

# Real to Reel

Newsletter of Oral History Tasmania Inc.



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## NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE – Jill Cassidy

### Oral history workshop

The next workshop will be held in Glenorchy on Saturday 25 May. Details will be sent soon, but please put this date in your diary and tell any interested friends.

### New committee members

As mentioned in the last issue of *Real to Reel*, we had a vacancy on the committee following the decision of Jen Thompson not to stand for re-election at the Annual General Meeting. I'm delighted to let you know that Jai Paterson has now joined us, bringing considerable oral history experience from her time in New South Wales.

Andrew Parsons, Librarian at the Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery, has also stood aside. He approached Jon Addison, Curator of History at the Museum, who kindly agreed to fill the vacancy. We welcome both Jai and Jon to our deliberations.

### National conference 11–12 October 2019

A reminder that next year's national conference will be held in Brisbane. From the Call for Papers:

The main conference at State Library Queensland will be on Friday 11th and Saturday 12th October 2019. Oral history training workshops will be held at a Brisbane venue on Thursday 10th October. Following the conference, on Sunday 13th October a selection of history walks and tours will introduce participants to the region's rich and diverse communities of memory.

The Call for Papers is on page 9. Presentations can be for five minutes or 20; a performance or a poster. Your submission must be received by 1 March 2019.

### Oral History Tasmania archives

Storage of OHT archives became a problem this year; many boxes of material had accumulated after 27 years of activity. They were offered to the Queen Victoria Museum & Art Gallery and it's very pleasing that the Museum has agreed to accept them, and to organise ongoing accession of new documents each year. This is a welcome decision as it means our archives will be well managed into the future.

### Past Journals

A long-time member is about to move house and has offered her collection of Journals to members. She has an almost complete run from No.24 (2002) to No.37 (2015). Moreover, now that all the Journals have been scanned Oral History Australia has decided to dispose of its back copies going back to 1992. Please email me at [president@oralhistorytas.org.au](mailto:president@oralhistorytas.org.au) if you would like one or more. The Journals are free but you will need to pay for postage if required.

## **GLIMPSES: STORIES FROM THE TASMANIAN ARCHIVES**

**Anthony Black**

**Senior Librarian, State Library and Archive Service, Libraries Tasmania**

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

### **The Glimpses Project**

It began as most of these projects do, with a conversation. Or in this case, several conversations. Day in and day out at our Reading Room in Hobart we help people from all walks of life looking at and working with our records. For anyone who works in this space for any period of time it becomes readily apparent that our clients have many fascinating stories about our records, stories that are not contained in the records themselves.

There is the gentleman looking at Soldier Settlement records who happens to still live on the land granted to his grandfather after World War 1. There is the descendant of the Huon Valley pioneer family who has spent time with Deny King at Melaleuca while walking in the South-West. The Bookmobile driver who happened to be in the driver's seat one fateful day on 7 February 1967.

These and many stories like them prompted us to think: what could be the best way to capture that information and present it in an interesting way?

This paper discusses what we decided to do, how we did it and some ways that you can do the same.

### **Objective**

To examine how oral histories could be used to tell us more about items in our collection, and how this process could increase interest and therefore the use of our collections.

At this stage we were not planning to embark on a full oral history program – we knew this would be too resource-intensive with our other responsibilities. We also knew that several organisations including the National Library of Australia, the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery and Oral History Tasmania were already doing important work in this space.

### **Methodology**

- Develop a recording agreement.
- Identify interviewees in relation to our collection.
- Conduct interviews.
- To best achieve the objective of increased access to our collections we decided to create films using relevant archival resources. These included diaries, photographs, films, maps and other archival resources.

