

Real to Reel

Newsletter of Oral History Tasmania Inc.



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NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE – Jill Cassidy

Oral history workshop

There are only two weeks before this year's workshop which will be held at the Glenorchy Library on Saturday 25 May. Registrations are still being accepted; details and the registration form are at the end of this newsletter.

Annual seminar 21 September

We have organised another three interesting speakers for this year's seminar to be held in Launceston's Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery at Inveresk.

The speakers and their topics are:

Garry Richardson, *'Half a lifetime': thirty-nine and a half years in forestry*

Barb Lypka & Chris Goodacre, *An oral history of the Theatre Royal: performers and theatre-makers*

Elizabeth Nickols, *The people that you meet each day: a life experience of five ordinary people*

Further details will be sent soon but please put the date in your diary now.

Another committee change

It is unfortunate that we have lost another committee member. Pauline Schindler has a wealth of experience in transcribing, in both the Northern Territory and Tasmania, and was a valued member of the committee. However, she has now moved to the north-west coast and therefore resigned her position. We wish her well in her new home.

I'm delighted to let you know that long-time member Karin Le has agreed to join us and we welcome her to our deliberations.

National conference 11–12 October 2019

A reminder that this year's national conference will be held in Brisbane with the title, *Intimate Stories, Challenging Histories*. The conference itself will be held over Friday and Saturday, and there will be training workshops on Thursday 10th and a selection of history walks and tours on Sunday 13th. Earlybird registrations will soon be available but you might like to book cheaper flights now.

As you know, we are offering a scholarship of \$1000 to attend the conference. All the details are on p.9.

Conference website: <https://www.oralhistoryaustralia.org.au/2019-conference.html>

Institutional member: Bass Strait Maritime Centre

Museums and other institutions are members of Oral History Tasmania. Believing that members would be interested in knowing more about them, we intend to ask the institutions to provide some information about themselves and hope to make this a regular addition to the newsletter. Jaydeyn Thomas from the Bass Strait Maritime Centre is the first to be approached and we hope you enjoy reading her account.

A volunteer-led maritime history museum since 1973, the collection and volunteers amalgamated in the 1990s with the Devonport Historical Society's archives and library. In 2010 the volunteers passed ownership to the Devonport City Council. The BSMC is now the museum for the local history of Devonport and the maritime history of the Bass Strait. There is a ship simulator, gift shop and café in the facility.

The *Julie Burgess* is a historic fishing ketch, owned and operated as a passenger vessel by the BSMC. Built in 1936 in Launceston for the Burgess family, she is the last of her kind.

There are two full-time staff (Coordinator/Curator and Project Officer), four casual staff (weekends) and over 50 volunteers. There are three roles that the volunteers fill: crew for the *Julie Burgess*; welcoming tour guides in the exhibition spaces; and research and collection work. Between 7000 and 10,000 people visit the Centre each year.

The collection covers several themes: the social history of the Devonport region, comprising photographic and written records, as well as personal objects from local families and businesses; the maritime history of the Bass Strait with fishing, transport, communication, shipwrecks, and naval history, comprising ship models, objects from ships and shipwrecks, and collections of charts, radio materials and artworks.

The Devonport Historical Society recorded oral histories in the past as part of their research and a new programme is being developed to capture memories from the community to become a part of the collection. Interviews will be conducted on video as well as audio (as permitted) to be included in audio-visual presentations in exhibitions.

Flow: Natural History of the Bass Strait (15 December 2018 – 2 July 2019) is showing now, exploring changing tides and times of the Bass Strait. We have specimens on loan from Launceston's Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery which show the results of a project to collect and analyse the rubbish found on the shore line at our local beach.

The next temporary exhibition will be *Torquay Stories: East Devonport* (26 July 2019 – February 2020) which will focus on the eastern side of the city and its history since settlement up until the present. We hope to include a number of oral history videos as they are gathered.

Bass Strait Maritime Centre
6 Gloucester Avenue, Devonport, Tasmania

Open 7 days a week, 10am – 5pm
Café, 7am – 5.30pm

Phone: 03 6424 7100
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Website: <https://bassstraitmaritimecentre.com.au/>
Facebook: BassStraitMaritimeCentre
Instagram: bass_strait_maritime_centre
Twitter: @bassstraitmc
Trip Advisor: Bass Strait Maritime Centre
Julie Burgess

New Journal editors



The Oral History Australia Journal has two new editors: Dr Skye Krichauff (left) from the University of Adelaide and Dr Carla Pascoe Leahy (right) from the University of Melbourne.

