



# e-Bulletin

**31 August 2021**

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Hello Oral History Queensland members. Here is your eighth e-Bulletin for 2021. Unfortunately, COVID is still with us, affecting travel within Australia. We've had a busy month, particularly with "attending" the International Oral History Association conference. I very much enjoyed the conference though miss the face to face aspect.

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. AGM – New Executive**

On Saturday 28 August, we had our AGM and a General Meeting. All Executive positions were declared vacant. Elisabeth Gondwe was elected President so she will continue the excellent work she's been doing. We're very pleased that Sasha Mackay was elected Secretary so will continue in that position. We elected and welcomed a new Treasurer, Helen Turner, who is also a member of History Queensland.

## **2. International Oral History Association Conference**

Some of our members attended the "virtual" IOHA Conference in Singapore last week which was excellent. There were a number of interesting papers presented, including from OHA members Sasha Mackay, Helen Klæbe and Eve Wicks. The conference was hosted on Zoom and it all ran smoothly. There were such a rich variety of papers and they will all be available online till 22 September to those who registered. See the conference page here - <https://www.ioha2021.gov.sg/> Click on the Papers tab on the top right of your screen for the

abstracts. Information about the Keynote speakers is under Programme tab. Those who attended last week and missed seeing papers in other streams can catch up. And for those who missed out altogether last week, you can still register and explore the wonderful presentations.

### **3. Migrant Voices**

Oral History Australia has announced a Call for Papers for a special issue of the OHA journal *Studies in Oral History* to be published in 2022. Alexandria Dellios and Maria Savvidis will jointly edit the issue (no. 44), which will focus on the theme 'Migrant voices: Community collaboration and telling migration histories'. For peer review, deadline is 1 November 2021. Find out more [here](#).

### **4. Museum of Australian Democracy**

The Museum of Australian Democracy's Oral History collection contains a wealth of personal recollection and insight into the building and its people during the era when it was home to the federal parliament.

<https://oralhistories.moadoph.gov.au/>

### **5. Expression of Interest – Oral Historians**

The State Library of New South Wales is considering applications from experienced oral historians to add to and enhance the Library's oral history collection. If you have experience in conducting digital recordings of oral histories, particularly with culturally and linguistically diverse communities, First Nations individuals and communities, STEMM subjects, disability, transport, religion, or LGBTQI+ communities, we'd like to hear from you. For more information and how to apply please refer to the [Expression of Interest](#). Applications close **10 October 2021**.

### **6. The Value of Oral History**

One of our institutional members contacted us recently to relate a story which reinforces what we already know about oral history, but always nice to hear anyway. I have anonymised the email:

"We are in constant contact with an author, who has been commissioned by xxxxx to draft a book on the history of our organisation. He has drawn heavily from our Oral History collection.

He visited our museum, pre-COVID, and asked to speak in person to one of the individuals with whom we had recorded an oral history. We were able to set up an appointment for him and he visited the subject at his retirement village. The author later commented that the oral history he listened to in our museum, ended up being more informative than his own face to face interview with the subject at his retirement village. Predictably, the subject's memory had faded with age, and when we interviewed him, we knew the sort of questions to ask that would perk him up. Being "former employees" ourselves, we knew how to speak his language. And fortunately, his memory of certain events are still with us.

I thought that was something of a compliment - the fact that our recordings could still be of use, even when the subject was still with us, and in spite their memory having slipped away.

In my mind it definitely confirmed the value of recording oral history for posterity.”

## **7. Museum & Galleries Queensland New Website**

M&G Qld are delighted to announce that their new website is now live. Their main goal was to create a website that is more accessible, attractive and engaging to the Queensland gallery and museum sector as well as to the wider public. They hope you enjoy the new look and improved navigation. Please feel free to browse and share - <https://magsq.com.au/>

## **8. Sands of Time – date claimer**

History Queensland Secretary Valerie Thornton has advised that History Redcliffe will be hosting the next Local and Family History Conference “[Sands of Time](#)” on 21-23 October 2022.

## **9. National Library of Australia seeks EOIs from Queensland-Based Oral Historians**

The National Library of Australia welcomes expressions of interest from Queensland-based oral historians who would be interested in conducting interviews for the National Library of Australia. The Library would be particularly interested in hearing from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander oral historians and from experienced oral historians who speak languages other than English. Language skills in Mandarin, Cantonese or Fijian would be particularly beneficial as the Library is currently embarking on two new oral history projects with members of the Chinese Australian community and the Fijian Australian community. Please send a curriculum vitae and links to samples of oral history interviews to [select@nla.gov.au](mailto:select@nla.gov.au) marked for the attention of Dr Shirleene Robinson.

