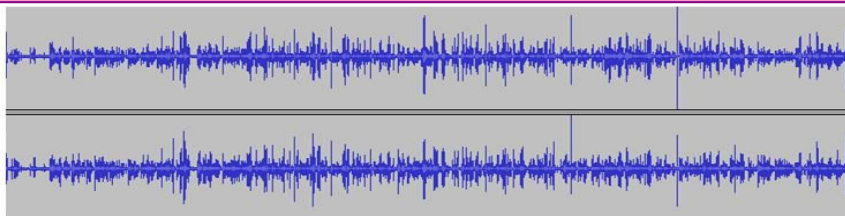




# VOICEPRINT 45 October 2011



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## Notes from your Editor

**As our Voiceprint is now coming to members online we still need contributions from members. These need to be suited to online reading, even though I know some will prefer to printout and some of our institutional members may find this more convenient, however the document needs to be easy to read online. Please we still need member contributions!**

**Voiceprint I see as having a primary role to provide member to member information, to focus on what individual members are doing and sharing interesting and useful information and experiences. If it is to inform members about all the interesting projects out there - we need short reports from members on their current or completed projects and other events they have attended. In this edition I have asked some of our members to write about their studies. Do other members have comments to make about their studies. Please write a review of books or other programs which may be of interest to members and there is always a place for amusing anecdotes.**

**Short reports are suggested as being about 1 page, i.e. 500 words. However even shorter, a paragraph or two would be welcome and if desired you may include an email address if you would like members to make comment or suggestions. Hopefully, members may comment and thus members with similar interests will make connections. Please contact me if you would like to discuss any aspect of how Voiceprint may assist you.**

**Joyce Cribb - Voiceprint Editor  
jcribb@inet.net.au**

## Welcome to New Members

Welcome to our new members. We do hope you enjoy your contact with the Association and benefit from the programs offered.

Ian West	Retired
Kathy Kallos	Journalist/ teacher
Kim Eberhard	Archivist/Historian
Aviva Sheba	Student
Sharon Christie	Property Manager
Alexander Mayers	Teacher/Radio Broadcaster
Edith Van Loo	Interviewing /Veterans
Andrew Cavill	Teacher
Joanne Penglase	Researcher/Editor
Anna Jane Rankin	Retired Teacher
Mererdith Venezian	Retired
Susan Kennedy	Records Officer
Sue Andersen	Public Historian
Anni Turnbull	Social History Curator
Ian Cameron-Smith	Retired
Ray & Sue Edmondson	AV archiving consultant
Janet McGaw	Student
Harold Cummins	Retired
Elizabeth	Self Employed
Mark MacNamara	
Roz Fairbairn	
The Women's Committee of the National Trust of Australia	

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## News from your Association

The Annual General Meeting was held at History House on 13 September and the following committee was elected; President - Sandra Blamey, Secretary - Frank Heimans, Treasurer - Sue Rosen, Committee - Roslyn Burge, Joyce Cribb, Louise Darmody, Trish Levido and Carol McKirdy. Special thanks were given to members who had decided to retire - especially Rosie Block, Di Rich, Peter Rubinstein and Graham Levido for their years of service to oral history. Since this meeting the committee has co-opted Michael Clarke and Frances Rush to continue to assist the committee. The retiring members are also willing to advise and assist with their extensive knowledge and expertise.

Bob Mitchell our member who calls himself Memory Man had brought along his memory boxes and spoke about how he uses the contents to stimulate the memories and create discussion when he talks with older audiences in aged care settings. What an interesting collection, things I can remember from my childhood – a long time ago! Bob also told of his recent trip to Broken Hill to interview the retired miners and another project with the retired timber getters down the South Coast. (See a brief report *Members Projects. Ed.*)

There was also time at the meeting for some refreshments and lots of interaction between members.

