



ORAL HISTORY NETWORK NEWS

No 99, December 2019

ORAL HISTORY
NSW

ISSN 2206-866X <https://www.oralhistorynsw.org.au/>



CONTENTS

Click arrow ► to see text.

Oral History Australia & Oral History NSW

- Oral History NSW & Professional Historians Assoc. Christmas party, December 2019
- History Council of NSW Christmas party, December 2019
- Royal Australian Historical Society Christmas party, December 2019
- Oral History Australia Conference, 2019, Reflections from Rhonda Povey
- Francis Good retires as editor of Oral History Network News

News & events

- New national awards announced by Oral History Australia
- OUTLOUD wins OH NSW 2019 Excellence in Community History Award
- Oral History Australia Journal 2019 & call for contributions for 2020
- Beyond camps & forced labour: current international research on survivors of Nazi persecution: conference call for papers

Reading & listening

- The History Listen, ABC Radio National
- Cowra Voices storytelling app
- *The lost boys. The untold stories of the under-age soldiers who fought in the First World War*
- *Priscilla: behind the scenes.* Elise Lockwood's images at the National Film & Sound Archive
- *Sexing history* podcast — the legacy of Susan Brownmiller's *Against our will* (1975)
- *Opening doors: 2019 Museums & Galleries Queensland conference*
- *The Oral History Review* blog:
The intersubjectivities of interviewing and pregnancy
Voices from the Chinese Jamaican Oral History Project

Conferences

- London Centre for Interdisciplinary Research, February 2020
- International Oral History Association, Singapore, June 2020
- Oral History Society (UK), Bournemouth, U.K., July 2020

► Contacts & membership

[Back to top](#)





Oral History NSW & Professional Historians Association NSW & ACT



CHRISTMAS PARTY 2019

Maria Savvidis (President, Oral History NSW) and **Lisa Murray** (Chair, PHA NSW & ACT) warmly invite all our members, old and new, to our joint Christmas Party.

Come along and share in plenty of good food, good wine and the good company of your colleagues in Sydney's history community. This will be great chance to renew contacts with old friends and members, and to welcome the past year's new members to the both Associations. New members are especially welcome to come along and connect with the network of professional, public and oral historians across NSW and the ACT.



We will be asking for a \$10 admission fee that can be booked online. This is to help cover the cost of the event and ensure that your membership fees are put to work where they count most.

BOOK NOW

DATE: Wednesday 4 December 2019

TIME: 6:00pm—9:00pm

LOCATION: History House, 133 Macquarie Street, Sydney

GETTING THERE: Public transport is very handy, with Martin Place, Circular Quay and St James stations just a few minutes' walk away. Paid parking is available next door for \$25 after 5pm.



THE HISTORY COUNCIL OF NSW warmly invites you to celebrate the festive season

When: Wednesday, 18th December 2019 at 6:00 – 8:00pm

Where: Don Bank Museum, 6 Napier Street, North Sydney, NSW

Members Free, please [RSVP here](#)

Non-Members \$10.00, [please book here](#)



RAHS 2019 Christmas Party

Where: History House, 133 Macquarie St, Sydney

When: 4pm—7pm, Tuesday 10 December 2019

Cost: Free

Join the [Royal Australian Historical Society](#) to celebrate the festive season and look forward to 2020. The Christmas Party is a wonderful opportunity for members to meet RAHS staff, Councillors and other individuals interested in Australian history.

Please reserve tickets [HERE](#)

[Back to top](#)

Biennial Oral History Australia Conference, 2019 — reflections



We asked **Rhonda Povey**, recipient of the Oral History NSW conference bursary to tell us about her experience attending the *Biennial Oral History Australia Conference* held in Brisbane in October.

Extract:

“ The 2019 Biennial Conference of Oral History Australia was held between 10-13 October on Yuggera Country at the State Library of Queensland, with a theme of ‘Intimate Stores, Challenging Histories’. I was fortunate enough to receive a bursary funded by the NSW OHA to attend the conference,

presenting my work on proper-way research, that is research using ethical research methods and methodologies in a remote Aboriginal community. The conference ran in 3 strands across 2 days; I was privileged to attend several thought-provoking presentations interrogating intimate stories and challenging histories.

