voice print

Newsletter

of the New South Wales Branch of the Oral History Association of Australia



means of finding the past by asking



Voiceprint is the newsletter of the NSW Branch of the Oral History Association of Australia and is published quarterly ISSN: 13224360

Issue No. 14 - November 1997

Oral History Association of Australia (NSW) Inc. c/- State Library of New South Wales, Macquarie Street, Sydney, NSW 2000 Tel (02) 9230 1697 • Fax (02) 9223 4086 **Editorial Committee:** Angela Wawn, Joyce Cribb, Katja Grynberg, Ruth Wilson

Please send articles and correspondence to: Angela Wawn, 97 Arthur Street, Surry Hills, NSW 2010

Layout and Design: Vanessa Block



Edítoríal

The National Conference of the Oral History Association of Australia was held this September in Alice Springs. Over two hundred of us gathered to hear about a multitude of projects that seek to bridge the divides that keep us alien from each other. What a shame that conferences, for the most part, only reach the converted.

The organisers of Crossing Borders, Beth Robertson and Francis Good deserve congratulations for a highly successful talk fest. During those four days in the heart of Australia, we were constantly astounded by the diversity and calibre of work that pushes back barriers.

We heard from educators, story tellers, anthropologists, archaeologists, jurists, historians, linguists, writers, broadcasters, documenters, architects, librarians, curators, artists, technicians and health workers! We also learnt of work being done by people who work in the field through personal concerns and passions.

And as we have said before, we were again amazed by the breadth of oral history's applications. Bi-cultural, cross-cultural and ethical implications were put under the microscope.Our assumptions were challenged. We discussed recent political debates and saw that historical evidence in the legal context, is a recurring issue.

The word 'ownership' took on added meaning. Ownership of land and Native Title, ownership of narratives and Demidenko, ownership of artworks and artefacts and Awards/Grants and Museums needed thinking about. Ownership of communal spaces whether inner city or outback, suburban or rural were considered too. Sitting on the front stoops of Woolloomooloo or under a tree by a water hole hold communal significance. We 'travelled' from the Federal Court to Kalumburu, from Hindmarsh to New Zealand, through cyber space, dry river beds and into class rooms. There were many border crossings – physical, intellectual and emotional. With the help of Oral History, let us hope that we can climb over the mountains and through the deserts, politically too.

In this issue, as well as further Conference Reports, you will find a review of international expert Joanna Bornat's lecture on Reminiscence, the final episode of Dad's story, Fee Guidelines and an Events Diary. We have also introduced a Noticeboard for subscribers' use. Non-members might find this a valuable place to advertise too. We hope you enjoy reading the magazine and remember, we love hearing from you too. Cheers!!

Katja Grynberg

Contents



| News: | |
|-------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Voiceprint for 1998 | 3 |
| New Members | 3 |
| Mailbag | 4 |
| REPORTS | |
| Visit of Joanna Bornat | 5 |
| Tenth Biennial Conference | |
| 'Picture' from Margot McKenzie | 6 |
| 'The Return' – Valwyn Edwards-Wishart | 7 |
| 'A Postcard to Melbourne' from Heather McRae | 9 |
| ARTICLES | |
| A Few of Dad's Favourite Things – <i>Bob Mitchell</i> | 10 |
| Bell's Gone, School's Out! – Ruth Wilson | 12 |
| GUIDELINES FOR FEES | 14 |
| | |
| | |



| Diary of Events | 16 |
|-----------------|----|
| NOTICEBOARD | 17 |

News



Voiceprint For 1998

Your editors have decided that in 1998 we will produce three editions of *Voiceprint*. This should enable us to put together three expanded newsletters with information on all the activities of interest to oral historians planned for the next four months. We do seek the assistance of members to tell us in advance about what they have planned, and to provide information on conferences and activities that our members would find of interest. We do need your assistance to keep our "What's On" column up to date! Please note that copy for 1998 must be with the Editorial Committee by 31 January, 31 May and 30 September.

Please remember that information on your projects, reports on any interesting meetings and functions also are very welcome. We do want this to be the members' newsletter so send your contributions to us for the above deadlines. Write something for our next Voiceprint please!

