



ORAL HISTORY
———NSW———

ORAL HISTORY NETWORK NEWS

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► Oral History NSW Membership & Contacts

Oral History NSW membership renewals

Renewal notices for 2019-2020 have been emailed.

If you have not received the reminder, please check your SPAM folder, or renew at:

<https://www.oralhistorynsw.org.au/membership/membership>

Oral History Australia Biennial Conference 2019



Intimate Stories, Challenging Histories

10—13 October 2019

State Library of Queensland, Brisbane



The 2019 Biennial Oral History Australia Conference takes place in our 40th anniversary year. **Oral History Queensland** and **Oral History Australia** are presenting the conference in partnership with the **State Library of Queensland** and **Queensland Memory**.

The four-day event features:

- pre-conference workshops and the welcome reception on Thursday 10 October
- two days of conference presentations and panels, and the conference dinner on Friday and Saturday, 11-12 October
- post-conference excursions in and around Brisbane on Sunday 13 October.

REGISTRATIONS now open

**Note: Last day for early-bird registration has now been extended to 14 August 2019
(applies only to full 2-day registration)**

Conference links:

- [Conference home page](#)
- [Registration information](#)
- [Registration on Eventbrite](#)
- [Keynote themes & speakers](#)

For further information or to join the conference mailing list, email oralhistoryqld@gmail.com



Keynote speakers will include Associate Professor **Katrina Srigley** from **Nipissing University** in Canada, co-editor of *Beyond Women's Words: feminisms and the practices of oral history in the twenty-first century* (2018), and currently co-researching *Gaa Bi Kidwaad Maa Nbisiing: A-Kii Bemaadziik, E-Niigannwang: The Stories of Nbisiing: the Land, the People, the Future*; and *Nbisiing Anishinabek Biimadiziwin: to understand the past and shape the future*, in partnership with Nipissing First Nation.

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Interpreting Memories: An Advanced Oral History Workshop



Presented by Oral History NSW and the State Library of NSW
Facilitator: Alistair Thomson

Saturday, **24 August 2019**, 10:00 am—1:30 pm

How do we make sense of the memories that we record as oral historians? How do we begin to transform stories into histories? In this workshop with oral historian Alistair Thomson we'll consider a range of ways of approaching the interpretation of memories.

We'll note the changing ways that researchers have used memory as a historical source and consider the factors that shape memory stories. We'll try out narrative analysis with interview extracts (from AI's interviews with migrants and war veterans) using the rich clues of sound, gesture, word and narrative form. You'll finish up brimming with ideas and enthusiasm for working with your own interviews (or other people's interviews), armed with lists of further reading if you wish to deepen your understanding.

This interactive workshop with one of the world's leading experts in oral history is suitable for people who have some experience of oral history interviewing and who would like to deepen their skills in interpreting and analysing recorded interviews.

Places are limited, so [book now!](#)

Where: Macquarie Room, State Library of NSW Macquarie Street, Sydney ([map](#))

Cost: \$70 (Oral History NSW members); \$80 (general)

Contact: Enquiries: events@oralhistorynsw.org.au or tel. (02) 8094 1239



Workshop facilitator: Alistair Thomson,
 Professor of History, Monash University.

His oral history books include:
Anzac Memories (1994 and 2013),
The Oral History Reader (1998, 2006
 and 2015 with Rob Perks), *Ten Pound Poms*
 (2005, with Jim Hammerton), *Moving Stories: an intimate history of four women across two countries*
 (2011) *Oral History and Photography*
 (2011, with Alexander Freund) and *Australian Lives: An Aural History*
 (2017, with Anisa Puri).

See Prof. Thomson's profile [HERE](#).

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Presented by Oral History NSW & Professional Historians Association (NSW & ACT)

Wednesday, **7 August 2019**, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Oral history collections have been around for decades, but with the advent of digital technology our access to and use of collections is changing. Curators from two key repositories will highlight elements of their collection, and reflect on changing delivery and use by practitioners.

Discussion following the two presentations will focus on how public historians can best make use of oral history collections in their work.

