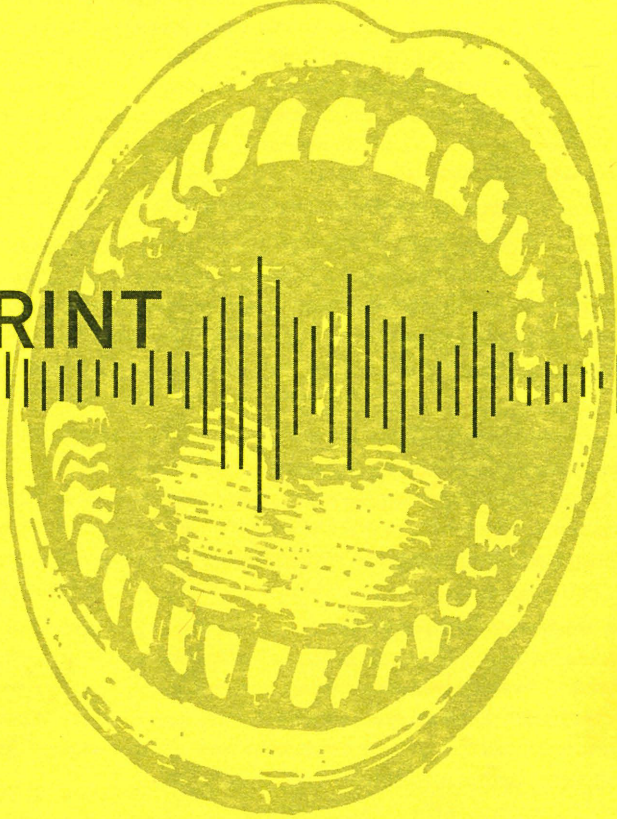


Newsletter of the New South Wales Branch
of the Oral History Association of Australia
www.ohaansw.org.au

VOICEPRINT



42

April 2010

VOICEPRINT

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Editorial



We live not very far from the local oval and in winter we are able to count the goals scored by the footballers, without leaving the house, but in summer we only hear muted applause as the cricket ball races to the boundary as we stroll down the road. The events on the oval are accompanied by a cacophony of voices, however there is no need most of the time to know what is said, to know what is going on. I was reflecting over summer on the sounds of summer and how much knowledge we gain from the surrounding sound. While listening and half watching the Australian Open Tennis Tournament on the TV, it was the sound that often drew my attention to the visual action and in this day you can catch the replay!! Hearing is a major part of the information and so often adds meaning to what we see.

Bill Bunbury at the recent Master class he conducted drew our attention to the importance of recording in situ to add to the picture and the interpretation that the listener takes from the recording. But on reflection, what we hear is very important to our human understanding of the story. Listening to what is said, how it was said, and where it was said, allows oral history to add an understanding that is not available from written text. However it is text and some pictures that Voiceprint must use to inspire our members!

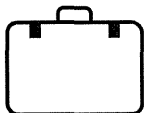
As always your busy NSW Committee have helped me find contributors and provided articles for this issue. Thank you to all our contributors. I know the oral history scene is alive and very active, however I would like to have more reports of the various projects that members are undertaking. Remember that you can use Voiceprint to seek out those with similar interests. The computer age has made contact so readily available and it can always be through Voiceprint if members prefer.

I will need to have material for our next Voiceprint in July which you will receive in October. Putting the articles together in one document takes time, especially as I am not an expert on the keyboard! Then it has to go to layout and design to be prepared for printing; on to the printer – then to the volunteers to post. Quite a process – so as you read this Voiceprint, think about what you may contribute for the next edition please.

In May we will be off to London, not to see the Queen, but our three princesses! Hope on return late June to have an overflowing mailbox, as the need for our next edition will become urgent. I look forward to your many contributions, thank you.

Joyce Cribb

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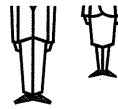


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Web Site

Remember to look up our website: www.ohaansw.org.au for all the latest information and news of what's on. If you have news for circulation through the OHAA NSW web site, please email the OHAA webmaster: Sandra Blamey at: sblamey@ozemail.com.au

Membership



Welcome to our new members, the first listing for 2010! We are so pleased to welcome you to the community of oral historians in New South Wales and hope that you benefit from being in touch with all of us while we enjoy our endeavours and learn more about oral history together.

Lesley Potter	retired nurse
Mary-Jill Johnston	entrepreneur
Richard Whiteing	research manager, Robben Island, South Africa
Kerry Edwards	historian
Marianne Ward	volunteer
Jen Saunders	transcriptionist
Sherene Suchy	social worker
Susan Heyne	community worker
Ken Burke	model maker
Michael Bogle	historian
Colleen Meehan	school counsellor
Tara Grimshaw	communications manager
Sylvia Lovenfosse	nurse and historian
Maria Hill	academic
Anna Roache	heritage consultant
St Ives Uniting Church	
Concord Heritage Society Inc.	
Shared Conversations Pty Ltd	

Rosie Block, President OHAA NSW

Nuts & Bolts

History Council of NSW and OHAA Webpage – Announcement

The NSW OHAA continues to explore ways of highlighting the work of kindred professional organizations or institutions which can help our own members learn more about the role of these entities in the practice of oral history. This opportunity develops professional links and the work of members of the Oral History Association is promoted.


The OHAA is a Corporate Member of the History Council of NSW – a state-wide organization based in Macquarie Street, Sydney. Following recent discussions with the History Council's President, Mark Dunn, and Executive Officer, Zoë Pollock, the History Council has approved a proposal from the OHAA to showcase the work of OHAA members on the History Council website.



The History Council will introduce a new webpage highlighting examples of OHAA members' projects in narrative panels and audio. This new webpage could be uplifted to the History Council's website in July in conjunction with its publicity for History Week 2010. This was Zoë Pollock's idea and a History Council volunteer will oversee the project's administration.

Members of the OHAA are invited to submit an oral history project for possible inclusion on the History Council's website.

Requirements are: a brief summary of the project (one page maximum); brief audio extracts highlighting different aspects of the project (two samples of about two minutes each); consent forms indicating the interviewee and interviewer consent to their recording being made publicly available; full contact details. The final decision about content of the webpage will be made by the NSW Committee. The project must be finalised by 30 June 2010 so your submission is needed as soon as possible. **Enquiries to Rosie Block or Roslyn Burge (0413 733 218 – rburge@ozemail.com.au) – please, not to the History Council.**

Digital Recording Equipment Available to OHAA, NSW, Members Only

Two Edirol R-09HR Solid State Recorders and microphones are available for short term hire (five days) at a cost of \$20. A refundable deposit of \$200 is required. Borrowers need to provide their own flash cards. Contact: Rosie Block, 
CL – Oral History Program, State Library of New South Wales Sydney NSW 2000.

Tel (02) 9273-1697 
email: rblock@sl.nsw.gov.au 
Please note: Edirol R-09HR can take a flash card of up to 4 gigabytes. It is recommended, for quality purposes, to buy these from a reputable source.



Workshops

If members are not familiar with this equipment please look out for our hands-on workshops with digital recording equipment. Feedback from the last workshop held last year was very positive. We are very lucky that we have members with the expertise and the willingness to share their knowledge. See our web site for details of forthcoming events – www.ohaansw.org.au

Digitisation of Cassette Tapes Now Urgent! *By Michael Clarke*

The digitisation of oral history cassette tapes has now become an urgent issue. While the life of cassette tapes is variable depending on original quality, usage and storage conditions, and while 40 years has at times been quoted, some cassettes have been known to deteriorate in 10 years or less. Further, handbooks recommend that to prevent 'print through', a wise precaution is to play tapes through every year or so. This of course rarely happens and for large collections such as the State Library's it would be an enormous if not impossible task.

In 1991 the Sydney Engineering Heritage Committee commenced an oral history project to record the stories of eminent engineers. Since then around 200 biographical interviews have been recorded,

with the master cassette tapes and associated background material deposited with the oral history collection of the State Library of NSW (SLNSW). The playing time of the tapes would amount to about 500 hours. However, to date the SLNSW has not embarked on the digitisation of its oral history tapes.

Concerned therefore that its valuable collection is at risk unless it can be digitised in the near future and transferred to a more stable medium accessible to modern technology, the Engineering Heritage Committee has embarked at its own cost, on digitising the collection it has lodged with the Library. At the conclusion of the process the Library will be supplied with the digitised material on hard disk drives and archive quality DVDs.

The consultant it has engaged to advise on the project has already completed similar projects for the Sydney Opera House, the Stanton Library of North Sydney and Shoroc (Mosman Manly Warringah) libraries, and work has commenced on the oral history collection of the NSW Department of Technology, Services and Administration (the old Public Works Department).

