

OHAA February 2010 Workshop

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On 27th February 2010, the OHAA, Queensland branch, ran another ‘basics’ workshop, which equipped participants with the foundational skills needed to start and run an oral history project. Dr. Helen Klaebe facilitated the workshop. Issues covered included conducting interviews; copyright; ethical clearance and the use of technology in recording



and presenting oral history. Bryan Crawford also took a session on photography.

Participants included Hamish Sewell, a writer and radio producer at Radio National. Hamish is currently working with the Murray Darling Basin Authority (MDBA) on a project gathering oral histories around the Murray Darling Basin in order to raise awareness of the impact of the river in both a social and scientific context. Hamish is also interested in investigating establishing a project, The Story Project, based on the StoryCorps model (the OHAA delicious site has details on StoryCorps). Carmen Burton, a curatorial assistant at the Museum of Brisbane (MoB), was about to begin an oral history project at MoB. Sue Gammon, youth and community services librarian, came all the way down from Bundaberg to attend the session. Gill Ford, a teacher at the University of New

England (UNE), was able to share some of practical advice from the session with her classes.

Positive feedback included that the workshop was well organised and not too formal, with information presented in an interesting and logical sequence. Participants enjoyed the diverse mix of participants and the contribution they made to discussions. Helen was described as a



lovely, warm personality, who obviously knew her stuff. Bryan was described as warm, engaging, super helpful, a natural teacher.

Participants also provided some constructive criticism, which the committee will take on board in planning future workshops. For many, the venue at the

Brisbane Square library was the biggest drawback. Participants also asked for a checklist at the end of the workshop to reinforce the salient points and wanted more detail on interviewing techniques. A workshop with more details on interviewing techniques and transcription was also requested.

An “equipment” workshop will be run on Saturday June 5. A workshop specifically on editing and transcribing will be held on Saturday September 11. More details on these will be available in later newsletters and on the website.