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This past twelve months marks a time of change and new opportunities for our Association. It began with a change in leadership as the inimitable

Rosie Block retired as President after nearly twenty years in that role not only for OHAA NSW but also as Oral History Curator for the State Library of NSW. Rosie's long commitment and enthusiasm for oral history has meant that we have a very strong membership of 248 and a contact list of approx 100. Change is always unsettling but OHAA NSW's experience is that it is also rewarding. This year has seen OHAA NSW established as an entirely independent entity and develop a collaborative partnership with the Royal Australian Historical Society with History House becoming our registered office. RAHS has granted reciprocal benefits for our members to use the RAHS library if they are working on OHAA projects and 'members rates' for RAHS activities and annual conference. It has been encouraging to welcome Sally Hone as the Library's new Curator of Oral History and draw on her expertise in using digital technology to ensure good quality sound recordings and ongoing preservation of oral history interviews. We continue to give support for the digitisation of Library's marvellous oral history collection.

This year OHAA NSW has built collaborative partnerships with other like minded associations. We accepted an invitation from the History Council to develop an oral history page on their website highlighting this year's theme "Eat History". With Museums and Galleries NSW and in collaboration with ANU and the NSW State Library we conducted an exciting two day program *New Ways with Oral History – presentations, workshops and discussions on capturing and interpreting our collective stories*. Our seminar presenters have all been excellent and varied.

This year's program has only been possible by the concerted work of an enthusiastic committee: Rosie Block, Roslyn Burge, Michael Clarke, Joyce Cribb, Louise Darmody, Frank Heimans, Trish Levido, Graham Levido, Carol McKirdy, Di Ritch, Sue Rosen, Peter Rubinstein, and Frances Rush. Our Association is a voluntary one, all very busy people, and without the expertise of our very part time

bookkeeper First Class Accounts, we would not have been able to balance the cost of program expansion within the limitations of our income. With greater awareness of the place oral history can play in preserving our community memory for future generations, the challenge now is to focus on programs and activities in which we can particularly contribute to an interdisciplinary and multi-layered understanding of history.

**Sandra Blamey, President, New South Wales Branch**

*Note: Full report on our website and Presidents' reports from all States are in the AHAA Journal No 33 Ed [Top](#)*

## Report – National Conference

**National Conference: Communities of Memories 6<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

The 17<sup>th</sup> national conference was recently held at the State Library of Victoria. An interesting conference in an imposing venue. The State library is situated in the heart of Melbourne and was an easy walk from all the recommended hotels. The Melbourne weather did blow a little cool at times but we were able to walk about and relax on a park bench for a change of view over lunch as oral history views were exchanged. The conference was well attended by oral historians and others interested in history from right across Australia. It is pleasing to note that 34 attended from NSW, mostly our members. The Victorian organizers proved excellent hosts. The best of food, helpful information, and a historical menu for the Conference dinner derived from research into what was eaten in past times. So history with the dinner and it certainly was not damper!

In all over 70 papers were presented, and as they were presented at 3 concurrent sessions, it was not possible to hear more than about a third, so this report presents no more than a brief overview. The opening keynote speaker, Steven High from Concordia University, Montreal, Canada, brought ideas from abroad to the conference. Steven was an interested participant and added to the comments at a number of discussion panels during the conference. These panels were most interesting sessions and our President Sandra chaired a discussion that looked at 'training the public to collect oral histories' and 'towards a new curriculum'. Lots of ideas and discussion but oral history has begun the process of evaluating the future and exploring the opportunities ahead, a positive discussion. Another interesting session covered lightning papers, five minute summaries, such interesting topics – from 'what the mayoral chair has heard' to the story of 'Greek cafés in Australia'. The community memory theme covered so many different communities, indigenous, refugee, migrant, and associations of people at a particular place or time. Stories about traumatic experiences in war, floods, fire and famine. Tough topics and histories but overall there was a underlying thread of hope. People survive and the future holds hope, the positive to take from such a conference.