(Michael is a committee member of OHAA(NSW) and very keen to see more oral history collections digitised. Note: Voiceprint 38 tells of the digitisation projects undertaken by Coffs Harbour City Library and Baulkham Hills Shire Library. Members do tell us what is happening with collections you are involved with. Ed)

ABC and Oral History

*In our last issue of Voiceprint we published the text of **A Rapid History of Oral History at the ABC**. This talk was given by Rosie Block prior to a talk by Catherine Freyne of the ABC. Tim Bowden, one of those involved with oral history at the ABC, in a message to Rosie stated "I read your piece in the latest Voiceprint on oral history origins in the ABC with great joy. I did note a few inaccuracies... By the way I'll attach some comments I made at UTS at one of Jane Connors' seminars, about the origins of SHU which may be of interest" Following is the text from these comments made in August 2001. Thank you to Tim for permission to publish them for your interest. (Ed).*

For the last seven years I have been working with ABC Radio's Social History Unit. What we do is to make radio programs based on taped oral history interviews with a variety of Australians whose memories go back almost to the turn of the century. Oral history can be, of course, as recent as yesterday, and our interests do not always take us back into the seer and yellow leaf. I might say that after several of our elderly and valued informants had died not long after being recorded by me – a colleague was unkind enough to equate an oral history session with me as equivalent

to an appointment with the Grim Reaper - you know the kind of thing, 'The Horseman comes not with a Scythe, but a Sony'.

Jane Connors suggested it might be appropriate to begin with an outline of how the ABC's Social History Unit began. It started in 1985, largely out of self interest, as I wanted to continue to develop my interest in oral history based documentaries to the exclusion of all other work! For the previous ten years I had been working with the ABC's Radio Drama & Features Department, producing what were effectively oral history based documentaries. Some of these were major projects like *Taim Bilong Masta – The Australian Involvement With Papua New Guinea*, and then, *Prisoners Of War: Australians Under Nippon*. Both were two year projects, and spawned books and cassettes. I was strongly influenced in attempting the New Guinea series by the BBC series *Plain Tales Of The Raj*, produced by Michael Mason, although the *Taim Bilong Masta* programs attempted to go beyond the nostalgia of the old hands, and tackle the politics of the emerging nationalist movement, as well as document topics like the role of women in those colonial days, health, justice, and labour relations. Dr Hank Nelson, Senior Fellow with the Department of Pacific and Southeast Asian History at the ANU collaborated in both these major series, and wrote books based on the radio programs – which, I am delighted to say, are still in print. I wanted to try to establish a



small unit dedicated to oral history-based programs to enable more in this area to be done – and to ensure I would be able to continue making such programs!

1985 was a lean year for the ABC in terms of new initiatives, and the fledging Social History Unit was one of the few in that year. The Director of Drama and Features of the day Richard Connolly personally favoured a more broadly based Documentaries unit, but I hung out for the social history emphasis. I chose the expression, 'social history' by the way, as an alternative to 'oral history' to indicate that we might on occasions go beyond the grave, or into written sources as well. The present debate between the virtues of social history and cultural history were distinctions far from my thoughts in those days.

How could the unit become a reality? First some people. The Talks Department agreed to release Stephen Rapley for an attachment, and our then Education department even more reluctantly ceded Daniel Connell. The programs were the newly created *Word Of Mouth*, and *Sunday Feature* – re-named the *Social History Feature*. *Talking History*, our magazine program, arrived later, as did Bill Bunbury in Western Australia. There has been some shrinkage. We now have only one 50 minute program following the loss of *Word Of Mouth* and Daniel Connell.

It's called That's History, and incorporates the Social History Feature. Ros Bowden is the Executive Producer (EP) of the Unit, Stephen Rapley and Bill Bunbury are the other producers, Jane Connors does part time research and I would say we are organisationally at lowest critical mass. Fingers crossed.

An unkind criticism of the early period of existence of the Social History Unit was that we specialised in interviewing aged, Anglo Saxon males. That changed with the advent of Jenny Palmer as EP. I was always a reluctant EP, and when Jenny arrived about a year later, I was delighted to do a lateral arabesque and resume full time program making. The focus changed not only to include more women, but to actively seek migrant experiences, aboriginal oral history, as well as considering more recent events.

The alleged preponderance of aged Anglo Saxon male voices quickly gave way to the varied accents of migrant Australians in Siobhan McHugh's six part series *The Snowy – The People Behind The Power*, Sharon Davis's interviews with Australian women war correspondents, or Ros Bowden's series *Being Aboriginal* in which Aboriginal Australians articulate their own feelings and attitudes to aboriginal history. Bill Bunbury's eight part series on Dutch connections with Australia going back to the 17th Century signalled a widening brief. I produced a series examining Australians in the Antarctic in the post war years. Hank Nelson generated

Nuts & Bolts (cont...)

five programs on Australian one teacher schools from the turn of the century. Daniel Connell produced a major series on the war at home, and Stephen Rapley's eight part series Bright Sparks focused on the technology of early radio communications, when Australia in many ways, led the world.

Our magazine *Talking History* with Stephen Rapley moved away from being a showcase for oral history items, although it retained some elements of this for a time, to exploring history issues largely within Australia, often involving the universities, museums, colleges of advanced education, oral history associations, and individual historians. That has continued to the present, although we are making more of an effort these days to consider overseas stories when appropriate, and *That's History* has more of a current affairs edge about it these days. For example we were anxious to canvass each major political party's attitude to history before the Federal Election – and hoped to interview Dr Don Watson, a professional historian on Paul Keatings staff if we had been able to get him to return our calls, and a Liberal Party spokesperson on historical matters if they had been able to find one.

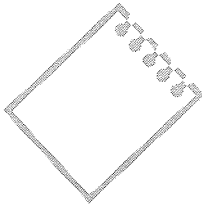
Tim Bowden

From the International President

Message from the International Oral History President – published IOHA Newsletter Vol:18 January 2010

Throughout 2009, I have been able to attend a number of Oral History conferences and meetings in Spain and around the world as president of the IOHA. This experience has been especially positive as I have been able to reassert my belief that the personal contact between Oral History researchers, teachers, students and social workers is irreplaceable. Indeed, it is a necessary complement to our professional relations that are increasingly established over the Internet and email.

The first international meeting I attended was the Italian Oral History Association Congress (AISO) that was held in Padua in May 2009. The AISO brought together a number of important figures in Oral History, among them Gabriella Gribaudo (the AISO president) and Sandro Portelli, with Sandro being particularly known for his work in oral history and for being one of the promoters of the international movement of oral historians of the IOHA. The conference's theme "Una memoria fondata sul lavoro" [A memory based on labour] created a framework to discuss interesting papers on work and labour in Italy, Romania and Mexico. Based on oral, audiovisual and written sources, these paper focused on the second half of the



twentieth century as well as current processes of globalization.

Turning to the southern hemisphere, I had the pleasure of attending the Ninth National Oral History Meeting organized by the Argentine Oral History Association (AHORA), presided by Liliana Barela and the University of Buenos Aires (Pablo Pozzi). In this conference, many of the papers centered on the recent Argentine dictatorship, focusing on the memories of party activists and human rights organizations. The importance of these testimonies can be understood by visiting the former Detention and Torture Centre (called the Athletic Centre), one of many that existed in Buenos Aires in 1977 when 1500 people disappeared.

Quite distinct was my visit to the ORT school where I chatted with young students that work in the school's oral history archive. Thanks to the invitation extended by Laura Benadiba, I was able to grasp the interest that oral history generates in a classroom for younger generations of Argentines.

The seven hundred paper proposals that arrived to participate the XVI, IOHA Conference in Prague is undoubtedly a challenge for the organization of the congress, particularly for our Czech colleagues who are working hard to make it a successful event. This interest should encourage all of us to strive for a new conference whose goal—as Sandro

Portelli challenged us in Sydney – should be more than coming together to renew old friendships, but to meet new colleagues that test our points of view and assumptions about oral history. With this spirit, the IOHA Council is doing everything possible to obtain more travel grant funding for our conference in Prague in July 2010. I hope to see you all there.

**Warm regards,
Pilar Domínguez IOHA President**

Members' Projects

We hope members will tell us about the various projects they are undertaking. I am sure we are all interested to know what is happening in oral history. We hope some discussion and exchange of ideas may be generated. Ed

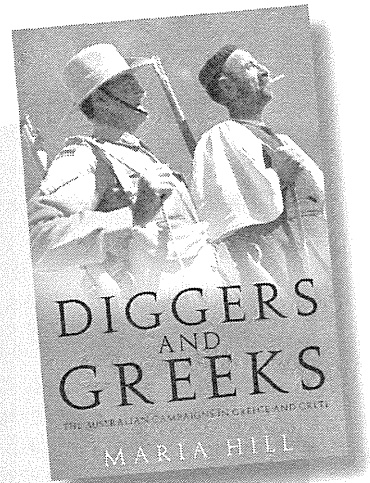
Annes Smith's Blog

Voiceprint 41 told of Anne Smith's History Tour. Anne emailed to say she is keeping a 'blog' up to date. This can be accessed by googling: www.getjealous.com When you're in the site, find *Anne and Frank* and the whole diary of their trip is there. Perhaps members may like to read her 'blog'.

