

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

VOICEPRINT



39

October 2008

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Oral History Association of Australia
(NSW) Inc. c/ – State Library of New South
Wales, Macquarie Street, Sydney, NSW 2000
Tel (02) 9273 1697 • Fax (02) 9273 1267
email: rblock@sl.nsw.gov.au

Editor: Joyce Cribb

(assisted by committee members)

Please send articles and correspondence to:

Joyce Cribb, 36/2 Ulmarra Place,
East Lindfield, 2070

email: jcribb@iinet.net.au or
rburge@ozemail.com.au

Layout and Design: Vanessa Block

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Editorial



*In looking at the contents of this edition, it seems to me that oral history is really moving and taking its place in a wider historical context. Our members are embracing modern technology and taking every opportunity to learn how to use the newer digital equipment and computer programs that are available. I have noted that these days it is web pages and email addresses that I need to double check the "spelling," so you may find your way to sites for further information. The 'big' progress is that we now have **our own website: www.oahaansw.org.au** Visit the site often! Perhaps, but certainly not in the immediate future this newsletter will no longer need paper! I rather think there are others like me who like to read from paper rather than the computer screen! Paper will I am sure be with us for a long time.*

"Our reporters" who attended the Australian Historical Association Biennial Conference in Melbourne reported on how oral history played a part in some of the presentations and one session was dedicated to it, Oral history is certainly finding a place in mainstream historical circles.

I am sure you will enjoy the article from journalism student Kathy Topham. This again reflects another step forward – our members mentoring and providing work place experience for university students. Note, Peter Rubenstein's introduction of how this came about – perhaps there are other members who could also offer student support and work experience. I enjoyed the more personal quotes that Kathy used; at times these allowed us to relate and be amused by some of the everyday experiences of the athletes. Anna Meares memory of the pesky little fly on the day of her triumph in Athens – how Australian!

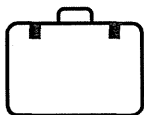
Perhaps some members may be able to attend the performances of Love and Hate which Tim Carrol has informed us of and invited us to attend. Another way to use oral history with a live theatre performance. Another exciting idea.

With this Voiceprint I have had help and assistance as usual from all the committee. Without their help it would be very short indeed – Thank you all!

*In every Voiceprint I say to think about making a contribution. So please, a little holiday effort over the Christmas break and VP 40 will be underway – **SO!!!** Thirty years ago my husband I went to a conference in Moscow and were most intrigued as how the staff who briefed us on the program for the day announced, "so at 9am ... 12 ... and on – **SO!!!** We always just meekly did as told. It did not work, however. with the children when we came home, perhaps members are more responsive; **SO**, please think of Voiceprint!*

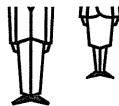
Joyce Cribb

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Membership



Welcome to our first new members for this current financial year. Always delighted to have a 'good' beginning and your presence has ensured that! Many thanks for your support.

Carolyn Green	Teacher
Elizabeth Semple	Retired – interested in oral history
Ernie Blackmore	Lecturer
Geraldine Cook	Library Assistant
Marion Nicolson	Writer/editor
Stephen Ridd	Business analyst
Ken Thornton	Student
Aine de Paor	Teacher
Deborah Ruiz Wall	TAFE teacher
Ruth Trappel	Interested in oral history
Leah Lui-Chivizhe	Lecturer
Rod Pascoe	Sound recordist
Marilyn Campbell	Retired – interested in oral history
Terri McCormack	Historian
David Vidler	Retired – interested in oral history
Lucy Chipkin	Oral historian
Jacqueline Wasilewsky	Oral historian
Camden Library	
Murray Groube	Nurse
Jennie Bazell	Event manager
Karen Wenke	Parish clerk
Ben Oakley	Audio producer

Rosie Block, President OHAA NSW

Nuts & Bolts

OHAA New South Wales Branch President's Report 2007/2008

I continue in my practice of placing the NSW Branch committee here in top spot. Members of the committee are Sandra Blamey, Roslyn Burge, Michael Clarke, Joyce Cribb, Frank Heimans, Margaret Park (Canberra), Diana Ritch, Sue Rosen, Peter Rubinstein, Frances Rush and Berenice Evans, our treasurer. They have always formed a creative and energetic 'think tank' and throughout this year they have suggested new ideas and followed these up with strategies for expanding the membership, creating a branch website and the general promotion of oral history in New South Wales, as well as supporting members in the change over to digital recording. My profound thanks to all. As to the website – it will be live by November. As they say – watch this (cyber) space!

A brochure promoting OHAA and listing current events, selected journal articles and an invitation to advise us of oral history projects and suggestions for future seminars, has been compiled and printed. This is specifically for those attending the State Library seminars as well as of

interest to the regional seminars which I conduct. Committee members also attend the seminars, generally mingle and make participants welcome. In addition they promote the Association!

The national conference hosted by Queensland OHAA in August was deservedly successful. The venue was delightful, the program inspiring and informative and the organisation impeccable. Everybody enjoyed it. I was very surprised and very thrilled to receive an Honorary Life Membership of the Association on the occasion of my retiring from the national presidency.

NSW branch member, Michael Clarke, was awarded the Hazel de Berg Award for Excellence in Oral History. This was richly deserved and his citation and acceptance speech appeared in Voiceprint No. 38 and also in Journal No 31. Congratulations and well deserved!

Because of the proximity of the Brisbane national conference we held only two seminars this year. However, those who wanted tuition in the practice and technique of oral history were invited to attend a seminar I was conducting in July at Mosman Library.

In choosing our program for the November 2007 seminar we offered the membership a chance to hear some of the speakers they may have missed at the international



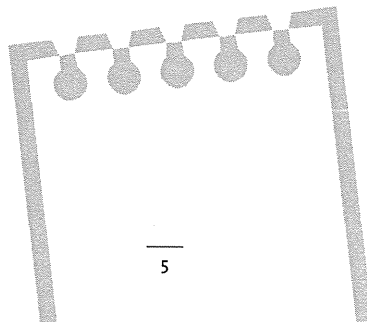
conference in 2006. Our November seminar was addressed by Glynis Jones, Powerhouse Museum – 'Dressing from the inside: Alternative and subcultural style in the museum collection.' This was a fascinating insight into what the 'alternative' society likes to wear. Amazing! Our second speaker was Christine Yeats of State Records who presented the endeavour thus far of the important NSW Joint Committee of the Australian Women's Archives, 'Accessing the memories of tomorrow.'

