

Building oral histories for GWNZ archives

...to reflect on how to further preserve voices, memories and perspectives of graduate women in NZ society.

Objectives

- The nexus of OH with the development of women's studies
- Other OH-based research
- Offering the counter-narrative
- First steps, and resources to getting started with a local GW oral history endeavour
- What next?

About the speaker

- Retired July 2020, previously Professor of Accounting at VUW
- Treasurer for NOHANZ 1993-2005, and from Aug 2022....
- Active for many years within international Accounting Historians research groups
- Research included four oral history projects from 1992 - 2018

The nexus with women's and LGBT studies



Lesley Hall at the 2009 NOHANZ conference



Alison Laurie (right) with her 2005 book "Outlines: lesbian and gay histories of Aotearoa" coedited with Linda Evans ATL (left)



- Isobel Munro, Marjorie Alexandra, **Lesley Hall & Alison Laurie**, 2017 "Women's Survival in Old Age: The Impact of Life Course Experience in the Development of Material and Non-Material Resources for Well-being in Old Age"
- Manying Ip, 1990. "The unheard voices: New Zealand Chinese women"
- Roberto Rabel & Megan Cook, 1998, "Women and the Anti-Vietnam War movement in New Zealand"
- Ashleigh McFall 2014 "A comparative study of the fa'afafine of Samoa and the whakawahine of Aotearoa"



<https://www.gwiphoarchive.org/GWI-Photo-Archive/1970-1979/>

1971-1974 IFUW Board Members

From left: Dr Erna Hamburger (Switzerland), Vice-President; Dr Elizabeth May (USA), Vice-President; Dr Bina Roy (India), Vice-President; Lajha Piha (Finland), Treasurer; Daphne Purves (New Zealand), Vice-President

Feminism and Women's studies

Jill Abigail, in 1993-4 *Women's Studies Association Journal*, interviews with feminists about how they became interested in feminism and women's studies, how they have changed over the last two decades and where they think feminism and women's studies are heading.

- Interviewees were Anne Else, Beryl Hughes, Ellen Ellis, Heather Roberts, Janet McCallum, Judy Whitcombe, Lou Ormsby, Prue Hyman, Phillida Bunkle and Rae Julian

Women's studies and Exceptionalism

Although education in New Zealand aims to both produce an egalitarian society and to foster excellence and to fulfil potential, the paradox inherent in this may be illustrated by listening to the personal narratives of women who have proved through their achievements to be exceptional in a system which was part of a gendered and patriarchal society.

Shirley Gillett undertook a number of interviews for her PhD on this topic, using feminist methodology, to allow some exceptional New Zealand women to reflect on aspects of their lives, in particular

- family relationships,
- educational experiences,
- significant people and
- experiences of gender

Women's studies and Exceptionalism

Shirley Gillett's participants offering these narratives included:

Helen Clark & Marilyn Waring, political leaders

Irihapeti Ramsden, cultural leader

Lauris Edmond, poet ---- Jenny McLeod, composer

Jenny McDonald, Hockey NZ rep

Jenny Newstead, paralympic swimmer

Diana Hill, scientist, Marsden Chair

Bernice Mene, Netball NZ rep

Sarah McKay, neuroscientist --- Willa O'Neill-actor

Karen Walker, fashion designer,

Rewa Hudson-Tennis NZ rep; and others



Members of the Public Service Association Equal Pay Committee, including Margaret Brand (later Long), third from right, meeting with three of New Zealand's four women MPs to discuss the case for equal pay in the public service, August 1955. The MPs are Ethel McMillan (far left), Mabel Howard (third from left) and Hilda Ross (far right).

Alexander Turnbull Library, [EP/1955/1703-F](https://nzhistory.govt.nz/women-together/womens-committees-new-zealand-public-service-association)

<https://nzhistory.govt.nz/women-together/womens-committees-new-zealand-public-service-association>

Balance of voices in historical research

Oral history research has long offered an opportunity to hear the voices of those often under-represented in archival historical research

“History is written by everybody, not just the “winners.” It’s true that there have been times in history when “official narratives” aimed to eradicate alternate historical interpretations that didn’t fully conform to the desires of those in power. But the bigger point that is equally true is that historical counter-narratives always exist to subvert “victors” history, both orally and in print”.