OHA President Professor Alistair Thomson said he was delighted by the appointment of the new co-editors.

'We had several expressions of interest in the post, and were very pleased with the level of interest and quality of all the applicants,' he said.

'A selection committee (comprising the Chair of the Journal Editorial Board Francesco Ricatti, together with experienced oral historians Beth Robertson and Janis Wilton) reviewed the EOIs and recommended the joint appointment of Skye and Carla. The OHA National Committee reviewed and ratified that recommendation.

'We look forward to working with Skye and Carla and hearing more about their plans for the journal.'

Professor Thomson paid tribute to outgoing journal editor Dr Sue Anderson, who has edited the journal for many years and has decided to focus on other things, not least her presidency of the International Oral History Association.

More about the new editors

Dr Krichauff is a Visiting Research Fellow at the University of Adelaide. She is interested in colonial cross-cultural relations, the relationship between history and memory, and how societies live with historical injustices (in particular how Australians live with the enduring legacies of colonialism). Skye has worked as an expert ethno-historian for South Australian Native Title Services and a History Project Officer for a regional Aboriginal community organisation. Her first book, *A journey through Narungga History* (Wakefield Press, 2011), examines cross-cultural relations on nineteenth century Yorke Peninsula, South Australia. Her second book, *Memory, Place and Aboriginal–Settler History* (Anthem Press, 2017), is a place centred ethnography which investigates the absence of Aboriginal people in the historical consciousness of settler descendants.

Dr Pascoe Leahy is an Australian Research Council DECRA Fellow at the University of Melbourne and an Honorary Associate at Museums Victoria. Her research examines the history and heritage of women and children in twentieth-century Australia, particularly oral histories of mothering, childhood and menstruation. Carla has published *Spaces Imagined, Places Remembered: Childhood in 1950s Australia* (Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2011) and co-edited *Children, Childhood and Cultural Heritage* (Routledge, 2013). Recently she co-edited a special 'Parenting' issue of the UK *Oral History* journal.

BUNNY BUSTING: THE LIFE OF DOUG BROOKS

Rena Henderson

A talk given at the Oral History Tasmania seminar on 4 August 2018



I would like to share with you the ‘Bunny busting’ life experiences of my friend, Doug Brooks, who gave me an insight into his life during two interviews I had with him in 2014. After I heard him give a talk earlier that year about his working life to a social group we both go to, I was keen to talk to Doug because of my interest in Tasmanian rural life, particularly about how life changed for country people in the twentieth century. I thought the story of his working life would track significant rural change over that period and I wasn’t disappointed, because he lived through the difficult years of the Tasmanian rabbit plague and was part of the heyday of research into feral pest control.

Doug was almost 75 at the time of our interviews. He was a confident raconteur of his working life and has an excellent memory for names and situations, which put his story into a social context with detail that could be backed up by documentary sources. His family had lived for several generations at Cressy and the family history is held by the Longford Historical Society.

Doug was born in 1940 at Cressy, the first of two boys to Bernard and Rita Brooks who were both local to Cressy. Both sets of Doug’s grandparents lived on farms near Cressy at the time of his birth. But it was his Brooks grandparents who had significant influence on both Doug’s life, his hobbies and interests, and his lifelong love of the Tasmanian environment. The Brooks family farms were Green Rises and Lowlands, while his mother grew up on nearby Maitland.

He remembered being involved in farming from when he was a toddler when he used to go with his Dad to help out on his grandfather’s farms at the weekend. Grandfather Brooks bred draught horses and later race horses as well as running sheep. But Doug didn’t like the horses much, especially one stallion he was frightened of.

Doug started hunting rabbits when he was about eight years old guided by his grandfather, and together they made regular hunting and fishing trips into the High Country. This was how he learned to set the traps, to follow animal tracks and to clean and skin the rabbits. It was also the start of his life-long love of fishing.

