



ORAL HISTORY NETWORK NEWS

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Keep up with latest news and developments on the Oral History NSW Blog – See HERE



Join the Oral History NSW Facebook group HERE

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Alistair Thomson elected President of Oral History Australia

Professor Alistair Thomson has been elected as Oral History Australia's new President at its Annual General Meeting held during the national conference in Sydney in September.

Al has a distinguished academic career and is a leading figure in the field of oral history in Australia and internationally. In 2007 he returned to Melbourne after 22 years in England at the University of Sussex, where he was Professor of Oral History, Director of the Centre for Continuing Education, joint Director of the Centre for Life History Research, co-editor of the British

journal *Oral History* (1990-2007), a Trustee of the Mass-Observation Archive and President of the International Oral History Association (2006-08). For many years he also worked with the Brighton-based community history and publishing group QueenSpark Books.

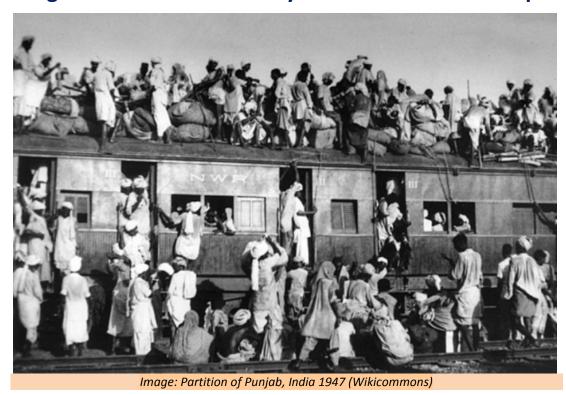
Back in Australia, he took up an appointment as Professor of History at Monash University in Melbourne, where he is Director of the Historical Studies Graduate Research Program, teaches a range of undergraduate and postgraduate units in oral history, public history and Australian social history, and supervises research students working on diverse topics involving social and cultural history, public history and oral history. He is also President of Oral History Victoria. Among his extensive list of publications, he co-edited (with Rob Perks) The oral history reader, currently in its 3rd edition (2016); and co-authored (with Anisa Puri, President of Oral History NSW) Australian lives: an intimate history (2017).

Quick off the mark as the new national president, he has issued a statement of first thoughts about OHA priorities over the next year or so. It looks at these key areas:

- the role of the OHA committee
- the future of the Biennial National Conference
- improvements to the national website
- raising the profile of the Oral History Australia Journal
- national advocacy for oral history
- future proofing oral history records; working towards an Australian Voices project –
 'Saving Australia's Oral History Heritage'.

Do take a few moments to look at the full text of his exciting vision for the future of Oral History Australia, which can be found on Oral History NSW's website **HERE**.

Oral History Australia's national conference, September 2017: 'Moving Memories: Oral History in a Global World' – reports



There are already two enthusiastic reports from delegates to the national conference held in Sydney from 13-16 September – a stimulating, engaging and friendly event. One is an overview from Oral History NSW Committee Member Minna Muhlen-Schulte, on the PHA NSW's website, which can be found HERE. The image above recalls the address by one of the keynote speakers, **Dr Indira Chowdhury** (Director, Centre for Public History Srishti Institute of Art and, Design and Technology in Bangalore, India), who examined how the partition of India in 1947 saw the displacement and migration of approximately 12 million people, and along with them the displacement of memory and history.



Image: Hanis Diyana Kamarudin, (from the newlyestablished Oral History Association of Malaysia), left; and Cheng Nien Yuan, right.

Also, on the OH NSW website blog page HERE you can read the first of three reports from recipients of OH NSW bursaries, which provided financial assistance to help them attend. This is from Cheng Nien Yuan, a PhD candidate at the University of Sydney's Department of Theatre and Performance Studies.

Nien's research explores the idea of oral history as performative in Singapore, and questions the assumptions of empowerment in oral history in this context. Ultimately she hopes to find a socioculturally appropriate way of subverting the state's top-down oral history practice at home.