Nuts & Bolts (cont...)

An invitation from our member Maria Hill to the launch of her latest book. As Maria used oral history interviews this book has considerable interest for members.

Greek Festival of Sydney presents the launch of *Diggers and Greeks: The Australian Campaigns in Greece and Crete*



By Maria Hill

Anzac War Memorial, Hyde Park, Sydney
Tuesday 6th April 2010 6.30 – 8.30

Launched by The Honourable Bob Carr:

'Reading Diggers and Greeks, I am reminded of the remarkable rapport between the Australian army and Greek citizens in World War II: Young Australian soldiers battling to protect Greek independence against the odds, ultimately failing but achieving an unprecedented friendship between a native people and an overseas army. Maria Hill tells a compelling story of the relationship that emerged between Australians and Greeks, for the first time in the detail it deserve and with a scholar's command of the material, while not neglecting the Greek perspective but with a great feel for the emotions involved in these complex campaigns, inhabited by people both sympathetic and hostile to the Allied cause.'

A performance by 'The Belles' of the Andrew Sisters Medley will follow: Light refreshments will be served at the conclusion of the launch. Books will also be available for sale on the night signed by the author.

RSVP: Monday 29 March 2010
(before Easter long weekend);
to Dimi Lafazanos | Festival Manager –
Greek Festival of Sydney/Greek Film Festival

Tel: 9750 0440
greekfestival@goc.co.au
www.diggersandgreeks.com.au

Maria Hill can be contacted:
Dr Maria Hill Professional Historian/
Educational Consultant
website: <http://www.mariahill.com.au>



Seminar November 6th 2009

(Margo Beasley and Anna Cossu both gave interesting talks about different historical aspects of the City of Sydney. Voiceprint is indebted to both these ladies for supplying text from their talks to include in this edition.)

The following is an edited version of a talk given for the Oral History Association Seminar at the State Library of NSW.

Open All Hours: Commerce and Work in the City of Sydney

by Margo Beasley

The City of Sydney Council has a strong record in producing history of all kinds, including oral history. I came on board at the City four years ago to concentrate on oral history exclusively and to that end I do interviews, manage projects and collections, ensure physical preservation and electronic archiving, develop material for the City's website, resurrect earlier projects and arrange for digitising old audio material.

The project under discussion here was originally conducted in 2001 by Richard Raxworthy, a well known oral historian in Sydney who has since died. It was initiated by the heritage people in the City of Sydney Council and funded through a Centenary of Federation grant. The original intention was to look at long term small, mainly retail, businesses located in buildings of heritage interest, but the project broadened to include the

social history of those businesses as well. Some of the material was used in a DVD titled 'Merchants and Memories', which wasn't widely distributed, and the original interviews and accompanying photographs languished somewhat as a result.

The material in the interviews was rich and interesting at the time, but is even more so now with the intervention of what is only nine years. It already has a 'historic' feel, probably because many of the businesses it looked into have since disappeared. The City of Sydney's History Program has now decided to use the original 2001 material as a foundation for an ongoing theme – commerce and work in the City of Sydney - in our oral history program. It will function under the title of 'Open All Hours' and we have already commissioned a consultant oral historian to add a further fifteen or so interviews to the project. We intend to develop several other specific subjects for ongoing collection in the City of Sydney as well, but since they are still at the planning stage, 'Open All Hours' can be viewed as our flagship oral history theme. Most of our oral history projects will ultimately appear on dedicated oral history pages on the City of Sydney's website, which are currently in development.

Reports (cont...)

There's so much you can say about what oral sources, about small business can do for historians and people generally interested in history. Oral sources of course can provide the nuance and subtlety that doesn't survive in documentary records, but small businesses can also act as a lens that allows for scrutiny of so many of the things that historians are keenly interested in. Small business is an intersection for understanding the day-to-day realities of big themes such as migration, gender, family, political climate, economics, war, and, not least, work. And all of these interact with individual life circumstances to show the influence of personality traits like flexibility, intelligence, energy and capacity for risk taking.

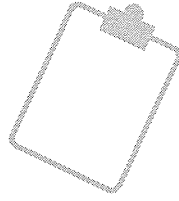
The original project consisted of more than thirty interviews ranging over ten different businesses. They included a fish café, a Chinese restaurant, a second hand book and record dealer, a furniture repairer, a dealer in new and second hand comics, a golf supply shop, a tailor, a gun dealer, a tobacconist and a fur retailer. Some of these businesses were very well-known, other less so. Many of them were not in the Sydney CBD but were located around the Haymarket area (now associated with Chinatown) and nearby Central Station. When all the country and suburban trains terminated at Central, before the City Circle underground loop was built in the

1930s, this area was a thriving hub of commerce. It housed the fruit, vegetable and fish markets, dozens of little and big hotels and, of course, shops of all kinds, including department stores. With the arrival of the post-war boom, motor cars and urban sprawl, a lot of shopping activity once associated with the city shifted to the suburbs. The Central and Haymarket areas, because of their relatively low-cost real estate, offered opportunities to enterprising, and often specialist, small traders.

Here is an introduction to some of the businesses in Richard Raxworthy's original project.

Andy Ellis Tailors

Andy Ellis was a tailor whose business began in a workshop above a retail tailoring shop in Oxford St, Paddington, before WWII. He made army uniforms during the war and in 1954 opened a rented shop at 420 Pitt St, close to Central Station, for his own tailoring business. He then became tailor to the entertainment industry stars, and to hip young men generally, in the 1950s, '60s and '70s. There's a story that this line of work began because Johnny O'Keefe's father, who had a store or factory nearby, approached Andy to make rock and roll suits for Johnny to wear when he was performing. Many other stars followed, including Col Joye, Digger Revel, Tommy Tycho, Brian Henderson and others. Andy made suits of Lurex, glitter and even hessian, as well as Slim Dusty's multi-



coloured cowboy outfits decorated with embroidery and feather tacks on the pockets. Andy Ellis's tailoring business declined as department stores eventually responded to the youth market, after which he specialised in beautiful riding jackets, which are now sought after vintage items.

Mick Smith and Sons Gun Store

For many years Mick Smith was the biggest gun dealer, retail and wholesale, in Australia. Mick started working life as a country barber, came to Sydney after the war to manage his uncle's barber shop in Kings Cross and subsequently bought several barber shops including 773 George St, in 1948, in Haymarket. Mick operated the premises there as a barber shop for a while, also selling tobacco, fishing tackle and other sporting goods. His big opportunity came when ammunition was released after the restrictions of the war years and at its height Mick Smith and Sons sold guns and ammunition across four connected shopfronts, and had 21 employees. Mick handled the distribution for firms like Winchester and ICI, was a champion shooter, and also dealt in antique fire arms, night scopes, automatic shotguns, handguns, knives and swords.

Sol Levy: Tobacconist Extraordinaire.

This extraordinary tobacconist still exists at 713 George St, just along the road from the gun shop, in spite of the success of anti-smoking public health campaigns in recent decades. The original Sol Levy, after whom the shop is named, was a prize-winning cigar maker in the late 19th

century. The current owner is Sol Levi, son of Ted Levi, the original Sol Levy's adopted son. The current Sol took over the shop in 1966 and remodelled it. Until 1990 part of the space was sublet to a barber. Cigar production on the premises ceased during WWII and now all cigars in Australia are imported. The business now focuses on the sale of imported pipes, pipe repairs, loose tobacco and tobacco blends, cigarettes and cigars (and has its own humidor). Sol Levy's has sold Cuban cigars to Americans who can't buy them at home because of trade embargoes against Cuba, and a once profitable sideline was pipe cleaners for children – used for play, and to teach counting before the introduction of Cuisenaire rods. One explanation for the survival of this upmarket tobacconist is the lack of competition for its high level of specialisation.