### **Interviewees**

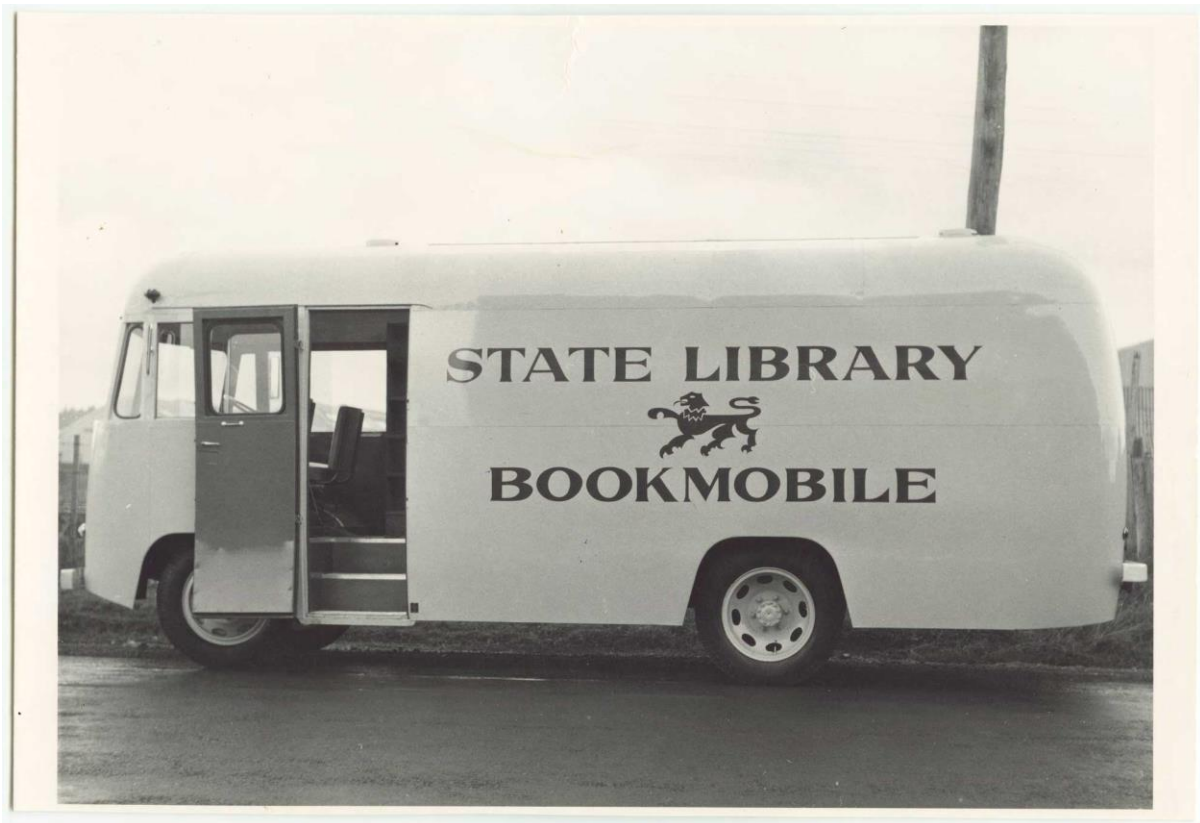
People we interviewed included Colin Crawford, one of the State Library of Tasmania's last Bookmobile drivers, and Nathalie Norris, a descendant of a pioneer family in the Huon Valley.

### **Colin Crawford and the Bookmobile**

Colin originally came in to talk about the 1967 bushfires as part of the Tasmanian Fire Service 'Stories of the '67 Bushfire' project. In the process he told me that he had been a Bookmobile driver for many years with the State Library of Tasmania, and he'd love to talk to me a bit about it.

Colin covered many topics including the routes they used to take, visits to schools and aged care facilities, and what his experiences were driving the bus on the day of the 1967 bushfires.

His oral history recording was then combined with several resources including photographs and a film, *Books Go Walkabout* (c1962).