On the business side of the conference the Victorian Association has provided the new office bearers. Jill Adams is the new National President, Vice President - Al Thomson, Sarah Sanderson - Secretary and Treasurer - Keith Pearson. Diana Ritch and Joyce Cribb from NSW were confirmed as Life Members. Frank Heimans our NSW secretary was the recipient of The Hazel de Berg Award – the citations are included in this Voiceprint.

*Notes by Joyce Cribb [Top](#)*

## The Hazel de Berg Award, 2011 for Excellence in Oral History



*Frank Heimans, Hazel de Berg Winner* photo by Lena Volkova

Franklin (Frank) Arthur Heimans' oral history activities began in the mid-1970s with documentary films for television, as writer, director, producer and interviewer. At that time there was little awareness of the value of oral history within the film and television community. Over the ensuing 35-year period Frank has produced twenty-five documentary and biographical films for television with a strong oral history component.

Frank's is an imposing record - he has conducted more than 850 audio interviews with a wide cross-section of the community, people in the arts, religion, literature, music, theatre, education, medicine, architecture, aviation, sports, economics, politics, science, engineering, broadcasting, law, business and administration. He has produced eight documentary films for television with a strong oral history component, and as originator of the first truly Australian archival interview series, Frank produced 32 programs in the *Australian Biography* series.

He deposited his material with the National Film and Sound Archive following its establishment in 1984, with footage of the *Australian Biography* series being transcribed, timed, documented and deposited with Australian Archives. Frank has given many lectures and presentations to OHAA conferences, community groups and local libraries and has presented at the IOHA international conference in Mexico. Since 2001 he has written on oral history topics for OHAA Journals and *Voiceprint* newsletter and he has often participated in OHAA workshops to bring knowledge, practices and skills to participants.

Frank was one of the first Australian filmmakers to carry out interviews on film and to then log, transcribe and archive the material. He also pioneered a prototype archive system for documenting video material which was subsequently adopted by the CSIRO and named 'Frank'. Frank has been a valued mentor and for many who feared new recording technologies, has made good sound recording appear effortless. As testament to the quality and significance of his work, Frank has won many awards.

*Congratulations to Frank and best wishes for the future. ED [Top](#)*

## **Life Membership Awarded to Diana Ritch**



Encouraged and trained by her mother, oral history pioneer Hazel de Berg, Di began her work in earnest as an oral historian in 1983. Since then her passion for oral history has seen her involved in local history, Aboriginal history, Holocaust history, corporate history, school and family histories. As an accredited interviewer for the National Library of Australia she has conducted numerous interviews with notable Australians, including poets, writers, composers, religious leaders, social historians, publishers, singers and others. She was an interviewer for two of the National Library's major oral history projects namely The Australian Response to AIDS, and The Stolen Generation, Bringing Them Home Oral History Project. During the 1980's and 90's Di attended the Adelaide Writers' Week where she interviewed many of the contributors, and in Sydney she recorded the first 10 years of the Writers' Festival for the National Library.

In 1987 Di became a member of the Oral History Association of Australia and has been an active member of the New South Wales Committee from 1992 to the current time. She has always given herself enthusiastically to the work of the Committee and has attended many of the OHAA National Conferences where her contribution is always valued. Di is very interested in promoting oral history, delivering talks on the subject to a diverse group of organisations and ensuring that she includes excerpts from recordings. As a traveller, she is constantly on the lookout for new and innovative ideas relating to oral history and shares them through the Voiceprint newsletter, and in her own time Di recorded the speakers at Bloomsday (the annual James Joyce "Ulysses" Celebration).

In 1991 a unique oral history project, The Rona Tranby Trust, was started to encourage interaction between the Jewish and Aboriginal communities. Di was the inaugural Oral Historian and taught Aboriginals to interview their own people. The programme has now been running for 20 years and Di has created very strong bonds with senior members in the Aboriginal community, giving tirelessly of her time to help them record their lives. In the 1990's Di was involved in the ground-breaking Project Heritage, an oral history project which taught students at Jewish day schools to conduct recorded interviews with senior members of the Jewish community, many of them Holocaust Survivors. Di also worked with the Ethnic Communities Council to introduce the concept of interviewing members of different ethnic groups into State Schools.