Cornelius Furs

Cornelius Furs was a very well known and fashionable fur shop in the Sydney CBD. It was started after the war by a young married couple: Stella and Max Cornelius. Max was a German Jewish refugee, a furrier who came to Australia in 1938, and Stella had worked in her father's dress shop in Newcastle (NSW). As Stella tells it they set up the original business in Edgecliff in eastern Sydney to assist Max to recover from ill-health associated with his war service. When the business prospered and expanded they moved to prime positions in



the centre of Sydney, the most significant being the Trust Building at 72 Castlereagh St. Cornelius Furs had many famous clients: international stars including Bette Davis, Marlene Dietrich, Sophia Loren and Shirley Bassey, and local identities such as Sir Robert Helpmann, Margaret Whitlam, Lady Fairfax, Don Lane, Bert Newton and Paul Hogan. But their marketing strategy was always to capture the broadest range of customers, right down to the humble office girl whose budget stretched only to a collar in an inexpensive fur. The Cornelius's sold the business in 1978; it's been resold once or twice and the name survives in Melbourne as Cornelius Kempler Furs. The fur business in Australia went into a general decline in the '70s and '80s, partly as a response to anti-fur political activism. Max Cornelius died soon after the business was sold in 1978 but Stella is still alive, aged 90 and still involved with the peace activities and conflict resolution that were the other major part of her life.

Sharpie's Golf House

This Haymarket business, originally known as simply The Golf House, was very well-known, mainly because of its famous, apparently 'moving', neon sign, which showed a man hitting a golf ball in an arc and landing a hole-in-one. The sign was a major Sydney landmark, because it was visible from the railway line at Central, it was fascinating to watch, and once you spotted it you knew that the Sydney CBD was fast approaching. We have multiple interviews about this business, including interviews about the making and maintenance of the neon signage itself, because a major debate broke out about the fate of the sign while Richard Raxworthy was conducting the project in 2001. The sign is now in storage.

The History Program at the City of Sydney Council hopes that all of the interviews from Richard Raxworthy's project, plus the additional fifteen that have been conducted by Roslyn Burge, will be up on our website in the second half of 2010. And there will be many more projects, on several different themes, to follow.

City of Sydney: Using Voices to Furnish a Museum

By Anna Cossu Curator/Manager

Built in 1844 Susannah Place is situated in the heart of The Rocks and tells the stories of the working class families that called it home. The terrace of four houses including a corner grocer was tenanted by over 100 different families from 1844 to 1990.

The voices of our 19th century tenants are harder to hear, they left behind few personal records and so we are reliant on public documents such as birth, marriage and death certificates to trace the progress of their lives. With many of our 20th century tenants we can capture their stories through oral history interviews as well as countless informal conversations. These oral history interviews are a fundamental part of the interpretation philosophy of Susannah Place Museum and are used in four main ways:

- re-creation of rooms based on the descriptions of former tenants
- excerpts played via a soundscape in different rooms
- stories woven throughout guided tours and other public programs
- new directions for ongoing research



Rear of Susannah Place.

Photograph: Patrick Bingham Hall

Susannah Place's first oral history interview was recorded in 1990 with James Young and his wife Jessie. James's family lived at 64 Gloucester Street from 1904 to 1930 and in their ground floor front room his parents ran the grocer shop which had been trading since 1844. James used to help in the shop after school and his memories of the layout of the shop, the goods sold and the suppliers of stock were incredibly detailed and allowed the museum to re-create the shop to 1915 -1920. James remembered:

'...that window fronted Gloucester Street. There was a shelf running along there, which there was the glass containers showing off the boiled lollies, humbugs, carnations. There was musk sticks that were popular with the kids. It made a real colourful show with the soft drinks underneath, with the different colours of lime and also the white lemonade ... and creaming soda, raspberry...'

Reports (cont...)



**Mercia, Patricia, Colleen and Doreen O'Brien/
Thompson 1946. Courtesy A. Sutherland**

The tenants of Susannah Place led ordinary lives in sometimes extraordinary times – Patricia Thompson's family moved to No 62 to save 2 shillings a week rent during the hard years of The Great Depression, her younger brother recalled The Rocks during World War II with warships in the harbour and American soldiers a familiar presence in the neighbourhood. The Hughes family living in No 58 was one of thousands of families affected by the Influenza pandemic of 1918 and Great Strike of the same year.

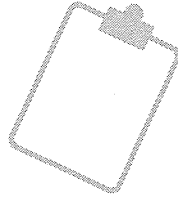
The recreation of the 1930s -1940s kitchen in No 60 was based on the memories of three surviving grandchildren who visited their grandmother Dorothea Sarantides and Uncles Emmanuel and Arthur every week for many years. The two sisters Rose and Kay remembered ironing their Uncles shirts on the kitchen table which was covered with an old blanket and bed sheet to protect it from the heat of the heavy flat iron. For most museum visitors today it is these everyday stories retold from our tenants' oral history interviews that resonates with them and triggers their own memories. Descriptions of washing days at the copper, or sharing bedrooms (and beds) with siblings or Patricia's story

of the penny-in-the-slot gas meter; 'the gas was run by the meter and we had to put a penny in the slot and we always had to have those pennies to put in the slot otherwise we'd have to sit in the darkness and many times we'd be in the middle of a meal and all of a sudden the lights would all go out.'

Many of the tenants' stories have generated additional research. Patricia's story about the gas meter led to an investigation into what they looked like, how they worked and how long a 'penny' lasted. Fortunately we were able to locate an old gas meter and include it in the recreation of Patricia's 1940s parlour. Other memories of local shops and landmarks long gone from the area such as Grubb's butcher shop, the New York Picture Show house, State Clothing Factory, Playfair's Meatworks and many others are part of an ongoing program of research into The Rocks neighbourhood and how it has changed over time.

As former tenant Flo Gallagher, said of the oral history program, 'the voice'll put the colour in it' and at Susannah Place it is the voices of our former tenants that enable the museum to tell such evocative stories.

(Susannah Place Museum is open for guided tours Monday to Friday 2pm – 6pm and Saturday, Sundays and everyday during the NSW school holidays 10am – 6pm. Susannah Place Museum is a property of the Historic Houses Trust.)

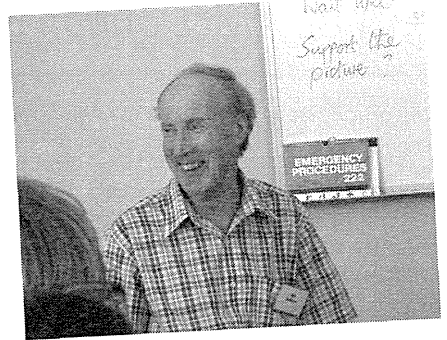


Bill Bunbury Oral History Masterclass 20th February 2010

The focus of the Master class was to explore the technique and practice of interviewing. Over 50 members and visitors all of whom had heard some of Bill's excellent ABC radio programs formed a capacity and very appreciative audience in the Coles room at the State Library. Bill modestly informed the audience that he didn't believe in masters – we all are apprentices – with more to learn.

Bill told us a little of his background. His grandfather belonged to a Western Australian farming family and his father had been born in Western Australia but had returned to England with his mother when his parents separated. It was because of his father's Australian connection that Bill decided after he finished university to take a 'gap year' to explore his Australian roots, found them, and stayed! Bill taught in high schools for a number of years and as a teacher came into contact with the ABC Education Production Unit. He was invited to write scripts for them and this led to a job in TV. Unlike many who have moved from radio to TV Bill moved in reverse from TV to radio.

Bill explained how he approached his projects and played a number of extracts from his recordings to illustrate his points. Bill spoke of the need in radio to create word pictures and allow the narrative to



**Bill Bunbury in action at the Masterclass
taken by Sandra Blamey**

flow and tell the story, so his productions were mostly composite and edited. However, as in best oral history practice he always keeps the master recordings.

Questions, and suggested topics from the interested and interactive audience were discussed. Overall the participants left feeling it had been a very successful day. As one said "there are always some new ideas to take away – a most enjoyable learning experience."

The comfortable venue and catering from the State Library were as usual for our OHAA seminars much appreciated.

Joyce Cribb

OHAA Conference September 2009 Islands of Memory; Navigating Personal and Public History *by Alison McDougall & Karen George*

(This article first appeared in Word of Mouth, Newsletter of OHHA SA Inc. Spring 2009, and is reprinted with permission of the authors).

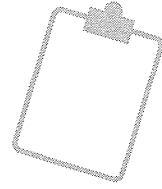
The 16th National Oral History Association of Australia Conference was held in Launceston, Tasmania from 17–20 September at the Tram Shed Function Centre close by to the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery's Inveresk site.

Some 125 delegates were treated to three and a half days of stimulating presentations, chances to renew or make new acquaintances over the delicious morning and afternoon teas and lunches, and insights into the fascinating world of oral history.

After a moving Welcome to Country by Aboriginal Elder, Nola Hooper, the conference was officially opened by His Excellency The Honourable Ewan Crawford, Lieutenant-Governor of Tasmania, who himself had been an interviewee for an oral history conducted for a book on the history of the Launceston Church Grammar School.