PH30/1/2362 Photograph – Exterior side view of Bookmobile

[https://libriestas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en\\_AU/all/search/detailnonmodal/ent:\\$002f\\$002fARCHIVES\\_DIGITISED\\$002f\\$002fPH30-1-2362/one](https://libriestas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/all/search/detailnonmodal/ent:$002f$002fARCHIVES_DIGITISED$002f$002fPH30-1-2362/one)



AB869/1/364 Books Go Walkabout (c1962)

<https://youtu.be/9qXuVdsFXLY>

## Nathalie Norris

Nathalie Norris is a descendant of a pioneering family who had moved to the Huon Valley in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. She had some fascinating stories about growing up in the valley, people she had met and the changes over the years. What was particularly interesting to us from a collections point of view was her time walking in the South-West. It allowed us to connect her story with some photographs from a very special collection that we have in our archives donated by the family of Jack Thwaites, a keen photographer and founding member of the Hobart Walking Club, among other achievements.

We combined parts of Nathalie's oral history with photographs of Deny King, Melaleuca, the South-West and the pilot Lloyd Jones, one of which is shown below.



*NS3195/1/4467 Port Davey – Denis King clearing overburden, 'Jack Thwaites collection'*  
[https://libriariestas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en\\_AU/all/search/detailnonmodal/ent:\\$002f\\$002fARCHIVES\\_DIGITISED\\$002f\\$002fNS3195-1-4467/one](https://libriariestas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/all/search/detailnonmodal/ent:$002f$002fARCHIVES_DIGITISED$002f$002fNS3195-1-4467/one)

## An example of a film

The following film gives an example of what can be achieved with this type of project. Although it is not an oral history it gives a good example of the process.

The film tells the story of several Tasmanians who were involved in the Gallipoli campaign, most notably Lieutenant-Colonel Charles Hazell Elliott and his wife Sister Alice Gordon Elliott (nee King).

The narration was taken from several archival records including the Elliotts' diaries and postcards.

This was then combined with their photographs which were taken in and around Tasmania, Gallipoli, Egypt and other areas in the Mediterranean.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mJjRTv-syyI>

### **What we learnt from the project**

A big driver behind this project was using oral histories as a way of learning more about our own collections. We then used these oral histories in combination with our existing archival records to create films that we hoped would lead to greater interest and access to these records.

In principle this sounded great; in practice we found trying to target oral history recording around particular topics was so limiting that it restricted what we could capture. As any good oral historian knows you have to be prepared for the interview to go in many different directions and may not even cover what was initially discussed.

What this meant was that our idea of a targeted oral history did not always work in practice. Not necessarily a bad thing but for the future when we look at doing an oral history we need to do a full oral history, not just concentrate on the parts that intersect with our collections.

### **How to make your own films**

The next section discusses how to make your own films combining archival and heritage resources from the collections of Libraries Tasmania with oral histories.

### **Images that may be useful**

Libraries Tasmania has a multitude of records that can be combined with oral histories to make interesting films. These include photographs, diaries, letters, maps, government records and much more.

Some records are better for this purpose than others, due to their availability and the particular deposit and copyright conditions related to them. The following series of records can be great for this purpose as they are online, cover a wide range of geographic areas and have clear instructions on any restrictions with their use. More on this later.

#### **AB713 - Teaching Aids Centre Photographs 1951–1973**

[https://libriarietas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en\\_AU/all/search/detailnonmodal/ent:\\$002f\\$002fARCHIVES\\_SERIES\\$002f0\\$002fAB713/one](https://libriarietas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/all/search/detailnonmodal/ent:$002f$002fARCHIVES_SERIES$002f0$002fAB713/one)

Photographs of many different topics and places across the state, originally used in schools.

#### **AA193 – Photographs from the Agent General’s Office 1921–1981**

[https://libriestas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en\\_AU/tas/search/detailnonmodal/ent:\\$002f\\$002fARCHIVES\\_SERIES\\$002f0\\$002fAA193/one](https://libriestas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/tas/search/detailnonmodal/ent:$002f$002fARCHIVES_SERIES$002f0$002fAA193/one)

Photographs of displays used in the Agent General's Office, The Strand, London. Also includes photographs of Tasmanian scenes and industries used for the promotion of Tasmania throughout the United Kingdom.