The second part of the morning offered a hands-on experience with digital equipment under the tutelage of Frank Heimans and Peter Rubinstein. This was followed up by a full morning's tutoring on using digital equipment on 21 June 2008. Frank and Peter accompanied by John Hockney and Ben Oakley unraveled the complexities of digital recording to grateful and reassured participants. The branch has bought two sets of the Edirol R-09 digital recorder for lending to members and others.

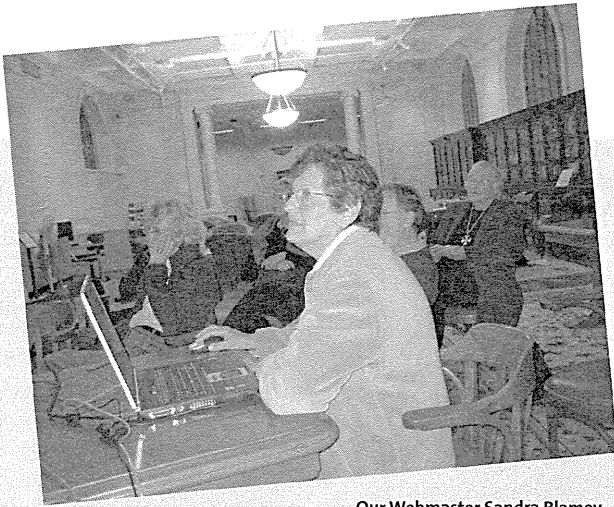
Our May meeting featured Frank Heimans's 'Oral history's role in the "sorry" story for the stolen generations'. Frank was an interviewer for the National Library of Australia for the project, 'Bringing them Home'. His presentation featured not only an important and moving insight into this project, but also gave the audience a valuable lesson in how to conduct an in-depth interview. *Voiceprint* our newsletter has appeared regularly as always under the fine editorship of Joyce Cribb. Roslyn Burge has now joined the editorial committee.

With the encouragement of the national committee we have brought the 'A Guide to Commissioning Oral History Projects' up to date and have printed and circulated the new edition. I'd like to add an additional word of thanks to our members who so enthusiastically supported the seminars throughout this year – as well as a warm welcome to those who came to those meetings and then joined the branch. All of that is endorsement indeed!

Rosemary Block
President, NSW Branch



Nuts and Bolts (cont...)



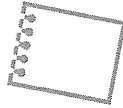
Our Webmaster Sandra Blamey

Our own Website www.ohaansw.org.au

Do have a look at our recently constructed website. A lot of hard work has been necessary from committee members. Special thanks to Sandra Blamey who has worked so hard to collate all the information and has undertaken the role of webmaster. Committee members plus some guests gathered in the Friends room at the Library on 19th August for the official launch of the site. It was great to see this step forward, and it is hoped that members will visit the sight often for information. Sandra has set out the following details of what you may find on the site. Ed.

Regularly updated and downloadable:

- News about Oral History Workshops, Seminars, Conferences and Field Trips conducted by OHAA and other organisations utilising oral history;
- Oral History Publications; How you can contribute to OHAA NSW Newsletter Voiceprint and the annual OHAA Journal;
- Guidelines for Oral History Practitioners; OHAA Guidelines for Ethical Practice; OHAA Guide to Commissioning Oral History; OHAA Guidelines for Fees for Interviewing and Transcription;
- Technical Advice for Oral History Practitioners; Equipment Hire for OHAA Members;
- Recommendations for purchase of recorders, microphones, software programs for editing, and archival quality discs and archival packaging; Recommended reading advice re audio files and archiving;



Membership details for the Oral History Association of Australia and International Oral History Association;

Links to Oral History Associations, Libraries, Archives, Collections and Discussion Sites;

Details and application form for the Hazel de Berg Award for Excellence in Oral History;

If you have news for circulation through the OHAA NSW website, please email the OHAA webmaster: Sandra Blamey at sblamey@ozemail.com.au. Once we are through the initial setup phase it is hoped to add downloadable oral history audio files.

Initially email contact is available from the website. Bookings for OHAA activities can be made through the State Library. Telephone 9273.1770 or email bookings@sl.nsw.gov.au to the State Library for credit card payments, or by cheque to the OHAA NSW Inc. For purchase of OHAA publications and membership applications and renewals send a cheque to OHAA NSW Inc, C/- State Library of NSW, Macquarie Street, Sydney 2000.

Note from Siobhan McHugh

I am sure many members have enjoyed Siobhan's talks at Seminars as well as her books. Siobhan is excited that her first Academic conference paper has been selected for podcast. She is also preparing two radio programs for Hindsight (ABC). Keep an eye or listening ear out to hear more. Have a look at <http://arts.monash.edu.au/ecps/feeds/events-podcast.xml>. *Ed*



History Week

www.historycouncilnsw.org.au

By the time *Voiceprint* reaches you History Week will be over. However, there are a number of events in History Week which include oral history – either as practice in researching community history or as part of an exhibition. It will be a great day for oral history when banners fly in Sydney's streets advertising Oral History Week!

www.ohaansw.org.au

Seminar: 3 May 2008 – Oral History’s Role in the ‘Sorry’ Story for the Stolen Generations – *Presented by Frank Heimans*

Frank referred the audience to the apology made to the Stolen Generations by the Prime Minister on 13 February this year. Earlier, starting in 2000, the National Library’s oral history project for the Stolen Generations was organized by Doreen Mellor. It was conducted over a 3 year period and some 300 interviews were completed. Training sessions for the interviewers were held in Canberra, and Frank was one of 30 people who conducted interviews for the project. The interviews were with members of the Stolen Generations, as well as with administrators, careers, mission staff and others who had some involvement with the Stolen Generations.

Some of the questions posed that the project sought answers for were:

- where children stolen?
- what is implied?
- was it for their own good?
- why only half and quarter caste children?
- what effect did it have on the children and their mothers
- what was the effect on the children’s sense of identity?

Frank emphasized that this project required a sensitive approach. He spoke about the necessity of doing your research and spending time on preparation before the

interview. For this project he spent about 2 hours on the pre-interview, and about 5 hours to make up the questions. The actual interviews took about two and a half to three hours for interviews. He found it a moving experience and a privilege to have people take you into their confidence.

