



On Tape

Newsletter of the Oral
History Association of
Australia, Queensland
Branch Inc

March 2003

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Hello Fellow Members!

Well here it is, another new year and who knows how it will end. I hope you will be working on some interesting oral history projects and that you will share your work with members through the newsletter.

I can now share my own oral history work with the whole world through my web site which I'm very pleased to announce to you all. I have included some of my interviews, oral history links and the newsletter. You may find my site at: <http://www.home.gil.com.au/~mulligan> Please visit my site, tell your friends and I welcome any feedback.

During our November conference, we had our Annual General Meeting and a report on that is included in the newsletter. We welcome our new Treasurer, Maxine Kendall.

At our last committee meeting, we agreed to give members the opportunity to apply to receive a subsidy from the Association to attend the Perth National Conference in September 2003. If you would like to take advantage of this opportunity, please write to the Association through me telling us why you believe you should receive the subsidy – have your applications to me by 30 April 2003. The Committee will assess the applications and the “winner” will be announced in the next newsletter.

A reminder to members that membership renewal is due by 30 June 2003. Welcome to all the new members who joined during or since the Conference.

The Committee would you like your thoughts on topics you would like to see covered in future workshops for example, reminiscence work, cross cultural communications issues etc. What do you want to learn about? Send me your ideas.

That's all for now. Look forward to feedback from you all.

Suzanne Mulligan
Editor

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Minutes Of The Oral History Association Of Australia – Qld Inc
Annual General Meeting

4pm - (approx) 16 November 2002
State Library of Queensland - Theatre

Agenda

- 1 Apologies - Denis Drouyn
2. Minutes of the last AGM - These were read by Niles Elvery and accepted as a true and accurate record. Proposed Sue Pechey, seconded- Suzanne Mulligan.
3. President's Report - Sue gave an oral report and she outlined the main points for the year as being:

The lack of a venue for oral history meetings for most of the year, the enormous increase in insurance fees, the possibility of Queensland Local History Society being used as an umbrella organisation for insurance. Sue thanked the members of the committee. Sue moved that the report be accepted and this was seconded by Marion McKenzie.

4. Treasurer's Report - The treasurer Kate Roberts presented the treasurer's report (for 2001-2002) and she highlighted the main points as being: the Association again operated at a loss, the treasurer's report was again audited by Vagg Bird & Associates, (main expenses will continue - insurance, capitation, accountancy fees), membership has dwindled by 30% over the last few years. Kate moved that the treasurer's report be accepted as a true and accurate record and this was seconded by Sue Pechey.
5. Election of Office Bearers. Sue vacated the chair and Niles Elvery conducted the election. Niles read out that he had received nominations for most of the position, except that of treasurer which was thrown open for nominations from the floor. The following people were unanimously elected to the positions below:

President - Sue Pechey
Secretary - Lesley Jenkins
Treasurer - Maxine Kendall
On Tape Editor - Suzanne Mulligan
North Qld representative - vacant
Committee Members (2)- Kate Roberts, vacant
Subscription Officer - vacant

6. General Business
7. Date of next Meeting - to be announced
8. Close

BOOK REVIEW

Bowden, Tim. 2002. *The Way My Father Tells It – The Story of an Australian Life*. Sydney: ABC Enterprises.

Some of you may be already familiar with earlier editions of this excellent book. It is an oral history of Tim Bowden's father, John Bowden. Tim encouraged his father to tell his life story, "reminiscing, alone, into a tape recorder" beginning in February 1983. Rather than a face-to-face interview, Tim sent his father "a list of general questions and topics and he taped his replies in a series of monologues." At the time, Tim lived in Sydney and his father lived in Hobart. The book was originally published in 1989 and involved other members of the Bowden family who helped put it all together. The tapes were transcribed and Tim Bowden turned it into a book.