- Nick Sacco 2016 “Civil War Era History, History and Memory, The Methods of History, Thinking Out Loud”

Counter-narratives abound...

- Soon Nam Kim, 2007 “Whose voice is it anyway? Rethinking the oral history method in accounting research on race, ethnicity and gender”
- Pauline B Guerin & Fatuma Hussein Elmi, 2004 “The analysis of female circumcision stories: uses and abuses of oral histories”. Considers the way that oral history has been used in Western studies of the practice, suggesting that in most instances the researchers have interpreted the findings to fit with their own prejudices.
- Rachael Selby & Alison J Laurie, 2005, “Māori and oral history: a collection”
- Tanya Evans, 2016, “Swimming with the Spit': Feminist Oral Sport History and the Process of 'Sharing Authority' with Twentieth-Century Female Swimming Champions in Sydney”

Long-lost institutional memory....



7th IFUW Conference - Crakow, Poland, 1936

First steps...



- A. Finding some like-minded women interested in undertaking one or more interviews
- B. Snowballing – a method to get interviewees.....Some older members still around may not still be involved at the branch level.
- C. Bring a focus to every level of the past organisation
- D. Pros and cons of more than a 'one-on-one' conversation...

What equipment will be used?

What is the time frame for the project?

How do we ensure “broadcast quality” of the recording?

How do we follow ethical guidelines?

What training courses are currently available?

What are the requirements of the repository where the recordings will be deposited?

What process will be used – abstract (detailed content summary) or full literal transcript?

Where can we get a grant to pay a trained interviewer?

Where can we store photographs on line, and access to these





From the 1988 Chch IFUW conference....

Your turn:

if you were setting up a series of questions for local GW oral history interviews project, what are some question(s) you think could be key to the project – what, why, when, how, who....

If you had your time again, would you make different choices?

How do you promote the inclusion of graduate women from a non-European background?

What is the cost if you use a professional interviewer?

Did you have a role model or models that guided you on your journey?

Were you the first person in your family to study at university?

How did Māori women build relationships with CW. Barriers?

What activities/projects
did you engage in
on behalf of GW?

Lists of awardees +
Fellows - which does
the interviewer recall
most vividly?

HISTORY THAT DOESN'T
GET RECORDED ON WEB
SITES & NEWSLETTERS

MINUTES OF MTGS

In your view,
what was the
most valuable
aspect of your
organisation?

How do you
'see' GW
contributes to
women + girls

What support did
you have for
your study? How
did your organisation
support other women?

Can you
describe a
highlight
memory?

As a member of The SMC of
GW how did you connect
with your Nigerian members?
What did you learn about
this process for yourself
and how to work with
other ethnicities?

What is the relationship
between Graduate Women
and the other members
of Project 50?
Is it still in existence?

You have indicated
that you have been
involved with GWT
could you outline
your involvement
with Mrs association

Were you encour-
aged by male
members of your
friends or family
to pursue university
studies?

How did you
balance study
with family life?



60th IFUW Council – Grenoble, France 1976

Major resources offered by the

NOHANZ

National Oral History Association of New Zealand (NOHANZ)

Te Kete Kōrero-A-Waha O Te Motu

[HOME](#) ▾

[PUBLICATIONS](#)

[MEMBERSHIP](#)

[EVENTS](#) ▾

[RESOURCES&DOCUMENTS](#) ▾

Search For



[National Library](#)

[He Tohu](#)

[Shop](#)

[Home](#)

[Visit](#)

[Collections](#)

[Services](#)

[Events](#)

[About](#)

[Home](#) > [Collections](#) > [A-Z of our collections](#) > Oral History and Sound

Oral History and Sound

Building oral histories for GWNZ archives
Address to GWNZ Centenary weekend, June 2022

Rachel F Baskerville

Documents

Explanatory Notes for Interviewers, Oral History Recording Agreement , FAQ, Select a Repository, Principles and Best Practice and more.