Frank told us some of the historical facts about the Stolen Generation. The child removal occurred from 1918 until 1970. He also told us how many children were brought south from Northern Australia, when WWII threatened. The children found the cold weather very difficult, and also suffered from ‘childhood diseases’ such as mumps, chicken pox and hooping cough.

Frank played some excerpts from his interviews, illustrating the experiences of some of the Stolen Generation and the staff that looked after them. A number of the interviewees have spent considerable effort to try and find their parents - very moving to listen to excerpts from the interviews. As one of them said “sometime to know the truth hurts, but not knowing is the worst.” The journey can be bitter sweet.

As always Frank answered questions from the audience, and shared his knowledge. An interesting and informative morning. Thank you Frank. **Joyce Cribb**



Seminar: Saturday 21 June DIGITAL RECORDING EQUIPMENT – a hands-on experience

The days of tapes – whether analogue or digital audio tapes – are almost gone and those of us accustomed to the certainties of tapes have been compelled to embrace digital recording. So the Digital Recording Equipment seminar on 21 June at the State Library was soon booked out.

This practical seminar was designed to highlight the features of the Roland Edirol R-09 digital recorder and demonstrate the ways Pro-Tools can be used to edit recordings.

Ben Oakley and three members of the Association, Frank Heimans, John Hockney and Peter Rubinstein, (*Note: Ben's name in the list of new members – our members impressed sufficiently for Ben to decide to join us! Ed.*) generously gave their time and shared their professional expertise and their own equipment. The audience brought a mixed experience: some had never recorded an interview but had purchased an Edirol and wanted instruction on its use; a number of Local Studies Librarians from across the metropolitan area attended; and others who have been using the Edirol for some time were keen to maximize their own knowledge of the Edirol and its features.

It was an excellent session. All the instructors were patience personified as they repeated their comments (and repeated them again!) as their equipment passed round the room and everyone practiced at their own pace.

Some members of the Association have used Edirol recorders for some time, however, its size, simplicity and portability means it has made rapid inroads in oral history practice in Sydney.

The Edirol comes with a manual (which can also be downloaded from the web), which delivers directions for multiple recording styles. However, John Hockney has 'rewritten' the manual for oral history practice alone, utilizing directions for voice recording (while disregarding directions for song shuffle and reverb)! John's manual is terrific; set out with great style and his clear instructions make the task of learning the recording options infinitely simpler. Copies of John's manuals vanished in a trice that morning but a revised edition will be available at a modest cost at the next Digital Recording Equipment seminar on Saturday afternoon, 1 November – after Alistair Thompson's morning seminar on memory.

Roslyn Burge

Seminar 26 July Oral History – a Professional Storytellers Approach – *Presented by Anna Jarrett*

Members who gathered at the State Library on this day had a very enjoyable morning. Anna is an experienced presenter who gave all present a wealth of information and ideas about how storytelling and oral history can complement each other.

Anna told us that storytelling is a shared activity. When we talk together, our stories are told in our natural voices with a natural flow. The role of the oral historian is to gently facilitate this flow of stories in a way which helps to shape the stories with focus, depth and clear intent. The relationship between the storyteller (interviewee) and the story listener (interviewer) is the key to keeping this flow and to telling meaningful stories.

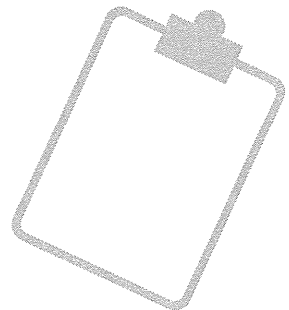
Anna said she had developed a style of oral history facilitation which empowered individuals to remember and to tell their own story in their own words. The role of the facilitator/oral historian is to guide the storytellers through the process of crafting their stories for retelling. Stories have two parts; what the storyteller says and the other what the listener hears. In oral history, an understanding of the purpose in telling the story and who it is intended for is an integral part of the story.

The storyteller and the facilitator work together in gathering and organizing memories.

Anna suggested that it always needs careful planning for the process to be successful. Research must be undertaken and any original source documents examined. A schedule needs to be planned, and themes and questions worked out. A comfortable environment and a relaxed setting provided, and a trusting relationship developed, to obtain the best recordings. After the recording editorial decisions over quality and content should be checked with the storyteller before launching the stories in their final form.

Anna had a very interested audience who enjoyed the morning. Thank you Anna.

Joyce Cribb



Australian Historical Association 14th Biennial National Conference, The University of Melbourne 7-10 July 2008, *Locating Histories*

Two of our members attended and both Roslyn Burge and Margaret Park have contributed a report on this interesting conference. There were many papers and much of interest at the conference. Each report covers different aspects of the conference. Ed

I can't recall a conference in recent times where such a rich tapestry of offerings was made to its delegates. So rich and diverse was the menu that delegates were seen racing to and from various buildings and rooms looking perplexed by the bits of paper directing us towards our destinations and the delicious delights which awaited. Not the food, that is, that was more difficult as session times and subsequent chats caused delays in seeking out sustenance and more often than not we were all eating on the run.

The conference program advertised a 'stimulating showcase' and by all accounts the committee delivered. On offer, apart from several key addresses and over 300 presentations, there were several book launches and other opportunities to catch up with colleagues and friends from all around Australia and a smattering of overseas delegates. Apart from the sheer

amount of presentations to attend, some sessions featured anywhere between five and ten tandem presentations. The other frustrating aspect was the lack of full conference proceedings. Only abstracts provided an insight into each paper – so if you missed one, which was likely due to the plethora of choices, you walked away without a paper to read on the train, bus or plane home. Fortunately, each delegate's email was provided within the program, so if a certain need arose to be in touch with one of the presenters at least contact could be made.

The theme of the conference – 'locating history' – gave ample room for historians to deliver insightful papers on what place represents in a historical context. Place being not just a geographical location, but also space as it relates to where we live, work and play; what makes up a community, a neighbourhood, a homeland; and a time, period and era.

Oral history played a part in several of the conference presentations and one session was dedicated to it entirely. This session 'Oral History and Place' was chaired by Alistair Thomson and featured papers: on workers' stories from the industrial

Reports (cont...)