John Bowden was born in Hobart, Tasmania on 5 September 1906. He gives a fond and detailed description of his early home and family life. John, with his two brothers and father – the Old Man - slept in a building detached from the house dubbed "the Summerhouse". The Old Man had an unconventional approach to sleeping as he didn't like sheets or blankets and instead "slept under a possum skin rug on his canvas camp stretcher." John's mother and sisters slept in their small house. John's description of that long ago time transports the reader back there and allows us to easily understand what his life was like. He describes the characters that he knew in physical detail as well as providing an insight into their personality.

In later chapters, John tells up about his career as an auto electrician at a time when automotive transport was in its infancy. He married Peggy in 1934 and son, Tim, was born in 1937. John and Peggy enjoyed a very happy marriage. John was posted to the Middle East during World War II and they did not see each other for two and half years. His wartime experiences – a great deal told through his letters home to Peggy – make interesting reading. When he returned from the Middle East, one of his postings was to Noosa Heads where "it was all open country in those days ... there was a great deal of open space on sand dunes behind a great beautiful beach with a roaring surf." When he left the Army, John and Peggy had three more children. Unfortunately, Peggy became afflicted with rheumatoid arthritis and died in the early 1980s.

This is wonderful story of an "ordinary" man which is also of interest to the wider community even though it began as a family history for the Bowdens. The detailed narrative gives us a picture of general life at that time, some of which we can relate to with members of our own families. Tim Bowden is a life member of the Oral History Association of Australia and this book is a credit to him and an encouragement to everyone with an interest in oral history.

Review by Suzanne Mulligan

The Life and Times of Maxine Kendall OHAA Qld Inc Treasurer

I was born Maxine Joan Shilton in the outback town of Cloncurry Qld, where my father was an Air Radio Officer with the then Dept of Civil Aviation. The family also lived in the Queensland towns of Charleville, Camowéal, Rockhampton and Cairns as my father was transferred around. When I was twelve the family moved to Wagga Wagga in NSW where he was appointed OIC of the Dept of Transport, Air Transport. In other words he was OIC of the aerodrome at Wagga. I finished my schooling in Wagga going on to get my Higher School Certificate at Trinity Senior High School.

After leaving school I joined the then, National Bank of Australasia Ltd. After 18 months at Sth Wagga Branch I went on the NSW Relieving Staff and spent the next 2 years travelling to such towns as Narrandra, Albury, Moree, Newcastle and many places in between. I then spent time in a number of Sydney branches before transferring back to Wagga.

It was at this time that I met my husband to be Jim Kendall who was holidaying in Wagga staying with a mutual friend. I subsequently transferred to Queensland; I was appointed to the Queensland relieving staff and spent time in Townsville, Tully, Rockhampton, Nambour, Charleville, Dalby and many more towns in this state.

After our marriage in Wagga, we went on a 6-week tour of NSW, Sth Aust & Victoria. From Wagga we went to Corowa, then along the Murray Valley Way across to Adelaide. Then through the Clare, the Barossa Valley and the McClaren Vale areas visiting many of the wineries on the way; across to Melbourne, and north through the Great Western area of central Victoria to Bendigo and the Pioneer Village. Back to Wagga, then to heading back to Brisbane with a detour via Sydney and the Hunter Valley.

I have thus had the pleasure of seeing a reasonably large area of this nation and of learning much of its people, beauty and peculiarities.

I spent the next 14 years working in the National Australia Bank in various Brisbane branches and administration departments.

During this time Jim and I had a baby boy, Ciaran James Christopher, who passed away at 19 mths old – we have no other children.

I left the bank and went into a partnership in an interior-decorating studio. I looked after the business side accounts etc., whilst my designer partner looked after the creative side of the business. I then commence a business of my own carrying out Bookkeeping from home, using computer programs MYOB and Quicken. I still do this on a small scale, and I would like that operation to continue to grow. I have recently commenced working at The Pen Shoppe in Elizabeth Street three days a week.

I am involved in a number of Volunteer roles.

- Volunteer guide at Government House for the past 9 years.
- Volunteer at the John Oxley Library, assisting Niles Elvery by cataloguing the Oral History Projects for the past 4 years.
- Volunteer block warden for Neighbourhood Watch
- My husband and I for the past 18 years have worked as volunteers at the Jondaryan Woodshed situated on the Darling Downs between Oakey and Dalby.

