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ORAL HISTORY NETWORK NEWS

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

11:00 am – 11:45 am

History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney

1.

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.



Dr Carla Pascoe is a Research Fellow at the University of Melbourne and an Honorary Associate at Museums Victoria. Her research illuminates the history and heritage of women and children in twentieth-century Australia, particularly motherhood, childhood and menstruation. Carla has published in leading international and Australian journals and is the author of *Spaces Imagined, Places Remembered: Childhood in 1950s Australia* (2011) and a co-editor of *Children, Childhood and Cultural Heritage* (2013). She is currently undertaking a project funded by the Australian Research Council on the history of Australian motherhood since 1945.

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

To be followed by:

2.

**Oral History NSW
Annual General Meeting**

11:45 am

History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney



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Shelley Grant retiring from the National Library



Following is an extract of a detailed posting on the Oral History Australia website which can be found [HERE](#).

“The National Library of Australia will next week farewell one of its leading oral history professionals when Shelly Grant retires after more than three decades of public service.

Shelly began work at the National Library of Australia (NLA) in 1984 when she took up a position with the oral history team. She was tapped on the shoulder in an interview for a manuscripts librarian, and from that beginning blossomed a career in which she played a vital role in the development and preservation of the Library's Oral History and Folklore collection. ...

For the past five years she has been the Curator of the Oral History and Folklore Branch, managing its programs, shaping its collection and participating in

many significant projects. She has had many key roles, providing training to countless interviewers including those in the Bringing Them Home Oral History Project and the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants oral history projects. She was the key manager of the Beyond the Cables – Australian Ambassadors to China oral history project, and has had full oversight of the History of Australian geoscience oral history project to name just a few. She has also worked tirelessly on the Library's Digital Library systems, including audio delivery.”

Image: Shelly Grant (1985) with the brand new Studer A-280 tape recorder.

Courtesy National Library of Australia

Ruth Melville – Oral History conference, Belfast 2018

Ruth Melville was the recipient of Oral History NSW's grant, which enabled her to attend the [Oral History Society](#) and Network Ireland Annual Conference in Belfast in June 2018. She shares with us her experience of attending and presenting at the conference on the Oral History NSW blog.

“Preserving memory is a stubborn act. So said Rama Lakshmi, journalist for *The Print*, India, in her plenary address at the 2018 Annual Conference of the Northern Ireland Oral History Society and Oral History Network. Rama was speaking about the Bhopal Museum, a site dedicated to preserving the memory of thousands of people who died and the estimated half million others exposed to toxic gas from the Union Carbide gas leak in 1984. Why must we remember Bhopal? Because, Rama said, the cost of not remembering is enormous.

The two day conference in June was held at Queen's University, Belfast and took as its theme *Dangerous Oral Histories: Risks, Rewards and Responsibilities*.

I was fortunate to be the recipient of an Oral History NSW grant which enabled me to travel to Belfast and present a paper about my work as a writer with the Australian Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse. In my concurrent session Tamara Kennelly described her experience working with students involved in the Virginia Tech shooting tragedy. And Trisha Logan reflected on oral histories of the Indian residential school system in Canada.”

See the full report [HERE](#).

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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.



1–9 September 2018 – #HistoryWeek18

History Week is the annual, state-wide celebration of history organised by the [History Council of New South Wales](#). Initiated by the HCNSW in 1997, **History Week** is a fantastic opportunity for member organisations, large and small, throughout NSW to engage and educate the community about the vitality, diversity and meaning of history and its practice.

What happens in History Week?

Members apply through the HCNSW to host history events relating to the annual theme. Previous events have included talks and lectures, 'behind the scene tours' and heritage trails, exhibitions and radio features, film festivals, open historic houses and gardens, book sales and launches.

In 2018, **History Week** commences on 31 August with the [NSW Premier's History Awards](#). Another feature event is the [Annual History Lecture and Awards](#) on the night of 4 September. Overall, there are close to 100 events being staged throughout NSW in **History Week**.

The theme this year is **Life & Death**. Read more [HERE](#).

[See History Week interactive program HERE](#)

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Commemoration of Bessie Guthrie



Image: "Bessie Guthrie: Fighter for Underprivileged Girls," *The Tribune*, October 2, 1973, p.2

Bessie Guthrie joined Sydney women's liberation in 1970 and spent the final years of her life leading a campaign against the abuse of girls in state homes. When she died in December 1977, aged 72, she was afforded a rousing farewell by her feminist 'sisters' and, almost 20 years later, Guthrie House – a halfway house for women leaving prison – was named after her.

