

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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Workshops & seminars 2018



Due to popular demand, the advanced workshop presented by Alistair Thomson, *Interpreting Memories – An Advanced Oral History Workshop* will return in 2018.

And as usual, our regular workshop: *Capturing Memories: Oral History In The Digital Age* will also return in 2018.

More details will appear on the Oral History NSW website [HERE](#) as they become available.

Call for expressions of interest: Oral History Australia Conference Program Committee



The next Oral History Australia biennial conference will be in Queensland in 2019.

Working alongside the Queensland OHA Conference Committee (responsible for all local arrangements) will be an OHA National Conference Program Committee, which will be responsible for developing the call for papers, reviewing proposals and developing the program.

The OHA National Conference Program Committee will comprise:

- Alistair Thomson (Committee Chair and OHA President, from Victoria);
- Margie Brown (Chair of Queensland OHA Conference Committee)
- Elisabeth Gondwe (Queensland OHA Conference Committee)
- Sue Anderson (former OHA President, from South Australia)
- At least two other members representing oral historians from other states and territories.

We invite expressions of interest from oral historians who would like to join the OHA National Conference Program Committee.

If you are interested in joining our program committee please email Alistair Thomson (alistair.thomson@monash.edu) before the end of December 2017, detailing in just a few lines why you would like to join the committee and what experience you would bring to our work.

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Charles University, Czech Republic
Department of Oral History – Contemporary History
Oral History – Contemporary History Master's program

Admission to the **Oral History – Contemporary History** program is open until July 31 2018. The course is a 2-year Master's study program in a combined (part-time) form of study and as the name suggests, the program aims to educate students in contemporary history as well as in methodology of oral history.

The department is a part of Faculty of Humanities, Charles University in Prague, Czech Republic, and we also closely cooperate with the Oral History Centre at the Institute of Contemporary History, Academy of Sciences of the Czech Republic.

If you would like to know more about the department, visit the website [HERE](#).

Indigenous Oral History Network

Watch this space!! Nepia Mahuika from New Zealand and Sue Anderson from South Australia are in the early stages of setting up this network.

If you are interested in the network, email Nepia at: nmahuika@waikato.ac.nz

History Council NSW awards & prizes



historycouncilnsw

HC NSW's program of awards and prizes foster excellence in Australian historical writing, showcase and reward best practice, and advance and promote public understanding and appreciation of history. They offer a number of yearly awards and prizes totalling \$6,500 in prize money.

Submissions for the History Council of NSW's 2018 awards and prizes are now open. All submissions for the below prizes and awards must be made by **31 March 2018**. Nomination forms and further information can be found [HERE](#).

- **Aboriginal History Prize** – Encourages students and other beginning historians (up to post-doctoral career) in the writing of Australian Aboriginal history, including Torres Strait Islander history, from original sources. The winner will receive a \$1,000 prize.
- **Deen De Bortoli Award for Applied History** – Generously funded by the De Bortoli family, the purpose of the award is to encourage historians writing Australian political, social, cultural and environmental history to approach their subjects in ways that use the past to inform contemporary concerns and issues. The winner will receive a citation and a prize of \$5,000.
- **Max Kelly Medal** – The Max Kelly Medal plus a prize of \$500, generously donated by Geoffrey Jones, is awarded annually to a 'beginning' historian for a work of excellence in any aspect of Australian history.

The History Council of NSW also supports [Create NSW](#) in its administration of the NSW Premier's History Awards and Fellowships. If you have any questions please [contact](#) the Council, and subscribe to the e-newsletter to receive announcements.

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Community Heritage Grants awarded

Groups ranging from indigenous artists and sustainable farmers in Western Australia to aviation history enthusiasts in Victoria and embroiderers in South Australia are just some of the recipients of the 2017 Community Heritage Grants (CHG).

The CHG program, which is managed by the National Library of Australia (NLA), provides grants of up to \$15,000 to community organisations such as libraries, archives, museums, indigenous and multicultural groups, genealogical and historical societies from inner cities to the most remote parts of Australia. The grants are designed to assist with the preservation and improved access to locally owned but nationally significant collections.

Director-General of the National Library, Dr Marie-Louise Ayres, said in this year's round, applications were received from 164 organisations across Australia. Of these, 56 were awarded grants totalling \$355,560.

Read more [HERE](#). See list of recipients [HERE](#).