When Doug was about twelve grandfather Brooks died, so his father continued to contribute to running the farm in addition to his work, first as an engine driver and later as a Seed Inspector for the Department of Primary Industry (DPI). Doug had vivid memories of his grandmother’s life on the farm, her beautiful fruit trees and vegetable garden, her great cooking, her skills at butter-making and preserving foods, and farm tasks like managing the milking and caring for the weak lambs – a busy productive life, so typical of her generation of Tasmanian farm women.

Doug then reminisced about the ways young lads passed their free time in the 1950s.

The boys of my age went fishing and shooting, because rabbit skins were worth a pound [\$2] a pound [450gm] and we would go trapping in the school holidays, the only time I was allowed by Dad to go full-time rabbitting. We made a lot of money from rabbits. We'd make enough to keep us in pocket money all year. I made more money from the rabbits than Dad was making on his sheep.

He talked about early experiences of driving everything from bikes to tractors.

We went everywhere on bikes until we were old enough to get a motor bike. I had ridden Dad's motor bike wearing his army greatcoat around the farm for years. In 1956 when I went for my first motor bike licence, the local policeman said it was no good to test me; he'd seen me driving tractors and bikes for years around and between the farm and Cressy. He knew I could drive.

Doug said, 'We didn't cause any trouble and did the right thing, driving tractors around from farm to farm. He knew he could trust us.'

Doug remembered the excitement around Cressy and Longford for the annual Longford Motor Races usually held on the March long weekend. These started in 1953 when he was still at school. The road circuit around Longford was about seven kilometres, and he and his friends knew the right spots to get the best views.

At its peak around 45,000 people would line the course to watch the races. It was a very fast track with plenty of obstacles to make it exciting. Doug told me: 'They started the races with motor bikes first. It was a good weekend and brought a lot of people in to the town.' Then it was time for the cars to race and Doug remembers watching some of the world famous drivers who came for the Australian Drivers' Championships or the Australian Grand Prix, drivers like Jack Brabham and Bob Jane.

Doug was a member of the local Junior Farmers' Club and when he was about eighteen he attended the Leadership Course which was held at the Cressy Research Farm. But before that his first job after finishing school was professional rabbit-hunting. In Tasmania in the 50s, the value of rabbit pelts and their carcasses exceeded average wages. I asked Doug why he decided to go rabbit-hunting when he left school.

Actually I had been doing it while I was still at school. It was seven skins to the pound and we got a pound for them. Just on the weekend rabbits could be more than a week's wages which was five pounds. The truck would come round from Ulverstone every second day and collect them. I think they were a bob [10 cents] a piece.

Doug said that they had to be very clean and professionally done, and very fresh, not a day old. They were taken in the refrigerated truck to the cannery in Ulverstone, which was on the site where the Simplot factory is now.



*International Cannery, Ulverstone, late 1940s.
(Courtesy Craig Broadfield, Ulverstone Pictorial History Group)*

I asked how he handled the skins.

We used to dry them out on wires. Then when you'd got enough, you would take them to the skin buyers. One of the chaps in Cressy, a storekeeper called Harry Newton, wouldn't give you as much as the other buyers, so we used to try to outsmart him. We'd leave bits of bone on the tails.

There were skin buyers all through the Midlands. They used to buy possum skins, wallaby skins and rabbit skins. I came in on the end of the wallaby skin trade. But I can remember when the Western Tiers to Cressy was just like a city with people spotlighting. Brush possums were worth a lot of money. They had to be pegged out in a long square, and I think they went to Europe. Rabbit skins went to make hats out of fur felt. They were very good from the highlands; the fur was thick which made them heavier.

There was a factory just opposite International Cannery called Furex, and they exported the skins.



The Furex factory.

(Courtesy Craig Broadfield, Ulverstone Pictorial History Group)

Doug went on to talk about the effect on the possums after hunting ceased, when they became more prevalent and got a disease called rump, which he believes is nature's way of reducing the over-population. This got him talking about the frequency of Rufus wallabies which have expanded through the gorse and scrub right up to the edge of towns now. The Bennetts wallabies prefer open country or up around the lake country.

Of course rabbits had been a scourge of Australian farmers as they gradually spread further and further inland across the mainland states over many decades. It only took twenty years from their deliberate introduction by a large pastoralist in Victoria in 1859 for it to become obvious that rabbits were a real pest, particularly in drier areas as pastoral settlement extended further inland. Although some early settlers managed to supplement their income by trapping, the rabbits bred prolifically and eventually became a problem that needed to be controlled.

