

# ORAL HISTORY NETWORK NEWS

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**Keep up with latest news and developments on the  
*Oral History NSW* Blog – See [HERE](#)**

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**Join the *Oral History NSW* Facebook group [HERE](#)**



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## Capturing memories: Oral history in the digital age

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.

Are you interested in recording the memories of your family, your community or your workplace? Then come along to this very popular and informative workshop to equip you to undertake oral history interviews.

**Workshop leaders** will be **Janis Wilton**, 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.



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. **Bookings essential, book [HERE](#). Limited places** ⇐

### When:

**Saturday 21 April 2018** – Registration 9:30am. Workshop commences: 9:45am; 4:30pm

### Where:

Information and Cultural Exchange, 8 Victoria Rd, Parramatta NSW 2150

**Cost:** \$105 non-members, \$95 Oral History NSW & RAHS members.

Morning & afternoon tea included. Bring your own lunch, or purchase at nearby cafes.

See more [HERE](#) for online booking, public transport options & details on presenters



## 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](mailto:alistair.thomson@monash.edu)) as soon as possible, 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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## RAHS / OHNSW Seminar: An Introduction to Oral History

This talk introduces historians of all kinds to the possibilities and pitfalls of 'making memories' or doing oral history interviews with people about their experiences of the past. It asks why oral histories matter as an historical source, and explores the various ways in which they can be used. Hear Oral History NSW Vice President, **Dr Scott McKinnon**, discuss the value of oral history and share examples from his own work.

### About the speaker:

Scott McKinnon is a Vice-Chancellor's Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the University of Wollongong and the Vice President of Oral History NSW. An experienced oral historian, he has worked on a range of projects in universities and in community history groups. Scott is the author of *Gay Men at the Movies: Cinema, Memory and the History of a Gay Male Community* (Intellect, 2016). He is the Vice President of Sydney's Pride History Group.



**When:** 11:00 am – 1:00 pm, 4 May 2018

**Where:** RAHS, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney

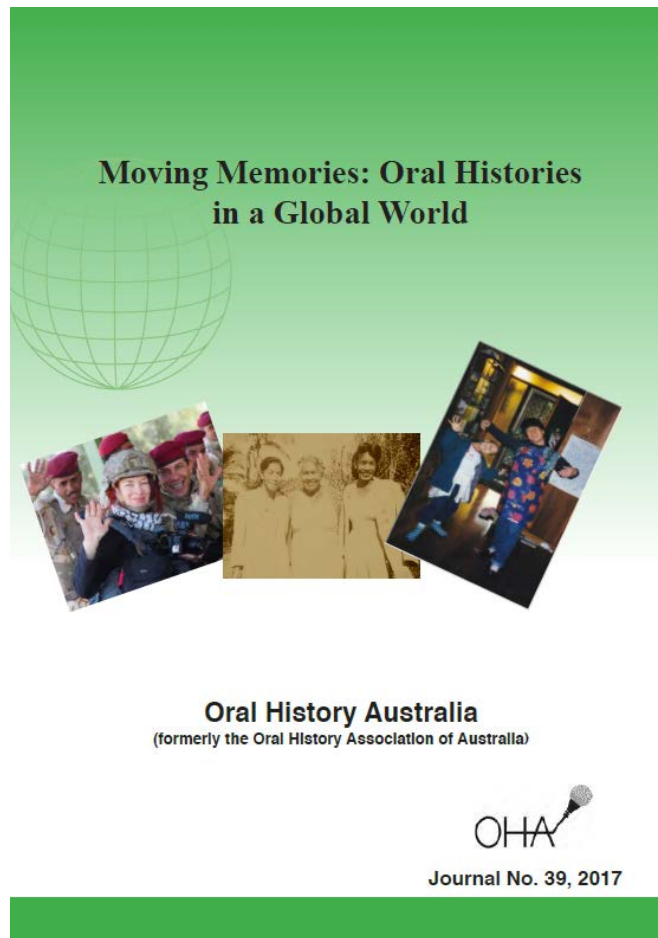
**Cost:** RAHS & OH NSW members: \$25. Non-members \$30

**Enquiries:** RAHS, Tel. 02-9247-8001. Email [history@rahs.org.au](mailto:history@rahs.org.au)

**BOOK HERE**

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First online issue of  
**Oral History Australia Journal**  
No. 39, 2017



Financial members of Australian state oral history associations should now have received members' login details to access the first electronic issue of Oral History Australia's national journal, released a few days ago.