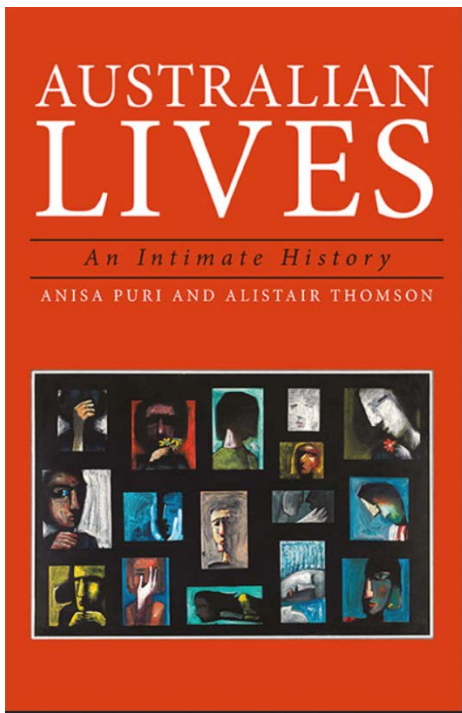


Exciting new resource from the State Library of NSW

State Library of NSW recently launched an **online guide to its Oral History and Sound collections**. Having actively collected oral history and sound since the 1980s, its collection of oral histories, radio interviews, talks, podcasts and recordings of performances and seminars is the largest in NSW and one of the largest in Australia. See details [HERE](#).

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A new type of oral history book?



The digital age is creating new possibilities for oral history. At recent OHA conferences you may have heard **Alistair Thomson** or **Anisa Puri** talking about the **Australian Generations oral history project**. They've been experimenting with a new type of oral history **ebook**, and are keen to get feedback from oral history colleagues about how they find reading and listening (online) to oral history in this format. And they'd love to hear about other, similar projects.

They have produced a **video** which introduces you to the **Australian Lives ebook**, which enables readers to be listeners to the hundreds of oral history extracts in the book, and which curates access into one of Australia's largest online oral history collections. They demonstrate the technology that made the book possible and which brings oral histories alive on the page and in the archive. And they suggest ways in which you might try something similar.



See [HERE](#) for hardback & ebook details and purchasing. In the e version of this book each interview extract is hyperlinked to the oral history recording and can be heard in the voice of the narrator. The ebook is available from good ebook vendors including Apple ([iBooks](#)), Amazon ([Kindle](#)) and [Kobo](#).

Bush Mechanics: From Yuendumu to the World

***Edited by Mandy Paul & Michelangelo Bolognese**

Wakefield Press 2017



Cars are a central feature of life in remote Aboriginal communities. Far from spare parts and sophisticated tools, bush mechanics keep cars running with what is available in the bush, including mulga wood, spinifex and sand. And while the increasing complexity of modern cars poses a challenge, even today the best tool available to travellers in Central Australia is the ingenuity of the bush mechanic.

Bush Mechanics first screened on the ABC in 2001, starring young Warlpiri men, rusty old cars and the Australian outback. It was a hit. Funny, ingenious and sometimes confronting, *Bush Mechanics* was filmed in and around Yuendumu, one of the largest Aboriginal communities in Central Australia. The stories centred around cars, but provided broader insights into contemporary Aboriginal life and culture.

This book explores the history and the continuing appeal of *Bush Mechanics*. To get your copy before Christmas, visit the Wakefield Press Website [HERE](#).

* **Mandy Paul** is the director of the Migration Museum, a museum of the History Trust of South Australia, and has previously worked in museums around Australia and in the United Kingdom. She has a long history of working in Aboriginal Australia, which began when she was native title historian at the Central Land Council, Alice Springs.

Michelangelo Bolognese is a senior curator at the National Motor Museum, and has previously worked at the British Museum and London Fire Brigade Museum.

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Go, Went, Gone.

Jenny Erpenbeck

Translated from the German by Susan Bernofsky

New Directions, 2017

A novelist's powerful response to the refugee crisis, developed from interviews with African refugees.

Extract, review by **James Wood**, *The New Yorker*, 25 September 2017:

'... Jenny Erpenbeck's magnificent novel *Go, Went, Gone* ... is about "the central moral question of our time," and among its many virtues is that it is not only alive to the suffering of people who are very different from us but alive to the false consolations of telling "moving" stories about people who are very different from us.

'Erpenbeck writes about Richard, a retired German academic, whose privileged, orderly life is transformed by his growing involvement in the lives of a number of African refugees—utterly powerless, unaccommodated men, who have ended up, via the most arduous routes, in wealthy Germany. The risks inherent in making fiction out of the encounter between privileged Europeans and powerless dark-skinned non-Europeans are immense: earnestness without rigor, the mere confirmation of the right kind of political "concern," sentimental didacticism.