For this conference she presented on 'embodying' the transcript with moving memories, derived from a forthcoming article in the *Oral History Review* (2018).



Karen George wins 2017 Hazel de Berg Award

Dr Karen George is this year's recipient of the prestigious Hazel de Berg Award for Excellence in Oral History. Dr George has fifteen years of experience as a professional historian, and is the proprietor of Historically Speaking (consultant historian and writer). She is a consultant for the National Library of Australia and the State Library of South Australia, and for eight years was Oral Historian for the Adelaide City Council. She is currently Research Historian for the Children in State Care Commission of Inquiry.

We hope to bring you the citation from Oral History SA/NT, who nominated her for the award, in the next issue of *Network News*.

Pictured: Diana Ritchie (left), daughter of Hazel de Berg, with Karen George at the presentation of this year's award at the Biennial National Conference of Oral History Australia in Sydney, September 2017.

Workshop:

ORAL HISTORY

Capturing Memories: Oral History in the Digital Age Saturday 7 October 2017

A practical workshop for all interested in recording the experiences of family, friends, local community, history of museum items or any other project incorporating memories of the past.

Topics include:

- introduction to oral history and the nature and reliability of memory
- preparing and structuring an oral history interview
- ethical issues, ownership, copyright and appropriate documentation
- choosing and using a digital recorder
- processing the interview preparing a summary log
- interview transcription, aided by free downloadable software
- saving sound files, storage and preservation

Reference notes provided.

When. Sat. 7 October 2017.

Registration 9:30 am. Workshop 9:45 am-4:30 pm Where. RAHS, History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney

Cost. \$105 non-members; \$95 Oral History NSW & RAHS members

Morning & afternoon tea included

Booking essential - limited places

More information/Bookings



Workshop leaders will be **Pauline Curby**, an experienced oral historian; and **Andrew Host**, whose 35 years of experience as a sound engineer can help you get quality recordings that will stand the test of time. Both are members of Oral History NSW.





Exhibition:



Our City: 175 years in 175 Objects

27 October to 12 November 2012 11 am to 4 pm 7 days, & Thursdays 4 to 7 pm

2017 marks the 175th anniversary of the formation of the **City of Sydney** council – the second oldest council in Australia. To celebrate, the City of Sydney is holding a major exhibition in the **Lower Town Hall**.

The exhibition explores the themes of Governing, Building, Working and Inspiring and presents civic history, events, people and places of the city from 1842 to 2017. Many of the historic items have never been on display before. You can find out a bit more about the content of the exhibition HERE.

Call for volunteers....

The curatorial team are calling for volunteers with a love of history to assist. The role of the volunteers is to share their passion for Sydney's history through greeting visitors, pointing out interesting things in the exhibition, answering questions, and ensuring that the original artefacts are respected by visitors. A volunteer shift consists of three hours on the exhibition floor and volunteers are required to turn up 15 mins prior to their shift. A volunteer shift consists of three hours on the exhibition floor and volunteers are required to turn up 15 mins prior to their shift. See the shift roster HERE. Interested? Please contact Archivist Susan Kennedy. A volunteers details form is available HERE.

Exhibition:





If you haven't had an opportunity to visit the current exhibition at the Jervis Bay Maritime Museum, Huskisson NSW, we encourage you to make the time and visit this exceptional display curated by the Australian National Maritime Museum. This interactive experience highlights the contribution the RAN made in the 'war to end all wars'. Featuring rare artefacts, unpublished journals, personal keepsakes and short films. This is a great opportunity to see such important objects and stories. Read more HERE.

The exhibition runs until 15 October 2017.

Presented in partnership with the **Fleet Air Arm Museum**, also nearby at HMAS Albatross, South Nowra, War At Sea is a travelling exhibition by the **Australian National Maritime Museum**, Darling Harbour, Sydney

280 Pitt St., Sydney - 02 9262 7300 | smsa.org.au



Our time-travelling brains

Humans possess the extraordinary capacity to mentally travel back and forth in subjective time. This allows us to relive personally defining events from our past and to mentally project ourselves forwards in time to envisage the future. The relative ease with which we engage in these feats of mental time travel belies their inherent complexity.

