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## ORAL HISTORY NETWORK NEWS

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Dear Member

Welcome to our October edition of Network News for 2023.

We held our Annual General Meeting this last Saturday, October 28. It was excellent to see our members and speak of the work that has been done this year. It was particularly wonderful to announce Margaret Gray as the winner of Oral History NSW's Community History Award for her project entitled "The Silent Generation." Margaret's work is a generative online space of oral histories of Australians born before 1946, tapping into memories of life as children and young people across the mid twentieth century.

The project was inspired by a chance conversation regarding Margaret's 80th birthday. Margaret explains, "A friend who has a deep interest in the human story suggested to me that, to celebrate my 80th birthday, I should interview people of my own generation and put their stories on a website." You can view The Silent Generation at <https://silentgeneration.au/>

In other exciting news, our register of practitioners is now live! We are so proud to showcase the wonderful members in our oral history community, and we encourage everyone to join our register. You can view the list of excellent oral historians [here](#).

We're always looking for member projects to feature in Network News, so if you're working on an oral history project and would like to let everyone know about it, reach out! We'd love to showcase your work to our supportive and friendly community of practitioners.

Lastly, whether you're a new member (welcome!) or have been with us over the years, we'd love to hear your feedback and suggestions via our short [Member Survey](#). We look forward to seeing you throughout the year.

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Alexandra Mountain  
Editor, Network News

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## Oral History NSW & Oral History Australia

### Oral History Australia Presidential Report

The report of OHA President Alistair Thomson to the 2023 Annual General Meeting held online on 10 October is now available on the website [here](#).

### Oral History Australia's Technology Report Released

The findings from Oral History Australia's inaugural technology survey are now available, with a big thanks to all those who participated.

In response to the survey results, Oral History Australia will be developing a dedicated technology page on our website and considering what technology-based training programs they can provide. There is clearly a demand for information about how technology impacts oral history practice. Read on for the key findings or download the report with additional charts [here](#).

### Keynote speaker announced: Alessandro Portelli for the Oral History Australia Biennial Conference 2024

One of the world's leading authorities on oral history, Alessandro Portelli, will deliver a keynote address at the next Oral History Australia Biennial Conference to be held in Melbourne from 21 to 24 November 2024. The conference webpage with more information can be found [here](#).

### Call for Presentations: Oral History Australia Biennial Conference 2024

The conference features the theme 'The Power of Oral History—Risks, Rewards & Responsibilities'. A Call for Presentations is now available and proposals can be submitted up to the deadline of 1 April 2024. See the full Call for Presentations [here](#).

### Call for Papers: Studies in Oral History 2024

Contributions for the peer review and reports sections of the 2024 issue of the OHA's journal *Studies in Oral History* are now being accepted. The deadline for submission of peer review articles is 1 December 2023 and for reports it is 30 April 2024.

The theme for the special issue, No. 46, is 'Working Lives and Workplaces'. We have two guest editors for this issue – Paul Sendziuk and Nicholas Herriot.

As the Reports Editor for the journal, I'd highly encourage anyone working on any oral history projects to consider submitting a Report for the journal. If you have any questions, feel free to get in contact.

See the full Call for Papers [here](#).

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## **Register of Oral History Practitioners**

Our register is now live! Please have a look at our list of practitioners [here](#), and we encourage you to join as well.

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## **News & Events**

### **Tender open for Oral History Project**

Albury City is seeking suitably qualified persons to conduct interviews of 10 cross-generational members of the Albury-Wodonga Bhutanese community, producing a series of oral history audio files for inclusion in an upcoming physical and digital exhibition. All applications and queries regarding this project can be made here, with applications closing October 31, 2023: <https://portal.tenderlink.com/albury>

### **2023 Bernard Bailyn Lecture in North American History**

#### **21 November 2023, LaTrobe History Program, online**

World leading authority on oral history and technology Professor Doug Boyd, Director of the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History, at the University of Kentucky Libraries, will present La Trobe University's Bernard Bailyn Lecture in North American History. Professor Boyd's address 'Artificial Intelligence and Oral History: The Good, the Bad and the Ugly' is sure to be of interest to all those interested in interviewing, especially as it explores the implications of AI for research interviewing across multiple disciplines. See the event page [here](#).

### **Columbia University's Oral History Master of Arts Fall 2023 Workshop Series: Experiments in Oral History Methodology**

Oral history as a research tool has been at times almost synonymous with a certain kind of interviewing: one-on-one, biographical, long-form, recorded, and intended for the archive. In this series of events, OHMA will explore other approaches to doing oral history, from using scuba diving to record the stories of underwater landscapes to creating chatbots to elicit oral histories and using AI to make sense of how interviews work. See the series webpage with event details [here](#).

