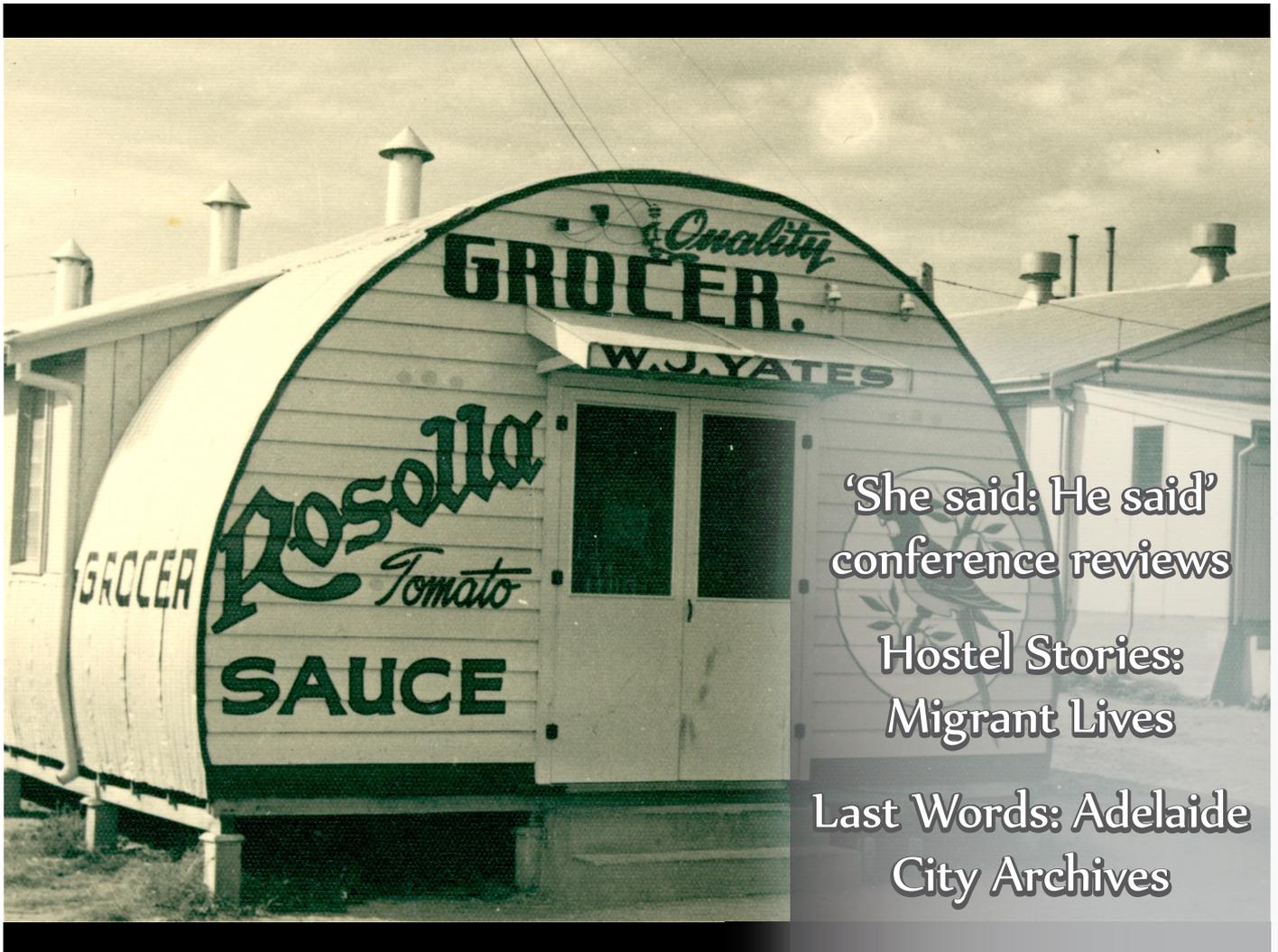


Word of Mouth

Autumn 2014

No. 66



'She said: He said'
conference reviews

Hostel Stories:
Migrant Lives

Last Words: Adelaide
City Archives

Newsletter of the South Australian/
Northern Territory Association of
Oral History Australia Inc.



