



e-Bulletin

2 September 2017

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Hello Oral History Queensland members, here is your eighth e-Bulletin for 2017. It's a couple of days late as I've been away for a short break. As always send me any information you have to share in our e-Bulletin at mulligan53@iinet.net.au and use OHQ E-Bulletin in the subject line. If you have an event coming up, let me know as soon as you can to ensure it gets in the e-Bulletin in time. The editor reserves the right not to publish if any information is judged to be inappropriate. Please visit our web site: www.ohq.org.au and "**Like**" our Facebook page. Also check our Blog which is updated weekly with stories related to oral history. Feel free to add a comment. Any feedback is very welcome.

Suzanne Mulligan

1. Oral History Australia National Conference, Sydney

There's still time to come along to the Oral History Australia National Conference held in Sydney from 13 to 16 September 2017. If you're not coming, you may follow it on our Facebook page. There will also be reports in our next e-Bulletin. For more information click [here](#).

2. State History Conference, Adelaide, South Australia

Hearts and Minds: Revaluing the Past. This year the South Australia State History Conference will be exploring questions around the uses and value of history. The keynote

address will be a public lecture on the Friday evening, presented by futurist Dr Stuart Candy, as part of Open State. For full details, click [here](#).

3. The 'Dadbot'

"Tis I, the Beloved and Noble Father!" These were the first words uttered by what James Vlahos called the 'Dadbot': an incarnation of his now-deceased father as a fully-functional Facebook messenger chatbot. James first [wrote about this story in WIRED magazine](#). Armed with thousands of answers about his life, talking points, jokes and songs, the Dadbot essentially works in the same way that you might ask Siri about the weather; the difference is that the answers come from a dead San Francisco man who was born to Greek immigrants in 1936. You know - same same, but different. This is an amazingly innovative use for oral history. Read more and watch video [here](#).

4. Labour History Conference, Brisbane

The 15th Biennial Labour History Conference is being held at the University of Queensland from 23 to 25 September 2017. The conference theme is "Workers of the World". Today, the Australian working class are workers of the world: in the sense that we are a predominantly immigrant working class (or the descendants of relatively recent immigrants); and in the sense that workers from so many of the world's nations, languages and cultures have made their homes here. The year 2017 also marks the centenary of the Russian Revolution, which had such a profound impact on the labour movement in every country, not least as a result of its internationalism. For full details, click [here](#).

5. Royal Australian Historical Society Conference, Cowra, New South Wales

The theme of the 2017 RAHS Conference to be held 28 to 29 October 2017 is *Finding Lost Places, Lost People*. Uncovering hidden stories helps us better understand the past and can challenge our understanding of how the present came to be. Historical societies have an important role to play in ensuring that their communities' history does not get lost and that members of the broader community can find out about their work so that they too can learn and contribute to this history. Lost communities can be remembered and found through written archival records, photographs and voice recordings. The digital revolution is increasing accessibility to records and providing more tools to reach a wider geographical and demographical audience. To find out more, click [here](#).

6. Tasmania Newsletter

For your information and interest, you may see the Tasmania newsletter, Reel to Real, August 2017 [here](#). Please note, this newsletter will be removed from our website on 14 September 2017.

7. West Australia Newsletter

For your information and interest, you may see the West Australia newsletter, Play Back, August 2017 [here](#). Please note, this newsletter will be removed from our website on 14 September 2017.

8. Swimming with the Spit

Swimming with the Spit: Feminist oral sport history and the process of 'sharing authority' with 20th Century Female swimming champions in Sydney. Audio from Tanya Evan's recent talk at Oral History NSW's 9 August seminar is now available online! Listen here: <http://www.oralhistorynsw.org.au/oral-history-papers--audio-recordings.html>

9. The Immigrant Lad

Oral Historian, Barry York, writes:

"Just compiled this YouTube clip, featuring photos from my old family albums as a backdrop to the 1968 Tyneside folk song by Eric Burdon and The Animals, 'The Immigrant Lad'. The song has always had special resonance for me - being an 'immigrant lad'. The images are of some of my family members, including my parents and me, who made the voyage, and also photos of my parents' old ship trunks. It goes for four minutes. An excellent song for anyone with an interest in the emotions behind migration and who prefers bridges to borders.