Her experience with Holocaust Survivors was then used when she became one of the interviewers for Steven Spielberg's Visual History of the Shoah Foundation. Many years later Di still keeps in touch with the interviewees, who she calls "My Survivors".

In 2005 when the OHAA Hazel de Berg Award for Excellence in Oral History was created, Di arranged for the de Berg family to generously donate the awards. While still conducting interviews, Di is currently engaged in writing a biography of her mother whose over 1300 recordings form the foundation of the extensive oral history collection in the National Library.

## Life Membership Awarded to Joyce Cribb



In addition to being Public Officer for the NSW Branch of the Association since 2001 and a very valuable long standing member of the Management Committee, Joyce has assisted with the editing and production of Voiceprint the NSW Branch Newsletter for the past 15 years. After 2 years assisting the editorial committee she then took on the role of Editor. Joyce is always actively searching out material for publication and encouraging members to write up information about their various projects. Her editorial skills can gently hone members' notes into interesting copy. Rising to the challenge and opportunities presented by digital technology she is currently in the process of developing Voiceprint as an e-newsletter.

Joyce's appreciation for the wealth of untold life stories and ways to help people retrieve their memories sprang from her work in Aged Persons Homes. She found that for many frail older people their personal esteem was bound to the memories of past life experiences and successes. Allowing people to tell of their life story and reminisce about past experiences was a very valuable therapy for older people whose abilities were in the present very restricted. Joyce trained as a Diversional Therapist and then completed a Masters Degree in Leisure Studies at UTS. She put her studies to good use as she lectured in the School of Occupational Therapy, Cumberland College of Health Sciences, University of Sydney. Joyce always encouraged her students to listen to the life stories and respect and value the life experiences of their clients.

It was this emphasis and promotion of reminiscence and life stories that came to the notice the Oral History Association NSW. Joyce and a colleague from the University were invited by Rosie Block to speak at a seminar in 1993. There she was introduced to a number of oral historians who all promoted the association including Beth Robertson, also a speaker on that day, who gave them a crash course on oral history over lunch. She found the members and their interest and activities so coincided with her own interests she decided to join the association. From this time Joyce has always promoted Oral History and encouraged membership and the opportunity to attend OHAA training and seminars.

Joyce says that it is her background of knowing how rewarding it is for the individual to have their work, their history, valued and recorded that has inspired her to continue her role with Voiceprint and record and feature the work of oral historians. So the work continues and if there is work to be done, Joyce can always be relied upon to be there.

**Thank you to members,  
your support is appreciated,  
Di and Joyce. [Top](#)**

## Copyright for Oral Historians

As Oral Historians we need to be aware of copyright issues, how to protect our own work and to be mindful of not infringing the rights of others when reproducing material created by other people. Copyright is an important ethical issue and is discussed in the OHAA Handbook, pages 14 -17. What this article sets out to do, is to give members a further up to date reference point for issues which may affect their work from time to time.

In Australia, copyright law is set out in the *Copyright Act 1968* and as this is Federal legislation it applies throughout Australia. The original Act may be over 40 years old but it has been amended to keep up to date as technology evolves. There are also a large number of court decisions which have interpreted the Act in relation to numerous situations which also need to be considered in relation to similar situations. Copyright is quite complex and the Act very long, so there is no way we can address all the issues that might confront oral historians in a short article, however the Oral History Association of Australia feels this is an issue that members need to keep in mind.

