



# e-Bulletin

**30 April 2020**

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Hello Oral History Queensland members. Here is your fourth e-Bulletin for 2020 as we continue with our “interesting” times. I hope you and your families are all well, free of COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and continue to be so.

If you have information to share in our e-Bulletin please email me at [mulligan53@inet.net.au](mailto:mulligan53@inet.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](http://www.ohq.org.au) and “Like” our Facebook page. We try to put some interesting information related to oral history on our Facebook page as well as on our Blog. Feel free to add a comment. All feedback is very welcome.

**Suzanne Mulligan**

## **1. COVID-19 Memories**

This is an historic time which will bring forth books, journals, podcasts, documentaries, oral histories and more. I’m not yet aware of any major oral history projects related to the pandemic in Australia. If you know of any, please let me know at [mulligan53@inet.net.au](mailto:mulligan53@inet.net.au) so I can share it with members. There are many projects already being undertaken in the USA by universities and libraries. [Here](#) are some questions which could be asked to get an interview going about COVID-19. They may need to be undertaken remotely, observing social distancing rules. Answer the questions yourself and record on your mobile phone now while you are living the experience. Later you can send your recording to an institution in Australia when you learn of one collecting these memories.

## **2. Voices from Influenza Pandemic**

Amongst the many voices that make up the National Library of Australia’s Oral History and Folklore collection are people who remember the extraordinary events of 101 years ago – a 1919 Influenza pandemic which tested the world’s resilience and courage. Read more and listen to the recordings [here](#).

### **3. Conducting remote interviews**

Given the circumstances of the global coronavirus pandemic (COVID-19) Oral History Australia is advising that oral historians postpone face-to-face interviews until further notice as this is the best way to conduct interviews. However, if there are reasons the interviews must be done during the pandemic, here are some suggestions on conducting remote interviews:

Webinar Recording: Oral History at a Distance: Conducting Remote Interviews, sponsored by Baylor University's Institute for Oral History and the Oral History Association (USA). This free webinar is now available. Click [here](#) for the overview and link to the webinar.

Oral History Society (UK) has written a guide in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic which has required the suspension of face-to-face interviews. The guide was written in response to increased interest in conducting remote interviews and you can download the guide [here](#).

Transom.org have done a guide for interviewing during the pandemic which you can read [here](#).

The Vermont Folk Life Center's "Listening in Place" project has some advice on recording interviews remotely [here](#).

### **4. Working from Home**

State Library of Queensland's Anne Reddacliffe has posted a recent blog – Working from home? What you need to know and how State Library can help. Become a member if you haven't already. Learn more [here](#).

### **5. Sense of Place Podcast**

Member Hamish Sewell is a guest in this episode of the Sense of Place Podcast. He discusses his work and approach to audio-based storytelling, which bridges the gap between people and place. Listen [here](#).

### **6. At-Home Activities during the COVID-19 lockdown**

Suggestions from the [Federation of Australian Historical Societies](#) for COVID-19 collecting:

"In future decades members of your local community will look back with very mixed emotions at the COVID-19 pandemic from which we are now suffering. They will wonder about our experiences, just as we have become so fascinated with how Australian communities coped with the 1919 Spanish Flu pandemic.

While we are mostly blocked from attending our local historical society premises, we have the opportunity to prepare answers for the questions that may be asked in the future. What were the impacts on our local community? How did people adjust?

Some societies have already suggested that their members keep personal records and accounts of their day-to-day existence in the lockup, for inclusion in society archives once this is all over. FAHS endorses that as a very valuable project.

FAHS also suggests that some of you, our 'laid-off volunteers', may also wish to use part of their time to collect records about the experiences of their local community, its people, businesses and organisations.

Through newspapers, the capture of website images and social media conversations, taking their own images, you can build a record of how your community was impacted. What effect did the lockdown have on local businesses? How extensive was unemployment? How did people in the community respond to the peculiar circumstances?

Such material may be collected and printed in hard copy, and/or form a digital archive for future reference and research. You could even contribute to [A Journal of the Plague Year: an Archive of COVID-19](#), which is a collaboration between universities worldwide, including the University of Melbourne."

## **7. Edna Boone describes life during 1918/19 pandemic**

Recorded in 2008, Mrs. Boone, 100-year-old resident of Mobile, tells how her family was the only family in a small rural Alabama area that did not contract the flu during the 1918 flu outbreak. Mrs. Boone's family all became responders in her community. Her parents become instant nurses and she delivered soup to the door of ill families. Watch the video [here](#).

## **8. Oral History Australia Awards**

Oral History Australia is delighted to announce the following winners of the inaugural Oral History Australia Awards.

### **ORAL HISTORY AUSTRALIA BOOK AWARD 2019**

*Black Saturday: not the end of the story* by Peg Fraser, Monash University Publishing, 2018, Web address: <https://publishing.monash.edu/books/bs-9781925523683.html>

### **ORAL HISTORY AUSTRALIA MEDIA AWARD 2019 – JOINT WINNERS**

*A City Responds to Crisis: Volunteers and the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Sydney 1980s-1990s*, Curators: Anisa Puri and Shirleene Robinson, Digital Exhibition, Date of Production: January 2019, Web address: <https://acityrespondstocrisis.com/>

*The Making of Mardi Gras*, Catherine Freyne and Scott McKinnon (co-producers) with Mark Don (sound engineer)

*The Making of Mardi Gras 1979-1981*. ABC Radio National: The History Listen Program (Broadcast 19 June 2018).