Oral History Recording Agreement Version 2, September 2014 (replaces Version 1a).

[Recording Agreement pdf](#)

Note: If you wish to add an organisation name or logo to the Recording Agreement please email resourcesnohanz@oralhistory.org.nz for an editable version and put NOHANZ Recording Agreement in the subject line. We recommend completing the [Recording Agreement](#) form by hand. For more guidance please refer to the Explanatory Notes below.

Oral History Recording Agreement *Explanatory Notes for Interviewers*, Version 2, September 2014 (replaces Version 1b, July 2013)

[Explanatory Notes pdf](#)

Feedback on the Recording Agreement, or the accompanying Explanatory Notes for Interviewers, or any NOHANZ documents would be greatly appreciated. Please email resourcesnohanz@oralhistory.org.nz and put NOHANZ Recording Agreement in the subject line. The [December 2012](#) and [December 2014](#) issues of the NOHANZ Newsletter have more information about this

Frequently Asked Questions About Completing the Recording Agreement Form

[FrequentQuestions pdf](#)

Selecting a Repository

[Select a Repository pdf](#)

Principles and Best Practices – Principles for Oral History and Best Practices for Oral History (Oral History Association) – these guidelines provide valuable information for interviewers and commissioners on the conduct and archiving of interviews, and their evaluation.

oralhistory.org/.../principles-and-practices



How To

Recording Oral Histories: Resources and advice to help you record an oral history, Alexander Turnbull Library
<http://natlib.govt.nz/researchers/oral-history-advice?search%5Bpath%5D=items&search%5Btext%5D=oral+history+advice>

Preparation – A Guide to Recording Oral History, Ministry for Culture and Heritage
<http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/hands/a-guide-to-recording-oral-history>

Possible questions for a life history interview, Ministry for Culture and Heritage
<http://www.nzhistory.net.nz/pdfs/life-history-questions.pdf>

Points to consider before beginning an oral history project
[Points to Consider pdf](#)

Guide to commissioning oral history projects (produced by the Oral History Association of Australia)
oralhistorynsw.org.au/a-guide-to-commissioning-oral-history-projects.html

Determining fees for Oral History – see under 'Guidelines' on the Oral History Association of Australia's website
<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/5a28b78d692e8e8ccceff0034/t/5a7d18b4c83025fff3cf836f/1518147769921/Fees-guidelines.pdf>

Journal: Oral History in New Zealand – Guide for Contributors
[Guide for Contributors pdf](#)

Abstracting oral history: Alexander Turnbull Library advice on Abstracting Oral History Interviews [as an online pdf](#)
As a [download](#)

Digitising heritage oral history collections: The booklet *Digitising heritage oral history collections* is available on request from the [National Preservation Office](#)

Creating digital content – Digital NZ A -Tihi Aotearoa Make it Digital – described as a one stop shop for questions about creating digital content in New Zealand. A place to get advice, share ideas and contribute.
<http://makeit.digitalnz.org/> Including advice on transferring analogue tape to digital [here](#)



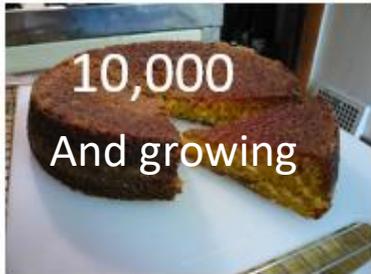
[Home](#) > [Our services for researchers](#) > [Oral history advice](#)

Lynette Shum is a Wellington-based Oral History Advisor with the Alexander Turnbull Library

Email:
ATLOutreach@dia.govt.nz

Oral history advice

Whether you are starting out with oral history or want to hone your skills further, we can help with advice, workshops, and equipment.