The photo at the end, of the sun rising over the ocean, was taken up at Pearl Beach when Joan and I were up there a few weeks ago.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEiDRYe4UdE>

Regards,
Barry"

10. Italian Prisoners of War in Queensland

New member, Joanne Tapiolas, is doing a project about Italian Prisoners of War who were based in Queensland. If you have any information that might be helpful to Joanne, please contact her through her website. She writes:

"I am Townsville based so access to your publications, blog and e-Bulletin is very much appreciated.

I have been collecting 'oral histories' since December 2016 to support my research into Italian Prisoners of War in Queensland. I have not adhered to the strict format of professionals who collect oral histories (mainly because I stumbled into this part of the research) but I thought I needed to familiarise myself with the appropriate protocols and so found your group and have signed up.

My research covers 11 centres in Queensland: Stanthorpe, Nambour, Gympie, Gayndah, Texas, Home Hill, Kenilworth, Kingaroy, Monto and Boonah (farming districts where Italian POWs were sent to work from 1943- 1946) as well as Gaythorne (Gaythorne Prisoner of War & Internment Camp was the administrative and parent camp of all Italian POWs coming into and going out of Queensland).

This is a history largely untold and while a small chapter in Queensland history, I have a passion to research and promote this history. Farmers and their wives, of the time are in their mid-90s hence a sense of urgency for the project.

I started small, if I could find one photo of the Italian POWs on farms (there are only 3 in the John Oxley Library) or one person with a memory or find one story from each centre... and has grown to incorporate memories and stories from Italian POWs who

came to Queensland, Italian POWs who returned as assisted migrants post war. I now have a database of 1500 Italian POWs who worked on Queensland farmers and a small group of wonderful Queenslanders who have become an integral part of this project. Without the stories and memories from Queenslanders, the history is very official and black and white e.g. the rules and regulations of the scheme, dates and numbers, the logistics associated with placing POWs on farms.

As a way of promoting my research and also to give thanks and recognition to my contributors, I have set up a website: italianprisonersofwar.com and a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/prigionieridiguerraitalianiAustralia/>

The project has many branches so it doesn't necessarily fit into one category e.g. oral histories only; one specific district or region of Queensland; one perspective but bit by bit the stories, memories, photos are being shared and so this history has a profile."

11. The Warwick Egg Incident

Member, Pat Ryan, writes:

"I am sending [a flyer](#) about an event taking place in Warwick in November 2017. Please distribute to networks and post on your usual outlets.

Following on from the very successful historical commemorations of the events of World War I, a group of people got together to commemorate an incident that took place at the Warwick Railway Station 100 years ago this November which came to be known as The Warwick Egg Incident.

BACKGROUND

The Egg Throwing Incident occurred on 29th November 1917 when Prime Minister Billy Hughes stopped at the Warwick railway station during his campaign for the 1917 plebiscite on conscription. As Prime Minister Hughes started to speak an egg flew up from the crowd knocking off his hat. The thrower was Paddy Brosnan, or was it his brother Bart? Enraged, the Prime Minister lunged into the crowd, reaching into his coat pocket for his revolver which, fortunately, he had left on the train. Realising he was without his weapon, he ordered local Police Sergeant Kenny to arrest the egg thrower. The policeman declined, saying it was a Commonwealth matter and he, being a Queensland policeman, did not have the authority to make an arrest. This further enraged Prime Minister Hughes who went on to establish the Commonwealth or Federal Police Force to deal with such matters.

To commemorate this important event in the history of World War I a program of activities has been organised for Saturday 18th November at the historic Warwick Railway Station. The morning opens with two presentations by well-known historians Jeff Kildea (UNSW) and Rodney and Robin Sullivan (UQ). Their presentations will shed light on the perspectives of Irish Australians in Warwick and the broader story of conscription and Irish Australia.