I am sure that these varied experiences in the employment, business and with a number of volunteer-based organizations will assist in my new position as Hon. Treasurer of the Oral History Association of Australia Inc Queensland Branch.

Announcing a recently published book – thanks to **PLAYBACK**, Newsletter of the West Australian branch of the Oral History Association of Australia, November 2002 for bringing this book to our attention:

The Oral History Manual by Barbara W Sommer and Mary Kay Quinlan.

AltaMira Press is pleased to announce the publication in October 2002 of *The Oral History Manual*. Authors, Sommer and Quinlan, have designed a guide to help anyone interested in doing oral history research “think like an oral historian.” Written with direct, clear language, the manual offers step-by-step instructions, checklists, full-size reproducible forms, sample planning documents, project descriptions and summary sheets, sample materials, and extensive illustrations to help guide readers in taking ideas for an oral history project and turning them into a successful final format.

0-7591-0101-9, 144 pages, 8 ½ x 11, paper

Susan C. Walters

Editor, Local & Public History and Museum Studies

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On Tape Editor’s note: if any member has purchased this book, please let me know what you think of it so I can share your opinion with other members who may be thinking of buying it.

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A reminder about the National Conference in Perth to be held from 4-7 September 2003 at The Rose and Crown Hotel, Guildford, Western Australia.

THE VENUE

Established in 1841, the Rose and Crown Hotel is the oldest hotel still trading in Western Australia. Guildford was founded in 1829 and has a wealth of historical buildings within walking distance of the Hotel. Guildford is less than 15 minutes drive from Perth Airport and under 30 minutes by train from Perth. Double and single accommodation will be available at the Rose and Crown Hotel/Motel.

DEADLINES

13 June 2003	Publication of Registration Brochure
25 July 2003	Early bird registration

DELEGATE FEES

Early Bird Member	\$198	Late Member	\$250
Non Member	\$210	Late Non Member	\$290
Concession Early	\$198	Late Concession	\$210

SOCIAL EVENTS

Tuesday 2 nd	New Norcia & Pinnacles tour
Wednesday 3 rd	Rottnest Island tour
Thursday 4 th	President’s Welcome Function
Friday 5 th	A Film Night
Saturday 6 th	Dinner at Rosehill Country Club

INTRODUCING: "Making Sense of Oral History"

<http://historymatters.gmu.edu/mse/oral/>

Through the Internet, teachers and students can access voices from the past, in audio and text, in ways unimaginable ten years ago. This new world of resources offers exciting opportunities, but also brings with it new challenges. How can students learn to read oral history as "evidence" of the past? How can teachers who are new to the source or to a specific subject learn to analyse and conceptualise oral history interviews?

History Matters and the Visible Knowledge Project present a new guide, "Making Sense of Oral History," written by Linda Shopes, to help answer some of these questions. The guide presents an overview of oral history, including how historians use it, and then focuses on what critical questions to ask when reading or listening to oral history interviews, such as "Who is talking?" and "Why are they talking?" The guide explores these questions and then challenges users to practice their new skills. For example, reading two interviews (conducted by different interviewers) with the same interviewee. Or listening to different versions of the same event from three different family members. The questions are followed by an extended sample interpretation of an oral history interview, an annotated bibliography, and a guide to finding and using oral history online.

This guide is the first of a series of websites designed to help students critically evaluate a range of primary sources, including maps, films, photographs, music, and letters and diaries.

Linda Shopes is a historian at the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission. She has worked on, consulted for, and written about oral history projects for more than 25 years. She is co-editor of *The Baltimore Book: New Views of Local History* and is past president of the Oral History Association.

