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ORAL HISTORY NETWORK NEWS

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Oral History NSW AGM & Annual Lecture

Annual Lecture 2018 with Dr Carla Pascoe: “On the cusp of life and death”

11:00 am – 11:45 am, Saturday, 8 September 2018

History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney



Apart from our own birth, which we do not remember, and our own death, which we cannot anticipate, no other event in our human lives brings us as close to mortality as childbirth. Both the miracle of new life and the threat of infant or maternal death loom over the event, imbuing it with unparalleled significance.

Memories of birth across the past 70 years are multi-layered and diverse, exhibiting patterns of both change and continuity. Increasingly sophisticated medical technologies have resulted in births with higher levels of medical intervention and lower levels of risk for mother and infant.

Entry \$20: register and read more [HERE](#)

To be followed by:

Oral History NSW Annual General Meeting

11:45 am, Saturday, 8 September 2018

History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney



Oral History NSW Grant

● Oral History NSW is delighted to invite applications for a new grant, aims to raise the profile of oral history in regional areas and extend its expertise and use throughout New South Wales.

The **NSW Regional Engagement Grant** offers \$1,500 biannually, to help successful applicants bring a project to fruition through additional training, meeting project costs or mentoring assistance. This grant is aimed at librarians, archivists, museum curators, artists, film-makers, independent oral historians or community groups based in regional areas in NSW who wish to develop an oral history project that illuminates some aspect of their regional area which is of significance or interest to others.

See full details [HERE](#).

Deadline for applications: 1 September 2018.

For grants and awards from other sources, see the Oral History NSW website [HERE](#).

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Oral History Australia Journal: Editorial Board changes

Monash University academic **Dr Francesco Ricatti** is the new Chair of the Editorial Board for the *Oral History Australia Journal*.

Dr Ricatti (pictured) teaches Italian Studies at Monash University. He has published widely on migration history, political history, and football studies, focusing on popular memory, emotions, racism, and gendered identities. As Chair of the OHA Editorial Board, he replaces Dr Ariella Van Luyn of the University of New England. Former President of Oral History New South Wales Anisa Puri has joined the board as a regular member.

The Chair of the *Oral History Australia Journal* Editorial Board manages the peer review process for the journal. Activities include recording submission details, de-identifying papers, assessing the quality of submissions and communicating with authors and peer reviewers. See more details [HERE](#).



Sue Anderson elected as new President of the International Oral History Association

Congratulations to **Dr Sue Anderson** on being elected President of the *International Oral History Association* at its biannual conference in Finland recently.

Sue is the immediate past president of *Oral History Australia* and editor of the *OHA Journal*. A lecturer in Indigenous Cultures and Australian Society at the University of South Australia, she has worked for 25 years with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities as an oral historian, archaeologist, and cultural consultant. Her research interests are oral history, Indigenous culture and history, and Australian history.



Sue Anderson (centre) & the IOHA Council, at the Finland conference. *Image: Essi Nerg*

L–R: Saeideh Mahrami (Iran; Asia Representative); Gabriel Medrano de Luna (Mexico; North America Representative); Almut Leh (Germany; Treasurer); Anne Heimo (Finland; Europe Representative); Lorina Barker (Australia; Oceania Representative); Martha Norkunas (USA; North America Representative); Sue Anderson (Australia; President); Jo-Anne Duggan (South Africa; Africa Representative); Mark Wong (Singapore; Vice-President); Outi Fingerroos (Finland; Vice-President); David Beorlegui (Spain; Europe Representative and *Words and Silences* Spanish Editor); Tian Miao (China; Asia Representative); Absent: Bernado de Buargue de Holanda (Brazil; South America Representative).

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Workshop:

Using oral history to inform family history research

historycouncilnsw

Oral history can significantly enhance family histories. This workshop will explore some of the issues that need to be considered before you start recording oral histories, such as family loyalties, ethics, copyright, on-going storage of the audio recording, transcription and the fallibility of memory. It will also include some practical tips on conducting oral histories, such as self-care, the recording space, what equipment to use and managing the interview.

Presented by **Alison Wishart**, a Senior Curator at the State Library of New South Wales. Her area of expertise is social history, having curated exhibitions on a diverse range of topics – from football (soccer) to romantic love. Before coming to the State Library of NSW in 2015, Alison worked as a curator and collections manager with the National Museum of Australia, the Australian War Memorial, the State Library of Queensland, and Museum of Tropical Queensland. Alison has a BA (Hons) from the University of Queensland and a Masters in Cultural Heritage (majoring in Museum Studies) from Deakin University.



When: Monday **3 September 2018**, 6:00pm

Where: WEA Sydney, 72 Bathurst Street, Sydney NSW 2000

Cost: Free – [book online](#) .

Contact: info@weasydney.nsw.edu.au, 02 9268 7530

Hosted by [WEA Sydney](#).

