



# e-Bulletin

**31 March 2021**

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Hello Oral History Queensland members. Here is your third e-Bulletin for 2021. I hope this finds you well and recent flooding didn't adversely affect you. It's filled the tanks and brought green yards. Now another lockdown – we all hope it will be over on Thursday.

Don't forget, we're having our first face-to-face workshop for some time. There you will learn all the essentials for conducting an oral history interview. See item **12** below for more information.

If you have any 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 that 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, including posts related to COVID-19. Feel free to add a comment. All feedback is very welcome.

**Suzanne Mulligan**

## **1. AMOHG Preserving the Memory**

Australian Media Oral History Group (AMOHG) has produced a video of three of its members discussing their interest in oral histories as well as technical changes that affected the media industry. This video was recorded from a Zoom meeting in November 2020 and runs for 55 minutes and can be viewed [here](#).

## 2. Oral History Society (UK)

Oral History and the Media, 9 – 10 July 2021 (online). This conference aims to consider the relationship between oral history and the media, both historically and today, by exploring similarities, differences, opportunities and challenges between media practices and oral history practices, from interviewing to editing, audiences to ethics. For more information, see the [website](#)

## 3. Estonian Oral History collection

The Memory of the World Register is maintained by UNESCO as a record of documents, books and other records of enduring worth for the world. It is a parallel register to the World Heritage Register of Places. The Estonian Archives in Australia oral history collection has recently been accepted as part of 'Migration Voices'. The collection has now been accepted becoming the first ethnic community oral history collection held outside a major national library or archive added to the Australian Register. The full announcement is [here](#).

## 4. Questions for COVID-19 interviews

Some Questions to Get You Started:

- Describe the community where you live.
- When did you first learn about the coronavirus? What were your initial reactions?
- What were the first few months like during lockdown? How did that impact you?
- How were you affected by closures or restrictions?
- How has your opinion or feelings about the virus changed since you first learned about it?
- How did your community respond to the virus? What surprised you?
- Describe any events you witnessed that capture your or your community's response to the virus. (example: a drive-thru "party," a virtual graduation, a Zoom conference))
- How are you responding to the pandemic?
- How is your response affecting time with family and loved ones?
- Do you know anyone who contracted COVID? What was it like for them?
- Did you get tested for COVID? Describe your experience.
- Did you get a vaccine? Describe your experience.
- What lasting impact did quarantine make on your lifestyle or your attitude? How has social distancing changed your life?
- How do you think the virus will impact Queensland in the future? How has it already impacted Queensland?
- What permanent changes do you expect to see in our society and culture?

Questions adapted from - <https://www.bpr.org/post/how-record-foxfire-and-bpr-covid-19-oral-history-project#stream/0> The project here is in Appalachia, USA and is a good example.

## 5. Remember by Lisa Genova

A fascinating exploration of the intricacies of how we remember, why we forget, and what we can do to protect our memories, from the Harvard-trained neuroscientist and bestselling author of *Still Alice*. "Using her expertise as a neuroscientist and her gifts as a storyteller, Lisa Genova explains the nuances of human memory"--Steven Pinker, Johnstone Professor of Psychology, Harvard University, author of *How the Mind Works*. Find out more about *Remember* [here](#).

## **6. Listening to the Past Workshops**

Listening to the Past workshops are live, with hands-on activities to help participants develop their skills. Detailed workshop notes are provided.

For those who haven't previously done an online workshop, I provide guides to installing and using the video meeting software, and can provide one-on-one practice sessions in advance for those who are not used to using the software. To find out more, click [here](#).

Kind regards,  
Sally Stephenson  
Listening to the Past

## **7. DNA Discovery Day**

The DNA Group within Genealogical Society of Queensland (GSQ) is holding their annual seminar titled "2021 DNA Discovery Day" on Saturday 19 June 2021. Further information on this exciting day of great presenters can be found on the Flyer [here](#). Similar to our last major seminar, we have decided on an Early Bird discounted offer ending on 31 May 2021. All bookings are to be made through our website Events page [here](#).

If you wish to know anything else, please email [dna@gsq.org.au](mailto:dna@gsq.org.au) or myself at [mncav@hotmail.com](mailto:mncav@hotmail.com) OR see [facebook-twitter@gsq.org.au](https://www.facebook.com/gsq.org.au)

Regards  
Maureen Cavanagh

## **8. Brisbane Writers Festival 2021**

Brisbane Writers Festival returns home to State Library of Queensland from 7-9 May with an incredible program of writers, thinkers, dreamers and artists. Find out more [here](#).

## **9. Researching & Writing Historical Fiction**

Ariella Van Luyn is a past president of Oral History Queensland. Her online workshop offers skills in transforming research materials into vivid scenes in historical fiction. Participants will be introduced to techniques for finding inspiring archival material, setting scenes, composing vivid images and engaging characters. For more information click [here](#).