The Keynote Address, given by Richard Whiteing, was entitled Remembering Mandela on Robben Island. Richard is the Research Manager of the Robben Island Museum and during the apartheid era he spent fifteen years in exile in Botswana during which time he joined the African National Congress and operated clandestinely in its political structures for eleven years until he was able to return to South Africa in 1991.

Richard's talk provided unique insights into Robben Island which he referred to as a 'place of beauty where horror stories took place'. He revealed the ways in which Nelson Mandela 'set the pace' in the island prison through his sense of humour and respect for all, even the guards who kept him imprisoned. Richard shared a story told by George Bizos, Mandela's lawyer, who recalled that when Mandela was marched down to meet him, he referred to the eight wardens surrounding him as his 'guard of honour', introducing each of them personally by name! In this way, another interviewee said, Mandela 'rescued



the human beings in the wardens'. Richard generously donated a copy of his recent publication, a tribute to Nelson Mandela on his 90th birthday, entitled *Political Prisoner 466/64: Nelson Mandela on Robben Island*, to each OHAA state branch.

Alan Harris Stein, archival oral historian and Associate Director of the Consortium for Oral History Educators at the University of Maryland, gave a fascinating insight in the life and times of Studs Terkel, the iconic American oral historian who practised his craft through radio, performing arts and activism until his death in 2008 at 96 years of age. Studs was born in 1912 and he often quipped that 'The Titanic went down. I came up.'

Al accompanied his talk with a documentary he co-produced entitled *Rocking the Boat: Studs Terkel's 20th Century*, which featured Terkel and nearly a dozen of his fellow boat rockers. One of Terkel's laments was that young Americans have no memory of (and are seldom taught about) the struggles it took, and still takes, to make their homeland more fair and inclusive. 'We suffer from a national Alzheimer's Disease,' he says sadly. That observation may well apply to Australia. The Chicago History Museum is the repository for the thousands of hours of recordings made by Studs as well as all of his writings. Al said it is often referred to as 'The Studsonian Institution'.

Across the rest of the conference there was a broad range of topics which covered oral history undertakings in every state and territory of Australia as well as one from Manitoba, Canada.

There were three sessions which shared people's use of oral history and stories in indigenous communities. We heard about gathering oral histories from the Kimberley area in order to facilitate the reconciliation process; how the Arabunna people of Lake Eyre are sharing their history through tours (they particularly welcome lawyers!); the shortcomings of the Victorian Heritage Act which requires Aboriginal people to register otherwise they have no voice, and which makes no reference to oral tradition; Queenslanders reflecting on Prime Minister Rudd's Apology to Australia's Indigenous people (see http://qldstories.slq.qld.gov.au/home/digital_stories/apology_responses); how Aboriginal Tasmanians are participating in Telling Places in Country – a research project that re-traces the 'Friendly Mission' undertaken by George Augustus Robinson in the early 1830s, which saw Aboriginal people rounded up for exile – and how it is helping them reclaim their history and identity; using the memories of the location and design of housing at Weilmoringle, NSW – from mia mias to gunyahs and humpies to houses – to gain insight into their cultural and social history; and using oral history to gain a wider picture of Yolngu (Arnhem Land) participation in World War II.

Reports (cont...)

Dr Maureen Simpkins spoke of the personal and collaborative process of conducting life story interviews with gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgendered and Two Spirit community members in northern Manitoba and highlighted the issues faced in such a remote location. 'Two Spirit' is a self descriptor increasingly used by gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered Aboriginal people in Canada, and acknowledges the interconnectedness of all aspect of identity such as spirituality, sexuality, land and gender.

Other major topics were Oral History (OH) on the Web, OH and Place, Art and OH, War and OH, oral histories of work places and of refugees and migrants. Delegates were treated to a wonderful performance of excerpts from Stella Kent's play *New Tasmanians* which was based on the oral histories of migrants to that state.

We heard from Ken Berryman and Chris Guster from the National Film and Sound Archive and their commitment to collecting oral histories of people who have contributed significantly to Australia's film, sound and broadcast history. Chris shared aspects of their Remote Indigenous Media Association Project and how it has documented the development of programs by remote communities in their own language.

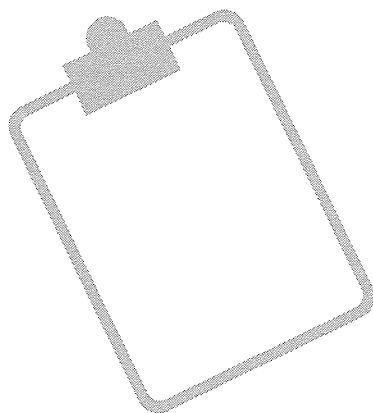
One of the quiet highlights of the conference was a paper given by Emma Hewitt, a heritage consultant and Masters Student from Melbourne. A chance conversation with an elderly man about a past love inspired a paper which considered the importance of memories of love and the ways in which emotions are remembered over time. Emma's thought provoking paper reminded everyone of the many oral history paths yet to be discovered.

Issues in interviewing, and the teaching of history in universities were also explored. Although oral history has been taught in Australia universities for three decades, South Australia has missed out. Al Thompson, Janis Wilton and Joanne Scott talked about the courses they run at Monash, Armidale and on the Sunshine Coast respectively. Al Stein added perspectives from teaching in the United States. The session showed the value of teaching oral history in depth through a university course rather than a day workshop. The structured longer term courses allow scope for understanding and mastering both theory and practice and for students to reflect upon and critically assess their first attempts at interviewing. Members of the SA branch who attended this session agreed that we need to lobby appropriate people and departments to develop teaching courses in oral history in at least one of our South Australian universities.

The final session of the conference addressed fact versus fiction in oral history. Greg Jeffreys in the process of trying to locate and uncover what happened to the Stradbroke Island Galleon, interviewed one particular man several times over the years with new and at times contradictory information being given. Kim Kirsner, a former Professor in the School of Psychology, University of Western Australia, challenged us regarding the reliability of memory over time.

South Australia was represented by Christobel Mattingly, who gave moving and humorous insights into a number of her books based on oral history and the travails of publishing (see the latest OHAA journal), Karen George, who engaged us with her meditation on sharing memory and sharing lives through oral history and Alison McDougall, who, in a paper co-authored with Dr Christine Garnaut, spoke of the value of oral history in uncovering the lives of South Australian architects, (www.architectsdatabase.unisa.edu.au).

NOTE: Tasmania has taken over the national executive with Jill Cassidy as president, Margaret Eldridge as secretary and Lana Wall as treasurer. As the outgoing president did not wish to remain on the executive, Rosie Block from NSW kindly volunteered to be vice-president.



Discovering Bernie and Don – the story of the Clarke family 1898 to 1981

By Michael Clark

To set the scene, my father Donald was born in 1898, served in World War I, left his English forest village of Silverstone in December 1919, arrived in Sydney in January 1920 and, after teaching for a while he became a Methodist Minister. My mother Bernice was raised on a wheat property near Binnaway and during World War I trained as a nurse at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. Bernie and Don soon met as Sunday school teachers and started courting. In 1923 Don was appointed as a missionary to Western Samoa but as he had to be married his marriage to Bernie was brought forward. Six weeks later in March 1923 they sailed for Samoa, Mother being 23 and Father 25.

During their four years in Samoa my brother Ian and eldest sister Barbara were born and on my parents' return to Australia they were at Narrandera, and then Morpeth where my second sister Elizabeth and I were born.

Appointments of ministers to Methodist circuits were made by the Stationing Committee of the Methodist Conference held in February each year. They were for periods of four years at a time and of course, the effect on children's schooling and friendships was, as my sister Barbara said, "appalling", especially as we moved at

Easter-time. What the system is now I don't know.

In his oral history Don recalled waiting for their appointment in 1960 after a period of being without pastoral charge:

"After Liverpool I applied to come back into the full Ministry, and Conference put me back on the Station Sheet. We were very anxiously waiting to know where we were going to be posted. My wife was sitting at the back of the Lyceum, while the second reading Committee was on and one of the Senior Brothers came up to her and he said, "I suppose Mrs. Clarke, you're very anxiously wondering where you are going?"

She said, "Yes, well we'll just have to leave it to Conference."

He said, "Yes, I suppose it's a good idea, you leave it to the Holy Spirit."

She said, "I would if I thought he had a seat on the Stationing Committee!"

Mother wasn't under any illusion as to how decisions were made!

We were at Forbes when World War II broke out and when my father joined the army in 1940 we had to vacate the parsonage and the family dispersed. My two sisters went to boarding school, then the elder went nursing, I went to an aunt at Pennant



Hills and then boarding school, my brother went into the bank, then enlisted in the army and served in New Guinea. Mother took up various administrative positions in hospitals, an orphanage, a service women's hostel, and in 1944 she was recruited as house mother to an American Red Cross and service women's hostel in Noumea, New Caledonia. We didn't get back together as a family until 1945, after the end of World War II.