#### **LPIC147 - Launceston Collection of Photographs of Places, Events, Buildings and General Subjects**

[https://libriestas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en\\_AU/tas/search/detailnonmodal/ent:\\$002f\\$002fARCHIVES\\_SERIES\\$002f0\\$002fLPIC147/one](https://libriestas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/tas/search/detailnonmodal/ent:$002f$002fARCHIVES_SERIES$002f0$002fLPIC147/one)

Images given to the Launceston Local Studies Collection.

#### **PH30 – Miscellaneous Collection of Photographs 1860–1992**

[https://libriestas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en\\_AU/all/search/detailnonmodal/ent:\\$002f\\$002fARCHIVES\\_SERIES\\$002f0\\$002fPH30/one](https://libriestas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/all/search/detailnonmodal/ent:$002f$002fARCHIVES_SERIES$002f0$002fPH30/one)

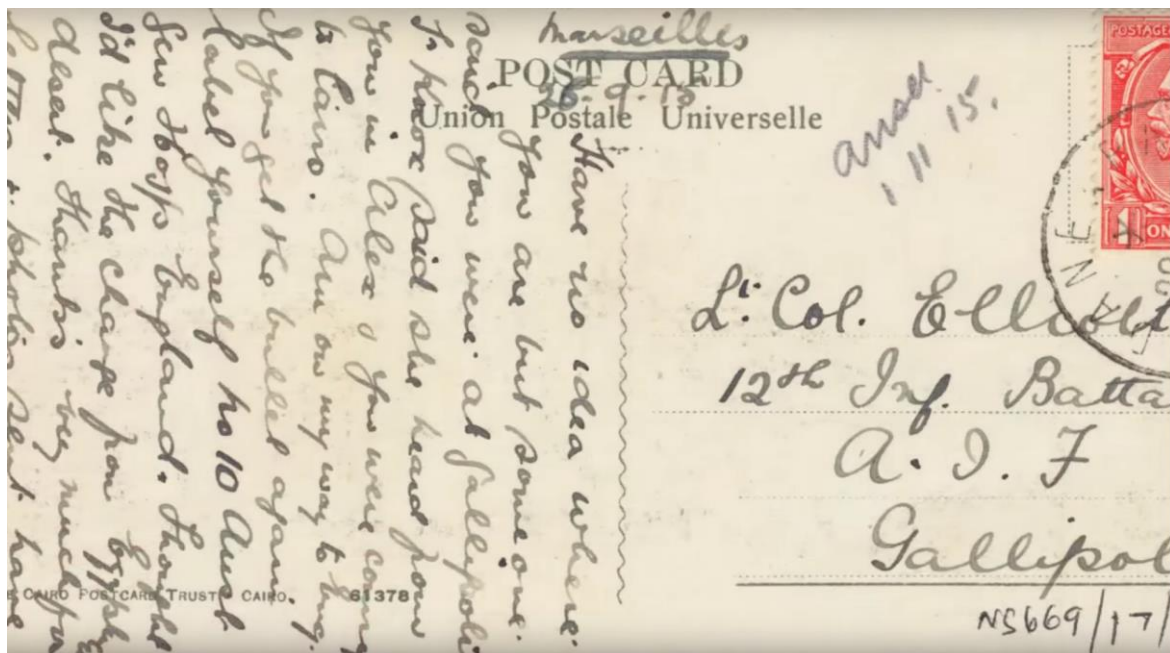
Images covering a diverse range of topics given to the Archives Office either by donors who did not wish to be identified, or did not wish details of their donation recorded in any detail or who were unable to provide any details about the image.