Rabbits were inflicting such damage to the environment and agricultural productivity all across Australia that there were calls by Dame Jean Macnamara and others in the early 1930s to import the Myxomatosis virus to control the rabbit plague. The first infected rabbits were released by Lionel Bull, the Chief of the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) Division of Animal Health and Nutrition, in 1937 on Wardang Island in South Australia.

Doug started work for the DPI when he was seventeen years old. His first job was a responsible one for such a young man, but he had plenty of rabbiting experience as well as his driving licence so he was well qualified. He operated a Mobile Pest Eradication Unit with Jimmy Goss, an ex-hunter, and together they travelled all over the north and north-west of Tasmania, trapping and poisoning to get rid of rabbits from properties. Then they went along railway line embankments from Launceston all the way to Roger River in the far north-west. That took them altogether fourteen months, and was considered to be important because of the fear that the warrens would undermine the rail line and cause serious accidents.

Doug described the Mobile Unit as made up of a caravan pulled by a Land Rover and a truck with a trailer that had the ripping machine on it. They moved this from place to place and used it as their base for each day's work in the bush. It was unbranded because there was quite a bit of antagonism towards the rabbit control workers. The poisons were strychnine and 1080, but 1080 was not used near towns. No trapping or shooting then.

Doug and Jimmy were working under the requirements of the Vermin Control Act of 1951 which also obliged landholders to rid their properties of rabbits.

In rural areas we had to warn the farmers so they would control their dogs. But dog control was poor and it still is. Dogs are very susceptible and many good dogs were lost to poison. Another poison that was used was phosphorus, called Grisco, in pollard bait. Used in built up areas and where rabbits were very bad, like Port Sorell and other badly affected areas.

Doug explained the process. Because rabbits were drawn to disturbed ground he would chip up a rough spot on the ground, then a thumbnail-size bait was placed late afternoon; early in the morning any left was picked up. The carcasses were picked up and buried or burnt. But they couldn't do this in school holidays. Rabbits in sandy country were the worst, around Moltema, Merseylea, from Turners Beach to Ulverstone, out to Myalla and Stanley, and up on the Nut.

One anecdote he recalled very clearly from that time was when neighbours complained that one landholder in Nietta was failing this legal obligation to clear rabbits from his land. The Senior Vermin Inspector lodged a complaint with the magistrate who put the man into jail for seven to ten days, while Doug and Jimmy took the Mobile Unit to the property, moved and fed the man's horses off-site and poisoned the rabbits, all before he was let out. The man had to pay for the work they did too.

Their work wasn't always popular and feelings ran high among those who relied on rabbit trapping to supply income. At Parrawee near Waratah they were threatened, so Doug kept a loaded shotgun above his bed in the caravan. Eventually he reached a compromise with the hunters there who picked up the skins when he wasn't looking. This was easier and saved them going hunting. And it saved Doug and Jimmy the job of burying them – a happy result all round!

Warren ripping was another rabbit control method. The DPI would send the team and equipment to rip warrens on the farms and charge the farmers for the time and the labour based on the time spent on each property. Doug and Jimmy did warren ripping on some badly affected properties in Gunns Plains and in the Midlands. The availability of this method was advantageous to the farmers for two reasons. Firstly, they didn't have this specialised equipment and secondly, during the Korean War wool prices were at a premium and the rabbits competed with the sheep for a feed.

When Doug was 20, he was moved from the Mobile Unit and spent a year at the DPI's Cressy Research Farm, and after that he became a Vermin Control Officer. During this time he undertook a Diploma Course in Wild Animal Management by correspondence with the New South Wales Agricultural College which helped him with future promotion.

Part of his job as Vermin Inspector would be to inject the rabbits with the 'myxo' virus and then return them to the farmer to release. As we all know, the 'myxo' was effective, and by the 1950s on the mainland much of the rabbit population had been killed. Myxomatosis started to be effective in Tasmania in the mid-1950s. Unfortunately, growing resistance in the rabbits caused a resurgence of numbers and a second plague by the mid-1990s.

This brings me to the part of Doug's career which was involved with feral pest control research. The centre for that research in Tasmania was at the Government Research Laboratories at Mount Pleasant, Launceston. For a number of years Doug worked there with Dr Mick Statham. This was a very interesting and engrossing period of his life. He spoke animatedly about the research into other means of feral animal control, the testing and trials happening all over Tasmania and Mrs Statham's involvement in the work. Helen was a biologist who collaborated with her husband there.

