how these relationships may shape the stories people tell.

To learn more about the conference and to submit your proposal by March 31, go [here](#).

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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.

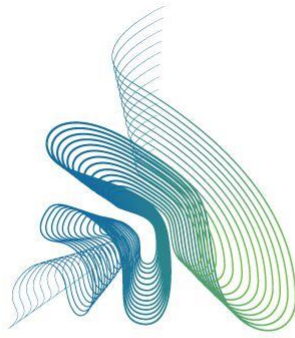
Do you have a contribution for the next edition? Letters, comments, news items, links to projects and sites using oral history and relevant resources for oral historians are welcome.

Forward copy to or contact the Editor: [networknews@oralhistorynsw.org.au](mailto:networknews@oralhistorynsw.org.au)

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### **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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