History Matters: The U.S. Survey Course on the Web, offers a range of resources for teachers and students, including primary documents, an annotated guide to the best U.S. websites, and teaching resources. *History Matters* is created by the Center for History and New Media (CHNM) at George Mason University and the American Social History Project/ Center for Media and Learning (ASHP/CML) at the City University of New York Graduate Center. The Visible Knowledge Project at Georgetown University is a five-year project aimed at improving the quality of college and university teaching through a focus on both student learning and faculty development in technology-enhanced environments.

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The **Bringing Them Home**

Oral History Project: 'Building a Community of Voices'

Barry York reports on the culmination of a major Library project, and its fruition as a book, *Many Voices: Reflections on Experiences of Indigenous Child Separation*

If it is true, as some historians say, that the point of studying history is to learn from the past with a view to building a better future, then the National Library's 'Bringing Them Home' Oral History Project ('BTH') stands as a case in point.

The project arose from the Commonwealth Government's National Inquiry into the Separation of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Children from their Families, which tabled its report in April 1997. BTH ran from July 1998 to June 2002, and was funded by the Commonwealth Government to the value of \$1.6 million. It was one of the largest oral history projects ever conducted in Australia. The project recorded the reminiscences of a range of individuals involved in the process of separation: the children themselves (widely known as the 'Stolen Generations'), their parents and relatives, foster parents, and missionaries, teachers, institutional carers, policy officers and senior administrators.

This wide-ranging and significant project has operated under the direction of Doreen Mellor, an Indigenous Australian, and follows on a successful pilot project managed by Dr Gwenda Davey. Mellor is a former Director of Flinders University Art Museum, and formerly managed the visual arts program Tandanya, at the National Aboriginal Cultural Institute, as well as serving as Chair of the Contemporary Art Centre of South Australia and on the board of the Art Gallery of South Australia.

The full three-year project, concluding in June 2002, was supported by a steering committee chaired by National Library Council member Winnie Pelz. The committee, which included Baiba Berzins, Jackie Huggins, Jeremy Long, Ann-Marie Schwirtlich, Russell Taylor, Judith Winternitz, and Library staff Pamela Gatenby and Doreen Mellor, brought together extensive experience in the areas of senior public administration, librarianship and archives, history and Aboriginal advocacy and research.

The project featured in the Library's recent centenary exhibition, *Treasures from the World's Great Libraries*, alongside materials of international significance on loan from overseas libraries. In this way, the point was made that BTH is not just another major project, but one of special, historic importance. In such a context it was implicitly suggested that the past lingers on well into the present. BTH was not just about 'remembering the past'; the project took place at a time when the issue was topical and figured highly in current debate.

The taped interviews from the project have been preserved by the Library's Digital and Audio Preservation Resources unit, ensuring that the 'spoken word'—people's stories, told in their own words—will be available to future generations. Transcripts have also been made, but nothing can beat the actual sound-recording for insights into the stories.

See the full article at NLA News Web site: <http://www.nla.gov.au/pub/nlanews/>

The Myrtle Holland Memorial Oral History Project

This oral history project for Young Shire Council was an idea I had to celebrate the year of the Outback and the Shire's entry into the 21st century. The Myrtle Holland Memorial Oral History Project was also born out of a desire to chronicle the journey of the inhabitants in the Municipality of Young and the former Burrangong Shire as they journeyed through the latter part of the 19th century and for all of the 20th century. It's a project to create and preserve a snapshot of the Shire of Young during those years. The shire changed when the former Burrangong Shire and Young Municipal Council areas amalgamated in 1980, forming the Shire of Young.

When I was working as a freelance journalist for ABC and commercial radio I attended Young Shire Council meetings and every time the condolences were read out there would be a mumble around the horse shoe comments from councillor's like: "There's another story gone to the grave, or, ... gone forever..."

I approached the current Mayor Councillor John Walker and proposed an oral history project. The idea got up and I did my first interview with Max Holmes in August 2001.

It was an unknown quantity as I didn't know how it would be accepted and it's to that end I owe a great debt of gratitude to two men. Lyster Holland at the age of 96 has been the unofficial historian of Young and surrounds. His son Nevin has been a tower of strength in so many ways.