You are invited to register your interest in any training workshops

<https://natlib.govt.nz/researchers/oral-history-advice#need-help>

The Oral History and Sound collection is part of the Alexander Turnbull Library. There are more than 10,000 recordings in the collection. Recordings include interviews with people from throughout New Zealand and the Pacific, of various ethnicities, iwi (tribe) and hapū (sub-tribe), occupations, political affiliations and interests. Talks, readings and events are also covered.

Most of the collection has been recorded since the 1960s. The collection covers New Zealand society, culture, community, and political history from the late 19th century to the present

Workshop documents

Participating in an oral history workshop? Grab these downloads.

- [Project checklist \(xlsx, 11kb\)](#)
- [Interviewee information form \(doc, 40kb\)](#)
- [Interview checklist \(docx, 53kb\)](#)

Give us a call

- Training and advice: [04 462 3977](tel:04623977)
- Equipment hire: [04 462 3935](tel:04623935)

Other oral history services

- Curator, Oral History and Sound: [04 462 3972](tel:04623972)
- Research Librarian, Oral History: [04 462 0316](tel:04620316)
- National Preservation Office: [04 474 3000](tel:044743000)

Where to from here?

- i. Start small but start soon
 - ii. Collect photographs as you go
 - iii. Possibly invite a history undergraduate to join your endeavour
 - iv. Ensure individual involved take the primary responsibility to ensure each recording is deposited in the National Oral History archives (broadcast quality, correct documentation, plus synopsis)
 - v. Be prepared for unexpected findings
 - vi. No need to limit or scope the project outputs too early, prioritizing the ‘big picture’ can paralyse getting started
- GW in NZ needs to be recording “words to live by” on the long, unfinished paths to equality and fairness.

I am sure we will enjoy this centenary as much as this 1936 Italian meeting



Any questions or additional comments in this conversation?

1936 Rome branch of FILDIS (Italy)

Reception given by the Rome branch of FILDIS (Italy) for Dr Grassi, President

APPENDIX:

You are invited to register your interest...



Oral History Workshops

The Alexander Turnbull Library is offering workshops for people considering using oral history in their work, community or personal projects. Wellington workshops are taught by **Lynette Shum, Oral History Advisor**, and are held in the Alexander Turnbull Library, Molesworth Street, Wellington.

Our hands-on training is based on the principles enshrined in the National Oral History Association of New Zealand (NOHANZ)'s Code of Ethical and Technical Practice, and international archival standards.

Participants receive comprehensive notes and a certificate of attendance

Workshops elsewhere and Māori-English bilingual courses are also available. For the bilingual courses, please contact the Oral History Advisor Māori, 04 462 3976

For further information concerning registration or funding, contact

Outreach Services

Heritage Advice Coordinator 04 462 3935

Oral History Advisor 04 462 3977

Oral History Advisor, Māori 04 462 3976

or email

atloutreach@dia.govt.nz

www.natlib.govt.nz/events

Oral History at the Alexander Turnbull Library

The Alexander Turnbull Library

- collects and preserves interviews and other recordings
- provides a reference service and access to researchers
- provides advice and resources for those working in oral history throughout New Zealand
- provides training workshops throughout New Zealand
- hires recording and transcribing equipment to oral historians in the Wellington area
- promotes professional, ethical and technical standards in oral history recording and archiving

The oral history collection is New Zealand's largest, comprising recordings of more than 15,000 interviews and events. The Library welcomes deposits and donations of recordings of New Zealand and Pacific material.