Speakers:

Dr Shirleene Robinson, National Library of Australia

Maria Savvidis, State Library of New South Wales

Chair: Dr Scott McKinnon, University of Wollongong



Where: Macquarie Room, State Library of NSW Macquarie Street Sydney NSW 2000 ([map](#))

Cost: Members of OH-NSW, PHA & State Library Friends: \$5:00. General admission: \$10

More detail & bookings [HERE](#)



Panel discussion

Oral History Collections and Museum Practice

Wednesday, **28 August 2019**, 5:30 pm – 6:30 pm

Oral histories form a dynamic part of social history exhibitions in museums. They've been a key part of sharing authority and devolving the curatorial voice. The creation of these resources—the oral history audio and transcript—pose questions about the preservation of and access to Australia's audiovisual culture.

This round-table will explore questions of exhibition design and also explore questions relating to the life and afterlife of oral histories within museum collections. Panellists will offer examples from current and past exhibitions that have integrated oral histories or have necessitated the creation of new oral history projects.

How do oral histories and first-person narratives 'work' in museum spaces, and what is their relationship to objects? How have these oral histories been preserved and made available as research resources within museum collections? What practices are in place to ensure preservation and access?

Speakers:

- **Paula Hamilton**, Australian Centre of Public Policy, University of Technology Sydney & Macquarie University
- **Moya McFadzean**, Museums Victoria
- **Mary Hutchinson**, Centre for Heritage and Museum Studies

Where: Main Hall, National Museum of Australia, Lawson Cres, **Acton, ACT** 2601 ([map](#))

Registration required. Email: chms@cass.anu.edu.au Tel: 02-6125-5889

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Oral History NSW Annual Lecture: History Week 2019

“Everywhere you look is a loss”:

Memories of Bushfire in a Transformed Suburban Landscape

Sunday, **8 September 2019**, 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

As part of **History Week 2019** (31 August – 8 September)

In 2003, the Australian Capital Territory experienced a devastating firestorm in which four people were killed and hundreds more injured. The fire burnt across bushland, plantation forests and farms, and reached into the Canberra suburbs, destroying nearly five hundred homes. Rural and suburban landscapes were permanently transformed. In this lecture, **Dr Scott McKinnon** will examine the interweaving of memory, space and recovery in the years after the fire. McKinnon argues for the importance of including slow recovery processes in the recorded history of disaster and for situating understandings of disaster recovery in landscapes imbued with memory.



Dr Scott McKinnon is a Vice-Chancellor’s Postdoctoral Research Fellow in the Australian Centre for Environment, Society and Space (ACCESS), University of Wollongong. He is an oral historian and geographer with a research background in disasters research, geographies of memory, and histories and geographies of sexuality and gender.

Scott is Vice President of Oral History NSW and Sydney’s Pride History Group. He is the author of *Gay Men at the Movies: Cinema, memory and the history of a gay male community* (Intellect, 2016).

Where: History House 133 Macquarie Street Sydney NSW 2000 ([map](#))

Cost: OH-NSW & RAHS members **FREE**. General admission \$10

Please book – tickets available [HERE](#).



Lane Cove Historical Society:

Lane Cove History Prize

The aim of the Lane Cove History Prize is to encourage original research into the history of Lane Cove and its environs, extending knowledge of the area and its people.

It is intended that the research will contribute to an enriched understanding of Lane Cove, both past and present. The winner will receive \$2,000.

For the 2019 prize, entrants may submit either:

- an essay (5,000 to 7,000 words),
- a digitally-produced oral history (30 to 45 minutes duration) with transcript, or
- a DVD (7 to 10 minutes)

For full details, conditions of entry and entry form, see [HERE](#).

Closing date: **Friday 31 August 2019**

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Orange Readers & Writers Festival: Memory, Research & the Family Historian

historycouncilnsw



Photo by Sam Hood, courtesy of the State Library of NSW

Are you a keen family historian? Have you collected objects and pictures while undertaking your family and local history research? What meanings have you made of these?

An interactive workshop with **Associate Professor Tanya Evans** who will be drawing on her research with family historians over the past ten years.

Full details & registration [HERE](#).