“The opening plenary presented by Katrina Srigley set the tone by speaking about relational storytelling and story listening; an unlearning and learning journey with Nipissing First Nation of the shorelines of Lake Ontario.

“Perspectives about true listening, ‘listening with the heart’ and interpretation permeated the conference as presenters and attendees considered the means in which oral history can speak back and assume its rightful place in mainstream history. ”

Rhonda’s full report can be found on the OH NSW website [HERE](#).

Francis Good to retire as editor of Oral History Network News



Francis Good at the Northern Territory Archives Service Oral History Unit, Darwin, 1995
Photo: Christine Connors

“ There comes a time in most endeavours when you know *it’s time* to stop! So this will be my last issue of OHNN.

It’s been a very interesting and rewarding way to fill in some of my retirement hours, and I’m grateful for the opportunity to have learned so much and to have kept in touch with the oral history world through the persistent trawling of sources while looking for content. Many thanks to Oral History NSW for the opportunity.

The good news is that the monthly publication will of course continue from the next issue due in February 2020. If you’d like to express an interest in compiling or assisting, do send an email to:

membership@oralhistorynsw.org.au

Meanwhile, very best wishes to all our readers for the festive season and for all your oral history endeavours and interests. ”

— **Francis Good**

[Back to top](#)



New national awards announced

Oral History Australia is very excited to announce two new national awards for oral historians:

- the Oral History Australia Media Award, and
- the Oral History Australia Book Award.

The awards are to be presented every two years with the first this year, 2019. Those seeking to enter need to have produced their book or media production in the calendar years 2018 or 2019.

The closing date for applications: 31 December 2019.

Information for applicants including the criteria for eligibility and judging, how to apply and the judges for each award is available in the following two documents:

 [OHA Book Award 2019 - Information for applicants](#) (PDF)

 [OHA Media Award 2019 - Information for applicants](#) (PDF)



OUTLOUD wins 2019 OH NSW Excellence in Community History Award for *Stories of Strength* project

Tim Carroll, who has been the Director of the project (formerly BYDS – Bankstown Youth Development Service), is a long-time member of OH NSW and has pioneered many innovative approaches to recording community history. He is about to retire, and writes:



“ Dear People,

I’m watching the fig tree birds congregate in the tree outside my window whose view I have enjoyed for the last eight years, watching the changing skies, the cycle of leaves drying, falling and becoming soil – only then to spring green shoots and become vibrant again as summer approaches. This reflection reminds me that all things pass and so my time running the arts and cultural program here at Outloud (formerly BYDS) also approaches its end.

I began on the 23rd June 1991 and reflect on the thousands of people whose lives have been affected positively through our intervention, as Ex-Principal of Sir Joseph Banks High, Mark Piddington said, “BYDS provided in so many cases the best experience that some of our students had in their lives.”

We interviewed and published edited life stories of hundreds of local people, we generated hundreds of original songs, we taught people how to access aspects of themselves that they did not know existed and saw this manifested across countless public platforms,

we initiated scores of original Australian dramas, we stood shoulder to shoulder with local people when they periodically became the whipping boy for what passes as mainstream media in this country.

We provided opportunities for local young people with artistic ideas to flourish, attracting money, contacts, spaces and technology; always at no cost. Alongside a passing parade of artists and facilitators, many that I personally trained, we made arts and culture something that the Bankstown area is noted for – and that may be an acceptable legacy. Let’s see.

We are now actively looking for a new Director at Outloud, someone with energy, passion and leadership qualities. It is a strange and difficult time in Australia for the Arts, particularly community-based arts, but the right person will make it happen. You can find more information about the position [HERE](#) and [HERE](#).

I will have some kind of farewell prior to my last day, December 19th, so if you are interested to come along, let us know.

Tim Carroll
Director, Outloud ”

[Back to top](#)



Oral History Australia Journal

Issue No. 41, 2019 has now been published. Members of affiliated state oral history associations are advised about access details by their state associations.

Call for contributions:

Words and Feelings: Reflecting on
Oral History and Emotions



OHA

Oral History Australia Journal
No. 41, 2019

Contributions are currently being sought for the **Oral History Australia Journal No. 42, 2020**, which will be based on the theme of our 2019 Oral History Australia Biennial Conference: 'Intimate Stories, Challenging Histories'. See the full call for papers [HERE](#).