Curator, Oral History and Sound

04 462 3972

alexander.turnbull-library@dia.govt.nz



Outreach Services

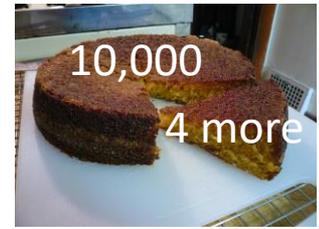
Oral history workshops



Two unidentified women talking through car window.
Crown Studios Ltd :Negatives and prints. Ref: 1/2-205060-
F. Alexander Turnbull Library. [/records/23112576](https://records/23112576)

The National Library is part of the
Department of Internal Affairs

The nexus of Oral histories with women's issues, cont'd



- **Margaret Corner; 1988, “No Easy Victory: Towards Equal Pay for Women in the Government Service 1890-1960”**
- Ann Tündern-Smith, 2014 “Narratives of Women from the First Transport”. Migrants assisted to move to Australia in the first decades after the Second World War were viewed as ‘factory fodder’. “They were labourers whose prosperity lay in improved life chances for their children”. Such an assessment denies the life stories of individuals who were able to use their new circumstances and autonomy to develop lives of achievement for themselves...
- Margaret McClure 2005, 'When a happy marriage turns to custard' - women's divorce stories from the 1950s and 60s” from interviews with ten women who divorced in an era when they risked enduring ostracism or poverty as a result. It traces common threads in their experiences, and comments on issues an interviewer faces in dealing with people's memories of intimacy, pain and guilt.
- Barbara Baird, 2017 Decriminalization and Women’s Access to Abortion in Australia, This paper draws on documentary evidence and an oral history project to give a “before and after” account of each jurisdiction

Locality-based oral history studies

- Ann Pomeroy, 2016 “Understanding the place of intangible cultural heritage in building enduring community resilience: Murupara case study” ...This study draws on oral histories and interviews with Ngati Manawa, Ngati Whare, other residents, and service providers working in the rural community of Murupara
- Julia Gatley, 2014 “Life at the Rotherham House in the 1950s and 1960s”. This paper uses oral history to enrich the published record of one of New Zealand's best modern houses, the Rotherham House in the Auckland suburb of Stanley Bay
- Darren N King, Wendy S Shaw, Peter N Meihana, & James R Goff, 2018 “Maori oral histories and the impact of tsunamis in Aotearoa-New Zealand” Maori oral histories from the northern South Island of Aotearoa-New Zealand provide details of ancestral experience with tsunami
- Anna Green, 1997, “Returning History to the Community: Oral History in a Museum Setting” An oral history exhibit was assembled in 1995 for a New Zealand museum emphasizing social activities, family life, and work in Frankton Junction, a suburb of Hamilton.

Locality-based oral history studies cont'd

- Brigid Pike 1990 “Women workers in Dunedin, 1889: an oral history. Examines the difficulties in using oral history evidence as exemplified in these early interviews with clothing workers”.
- Caroline Daley, 1992, “Gender in the Community: a Study of the Women and Men of the Taradale Area, 1886-1930” and 1998 "He would know, but I just have a feeling": Gender and oral history. Draws on interviews with 35 people, born 1892-1917, for a community study of Taradale, New Zealand, to suggest that a gendered, relational reading of oral history is instructive
- R Du Plessis, J Sutherland, L. Gordon, & H Gibson, 2015 'The confidence to know I can survive': resilience and recovery in post-quake Christchurch
- Jane Moodie, 2000, “Preparing the Waste Places for Future Prosperity? New Zealand's Pioneering Myth and Gendered Memories of Place”. This paper is based on a study of the narrative construction of memory and gender identity among the men and women who settled in the pumice lands of the central North Island of New Zealand after the Second World War

Second World War

- Bronwyn Lowe 2011 “Reflections on gender and memory: personal experiences of women of the WAAAF during the Second World War”. (Women's Auxiliary Australian Air Force)
- Victoria Jane Cullens, 2001, “Not just a shortage of girls: the shortage of nurses in post World War II New Zealand 1945-1955”
- Daniel McKay, 2011 “Strolling Down Memory Pain: Oral Histories and the New Zealand Far East Prisoner of War Novel” part of his ongoing commitment to interviewing New Zealand's veterans of the Second World War
- Catherine Ikin, Leanne Johns & Colleen Hayes, 2012, “Field, capital and habitus: an oral history of women in accounting in Australia during World War II”. An oral history of women who worked as accountants during World War II
- James Greenhalgh, 2021, “The long shadow of the air war: composure, memory and the renegotiation of self in the oral testimonies of Bomber Command veterans since 2015”
- Juliette Pattinson 2011 “‘The thing that made me hesitate ...’: re-examining gendered inter-subjectivities in interviews with British secret war veterans”