- **When:** Friday, **2 August 2019**, 10:30 am–2:30 pm
- **Where:** West Room, Orange City Library (part of Central West Libraries), 147 Byng Street, Orange, NSW
- **Cost:** \$15 HCNSW members; \$20 others (includes lunch)

Read more about the **Orange Readers & Writers Festival** [HERE](#).

Author's talk:



In his new book *Australia's Vietnam: Myth vs History* (2019, New South Books), novelist, journalist and historian, **Mark Dapin** contends that every stage of Australia's commitment to the Vietnam War has been misunderstood, misinterpreted and shrouded in myth.

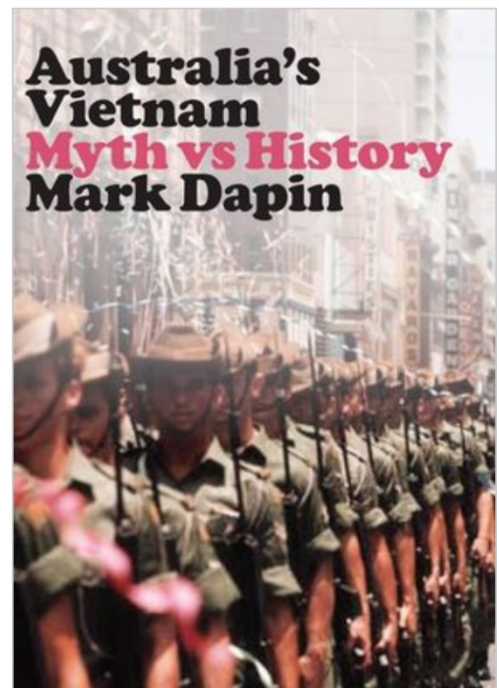
Where: **State Library of New South Wales**

Metcalfe Auditorium, Ground Floor
Macquarie Street, Sydney

When: 2 pm — 3 pm, **Saturday 3 August 2019**

Cost: State Library Friends members FREE.
General admission \$10:00

[BOOK HERE](#)



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Sydney & Metro Arts and Cultural Funding Program Information Sessions



Create NSW will be presenting information sessions on the 2019/20 **Arts and Cultural Funding Program**. Application rounds open on Monday 5 August 2019.

If you're looking to apply for arts and cultural funding, they encourage you to attend one of their information sessions to learn more about the new guidelines and to help you put your best application forward.

For further information, session locations & dates, and FREE registration see [HERE](#).

New titles for the 'Practicing Oral History' series — call for proposals



The Routledge book series **Practicing Oral History** is accepting proposals for new titles on applied oral history. For a detailed prospectus or to discuss your project you can contact series editor Nancy MacKay at nancymackay@gmail.com.

The series is devoted to applied oral history. Books should address one of three approaches to oral history:

- best practices for a specific stage or skill within the oral history life cycle,
- oral history adapted to a specific professional community, or
- using oral history to achieve a specific goal.

Titles in the series are detailed on the series' [website](#), and include:

NEW:

Transcribing Oral History, Teresa Bergen, August 2019 (see p.6 of July's **Network News**)

FORTHCOMING:

Practicing Oral History to Improve Outcomes for Refugees and Host Communities, Marella Hoffman, 2019



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READING & LISTENING

Items are included in this section for information only, and the content of the material listed is not necessarily endorsed by Oral History NSW.

Tales of Cyprus. A Tribute to a Bygone Era

By Constantinos Emmanuelle



“ As an artist I have always been drawn to my parent’s homeland of Cyprus and in particular, its unique cultural heritage and traditions. My latest art project is based on stories and tales of the past as told by elderly Cypriots who I consider to be the last generation to have actually lived and witnessed a way of life on the island that has since disappeared.” — *Constantinos Emannuelle*

Read more and order direct from the author [HERE](#).



From the *Oral History Review* blog

“Interviewing with Beer: Navigating the Distinct Challenges of Oral History Research”

“ Recent Washington State University graduate **John Tappan Menard** reflects on a few of the unique demands of oral history projects that he discovered while completing his graduate thesis on the craft beer movement.



