



ORAL HISTORY NSW

President's Report 2022

In 2022 we welcomed 37 new members and were delighted to see old friends and new faces, continued enthusiasm, and robust discussion at our online drop-in oral history chats throughout the year, showing us that interest in oral history is on the increase even though for the most part we were still prevented from holding our usual in-person events.

With workshops and events, our online *Introduction to Oral History* seminar and full day *Capturing Memories* workshops continued to provide important overviews for people looking to get across the fundamentals of planning, methodology, ethics, and recording standards with oral history interviews.

A few months ago we launched an online [member survey](#) to document your feedback and ideas for Oral History NSW so we can ensure we incorporate and respond to what our members would like to see more of from our organisation. Initial feedback has indicated that while nothing replaces face to face workshops and events, our online presence importantly ensures those of us not located in metropolitan areas can easily access training, workshops and opportunities to discuss with and learn from each other about all things oral history. As the post-pandemic world opens up and slowly finds its feet again, we remain committed to maintaining an online presence for precisely these reasons and are also happy to welcome Oral History Australia members across the country at our events.

Another initiative the committee is working on is establishing a member [practitioner register](#). This will be a resource for people in NSW and the ACT wanting to get in touch with experienced practitioners when planning an interview or project. The register is open to members with skills in different aspects relating to oral history including interviews and transcriptions - so we encourage you to add your details.

Last month at the Oral History Australia biennial conference in Launceston, the latest edition of the [Studies in Oral History Journal](#) was launched. It was guest edited by two members of the Oral History NSW committee, Alexandra Dellios and myself, and focused on migration histories and the importance of collecting and sharing the diversity of voices in migrant, refugee, and diaspora communities.

Many thanks to the journal editors, editorial board and the wider OHA team for their support and encouragement in producing such a high-quality peer reviewed publication, and to the many incredible contributions received for the issue. We hope you've had a chance to look through and explore the many viewpoints, experiences, projects and reflections contained within.

Leading up to the OHA conference, we awarded two grants supporting presenters attending: Louise Whelan presented on drought photography, oral history and collaborating with the archive to process environmental guilt, and Long Yin Ko discussed oral histories with Cantonese (or other non-English) immigrants in Australia. Congratulations to both presenters who will be contributing their reflections on the conference soon which will be shared on our website.

The winner of the *Oral History NSW Community History Award* will be announced at our AGM, followed by a short presentation about the project. We will also hear from the 2020 winner of the *Regional Engagement Grant*, the Bundanoon History Group, about their project conducting oral history interviews with individuals impacted by the 2020 bushfires in the area. In 2023 we will continue with our annual *Community History Award* and open our *International Conference Grant* to support attendance at the upcoming IOHA conference in Rio de Janeiro in Brazil.

As always, I hold my biggest thanks and heartfelt appreciation for our wonderful committee members, who volunteer their time, passion, and expertise to support our members and the objectives of Oral History NSW in promoting all aspects of oral history as a discipline and providing a forum for sharing information and best practice in the field.

I'd like to particularly acknowledge and thank two of our committee members who are stepping down this year, for all their excellent work and generosity supporting the activities and goals of Oral History NSW: Alexandra Dellios who has been on the committee since 2017, and Gwyn McLelland who has served as *Network News* editor for the last two years.

In the year ahead we look forward to seeing you in person and online, to more discourse and discussions about the topics and issues in oral history that affect us all, and learning from each other in NSW, the ACT, and beyond.

Maria Savvidis
President
Oral History NSW