Professor Muireann Irish will present an overview of her work exploring memory and imagination, highlighting how damage to the brain impacts these sophisticated cognitive processes and the devastating effects of losing such uniquely human functions.

Muireann Irish is an Associate Professor in the School of Psychology and Brain and Mind Centre at the University of Sydney. Originally from Ireland, Muireann relocated to Australia in 2010 and secured an Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery Early Career Researcher Award in 2013. She currently holds a prestigious ARC Future Fellowship. **COST: Free** (bookings essential). Click **HERE to book**.

When: Thursday 5 October 2017, 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm. Where: Mitchell Theatre, SMSA

See HERE for the full range of upcoming events at the SMSA.





Fake website for the International Oral History Association

Be warned! A fake website has been appearing in Google searches for the IOHA.

The fake website has been created with the address **www.iohanet.org** and may replace the official IOHA site in Google searches. Be careful not to post any information to it. The official IOHA website remains at:

www.ioha.org.



State Library of NSW online guide to using its Oral History & Sound collections

The library has produced a guide to research, discover and learn more about its Oral History and Sound collections. The guide introduces you to these collections, which comprise recorded oral histories, radio interviews,

talks, podcasts, performances and seminars.

Oral History and Sound is a growing collection that forms part of the State Library's commitment to collect material that documents life in New South Wales. From recordings undertaken in the 1950s through to contemporary times, the voices and memories of the people of New South Wales have been preserved. Whether you are an academic, a student, an author, a family historian or local historian, a professional researcher or simply interested in a particular topic, this guide will help you to get started using the Oral History and Sound collections.

See the guide **HERE**.

Can you help? Looking for an oral history interview: Joyce Sherwood Tidswell

Margaret Wall is seeking to locate an oral history interview with her late mother. She writes:

"My mother **Joyce Sherwood Tidswell** lived at Blackheath in the Blue Mountains until her death in 2011. Somehow my mum met up with an oral historian who came to her house on several occasions and recorded extensive interviews about mum's early life in Moree, the Depression years etc. There was a set of 3 CDs which were given to my mother on completion. I do believe the historian lived in the Blue Mountains at the time and a connection through Springwood library rings a bell for me, however this may be inaccurate. My mother was a great library visitor.

"I estimate this would be approximately 12 years ago and now, after thorough searching I cannot find those CDs.

"It would mean the world to me if I could contact this person somehow, as I can never recover those memories without those records."

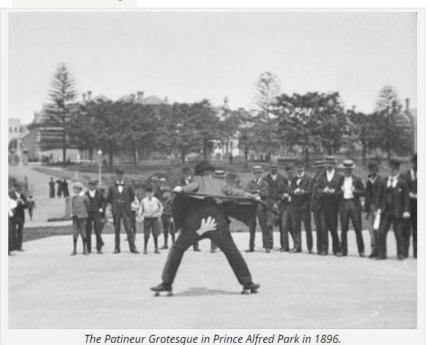
If you can assist in any way, please contact Anisa Puri, President, Oral History NSW: president@oralhistorynsw.org.au

READING & LISTENING



The state of origin (in cinema) A Humorous Rollerskater

From Dr Lisa Murray, for The Dictionary of Sydney



In 1896, in the early days of moving pictures, the innovative Lumière brothers in France decided to send trained people around the world to film everyday scenes, or 'Actualités', and to promote their invention, the Cinematographe. These snippets of life around the world were shown to local audiences and sent back to France, where they made up a catalogue of films that the Lumières could distribute.

Employed by the Lumières on this cinematic venture, Maurius Sestier and his wife arrived in Sydney in 1896, and went into partnership with local studio photographer **H Walter Barnett**.

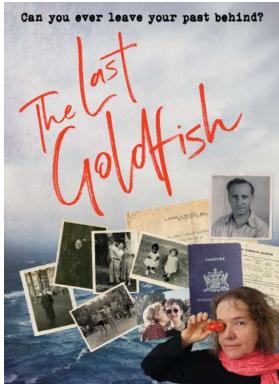
Read the full post **HERE**.