New Members from August to October 1997

We are so fortunate to have such varying talents and interests among our members. Welcome to these new ones! The number of our members in the country is growing – we are so pleased that oral history is alive and well outside the cities too.

In our new membership application form we now include an 'Interests' inquiry so that we can enlarge our initial acquaintance with our members.

Please note that Dr JAN Henderson of the Australian Nuclear Science and Technology Organisation turned into Dr Ian Henderson in our February Voiceprint list. Sorry, Jan!

| Antoinette Buchanan | Student and archivist. |
|---------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| Joan Merrell | Transcriptionist and editor, interested in |
| | Aboriginal and family history. |
| Lance A. Box | Teacher |
| Helen Thompson | Dietitian |
| Louise Forster | Transcriptionist |
| Eva Byrne | Interested in history |
| Janice Gentle | Dietitian/writer |

3

| Alan Veenstra | Architect |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|
| MLC Burwood – Robyn Watkins | History teacher |
| Geoff Huard | Minister of Religion |
| Brenda Heagney | Librarian, Royal Australian College of Physicians |
| Dr Jan Roberts | Historian/writer |
| Heather Clarey | Student |
| Robyn Rayner | Social worker |
| Carolyn Craig | Private tutor and oral historian |
| National Parks and Wildlife | |
| Sharon Veale | Historian |
| George Main | Student, interested in rural and cross-cultural |
| | history |
| Kate Barclay | PHD student, International Studies, UTS. |

Mailbag

You have asked for letters from readers.

I'm an interested but not-very-active reader of Voiceprint, and, with my sister, have enjoyed one of Rosie Block's seminars – an excellent and motivating introduction to oral history.

My sister and I have plans for an oral history project which cannot be started yet. But we are realising how time flies. When an acquaintance suggested that we should get started on recording stories from older family members, we looked at each other, burst into laughter and said "We're it!" Rather alarming to recognise ourselves as the oldest generation!

Talking with friends we have begun to realise that, as sisters (there were four of us, now there are three) we each have different memories, different perceptions of what an outsider would identify as the same episode or situation. Different perceptions of the dynamics of the rural town of our childhood, and of our own family.

It raises of course, the old question, "Where does truth lie?"

(That unintended pun just appeared on the screen of its own accord! And invites: "Truth is lying waiting for our memories' words." Enough!)

Best Wishes, Dianna Mannigel, Eleebana, NSW.

REPORTS Exploring Living Memory: Oral History and Reminiscence with Older People Visit of Joanna Bornat

The Oral History Association of Australia, New South Wales Branch and The Library Society, State Library of New South Wales hosted a visit by an eminent British expert from the School of Health and Social Welfare, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, UK. Joanna was able to spend an evening at the library and share her knowledge of oral history and reminiscence programmes conducted in the United Kingdom. Many of our members and the visitors joining us for this occasion work with older people here, particularly the members of the Diversional Therapy Association who ioined us for this talk.

Joanna shared the results of the research being undertaken by the University. This has indicated that there is considerable benefit to older people in allowing them to tell their stories in both structured and informal ways. We were also privileged to see, before the students of the courses conducted by the Open University, a video to explain the benefits and methods that may be used to conduct a reminiscence session with older people attending what in this country would be termed a Day Centre.

It was interesting to see how the workers prepare for their sessions. The

group leader finds out as much as possible about the interests of all members of the group so that appropriate topics may be brought before them. We saw how the leader prepared a number of boxes with a variety of objects relating to a particular theme that can be used for stimulating and initiating discussion. Many of the objects provided stimulation to one or more of the senses. It was said that the lolly box, full of old fashioned sweets was a favourite as these were looked at, smelt, touched and tasted to provoke memories of earlier happy occasions. Other boxes had objects that could be used over and over again, so the reminiscence programmes were not expensive to conduct. Joanna referred to cost cutting (which seems to be the same the world over) and the need to be creative in providing appropriate and interesting programmes for older people.