### **Call for Proposals: AI in OH Online Symposium**

For this online symposium, the Oral History Association invites oral history practitioners and scholars from all disciplines who utilize oral history in their work to submit paper or roundtable proposals detailing any number of intersections between artificial intelligence and oral history. Submit your proposals within the OHA Symposium Portal by January 1st, 2024.

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If you have any questions about the submission process, please reach out to AI in OH program co-chairs Steven Sielaff ([steven\\_sielaff@baylor.edu](mailto:steven_sielaff@baylor.edu)) & Sarah Milligan ([sarah.milligan@okstate.edu](mailto:sarah.milligan@okstate.edu)). The symposium webpage with more information can be found [here](#).

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## Reading & Listening

### **Bill Thornycroft Oral History Interview, Pride History Group**

The Pride History Group has created a collection of over 100 oral history interviews focused on Sydney's LGBTIQ+ past. You can explore these interviews below as a guide to the collection and glimpse of our history.

Bill Thornycroft was a political activist and gay rights campaigner in the UK. He fought many political campaigns in relation to issues such as workers' rights, anti-fascism and anti-racism. From the 1970s, he was active in the gay liberation movement and in support groups for gay people. He was particularly involved in groups such as the South London Gay Liberation Front, the South London Gay Community Centre (Brixton), Icebreakers, Campaign for Homosexual Equality and the Communist Party Gay Rights Committee. He also took part LGBT Pride events, as well as in the productions of the Brixton Faeries, a radical gay theatre group. You can listen to his oral history interview [here](#).

### **New Issue of the Oral History Review available!**

This Fall/Winter 2023 issue is devoted to the theme of "Disrupting Best Practices." The authors contributed articles that investigated ways we shake up our methodologies. You can see the articles and more [here](#).

### **Oral History Australia is now on Youtube!**

To see their new channel go to OHA YouTube channel, available [here](#).

Their first videos are from our 2022 Oral History Australia Biennial Conference which was held in Launceston, Tasmania from 14-16 October.

### **Studies in Oral History Journal**

The latest issue of Studies in Oral History Issue 44 focuses on Migrant Voices: Community Collaboration and Telling Migration Histories. This issue was co-edited by our very own Oral History NSW President, Maria Savvdis! To view or download the full issue visit the OHA [website](#).

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## Conferences

### **Australian Society for the Study of Labour History 18th Biennial Conference**

**23-25 November 2023, Canberra ACT**

(Re)Sources: Historical Inquiry and Labour History Archives will enable us to reflect on the significance of archives and libraries to the study of history. Archives and collections provide individuals and communities, authors and historians, and unions and universities the opportunity to reflect on their pasts, recover lost voices, contextualise established ones, and check the facts. The conference webpage can be found [here](#).

### **Public Sport History and Community Sport Symposium**

**5 December 2023, Macquarie University, NSW**

This symposium will explore intersections between Public Sport History and Community Sport. It provides an opportunity for reflection on scholarship that these topics have generated in recent years, and for collaborative discussion about current projects and the state of the field today. We encourage reflective papers that interrogate processes, practices, representations or understandings of Public History in community sports-related research projects or community sports history in the public sphere.

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Network News is published by Oral History NSW for its members and subscribers in the wider community with an interest in oral history. Opinions expressed are not necessarily those of Oral History NSW, and information on services does not imply endorsement.

Do you have a contribution for the next edition? Letters, comments, news items, links to projects and sites using oral history and relevant resources for oral historians are welcome.

Forward copy to or contact the Editor: [networknews@oralhistorynsw.org.au](mailto:networknews@oralhistorynsw.org.au)

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## What Membership of Oral History NSW gives you:

- Oral History Network News, our e-newsletter keeping you in touch with current topics and events of interest to oral historians
- Discounts on oral history seminars and training workshops
- Opportunities for informal exchange of ideas and experience
- Awards and Grants – [find out more](#) about our awards & support for oral historians
- Discount on the Biennial National Oral History Conference held around Australia
- As an affiliated member of the **Royal Australian Historical Society NSW**, our members receive discounts to the [RAHS](#) Conference, workshops and seminars.



*Oral History NSW acknowledges the traditional custodians of the lands on which we live and work. We pay our respects to Elders past and present, and extend this respect to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.*

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