The Australian Copyright Council provides excellent information which is available online to the public. We do suggest that members go to their web site [www.copyright.org.au](http://www.copyright.org.au). The council has an A-Z listing of its information sheets which are freely available to download and print. In particular a copy of their information sheet G010v16, *An Introduction to Copyright in Australia*. – has 11 pages of information that will give you a basic understanding of the issues involved, an excellent reference. We would suggest another information sheet, *Family History and Copyright* (G042v09) also has specific information for the many members interested in family history. Another information sheet on *Duration of Copyright* (G023) has a timeline chart that will allow members to make an informed decision about the use of old photos, papers, letters etc. Do browse the web site A – Z list for information that may be applicable to a particular project you are undertaking especially if you have an interest in using other media and remember that the information sheets are regularly updated.

Copyright does not have to be registered with any organization and is free, so do think about copyright and protect all your own creative work with the copyright symbol ©, your name and most importantly the date. Also in undertaking commissions the question of ownership of the copyright should be addressed in the agreement. Members can get further information from the information sheet *Assigning and Licensing Rights* (G24). The site covers many issues with its information sheets and also has a key word listing that may be searched in relation to a particular topic. A search of the site will hopefully provide answers to questions as they arise.

The Copyright Council also conduct a program of information seminars and details of those scheduled for Sydney. These can be found on their website [www.copyright.org.au/seminars/](http://www.copyright.org.au/seminars/) Members may wish to attend and extend their knowledge in this area.

*Thanks to our Secretary Frank Heimans for the research he did in relation to copyright issues.*  
Ed. [Top](#)



## Member's Projects

From Bob Mitchell

### South East Fibre Exports: Corporate History Book (Japanese owned Wood Chip Mill at Eden)

Last year I completed 34 interviews with current and retired workers in the Timber Industry, for a corporate history book on the Wood Chip Mill at Eden, established in 1969. Interviewees included the workers of a modern day logging team, a former editor of the local Eden newspaper, a retired Primary school teacher who taught children of the original Japanese Mill administrators, the Mill security manager (retired) who confronted the 'Greenies' of the 1970s, retired NSW Forestry officers, and retired timber fallers who worked with only axe and chainsaw to fall huge trees in the forests of Eden. Thirty four one hour CDs and altogether a fascinating project.

### Commission from NSW Far West Dementia Advisory Service

As promised, with all 22 interviews now completed here in Broken Hill, a short report on this project follows. It was commissioned by the NSW Far West Dementia Advisory Service with federal government funds made available specifically for Aged Care projects in remote areas.

The interviewees chosen for me by HACC (Home and Community Care), Broken Hill, are all local retired miners aged between early sixties and ninety and the stories are primarily for reminiscence therapy purposes. Each interview was of one to two hours duration, carried out over a two week period. The interviews complement a Reminiscence Photo Book recently produced by HACC and the beneficiaries are dementia patients, many of whom are former miners, currently being cared for at 'The Hill'.

Common themes that featured throughout this historical miner's project included the harsh and unpredictable underground working environment of the mines, hard physical work, work safety and, most importantly, mateship and larrikinism. The miners I interviewed worked hard, and many played hard too to alleviate the inescapable stress of the job. This is where mateship and larrikinism played such important roles underground, and also spilled over into the pubs after work. It seemed to me there was no end to the ingenious antics the miners got up to:

*'My mate and me got full to the eyeballs one night at the pub after work. We were there till stumps. He didn't think he'd be able to make it home so I told him my motorbike was outside and offered him a lift in my new sidecar. It was pitch black outside. I told him to hop in so he leapt but I roared off without him. I didn't have a sidecar just the bike and when I looked around I saw he had landed in the horse trough that I had parked my bike against.'*

I have 30 one hour CDs full of these type of stories! Can't wait to use them for my community talks and workshops when I return home to Sydney.

*Thanks Bob – interesting projects with older retired workers. Did you note involvement of the area health service.*

**From Jo Oliver**

### **Camden Voices Oral History Project**

Camden Council Library Service received a Library Council of New South Wales Library Development Grant in 2009 to design and develop an independent website to provide access to the spoken history of the Camden Local Government Area and promote this resource to a new generation of users.