Before the calicivirus was brought to Tasmania, Doug went for three weeks to Wagga Wagga in New South Wales to learn how to release it, working on properties near Hay, Balranald and Deniliquin so he had the expertise to release it in Tasmania.

Before its release in Tasmania, Mick Statham was researching the calicivirus and any potential effects on Tasmanian devils and Doug built cages for the experimental animals. Then days before he was to have taken the devils to Melbourne, they got news that the virus had already escaped in Tasmania. So that was called off

and the work was done here instead. The other projects included exploring the ‘what if?’ scenarios relating to rabies and foot and mouth, and what control strategies would be effective in feral populations of wild deer if those diseases came to Tasmania. There was worry about vaccination control in possums if rabies got into Tasmania because they eat carcass meat, and there were trials into pelleted vaccine. Dr Statham also researched alternatives to 1080 poison and poison regimes related to the State Poison Register. He recommended the use of wallaby-proof fencing on farms and they tested electric fence effectiveness.

With a wider focus on animal pest control, Doug worked as a stock inspection officer which entailed working the sale yards and the abattoirs, checking for diseases like foot rot or lice in sheep and cattle. He believes that control of dogs is very important to prevent the spread of hydatids which uses dogs in its life cycle. Doug spent some time keeping in good repair the hydatid control testing equipment used in mobile vans. He told me that Tasmania is about the only area in the world where hydatids has been wiped out, due largely to the work done on dog testing.

The heyday of research and control measures undertaken by the DPI was during the 1950s, ‘60s and ‘70s, but by the 1980s everything was affected by down-sizing. He talked of his experience in the role of Vermin Control Officer when there were 43 across Tasmania, almost all of whom disappeared within his working life. It was in the 1980s that the State Government wound down the vermin control inspectorate until he was the only one operating from the Mersey to Swansea. Previously there had been one or two in every town district. The difficulty, according to him, is the build-up of immunity in vermin of all kinds. The limitation on snaring in 1984 and on ways of hunting have contributed to this by creating a rebound in populations of rabbits and wallabies, which Doug believes may reach high levels as before because there is no effective control effort in place. He became rather disillusioned by 2003 when it became obvious there was no official interest in prosecuting offences, and he decided it was time for him to retire from the department.

I asked Doug to identify a highlight of his working career.

The main thing was doing my job...what I had to do, efficiently and as caring to the nature you were working in; that was the highlight probably, to respect nature and to sustain the environment in a pristine condition.

He described the full extent of his work area over his lifetime, from Temma on the West Coast, south to Ouse, all the Midlands, all the north-east and the Bass Strait islands.

There were no rabbits on the Bass Strait islands but often we’d get a report and they’d send the droppings, the faeces, over and we’d get to examine them. Some of them didn’t know rabbits from sheep pellets! But I got rather an expert on samples of animal poo. They had rabbits on Preservation Island which was close to Flinders, but not on Flinders itself. Fishermen must have taken them on Preservation and they were the devil of a job to get rid of. There was a few on Clark [Island] too but we got rid of those. But it’s a big offence to take rabbits on to the islands.

I asked him what was happening at the moment. He replied, ‘Rabbits are getting out of control again, especially around the built up areas, ‘cos as I say, you can’t shoot, you can’t poison, and you can’t trap!’ Doug was thinking about his life’s work and he mentioned the current research expansion into rabbit control with CSIRO on the mainland where they are trying to find new virus strains, but no work is being done in Tasmania. He sympathises with farmers with Crown Land on their boundaries, because they bear the cost of keeping wallabies off their pastures but good grass just encourages the wallabies to breed.

He values the hunting and tracking skills picked up from his childhood associations with ‘old timers’ around Cressy. He is grateful for the training in animal identification from the faecal pellets on the ground which continued to be useful throughout his working life. Now the circle of life has turned. He is passing on this wealth of knowledge to his own grandsons when he takes them fishing and talks about what he knows.