Consequently, being the baby of the family and because I missed a lot of crucial family life there was a lot of the family story I didn't know. Like many, I didn't think about this until I retired and I didn't discuss the past with my parents when I had the opportunity. The snippets that emerged in family conversation were just accepted but not enlarged upon.

My mother died in 1969 and in 1975 when my father had a stroke he was placed in nursing care because, while his mind was still very active he had lost the use of an arm and a leg.

To keep his mind occupied I encouraged him to start writing his memoirs which I transcribed. And in 1977 he was interviewed by Hazel de Berg whose tapes are now in the National Library. Sadly, Dad died in 1981 without finishing his memoirs.

After retiring and managing oral history programs, I felt the need to know more about our family and so in 1999 I gathered my brother and sisters together to record the family story and identify who held what of the memorabilia.

I knew that group interviews were not recommended, but I also knew that memories would be jogged by other's stories and there would be different versions. And I realised it would be difficult to arrange successful and in depth interviews of my siblings, especially as brother Ian lived at Wyoming, eldest sister Barbara lived in Newcastle, my other sister Elizabeth lived at Narooma, and I was at Normanhurst.

Consequently, and knowing the lack of discipline and the competition that develops when family members tell their versions of events I prepared procedures for our recording session. First I asked Sarah Szacsvey a good friend experienced in interviewing, to act as monitor and supplied her with the story as I knew it. This was like a pre-interview with the aim of familiarising her with the family and to help her frame questions.

Based on that story I then prepared an outline (Attachment A) to be followed for the recording session including objectives, 'modus operandi' and generic questions that could be asked of each in turn. The purpose of the 'modus operandi' (which follows) was to guard against interruptions, interjections, the talking over the top of others and so on.

The interviewer will direct questions to specific individuals. If anyone wants to add anything to a comment by another, they should indicate by raising their hand and the interviewer will ask them to speak. Interjections and comments should be

Articles (cont...)

avoided as they will confuse the story – and the voices will not be readily identifiable on tape.

Two of my siblings didn't have either email or faxes so in contacting them I had to use telephone and 'snail mail'; a copy of my letter of 21.12.98 (Attachment B) sets out what I wanted them to do by way of preparation and what they should bring to the meeting.

Fortunately, my mother was an interesting and prolific letter writer, corresponding from Samoa and other places with her mother and sister at Pennant Hills, and from Noumea in 1944 with her own dispersed family. She kept most of the letters she received and eventually recovered many of her own. Upon her death these had been rescued by Elizabeth and they and Dad's memoirs were a substantial source that Elizabeth and I drew upon during the family recording.

There was so much to reminisce and to talk about, that eventually we had two recording sessions during which we produced seven hours of tape! And, as might be expected, the meetings which allowed us to share our past and to express our feelings for our parents brought us all much closer together – and exposed lingering hurts!

Having collected the letters from Elizabeth, a few from Ian and photographs from everyone, I set about transcribing the 420 odd letters and scanning the 600 or so photographs. Transcription was not easy as most of the letters had been written in the

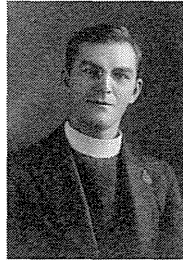
**Photos from left to right:
Bernie, 20 years, 5 months
Don Clarke
Bernie & Don**

1920s and '30s with nib pens on both sides of the page with the script on the reverse in 'landscape' format. Some 'bleeding through' and the image on the reverse being faintly visible through the thin paper, coupled with older and varying handwriting styles and dated words and methods of expression, made interpretation laborious and at times difficult.

Needless to say I became entranced with the story that was emerging, and an enhanced closeness to my family, that I embarked upon the larger task of compiling the story of my parents.

I obtained the transcript from the National Library of Hazel de Berg's interview with Dad and also set about transcribing the seven hours of tape from the family oral history. While the 'modus operandi' had generally worked well, my eldest sister occasionally became over-excited, breaking into someone else's discourse, speaking over the top of their punch-line or finishing their sentence. On occasions, having run the tape backwards and forwards up to six times to grasp the important words, I eventually found myself shouting 'Shut up Barbara, shut up!' The transcription was thus not only enormously time-consuming for an amateur typist, but at times frustrating.

I then commenced compiling the story starting with Dad's village and his becoming a teacher, and cutting and pasting in the letters, excerpts from oral history transcripts, memoirs and other sources. Naturally, questions arose that



required research and clarification from family and cousins. For colour and context I was able to draw upon a fascinating book about life in Dad's village in the 19th century and other documents including a newspaper eulogy of his remarkable schoolteacher grandfather, which reported that it was said of him:

'He performs for Silverstone the varied duties which pertain to the public letter-writer in Southern Spain. He is understood to indite epistles whether of business or affection for those in whom English composition is not a strong point. He is suspected (by indignant lawyers) of having drafted wills and set down contracts; and to the puzzled and amused outsider, seems to unite for his beloved village the power of an Irish priest and a French maire.'

Another source was the biography of George Carpenter, World General of the Salvation Army from 1939 to 1946 who was Bernie's uncle.

Don's recollections of his boyhood 70 or more years before are not only fascinating but are remarkably clear. While his memoirs of life in Samoa written about 50 years later do not always reflect exactly the same sequence and timings of the events as recorded in Bernie's letters of the time, the accounts themselves substantially agree with hers. His Samoa stories also complement Bernie's where they describe events she didn't mention in her letters. Naturally, contemporaneous accounts of

events have been accepted as accurate. Those written some years later and as recalled in oral history, whilst being complementary and generally reflecting what occurred, may at times be less accurate in detail such as dates, sequence, exact responsibility for actions, recalled conversations and so on.

The documents give a fascinating insight into the times and the private lives of those involved; of life in an English village in the early 1900s; the customs and behaviour of the Samoans in the 1920s; missionary life and its hazards and tribulations; public and private health issues in the 1920s in both Samoa and Australia; life during the Great Depression and the years of World War II; and the family life of a Methodist minister.

Parsonages were rarely well maintained and even when they were supposed to be furnished – mainly only with furniture, they were the recipients of all the broken and worn out discards from the parishioners. As Barbara said in our family oral history,

"And anyone who was re-decorating or changing around or something or other, 'Oh that can go up to the Parsonage' and I can remember Mother carting half the furniture and dumping it at the little old-shed at the back of the garage in Forbes, and then carefully putting it all back again (when we left)."

Following are examples of aspects of parsonage life. When Don and Bernie took charge of their first Australian circuit at

Articles (cont...)

Photos from left to right:

Don 1942

Bernie, Caxton Park January 1949

Bernie, Don & Sue, Singleton 1961

Narrandera in April 1927 it was in the midst of a drought, a weak local economy and at the start of the Great Depression; they received a poor stipend, and having come from the Samoan mission station had virtually no household effects. Bernie wrote to her mother after they arrived that:

We are all much better since we got the blankets. I told you there was only one pair of blankets in the house didn't I... There is (sic) only three pairs of sheets in the house & they are on the beds (the big double, the three quarter & the single) so on washing day the beds remain as they are until the sheets are dry!!!

The suite in the front bedroom is fair altho' nearly falling to pieces ... I have piled petrol cases one on top of the other for the kiddies clothes until Don has time to make them a wardrobe... We got an old cot given to us on Saturday. It's a rusty old thing but in good repair... The bath heater has sprung a leak too so we have to have a new one too. In fact what we need here is a fire & a clean start!!!

Life was hard as they contended with making and mending clothes and furnishings, making furniture,

running bazaars, general church work, servicing churches out in the country, dust storms, sickness, and a miscarriage.

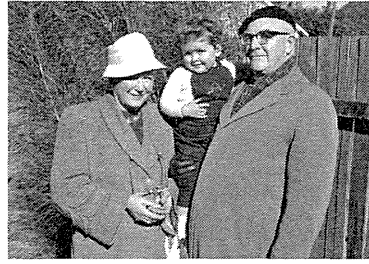
Their move to Morpeth in April 1930 in the midst of the Depression was into a decrepit parsonage with rotting verandahs, broken down furniture and a bathroom in a lean-to shed in the backyard that housed

the maid's quarters, the laundry and other paraphernalia. Bernie wrote:

We knew about the absence of linen, cutlery etc, but it certainly was a surprise to find even the new paper that they'd put on bulging & falling off the wall for the simple reason that wall paper won't stick to damp walls, while Don is going to get each member of the family a meat cover to put over their heads at night so that at least our heads will be protected when the ceilings decide to come down in chunks as it has in the kitchen.