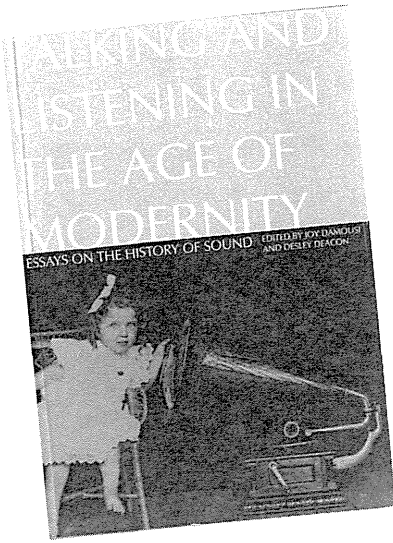
landscape by Bobbie Oliver; Peter Read's history of Aboriginal Sydney and his interviews with generations of Aboriginal families from teenagers backwards; and Elizabeth Branigan's oral histories with people who were in catholic children's homes between 1945 and 1989. Other sessions included papers which were formed out of oral history projects such as Susan Magarey's "Sexual Revolution as Big Flop: Women's Liberation Lesson One". Susan produced oral histories for her Australian Research Council (ARC) grant to study the history of the Women's Liberation Movement in Australia and how women responded to the sexual revolution.

Many papers evolved out of ARC grants, including the session which my paper was part of: "Towards a National Town Planning Association 1913 – 1917. Andrew Brown May and Susan Reidy presented a paper on the Victorian Town Planning Association and Chris McConville on the Queensland Town Planning Association. Our combined ARC grant delves into how town planning associations in each state influenced the direction of town planning for a new nation. Kate Darian Smith's "Healthy Bodies, Healthy Minds: Building Australian Communities 1920s – 1970s" resulted from her ARC grant.

Book launches were dotted throughout the program. It afforded us a break from the heavy thinking and participating

which each session required. I particularly enjoyed the launch of Desley Deacon and Joy Damousi's (editors) book entitled "Talking and Listening in the Age of Modernity" which was launched by Jill Roe. This imaginative and highly significant collection of essays encourages us to listen to the world around us. As oral historians we are probably more aware than most who immerse themselves in the world of history that sound is important. It captures wave lengths which relay intonations, emotions, origins of a voice or background noise denoting place and time. All of this enables us to identify a person's identity, a particular place or time and to place historical meaning in context. In the introduction the editors quote from Alain Corbin ("Village Bells: Sounds and Meanings in the 19th Century French Countryside", Columbia University Press, 1994) that historians "can no longer afford to neglect materials pertaining to auditory perception".

A highly commendable and enjoyable session in the conference was intriguingly named '1000 words on a picture'. A packed house for this session (there were two in total) featured eight presenters with only ten minutes to discuss an image displayed on the large screen before us. In some cases they deconstructed the image, such as a painting, shedding or enlightening the historical context along the way. Others told a story around the image which revealed an aspect of a historical project they had completed or were in the throes



of investigating. Details of their detective work unfolded as the image came to life. The presenters ranged from art historians to heritage advisors to family historians. It was definitely one of those sessions that time did not matter and most of us would have lingered longer for more. I can see this working for oral history project presentations and would love to feature an image I have captured or discovered during my lead-up to a life recording.

The organisers of this well-attended conference should be congratulated on the effort they put in, to indeed, present a 'showcase' that stimulated, nourished and captivated its audience.

Margaret Park

One hundred and six sessions (many with three speakers each) over three days provided distracting choices and oral history underpinned numerous papers. National parks featured in the session titled *Landscape*: Jo Kijas, Melissa Harper and Ella

Barnet and her colleagues at the University of Sydney, presented papers (respectively) on the concept of wilderness in coastal national reserves in NSW, the national park ideal in Australia, and a recreational history of national parks in NSW.

Corinne Manning's paper, 'When State care turns lethal – the 1996 fire at Kew Cottages' (in the session titled *Pain & Shame A: Institutions*), and her oral history interviews with former patients have since been broadcast on *Hindsight* (A Great and Crying Need: a History of Kew Cottages) on 24 August.

'Peopling the Industrial Landscape: using workers' stories to interpret industrial heritage sites', (in the session *Oral History and Place*), was Bobbie Oliver's paper, illustrated with extracts of interviews and photographs of workers at the East Perth Power Station and the Midland Government Railway Workshops. Closed in 1981 and 1994, respectively, these sites of production and power generation are also evidence of working, peopled spaces and Bobbie's research highlighted the possibilities of preserving industrial heritage in ways which have meaning not only for former employees, but also for the wider community from which such sites are vanishing.

Roslyn Burge

Report on OHAA (WA) Branch Regional Conference, Broome, WA. Saturday 19 to Sunday 20 July 2008

Broome is beautiful Broome whatever the season and the venue for the conference at Notre Dame University Campus is a further delight. Set in a combination of bushland and garden the meeting rooms are airy and the dining space has only screens, no glass! O the glow of never being chilly!

The conference began with an event which I have never encountered in an oral history conference – an oral history interview! What an excellent way to start a meeting of oral historians. This interview was with carefully selected participants. Steven Kinnane was the interviewer and he spoke in turn with Aboriginal elders Ernie Sarah and Daisy Howard. They had gone as children to Moola Bulla Station, near Falls Creek in the Kimberley. By the 1930s it was home for hundreds of Aboriginal children. Both of the elders interviewed had lived there before being transferred to Beagle Bay mission, Cape Leveque, where they went to school. Professor Bolton in his interview revealed how he had come to WA as a young research scholar and encountered some of the settlements at first hand.

This lively and informative session set the conference off to a fine start. My only suggestion would be that the 'choreography' might be improved. Luckily

Steve Kinnane is young and could kneel or crouch holding his microphone! However, even with a group of 3 on a platform it would have been easier if he could have taken a stool with him as he went from one to another.

Lenore Layman introduced us to her work with former power station workers addressing the issues of affirmation and reticence among such a community. One of the points that struck me with force was that because they were in a protected industry they were not allowed to go to WWII. Many made the point to their interviewer that had they been allowed to join the forces – and a couple of them even tried to run away to enlist – they would have received the benefits awarded to returned soldiers. As it was they remain unrecognised for their 'service'.

The conference was varied, fascinating and very well presented. Bill Bunbury recently retired from the ABC's Social History and Features Unit addressed the issues of background noise and played some interesting creaks of galvanised iron, noises of a foundry and work in a wheat bin augmented of course by the personal stories of those working in the noise. He concluded with a fine excerpt with and about Manning Clark with a



Pearl Yamaguchi telling a story of her childhood in Broome at the closing session at the Old Broome Museum



Jan McCahon, National President, at the microphone with Emeritus Professor, Geoffrey Bolton on the right

Bach background for the finished program. Manning Clark ponders on his not having addressed issues of women and Aborigines in his first volumes of Australian history. He comments in saddened tones that he supposes he had succumbed to the 'terra nullius' theory and had neglected to research 'that collision.' 'If I wrote it (the history) again I would want to right that wrong'.