*Proudly presented as part of the History Council of NSW's Speaker
Connect program
for History Week 2018, supported by Create NSW.*

Workshops:



Family history can reveal surprising and sometimes moving lost stories that strengthen an individual's understanding of who they are.

Family history is part detective work, part historical research. The Library's expert staff aims to turn workshop participants into super sleuths with their series of practical workshops.

During Family History Month there is a series of [workshops](#) on how to search Library resources such as [Ancestry and FindMyPast](#) (**9 August & 29 August 2018**). The workshops are followed by free time to do your own searching.

They have a dedicated family history area onsite where you will find family history records and resources, including: electoral rolls, genealogy handbooks and past newspapers. Staff can guide you through the Library's collections and advise on resources to use.

For those researching online, their [Family History research guides](#) are a great place to get started.

For more information on the Library's full-day seminars for researchers in September 2018 see [HERE](#)

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Image: *Broken Dreams* by Michael Cook

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Diversity

This issue is inspired by the ways that historical societies and groups engage with diversity

Historical societies are well situated to make a unique contribution to the recognition and celebration of diversity - by working with - and being part of their communities. The writers in this issue express a commitment to inclusion - from documenting histories - to exhibiting the historical evidence and re-interpretation of collections. Stories of the long forgotten are reinvigorated from varied perspectives, whether these are feminist, multicultural, queer or indigenous.

Many of the ways of doing history move beyond the local

to a broader national agenda: the History of the Lebanese in Australia; Indian History in Australia; Australian Women's experience of work and Lesbian and Gay life stories across Australia. The research of the Female Convicts Research Centre goes even further with a whole-of-population approach.

Strategies for recognition are outlined by History Trust SA and the Royal Historical Society of Queensland. In particular the important work of Aboriginal Victoria in developing Registered Aboriginal Parties provides a valuable model for historical societies who hold Aboriginal object collections.

Dr Bernadette Flynn, Editor

Call for papers

Working Women and Gendered Labour Call for papers for a special issue of *Labour History*

Deadline – **1 October 2018**



This call for papers is for a Special Issue of *Labour History*, to be published November 2019: "*Working Women and Gendered Labour*." Contributions are invited from scholars and researchers working on all aspects of women's work, waged and unwaged, in the formal or informal economies, in "traditional" or "non-traditional" occupations. Also welcome are gender history perspectives examining the historical constructions of masculinities and/or femininities in the workplace.

As the official journal of the [Australian Society for the Study of Labour History](#), *Labour History* publishes papers on both Australian and non-Australian topics, and on topics which consider the interactions between Australia and the wider world.

To submit a paper for consideration and double-blind peer review, email Carl Power at admin@labourhistory.org.au. Advice for authors can be found on the ASSLH website [HERE](#). See [HERE](#) for more information on this Journal issue.

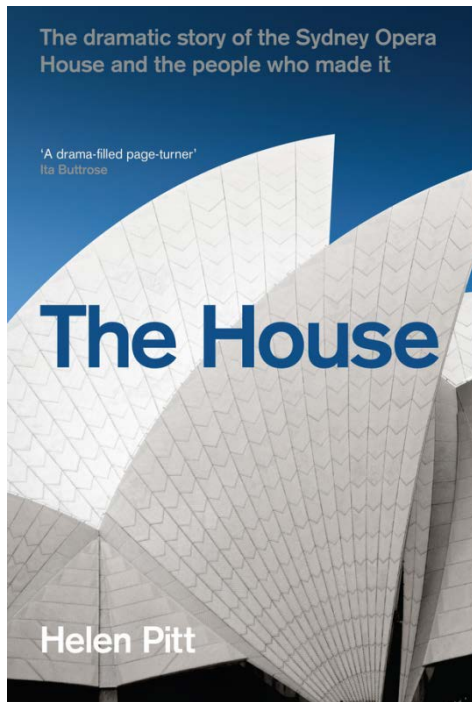
Queries: contact the editors, [Prof. Glenda Strachan](#) or [Dr Emma Robertson](#).

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The House

The dramatic story of the Sydney Opera House and the people who made it

By Helen Pitt – Allen & Unwin 2018*



With access to diaries, letters, and classified records, as well as her own interviews with people involved in the project, Helen Pitt reveals the intimate back story of the building that turned Sydney into an international city. It is a tale worthy of Shakespeare himself.

‘A drama-filled page turner’ – Ita Buttrose AO OBE

‘Helen Pitt tells us so much about the building of the Sydney Opera House we've never heard before’ – Bob Carr, former Premier of NSW

‘Australia in the seventies – mullets, platform shoes and, miraculously, the Opera House. At least we got one of them right. A great read.’ – Amanda Keller, WSFM breakfast presenter.

*Due out August 2018. See publisher's website [HERE](#)

ALSO:

SYDNEY MECHANICS' SCHOOL OF ARTS

The house that Jørn and Peter built

Helen Pitt talks about the stories of the people behind the magnificent white sails of the Sydney Opera House. From the famous conductor and state premier who conceived the project; to the two architects whose lives were so tragically intertwined; to the workers and engineers; to the people of Sydney, who were alternately beguiled and horrified as the drama unfolded over two decades. See more [HERE](#).