Don had to upgrade the property and Bernie to create a home, making clothes and furnishings while watching pennies such as teasing kapok to stuff a mattress while using a handkerchief as a mask, because un-teased was 6d a pound cheaper than teased. Don's pastoral work involved four churches where the people were so poor that in October 1932 the Circuit Stewards issued a memorandum to the congregation advising that the Morpeth church owed £150 – most of it to Don, and that any debt at the close of a minister's term was a direct loss to the minister!

To an extent the move to Grafton in 1934 was a relief; the parsonage was in reasonable shape, the Circuit was fairly compact and it was a pleasant town. However, the church had a £1300 debt and while the congregation included a number of wealthy members, their contribution was miserly, 'there are half a dozen men who could each pay it off & never know they'd done it!' Bernie wrote to her mother.



In 1938 they found in the Forbes parsonage another tale of woe with a verandah to be re-floored, kitchen to be rebuilt, sundry other renovations were needed, along with broken down furniture, lawns and vegetable gardens to be planted, dust storms and grasshopper plagues. While Don had his usual pastoral work, with long drives to remote country churches and he also became the Scoutmaster, Bernie's grind continued as homemaker and general church factotum.

Including long breaks of often many months due to other commitments and delays waiting on information, the story took about ten years to compile. It was completed towards the end of 2008 and was self-published through a local printer at a budget price for family and friends.

All the documents and photographs, copies of the two volume book and a computer disk of everything (all the images could not be included in the book) were lodged with the Mitchell Library. The Library graciously provided a small morning tea at which we made the presentation to the Mitchell Librarian Richard Neville in the company of Field Librarian Alan Tasker and Rosie Block who received the family tapes. The occasion was much appreciated by the family and brought finality to the story, and comfort that our valued material would be well cared for and provide a source of research for historians.

Copies of the book *Bernie and Don – the story of the Clarke family 1898 to 1981* (ISBN 978 0 646 50508 4 & 978 0 646 50509 1), have also been placed with the National Library, Royal Australian Historical Society, Society of Australian Genealogists and the World Methodist Historical Society Oceania Region Resource Centre – the Uniting Church Archives declined the offer of a copy.

A few months after depositing the documents with the Mitchell Library, my brother Ian found more material including 56 letters and 317 photos which had in the main been retained by Don. Most of the letters were from family I never met – Don's father John Ashley and his sister Beryl, but there were also a number from 'Aunty Ella Clarke' a boyhood friend of Dad's but no relation, who I met only once, when she came to Australia in 1962 (although she had visited before in 1926 and 1934).

The 'new' letters extended our understanding of family relationships, filled in some gaps and answered a few unresolved questions, while many of the additional images better illustrate the original chapters. Accordingly, an addendum had to be written. All this new material and the book *Bernie and Don – the story of the Clarke family 1898 to 1981 – Addendum* (ISBN 978 0 646 51855 8) has been deposited in the same places as before.

Articles (cont...)

Attachment A

Clarke Family History, Recording Session 19 January 1999

Interviewer: Sarah Szacs vay

Objective:

To capture the children's memories and stories of their parents, their family life and stories told by their parents.

There will probably not be time to record all the ancestral tales, stories and known previous life of Donald before he married Bernice, except for stories deemed of particular interest. For this we might rely on surviving documents, certain memoirs he wrote whilst in Wesley Gardens Retirement Village and an oral history interview recorded by Hazel de Berg in October 1977.

On the other hand, Bernice left little in the way of documentation, although there is a large bundle of letters written from Samoa to her mother and sister. Consequently we should attempt to record known ancestral tales and stories from her early life.

The individual history and stories of the children particularly after they left home, should be the subject of separate interviews, except where they are part of the picture of family life or demonstrate or explain relevant stories about their parents and family.

Modus Operandi:

The interviewer will direct questions to specific individuals. If anyone wants to add anything to a comment by another, they should indicate by raising their hand and the interviewer will ask them by name to speak. Interjections and comments

should be avoided as they will confuse the story and the voices will not be readily identifiable on tape.

Interviewer:

I am Sarah Szacs vay and with me are the children of Reverend Donald Ashley Clarke and Bernice Muriel Clarke (nee Rowel) recording memories of their parents and their family life, as well as stories told by their parents.

We are at the home of Michael and Annie Clarke in Normanhurst on 19 January 1999.

The children and spouses involved are:

Ian Ashley Clarke aged 75 and his wife Helen;

Barbara Ashley Crane aged 73;

Elizabeth Newman Connor aged 68 and her husband Bruce; and

Michael Newman Clarke aged 66 and his wife Annie.

Q: Michael, could you give a brief description of your father's early life, schooling and so on, up to when he came to Australia?

Q: Are there any particularly important stories you think should be recorded from his family or boyhood? **Ian?** **Barbara?** **Elizabeth?** **Michael?**

Q: Michael, could you give a brief description of your mother's early life?

Q: Can anyone elaborate on that? **Ian?** **Barbara?** **Elizabeth?**

Q: What was she doing when she met and married Donald?



Attachment B

Annie and Michael Clarke
21 December 1998

Dear Ian, Barbara and Elizabeth,
We're really looking forward to seeing you all on 19 January and the opportunity to sort out some family history.

Recently I felt we needed to record:

- the family history, anecdotes and stories we have in our heads; and
- what family memorabilia exists and where it is located.

Once we know this, we can better know what to do with it. E.g. complete the family tree; write a family history for the benefit of our children and posterity, because Mum and Dad had very interesting lives and lived through times that would not be in the imagination of our grandchildren; assemble and catalogue the documents for placement in a library; or even produce some sort of publication such as Mum's letters to Grandma and Auntie Bessie from Samoa.

As far as the recording goes, I thought we might do this in the afternoon. Sarah Szacszy who helps me with the Engineers' Oral History Program and who lives nearby, has agreed to come around to operate the tape recorder and act as monitor. Sarah is trained in family history, genealogy and oral history.

I have recently documented the family memorabilia (particularly papers) that I have and I was hoping you might be able to do the same. Enclosed is a copy of the tabulation I have produced.

From the material I have and with Ian's help, I have constructed the bones of a family tree using my *Family Tree Maker* program. I have also used information in Stella's *A Man At Peace in a World At War* and the 5 CD ROM *Vital Records Index British Isles* (produced by the Mormons) on loan from Sarah. It has births, christenings and marriage records covering approximately, 1538 to 1888. Unfortunately it contains no records for Northampton.

Enclosed are copies of the Family Program pages relevant to each of you, starting with Nicholas Rowell and John Clarke. Would you be able to add information relevant to your own family and bring it with you so I can add a few more branches to the tree? This should include details such as birth dates of children and spouses, and spouse's siblings' and parent's history.

- be here by say 10am on 19 January
- tabulate your family memorabilia like I have done (I have yet to go through photos)
- complete your family information about dates, names and forebears
- dig out what information you have about branches of the family I have not yet covered e.g., Hoskings and Denneys
- dredge your memories for stories, anecdotes, family history. E.g., you all know more than I do about Forbes and Grafton and I know nothing about Morpeth, Narrandera and Samoa.

Any information you can send me before the 19th would be appreciated so I can add it before you arrive.

Love and best wishes to you all... Michael

Word for Word *Explained by Emma Hardman*

The production of Hansard was explained on an ABC Lingua Franca program, 25/7/09 when presenter Maria Zijlstra interviewed Emma Hardman a sessional editor of Hansard. The following is an excerpt from this ABC Radio National program. The full transcript may be viewed/downloaded from the ABC web site. If members think transcribing hard work – spare a thought for the Hansard editors.. (Ed)

Hansard is the official transcript of parliamentary proceedings. What most people don't know is that Hansard is edited. It takes 1.5 hrs to transcribe 7.5 minutes of sound. What takes so long? As the printed record of parliamentary proceedings Hansard is – put simply – just a transcription of what is parleyed there; except that the words spoken are actually altered during the process of their translation into Hansard. (Emma explained) 'Hansard' is a generic term for the transcripts of parliamentary proceedings. That means pretty much everything that is said in the House of Representatives, the Senate, and parliamentary committees. These transcripts are called 'Hansard' after the family that printed the reports of the English parliament in Westminster from 1770 onwards: Luke Hansard was a compositor and, later, his son Thomas Curson Hansard started a press of his own to publish the debates. So with 'Hansard'

appearing on the front of every report, that's how they came to be known. The parliamentary transcripts of Australia, New Zealand, the UK and most Commonwealth countries are all called 'Hansard'. 'Hansard' also describes the people who produce these documents and the work they do. We are often referred to in the second or third person, as in: 'Hansard, did you get that?' or, 'Who's that person sitting in the middle of the chamber? Oh, that's Hansard!'

Hansard transcripts are freely available public documents that can be read by anyone. They're mainly read by members of parliament, policy advisers, public servants, journalists, academics, university students, lawyers and judges but also by people who have appeared before a government committee and by anyone who has an interest in the subject of a committee.