Deadlines for this issue are:

- peer-reviewed articles — **28 February 2020**
- articles/project reports — **30 April 2020**
- reviews of books and other publications — **30 April 2020**.

Guidelines:

Please refer to the following style guide and frequently asked questions concerning the peer-review process:

-  [Oral History Australia Journal style guidelines 2019](#)
-  [FAQ - Peer Review - OHA Journal](#)

Call for papers:



- The Wiener Library for the Study of the Holocaust and Genocide is the world's oldest institution devoted to the study of the Holocaust, its causes and legacies.

— Wikipedia

Beyond camps and forced labour: Current International Research on Survivors of Nazi Persecution

**Seventh international multidisciplinary conference,
to be held at Birkbeck, University of London,
and The Wiener Holocaust Library, London,
6—8 January 2021**

This conference is planned as a follow-up to the five successful conferences, which took place at Imperial War Museum London in 2003, 2006, 2009, 2012, 2015 and at Birkbeck, University of London, and The Wiener Holocaust Library in 2018. It will continue to build on areas previously investigated, and also open up new fields of academic enquiry.

The aim is to bring together scholars from a variety of disciplines who are engaged in research on all groups of survivors of Nazi persecution.

See the full call for papers and conference details [HERE](#)

Deadline: 31 March 2020

[Back to top](#)

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.



The History Listen on ABC Radio National



Compelling history from Australia and around the world. The show which brings the past to life, and helps to make sense of the present.

Two stories that weave together war, food and the power of memory

During war time, food shortages and rationing preoccupied most people, but the hunger suffered by prisoners was on a whole different level.



[LISTEN HERE](#) / [DOWNLOAD](#)



Cowra Voices



Image: Mayu Kanamori / Nikkei Australia

Cowra Voices storytelling app was launched on August 3, 2019 as part of the 75th anniversary commemorations of the famous **Cowra Breakout** by Japanese prisoners of war, one of the largest attempts at escaping prison during WWII.

Cowra Voices is based in the Central West region of NSW, Australia, and began in February, 2018. This project's main aim was to link people and places with a geo-locative app – much like a heritage trail app – exploring Cowra's unique story of civic peace and reconciliation. Other aims included facilitating a deeper, more intimate engagement with Cowra's history through audio/multimedia storytelling

The app includes stories of the Wiradjuri elders as well as personal histories of people buried at Cowra Japanese War Cemetery, and local narratives of grassroots peace building by members of the local Cowra community.

To download the Cowra Voices app, go to cowravoices.org



[Back to top](#)



The Lost Boys. ***The untold stories of the under-age soldiers who fought in the First World War***

By Paul Byrnes
Affirm Press, South Melbourne, 2019

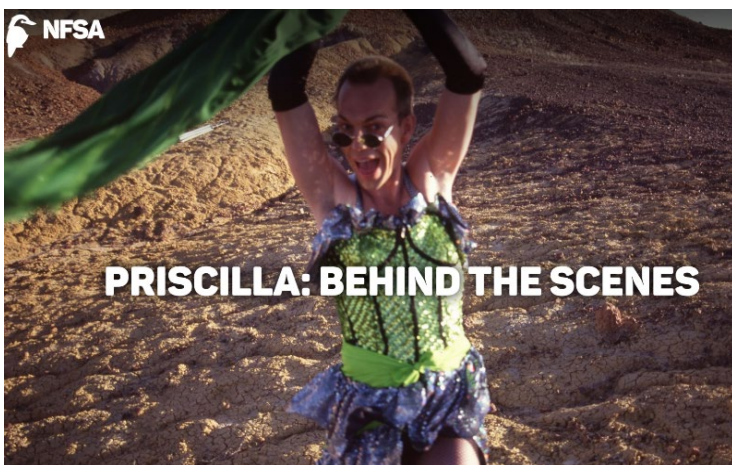
In the First World War of 1914–1918, thousands of boys across Australia and New Zealand lied about their age, forged a parent’s signature and left to fight on the other side of the world. Though some were as young as thirteen, they soon found they could die as well as any man. Like Peter Pan’s lost boys, they have remained forever young. These are their stories.