It was a very interesting couple of days, a good catch up with our WA colleagues and with much discussion and presentation of Aboriginal experiences in leaving and in some cases returning to country – a new perspective for me from the T'other Side.

Rosemary Block

Reviews



Tradition & transformations: A Tribute to NSW Women in Hockey 1908–2008

Major contributing author:

Barbara Osmond

Publisher:

NSW Women's Hockey Centenary Book

Printer Agency: DigiPrint & Design

Barbara Osborn has been the driving force behind a new book recently launched which set out the history of women's hockey in NSW. Barbara sent me the following information on this book. Ed

The women's Hockey Centenary Tribute Book was launched on Friday evening 25 July in Armidale at the NSW Women's Veteran Championship event. Over 100 teams of players took to the fields in an array of Divisions of Over, 35; Over 40; Over 45; and Over 50's playing in 333 matches.

This beautifully crafted book is a collection of short personal narratives that informs how the lives of women has been shaped by hockey and how hockey has shaped them. It records the memories and achievements of some 150 women who have been involved with playing, officiating, administering and sustaining the sport.

A dedicated band of hockey veterans has compiled a tribute to the sport and its pioneers for the centenary year of 2008. Over a period of four years women were interviewed about their direct involvement in the sport as player, umpire, coach and/ or administrator.

Archival collections held in trust by the NSW Women's Hockey Association Inc. provided a valuable source of reference. Access to this source of primary research material and reference to the book 'NSWWHA 1908 – 1983', written by Lena Hodges and Mollie Dive, led to extended research in further literature.

In 2008, the NSW Women's Hockey Centenary Year is also an Olympic Year, and there will be NSW women playing for the Australian Hockeyroos team that has become a force in world hockey, creating a phenomenal record. This record includes winning 198 of all 253 games played during the period 1993 - 2000, as well as the Olympic Games and World Cups.

Some NSW players who represented Australia at World Cup, Champions Trophy and Olympic Games during a similar time frame tell their stories. The recent best streak of wins for the NSW Arrows playing in the National Hockey League occurred during 1996 – 2002.

Hockey has and does encompass players from all walks of life. It is played in every state and territory of Australia. This book is presented as a tribute not only to the owners of the personal stories it contains but to those many unmentioned deserving women who have played their part in NSW hockey at any and all levels.

The book is available by Mail Order:
Contact Barbara Osmond 02 4933 2743
barbos@aapt.net.au

Dacin' at the Sea Breeze— Stories of Old Byron Bay

Collected by David Vidler

Printed at University of Wollongong

'When an old man dies, a library burns'
That's what they always said.
I never knew quite what it meant,
'Till I heard that Ted was dead.

From *'When a Library Burns'*

By Col Hadwell

David Vidler grew up in Byron Bay in the 1950's and 60's, and came to Sydney when sixteen. Like many who leave behind the district and connections of youth, in later life they seek to reconnect again. David started collecting stories three years ago and has now produced a very interesting slice of the history of Byron Bay. It is a book to dip into and enjoy the different stories and tales of an era that has passed. David does not present it as a formal history but it does reflect many aspects of the last ninety years of life in and around Byron Bay. There is a great deal of information to be gleaned by anyone seeking historical information.

David had interviewees who were born over ninety years ago and several who were born after WWII. These, shall we say younger contributors, included Col Hadwell whose poem features as an introduction to the book. David has, with this publication, saved much of the 'library' from the flames. There are 26 interviewees who present stories of the bay when it was a little fishing village,

then of life in the twenties and of harder times during the depression years of the thirties, as well as some that reflect the industries that provided employment in the post world war development.

Overall it can be said this publication is a good example of how a set of interviews with a variety of people who have lived, worked and experienced the development of a small country town reflects and charts this development. It also reflects the development of the surrounding countryside and the fishing industry. It is this closeness and the connection to the sea that has resulted in the change from sleepy country town to large town and district with a thriving tourist industry.

David Vidler's has shown how an idea followed by a lot of hard work can end as a very readable and enjoyable book. There is information in the book for those historians seeking information on the development and social history of the area. Other oral historians may be inspired to do likewise.

For a copy of the book contact
davidvidler3@hotmail.com.au

Joyce Cribb

Reviews (cont...)

SHELTER: An Oral History of Marjorie Oke Rooming House for Women

By Rhonda Wilson

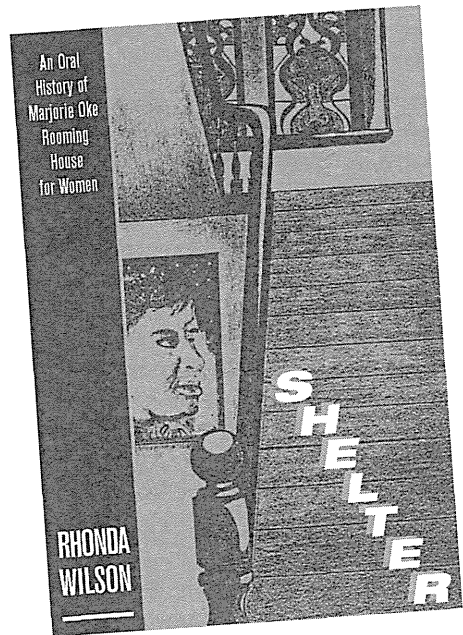
There is a big red brick house in Station St in Fairfield, Victoria. It used to be owned by MacPherson Robertson who made his fame and fortune in chocolates. It is strange that a house built on so much sweet sugar and cocoa would over time house so much sadness and pain.

This oral history of Marjorie Oke Rooming House for Women shines a light on individual lives but also shows us society's changing attitudes between the 1950s and the present, from a time when single women had their newborn babies taken away from them for adoption to a time when even the most marginalized women are offered support and shelter in a comfortable rooming house.

This subtle social history tells the lives of the people. It is precious because it truly paints a picture of the times we live in: the traditions, the culture. It fosters respect for the way people speak: the rhythms, the colloquialisms, the turns of phrase that characterise a particular people at a particular time.