'A journey of transformation, in which the white European is spiritually renewed, almost at the expense of his darkly exotic subjects, is familiar enough from German Romanticism; you can imagine a contemporary version, in which the novelist traffics in the most supple kind of self-protective self-criticism. "Go, Went, Gone" is not that kind of book.

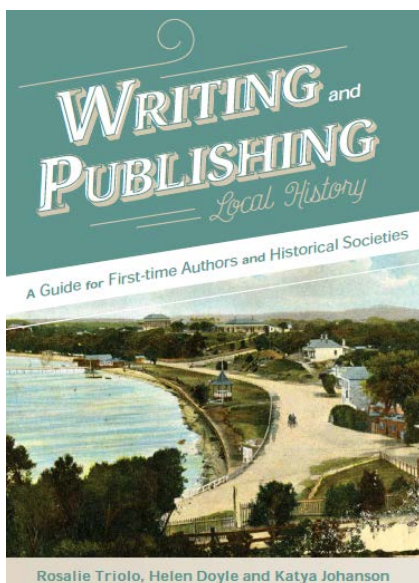
'... Just as Jenny Erpenbeck must have been profoundly changed by her encounters with the **thirteen African refugees she interviewed in order to write this book**, so her fictional protagonist is likewise changed, and so, too, must her readers be changed — we are all part of Richard's "project." '



In "Go, Went, Gone," a retired German academic becomes involved in the precarious lives of African asylum-seekers.

Illustration by Andrea Ventura;
reference from Mimmo Frassinetti /
REX / AP

For the full review, see [HERE](#). Purchase available from [Booktopia](#) & others.



Writing & Publishing Local History.

A guide for first-time authors & historical societies

Rosalie Triolo, Helen Doyle and Katya Johanson

Royal Historical Society Victoria

Although there is widespread community enthusiasm for local or 'special interest' histories, few people with the relevant knowledge possess the confidence or expertise to make their research readily available in a permanent form. This guide provides essential advice from preliminary planning to final publication in an attractive and accessible guise.

You can [download free](#) or order your printed copy now from the [RHSV Bookshop](#)



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Musicians talk about their careers

The Oral History Program at the NFSA provides personal recollections of careers in film, TV, radio or recorded sound. Read & listen to excerpts of this month's selections from the collection [HERE](#).



Tex Perkins – Singer, musician and songwriter Greg 'Tex' Perkins is known for his solo records as well as fronting The Cruel Sea and performing with bands like Beasts of Bourbon.

Vika Bull – Singer, songwriter and producer Vika Bull has been entertaining audiences around the world for more than 30 years. For six years, Vika performed with her sister Linda in The Black Sorrows. In this excerpt, she talks about how that came about and what it was like to work in the studio with the legendary Venetta Fields.

Todd Hunter – Todd Hunter is a songwriter and musician known for his involvement in rock band Dragon. He's also composed hits for other artists and for TV and film. Todd co-formed Dragon in New Zealand in 1973, playing bass guitar and singing back-up vocals. The band relocated to Sydney in 1975 and soon had hits, including 'April Sun in Cuba', 'Are You Old Enough?' and 'Still in Love With You'. By the time of their break-up on New Year's Eve 1979, Dragon had sold over a million records.

Two posts from the Oxford University Press blog:



1. Six questions to ask before you hit record

In *The OralHistory Review*, **Vol. 44, Issue 2, 1 September 2017**, Erin Jessee provided a litany of practical advice about mitigating risk and promoting security. The entire article is well worth a read, but for the blog we've asked Jessee to provide us a list of some of the most important questions for oral historians to think about in evaluating and limiting exposure to risk.

Enjoy the response in this post, and make sure to check out the complete [article](#), where Jessee dives more deeply into the problem and offers an important perspective on the relationship between danger and oral history fieldwork.

Read the full post [HERE](#).

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2. On burnout, trauma, and self-care

As reported above, in September 2017 Erin Jessee provided a list of [critical questions](#) to ask to mitigate risk in oral history fieldwork (see above). In this post, Jessee was invited back to the blog to talk more in-depth about her recently published article, [“Managing Danger in Oral](#)

[Historical Fieldwork,”](#) spotting signs of trauma during interviews, and dealing with the sensitive nature of oral history.

Excerpt: **“You note that discussion of dangerous or distressing research encounters are common in “corridor talks” among oral historians, yet rarely make it into the scholarly literature. What kind of feedback or reactions have you had from colleagues as you make these conversations more public?**

“Since the article went online, I’ve had a handful of emails thanking me for taking the time to write it, as it’s helping oral historians think through the dangers they’ve faced in past projects, and begin assessing potential future dangers.”

Read the full response [HERE](#).