This extraordinary book captures the incredible and previously untold stories of forty Anzac boys who fought in the First World War, from Gallipoli to the Armistice. Featuring haunting images of the boys taken at training camps and behind the lines, these tales are both heartbreaking and rousing, full of daring, ingenuity, recklessness, random horror and capricious luck.

A unique perspective on the First World War, ***The Lost Boys*** is military history made deeply personal, a powerful homage to youthful bravery and a poignant reminder of the sacrifice of war.

See notes about the author [HERE](#). **Purchase** through [Booktopia](#) or [Dymocks](#).

Sean O’Brien writes from the National Film & Sound Archive:



“ Exactly 25 years ago **Elise Lockwood** landed a dream job – shooting the stills for the film *The Adventures of Priscilla, Queen of the Desert* (1994). Elise's work also features in the exhibition *Starstruck: Australian Movie Portraits*.

“As a young photographer in the early 1990s, Elise was riding the wave of new independent cinema, shooting stills for acclaimed Australian films like *Broken Highway* (Laurie McInnes, 1994), *Bedevil* (Tracey Moffatt, 1993) and *Traps* (Pauline Chan, 1994).

“But when the script for *Priscilla* fell in her lap, and Elise met writer-director Stephan Elliott, she sensed this project was going to be a visual feast and she leapt at the opportunity.

“The **National Film & Sound Archive** holds in its collection a set of 191 *Priscilla* colour transparencies photographed by Elise on the production, many never-before seen. For Elise, all these years later, it’s the rare behind-the-scenes images that capture the true flavour of her *Priscilla* experience, a bonding ‘wild ride’ for cast and crew. ”



See examples of these images, and **listen** to a clip from her 2019 NFSA oral history interview with Sean O'Brien [HERE](#).

[Back to top](#)

Sexing history

“ The latest episode of **Sexing History**, a podcast about how the history of sexuality shapes our present, deals with the complicated legacy of Susan Brownmiller’s *Against Our Will* (1975).



“In the 1960s and early 1970s, many US-Americans believed that rape was a rare and violent act perpetrated by outsiders and sociopaths. Popular culture taught men that women needed to be tricked or coerced into sex, and psychiatrists accused rape victims of secretly inviting their attacks. Susan Brownmiller’s best-selling book *Against Our Will* shattered these myths about sexual violence. Informed by the broader feminist anti-rape movement, *Against Our Will* portrayed rape as a systemic, pervasive, and culturally sanctioned act of power and intimidation.

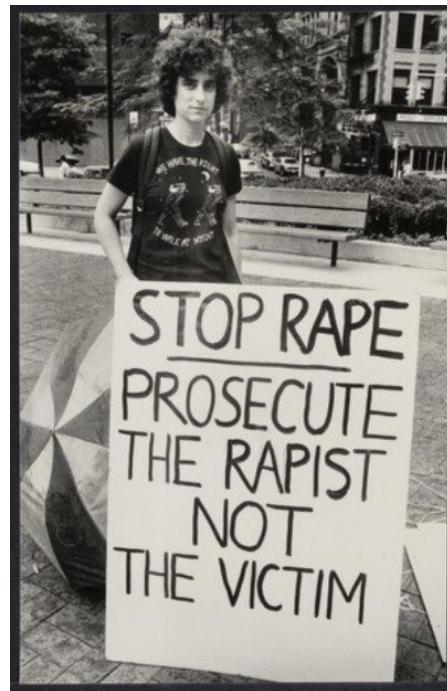
“Yet even as Brownmiller provided a framework for naming sexual violence as a mechanism of patriarchy, she also minimized the importance of race and denied the ways that rape accusations

have long justified the criminalization and murder of men of colour. At a moment when #MeToo has brought about yet another national reckoning with sexual violence and male power, Brownmiller’s book, its legacy, and the contexts that produced the anti-rape movement of the 1970s demand re-examination.

“Sexing History is a research tool for teaching histories of gender and sexuality and is hosted by historians Gillian Frank and Lauren Gutterman. Sexing History uses oral histories, archival sound clips, commentary and analysis, and interviews with other scholars in the field to tell compelling stories about the past to illuminate our present. ”



You can listen to the latest episode [HERE](#).