#### **NS1013 – Photographs and Glass Plate Negatives collected by ER Pretzman 1870–1930**

Photographs with an extraordinary level of clarity and sharpness made from glass plate negatives collected by ER Pretzman.

[https://libriestas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en\\_AU/tas/search/detailnonmodal/ent:\\$002f\\$002fARCHIVES\\_SERIES\\$002f0\\$002fNS1013/one](https://libriestas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/tas/search/detailnonmodal/ent:$002f$002fARCHIVES_SERIES$002f0$002fNS1013/one)

**Other records including films, diaries, maps and more!**



NS669/17/1/57 Postcard to Lt Col Elliott from Marseilles, Egypt

[https://libriestas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en\\_AU/all/search/detailnonmodal/ent:\\$002f\\$002fARCHIVES\\_DIGITISED\\$002f0\\$002fNS669-17-1-57/one](https://libriestas.ent.sirsidynix.net.au/client/en_AU/all/search/detailnonmodal/ent:$002f$002fARCHIVES_DIGITISED$002f0$002fNS669-17-1-57/one)

There are so many different records that can be used for a project of this type that it's impossible to cover them all. Instead, I'll point you towards where they can be found, a guide to how to search for them and how to get help when you need it.

Our one-search catalogue covers all the items in our collections, including both archival and library resources.

<https://libraries.tas.gov.au/Pages/Home.aspx>

It can be narrowed down to more specific collections by clicking on the tabs that come up after a search: for example, the Library Catalogue or Tasmanian Archives tab.

A help guide covering all of the catalogue is available here:

<https://www.libraries.tas.gov.au/enterprise-help/Pages/search-all.aspx>

and the Archives Search in particular here:

<https://www.libraries.tas.gov.au/enterprise-help/Pages/archive-search.aspx>

### How to know if you can use a resource

With some of our popular records we have descriptions that describe how they can be used. The example below is from the Series AB713, Teaching Aids Centre Photographs:

|                               |  |
|-------------------------------|--|
| <b>How to Use:</b>            | Digital images of this record series are available to view online by clicking on the item links below to get to the Item Details pages.<br>These images may be freely used as the copyright in state records is administered by the State Archivist who has made these images available to use.<br>When using or sharing the images, please ensure that clear attribution is made to the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office (TAHO).<br>TAHO does not endorse any inappropriate or derogatory use. |
| <b>Series notes:</b>          | 8" x 10" black and white photographic copies from large format negatives. (5"x 4") (AB714) from the Teaching Aids Centre, Brisbane Street, Hobart.<br>These records are part of the holdings of the Tasmanian Archive and Heritage Office.   |
| <b>System of Arrangement:</b> | In numerical sequence (1-12387)  |

Not all series of records have this, particularly if the conditions of use are complex. If you don't know whether or not you can use one of our resources for a project, the best thing to do is ask for permission using this form:

<https://sltas.altarama.com/reft100.aspx?key=PERMission>

This allows us to check any conditions related to the item and to help you cite it correctly so that other people interested in your work can find the original source.

### How to get advice on our resources

9.30am to 5.00pm Monday to Friday you can contact us directly through email, our online chat service or a phone call. More details as well as phone numbers are available here:

<https://libraries.tas.gov.au/get-help/Pages/help-finding.aspx>

You can also drop in at one of our many Library Tasmania locations across the state, who will be able to help you directly or pass you on to us in the State Library and Archive Service.

<https://libraries.tas.gov.au/locations/Pages/default.aspx>

**MEDIA RELEASE - DEC 2018**

# BLACK SATURDAY

Not the end of the story

**By Peg Fraser**

**February 2019 marks the 10 year anniversary of the devastating Black Saturday fires**

The Victorian bushfires of February 2009 captured the attention of all Australians and made headlines around the world. One hundred and seventy-three people lost their lives, the greatest number from any bushfire event in this nation's history. In the wake of this tragedy much media and public commentary emphasised recovery, resilience, community, self-sufficiency and renewed determination. Peg Fraser, working as a Museum Victoria curator with survivors in the small settlement of Strathewen, listened to these stories but also to other, more challenging narratives.

