



e-Bulletin

31 May 2021

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Hello Oral History Queensland members. Here is your fifth e-Bulletin for 2021. I hope you are well and safe. I've been very interested to hear about the projects many of you are working on or thinking about. Those who joined us for the Peer Support meeting earlier this month are tackling some great projects. My current project is the story of the oldest person to sail non-stop around the world, unassisted whom I interviewed a couple of weeks ago. It was my first interview with my new Zoom H5 recorder. The sound quality is excellent. I'm currently transcribing the 2 ½ hour interview. I use Transcriber (download for free) for that task. It will take a while to complete. Other members have used Express Scribe. If you want someone else to do your transcribing, you can check our Links page.

If you have any information to share in our e-Bulletin please email me 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 that 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, including posts related to COVID-19. Feel free to add a comment. All feedback is very welcome.

Suzanne Mulligan

1. Qalbum

At the History Queensland Annual General Meeting on Saturday 8 May 2021, we learnt about Qalbum: a photo sharing site. Check it out. You may like to contribute.

<https://qalbum.archives.qld.gov.au/>

2. History Matters

History Matters is regular series of seminars presented by [Oral History NSW](#) and the [Professional Historians Association \(NSW & ACT\)](#) and generously hosted by the [State Library of NSW](#). See them [here](#).

3. Tasmania Newsletter

For your interest and information, you may read the Tasmania Newsletter “Real to Reel” for April 2021 [here](#). Please note, this newsletter will be deleted on 14 June 2021.

4. Irish Life & Lore – Voices from the Archive

“Over 4,000 oral history recordings have been compiled in Ireland by Maurice O’Keeffe of [www.irishlifeandlore.com](#) since 1995. Maurice and Jane O’Keeffe of Tralee, Co. Kerry set up Irish Life and Lore, an educational and commercial organisation, to record and archive oral history in Ireland. Now it’s time to share some of the best recordings with you, and allow you to listen to first-hand accounts of pivotal moments in Ireland’s national and social history. The generations which went before us could never have imagined the immense change which has come about in the way we live over the past century in Ireland. The Irish Life and Lore podcasts offer the listener an opportunity to hear the voices of eye witnesses to this change, in all their individuality and authenticity, and in their manner of speaking unique to their local area. We hope you enjoy listening!”

<https://www.listennotes.com/podcasts/irish-life-lore-voices-from-the-archive-u2AXHUNQyMa/>

5. Bearing witness to COVID at UC Santa Cruz

The Empty Year: An Oral History of the Pandemic(s) of 2020 at UC Santa Cruz is an immersive project that shows how community members coped in the time of COVID-19. Someday, future historians will read the detailed stories of 22 UC Santa Cruz community members who lived through the COVID-19 pandemic. Read more [here](#).

6. How to Guides

“The State Library of Queensland’s *how to guides* can help you preserve and care for your collections at home or work.” Read more [here](#).

7. “Beneath Tropic Skies’

Member Pam Willis Burden from Port Douglas was successful with her grant application for her next project:

“I would like to develop a new project, “Beneath Tropic Skies”, to collect local historical stories of significance from the immediate past.

This initial concept development phase of the project would involve professional research to establish who would be willing to record their stories, and to delve into their background to ascertain if they were suitable.

Some potential participants could include pioneering tourism businessmen, a restaurateur who has been in Port Douglas for decades, a teacher who was researched the Kuku Yalanji language, a director of Mossman Mill, and a lady in her 80s who arrived from Yugoslavia without English to marry a cane farmer. Hopefully, I can also have permission to record stories from some local indigenous people. The key is to collect diverse histories. At least 20 good participants would be required if edited stories are to be included in a book.

My previous projects have resulted in three successful publications – “Port’s People”, “Raindrops and Sugar Crops”, and “Surviving Paradise”. The recording, then transcribing and editing, takes a very long time, so it is clearly vital to research and choose suitable interviewees at the outset.

The oral history interviews can run from one to four hours, depending on how many memories people can recall. This is an excellent method to preserve our local history, and to be able to share people’s experiences with the community.

It is vitally important for the cultural development of our area that these stories are recorded and preserved for the future, and that public access to these histories is made easy - for children, researchers and tourists. Our neighbourhood schools are incorporating local history into their curriculum and have already been using my previous books which feature stories about our Douglas Shire. Even local real estate agents bought the previous books to introduce new residents to the history and ways of life in our area.

Our history is our heritage. We cannot progress without appreciating the past. Hopefully my collections of oral histories will be available for generations to come.”

See Pam’s video on doing your first oral history project [here](#).

8. Oral History Australia Awards – a reminder

Nominations and applications for Oral History Australia's three biennial awards - the Hazel de Berg Award for Excellence in Oral History, the OHA Book Award and the OHA Media Award - are now open. Find out more at: <https://oralhistoryaustralia.org.au/2021-awards-now-open/>. The closing date is **1 August 2021**. Winners will be announced at the 2021 Biennial Conference in Launceston, Tasmania in October.

