



Oral History Association of Australia NSW (Inc)

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## **President's report for the year 2012-2013**

Welcome to the 35 new members have joined during the past year – we are now about 250 strong! We exist to support each other and answer inquiries about many aspects of oral history.

This year has seen important developments both in the national and state OHAA organisations.

At the annual general meeting on 22 September members from all states voted to change the name of the national body OHAA Inc to Oral History Australia Inc. A new constitution was also approved to provide an effective voice for each state, as well as a balanced and efficient structure for the national committee. Our representative Sandra Blamey has been a tireless advocate and facilitated much of this work. OHAA NSW supports the national association with capitation fee, and in return the national committee produces the annual journal and organises the biennial conference.

At the biennial conference *She said, he said* in Adelaide 20-23 September was very stimulating. The committee arranged for three OHAA NSW members to receive a grant towards their expenses to present papers at the conference.

Last year's committee embarked on a re-branding and design project. This year's committee has been working throughout the year to facilitate a change of name from the somewhat obscure acronym OHAA NSW to Oral History NSW. As a result we reviewed and redrafted the OHAA NSW constitution to bring it in line with new legislation for associations and to reflect how we work with the national organisation.

The association's core business of providing talks, workshops and seminars to discuss many aspects of oral history as well as training sessions on the practice of oral history has continued. We are pleased that regional outreach has been expanded with a workshop held in the Shoalhaven and another in Orange - more are in the pipeline. Several OHAA members have volunteered to speak about oral history in Lake Macquarie, Mosman, Leichhardt, Shellharbour, Museums and Galleries NSW and at a family history expo in Gympie.

We are a collaborative organisation running joint training workshops with regional organisations and the Royal Australian Historical Society. We also work with Sally Hone, Curator of Oral History at the State Library of New South Wales, where we have held two successful seminars.

*Network News*, bringing you notice of seminars, talks and workshops, relevant oral history news and interviewing opportunities, arrives each month thanks to the efforts of our compiler and editor, Susan Kennedy. Our biannual journal, *Voiceprint*, is the place for reports of oral history projects you have undertaken, seminars you have attended, and reviews of our activities. Thanks are due to Margaret Leask and Sally Schwartz for such a professional product.

Many people help in the association's work, with archiving, catering, registration, assisting local inquiries and providing support to members.

The committee have all contributed to the organisation's work, but special thanks to Trish Levido retiring after several years on the committee and as pivotal trainer in OHAA NSW oral history workshops. Thank you also: Sandra Blamey, Pat Francis, Frank Heimans, Graham Hinton, Andrew Host, Carol McKirdy, and retiring members Tim Carroll and Maria Hill.

OHAA NSW exists for you, don't forget to be involved.  
Virginia Macleod