The audience all enjoyed the evening and appreciated the opportunity to exchange ideas with Joanna and each other. There seem to be so many ideas to share when oral historians meet. The conversations around the room are always lively – or the noise level on this occasion suggested so! **Joyce Cribb**

Crossing Borders

Tenth Biennial Conference, Oral History Association of Australia Alice Springs, 3-7 September 1997

For all of those people who couldn't make it to the National Conference at Alice Springs, let me paint you an Oral History picture. To set the scene of the topic 'Crossing Borders' a welcome was given in the Arrernte language by a local tribesman (Arrernte's land is Alice Springs) then an English translation.

Next morning, after registering and receiving the program in a pretty black satchel with the Northern Territory logo (kindly donated by the N.T. Tourist Bureau), the conference started with the Yipirinya School Dance Group (8 to 10 year olds); followed by 4 days of culturally diverse topics with over 200 oral historians, all with the same enthusiasm to soak up the atmosphere and the topics.

Another highlight was the introduction of the Maori (now pronounced Moori) contingent, with them doing their HAKE, really setting the scene for their Oral History.

We had a tour of Alice Springs, such a lot to see we could have stayed a week to see it all, everything had such erudite enthusiastic aboriginal guides. A visit was made to the Pioneer Women's Centre. You all know about Longreach Hall of Fame, which houses the men's history of Australia, well, female volunteers of Alice Springs decided to have a history of Pioneer Women. Their only grant was a building. So if you have a female history that should be known, or would like to support this Centre, join for \$20.00 per year.

A conference B.B.Q. dinner at the overland Telegraph Line Centre, with the stars winking just abovehead, a shooting star and Mir the space shuttle hurtling by. An hour of Ted Egan, N.T. historian, identity and personality, singing songs pertinent to 'Crossing Borders'.

A few of us went on to Uluru 400kms. from Alice Springs after the conference. What a revelation, apart from the Rock, the Olgas the Kata Tjuta Centre was mind boggling. We finished off the day at a B.B.Q. eating Emu, Crocodile and Kangaroo with the Manyuama dance group performing.

So be in it next time in Melbourne 1999 for the next National Conference. But wait there is more.....

Diana Ritch and I were both lucky winners in the competition 'Ansett Lucky trips' winning a free trip to either Queensland, Victoria or South Australia.

Margot Mckenzie

'The Return'

Paper given by Valwyn Edwards-Wishart in the Reports Forum, 'Crossing Borders' 7 September. Adventurous Spirits and Roving Natures: Australian Girls and the Working Holiday 1946 – 1966

Young Australian women in the two decades after World War 11 who embarked on a working holiday overseas not only crossed borders of oceans but also the geographical and cultural borders of the many countries they visited. Just as importantly, they also challenged the tradition of elitism and privilege and dislodged forever the prerogative of overseas travel for the wealthy few. In 1947 they were among nearly 19,000 Australians who left for overseas. But by 1957 that number increased to 41,000.

Most girls came from average middle class backgrounds and were the first in their families to make "The Trip" abroad. They had to work and save hard for tourist or second class boat passages to England; and then their multiple journeys in Europe were only made possible by hitch-hiking and stints of further employment. Their accommodations were mostly London bed-sitters with scant amenities. Their stay might stretch from one year to three but it offered a space of freedom and adventure, a viable alternative to domesticity in suburban Australia.

The author worked with twenty women from Adelaide, Melbourne,

Sydney and Brisbane either conducting tape-recorded interviews or surveying them with mailed questionnaires. All had journeyed overseas on working holidays between 1946 and 1972. They came from a diverse range of occupations. Some loaned collections of letters and diaries. Additional travellers were researched in manuscript holdings, fiction, biographies, television and radio interviews. Through the taped interviews Valwyn captured the remembered excitement, adventure. homesickness and exhilaration of the women's travels. Almost without exception, interviews confirmed that the working holiday was a personal watershed for women travellers. However, it also produced an unexpected ambiguity of place for them. The longer they stayed in England or Europe, the more difficult it was to go home to Australia. They experienced the dilemma of wanting to be in two places at once. Home and families beckoned but they had grown familiar with cosmopolitan London. Even with its frugal drawbacks, independent living there suited them very well.

