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# ORAL HISTORY NETWORK NEWS

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*Welcome to our August edition of Network News for 2023.*

*We had a wonderful time with Committee Member Andrew Host at his technical workshop, Mastering the Recording workshop on August 19. It was a full day packed with a lot of excellent conversations and discussions concerning best practices using oral history recording and editing equipment. This was my second time attending Andrew's course as Events Officer, and it was just as inspiring and educational as the first! Andrew is a patient and practical teacher, and it was great fun to get involved and edit some short oral histories. Thank you so much to our participants for being so engaged and thoughtful!*

*For those whose membership renews at the beginning of each financial year, renewal notices were sent by email on Tuesday, 20th June. Please check your email inboxes, and if you haven't received your renewal, please check your spam or junk folders.*

*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

### 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.

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## News & Events

### It's NSW History Council's History Week from September 2-10, with the theme "Voices from the Past."

This means a packed calendar filled to the brim with history events across the state. You can find out more about the week-long celebration of the study of history [here](#), but we have also curated a list of oral history events for your perusal below!

### Using the City of Sydney's Oral History Collection

#### 5 September 2023, Level 1, Ideas Space, Darling Square Library 1-2pm

The City of Sydney's history team has been conducting interviews since the 1980s as a part of a vigorous program of publication, research, websites and exhibitions. There's now a collection of over 500 oral histories. The Sydney Oral Histories website showcases some of the team's interviews and makes them readily available to the dedicated researcher and casual browser alike.

In this talk, City of Sydney historian Laila Ellmoos will talk about some of the highlights in the collection, as well as the different ways the public and other users are engaging with and using oral history testimony, including in radio programs, exhibitions and geo-locative apps. You can find out more [here](#).

### Muswellbrook Shire Reminiscence Oral History: In Person Oral Histories 6 September 2023, Muswellbrook Library 10am-3pm

Muswellbrook Library invites residents of the Muswellbrook Shire to share their

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stories of growing up within the area. What has changed? What was your favourite pastime? What has changed the most within the area? Each Interview will be included in the Muswellbrook Shire Library Oral History Collection. Bookings are essential for this event and you can register [here](#).

### **Inner Latin America: Oral Histories of global solidarity**

**7 September 2023, 6.30-7pm, Marrickville Pavilion**

Launch of Inner Latin America, an oral history project supported by the Inner West Council Community History grant. A history talk and audio-visual display will highlight a new collection of interviews with Latin American refugees and Australian solidarity activists at the Inner West Library Oral History holdings, timed with the 50-year commemoration of the 11 September 1973 Chilean coup d'état. You can find out more [here](#).

### **Stories in 'Voice' Past & Present - Newcastle & Hunter History Week Event**

**11 September 2023, 1-2.30pm online via zoom**

Join the Hunter Living Histories online showcase and Special Collections team at the University of Newcastle Library, where academics and community members from Newcastle and the Hunter Region will share how they are digitising oral history archives, creating podcasts and curating 'voices' in innovative ways – i.e. virtually. The University of Newcastle Library holds several oral history collections and offers specialist knowledge in how to conduct oral histories. The session includes short presentations from invited guests and general discussion, hosted as part of the University Library's monthly Hunter Living Histories showcase. Find out more [here](#).

### **Call for Oral Historian, Independent Project**

Sharon Millerchip is looking for an oral historian to interview her father-in-law Quentin Anthony. Quentin is currently on the list of potential interviewees for The Oral History and Indigenous Programme at the National Library, but as this waiting list is considerable she is interested in engaging an oral historian to conduct a series of interviews that the family would record and hold.

Quentin lives on the Central Coast of NSW and it would be ideal to find someone located close by, but she is willing to consider candidates from central Sydney.

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Sharon is seeking an interviewer with a distinct interest and expertise in the below fields, as Quentin has lived a marvelous breadth of experiences - from his wartime childhood, his 15 years as Patrol Officer in Tribal New Guinea in the 1950's, his 30 year career internationally and in Australia with ASIO and his later years as a veteran athlete and coach at the Aust Institute of Sport. Those interested are encouraged to contact Sharon at [sharon@sharonmillerchip.com](mailto:sharon@sharonmillerchip.com).

### **Call for Oral Historian, Canberra Mothercraft Society History Project**

The Canberra Mothercraft Society is looking for an oral historian to conduct a series of oral histories with current and prior staff, Board Members, and policy makers to understand and preserve the history of the society. Ideally, the candidate would have a background in Women's Studies/History/Community based NFPs and with a particular focus on women's needs and experience. For more information, please see the Call for Applications [here](#).

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## **Reading & Listening**

### **David Abello 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.

Listen to David's interview, where he speaks of growing up in Sydney's western suburbs, his early sexual encounters, his education and relationship with his family. David was heavily involved in the organisation of the First Mardi Gras in 1978 and recounts events from that first Mardi Gras year and subsequent years. David also talks about his involvement in community radio and the GayLib Choir, and the response to the HIV/AIDS crisis. You can find his reminiscences [here](#).

### **Opportunity to view documentary on pioneering oral historian, Wendy Lowenstein**

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

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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 on 8 October 2023 from 2-3.30pm (UTC+10). Viewing is free but you need to book at Trybooking [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 Savvdis! To view or download the full issue visit the OHA [website](#).

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## **Conferences**

### **Professional Historians Australia National Conference 2023**

#### **16-17 September 2023, Adelaide South Australia**

The theme of the conference will be Other Histories: Other Audiences. The aim is to showcase the diversity of work undertaken by professional historians and explore challenges confronting them as they work to contracts with clients and in areas beyond the academy: work frequently extends from the concept stage

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through to production in a variety of formats. To see the conference webpage, go [here](#).

### **Gender and Joy in History hybrid symposium**

**27-28 September, Australian Catholic University, Melbourne**

Sponsored by the ACU Gender and Women's History Research Centre, 'Gender and Joy in History' is a symposium aimed at counterposing the common scholarly focus on catastrophe and crisis of recent years. The hybrid symposium will be held at the Australian Catholic University Melbourne campus in Fitzroy over Wednesday 27 and Thursday 28 September 2023, with online and in-person attendance options available.

Keynote speakers are Dr Yves Rees, Lecturer in History at La Trobe, writer and podcaster, and Professor Katie Barclay, Head of Historical and Classical Studies and Director of the Fay Gale Centre in Gender Studies at the University of Adelaide. You must register by 11 September, and the link to do so can be found [here](#).

### **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

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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](#).

## **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](#).

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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
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- 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.



*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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