After morning tea and mingling we have an opportunity for a Q&A with the historians and here we are joined in the panel discussion by Greg Hallam, historian at Queensland Rail and Pat Ryan, oral historian, Killarney. The Combined Union Choir is coming from Brisbane to entertain and to commemorate the labour movement's leadership of the anti-conscription campaigns in 1916 and 1917. The event will be MCed by Toowoomba born Senator Claire Moore who has a deep interest in this

social and political history. After lunch, there will be a re-enactment of the egg throwing incident with the Southern Downs Steam Railway Association.

BOOK EARLY to secure your seat. You can do this by clicking the link and it will guide you. <https://www.trybooking.com/RKHS> \$15 general admission and \$6 unwaged including refreshments.”

12. Access Oral History Australia Journal Articles on Informit

Through Informit

<http://search.informit.com.au/browseJournalTitle;res=IELHSS;issn=0158-7366>

- Browse Publications

- Select Oral History Association of Australia Journal

The contents of all journals from 1979 onwards are listed, click on document required to see details and abstract.

- Full text downloadable copies of articles may be viewed and downloaded for \$4 plus GST.

- Alternatively, Institutional users/students can log in via Shibboleth and use their password for free access.

OR

Through the National Library. You can find the article you want by looking through the Index and putting that in the Search or browse each issue.

Access through [National Library of Australia](#)

1. Firstly [apply](#) for a free Library card.
2. Once in receipt of your login details
3. Open the home page
4. Click on **e-Resources**
5. Login
6. In the **Find A Resource** search box type **Informit** and click the **Go!** button
7. Scroll down and click on **Informit e-Library: humanities & social sciences**
8. Click **Visit Site**.
9. Click **Browse Publications**
10. **Select** Oral History of Australia Journal. This will give you access to a list of all journal editions and you can download the article/s of your choice free of charge.

13. The Power of Story

The Keynote Address at the Crush Festival Bundaberg (6 to 15 October 2017) will be delivered by Arnold Zable, The Power of Story. Stories humanise. Stories provide a voice to the voiceless. Stories are a means of bearing witness. Stories cross cultural boundaries and can empower the traumatised and excluded. Writing and telling our stories are a means of exploring self-understanding. Join acclaimed Australian writer, novelist and human rights advocate Arnold Zable for this compelling guest address on the humanising power of story. <https://www.crushfestivalqld.com.au/tickets/power-story-writefest-keynote/>

14. Brisbane Square Library Talks

There are a couple of events coming up that might be of interest:

- **One city, many histories: Pride Month celebration. Sunday 10 September 11am-12noon.** Join authors David Hardy and Jill Bolen as they share stories about Brisbane places significant to the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community as sites of celebration, commemoration, reminiscence and remembering. Presented as part of the 'One city, many histories' series, bringing to light the often-untold stories of diverse communities and local places that reveal the different layers of Brisbane's past. Book by calling Brisbane Square Library on 3403 4166. Flyer [here](#).
- **Meet Melissa Ashley. Sunday 24 September 11am-12noon.** Artist Elizabeth Gould spent her life capturing the sublime beauty of birds the world had never seen before. But her legacy was eclipsed by the fame of her husband, John Gould. *The Birdman's Wife* at last gives voice to a passionate and adventurous spirit who was so much more than the woman behind the man. Join poet, writer, birder and academic Melissa Ashley as she discusses her experiencing in writing her debut novel *The Birdman's Wife*. Flyer [here](#).

15. Oral History Queensland Annual General Meeting

Our next Annual General Meeting which will be held on xxx October 2017 at the State Library. All positions on the Executive will be vacated – President (currently Margaret Ridley), Treasurer (Sandy Liddle) and Secretary (Suzanne Mulligan). These people will not continue in these positions. So we urge you to consider taking on these roles. We understand that it is difficult to get people to step up for roles in all volunteer organisations. Please think about it and if you would like to know more information about what the roles entail, you may email me, Suzanne Mulligan mulligan53@iinet.net.au. Unless we can fill these positions at our AGM, we will be compelled to consider "what next" with Oral History Queensland. The AGM is always a great opportunity to talk about your projects. Making connections at the AGM can be valuable for your own work. Please let me know if you will attend.