Camden Voices Oral History Project aims to conduct and record oral histories of people within the Camden Local Government Area community and preserve these records as part of the Camden Council Library collection. Camden Voices is a social history project focusing on individuals who have grown up or worked in the area or live in a place which has or will soon change. The project focuses on individuals of varying ages and cultural backgrounds. The interviews are intentionally informal and do not attempt to be a definitive history of the area or particular subjects. Rather, the interviews are personal stories from the memories of people and their connections with the community. The interviews include differing perceptions and colourful anecdotes.

The Camden Library Local Studies Librarian attended a training course run by OHAA and State Library NSW in oral history interviewing and recording. Volunteer interviewers were then sought from the community and 18 people were trained by the Local Studies Librarian in interviewing and recording during two workshops. Twelve of these trainees volunteered to conduct interviews with people identified through community suggestions. Thirty interviews were conducted in interviewees homes during 2009/10 and recorded using an Edirol R-09HR as WAV 24 Bit files.

The download and mastering of interviews was outsourced to an expert in audio production and website design. He developed Camden Voices Online website to contain extracts of the 30 recorded oral histories and images of interviewees and their environment. The website was launched in September 2010 with interviewees and their families and interviewers attending a celebratory morning tea and showcasing of the site - [www.library.camden.nsw.gov.au/camdenvoices/](http://www.library.camden.nsw.gov.au/camdenvoices/) Interviewees received audio CD copies of their interviews and audio CD copies are now housed in the Camden Council Library Service local studies and lending collections. A volunteer is presently transcribing each interview in full and copies of the transcriptions are sent to interviewees and will be housed in hard copy in the local studies collection. It is planned that PDF copies of the transcriptions, when completed, will be included on the Camden Voices website.

Camden Council Library Service is supporting other oral history projects in the community by provided advice and loaning recording equipment. These groups will be invited to include extracts of their digital oral history recordings on the Camden Voices website and include copies of recordings and transcripts in the library collection. For more any information on the project contact: Jo Oliver Local Studies Librarian Camden Council Library Service 02 46547951  
<mailto:jo.oliver@camden.nsw.gov.au>      [Top](#)

## Members' Study Reports

**From Trish Levido** I am currently in my third year of the Advanced Diploma of Local, Family and Applied History Course offered through the University of New England. Due to other commitments I am doing this as a part time, on line, University course. I have found that the world of academia has opened my eyes and mind to a different way of thinking and has given me a love of research and other interests way beyond what I would ever have believed. It is with great surprise that I find I am averaging distinction level in my course and at the age of 65 that one is never too old to learn! Having left school at the age of 16 to attend Business College and then to have a few different career paths, one as a Business College teacher, followed by a secretarial career until my 40's. I then embarked on a school laboratory science career, until my retirement. I then decided to get some credentials in a passion which I had been undertaking part time for over 30 years, the recording of people's oral histories.

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### **'Ecumenical' voices reported by Derrick Mason**

I have been utilizing a great deal of oral history during preparation for writing a thesis on the 'Ecumenical Experience' of the formation of the Uniting Church in Cootamundra, NSW. The thesis is part of a Bachelor of Arts Honours candidature, through the University of New England. The Uniting Church was formed in 1977 through the merging of the Methodist, Congregational and Presbyterian churches, although some members of these, particularly Presbyterians, declined to unite and continued in their existing denomination. There was no Congregational Church at Cootamundra. My research has involved study of archival material and secondary sources, but a major part of the information gathered has been through oral interviews with members of the Uniting Church and the continuing Presbyterian Church. Cootamundra people have been very generous in sharing their experiences and expressing their views on the positives and negatives of church union. Many of the people interviewed had been involved in union negotiations, but sadly, owing to the passage of time (34 years) many others have passed on. Those who have come to Cootamundra more recently nevertheless had something to contribute on how the Uniting and Continuing churches have developed since union. I must confess that I did not use the latest technology for conducting and transcribing the interviews. It was an analogue recorder and the transcription was typed up while listening to the audio replay. Having attended the workshop in August, I might consider forsaking my 'luddite' ways and embracing the new technology for a future project. The 'ethics' agreement with the University under which the interviews were conducted directed that the original material should be destroyed after five years from the submission of the thesis. My supervisor is endeavouring to negotiate some way in which it might be preserved. The difficulty is that a condition of respondents' consent was that they should remain anonymous, and short of obtaining further permission from each one it seems unlikely that they could be put to further practical use. I have found the project very challenging and interesting (and not a little demanding) and in the process I have learned a great deal about collecting oral interviews, about the historical process and, obviously, quite a lot about the Uniting Church and factors which led to its creation.

