



e-Bulletin

31 October 2019

1. Oral History Australia Conference Report
2. Hazel de Berg Award 2019
3. Oral History and the Media
4. International Conference on Oral History, UK
5. Oral History Australia – new awards
6. Oral History Australia Journal 2020
7. Vale Sue Pechey
8. Hoist on one's own Ums
9. The Royal Historical Society of Queensland News
10. International Oral History Association Conference, Singapore
11. Oral History Queensland General Meeting
12. Suzanne Mulligan Oral History Collection

Hello Oral History Queensland members, here is your 9th e-Bulletin for 2019. Our Oral History Australia National Conference on earlier this month was a great success. The venue, State Library of Queensland, was excellent. The presentations were engaging and interesting. The food was delicious. And didn't we all love our conference bags. Congratulations to our Executive team for all their hard work which culminated in a wonderful four days. Any feedback about the conference is very welcome – good or not. We can learn and pass on to future conference organisers.

If you have information to share in our e-Bulletin please email me at 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 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. Oral History Australia Conference Report

This is one person's experience of the conference which by any measure was a resounding success. If you have any comments or observations you would like to share, we would like to hear from you. Click [here](#) for the report.

2. Hazel de Berg Award 2019

The Hazel de Berg Award for Excellence in Oral History was awarded to Rosemary Block. Read citation [here](#).

3. Oral History and the Media

The Oral History Society in the UK is calling for papers for their conference in 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. For more information click [here](#).

4. International Conference on Oral History, UK

For decades, oral history was considered less than scholarly, leading to its exclusion from several history books; thus valuable first-hand experiences and information that could alter historical truth were neglected and ultimately lost to oblivion. Our conference wishes to challenge the pervading view that oral testimony can lead to false representation of historical events and underline the significant support it can provide to historical research, especially in lieu of written documentation. For more information click [here](#).

5. Oral History Australia – new awards

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

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

For more information click [here](#).

6. Oral History Australia Journal 2020

Submitting articles – important dates for next issue. Contributions are currently being sought for the Oral History Australia Journal No. 42, 2020. This issue will be based on the theme of our 2019 Oral History Australia Biennial Conference: 'Intimate Stories, Challenging Histories'. Deadlines associated with this issue are:

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

Delegates at the 2019 Oral History Australia Conference are encouraged to submit their papers for publication. For more information click [here](#).

Editor's note: The 2019 Journal will soon be available. Members will be notified about access.

7. Vale Sue Pechey

We were very sad last week to learn that a great oral historian, Sue Pechey, died. Please read about her [here](#).

8. Hoist on one's own Ums by Sue Pechey

Reprinted from December 2004 "On Tape" Newsletter. This article by Sue Pechey shows us that even the best can still learn something.

I have been teaching oral history techniques for some time now, and there are a lot of people who have heard me say that remaining silent throughout an interview, except when interpolating a question, seems very unnatural. I can live with a few verbal prompts and think that some exchange of information (meaning some information from the interviewer as well as from the informant) is fine—though naturally one does not wish the interviewer's stories to dominate the interview. All very fine!

But in the latest project I have taken part in, I have been well and truly hoist on my own methodology. I have been working with Vicki Warden, Regional Museum's Officer in Toowoomba, to interview nine people from Killarney, Warwick and Allora, for a project entitled "People, Places and Pastimes"—35-45 minute interviews, using my minidisk recorder. Not at all a difficult task, and I met some wonderful people.

Then the real crunch—Vicki wanted no more than five or six minutes of each of these interviews, had borrowed an IBM with the relevant software and had a 2-hour workshop on how it all worked. She then gave me a lesson—in 10 minutes or thereabouts. We laboured mightily for about three weeks and everything that could have gone wrong did—ran out of disk space, could not save in the right format for the material to be played on a CD player, as opposed to on a computer, lost part of a couple of interviews by hitting the wrong buttons at the wrong time, even had the printer crack up as Vicki tried desperately to print CD labels. BUT, by far the worst part of the task was taking out all my oh-so-unhelpful non-silent prompts—uhm—uuuum—Oh, yes—Wow—Indeed ... and several more. Very tedious it is, trying to catch a nanosecond of sound and extract it without impairing the flow of the main speaker—not to say time-consuming. Never again!