For non-member access and past issues, see [HERE](#).

Here's a list of papers – reviews and book notes are also included.

- Stories of Indigenous Australians, *Deborah Wall*
- Traveling for business behind the Iron Curtain (Czechoslovak business, seafarers, and aircraft crews in the 1970s and 1980s), *Lenka Krátká*.
- Journeys through space and time: Interviewing the military, *Stephanie Boyle*.
- Little-known South Australian History: Uncovering the truth behind the nuclear weapons project at Maralinga, *Mikalea Borg*.
- Following the Trail of 'Happy Accidents': the benefits of serendipity in oral history research, *Rena Henderson*.
- Reliving the memories: World War 1 Remembered, *Jane Britten, Joan Ruthven and Libby Watters*.
- Can historians capture refugees' voices from the records of their applications for asylum? *Richard Pennell*.
- 'Only the ends of your hair don't hurt': mothering and memories of touch. *Miranda Francis*.
- The Hazel de Berg Award for Excellence in Oral History 2017 awarded to Dr Karen George

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## Call for papers Oral History Australia e-Journal 2018

Oral History Australia is calling for papers for the 2018 e-Journal using the themes developed for the last National Conference in Sydney. The deadline for peer reviewed papers is 28 February 2018. The deadline for other papers and book reviews is 1 April 2018. For more information, click [HERE](#) or see the OHA 2017 e-Journal.



ORAL HISTORY ASSOCIATION  
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[www.ohaa-wa.com.au](http://www.ohaa-wa.com.au)

## Broome Winter School

12 – 14 June 2018



*Goolari Media Enterprises Sound Recordist Arthur Hunter with course participant Kylie Weatherall at the accredited oral history training in Broome*

The nationally accredited oral history training course will be delivered over three days at the annual Broome Oral History Winter School, by **Dr Elaine Rabbitt** (PhD oral history) and **Goolarri** Sound Recordist **Arthur Hunter**.

Elaine recently conducted her workshop in Perth, which was attended by two of Oral History Queensland members from Supreme Court Library Queensland. The feedback was very positive, and you can read Katee Dean's report [HERE](#).

See [HERE](#) for full details, including:

- who should attend
- workshop content
- certification
- costs
- student testimonies

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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.

More detail for applicants [HERE](#).

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## 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](mailto:nmahuika@waikato.ac.nz)

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## 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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## 2 million photographs from *Sydney Morning Herald* archive acquired by US entrepreneur

From [artnet News](#), 14 July 2017:

The tale of a struggling Australian media company, a shady American photo archive, an FBI raid, and two million vintage Australian photographs stranded in Arkansas will have a happy ending, thanks to Daniel Miller, the owner of Santa Monica's [Duncan Miller Gallery](#).

"It's the living breathing history," Miller told *artnet News*. "This was either going to be thrown away, or it was going to be brokered out to a bunch of eBay agents."

The dealer is in the process of repatriating parts of the historic [Sydney Morning Herald Vintage Photo Archive](#), which features work by Australian artists including [Max Dupain](#), [Wolfgang Sievers](#), [David Moore](#), [Olive Cotton](#), [Carol Jerrems](#), and [Jeff Carter](#), to

Australian museums and cultural institutions. There are about 2,000 fine-art images from 14 artists, in addition to the archive's holdings in other subjects such as sports, crime, politics, theatre, Indigenous people, military, and general Australian life.

The photographs, taken for and used in publications such as the *Herald*, the *Age*, the *Sydney Sun* and the *Financial Review*, date from the early 20th century to the 1990s. Returning them will to Australia will restore an important part of the nation's history.