<https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/the-history-listen/mardi-gras-1/9860340>

*Mardi Gras Supernova 2002-2003*. ABC Radio National: The History Listen Program (Broadcast 24 June 2018). <https://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/the-history-listen/mardi-gras-2/9887374>

For more information about these Awards click [here](#).

## 9. NOHANZ Conference Postponed

“It is with great regret that the Stout Centre and the National Oral History Association of New Zealand have decided that we will **postpone the oral history conference** planned for July 2020 at Victoria University of Wellington. We feel that there are too many uncertainties at this point. First, uncertainty around the trajectory of the Coronavirus, including the possibility that community circulation of the virus may persist for several months. Secondly, a concern that potential participants may decide to stay at home to protect their health. We therefore feel it would be unwise to proceed as originally planned with the conference in early July. We will be discussing possible alternatives, and we will keep you posted about our plans.” See more [here](#).

## 10. Libraries as Gardens

Message from OHQ Member Hamish Sewell “Dear friends. This is an invitation for all you writers, readers, gardeners and lovers of life to join me in offering up something for the [Libraries as Gardens](#) project: celebrating our collective voices at this time of Covid 19: It's just audio and a picture. So simple and won't take longer than 5-10 minutes. Take a break from Facebook, share something of yourself at this amazing point in time and help support this amazing project. Hamish”

## 11. Request for Oral Historian

Oral History Queensland has had a request from a relative for an Oral Historian to volunteer to interview an elderly uncle:

“My partner's elderly Uncle who lives on the Gold Coast, is now in his 90's and has had an amazing life. We only recently learned of him being washed up on a French beach and surviving a prisoner of war camp in Germany, as a very young man. He is English, but has lived in Australia since he was a young man, and has been in Queensland for very many decades. His wartime story we feel, is of most significant interest and when he goes, it will be lost. Would you be interested in talking to him and recording his story for posterity and perhaps future researchers? He is as sharp and bright as a button, but when you are 90-something we know not everything lasts for ever. He lives in a retirement village and is in all ways a lively, lovely and fascinating chap with much to say and a phenomenal memory!”

If you are interested, please email us before 15 May 2020 at [info@ohq.org.au](mailto:info@ohq.org.au), bearing in mind we are advised to delay face-to-face interviews at the moment.

## 12. History Queensland Newsletter

Oral History Queensland is a member of History Queensland. Their latest newsletter is packed with information and resources which are accessible to many of our members, including the State Library of Queensland and Queensland State Archives. Read their newsletter [here](#).

## 13. Sounds from Global COVID-19 Lockdown

“With countless communities and countries around the world entering lockdown and social distancing to combat the Covid-19 pandemic, the world is at present a very different place.

We know that – along with sounds – everyone has their own story to tell. We’re inviting anyone around the world to [send us a sound recording](#) from wherever YOU are, and tell us a little about how things are wherever you live. You can listen to the sounds and read the stories so far [here](#) – click on a point to listen to the sound, and hit the “info” symbol to read the story behind it.”

#### 14. Oral History of Disasters and Pandemics

“Mary Marshall Clark, Director of the Center for Oral History Research at Columbia University, leads a workshop on how to plan and conduct oral histories in communities affected by disasters and pandemics. She will share guidance on how to conduct life history interviews in the contexts of crises and disasters, including how interviewers can shield themselves from an overload of trauma, and how they can construct safe environments for narrators to tell their stories. The goal of this workshop is to provide oral historians with resources that have been proven in the field, and useful in a variety of contexts.” Click [here](#) to listen, and note, this is audio only.

#### 15. Museum & Galleries Queensland Links

Some links from the latest M&G Qld newsletter:

[Museum of Brisbane](#) – Memories of the First World War

The First World War erupted in Europe on 4 August 1914. Across Australia the call to arms was sounded. By the end of the year more than 50,000 young men and nearly 300 women had leapt to support the British Empire. Families waved farewell to their sons and daughters, husbands, brothers, sweethearts and friends. Then they waited anxiously for news from Gallipoli, Turkey – the place of Australia’s first active service in the war.

[North Stradbroke Island Museum](#) – Ailsa Perry Collection

The following are photographs from the Ailsa Perry Collection. They were taken by her over a number of decades. When Ailsa left school, her first job was working for Kodak at the West End factory building in Brisbane. Ailsa was taught to develop negatives and this contributed to her lifelong interest in photography. Ailsa had a box brownie camera. These are a selection of black and white photographs.

[ArtsHub](#) – Sharing National Library Treasures

Libraries are proving a popular go-to during COVID-19, and the National Library of Australia is no exception. Housing millions of items (not just books), billions of stories can be uncovered from the Library’s collections to educate and entertain.

[Museum & Galleries Queensland](#) – Online Content from Museums & Galleries

Thank you to those who joined the conversation, 'How are you connecting with your audience?' on 23 April. The following are some online programs and content these organisations have made available.

[Museum & Galleries Queensland](#) – Funding Opportunities

Museums & Galleries Queensland has compiled a list of grant opportunities available for museums, galleries and other cultural organisations in Queensland.

*“I have to live if I want to be remembered.” Suzanne Young, [A Need So Beautiful](#) [from GoodReads quotes]*