## **10. Community Heritage Grants 2021**

The [Community Heritage Grants](#) (CHG) 2021 round is now open for applications. The CHG program offers grants of up to \$15,000 (GST inclusive) to community organisations, libraries, archives, museums, genealogical and historical societies, and multicultural and Indigenous groups. Successful recipients are also given access to online workshops.

The grants are provided to assist with the preservation of locally owned, but nationally significant collections of materials that are publicly accessible including artefacts, letters, diaries, maps, photographs, and audio-visual material. The grants are also aimed at helping make these collections of materials more publicly accessible.

For general information on the program, including eligible organisations and projects, consult the [CHG 2021 Round guidelines](#) and website. [Email enquiries](#) are most welcome. The closing date for new applications is 10 May 2021.

*Catherine Aldersey, National Library of Australia*

## **11. Railway stories involving families of the Torres Strait**

Following the collapse of the pearl shell industry in the Torres Strait during the late 1950s, many Islander families were forced to migrate south in search of employment. Many joined the railway, laying tracks across northern Australia during the 1960s and 70s. This important collection of oral histories (1999 – 2000) originally recorded on 13 VHS tapes explores the little-known stories of the Torres Strait families and workers who chose this pathway.

Through Reel Rescue and the support of donors and the [Queensland Library Foundation](#), audiences can listen to individuals interviewed for the [Torres Strait Railway \(Family\) Histories](#). The project was coordinated and produced by Irene Feuz and the Department of Environment and Heritage during 1999 and 2000.

View the collection guide on State Library of Queensland's catalogue One Search. Family members include George Mye, Fred and Collina Saylor, Kemuel Kiwat, Bulli and Norah Saylor, Clarice Noah, Simeon Noah, Rebes Thaiday, Kay Wailu, Ron Passi, Sonny Passi, Jack Kennell, J. Boy Stephen, Annie Pau, Jackson Baker, Haley Nona, Nandy Laza, Zachariah Warrior, Richard Bowie, Miseron Levi, Marie Levi, Ghemat Pedro, Ned Ware, Elia Ware, Edie Boyd and Margie Bon, Hans Sambo, Angela Torrenbeck, Charlie Loban, Moses Abednego, Aaron Daniels, Carol Thompson, Dalton Bon and Vida Bob, Maurice Cloudy, Viti & Mrs. Olive Pearson, Paul Tom, Gaia Newie, Dannie Newie, Ina Titasay, Peter Nai (Yorke), Fr. Sonny Townson & Katang, James Sebasio, Bamaga-Ti, Thomas Mabo. See also photographs of the men working onsite in the Wrench Mills image collection in [Interview 27691/18](#).

*Reuben Hillier, State Library of Queensland*

## **12. Oral History Basics Workshop, Brisbane – a reminder**

Oral History Queensland is offering a Basics workshop in Brisbane on Saturday 17 April 2021. It will provide an overview of an oral history project, ethics and permissions, introduction to interview techniques, file management and transcribing. Numbers will be limited to provide a COVID safe workshop. We have a few places left. Those who have registered but not yet paid please do so quickly to secure your place. More information [here](#). For enquiries, email [info@ohq.org.au](mailto:info@ohq.org.au)

## **13. Brisbane's Living Heritage Network Newsletter**

Oral History Queensland is a member of BLHN. Read their April newsletter [here](#).

## **14. New Zealand COVID Stories**

"A collaboration project between Auckland Libraries and Manatū Taonga Ministry for Culture and Heritage launches a [five-part podcast series](#) today to commemorate one year since the level four lockdown. Called 'Kei Roto I Te Miru: Inside the Bubble', the podcast series is a

culmination of short oral histories that were collected by oral historians from various communities around the country.” Read full article with links to interviews [here](#).

## 15. Finding Your Family

Queensland Family History Society is conducting a beginner’s course in family research. This six-week online course will be very comprehensive for someone wanting to start researching their family history, but unsure of the process. Content will include home sources, organisation, BDM certificates, archives, libraries, newspapers, overseas research, and much more. Registrations will be limited to 10 people. Find out more and register [here](#).

## 16. Introduction to Oral History

Oral History NSW is having another “Introduction to Oral History: Key Principles Everyone Should Know” Zoom workshop on 24th April 2021, 10am-Noon. Hosted by Scott McKinnon. Oral History NSW Vice President explores some of the key ideas behind oral history as a methodology and will outline important steps in planning oral history projects, including tips on preparing for, undertaking and preserving interviews. [Link here](#).

## 17. History Matters: Community History

7 April 2021, 5.30 - 6.30pm, online. In this session, three speakers discuss the production of histories that inspire communities to reconsider and reconnect with their past in creative and meaningful ways. These innovative storytellers consider how community histories can utilise a range of media, including photography, oral history and geo-locative mobile apps, to construct powerful insights into a particular time and place. [Register](#) for this free online event via the State Library of NSW.

**“I had discovered that older people loved talking about the world they remembered and a cornucopia of wonders invariably opened up.” *The Penguin Lessons* by Tom Michell**