## **10. Lord Mayor’s Better Suburbs Grants**

Grants for historical organisations (previously applied for under the Brisbane History Grants program) will now be part of the new Lord Mayor’s Better Suburbs Grants (Community Support Category). This grant provides funding to support projects that respond to local community needs, improve community facilities and build organisational capacity. If you have a project in mind - start the process of application now! This grant will open 30 August 2021 and will remain open until all funds are expended. **The sooner applications are received the higher the chance of success.** [Click here](#) for more information.

## **11. History Matters**

The next seminar will be held online in October. Catch up with the 2020 History Matters [seminars online](#) for your viewing and listening pleasure.

## 12. IOHA Inaugural Book Award

Oral History Queensland is proud to inform you that member Eve Wicks was awarded the inaugural IOHA Book Award:

Lisa Wong, National Archives, Singapore, said “It is with honour that I announce the IOHA book award winner, Dr Eve Wicks of Australia. Her publication, *In Sunshine and Shadow; reflections on Lithuanian Immigrant Life*, is a bi-lingual art book which narrates the experience of forcibly displaced immigrants to Australia, during and after World War Two. The Awards Committee felt that it was poetic, creative and beautifully presented. Dr Wicks is Adjunct Research Fellow at the School of Humanities, Languages and Social Science, Griffith University, Australia.’

In reply, Eve Wicks said, ‘I am deeply honoured to receive the inaugural book award of the International Oral History Association, and I thank the Association most sincerely for this privilege. I also wish to thank, acknowledge and pay respect to the Oral Historians who have led and championed the discipline, and whose writings have informed, influenced, and inspired me. I can still hear and remember the oral voices of each participant in this study. It is a unique experience; and, although almost all have passed away, the people, their character, their experiences of sunshine, pain and trauma, and their generosity, remain with me. Periodically, the trauma and the darkness in this study, have been difficult for me to manage and reconcile. This interdisciplinary study, integrating oral history with creative arts practice, both utilises and breaks with the disciplines’ traditions. I feel great joy, in its recognition as a study communicating significant history, in an expressive, creative and innovative form.’

Read a review of Eve’s book [here](#).

## 13. Finding Family in England and Wales

Email received from Maureen Cavanagh, Genealogical Society of Queensland, saying:

“The Genealogical Society of Queensland (GSQ) is holding their annual seminar titled ‘Finding Family in England and Wales Records’ on Saturday 23 October at 12:30pm AEST. As this event is our major fund-raiser for the year, my task is to approach fellow Australian societies and groups on behalf of GSQ to request help in publishing the event to your members.

To that end I was wondering if you would be able to include our event in announcements to your wider audience? Further information on this exciting afternoon of great presenters can be found on the [attached brochure](#) which you are welcome to distribute. The seminar has an Early Bird discounted offer ending on 30 September 2021. All bookings are to be made through our website Events page <https://www.gsq.org.au/event/finding-family-in-england-wales-records/>”

## 14. Listening to the Past – Upcoming Workshops

Sally Stephenson’s next workshop on 9 September 2021 is about learning to edit oral history and sound recordings. Sally says:

“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. I hope you can join in!"

OHQ President Elisabeth Gondwe attended Sally's Introductory Workshop on 20 August 2021. Elisabeth said, "It was excellent! One of the best that I have ever attended in terms of concise information and workshop structure. I loved the video component and the slides. It was actually pretty brilliant."

Find out more about the upcoming workshops [here](#).

## 15. John and Ruth Kerr Medal

The Royal Historical Society of Queensland Manager Sophie West has advised:

"The Royal Historical Society of Queensland and PHA Qld are pleased to announce that nominations for the 2022 John and Ruth Kerr Medal of Distinction are now being received. The John Douglas Kerr Medal of Distinction in historiography, historical research and writing was established in 2005 and is awarded annually to a practicing historian of note, as a tribute and witness of esteem to acknowledge excellence in historiography, historical research and writing in the context of Queensland or Australian history in any of its themes and disciplines. In 2020 the award was renamed The John and Ruth Kerr Medal to acknowledge the substantial contribution that both historians have made to the profession.

The criteria for the award are:

- Demonstrated excellence in historical research in any one or more fields of Queensland or Australian history
- Demonstrated and identified use of wide-spread appropriate source material in the context of the nominee's research field or fields
- Demonstrated objective analysis, distillation and interpretation of historical source material leading to the formation of historical arguments arising out of the research
- Demonstrated acceptance of the highest standards of scholarship as judged by the Queensland community of professional historians, assessing the work of written contributions of the nominee
- Is currently practicing as a historian at a professional standard

Further information and nomination forms are available from the [Royal Historical Society of Queensland website](#). Nominations close **31 March 2022**."

Upcoming events for RHSQ [here](#).

*"It's been such a long time, though some things feel like they happened only yesterday.' She looked off into the distance. 'But memory's like that, I suppose.'" The Last Reunion by Kayte Nunn.*