Both men have been unstinting in their assistance and I know that without their help this project would never have got off the ground because they smoothed the way for people to talk to me.

I felt that as a journalist of some 30 years experience, I had the experience to do the project. However, the fact I was a journalist got in the way. There's no disputing that journalists have got a very poor reputation and it seemed to me that people thought they'd have their stories twisted. Thank you Lyster and Nevin for your kindness, support and making it possible for a new kid on the block to be accepted which allowed me to interview almost 100 people.

The complete Myrtle Holland Memorial Oral History Project is on 24 CDs that were produced from August 2001 through to late January 2003. It's very hard to know where the last 18 months have gone! As they say in the classics: "Time flies when you're having fun."

An Introduction...

This project has been a very daunting task as I've interviewed almost 100 people. There was a spin off when I did the ABC Radio series: "Voices of Our Past" (VOOP) which was very well received by people throughout the Riverina, South West Slopes and is heard on ABC Central West based in Orange starting January 20, 2003 for the next six months. I crafted 140 four and a half to five minute episodes that amounted to over 10 and half hours of radio. This series is 29 to 30 plus hours of fascinating interviews and other material from personal and professional archives.

I've tried to cover as many subjects as possible and the original 12 to 15 CD's proposed has blown out to 24. I am hoping that Young Shire Council will agree to have this project a work in progress and as long as my health holds out I'll be able add one to three CD's a year similar to what encyclopaedia companies do. This will keep major happenings faithfully recorded for posterity and also, some of the people I have yet to interview could then be part of what I fondly hope will be an ongoing project.

When I was involved in a similar project in 1986 for SBS Radio and Television on the Copper Triangle incorporating Kadina, Moonta and Wallaroo 100 miles north of Adelaide ... one thing stuck out as it has now. The towns were an old copper mining area with Moonta boasting up 12,000 inhabitants with 14 churches that were packed out every Sunday. The miners suffered greatly from the 1860's onwards, with the underground dusty conditions shredding their lungs before they were 50. But the women kept the home fires burning by cooking, washing ironing and tending sick children in two typhoid epidemics which killed thousands of little ones. They then had to care for sick husbands often watching them die an agonising death as they stuck their heads near a roaring fire in the middle of our hot summer just to try and dry the air enough for them to breathe.

It's for that reason I've decided to name this series in honour of one particular woman who did it tough, Myrtle Holland. She is a real gem and is a staunch supporter of all that is good in society.

I hope you, the listener, will find my labours of the past 18 months rewarding. I have uncovered some historical gems that I never expected to find and that's the fascination that often grips an oral historian and makes his lot in life seem all the more worthwhile.

It's with great pleasure I commend to you the Myrtle Holland Memorial Oral History Project.

An important note on compilation

One thing I need to mention is the fact that I was unable to keep all the subjects on the one CD. The main reason for this is that one doesn't know how long the final produced piece will be and I was certainly against cutting good parts of any interview just for the sake of space. To this end I have produced an index in alphabetical order so you can pick up the names of those interviewed and also major events that have been covered.

I trust that when you listen to each piece you'll agree that it would have been a travesty to cut anything out of the completed pieces.




Reg Barlow

On Tape Editor's note: if you would like more information about Reg Barlow's project, including a complete summary of the CD's he's done thus far, you can contact him below:

The Myrtle Holland Memorial Oral History Project

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Reg Barlow Audio Productions**

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Australia.**

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PO Box 905, Young NSW 2594

Vale Jean Teasdale December 1928 – November 2002

Jean Teasdale, born Western Australia December 1928. She commenced her education at a bush school and then at the relatively new Albany High School in 1942. She attained a BA, Dip: in Social Science at University of Western Australia and Masters Preliminary at Universities of WA and Adelaide, before commencing her career in social work. She remained a locum social worker in the Emergency Department of Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital until very recently.

In 1975 Jean worked with the State Library Oral History Programme and it was following this that she became determined to form an association of oral historians, which she accomplished with the people who were interested in the early years, and it was as a result of her energy and dedication that the WA Branch of the Oral History Association began. The inauguration of the National Association was achieved in 1978.