9. Unfinished Business: Australian Historical Association (AHA) 2021 Conference

The AHA invites papers exploring the unfinished business of history to be held 29 November - 2 December, UNSW, Sydney and State Library of NSW. Proposal submissions are now open for individual papers, panel sessions and roundtable discussions that explore conference themes. Submissions extended to **18 June 2021**. Full [CFP found here](#).

10. City of Sydney oral histories

“This website includes many oral history interviews with a diverse range of narrators. There are excerpts from interviews and transcripts. The interviews are organised under six themes and the website also includes digital stories and other resources about historical periods and the diverse groups of people who have lived in the City of Sydney.” Visit the website [here](#).

11. Video Introduction to Oral History at the National Library of Australia

“An introduction to Oral History at the National Library features Senior Curator Shirleene Robinson, current Committee member and Past President of Oral History NSW. Dating back to the 1950s, the oral history collections at the NLA include 55,000 hours of recordings 100 hours of interviews and music. The link is found [here](#).” While there, check out the other interesting NLA webinars.

12. Recruiting Your Volunteer Workforce

Oral History Queensland and many of our members rely on volunteers to keep us going. “Struggling to find volunteers? Are your current volunteers overworked? This Brisbane City Council webinar will explore strategies to increase your volunteer team and improve your volunteer engagement and retention.” Watch video [here](#).

13. BLHN Newsletter

Oral History Queensland is a member of Brisbane’s Living Heritage Network. This is their latest [newsletter](#). Please **do not** Unsubscribe.

14. Oral History and the Media

Oral History Society (UK) and the Media conference is on 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. Bookings now open. For more information, see the [website](#). See time difference [here](#).

15. Bursaries for OHQ Members – an update

Oral History Queensland is offering a number of bursaries to attend the Oral History Australia National Conference in Launceston, Tasmania in October 2021. Each bursary will cover the conference registration fee (includes Welcome Drinks), plus \$200 to assist with travel and/or accommodation. The Conference Dinner or additional workshops are not included so they will need to be self-funded. See the conference website [here](#).

Registration will be open at the end of June. We understand members may be hesitant to commit to traveling to Tasmania at the moment because of the unpredictability of COVID. Therefore we are extending the date for applications for the bursary to 1 September 2021.

To be eligible for the bursary:

1. You must be a financial member of Oral History Queensland as at 1 July 2021.
2. You are attending at least the two days of the National Conference 15-16 October 2021
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 OR planning to do an oral history project.
5. The successful applicants 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 – which will be published in the 31 October 2021 e-Bulletin (to be forwarded to Editor Suzanne Mulligan mulligan53@iinet.net.au by 27 October 2021). To this end you will need to take thorough notes with photographs to accompany the report.

You must provide name, contact details, details of university course (if applicable) and provide a statement of approximately 200 words explaining what you hope to gain by attending the National Conference, addressing the issues as shown above.

Please email your application to info@ohq.org.au by 1 September 2021. The successful applicants will be advised by 15 September 2021.

16. Plan or perish: Ensuring the survival of community oral histories

Annual OHV symposium, 20 June 10:00 am - 1:00 pm. How can we ensure the stories of local communities recorded by oral historians survive the ravages of time? This online Oral History Victoria (OHV) symposium is an opportunity to explore and discuss the challenges facing communities and oral historians in preserving recorded interviews for the future. Find out more [here](https://ohv-symposium-2021.eventbrite.com.au). OHQ members, use discount rate when you book here, - <https://ohv-symposium-2021.eventbrite.com.au>.

17. Bayran Ali Exhibition at Powerhouse, Sydney

Siobhan McHugh, oral historian and podcaster presented at this event. She says:

“Here’s [a high quality video of the public talk at the Powerhouse](#) last week that brought three lovely parts of our history into a splendid conversation. Louise Whelan showed her beautiful collaborative photographs of contemporary migrants and refugees; curator Anni Turnbull showed us rare and precious photos of life on the Snowy HydroElectric Scheme taken by a Turkish- Cypriot worker, Bayram Ali; and I presented stories and oral history excerpts I recorded with migrant workers on the Snowy, from my book, *The Snowy - A History*. Enjoy - it will only be online for a few weeks!”

18. Example of a COVID Project

This is an example of a COVID project being done at Princeton, New Jersey, USA. [This site](#) explains what they’re doing. Then you can click on the headings on the left of the page – Listen to Stories; Share your story; and Get Involved: Facilitate an Interview. Then there is [a guide for COVID interviews](#) on how to do them, either with yourself or interview another person. It includes suggested questions. We could do something similar in Australia

“I’m here to remember – all that I have been and all that I will never be again.” *When All Is Said* by Anne Griffin.