Their eventual return was an anticlimax. After the euphoria of reunion with family and friends and the girls

7

mostly found themselves in a curious limbo, assailed by a sense of displacement. There were feelings of emptiness and disorientation, particularly among the women who returned to 1950's Australia.

There were mild parallels with what Stephen Garton described as 'the rupture' of men returning from the War. While overseas travel cannot be seriously compared with war service, the return to 'normal' for girl travellers was often problematic and required similar adjustments. Often, 'returnees' sought solace in informal support groups with other travellers; joined New Australian migrant clubs; or courted new adventures through youth hostelling or bush walking.

Some women interviewed for 'Adventurous Spirits' admitted that they had never recovered their original 'sense of place' for their home country. They became inveterate travellers or frequently lived abroad working in their respective careers. Others chose husbands from Europe or persuaded their Australian spouses to return with them to work and travel in the British Isles. One Melbourne woman, after marriage, set aside all child endowment payments as travel funds for her children. Another confessed that her "heart and soul" has always remained in Europe. This issue of return and displacement continues to interest me. How much did post-war holiday workers' reactions to 'The Return' influence succeeding generations of travellers: contribute to Australian tourism and help in the shift from parochialism to a richer diversity in Australian communities?

Valwyn Edwards-Wishart

Excerpts from 'Crossing the Borders – A Postcard to Melbourne' (reprinted from Rewind No. 41, Newsletter of the Victorian Branch, September/October 1997)

Oral Traditions and New Technolgies

The first day of the conference included a wealth and diversity of other stories, and also a strong emphasis on new technologies. John Dallwitz, Archivist to the Pitjantjatjara Council Inc., introduced us to a database of photographs, films, historical documents, artworks, oral history tapes and other items. Janis Wilton gave us some routes to web sites and e-mail discussion lists, and others talked about the creation of home pages and options for on-line cataloguing of oral history in order to bring collections to the attention of mainstream library users. The potential of the tools offered by new technologies was evident, though ethical and cultural concerns were also raised. A meeting of invited delegates during the conference explored the feasibility of setting up an indigenous oral history network: this project looks likely to proceed, but will take into account the need for indigenous representation and control. and fears about wide dissemination on the internet of too much of the detail of oral history interviews.

Oral History and a Sense of Place

The final day of the conference began with a reports forum, during which participants gave short reports on work in progress and other matters. This session also included the launch of Australia's Oral History Collections: A National Directory, which will be of wide interest to oral history researchers.

During other sessions on the final day, speakers explored the meanings and values and stories attached to places. Papers by Heather Goodall, Keryn Walsheand and Sue Anderson looked at similarities and differences between indigenous and non-indigenous relationships to places and concerns about the land. Helen Armstrong described her work with particular migrant communities and discussion groups to identify places of significance to them. Matthew Higgins has crossed geographical borders and the' cultural border' between city and bush during his interviews in the high country of the ACT and NSW. Historian Jane Bathgate and designer Joanna Barrkman shared with us the process and some of the beautiful results of their project combining oral history and community banner making to record and depict places important to different groups in the town of Pine Creek.

Heather McRae – Alice Springs

A Few of Dad's Favourite Things

In the concluding episode of Bob Mitchell's biography of his father we continue to discover more about the sort of person Norman is; the account demonstrates how successfully oral history can record personalities as well as events.....

Here are some of the things Dad likes doing:

- a drinking tea
- gardening
- reading the daily Herald
- visiting his relations on the central coast and in Scone
- spending time with his old mate, Darryl, in Maroochydore.

On the subject of gardening, Dad has a couple of vegetable patches in the backyard where, at one time or another, he has grown many different vegetables like tomatoes, spinach, lettuce, capsicum, spring onions, carrots, cabbages, cauliflower, zucchini, pumpkin, chokos, peas and beans; and some fruit, like strawberries, lemons, guava and mangoes. He gets pleasure from being able to give fruit and vegies to family and friends.