An actor, theatre director and teacher, Rhonda Wilson's earlier oral history, *Good Talk, The Extraordinary Lives Of Ten Ordinary Australian Women*, was nominated for the Victorian Premier's Prize in Australian Studies.

Shelter can be purchased post free directly from the Black Pepper website
<www.blackpepperpublishing.com>





Stories Of Love & Hate

Tim Carrol *the Director of BYDS*
(Bankstown Youth Development Service)
<timbyds@tpg.com.au> has sent some
information on a new show being
produced by Urban Theatre Projects.

Where matters of the heart are concerned, there's always two sides to the story. Stories of Love & Hate looks at the lives and loves of people directly affected by the 2005 Cronulla riots. The source material for this unique verbatim theatre show comes from an extensive interview process with residents from Bankstown and the Sutherland Shire. Over 65 interviews have been conducted.

Background

Over a two-year period, director Roslyn Oades interviewed 65 residents, aged between 15 and 77, from Bankstown and the Sutherland Shire on the subject of love in its many forms. The responses vary from love of hotted-up cars, to hot guys, surf, getting smashed, family, friendship, and of course, love song dedications. The result is a collection of stories as diverse as the storytellers, yet a notorious incident connects these disparate characters.

A link to a single moment in time – the 2005 Cronulla riots. Stories of Love & Hate is not a work about the riots, it is a work about the people who were there, in all their complexity, beauty and difference.

This new work in the style of verbatim theatre was developed in response to the 2005 Cronulla riots. Essentially, Stories of Love & Hate is a collection of interlinking personal stories on the subjects of love and hate, revealed by individuals and groups directly involved in or affected by this communal implosion. The show explores the notion of hate as a consequence of feeling that the things we love are under threat – to explore hate through a discussion on love.

Performance Technique

Continuing the trajectory established in director Roslyn Oades' previous work *Fast Cars & Tractor Engines* (UTP, 2005), *Stories of Love & Hate* is theatre without paper, plot, or linear narrative. The performance combines recorded interviews and an innovative performance technique that creates a compelling examination of community tensions. The performers speak along to a carefully crafted audio script fed to them via headphones.

This technique ensures the real-life stories of the community are conveyed with integrity and heightens the essence and ramifications of each story and opinion. Because the performers are plugged into an audio feed, they are confined to the role of a musician following a score – responding to every breath, inflection, stumble and interruption with absolute precision. The meaning in how something is said

Articles (cont...)

becomes as important as what is said. In terms of this being an Oral History based project we believe that the technique honours and celebrates the interviewees in a way that no other technique can. The actors are trained to embody and “channel” the interviewees.

Using a culturally diverse cast to tell culturally diverse stories, tension is further heightened by deliberate casting against type, providing an alternative perspective on age, race, religious and gender differences. This device is particularly pronounced in the exploration of the Anglo/Arabic tension that fuelled the riots.

The Exhibition

Along side the premiere season of Stories of Love & Hate, UTP will exhibit the work of emerging photographers from the Cronulla, Bankstown and Lakemba areas. We’ve asked these young artists to photograph people in their community with something they love. The result is a remarkably beautiful portrait, people and communities expressing what brings the greatest joy and meaning to them.

Show us your love! SEND IN A PHOTO of you with something you love – we’ll put our favourites on the website and give away 5 double passes to the show.

Schools Program

We have scheduled several performance times for student groups to attend Stories of Love & Hate. We recommend that the show is suitable for Drama Stage 5, English Stage 5, and History Stage 5.

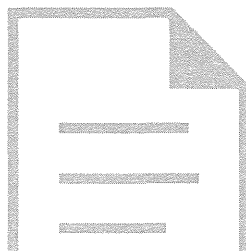
An education kit is available for all Drama Stage 5 students containing pre - and post-show activities. Students will also have the opportunity to interact with cast and crew directly in feedback sessions at the conclusion of the performance. Please keep in mind the dates for the show itself. www.byds.org.au

Hazelhurst Regional Gallery and Arts Centre
Dates: Wed 19 to Fri 21 November;
Time: 11am or 1:30pm

Olympic Parade Theatre, Bankstown
Dates: Wed 26 to Fri 28 November;
Time: 11am or 1:30pm

Urban Theatre Projects website:
<http://www.urbantheatre.com.au>

For further information please contact Stephanie on 9707 2111 or stephanie@urbantheatre.com.au



The Stories Behind our Athletes – *by Kathy Topham*

“My company, Radiowise Media Networks was working on a project to provide Olympic content to radio stations around Australia.

We began work on it in September 2007, and by around May of this year, I had well over 100 interviews in the can.

At that point, I realised that we still had much to do, and that we had a unique opportunity that presented itself for work experience for the right person. Students seeking work experience usually presented when we had nothing much to offer, so I thought this was an excellent opportunity for the right person to gain valuable experience.

Through a friend of mine who is a lecturer in journalism at UTS, I made contact with Kathy Topham, a first-year student in Journalism at UTS. Kathy has a burning desire to be a sports journalist, so here was a tailor-made chance for her. She was a delight to have doing work experience for us, and I saw her confidence and ability start to blossom. What started as a one-week experiment turned into six weeks of benefit for both Radiowise and Kathy.

Following is her story about how she viewed the project and her own special insights.”

Peter Rubinstein.

Although we usually see our Aussie athletes on the television screen, it is not often that we are given the opportunity to see or hear about the athletes in some detail. We all know that in some instances particular events, particular people and particular places are not always as they appear, and sometimes we don't really get to hear the athlete's personal view. So this is exactly what this series of interviews and ensuing radio series – “Green and Gold” – endeavoured to do.

The interviews and the radio series were about allowing the athletes to share with us not only the highs and lows of their careers, but was also aimed at trying to share the stories behind these events, as well as to give some special insights to the broader public, who always love to know.

In total, more than 150 interviews were conducted with athletes – both known and unknown, veteran and newcomer – from a range of different Olympic sports – from the popular ones like swimming and hockey, to the more obscure ones like canoe-slalom and archery. The interviews were not about the present – things that happened today or yesterday – but were instead about revealing memories and stories from the past, and ambitions and goals for the future.

Articles (cont...)

For the record, the interviews were recorded on an Edirol R-09 with a Rode microphone, and were edited on Pro-Tools. The interviews ran from as short as 12 minutes up to 1 hour in length.