Harvard University, Schlesinger Library on the History of Women in America, PC320729

Opening Doors: 2019 Museums & Galleries Queensland Conference

Videos of keynote presentations from the Sept. 2019 conference are now available to watch [HERE](#).



[Back to top](#)

The intersubjectivities of interviewing and pregnancy



All oral history interviews result from the interaction between interviewee and interviewer, and the intersubjectivities within that relationship.

Oral historian **Liz Strong** experienced many variations of this dynamic over the nine months of her pregnancy, which she shares in this post.

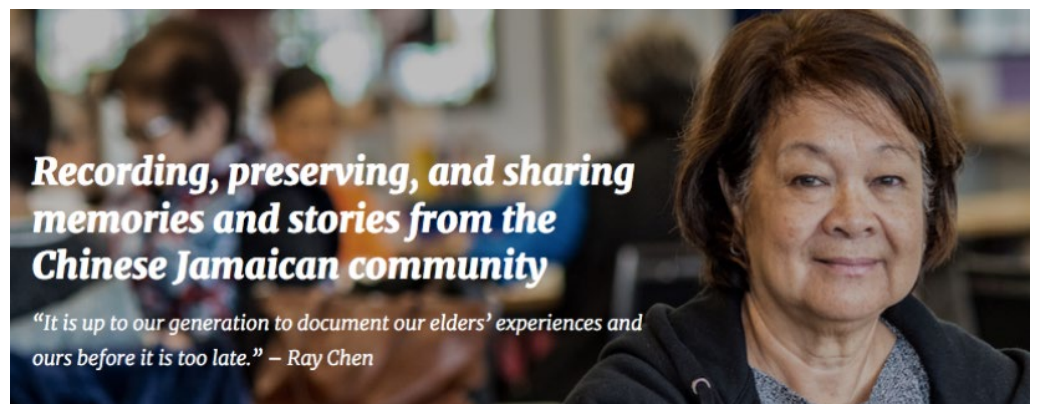
See the full text of the post on the OHR blog [HERE](#).



Voices from the Chinese Jamaican Oral History Project



Oral history provides the opportunity to explore intersubjectivity and positionality. Here, **Daniel Clarkson Fisher** shares his work with the **Chinese Jamaican Oral History Project** centred in Toronto. The moving video excerpts from interviews included in the post demonstrate shared authority in practice.



Read the full OHR blog post and listen to audio extracts [HERE](#).



[Back to top](#)



London Centre for Interdisciplinary Research
International Conference on Oral History

London, UK, 8-9 February 2020

Extract:

“ The conference will focus on the connections between oral history, collective memory, and individual memory. Whether from a historical, social, or even psychological perspective, we wish to engage scholars in a multidimensional and interdisciplinary

approach in order to deeply explore all aspects of this valuable and fascinating area. We are committed to creating a welcoming space for discussion, collaboration, and exploration of oral history’s potential as a tool for local, national and international projects that would enrich and even revise chapters of history. ”

See [HERE](#) for full details.



**International Oral History Association
 XXI Conference**

Singapore, 22—26 June 2020

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

“ 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. ...

“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 [HERE](#). Enquiries, email NLB_IOHA2020@nlb.gov.sg

Call for papers:

Oral History Society (UK) 2020 Annual Conference

Oral History and the Media

Bournemouth University, U.K., 3 – 4 July 2020



“ Oral history and the media have an important but complex relationship. The media has long been a significant producer of, and outlet for, oral history ... giving voice to those who would otherwise have been excluded from both the media and the historical record. ... However, the process by which oral histories are mediated from orality to the media ... often remain hidden. ... ”

See more detail & the full call for papers [HERE](#).

Deadline for proposals: **20 December 2019**

[Back to top](#)



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 2020) is

26 January 2020.

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

Oral History Network News No. 99, December 2019

ISSN 2206-866X

Editor: Francis Good

© Oral History NSW Inc.

ABN 73.605.987.834

PO Box 261 Pennant Hills NSW 1715

E. secretary@oralhistorynsw.org.au

T. 02-8094-1239

www.oralhistorynsw.org.au

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](#).

[Back to top](#)