Listen to Nic & Dr Lisa Murray on 2SER Breakfast HERE

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SYNOPSIS

The Last Goldfish documents a daughter's search for her lost family. Rich with archival images, this suspenseful and surprising story – stretching from Australia to Trinidad, North America to WWII Germany – reveals the impact of war and displacement across generations.

Manfred Goldfish tries as hard as he can to hide the trauma he has experienced. But his filmmaker daughter suspects there is more to the Goldfish tale than her father is willing to reveal.

A gripping and deeply-moving story of one person's search for the story of her life.

#WithRefugees
THELASTGOLDFISH.COM
FACEBOOK.COM/THELASTGOLDFISHFILM

"So I was tying together my interest in photography, personal documentation, history, philosophy, memory and delving into questions of identity, the politics of difference and who is allowed to belong where in this world. I believe racism often starts when people make assumptions about other people. I began thinking that I could make a film countering some of those assumptions, whether they be about religion, identity, gender, or sexuality. *The Last Goldfish* grew out of this whirlpool of ideas."

- Su Goldfish, writer & director

See Virginia Baxter's review on **realtime** website **HERE**See movie trailer **HERE**

See **HERE** for national screenings in October 2017



From the OUP Blog:

Working class narratives in the twenty-first century

How are instructors using oral history in the classroom? In a piece for the *Oral History Review* blog, filmmaker and UCLA Lecturer **Virginia Espino*** explores the power of oral history to connect students to their campus community, and to help them collaboratively rethink what working class

identity means in the modern era.

"What does it mean to be a member of the working class in the twenty first century? I posed this question to my students earlier this year when I taught a class in oral history methods for the Institute for Research on Labor and Employment at UCLA. I focused the course on the study and collection of working class stories as a way to uplift voices not often heard in an academic setting and to develop an archive of interviews that broadens our understanding of the working class as a diverse and multifaceted cross-section of our society."

Read the full blog post HERE.

*Virginia Espino is a historian turned filmmaker who currently teaches oral history, Chicanx history, and Labour history at UCLA. She is a co-producer of the film *No Más Bebés* that examines the history of forced sterilizations at a large public hospital. Her current project is an investigation into the foster care system through the voices of those who encounter it on a daily basis.



Oral history and the importance of sharing at Pride in Washington D.C.



OHP Blog post 21 July 2017: "Back in March we heard from our friends at the Samuel Proctor Oral History Program (SPOHP) at the University of Florida, who had travelled to the Women's March on Washington as part of an experiential learning project. Building on the work they did at the Women's March, they returned to Washington, D.C. in June to document the city's Pride Weekend, including the Equality March for Unity and Pride, the QT Night of Healing and Resistance, and more. They have graciously shared some of the fruits of their labour with us ..., providing a taste of the experiences they had and the stories they recorded. Their reflections highlight the importance of sharing stories – how listening to each other can help to humanize "the other" through shared experiences and why thinking about our intersecting identities is critical for both good organizing and good oral history."

See the full post **HERE**. Includes audio clips.





Annual History Lecture on ABC RN's Big Ideas



Associate Professor Michelle Arrow delivers the 2017 Annual History Lecture. TWH Photography

Did you catch the History Council NSW's Annual History Lecture on *ABC Radio National's Big Ideas*? **Associate Professor Michelle Arrow** delivered the lecture at Sydney Living Museums' The Mint during History Week. Her fascinating talk examined the prominence of Australian "ocker" culture in the 1970s and its connection to social and political issues at the time.

Read more

Listen online



The British Library is racing to save archived sounds from decay

A Nazi radio archive with more than 4,000 discs that have never been played, a collection of Beijing street sounds from the '90s and the voice of Florence Nightingale are among the British Library's six-and-a-half million sound recordings. The earliest are from the 1880s, recorded on wax cylinders that sit four storeys beneath the bustling streets of London, fighting off mould

> and decay. In a race against time before the most fragile recordings vanish forever, the archive is being digitised.