As a first year journalism student, I would generally say that any work experience is good, but this work experience was very valuable. I was very grateful that I was given the opportunity to be a part of this project, and help with it, because I not only learnt more about the tricks of the trade, but I also had the opportunity to go along to a number of interviews and even ask some of the athletes a couple of questions. The highlight for me was a media pass for the Australian swimming team's final meet before the Games, and in the process meeting Grant Hackett. Life or journalism or work experience doesn't really come much better than that. Well at least not for a sports-fanatical first year student.

Before the Beijing Games, it would have been surprising if anyone outside of the kayaking fraternity knew the name of Ken 'Kenny' Wallace. But since the Games, Kenny has become an Olympic gold and bronze medalist, and probably the face of kayaking in Australia. Lots of kids will now take up the sport because of Kenny's achievements. How, we asked, did he get to where he is today? It was these sorts of questions that "Green and Gold" tried to find out.

After missing out on making the 2004 team for Athens through what may have been seen as a lack of desire and commitment, ironman-turned-kayaker

Kenny Wallace, was determined to make amends in Beijing. In the lead up to the Games (out at his hotel room near the International Regatta Centre in Penrith, complete with an empty 24-pack box of Crispy Crème donuts!), he told us what he had learnt from past experiences – including being pipped at the post for a medal at the 2006 World Championships:

"I only missed a medal by point nothing of a second. And over 1000 metres, I kind of look at it and go – where do I get that point nothing of a second? – I think it ended up being like 0.04. And I am thinking – "Now do I just take off 0.01 of a second every 250m or, you know, where do I find that?" Being this close to the Olympics, you know, I am the fourth best guy in the world and I only need to get one more and I have got an Olympic medal. Mind you I don't just want to get an Olympic medal... I want an Olympic gold medal. And I don't want to just go the Olympics; I want to win."

Unlike Kenny Wallace, many people in Australia would be familiar with the name Drew Ginn, who was a member of Australia's famous Oarsome Foursome and is a three-times Olympic gold medalist in rowing (trigger a memory?). So to find out what he believed was one of the key moments of his career was both intriguing and amusing. It was not "this win" or "that loss" that you might expect him to tell us about. Instead it was two single words straight from team-mate James Tomkins' mouth at Atlanta in 1996 that did it. Here's how Drew tells the story:



"I think being told to shut up in the boat during the final you know was a key moment. To me the fact that it was the Games had this aura around it, the fact that I was in the Awesome Foursome felt somehow magical. But to all of a sudden have this sense of we are at half-way and the guys had said if we were a half-a-length ahead, we could actually succeed. And I suddenly got all excited and started telling where all the crews were in the race.

"And James is going "shut up, be quiet" and that I think was the reality check. It was just like being back in school again, you know, sitting in the back of the class and having a gas bag with one of your mates, and the teacher turning around and saying "Ginn, be quiet". And the fact that it was in the middle of the race... I think athlete's often talk about being in big races, and it's almost like a blur and they don't remember much. I have always found that in races I remember it quite a lot. So that reality check, when you think it's all magical, to just be brought down to earth really quickly was nice. Perfect actually."

Now we all know that there is always two sides to a story, at least in a case involving a teacher and a student. That is why it was all the more interesting to hear James', or let's call him Mr Tomkins', account.

"He was doing a wonderful Bruce McAvaney impersonation – he was calling the race, everyone's positions, the margins and I told him just to shut up and keep rowing because it was getting pretty distracting. So he did

for about zoom and then started up again", Tomkins recalled, laughing.

And in case you hadn't picked up on it, James Tomkins was Australia's flag-bearer at the Olympic Opening Ceremony in Beijing, an honour that was in large part because he was competing at his 6th straight Olympics.

When you think of the name Grant Hackett, it is not hard to find suitable adjectives – brave, courageous, champion, role model and inspiring are just a few. And when actually coming face-to-face with Grant and hearing what he has to say, it's easy to see he is every bit the man he's made out to be. He is quietly spoken and modest, yet a figure of amazing presence – a figure that has undoubtedly touched the hearts of so many Australians since Sydney 2000.

It is a testament to the man we affectionately know as 'Hacky' that he takes on board the words of others so strongly – and in this case it was the words of an icon from a completely different sport – cricketing great and Australian Swimming Team mentor, Steve Waugh:

"What Steve said was what it means to be an Australian; and what it means to walk out in the Baggy Green to represent Australia; and what it feels like – whether it's a brand new cap or an old one that's a bit rough around the edges – what it means to walk out in a stadium and represent your country and the feeling of pride. And the way we seem to step up to the challenge and really focusing on the process of getting there and being prepared, not focused on

Articles (cont...)

the end result. Gold medals are of course the goal and everybody wants to win... that's a given. But it's the process of getting there, to be the most prepared we can be. Steve, as a great leader himself, re-iterated that and those fundamentals in the whole process."

What particularly impressed me was hearing Grant talk about the tough times that he's overcome at the very top levels of his sport: having to swim an Olympic final with a collapsed lung and competing at the top level whilst still suffering from glandular fever. Grant couldn't believe his luck that he was going to Beijing without being injured or ill, and it made him wonder whether he could ever reproduce the form that first took him to the elite level:

Certainly there have been times you wonder if you are actually going to perform like that again. When it's three years now, it goes quickly. But you sort of think, wow is it going to happen again? Am I getting too old? Have I used up all my energy to swim at that level? Certainly lots of questions. And I think anything you do in life, you have moments of self-doubt; and I certainly had those, but I kept pushing through. I had a good support network around me which has believed in me and what I can do and that certainly has helped me get back to this level and perform here and have the confidence to be able to perform here again

It shows that athletes like Grant Hackett are very human when it comes to self-belief and self-doubt.

Out of all the world's athletes, there wouldn't be many above Grant that people

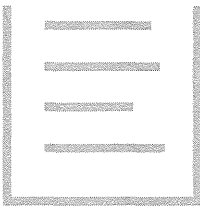
love to see succeed. But to hear the story of young backstroker, Ashley Delaney, will mean you'll want him to succeed as well.

In April, Ashley made his first Olympic Team. But the moment was bitter-sweet...

"I looked up at the top of the stands and I knew that my mum was watching. She lost her battle to cancer about three years ago nearly to the date so it's very, very special for me to come in and do what I did this week and achieve something that I have never achieved before. And going to the Olympic – which was a big dream as well of hers for me. So to look up there, just I could tell that she was cheering the loudest in the crowd and how excited she would have been for me. I think she would have been lost for words like I was after the race. But I know what she would have said to me – just that it was a fantastic job and she loves me and she always supported me all the way. So yeah, I know she would have been definitely watching."