The memories and thoughts that Fraser heard, and gives voice to in this book, complicate much of what we thought we knew about the experience of catastrophic natural events. Although all members of a particular community, Strathewen's survivors lived through Black Saturday and its aftermath in ways that were often very different from each other.

This is historical truth of the most vital, affecting and powerful kind.

'Peg Fraser has worked carefully and sympathetically with the people of Strathewen, a small settlement in the forested ranges just north-east of Melbourne where more than 10% of the population was killed and 80% of homes were destroyed on Black Saturday, 7 February 2009. Her purpose is not to reconstruct or dissect the experience of the fire itself but to tease out the meanings of the stories told by survivors, both for those who tell the stories and those who listen to them. It is wonderful to see such a thoughtful taking on of this difficult and demanding work.'

**Professor Tom Griffiths, Australian National University**



**MONASH University**

Publishing

[www.publishing.monash.edu](http://www.publishing.monash.edu)

*'Peg Fraser's extraordinary book transcends media cliché and illuminates what it meant to live through and beyond Black Saturday. Rich personal testimony and razor-sharp analysis evoke the many and varied ways that the people of Strathewen made sense of disaster.'*

**Professor Alistair Thomson, Monash University**

## BLACK SATURDAY

Not the end of the story



Publication: December 2018

ISBN (p): 978-1-925523-68-3 Paperback AUD \$29.95



**Peg Fraser** is a writer and oral historian, and helped to develop the Victorian Bushfires Collection at Museum Victoria.

*'Peg Fraser's extraordinary book transcends media cliché and illuminates what it meant to live through and beyond Black Saturday. Rich personal testimony and razor-sharp analysis evoke the many and varied ways that the people of Strathewen made sense of disaster.'*

**Professor Alistair Thomson, Monash University**

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03 9905 0526

## INTIMATE STORIES, CHALLENGING HISTORIES

2019 Biennial Conference of Oral History Australia

State Library of Queensland, Brisbane, Australia

10-13 October 2019

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

### CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS

Through oral history recordings, we hear the intimate stories of everyday lives, and we create histories that challenge orthodoxy and speak truth to power. Oral history drills beneath the big histories of state, society and politics, and illuminates ordinary people's extraordinary lives.

In our 40th anniversary year, Oral History Queensland and Oral History Australia, in partnership with State Library Queensland, welcome proposals for our 2019 biennial conference in sun-soaked southern Queensland. Oral historians, in a variety of guises and combining age-old listening skills with dazzling new technologies, record intimate stories and create challenging histories. Our conference welcomes participants who use oral history in their work across the many fields and disciplines that contribute to community, professional and academic histories. We welcome presenters from across Australia, across the Tasman and around the world. We invite proposals for individual presentations, workshops, performances and thematic panels.

The main conference at State Library Queensland will be on Friday 11th and Saturday 12th October 2019. Oral history training workshops will be held at a Brisbane venue on Thursday 10th October. Following the conference, on Sunday 13th October a selection of history walks and tours will introduce participants to the region's rich and diverse communities of memory.

In keeping with 2019 as the Year of Indigenous Languages, a Keynote plenary panel will focus on **Oral History, Oral Tradition and Indigenous History** (with invited speakers from Australia, New Zealand and Canada).

**Keynote speakers** will include: **Associate Professor Katrina Srigley** from Nipissing University in Canada, co-editor of *Beyond Women's Words: feminisms and the practices of oral history in the twenty-first century* (2018), and currently co-researching *Gaa Bi Kidwaad Maa Nbisiing: A-Kii Bemaadzijk, E-Niigannwang: The Stories of Nbisiing: the Land, the People, the Future*; and *Nbisiing Anishinabek Biimadiziwin: to understand the past and shape the future*, in partnership with Nipissing First Nation.