Professions

- Anne Else, 1986 “Listen to the teacher: an oral history of women who taught in New Zealand, c1925-1945
- Janina Trotman & Tom O'Donoghue, 2010, “Becoming a woman teacher: memories of learning to be a monitor in Western Australia in the 1920s and 1930s”.
- Judith Potter 2017 “The New Zealand Women Judges Oral Histories Project” Outlines how the NZ Women Judges Oral Histories Project was initiated, with the aim of recording and illuminating the experiences of women who overcame gender barriers in the legal profession.
- Anne Manchester, 1995 “Preserving nursing history” Focuses on the new oral history website, www.nursinghistory.org.nz, which features interviews with nurses who trained in the 1950s and 1960s, along with historical photographs and other related material
- Lesley Hall, 2008 “Nibbling at the crumbs: gender relations in science in Aotearoa/New Zealand” and 2009 “Looking for answers: striking the right balance”. Offers the results of the author's reflection on truth, memory and meaning-making that arose as part of her oral history project with women scientists.
- Deborah Shepard, 1998 “Constructing oral histories of New Zealand women film makers: a complex collaboration between interviewer and narrator”
- Sue Stover, 2013 “Odd alliances: working theories on 'unintended consequences' of early childhood education in Aotearoa, New Zealand” and 2016 “The educationalising of early childhood in Aotearoa New Zealand: tracking "free play" 1940s-2010”. Based on the analysis of oral history interviews with historic leaders of Aotearoa, New Zealand's early childhood sector
- Linda Wilson & Ralph Stablein, 2017, “Role differentiation in occupational therapy in Aotearoa New Zealand: Case study of a profession”

Voices for minorities

- Helen M Harte, 2001, “Home Births to Hospital Births: Interviews with Maori Women Who Had Their Babies in the 1930s”
- Nathalie Huynh Chau Nguyen, 2018 “‘My husband was also a refugee’: Cross-cultural love in the postwar narratives of Vietnamese women”
- Luciana Nunes Hoffman & Evangelia Papoutsaki, 2019 “Mapping the communicative ecology of Latin American migrant women in New Zealand”
- Agnes Williams 1991 “Experiences of a Queensland Aboriginal domestic servant: Agnes Williams talks to Jackie Huggins” In special issue: Women, Work and the Labour Movement in Australia and Aotearoa/New Zealand.
- Noelene Milliken & Sonia Shea 2007, “From Oral History to Leadership in the Aboriginal Community: A five year journey with the Wagga Wagga Aboriginal Elders Group Incorporated”

Ten of my Oral History topics on ssrn.com

1. The Impact of Globalization on Professional Accounting Firms: Evidence from New Zealand
2. Performance-Based Compensation: How an Oral History Can Inform Our Understanding of Accounting Partnership Income Allocation Models
3. Is it Turned on Now? - Reflections on Undertaking Oral History in Accounting
4. From Local to Global: Auckland Accounting Partnerships
5. A Very Private Matter: Anti-Nepotism Rules in Accounting Partnerships Oral History in New Zealand,
6. OE Stories and Other Unexpected Outcomes in an Oral History Study of Partners from Large Professional Accounting Firms
7. Professional Closure by Proxy: The Impact of Changing Educational Requirements on Class Mobility for a Cohort of Big 8 Partners
8. Dimensions of CCA-1: An Oral History Study of the Failure of the Inflation Accounting Standard in New Zealand; The Telling Power of CCA - A New Zealand Oral History & The Resonance of Rejection: A Study of the Failure of Inflation Accounting in New Zealand
9. Voices within the Winds of Change: The Demise of KMG Kendons
10. The curious reaction to an auditor's adverse opinion: a case study from 1976