Extract:

“ ‘I don’t know what you two are planning, but you can’t talk about securities fraud around my kids,’ the woman scolded us. Though she did not appear intoxicated, the several empty beer glasses behind her suggested otherwise. I was sitting in the basement of a fruit warehouse turned pub, interviewing a former master brewer of the Yakima Brewing and Malting Co. We were not, as she thought, planning any sort of securities fraud, but we were discussing the financial shenanigans which had ultimately caused the collapse of the company.

“ My interviewee and I, though perplexed by the request—who would have thought finance would be such a controversial topic?—agreed to keep it down. Satisfied, she left and we resumed our discussion. We’d hardly said more than a few words before the woman came back, bellowing this time. ‘I told you! You can’t talk about that!’ ”

Read the rest of this interesting and reflective post in the *Oral History Review* blog [HERE](#).

The [Oral History Review](#), published by the [Oral History Association](#), is the U.S. journal of record for the theory and practice of oral history and related fields.

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Partition Voices. Untold British Stories

By Kavita Puri. Bloomsbury Publishing 2019

An oral history of the rending of India shows the violent reality & fateful aftermath of that decision. — Nikeshe Shukla, *The Guardian Weekly*

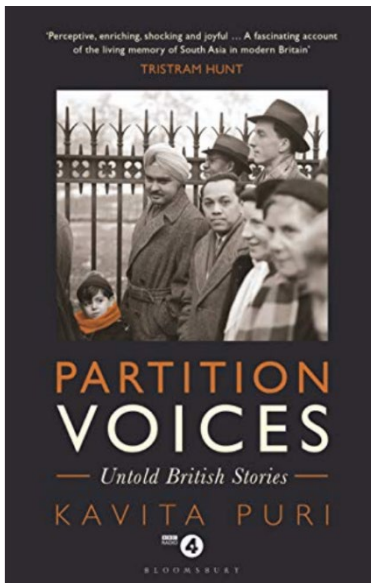
“Dotted across homes in Britain are people who were witnesses to one of the most tumultuous events of the twentieth century. Yet their memory of India's partition has been shrouded in silence. Kavita Puri's father was twelve when he found himself one of the millions of Sikhs, Hindus and Muslims caught up in the devastating aftermath of a hastily drawn border. For seventy years he remained silent – like so many – about the horrors he had seen.

“When her father finally spoke out, opening up a forgotten part of Puri's family history, she was compelled to seek out the stories of South Asians who were once subjects of the British Raj, and are now British citizens. Determined to preserve these accounts – of the end of Empire and the difficult birth of two nations – here Puri records a series of remarkable first-hand testimonies, as well as those of their children and grandchildren whose lives are shaped by partition's legacy.”

— Extract of publisher's description

Read more, and reviews on [Bloomsbury Publishing's](#) website.

Also available as Kindle, audiobook or hardcover from Amazon [HERE](#).



Soundtrails

From the website:


Storiedland

“It all started in 2014 alongside a community project in New South Wales and at a time when smartphones and GPS capability was improving.

Founded by **Hamish Sewell**, Soundtrails will soon have 14 sites in operation, from remote New South Wales through to south east Queensland. Soundtrails are free to download, afford a unique audio blueprint of a place and ranges thematically from sites of national significance — Myall Creek, or the up-and-coming Goonoowigall ‘Aboriginal Fringe Camp’ Soundtrail — to intimate portraits of regional towns. Soundtrails are available both on-site and online and our small professional team are dedicated to the power of crafted audio and digital place-making.

“**Why Audio?** First it was podcast, now it's 3-D sound and geo locative media: audio storytelling is undergoing a quiet revolution. Walk, stop and listen to the sounds and stories that brings the place alive. No need to look at your screen. These are rich stories produced by some of Australia's top producers with the voices from the people who've earned their stripes: funny, sad, highly immersive, assiduously researched and more than your average tourist guide. Soundtrails is setting the bar for digital audio storytelling in Australia today.”