16. Dignity Therapy

I've been going through a folder of papers of "interesting stuff" that I've collected, having a bit of a de-clutter. I found a 2005 paper on Dignity Therapy that is still relevant today. You may also find it of interest. See it here <http://ascopubs.org/doi/full/10.1200/JCO.2005.08.391>

17. Tastes Like Sunshine

Tastes like Sunshine explores the flavoursome side of Brisbane's character and reveals its rich and evolving food story through contemporary art, personal stories and historical documents, and images.

Venue: Museum of Brisbane, Level 3, City Hall, Brisbane from 18 August to 12 November 2017.

More information: www.museumofbrisbane.com.au

18. Royal Historical Society of Queensland Events

The RHSQ has events coming up in September and early October:

30 September – *Riverfire* – Please come along to enjoy pizza drinks while watching the spectacular show from the yard, RSVP by 22 September 2017.

7 and 8 October – *Brisbane Open House* – Open on the weekend, volunteers welcome!

The Lost Brisbane and surrounding areas 1860-1960(I.)reprint is expected in September.

If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact our office on 07 3221 4198.

Kind Regards,
Ilona Fekete
www.queenslandhistory.org
info@queenslandhistory.org.au

16. Scholarship for International Oral History Association Conference

Oral History Queensland is offering one \$1,000.00 scholarship to attend the [International Oral History Association Conference](#) in Finland in June 2018. **Please note, the Call for Papers has been extended to 2 October 2017.**

To be eligible for the scholarship:

1. You must be a current financial member of Oral History Queensland (and renew in July 2018).
2. You are attending the Conference.
3. You must have no funding from any other institution, grant etc.
4. You must be currently enrolled in tertiary studies involving oral history OR currently working on an oral history related project and can demonstrate how you are using oral history as part of your project or research.
5. You will provide a comprehensive report on the conference – reviewing the sessions you attend, a general overview of the conference, impressions of speakers and fellow attendees. You will need to take thorough notes and also photographs to accompany the report. We would like to publish your report in the 31 July 2018 e-Bulletin (to be forwarded to Editor Suzanne Mulligan mulligan53@iinet.net.au by 27 July 2018).

You must provide name, contact details, details of university course (if applicable) and provide a statement of approximately 500 words explaining what you hope to gain by attending the Conference, addressing all the issues as shown above.

Please email your application to me by 20 September 2017. The successful applicants will be advised by 28 September 2017.

20. Oral Historian wanted for interview in Innisfail

I have received an email from someone wanting to hire an oral historian to interview his mother in Innisfail. He says:

“She was born in Innisfail on 19th June 1929, and is still healthy and living independently in Innisfail in her own home. She has never lived anywhere else permanently, and has a wealth of knowledge on the people and township. She grew up during the war years, and in fact was moved out west for some time as it was considered safer! She married a local and raised six children on the family farm. We grew up on a sugar cane farm, and she was always a good on the sewing machine making a lot of our clothes. Later on she would do an extensive amount of craft work, including quilting, dressmaking, cooking etc. She still spends a few hours a day in her large garden, and doing lots of cooking and entertaining. She has travelled the world frequently with family and friends to many different places (not so much in recent times).”

Please email me at mulligan53@iinet.net.au before 10 September 2017 if you are interested and I will put you in touch with the enquirer.

21. Brisbane History Grants

Community history groups and historians are encouraged to apply for a Brisbane History Grant. This grant supports projects that increase the community's access to and appreciation of Brisbane's history and heritage. Funding ranges from \$5000 to \$20,000. Applications are now open and close on Monday 16 October 2017. For further information, visit [Council's website](#) or phone Council on 07 3403 8888 and ask to speak to the Grants Unit.

22. History Queensland Newsletter

Oral History Queensland is a member of History Queensland. Their newsletter is now available on the internet [here](#).

23. Child Survivors of the Holocaust

Compass episode “Last Witnesses” was aired on ABC1 on Saturday 2 September. Check it out on iView - <http://iview.abc.net.au/programs/compass/RN1611H027S00>

“I think it is all a matter of love; the more you love a memory the stronger and stranger it becomes” — [Vladimir Nabokov](#) [from GoodReads Quotes]