Dad always had a 'thing' about the exorbitant prices that shopkeepers charge for fruit and vegetables. Heaven help Mum if she came home from shopping with produce that Dad considered to be too dear, or poor quality!

As a young man Dad would get up early to till the soil. If you were ever stuck for a present to buy Dad at Christmas or on his birthday, you could be sure that a wheel barrow, gardening tool, or even some chook manure or a load of soil would go down well.

Dad said that travel became very enjoyable in the past 5-10 years. The highlight was a 21 day bus tour around Australia in 1992. It took him through outback Queensland, into the Red Centre, across to Broome, down the west coast, and back home across the Nullarbor. Half the time Dad camped out in tents, the other half he stayed in motels.

In describing the holiday Dad said: Katherine Gorge, Kakadu and Ayers Rock were the best! Our routine was that we'd pull up about 3.30-4.00 p.m. and they'd open the bar and 'happy hour' would commence. Beer was one dollar a can, and cask wine was sixty cents a glass. The tucker was pretty good – both in camp and in the motels we stayed in. I remember a seafood smorgasbord we had in a resort at Cable Beach. It was \$25, but it was worth it. Another time we barbecued barramundi in the outback. It cost a lot – \$16 a kilo. but the cook buggered it up – he didn't

have enough oil on the plate. He should have put the fish in foil and steamed it.

Other holidays that Dad enjoyed were when he and Darryl joined about a dozen Maroochydore locals on fishing trips to Fraser Island. They camped in tents on the beach for a week. Fish was plentiful and so was the grog. It got pretty cold of a night, so most of them would drink rum. Dad recalled one bloke who added sugar to his rum and bonox, to give it an extra kick:

He was so drunk that when he had to go for a leak he would crawl out of his tent on his hands and knees. He'd crawl over to a tree, put his arms around it, and haul himself up to a standing position. Then he'd relieve himself, drop down on all fours again, and crawl back to his tent.

Dad said the scenery on the island was great – white sand, lush vegetation, clear streams, and plenty of wildlife, including brumbies and dingoes. Dad had three holidays to Fraser Island.

Questions and Reflections

Did Mum fuss over you during the early years of your marriage?

 No, she was too worn out looking after you kids. Did you feel that being a parent made you more responsible?

No, not really.

What are your recollections of holidays with the family?

We didn't hardly have any.

Did you get involved in any of our school activities?

- No, I left that up to your mother.

Do you have any regrets or would you do anything differently if you had your time over again?

 Not really. I suppose if I'd had more money (or had discovered Thunderbolt's cache) I could have gone on more trips.

If you'd had unlimited resources, where would you like to have lived?

 In a house overlooking Pittwater. It's beautiful there.

Would you have liked us to do more together as a family in your latter years?

 I understood that you kids have been busy with your own lives and families. What do you think of the lives your children have led?

 I think the three of you have done well. You are all settled and have nice families. What do you want to achieve now?

 I want to go back to Scone for the Scone Cup, and to see Norman (one of Dad's cousins), and the others. I want to see if my old home is still there.

Bell's Gone, School's Out!

School reunions can be wonderful or woeful. Wonderful when the first rush of recognition is upon everyone, the exclamations of pleasure of meeting and greeting, the exchanges of information about professions, partners and offspring hanging in the air, and the compliments about "how good we look" handed out. The woeful bit starts when all the hype dissipates as sometimes happens, the small talk is over and big talk doesn't seem to come naturally, and the atmosphere turns flat.

Happily the woeful syndrome has never spoiled the meetings that I have shared with eight of my school friends when we have our five-yearly reunions. We all started secondary school together in – wait for it! – 1944. Our year numbered 100 boys and girls; our group of girls were in the A stream which meant that French and Latin were compulsory. We didn't stay together through secondary school. A few went off to boarding school in Sydney, but four of us remained at our country high school to complete our Leaving Certificate in 1948.

In 1981 we had our first reunion. It was an explosion of hugs, words, exclamations and laughter. Some members of the group had remained in regular contact, but for others, including myself, this was the first time we had seen erstwhile daily companions for over thirty years, and it seemed that we would never run out of things to say.