Throughout the course of the interviews, which took almost one year to complete, the athletes were asked questions including their most memorable moment, their greatest moment, their turning point, their most embarrassing moment and the lowest point of their career. In the next two stories, cyclist Anna Meares will share her most memorable Olympic moment with you, whilst Hockeyroo Angie Lambert will tell us about something that really made a difference in the development stage of her career.

Earlier this year, champion track cyclist



Anna Meares came within two millimetres of being a quadriplegic for life when she was involved in a horrific cycling accident on the track at the World Cup in January. It took time and effort for her to recover but miraculously, she was still able to qualify for the Games only months after the accident. And to top it all off, she won a silver medal in Beijing. For a person and an athlete who has been through so much, when she was asked what the most memorable moment of her career was, it was good to hear that she could still focus on the lighter side of life! She shared with us what she remembered from her gold medal winning race at Athens, in 2004.

"The one thing that sticks out to me was the start, and that's because there was a fly sitting on my hand. And I like to get my hands set and not move my hands. And this fly was annoying me. It would not go away and it sat there. And I'm trying to flick my elbow just to move my hand a little bit just to get it to go on its way. And it would not go, and it stayed there right until zero countdown and I rode off the blocks. And there's one picture I've got of me coming out of the start gate and there is this little fly buzzing around my hands. That little fly, yeah – that's definitely the moment I remember."

Most elite athletes can identify a time when their career took a turn – usually for the better. And for Hockeyroo Angie Lambert, it was when one of her heroes came to her school back in 1996.

"I remember a turning point was when Renita Garrard, who'd just come back from

winning gold in Atlanta, came to my school and she presented me in Year 10 with the sportswomen of the year award. And I thought – "Wow, that's pretty cool". And the bizarre thing was the very next Olympics I was rooming with her when we went to play the Olympic final and we both won a gold medal together. So I guess it proves that dreams can come true. And you know, we're normal people in the end, and if you dream big, you can often achieve big."

We all know the saying: 'good memories last a lifetime' – and in this case it's obvious that they do.

The 150-plus interviews and the subsequent radio series, "Green and Gold", was a massive project, but one that was undoubtedly well worth the effort. Interviews were conducted right across Australia, and whilst I only came into it in its later stages, it was a great experience.

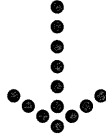
The word 'inspiring' is often overused, but when used to describe our Aussie athletes it always fits well. And working on this project as well as working with its mastermind, Peter Rubenstein, has certainly inspired me along my quest to be a truth-telling sports journalist. The fact that I was also involved (unwittingly) in recording Oral Histories of some of our great athletes was an added bonus, and has taught me about the importance of documenting such projects properly.

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute this article to *Voiceprint*.

Kathy Topham

1st Year student; Journalism; UTS

Diary of Events



New Course of Study **Master of Oral History and Historical Memory**

New at Monash University's School of Historical Studies from 2009

This innovative new postgraduate course, taught by international leaders in the field, integrates the study of oral history and historical memory. Oral history illuminates the lived experience of hidden histories and produces riveting historical documentary in books, radio and television, museum exhibitions and multi-media production. Historical memory is central to the contemporary cultural politics of witnessing, commemoration and reconciliation. DGraduates of the Master of Oral History and Historical Memory will be fully prepared to undertake research degrees involving historical memory and may go on to work in the wide range of professions that make significant use of oral history and historical memory, including museums, television, radio and multi-media production, heritage and corporate history, community and family history.

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students a wide range of choice and the opportunity to put together a program that meets their own interests. Joint research seminars introduce students to diverse and complementary research theory and method. Most students will take 'placement' units with partner organisations that develop work experience in a range of applied history contexts, including museums, community history, heritage work, oral history, native title and the history media.

Further information:

Course convener:

Professor Alistair Thomson,
School of Historical Studies,
Monash University, Melbourne 3800,
Australia;

phone 03-99059785;

email:

Alistair.Thomson@arts.monash.edu.au

Administrative officer: Liisa Williams,
phone 03-99052199;

email:

Liisa.Williams@arts.monash.edu.au.

For further details about the Monash history graduate courses, see the School of Historical Studies website:

(<http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/historical-studies/pgrad/coursework/>).

Call for papers

Ohaa National Conference

Launceston, Tasmania

Call for papers – final reminder

The Tasmanian Branch of the Oral History Association of Australia invites proposals for presentations on the theme:

Islands of Memory: Navigating Personal and Public History

Sub-themes include:
navigating truth and memory
navigating through generations
navigating new technologies

We encourage proposals from people who have worked with oral history in a wide range of environments such as family history and community projects, museums, heritage agencies, academic institutions, radio and television, law courts and performing arts.

Proposals (maximum 200 words) are invited for individual papers, thematic panels, workshops and performances.

CLOSING DATE FOR PROPOSALS:

31 OCTOBER 2008

Proposals should be sent to:
Jill Cassidy President OHAA (Tas) Inc
Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery,
PO Box 403
Launceston, Tasmania, Australia, 7250
Jill.Cassidy@qvmag.tas.gov.au

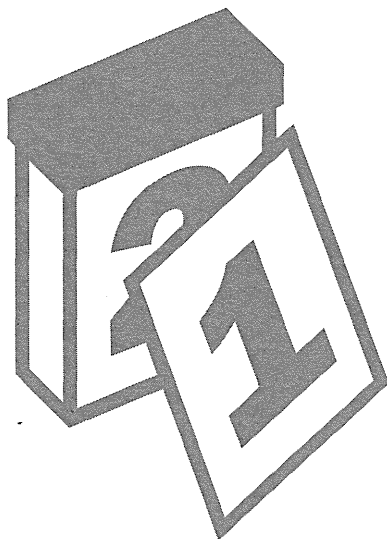
Committee Meeting Dates for 2008

Members are encouraged and welcome to attend meetings held at the State Library at 5.30pm. Please meet at the Mitchell Wing vestibule at 5.25pm. (Staff will direct you if you miss the group) 21 October, 18 November.

Seminar Dates for 2008

1 November.

Allistair Thompson will speak about memory and in the afternoon a special demonstration and practice with digital equipment.



Noticeboard



Website Oral History Association of Australia <www.ohaa.net.au>.

Do bookmark and visit this site from time to time to keep up to date with what is happening around Australia and especially for details and links to the International Conference.

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