Jean's undertakings in oral history were many and varied. Many early interviewers were trained by Jean and she encouraged anyone interested in this fresh acceptable approach to history to "have a go". She lectured in the process of oral history to secondary and tertiary school courses and in External courses at University of WA. She was on the Editorial Committee of the IOHA Journal, and also worked on the early WA Branch journal and newsletters.

As a volunteer, she co-ordinated the 1988 Bicentennial Oral History Project for Australians 1938, one of the volumes of *Australians: A Historical Library*.

Jean had many journal articles published, always including oral history. In 1997 her book *Facing the Bow – European Women in Colonial Malaya 1919-1945* was published. As a result of her many contributions to oral history Jean was made The Association's first Honorary Life Member.

Transcription Style Sheet

Here is the transcription format style sheet we use.

1. The heading at the beginning of the transcript and of each interview session should read as follows:

Narrator: Cecil Taylor
Interviewer: Pamela Dean
Transcriber: Toyna Breland
15 October 1991 [this is the date of the interview]

2. Tape and session changes are indicated in the body of the transcript as follows: [Begin Tape 84, Side A. Begin Session I.] [End Tape 84, Side A. Begin Tape 84, Side B] [End Tape 84, Side B. End Session]
3. Transcriptions should be typed double spaced. At the beginning of each session write out the interviewer's and interviewee's full names the first time they are used. Thereafter use only their last names. Do names in **bold**. The format is as follows: Cecil Taylor: [tab] Begin transcript Pamela Dean: [tab] etc. Taylor: Dean:
4. If you are using a transcribing machine or tape recorder that has counter numbers, insert them in brackets in **bold** [135] every two pages or at the beginning of a new topic. This will help you and other researchers find specific segments of the tape to listen to or review.
5. If you cannot understand a word or passage, listen to it over three times. Playing it over more than three times will not help. If it is still unclear, ask someone else to listen or put a question mark in parentheses (?) and leave space enough for the later listener to pencil in the text.
6. Transcribe as close to verbatim as possible, including every word they use in the order they use it. Leave out such space fillers as "ah," "er," etc. Use "yes" rather than "ya" or "yeah" even if the latter seem more accurate. "Yeah" used in an exclamation or sarcastically is an exception to this rule. You want your transcription to reflect the contents of the tape as closely as possible.
7. Use standard spelling. Do not try to reproduce accents. It's sometimes hard to decide just what spelling would accurately reflect the interviewee's pronunciation and it's hard to read. Anyone who is really interested in the accent or dialect should listen to the tape. Therefore, "Did 'em" is "did them," "nothin" is "nothing" and so on. However, do not try to impose standard grammar or word choice on those who do not use it.

Pamela Dean, Archivist
Northeast Archives of Folklore and Oral History
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Pamela_Dean@umit.maine.edu>
Date:18/2/2003

Oral History Association of Australia (OHAA)

Membership of the OHAA includes a subscription to the Journal of the Association, published annually. There are branches of the Association in all Australian States. Northern Territory members are attached to the SA Branch and ACT members to NSW. Branches hold regular meetings, run workshops and publish regular newsletters, and also provide a friendly and informative forum for those interested in oral history from any perspective.

Membership Fees (1 July 2003 to 30 June 2004) (please tick the appropriate box)

Individuals _____ **\$35**

Institutions _____ **\$55**

Students, Pensioners, unemployed _____ **\$25**

Household _____ **\$45**

I wish to join OHAA (please tick) _____

I wish to renew my membership _____

Name _____

Address _____

Occupation _____

Pension/Student No. _____

Interest(s) _____

Telephone _____

Email _____

**Not registered for GST. I enclose cheque/money
Order for the amount/s listed: \$ _____**

Please return this form to:

The Treasurer
OHAA Queensland Inc
4 Cadiz Court
BRAY PARK QLD 4500

Payment received (Office use only) _____