And just to prove I can still (or is it, at last) learn by experience, one interview had to be repeated after I had started on my sound-editing career. It has scarcely an Um in all twenty-three minutes. Such a shame about all those interviews I've done over the last 30 years. I have visions of sound editors throughout the centuries cursing the day I first took tape recorder in hand.

9. The Royal Historical Society of Queensland News

Oral History Queensland is a member of RHSQ. Below information from Manager Ilona Fekete:

Dear Members, Librarians and Affiliated Societies,

The following events take place in the Commissariat Store this November— further information on our website and in the [attached program booklet](#) for November and December:

6 November, Wednesday, 1:30 pm - 3:30 pm, Special Talk by John Huth: A pictorial history of forestry in Queensland. The institute of Foresters of Australia together with the Royal Historical Society of Queensland welcome renowned forest history enthusiast, John Huth to present a lifetime collection of photos that recount the history of forestry in Queensland.

RSVP to ifaqlddivision@gmail.com

13 November, Wednesday, 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm , Wednesday talk by John Earwaker Lillian Cooper and Josephine Bedford
Register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/lillian-cooper-and-josephine-bedford-by-john-earwaker-tickets-60557527194>

27 November, Wednesday, 6pm, The RHSQ Annual General Meeting and Clem Lack Oration from 6:45pm by Ian Townsend: A Perfect Cyclone: Exploring the 1899 Pearling Fleet Disaster. – Mahina, the worst cyclone in north Australian history. Please RSVP to info@queenslandhistory.org.au by 25 November. Do not forget to hand in your nominations by 13 November!

29 November, Friday, 7pm, Ensemble in Residence 4. - A Camouflage Opera. Come and experience this premier in the Commissariat store! Based on Kurtág's only work for unaccompanied voice, staged by Stephen Danzig and described as the '3D opera' because of its unprecedented fusion of a live opera singer with film performances, soundscapes and multi-layered live video mapping.
<https://queenslandhistory.org/events/a-camouflage-opera/>

Save the date for our December events:

10 December, Tuesday, 6pm , Separation Day Celebrations and "110 years of lifesaving in Qld" Award Ceremony. You can book online:
<https://queenslandhistory.org/events/separation-day-celebrations/>

11 December, Wednesday, 12:30 pm - 1:30 pm, Edward Barton: father of the electricity industry in Qld

If you have any similar events you wish to advertise, or any other queries, please, contact me.

Ilona Fekete
Manager
Telephone 07 3221 4198
www.queenslandhistory.org
info@queenslandhistory.org.au

10. International Oral History Association Conference, Singapore

The International Oral History Association Conference will be held in Singapore from 22 to 26 June 2020 with the theme "Harmony and Disharmony". 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. For more information, click [here](#).

11. Oral History Queensland Meeting

All members living in and around Brisbane regional area and beyond, we would like to welcome you to our next General Meeting which will be held in Room 2D, Level 2, State Library of Queensland, Stanley Place, Southbank, Brisbane at 10.00 am on Saturday 9 November 2019. This is always a great opportunity to get together with your oral history peers to discuss your project and learn what's happening in the oral history world. This will be our first meeting since the Conference so whether you attended or not, we will discuss how it went.

Please email our Secretary, Sasha Mackay at sc.mackay@connect.qut.edu.au before 7 November if you can come. Also please let her know if you would like to add something to the Agenda.

12. Suzanne Mulligan Oral History Collection

At the recent OHA National Oral History Conference, I gave a short presentation about my oral history collection. The main purpose for presenting was to encourage oral historians to do as I have done, seek out interesting people to interview and build a similar collection. This is the lady who featured in my presentation – Muriel Bath https://mulliganoralhistory.info/?page_id=139

I've recently had to move my on-line collection from a Google site which will be shut down in the next few months. So this is the new "home" for my collection - <https://mulliganoralhistory.info/> My collection is also now preserved in the State Library of Queensland. I encourage you to donate your interviews to the State Library. It must have some relevance to Queensland and it must be digital.

"The living owe it to those who no longer can speak to tell their story for them." — Czesław Miłosz, The Issa Valley [from GoodReads quotes]