In this **History Week** talk **Isobelle Barrett Meyering** explores how feminist communities have developed their own mourning rituals and modes of commemoration in the absence of more official forms of recognition, using activist Bessie Guthrie's death as a case study. She will also discuss the importance of Guthrie's work in light of the recent royal commission on child sexual abuse.

Read more [HERE](#).

Wednesday, 5 September 2018, 12:30–1:30,
Mitchell Theatre, Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney
FREE — Bookings Essential

[Book HERE](#)



Image: Women wearing surgical masks during influenza epidemic, Brisbane 1919, R17708 Public Domain, 81-3-18, National Museum of Australia

Influenza in Australia: its history & its science

Discover the fascinating story of influenza, its history in Australia and Australia's significant contributions to understanding and preventing the virus.

Emeritus Professor Robert Clancy AM will address how influenza has affected Australia, the unique biology of the virus, vaccines and what we can expect in the future. He will also cover why smokers and older people are at risk, and the unique relationship between virus and bacteria.

Read more [HERE](#).

12:30 pm – 1:00 pm, Tuesday 14 September 2018
Mitchell Theatre, Sydney Mechanics School of Arts, 280 Pitt Street, Sydney
Free – everyone welcome

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Serving in Silence?

Australian LGBT servicemen and women

Noah Riseman, Shirleene Robinson, Graham Willett

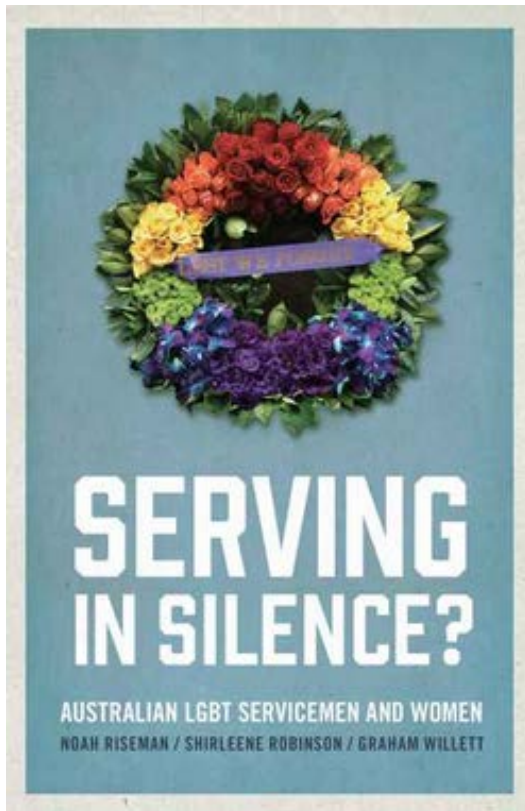
New South, July 2018

For the first time, *Serving in Silence?* reveals the integral role played by lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender men and women in Australia's military after the Second World War. Their powerful personal stories, recounted with searing honesty, illustrate the changing face of the Australian Defence Force, the pivotal role of military service in the lives of many LGBT Australians, and how they have served their country with distinction.

"To put service before self in our Nation's name is the essence of being a member of our Defence Force. Such commitment is to be respected and honoured. Yet, for too long, our LGBT personnel served in silence. This book gives voice to men and women who served in the face of prejudice and discrimination. It is an affirmation of how Australia and its Defence Force are changing for the better."

— Lt. General David Morrison, Former Chief of Army and 2016 Australian of the Year

Purchase [HERE](#)



Nowhere to be Home: Narratives from Survivors of Burma's Military Regime

Compiled and edited by Maggie Lemere & Zoë West

Foreword by Mary Robinson

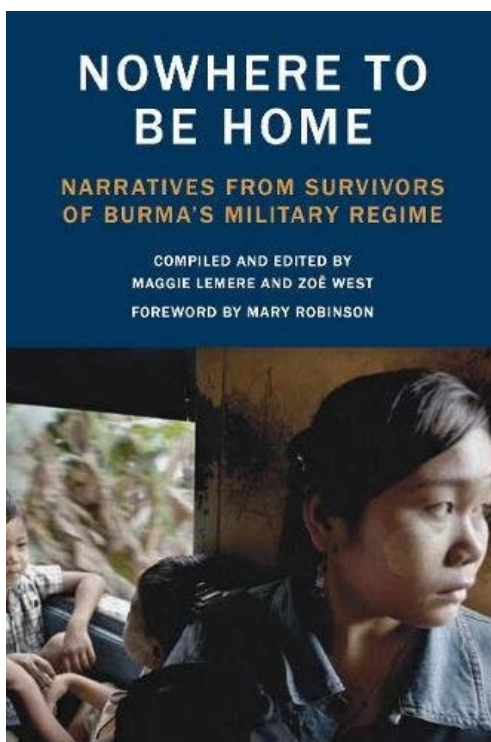
[Voice of Witness Oral History Book Series, 2011](#)

