

## President's report for the year 2013-2014

---

We welcomed 33 new members and many returning members during this year; so we currently exist to support you - 240 people and institutions who are either already involved in practising oral history or are about to start. All of you are interested to learn more and contribute to this rapidly expanding field. Read how your subscriptions have been used to your benefit.

In the 10 months since the association's new name was approved at our AGM last October, Oral History NSW has achieved a new presence on the internet. Our website has been completely redesigned to make it more appealing visually and easier to find what you want. The section Doing Oral History provides comprehensive guidelines, technical information, copyright information and templates for documenting interviews and conditions of consent. Read /Listen section stores our monthly newsletter Oral History Network News now archived for a six monthly cycle and Voiceprint is available from October 2011. You can also listen to seminars you may not have been able to attend, and find reference articles and books to expand your knowledge. The headings are self explanatory – so explore all that the site offers. [www.oralhistorynsw.org.au](http://www.oralhistorynsw.org.au)

The upgrade started at the end of December and finished at the end of June. The work was commercially contracted to the company who has hosted and managed our our site for three years. However much of the supervisory work was undertaken by Sandra Blamey, who has been dedicated and tenacious, ensuring that we have a good quality result. Member, Sava Pinney has volunteered to maintain the website now construction is complete, a task previously undertaken by Tiiu Tarmo. Thank you all.

Our change of name also entailed work on providing a new format and template for both Network News and Voiceprint. Network News has already been released with its new masthead and Voiceprint will appear in October.

For the last two years Susan Kennedy edited and produced Network News bringing members notices of events, websites, exhibitions, podcasts, articles and other contributions about oral history. Francis Good took over in May and has kept up this tradition with interesting content. Thank you both.



Margaret Leask and Sally Zwartz, our editors of Voiceprint bring us a rich publication with in-depth articles and contributions from members about their experiences doing oral history and we reached a milestone with the 50th anniversary publication in April 2014. Francis Good will be joining the team and allowing Margaret to retire for the edition in April 2015. Thank you all three.

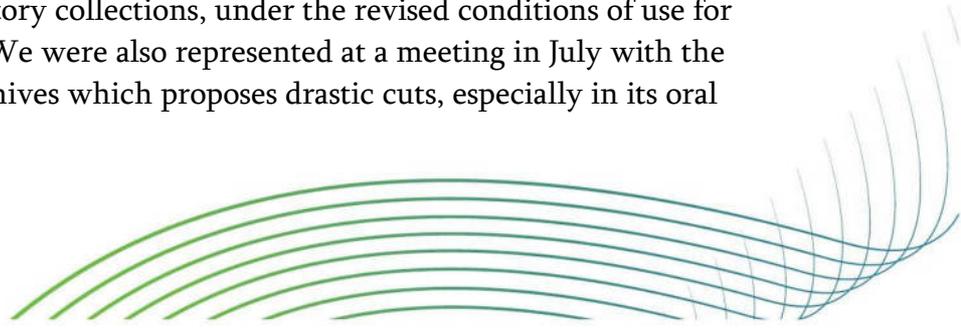
One of the main activities of Oral History NSW is to provide opportunities for members to share experiences and hear from those who have undertaken oral history projects. This year we had two very successful sessions: one on oral history in the field of medical history and another popular morning on the nuts and bolts of community projects in the workplace, a local government area and with migrant communities. Both these were held at the State Library of NSW with the assistance of Curator Research and Discovery, Sally Hone who also records the session so it can be accessed through our website. We appreciate Sally's support.

Workshops are held to introduce beginner interviewers to the concepts of oral history and the technical and archival aspects too. For the third consecutive year two workshops have been held in Sydney with the Royal Australian Historical Society. These reach many people working in local historical societies as well as individuals planning interviews for family history, or professional or private projects. We appreciate working collaboratively in this way with the Society.

It's pleasing to note that workshops are spreading to rural NSW. One was held at Orange last August, another in Newcastle in June and one in Riverina for volunteers in local museums at the end of July. More are planned. However these workshops are dependent on volunteer members to contribute their time. Especial thanks are due to Sandra Blamey, who has co-ordinated these programs and Carol McKirdy who took over this role in June. Others have contributed as presenters: Francis Good, Andrew Host, Diane Taylor and Janis Wilton, and as assistants: Pat Francis and Linda West.

We supported three post-graduate students to attend the conference in Adelaide last September and will assist two more to attend the New Zealand Oral History conference next month. In this way we hope to encourage and provide opportunities for those taking up oral history.

We advocate on behalf of oral history and this year attended the Mitchell Library Consultative Group committee meetings at the State Library of NSW, to ensure the best outcome for access to oral history collections, under the revised conditions of use for the Mitchell Reading Room. We were also represented at a meeting in July with the National Film and Sound Archives which proposes drastic cuts, especially in its oral history program.



The committee in pursuit of its aim to foster preservation, access and use of oral history collections chose to make a donation to the Dictionary of Sydney to enable more oral history to be added to this multi media online resource. We are very pleased that Dr Lisa Murray Chair of the Dictionary Trust will be talking to us at the AGM about the work of the Dictionary.

I would like to recognise and thank everyone who has supported our work. The committee Sandra Blamey, Pat Francis, Graham Hinton, Andrew Host, Leonard Janiszewski, Susan Kennedy, Carol McKirdy and Linda West have all worked hard in various spheres. Other members have helped at seminars, with archives (Joyce Cribb), with talks on our behalf (Rosie Block) and many others. Thank you all.

I enjoy being part of the oral history community, but am retiring as President this year. The committee needs new input and support to keep it moving forward so well. We are a voluntary organisation and need support from you, our members, so I encourage you to be involved and contribute as you can.

Virginia Macleod      President Oral History NSW

August 2014