Doug’s vividness of storytelling made our interviews a pleasure and a privilege. His story was an opportunity that oral history often makes possible: the capture of information that would otherwise not be recorded. There were many aspects of his story which portray the way change has impacted on the Tasmanian rural way of life and the environment in the second half of the twentieth century. In addition to his strength of recall, it is clear from the interviews that he understands the significance of the ‘rabbit busting’ history to the wider Tasmanian community; he also realises the way political and community values have changed, and regrets the lack of

government money and interest in vermin research and control. He believes there are disadvantages to the locking up of State Reserves from hunting feral animals. He has sympathy for farmers over the cost and difficulty of vermin control, especially when the Crown is their neighbour; and he recognises community apathy – even dislike and uninformed prejudice – about poisons, restrictive gun control and lack of good dog control in the community. All in all, I feel his experiences help us to understand the past world of Bunny Busting in Tasmania from the insider's perspective.

I want the last word to come from Doug. He said: 'I'm not a greenie, I'm a conservationist. I enjoy the bush. I still go bush, taking my grandsons and we go fishing together'. I hope I have done justice to his story.

Sources

Doug Brooks interviews 22 July 2014, 11 September 2014.

C.S.I.R.O, *Rabbit Control Symposium, Sydney, 11-12 October 1960*, Melbourne: C.S.I.R.O., 1961.

Jennifer Quealy, *Great Australian Rabbit Stories*, Sydney: Harper Collins, 2010.

Rena Henderson: rena.henderson@utas.edu.au

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SCHOLARSHIP FOR ORAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

Oral History Tasmania is offering a scholarship of \$1000 for a Tasmanian to attend Oral History Australia's biennial national conference, *Intimate Stories, Challenging Histories*, to be held in Brisbane 10–13 October 2019.

For conference details, see <https://www.oralhistoryaustralia.org.au/2019-conference.html>

Requirements

1. You must be enrolled in tertiary studies or working on an oral history project.
2. Non-members will be required to join Oral History Tasmania.
3. Priority will be given to those not receiving funding from any other institution, grant etc.
4. You will be expected to attend the whole conference.
5. You must provide a comprehensive report on the conference, reviewing the sessions you attend, by the middle of November 2019.

Please apply by providing:

- your name;
- contact details including email address and phone number;
- details of university course (if applicable); and
- a statement of approximately up to 250 words explaining what you hope to gain by attending the conference, addressing all the issues detailed above.

Email your application to president@oralhistorytas.org.au by **31 May 2019**. The successful applicant will be advised by the end of June.

Do you have a project to tell us about?

We are always looking for items for the newsletter, anything from a few sentences to a lengthy article. All members are interested in knowing what is going on in the state, and you may make some good contacts through responses to the article.

WEBSITES

Oral History Tasmania: www.oralhistorytas.org.au

Oral History Australia: www.oralhistoryaustralia.org.au

IOHA (International Oral History Association): www.ioha.fgv.br

EQUIPMENT HIRE

A **Fostex digital recorder** is available for hire to members. It comes with its own lapel microphones and *User Guidelines*.

Cost of hire: \$20 a week, plus transport costs if necessary. You will also be required to sign a form agreeing to pay to replace any part that is damaged or lost while you have the recorder, up to a maximum of \$250 for individuals or \$500 for groups or institutions.

To make a booking, contact Jill Cassidy on 0418 178 098 or email president@oralhistorytas.org.au

THE OBJECTIVES OF ORAL HISTORY TASMANIA

promote the practice and methods of oral history
educate in the use of oral history methods
encourage discussion of all problems in oral history
foster the preservation of oral history records
pursue common objectives and maintain links with other Australian oral history
associations through membership of Oral History Australia Inc.

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Individuals	\$40.00	Households	\$55.00
Student/unemployed/pensioner	\$30.00	Institution	\$65.00

ORAL HISTORY TASMANIA EXECUTIVE

President, and delegate to Oral History Australia:

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Secretary: Alison Johnston

Treasurer: Lana Wall

Committee members: Jon Addison, Terry Fritsche, Karin Le, Jai Paterson, Leonie Prevost.

All correspondence should be emailed to president@oralhistorytas.org.au or directed to Jill Cassidy, Oral History Tasmania, Queen Victoria Museum, PO Box 403, Launceston Tas 7250.

Real to Reel is edited by Jill Cassidy. The next edition is due in August 2019 and contributions should reach the editor no later than 31 July. They can be emailed to president@oralhistorytas.org.au