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### **More from Denise Phillips**

I am researching experiences of loss, hope and grief among Hazara refugees from Afghanistan, for my PhD thesis at the University of New England. The Hazaras are

a persecuted minority and number largely among the asylum seekers arriving on Australian shores by boat, since 1999. While governments politicise their arrival as a national security crisis, the real – and often prolonged – crisis belongs to the refugees. For those resettled in Australia, grief can continue while creating new lives because some family members have been murdered, while others often remain missing or endangered. Some struggle to achieve reunions through hazardous overseas trips or immigration sponsorships.

One narrator, Reza, says that although ‘I got at the moment citizenship, it still didn’t solve our problem’. Describing their mental anguish, he says that refugees must try to forget their loved ones because this is the ‘way of life’, but that it is impossible. Hazara culture is inseparable from kinship groups, and the thesis will also explore culturally-specific ways in which Hazaras express and narrate their suffering. Eleven in-depth interviews have been conducted to date. The thesis expands on my earlier research, recently published as ‘Wounded memory of Hazara refugees from Afghanistan: Remembering and forgetting persecution’, *History Australia*, vol. 8, no. 2, 2011, pp. 171-192. I aim to shed light on experiences of new Hazara communities within Australia, and contribute to oral history scholarship on interviewing in emerging crises and during prolonged bereavement. [dphilli3@une.edu.au](mailto:dphilli3@une.edu.au)

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#### **From Sharon Burke**

I work full-time in Newcastle and I am currently half-way through a communications degree which I do part-time through UNE with two majors. The first one is writing and publishing and the second is Australian History. I have always loved listening to family stories of the olden days. But, it is through meeting and studying with Janis Wilton that I started my love affair with oral history. At this time I also met Trish Levido and she cemented it for me – I just had to record people’s stories. But, life got in the road. I have recorded my aunt’s oral history and written about it. I am about to write a biography of my aunt. Just this week I have found a number of recording opportunities through meeting a number of community members from my little town, Stroud. We have a number of significant events this year and next – Churches turning 100 and 150, a pub turning 100, and a number of residents in our aged care facility about to turn 100. I look forward to gaining a grant to pay for recording equipment and training costs so that our historical society can record the wonderful stories, with the interviewees’ permission of course!

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#### **From Yvonne Reitsma**

Lifelong learning is what I believe we are each called to commit to, as we never truly ‘arrive’. My own journey has been long, often difficult as I juggle time, priorities, demands. and responsibilities. However, as a senior, mature age student new to academic learning, I am slowly acquiring the skills I need. Previous secretarial skills, study at TAFE (where I gained distinctions), being a proprietor of a successful bed and breakfast establishment for nearly seven years, even the nurturing of five children to adulthood, (with fine careers of their own), did not give me the necessary skills to undertake my own project. I wanted to record, for future generations, the stories of an older generation of Dutch migrants. Out of respect to them, I needed new, different skills. After many inquiries, I discovered the Advanced Diploma in Local, Family and Applied History (ADLFAH) course being offered at the University of New England (UNE), in Armidale. I tentatively applied, was accepted. A new journey had begun. After all these years, to finally say, ‘my turn’ opened a whole new world to me! Lectures, books, history, museums, conferences, conversations, new friends, stimulating discussions, were, and are, a

whole new world of learning. I find it all refreshing, stimulating, hard work and a huge commitment! The attributes of a graduate at UNE, I desired, seeing this to be a challenge to strive for, even when hard.

