

October Oral History Workshop

Suzanne Mulligan

On 31 October 2009, we had our final workshop day for the year with a number of interesting presentations. Once again OHAA (Qld) is very grateful to the State Library of Queensland for providing us with such an excellent venue.

We had an interesting day covering different aspects of oral history, starting out with Helen Klæbe and a “basic” oral history workshop. Helen also showed some of her digital stories from the “Apology” project. Later Bryan Crawford covered the use of still camera, video cameras and voice recorders. He discussed the relative merits of different types and showed there is something for every budget. Suzanne then showed how to publish interviews on to a Blog. The State Library's Oral History and Digital Storytelling Coordinator, Gavin Bannerman, then gave an overview of the SLQ's oral history collection. As a special treat, we had Francesco Ricatti give us his presentation on “Italians in Brisbane – Oral (Hi)stories of Hope”. An interesting discussion then followed.

Our workshop participants were once again a variety of people with some very interesting projects they have either already started or will be commencing in the near future. We had Ariella van Luyn, a QUT student who uses her oral history recordings to create fictional works. Noela Carr from Queensland Girl Guides plans to record the stories of former Girl Guides to build on the history of the Guides in Queensland. Noela said she found the workshop useful as they are “starting from scratch.” Antoinette Cass came from Bond University to learn about oral history so that it will form part of the corporate history of the university. Gail Taylor and Trish Henningsen were from Chinchilla Historical Museum and they plan a project interviewing the elderly residents of the Chinchilla area to help build their history from a personal perspective. Donald Kerr travelled from Barcaldine to be with us. Cathy O'Connor, Gail Halliwell, Rosalie Rasiti and Denise Sherwood are doing a project with the Brisbane Kindergarten Teachers College Graduates and Friends.

We were encouraged to receive positive feedback from all participants so we are pleased to know our workshop will be the first step for their projects. Future OHAA workshops will take them further and we will look forward to seeing them again. It was a successful day with the workshop participants gaining new knowledge which will help them pursue their oral history projects.