Nevertheless, when the call came this year, announcing that it was time to meet again, I felt that I would like to delve a little deeper into our collective memories than we have done in the past. How many feelings and attitudes did we share from those schooldays, some of which were lived out under the pale shadow of the second world war. Were our views of those times similar? In what ways were our futures affected by the teachers, the education, the friends that touched our lives every day for five years? Fascinated as I was by the prospect of exploring this territory, I was wary of being too 'intense', of introducing a heavy note and spoiling the light heartedness of our reunion.

It occurred to me that the oral history process would be the perfect medium for drawing out and reflecting on these memories without putting a strain on our social interaction. I consulted our hostess for the day who was positive. We decided that I would bring along my tape recorder leaving it to the group to decide whether or not we spend half an hour recording a discussion about memories of our schooldays together.

The outcome has been thirty minutes of recorded history that I shall treasure! Although the initial response was a little nervous, everyone agreed that it might be an interesting interlude. So between the main course and the dessert I set up the equipment on the dining room table, and asked each person to take a few minutes to introduce herself by name (nee and now), and to share her thoughts about : (a) her feelings on starting

secondary school

(b) her teachers

(c) her friendships

(d) the quality of education we received

(e) the school spirit and how it has affected her view of life

Ouite spontaneously the structured responses evolved into interactive and animated conversations. As always, some contributed more than others, but the method ensured that everyone's voice is on the tape, and everyone's presence is a reality. We made discoveries about ourselves, about each other, and about each person's perceptions of the others, that will give us food for thought until the next time we meet. I sent each member of the group a copy of the tape. and all have expressed the pleasure and satisfaction it has given them. The experience proved to me, yet again, that oral history is an activity "for all seasons".

Ruth Wilson

Guidelines For Fees

A draft guideline for fees was presented at the Bi-annual General Meeting and was passed with two small amendments. It is now OHAA policy and will be issued in a printed form as soon as we can, but in the meantime members will have the full text in this edition of Voiceprint. We are now in the process of drawing up a document which will be useful both for the commissioning body in a project and for the employed interviewer, addressing such issues as the agreement or contract, managing the commission, estimating costs, and what that will include, etc.

Rosie Block

HOAA Fees Policy – Guidelines on Fees Draft June 1997

The OHAA suggests the following fees for Oral History interviewing and transcription.

- One hour of recorded interview may range in cost from \$120 to \$200.
 This includes research and may include a pre-interview. It may not include travel expenses, or the production of a tape log, index or other documentation.
- One hour of tape transcribed may range in cost from \$100 to \$120.
 Additional charges may be incurred for transcription checking and postediting corrections to the text.

- 3. For the purposes of project budgeting, a figure of around \$250 to \$350 per hour of tape (researched and transcribed) is generally appropriate. This may be varied depending if the interview is logged, summarised and/or indexed, as opposed to full transcription.
- For the purposes of budgeting the research component may be reduced or increased depending on the nature of the project.
- Again, depending on the project's nature and complexity it may be recommended that the research component is estimated and quoted separately.
- Transcription may also be quoted separately.

Explanation of fees

The range of fees for interviews is based on the extent of preparation required and the range of qualification and experience of the interviewee. The Association cannot insist on particular fees and it is up to individuals to establish fees they consider suitable.

 One hour of recorded interview will typically involve up to five hours of research/preparation. This will usually include a preliminary interview prior to recording. See (1) above.

- Fees for transcription are based on the assumption that one hour of tape typically takes 4-6 hours for a professional transcriber to transcribe. If there are problems of sound quality, pronounced accent or use of non standard English, the time taken (and hence the cost) will increase. See 2 above. Fees for transcription at the higher end of the scale may include post editing corrections to the text. Where translation is required the award rates apply.
- In the case of projects involving a number of interviews, it may be more appropriate to negotiate an equitable hourly rate which takes into account the full amount of research required for the project. See 3 above.

Contracts

The Association recommends that where a body is commissioning a project it is important that there is a contract between that body and the oral history project manager/historian. The contract should include fees, nature of services to be provided and conditions of employment.