[EXPLORE SOUNDTRAILS](#)

[DOWNLOAD SOUNDTRAILS](#)

“Nowhere are stories more powerfully experienced than when heard on the site with our feet on the ground. The voices, the sounds and songs that bring the place alive and affords it meaning connect us with the world around us and those who come before us.” —Hamish Sewell

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**Oral History Australia
2019 Biennial Conference**
Intimate Stories, Challenging Histories

State Library of Queensland, Brisbane

10–13 October 2019

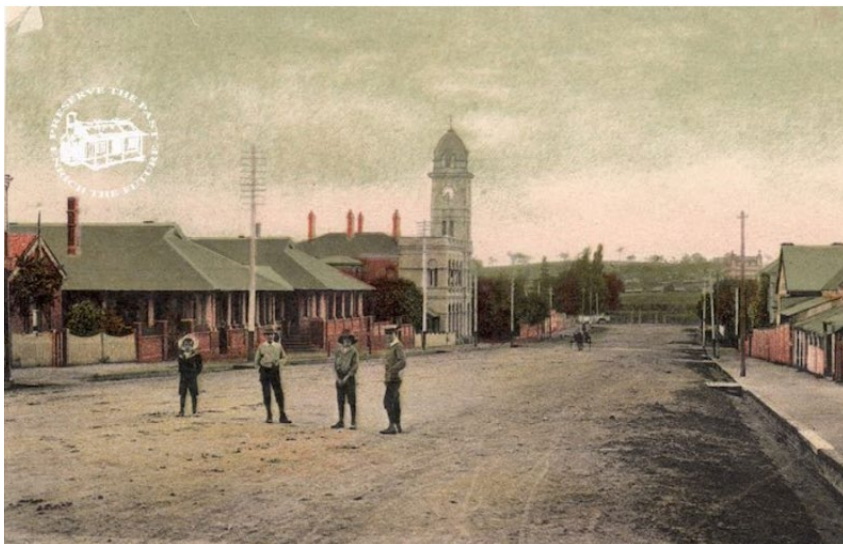
See [HERE](#) for keynote themes and speakers.

General information about the conference is available on the
conference home page [HERE](#).

See also [page 2](#) above

2019 Royal Australian Historical Society Conference
Illuminating the Past.

West Tamworth Leagues Club, 14–15 September 2019



On 9 November 1888, Tamworth became the first city in Australia to have its streets lit by electric streetlights. So it's fitting that Tamworth is the location of the 2019 RAHS Conference '*Illuminating the Past.*'

What do different historical records reveal about our past? How do we share our history with new audiences in an enlightening and informative way? What must we do to protect and share historical sources so that the vivid insights they provide don't disappear into darkness?

Image: [Tamworth Historical Society](#)

For further information & bookings, see the conference website [HERE](#).



Royal Hotel, Tamworth, 1930

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- **Oral History Association 2019 Annual Meeting:**
*Pathways in the Field: Considerations for those Working In,
On and Around Oral History*

Salt Lake City, Utah, USA, 16–19 October 2019
See details [HERE](#).

Call for papers, posters, & audio-visual presentations:



**International Oral History Association
XXI Conference**

Singapore, 22–26 June 2020

See the new conference website [HERE](#).

The deadline for all proposals is **31 August 2019**

“ At the core of oral history is a desire for a more complex and nuanced understanding of the world around us. While we value each oral account as unique, personal and subjective, bringing together many voices – whether in agreement or disagreement – allows greater meaning to be gleaned, refined and accumulated.

“Oral history teaches us to be considerate and empathetic to different voices and perspectives. What does this mean in the context of oral history taking root in more places and different cultures around the world? Where it is used in more and different contexts and disciplines? Aided and even led by changing technologies? Presented in different forms and bearing multiple uses? This conference invites papers which shed light on the growing diversity, multidimensionality and interdisciplinary applications of oral history.

“As the IOHA conference enters Southeast Asia for the first time, the theme is also an invitation for reflection by the international oral history community to consider how we can help and support one another through friendships, networks and alliances. ”

See more on the website. Enquiries, contact NLB_IOHA2020@nlb.gov.sg

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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 2019) is

26 August 2019.

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

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What 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](#).

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