"Sound recordings are facing two ticking time-bombs – the formats are degrading and some are literally falling apart on the shelf," says Will Prentice, the softly spoken head of technical services at the British Library, who's leading the digitisation project. Another issue is redundancy: some of the equipment needed to play the recordings is disappearing many formats, Prentice believes, have only ten years left. While anyone can access the archive and have the sounds digitised on request, the work undertaken by Prentice and his team will be showcased in an exhibition opening on October 6.



Image: Will Prentice: "We use Swiss-made reel-to-reel machines borrowed from old radio stations and universities" Credit: Nick Wilson



Listen: 140 Years of Recorded Sound will include oral histories from both world wars and pirate radio recordings. But there's still a lot of work to do. Read more HERE.



Lovers & Strangers: an Immigrant History of Post-War Britain By Clair Wills. Allen Lane, 2017

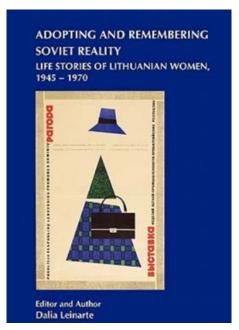
"The battered and exhausted Britain of 1945 was desperate for workers - to rebuild, to fill the factories, to make the new NHS work. From all over the world and with many motives, thousands of individuals took the plunge. Most assumed they would spend just three or four years here, sending most of their pay back home, but instead large numbers stayed – and transformed the country.

"Drawing on an amazing array of unusual and surprising sources, Clair Wills' wonderful new book brings to life the incredible diversity and strangeness of the migrant experience. She introduces us to lovers, scroungers, dancers, homeowners, teachers, drinkers, carers and many more to show the opportunities and excitement as much as the humiliation and poverty that could be part of the new arrivals' experience. Irish, Bengalis, West Indians, Poles, Maltese, Punjabis and Cypriots battled to fit into an often shocked Britain and, to their

own surprise, found themselves making permanent homes. As Britain picked itself up again in the 1950s migrants set about changing life in their own image, through music, clothing, food, religion, but also fighting racism and casual and not so casual violence."*

* Source: Penguin Australia. See HERE for purchase details

Professor Dalia Leinarte was a keynote speaker at the biennial national conference of Oral History Australia, *Moving memories: oral history in a global world*, held in Sydney in September 2017. She is Professor of History at Vytautas Magnus University, Lithuania, and has been appointed Chair of the UN Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) Committee. Her presentation: "Silence in Eastern and Central European Biographical Accounts and Life Stories" was received with great interest at the conference. Here are two of her publications.



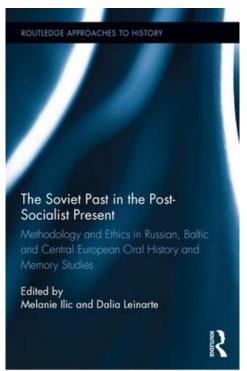
Adopting and Remembering Soviet Reality. Life Stories of Lithuanian Women, 1945 – 1970 Editor and Author Dalia Leinarte; Brill, 2010

For millions of people, the Soviet experience meant not only living through the torment of Stalinism and the GULAG, the unbelievable destiny of men and women during the 1917 Revolution, civil war, and the Second World War, or those breathtaking, gigantic Socialist construction projects. Many citizens of the former Soviet Union lived "ordinary lives in ordinary times", where the fate of men and women depended not on armed coercion, but Soviet ideology and propaganda. *Adopting and Remembering Soviet Reality* contains the stories of ten women, talking about their lives in Soviet Lithuania, one of the annexed Baltic republics.

The book gives a compelling account of how, in the last years of Stalin's rule, after 1945, during the so-called "Khrushchev Thaw", and in the beginning of the "Stagnation Era", Soviet ideology transfused the everyday life of women and dictated just about every

major aspect of their lives. Based on interviews, the journalistic press of that era, as well as other material, the book reveals how propaganda shaped women's understanding of family and work responsibilities, child care, interpersonal relationships, romantic love, and friendship.