OREGON STATE UNIVERSITY
SESQUICENTENNIAL
ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Four oral History websites released by Oregon State University



Four new oral history websites comprising more than 550 hours of content have been released by the [Oral History Program](#) at the [Oregon State University Libraries Special Collections and Archives Research Center](#) (SCARC). Three of these websites were built using open source resources that are available to other repositories seeking to provide online access to their own oral history collections.

OSU 150: The largest of these sites, [The OSU Sesquicentennial Oral History Project](#), celebrates 150 years of OSU history by presenting 276 interviews conducted with OSU alumni, faculty, staff, current students and supporters. The project’s web portal is comprised of more than 400 hours of media and over 3.4 million words of transcription. About 1.8 TB of born-digital content were collected in building what is the largest oral history project ever conducted at Oregon State.

The vast majority of the interviews presented on the site were video recorded and all are contextualized with full-text transcripts, interview abstracts and biographical sketches. Users also have the option of sorting interviews by [interviewee affiliation or interview theme](#), and are free to [download .mp3 audio files](#) of all interviews as well.

OHMS/Omeka Sites: In addition, three websites using a combination of the Oral History Metadata Synchronizer (OHMS) and the Omeka web publishing platform are also now available. These websites are:

- [Multicultural Voices of Oregon](#), which features interviews collected by the [Oregon Multicultural Archives](#) and the [OSU Queer Archives](#), both programs within SCARC.
- [Voices of Northwest Brewing](#), an outgrowth of the [Oregon Hops and Brewing Archives](#), also housed in SCARC.
- [Voices of Oregon Agricultural College](#), a project that presents digitized audiocassettes and transcripts that were originally created in the late 1970s. These interviews were conducted with alumni and faculty associated with OAC, as Oregon State University was known prior to 1927.

All three of these websites utilize a combination of OHMS, the Omeka Seasons theme, the OHMSObject plug-in, and custom .css and .php modifications that [have been released](#) by the OSU Libraries on GitHub. Additional details on how the sites were created are provided in [Technical Notes](#) appended to each project.

– Source: [H-OralHist](#), 28 October 2017

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Some recent articles:

- **Using Family Search apps to record oral histories**



A useful review discussing the good and not so good points of these apps.

Read full post [HERE](#).

- **Father Christmas arriving in a helicopter**

You may not be familiar with the tradition of Father Christmas arriving in an Alouette helicopter – unless you lived in Woomera. Read & listen [HERE](#).



Father Christmas arriving in an Alouette helicopter at the Woomera School. Photo courtesy [Colin Mackellar](#).

- **The magic of an outdoor cinema**



The first outdoor cinema at Woomera West, in 1948. This one was located outside the camp for the No. 2 Airfield Construction Company, RAAF, who were engaged in construction of the airfield for the rocket range.

Photo courtesy of the [Australian War Memorial P01984.002](#).

Long before the first drive-in cinemas were built however, Australia had a *walk-in* outdoor cinema – similar to a drive-in cinema but without the cars. A walk-in cinema was built in Woomera by 1948 to provide entertainment for RAAF personnel who were building the new Woomera rocket range. When Woomera village was in its heyday in the 1960s and 1970s, watching films at the Woomera West outdoor cinema was very popular.

Read & listen [HERE](#).

- **Oral history at Oodnadatta Museum**

Oodnadatta is a small town in South Australia, 1 034 km north of Adelaide. It has a fascinating history that is told in the Oodnadatta Museum, housed in the former railway station. Many of the themes are enlivened by quotes from oral history interviews.

See [HERE](#).



The former Oodnadatta railway station building houses the Oodnadatta Museum

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● Museums Galleries Australia National Conference 2018

Agents of Change

Meat Market, Melbourne, 4-7 June 2018. Details [HERE](#).



● Oral History Australia National Conference 2019

The next national biennial conference will be held in Queensland in 2019. Details will be posted to the [OHA website](#) as they become available.

CONFERENCES etc. – Overseas



● International Oral History Association, XX Conference 2018
Memory & Narration

University of Jyväskylä, **Finland**, 18–21 June, 2018. [DETAILS](#)

The IOHA offers a travel grant 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](#).
Deadline for offers to present a paper: **22 December 2017**.

Oral History NSW is offering one grant of \$1,200 AUD to any member undertaking research based on or concerning oral history and presenting a paper at this conference in 2018.

Application deadline: 1 March 2018

Details, including eligibility criteria & application form, available [HERE](#).

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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. See more about the award & past recipients [HERE](#).
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 the RAHS website [HERE](#).

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 (February 2018) is

26 January 2018.

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

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