“Decades of military oppression in Burma have led to the systematic destruction of thousands of ethnic minority villages, a standing army with one of the world's highest number of child soldiers, and the displacement of millions of people.

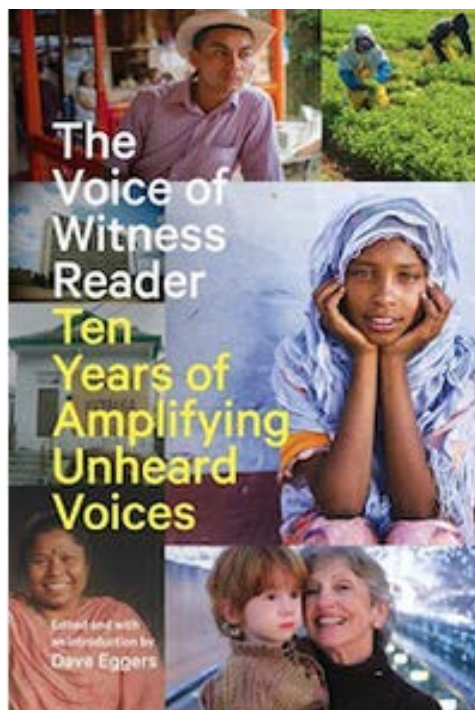
Nowhere to Be Home is an eye-opening collection of oral histories exposing the realities of life under military rule. In their own words, men and women from Burma describe their lives in the country that Human Rights Watch has called “the textbook example of a police state.”

This book also includes a Foreword by Mary Robinson, former president of Ireland and United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. ”

Purchase Kindle & paperback through Amazon [HERE](#)



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The Voice of Witness Reader: Ten Years of Amplifying Unheard Voices

Edited by David Eggers

“ For ten years, Voice of Witness has illuminated contemporary human rights crises through its remarkable oral history book series. Founded by Dave Eggers, Lola Vollen, and Mimi Lok, Voice of Witness has amplified the stories of hundreds of people impacted by some of the most crucial human rights crises of our time, including individuals living under oppressive regimes in Burma, Colombia, Sudan, and Zimbabwe; public housing residents and undocumented workers in the United States; and exploited workers around the globe.

This selection of narratives from these remarkable people is many things: an astonishing record of human rights issues in the twenty-first century; a testament to the resilience and courage of the most marginalized among us; and an opportunity to better understand the world we live in through human connection and a participatory vision of history. ”

Read more [HERE](#)

Purchase Kindle & paperback through Amazon [HERE](#)

Nowhere to Call Home: Photographs and Stories of the Homeless

By Leah Denbok, FriesenPress 2017



“ Homelessness is a serious problem throughout North America—even in Canada and the United States, two of the richest countries in the world. “We must stop this madness,” says Leah Denbok, the teenage Canadian photographer who travelled with her dad for over two years to cities throughout North America, photographing and interviewing the homeless. Leah was inspired by the story of her mother, who at three years old was rescued from the streets of Calcutta by Saint Teresa (formerly Mother Teresa). *Nowhere to Call Home* is a collection of gritty, black-and-white photographs and the personal stories of individuals who live on the streets. ”

Purchase through Amazon [HERE](#)



Advertisements for moving pictures in the Mt Barker Courier, 12 April 1951.

Going to the Pictures



“ *Before the introduction of television in Australia in 1956, going to the pictures was a popular entertainment.* ”

Listen to extracts of interviews about the experience of “going to the pictures” from the 1940s & 1950s, especially in country towns.

See Sally Stephenson’s blog [HERE](#).



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CONFERENCES etc. – Australia



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.



- **Oral History Society**
Oral History @ Work. Recording Change in Working Lives
Prifysgol Abertawe – Swansea University, U.K.
5–6 July 2019
Download [CALL FOR PAPERS HERE](#),
deadline 14 December 2018

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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 September 2018.

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

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