Daniel Miller amid the Sydney Morning Herald Vintage Photo Archive.  
Courtesy of the Duncan Miller Gallery.

READ THE FULL ARTICLE [HERE](#).

Watch the *Today Show* video interview with Daniel Miller [HERE](#).



### The work of a film stills photographer

**Jessica Bolton** writes in the NFSA blog:

The work of prolific on-set stills photographer **Matt Nettheim** features prominently in the *Starstruck: Australian Movie Portraits* exhibition. The exhibition is currently on display at the National Portrait Gallery, and draws significantly from the NFSA collection.

In an interview with Portrait Gallery Curator Penny Grist, Nettheim said of his work, "It's about being sensitive to an environment – knowing when to stop, when to back off. My role is to document what everyone else is doing, capturing the performance, when the actors are really going for it... As far as I'm concerned, if an actor is on set and dressed they are fair game."

Read the full article [HERE](#).

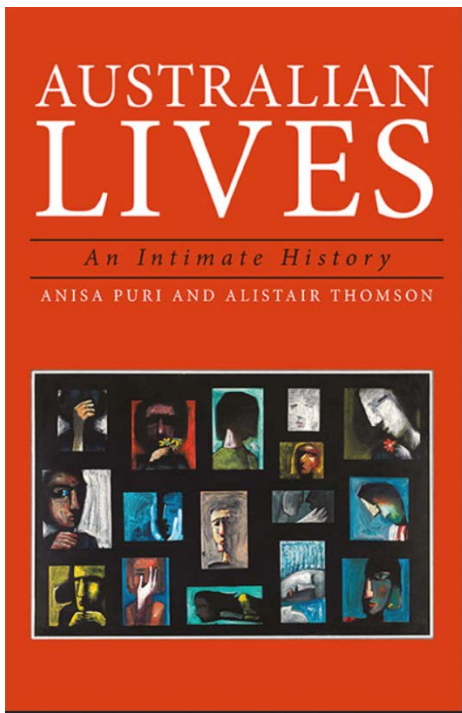
(L): Mia Wasikowska leads a camel in the ocean in a scene from *Tracks*



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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 & e-book 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](#).

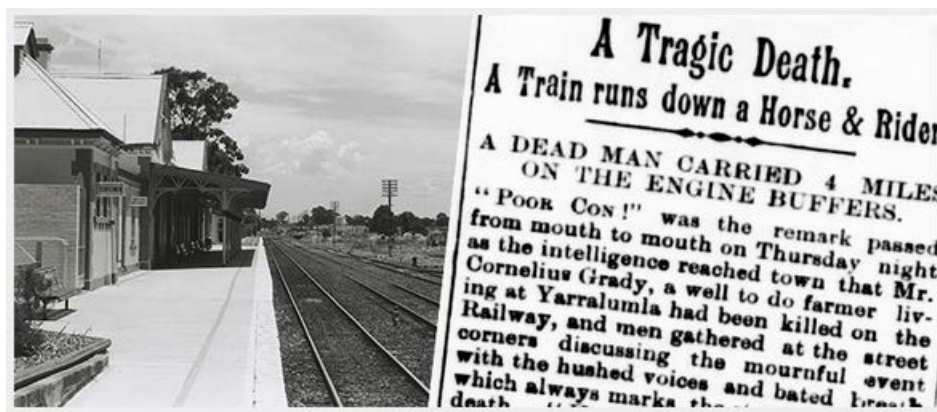
\* **Mandy Paul** is the director of the Migration Museum, a museum of the History Trust of South Australia, and has previously worked in museums around Australia and in the United Kingdom. She has a long history of working in Aboriginal Australia, which began when she was native title historian at the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

**Matthew Higgins** finds intriguing and entertaining moments in oral history interviews with the people of the high country and beyond



(L) Brendon Kelson, *Queanbeyan Railway Station*, 1995. nla.cat-vn765526

(R) 'A Tragic Death', *The Queanbeyan Age*, 10 March 1888, p.2

– nla.news-article30918987

### Matthew Higgins writes in the NLA's *unbound* blog:

"One of my best high country interviewees from the mountains of the Australian Capital Territory (ACT) was Hughie Read of Naas who told me all sorts of stories, some of which had to be taken with a big grain of salt. Many of his juicier tales revolved around sex or death—or both! One day he mentioned how a local had been hit by a train at Tralee and his body carried on the front of the engine all the way into Queanbeyan Railway Station. I nodded and put his graphic story in the 'salt' basket.