It takes a Hansard editor an-hour-and-a-half to transcribe seven-and-a-half minutes of sound, as they are making the written record more accurate. We are translators more than editors – translating spoken language into written language. The Hansard editor sits in the chamber only to log what is going on, a kind of minute taking. It is also all recorded on audio. The editor is in the chamber to write down who is speaking, and to try to note down any interjections that are made. After seven



minutes and 30 seconds, the next editor on the roster comes in and the first editor goes back to their office, puts on their headphones and calls up the audio of the proceedings they have just witnessed.

These days, the majority of Hansard editors use voice recognition software. We call this 'voicing'. So, as the sound goes in their ears, they speak what they are hearing into their microphone, and the voice recognition software produces those words on the screen, with varying accuracy. Even the best voice recognition software in the world doesn't comprehend language anywhere near as well as your average human. So we always carefully check every word while listening to the sound again. But what people say is not always what they mean to say, what people say is not always what is heard, and what is said to voice recognition software is not always what voice recognition software hears. So the Hansard editors have to wend their way through this minefield of meanings and utterances.

Like any other kind of translating, Hansard editing is problem-solving, a constant balancing of many rules. The main rules are:

- a Hansard transcript should be clear, readable and grammatically correct,
- a Hansard transcript should accurately record what the speaker said, and
- a Hansard transcript should accurately record what the speaker intended.

Add to this the fact that, at Hansard, we are also guided by roughly 1,000 pages of other rules relating to punctuation, grammar, usage, spelling, hyphenation

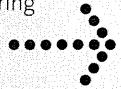
and capitalisation, which are contained in various Hansard in-house guides and *The Macquarie Dictionary*, and you will begin to see why Hansard transcription and editing is an art, consuming much time and thought.

Like any translator, a Hansard editor must have a passion for words and language – a deep interest in the nuances of words, phrasing, punctuation, usage, grammar, vocabulary and syntax, and a broad general knowledge. You must know (or know where to look to check) that the phrase 'bee's knees' refers to the knees of one bee, not the knees of many bees. Hansard takes out false starts, redundancies, verbal tics and unnecessary repetitions. A central rule a Hansard editor has to follow is that it has to be a sentence, it has to have a noun phrase and a verb phrase. And if it isn't a sentence, we usually make it one. We check everything, the spelling, the punctuation, the grammar and we check the facts. This often takes a lot of research and background knowledge. We check quotes and politicians quote a lot.

It is counter-intuitive that a verbatim account could be less accurate than an edited or re-written version. But think about this: the verbatim translation of 'verbatim' cannot be done in one word; you need three. 'Verbatim' translated from Latin into English is 'word for word'. The transcript that Hansard produces is not verbatim; it is not word for word. Hansard editing is about wrestling the spoken word into the written. It is an act of translation.

Scholarship

To encourage and support students of any discipline who are utilising oral history as part of their tertiary studies the NSW Branch of the Oral History Association of Australia is offering scholarships on a competitive basis, to two students to attend the 2010 International Oral History Association conference. The scholarships are valued at A\$1,000 each.



To be eligible for a scholarship an applicant must:

1. be a member of the Oral History Association of Australia (NSW) Inc or become a member before taking up the scholarship;
2. be currently enrolled in tertiary studies and demonstrate an interest in oral history and how they are utilising oral history as part of their research;
3. attend the International Oral History Conference 2010 in Prague;
4. agree to present a report (approximately 40 mins) on the Conference – reviewing the sessions they attended and a general overview of speakers and other participants – at a seminar of the NSW Branch of the Oral History Association in 2010; this report will be written up for publication in the state newsletter, Voiceprint.

Applicants must provide name, contact details (including phone and email details), university or tertiary institution, the faculty and the name of the course in which they are enrolled – and their student number.

Applicants must also provide on an A4 page a statement of approximately 600 words explaining what they hope to gain by attending the International Conference. The statement should also fully address the requirements in items 1 to 4 above.

Applications must be submitted by 30 April 2010 to:

Ms Rosie Block
President Oral History Association
of Australia (NSW) Inc
State Library of New South Wales
Macquarie Street
Sydney 2000
Email: rblock@sl.nsw.org.au
Tel: (02)9273.1697

The successful applicants will be advised by 30 May, 2010.

www.ohaansw.org.au



The Sixteenth International Oral History Conference, “Between Past and Future: Oral History, Memory and Meaning” will be held in Prague, Czech Republic from 7 to 11 July 2010.

The International Conference of the IOHA takes place every two years, on a different continent where oral history and IOHA have regional and local presence: Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, Oceania, and South America. The International Conference offers local, national and regional practitioners in different parts of the world the opportunity to participate in an international exchange, and it helps strengthen the development of oral history across the globe.

Full details: www.iohanet.org



John Ferry Award 2010

Call for nominations

The History Council of New South Wales invites nominations for the John Ferry Award for 2010. The award honours the memory of John Ferry (1949-2004), an exemplary teacher and community historian who played a major role in practising and encouraging quality local studies during his career as a school-teacher, and then as lecturer and senior lecturer at the Armidale College of Advanced Education and University of New England.

The purpose of this award is to recognise outstanding New South Wales local and community histories. The winning entry will be a local or community history that demonstrates excellence in addressing its subject, proficiency in the use of original materials and clarity of exposition. The winner will receive a certificate and a cash prize of \$500.00. The award will subsequently be announced in History Magazine, which will publish the citation. The Council, in conjunction with the Royal Australian Historical Society, will encourage publication of the winning entry. The deadline for nominations is 25 June 2010. For a copy of the application form please contact the office.

History Council of NSW
PO Box R1737 Royal Exchange NSW 1225
Tel: 02 9252 8715 FAX: 02 9252 8716
office@historycouncilnsw.org.au
www.historycouncilnsw.org.au

Diary of Events



16TH INTERNATIONAL ORAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

Between Past and Future: Oral History, Memory and Meaning, July 7-11, 2010. Prague, Czech Republic
www.iohanet.org

The 2010 Conference will focus on finding and making meaning of the past and human identity through oral history. We will focus on a number of research fields where oral history can contribute to better understanding not only of our past but our lives in general. Also, for the first time our conference will take place in an ex-totalitarian country. This enables us to analyse the specific role of oral history research in societies where other, especially official records about the past have been submitted to censorship or have been discarded.

History Week 2010

4-12 September – *Faces in the Street* –
www.historycouncilnsw.org.au/events/history-week

Committee Meeting dates for 2010

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)

20 April

15 June

17 August AGM

~~19 October~~ 16 Nov.

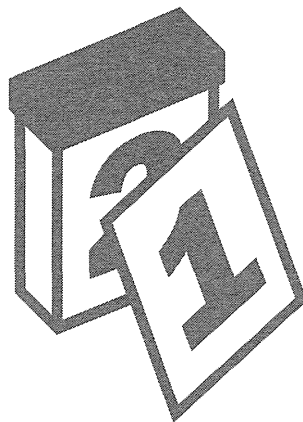
TBA November

Seminar dates for 2010

8 May

31 July

6 November



Australian Historical Association

Newsletter Number 2, 22 February 2010

This newsletter has details of a number of conferences, awards and travel bursaries and we publish a list for the interest of members – some specially for students. Full details may be obtained from the AHA website:

www.theaha.org

See Newsletter 2, 22 February 2010 for full details

- AHA/CAL Postgraduate History Prize 2010
- National History Curriculum Feedback

Conferences

- Centre for Media History at Macquarie University: Reaching Out or Going Down? The History of Tabloids
- 29th Annual Australian and New Zealand Law and History Conference: Owning the Past: Whose Past? Whose Present?
- 11th Asia Pacific Conference on Giftedness: Thinking Smart: Effective Partnerships for Talent Development
- 19th Annual World History Association Conference: Gender in World History and the Pacific in World History
- Society for the History of Linguistics in the Pacific: Indigenous languages and Colonial Linguistics

For Students

- Ludwig-Maximilians-Universitaet Muenchen: Postdoctoral and Senior Fellowships for 2010–2011 in International Environmental History and related subjects
- De Montfort University, UK: Scholarship for MA in Photographic History and Practice
- Netherlands Institute for War Documentation: PhD position on the modern history of Southeast Asia
- Carnegie Mellon University: Postdoctoral Fellow, Atlantic/Pacific and/or Empire historian

Library Travel Grants

- National Library of Australia Harold White Fellowships 2011
- University of Michigan Asia Library: Asia Library Travel Grants.

Noticeboard



Website Oral History Association of Australia <www.oahaansw.org.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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www.memoryman.com.au

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Tel: 6628 2834 or 0425 841 202.
Pamela@TheEnvironmentalType.com.au

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