At the [Sydney Mechanics' School of Arts](#) – Mitchell Theatre, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney

Free event. No booking required.

Tuesday 21 August 2018, 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Lindy Chamberlain and the afterlife of evidence



What happens to evidence after a criminal trial? Tamson Pietsch and Olivia Rosenman go looking for answers and find themselves in the shadow of one of the worst miscarriages of justice in Australian history.

What has happened to all the evidence on which Lindy's trials turned? [History Lab](#) takes a journey through the archives and speaks to Lindy herself in order to explore what's left behind in the wake of the case that divided the nation. After a trial, three

appeals, four coronial inquests, a life sentence and a Royal Commission, it was finally proven that Azaria Chamberlain was not murdered by her mother but was taken by a dingo, as her parents had said all along.



Now, almost 40 years after Azaria's death, her tiny clothes, the family's belongings, and thousands of letters written to Lindy Chamberlain have lost their status as evidence and assumed a new life. Listen to the History Lab podcast [HERE](#).



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Recent post from Sally Stephenson's blog:

Choosing suitable audio equipment for oral history interviews: perspectives of an audio engineer

“Peter Kolomitsev is an audio engineer working at the [State Library of South Australia](#) whom we met in previous posts, [talking about his job](#) and providing his [top tips for making excellent quality oral history recordings](#). In this post, I include Peter's advice about what equipment is suitable for oral history interviews and why, and what equipment should be avoided at all costs.”

See the full post [HERE](#).

In this detailed post, well worth saving for future reference, the following aspects are addressed:

- The human voice and hearing
- Important measures in digital audio recording – bit-depth and sampling rate
- How do these measures relate to our hearing?
- How does bit-depth relate to what we hear?
- What about cheap digital recorders, such as office recorders or smart phones?
 - What are they like in terms of sampling frequency and bit-depth?
- What problems are caused by low sampling frequencies?
- What are some of the other limitations of cheap recorders?
- Key points to know about choosing digital audio equipment for interviewing

For more help on choosing digital audio equipment for oral history interviews, also check [this post](#).

Religion & Ethics

Ethnographic refusal, reticence & the responsibility of historians

By Noah Riseman

“A thoughtful, reflective piece on ethics in oral history research.” – Scott McKinnon, on [OHNSW Facebook page](#).

[Noah Riseman](#) is Lecturer in History at Australian Catholic University. He is the co-author (with Shirleene Robinson and Graham Willett) of [Serving in Silence?: Australian LGBT Servicemen and Women](#).

“About two years ago, I came across a concept that has helped me think through these ethical dilemmas: *ethnographic refusal*. Anthropologist [Sherry Ortner](#) first coined the term in 1995 to describe when ethnographers were either not researching particular topics, or choosing not to write about their findings for fear of the adverse political or social consequences for the groups they were researching. Ortner introduced ethnographic refusal in a critical way: she argued that ethnographic refusal was essentially a cop-out. Ethnographic refusal meant researchers were not conducting challenging analyses and were avoiding significant research questions.”

Read the full post on ABC Radio's Religion & Ethics page [HERE](#).



Historians must think through the ramifications of what they write, the stories they use as evidence, how those stories will be perceived, and the effects of their work on research participants.

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CONFERENCES etc. – Australia



- **Professional Historians Australia National Conference 2018**
Marking Time

Sydney, 30 – 31 August 2018 – Details [HERE](#).



**GERMAN -
AUSTRALIAN
GENEALOGY
& HISTORY
ALLIANCE**

- **The German-Australian Genealogy and History Alliance**
GAGHACon 2018,
Australisches Deutschtum:
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](#).



**Australian
Society of
Archivists**

- **Australian Society of Archivists 2018 Conference**
Archives in a Blade Runner Age

Perth, 24–28 September 2018. Details [HERE](#).



Australasian Sound Recordings Association

- **2018 Annual ASRA Conference**
Music, History and Technology

Alexandria NSW, 7–8 November 2018, Studios 301, 3B Ellis Avenue
See more details, including sub-themes [HERE](#).

CONFERENCES etc. – Overseas



**ORAL HISTORY
ASSOCIATION**

- **Oral History Association 2018 Annual Meeting**
Oral history in our challenging times

Quebec, Canada, 10–13 October 2018
See details [HERE](#).



- **National Oral History Association of New Zealand**
The Voice in Time and Space
Te Waha Kairongorongo e ¹

Hamilton NZ, 27–29 November 2018. See details [HERE](#).

¹ The phrase 'waha kai rongorongo' refers to a pleasant voice or singing voice. It is used here to refer to the voice of the past. See 'He Tangi mo Hinekauika', Ngā Mōteatea, p. 338.

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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 (September 2018) is

27 August 2018.

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

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