"Some years later, the story resurfaced in a most surprising way. I was researching my *Rugged beyond imagination* book and reading George De Salis' diaries in the Library's collection, when I came upon his 10 March 1888 entry about poor Con Grady's corpse riding the front of the loco into Queanbeyan. So, Hughie's story was true after all!

"People using oral history always have to be mindful of uncorroborated stories and inaccurate memories. But the flip side is that we shouldn't second guess our interviewees either; truth can indeed be stranger than fiction."

Read the full article on the NLA website [HERE](#).

### From the Oxford University Press blog:



## Allowing the past to speak

Beginning in January a new editorial team will take over the *Oral History Review*, bringing in some fresh voices and new ideas. The new team, composed of **David Caruso**, **Abigail Perkiss**, and **Janneken Smucker**, were asked to relate how they came into the world of oral history. Check out their responses [HERE](#).

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- **Remembering the general store**



General stores were a central feature of most country towns. They provided a wide range of goods and services, and were run by local families.

The general store in Meadows, in the Mount Lofty Ranges of South Australia, was built in 1860 and run by the Ramsay brothers for two years, then by Peter Murrie for a further 14 years. In 1876, the Ellis family took over the shop. This marked the beginning of more than a century of the Ellis family as the Meadows storekeepers.

*Pictured: Murrie's general store in Meadows, 1870s. Photo courtesy of Lois Watson.*

Although the shop and attached house were sold in 1979 and converted to a private residence, some former residents of Meadows remember what the general store was like.

Listen to Barry Ellis [HERE](#).



- **Mournful crows, burning legs on metal slides, and other memories of summer**

As those of us in Australia head into the hottest part of the year, it seems an ideal time to hear stories about the extreme heat in places such as Woomera, located in desert country in the north of South Australia. These memories were recorded as part of oral history interviews for the [Life in Woomera Oral History Project](#) at the [State Library of South Australia](#).



Listen to three short excerpts [HERE](#).



## **Māori History and a Sense of Place**

"In September 2017, the New Zealand Ministry of Education launched the [Māori History website](#). It was 3-years in the making. While generated by a government department, the website is largely the work of a number of innovative classroom teachers, historians, Māori tribal experts and community leaders who have collectively produced a series of digital resources to support for teachers in developing history programmes that incorporate authentic indigenous perspectives on New Zealand's past. An especially timely initiative given what

appears to be an emerging intolerance of Māori language and culture being an integral feature of New Zealand society."

– Mark Sheehan, *Public History Weekly*, 18 January 2018

Read the full article [HERE](#), & follow links to interviews about the project and oral history collection process [HERE](#).



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## CONFERENCES etc. – Australia

### ● 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.

### ● The German-Australian Genealogy and History Alliance

#### *GAGHACon 2018,*

#### *Australisches Deutschum: Reconnections – Recollections – Resilience.*

This conference will be the first time researchers from across Australia will gather to network and discuss German-Australian history, heritage and culture.

**Adelaide**, 17–19 August 2018, Details [HERE](#).



GERMAN -  
AUSTRALIAN  
GENEALOGY  
& HISTORY  
ALLIANCE

## CONFERENCES etc. – Overseas



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

University of Jyväskylä, **Finland**, 18–21 June, 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. See details [HERE](#).

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](#).



ORAL HISTORY  
ASSOCIATION

### ● Oral History Association 2018 Annual Meeting

#### *Oral history in our challenging times*

10–13 October 2018, Concordia University, Quebec, **Canada**

See details [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 (March 2018) is

**23 February 2018.**

Forward copy to the Editor: [networknews@oralhistorynsw.org.au](mailto:networknews@oralhistorynsw.org.au)

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