**Conference sub-themes** may include, but are not limited to:

- Indigenous Oral Histories and Oral Traditions
- Migrants, Refugees and Ethnic Community Histories
- Gender, Women's History, Men's History
- Family History and Memory
- Histories of Sex and Sexuality
- Leisure and Pleasure
- Histories of Protest and Activism

- Memory Work for Human Rights
- Contested Memories and Histories
- Working Lives and Social Class
- Sensory Memory and History
- Place, Community, Memory
- Soldiers' Stories and War Histories
- Memory, Violence and Catastrophe
- New Approaches to Recording Lives
- New Technologies for Documenting and Archiving Oral Histories
- Interpreting Memories
- Making Histories in Old and New Media
- Performing Oral History
- Using Oral History in Creative Writing
- Ethical Issues in Oral History
- Training the Oral Historians of the Future

We welcome proposals for presentations in a variety of formats and media, including standard paper presentations (typically 20 minutes); short 'lightning' accounts of work in progress (typically 5 minutes); participatory workshops; performances; thematic panels comprising several presenters; and poster presentations. Presentations should involve oral history. Contact the organisers at [oralhistoryqld@gmail.com](mailto:oralhistoryqld@gmail.com) if you would like to discuss the format or focus of your presentation before you submit it.

**Proposals for presentations / papers / panels / posters** should be no more than 200 words (single space, 12 point font in Times New Roman) and must include at the top of the page, your name, institutional affiliation (if applicable), postal address, phone number and email address, the title for your presentation/panel, the sub-theme/s your work best connects to, and the presentation format (standard paper, 'lightning' account of work in progress, thematic panel, performance, participatory workshop or poster presentation).

Presenters will be encouraged to submit papers to the refereed, online Oral History Australia journal, which aims to produce a theme issue about Intimate Histories.

**Proposals should be uploaded to** <https://easychair.org/conferences/?conf=oha2019>

To use this online system you will need to create an author account (a simple process) and then submit your proposal either by attaching it (with full details as listed above) as a PDF or by using the copy/paste function. If you are unable to use this system please email your proposal to [oralhistoryqld@gmail.com](mailto:oralhistoryqld@gmail.com)

**CLOSING DATE FOR PROPOSALS: 1 MARCH 2019**

For conference information or to join the conference mailing list, email:

[oralhistoryqld@gmail.com](mailto:oralhistoryqld@gmail.com)

or go to the conference website at:

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

*This is a recent post from Sally Stephenson's blog, included in OHNSW's Oral History Network News, No.84, August 2018, p.7.*

Choosing suitable audio equipment for oral history interviews: perspectives of an audio engineer.

Peter Kolomitsev is an audio engineer working at the State Library of South Australia. He talks about his job and provides his top tips for making excellent quality oral history recordings.

This post include Peter's advice about what equipment is suitable for oral history interviews and why, and what equipment should be avoided at all costs.

<http://listeningtothepast.com.au/2018/06/choosing-equipment/>

### **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](http://www.oralhistorytas.org.au)

**Oral History Australia:** [www.oralhistoryaustralia.org.au](http://www.oralhistoryaustralia.org.au)

**IOHA (International Oral History Association):** [www.ioha.fgv.br](http://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](mailto: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:

Jill Cassidy 0418 178 098 Email: [president@oralhistorytas.org.au](mailto:president@oralhistorytas.org.au)

Secretary: Alison Johnston

Treasurer: Lana Wall

Correspondence secretary: Leonie Prevost

Committee members: Jon Addison, Terry Fritsche, Jai Paterson, Pauline Schindler

All correspondence should be emailed to [president@oralhistorytas.org.au](mailto: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 with assistance from Pauline Schindler. The next edition is due in April 2019 and contributions should reach the editor no later than 31 March. They can be emailed to [president@oralhistorytas.org.au](mailto:president@oralhistorytas.org.au)