Purchase new & used on Amazon HERE.



The Soviet Past in the Post-Socialist Present: Methodology and Ethics in Russian, Baltic and Central European Oral History and Memory Studies Edited by Melanie Ilic & Dalia Leinarte; Routledge 2016

This collection examines practical and ethical issues inherent in the application of oral history and memory studies to research about the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe since the collapse of the Soviet bloc. Case studies highlight the importance of ethical good practice, including the reflexive interrogation of the interviewer and researcher, and aspects of gender and national identity.

Researchers use oral history to analyse present-day recollections of the Soviet past, thereby extending our understanding beyond archival records, official rhetoric and popular mythology. Oral history explores individual life stories, but this has sometimes resulted in rather incomplete, incoherent, inconsistent or illogical narratives. Oral history, therefore, presents the researcher with a number of methodological and

ethical dilemmas, including the interpretation of "silence" in biographical accounts.

See publisher's website **HERE**. Purchase: Amazon, hard cover or Kindle – see **HERE**.

CONFERENCES etc. – Australia

 Royal Australian Historical Society Conference Finding Lost Places, Lost People

Cowra Services Club, Cowra NSW, 28–29 October 2017

Download program and booking form HERE. More details and online booking HERE.

Museums Galleries Australia National Conference 2018
 Agents of Change

Meat Market, Melbourne, 4-7 June 2018. Details HERE.

◆ Australasian Sound Recordings Association 2017 Annual Conference
 Taking it on - Audio Archiving for the Next Generation

AIATSIS, Acton ACT, 25 & 26 October 2017. Details HERE.

CONFERENCES etc. – Overseas





International Oral History Association, XX Conference 2018
 Memory & Narration

University of Jyväskylä, Finland, 18–21 June, 2018. DETAILS

NOTE: the IOHA has a scholarship fund to assist people who meet certain criteria to attend the IOHA conference in Finland in 2018. (Oral History Australia has contributed \$1500 to this fund.) **Application deadline 30 December 2017**

Details, including selection criteria, available **HERE**.

 Pears Institute for the Study of Antisemitism
 Beyond camps & forced labour: current research on survivors of Nazi persecution

Birkbeck, University of London & Wiener Library, London UK, 10–12 January 2018. **DETAILS**

• International Institute of Social History
Twelfth European Social Science History Conference

Time in oral history and life stories

Queen's University, Belfast, Ireland 4–7 April 2018. **DETAILS**

Oral History Society

With the Oral History Network of Ireland, QUOTE Hub, Queen's University Belfast Dangerous Oral Histories: risks, responsibilities and rewards

Queen's University Belfast, Ireland 28–29 June 2018. Call for papers & details HERE.



Membership of Oral History NSW Inc. gives you:

- Regular Seminars and Workshops.
- Opportunities for informal exchange of ideas and experience.
- Biennial National Oral History Conferences.
- Subscription to the annual Oral History Australia Journal.
- Oral History Network News, the monthly email newsletter keeping you in touch with current topics and events of interest to oral historians. Notices received requesting oral historians for particular projects are also published here.
- Awards and Grants the Oral History Australia Hazel de Berg Award for Excellence in Oral History recognises oral historians who have made an outstanding contribution to oral history in Australia over a considerable period of time. From time to time Oral History NSW makes available grants to members undertaking research based on, or concerning oral history, who wish to participate or present papers at an international oral history conference.
- ALSO, as Oral History NSW is an affiliated member of the Royal Australian Historical Society NSW all members may attend the RAHS Conference at members' rates. See RAHS website www.rahs.org.au

Oral History Network News is published by Oral History NSW for its members and all others in the wider community with an interest in oral history.

Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Oral History NSW, and information on services does not imply endorsement.

DO YOU HAVE A CONTRIBUTION?

Letters/comments - anecdotes - news items links to websites using oral history – relevant resources for oral historians. Closing date for items for the next issue (November 2017) is 26 October 2017.

Forward copy to the Editor: networknews@oralhistorynsw.org.au

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