My focus however, most remain on the subject of oral history. The study brought me to understand the need for using focused listening to a life story, that it makes a difference. Together with this, a vital need for respect for the interviewee has brought me to investigate memory itself, bringing with it new challenges to my thinking. I have learned thorough research, using source documents, together with my own natural curiosity and desire for creativity, are steps required. Even before recording and conducting an oral history interview, consideration too has to be given on how and where the recording will be finally archived. This, so it will be available for future generations, future researchers, thus, another journey, this time into the challenging world of digital technology.

Finally, may I encourage you, if perhaps also new to the world of academia and serious study, as a mature age, potential student, to attend both an International and National Oral History Conference. Now, having attended two International and four National Oral History Conferences, I am in a position to recommend the value, rich experience, eye-opening world perspective, gained. If serious about oral history, I would also recommend both attending the ADLFAH course at UNE, in Armidale, and participation in the stimulating one week residential schools offered. I admit, I did have to repeat units in this course, a lesson in the value of time management. Yet, I continue to use this experience, not as a sign of failure, but as an opportunity to practice perseverance. Problems are the life lessons from which we learn in this school of life.

Therefore, this journey, all the richer with these new skills and understanding, to achieve my aim, to tell the stories of these pioneer older Dutch migrants, continues.

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#### **From Carol Roberts**

I am working on a thesis for my Master of History which will comprise a series of oral history interviews with Greg Hansell, a well-known pastel artist living in the Hawkesbury area. Greg is also Director of the Royal Art Society in Sydney. My topic will most likely be made up of three parts – the first section being biographical, the middle section being centred around his artwork and his recording of history through art. Of course, the final section will have to be analytical and I'm still running that around in my head. My study is at UNE, in Armidale and my supervisor is Janis Wilton.

*Are you feeling inspired? Other members are also undertaking study some for the first time – I could not contact everyone and I sure there are many more that I do not know about. I do thank those who have contributed. I myself studied as a mature age student, good busy days - I remember them well, so worthwhile!*

*Janis Wilton and Alistair Thomson two of the senior academic members of OHHA have provided some notes on courses that may interest members. Contact them soon if you would like to study. Ed*

#### **Would you like to study in 2012?**

In first semester 2012, the **University of New England** is offering its Oral History unit. Taught by Janis Wilton, the unit provides an introduction to oral history scholarship, the skills and ethical issues involved in conducting oral history interviews, and the challenges and processes of interpreting and presenting oral history material. It also provides an opportunity to conduct, interpret and present

an interview with a person of your choice. Taught online and by distance education, you can study the unit as a full fee paying individual unit or as part of a named award (eg. the Advanced or Graduate Diploma in Local, Family and Applied History; Bachelor of Historical Inquiry and Practice; BA). Further details available from the UNE website: [www.une.edu.au/courses](http://www.une.edu.au/courses)  
Or from Janis at [jwilton@une.edu.au](mailto:jwilton@une.edu.au)

**Monash University** in Victoria offers Oral History and Memories Studies. Graduates will be fully prepared to undertake research degrees or may go on to work in the wide range of professions that make significant use of oral history and historical memory including museums, the media, heritage and corporate history, community and family history. Convened by Professor Alistair Thomson.  
[www.arts.monash.edu.au/history/staff/alhthomson.php](http://www.arts.monash.edu.au/history/staff/alhthomson.php)  
*Note: This course will also be taught by distance education.*



Photo courtesy of Yvonne Reitsma.

For all the Oral History Cabinet and members assembled in Melbourne for the conference - Cabinet pudding!  
Up market bread and butter pudding made with cake. Very yummy!!! Only the best for oral historians!

See Network News for coming events.

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*The end. Hope you have enjoyed Voiceprint 45. Ed. [Top](#)*