Professional historian's associations

The Association advises members that there are professional historian's associations throughout Australia. These associations usually publish a scale of fees for their members.

Honorary Life Memberships

In September, at the BGM of the Association, honorary life membership was bestowed on Margaret Reid, of NSW and Heather Campbell of the Battye Library, Perth, Western Australia. Margaret Reid was Oral Historian of the Sydney Maritime Museum. The full citation for both of them will appear in the next *Voiceprint*. Our congratulations to Margaret and Heather, particularly of course to Margaret, the first for NSW! Diary of Events



OHAA Conference 1999 – Advance Notice

With the 1997 National Conference now behind us it is time to start thinking about the next one. In 1999 it will be Victoria's turn to host the Association's Biennial National Conference. Planning has already begun for the conference to be held in Melbourne in September 1999. The theme will be 'TALES OF THE CENTURY', with a focus on narrative and story telling. Watch this space for further developments.

Australian Historical Association Biennial

Conference Sydney 1998 Call for papers The next conference is planned for 5 -10 July 1998 at The University of Sydney. The convenors are currently seeking offers of papers to be delivered at the conference. The conveners encourage papers which consider implications for the profession of recent theoretical developments in related fields, and of history-making in different forms by the wider community. Specialist papers on gender, post colonialism and memory are welcome.

Please forward offers of papers with 100 word abstract by 28 November to Dr Penny Russell, AHA Convenor, Dept. of History, The University of Sydney, 2006. Fax 93513981;

Penelope.Russell@history.su.adu.au

Crossing the Boundary – Crossing the Line

Oral History on the Border Oral History Association Annual Meeting Hyatt Regency, Buffalo, New York 15 – 18 October 1988 The Oral History Association invites proposals for papers and presentations for its 1988 Annual Meeting to be submitted by 15 December 1997 to Debra Bernhardt, Robert F Wagner Labor Archives, 70 Washington Square South, New York. NY 10012. Fax:(212) 995 4070 or to Cliff Kuhn, Department of History, Georgia State University, Alanta. GA 30303. Fax:(404) 651 3255. E-mail:hiscmk@panther.gsu.edu

International Oral History Association Invitation For Membership

The new international oral History Association was formally constituted in 1996 at the IXth International History Conference in Goteborg, Sweden. Association will provide a forum for oral historians around the world, in order to foster international communication and cooperation, and a better understanding of the nature and value of oral history. Benefits of membership will include:

- Subsidy rates for the biennial international oral history conferences.
- Copies of the Association's new

journal – published three times in the two year membership period – containing articles, commentary, national and international oral history news, conference details, letters and lists of articles in other oral history journals (initially available in English, Spanish and Portuguese).

- Access to a proposed new electronic network for international oral history
- Voting rights at the Association's General Meetings and Council elections
- Active participation in the international community of oral historians.

Fees for two year membership (1997-98) Individual 90 DM Deutschemark)* Student Concession 45 DM Institutional 180 DM * Fees must be paid in Deutschemarks

Membership is open to any individual or institution supporting the goals and object of the Association. The Association is governed by a Council elected at a General Meeting held at the biennial international oral history conference. The President of Association is Mercedes Vilanova from Spain, and current Council members come from Argentina, Australia, Brazil, England, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Sweden, Turkey, United States of America and Zimbabwe. The next General Meeting will be held in Rio de Janeiro, June 1998. For membership enquires email:Alexander.vonPlato@Fernuni-Hagen.de or mail details to: Alexander Von Plato, Secretary International Oral History Association c/- Institut fur Geschichte und Biographie der Fernuniversitat Hagen Liebigstr. 11 D-58511 Ludenscheid, Germany. (indicate preferred language for publications)

Visit the International Oral History Association home page on: http://www.filo.uba.ar/ravignani/historal /ioha.html

Noticeboard

Oral History Transcription Service. Professional transcriber. Reasonable rates. Contact Gabrielle Godard on Ph 9310 3940 Fax 9310 3941. Urgent work accommodated.