CONTENTS

1	PRESIDENT'S REPORT <i>by June Edwards</i>
2	LIZZIE RUSSELL ORAL HISTORY GRANT SCHEME 2014-2015
2	ORAL HISTORY AUSTRALIA SA/NT EVENT
3	PROFILE JOHN MANNION
4	THE J.D. SOMERVILLE ORAL HISTORY COLLECTION <i>by Richard Moriarty</i>
5	COOBER PEDY CENTENARY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
5	THE GREEK EXPERIENCE FORUM
6	HOSTEL STORIES: MIGRANT LIVES
8	OHA SA/NT DIGITAL RECORDER FOR HIRE
8	'HOW TO DO ORAL HISTORY' WORKSHOP
9	THE BIENNIAL NATIONAL OHAA CONFERENCE & THE 21ST STATE HISTORY CONFERENCE REPORTS
13	CONFERENCE WORKSHOPS
16	LAST WORDS <i>by Madeleine Regan</i>

The objectives of Oral History Australia Inc.: To promote the practice and methods of oral history; to educate in the use of oral history methods; to encourage discussion on all aspects of oral history; and to foster the preservation of oral history records in Australia.

Committee: June Edwards (President), Catherine Manning (Secretary/Membership Secretary), Sally Stephenson (Treasurer), Alison McDougall (WOM Editor), Catherine Murphy (Handbook Distribution), Madeleine Regan, Karen George, Tonia Eldridge (State Library of South Australia), John Mannion, Peter Hackworth

Membership: 1 June 2013 to 31 May 2014.

Individual \$40; Institution \$65; Household \$55; Student/Unemployed/Pensioner \$30

Editor: Alison McDougall

Oral History Australia Inc (SA/NT Association)

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The views expressed in Word of Mouth are not necessarily those of Oral History Australia (SA/NT Association) Inc.

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Grocery store at Gepps Cross Hostel, early 1950s

Migration Museum photographic collection PN05822. Courtesy Janet Moore (formerly Yates) and provided by Catherine Manning, Senior Curator, Migration Museum.

President's Report

by June Edwards

The OHA SA/NT committee has recovered from the conference and is making plans for this year. We have officially changed our name to Oral History Australia Inc South Australia/ Northern Territory. The new constitution is being finalised, and the website and stationary have been updated. We are the SA/NT Association affiliated to the national body OHA Inc rather than a branch.

Conferences

The 2013 OHAA conference made a small profit which was divided between the national OHA and the SA/NT Association. Many thanks must go to Mandy Paul and Suzanne Redman for their management of the event.

Anne Johnson who is the new secretary of the National Committee and lives in South Australia has done a sterling job tidying up the recordings of the conference sessions. The recordings have begun to be put onto our website by David Smids and can be found at <http://oralhistoryaustraliasant.org.au/conference2013/>.

The next conference will be held in Western Australia in 2015 and planning has begun already.

The NOHANZ Conference 2014 *The Gift of Memory* will be held in Wellington Saturday & Sunday 20 & 21 September 2014 <http://www.oralhistory.org.nz/documents/conf14.pdf>

The 18th International Oral History Association Conference will be held in Barcelona 9-12 July 2014 *Power and Democracy: the many voices of Oral History* <http://2014iohacongress.wordpress.com/>. Our National President Sue Anderson is attending so we will hear all about it.

'How to do oral history' Workshops

There has been a flurry of interest in workshops primarily inspired by History Month. John Mannion will be running a workshop in Gladstone for the Rocky River 'Riters; Karen George will be running workshops in Adelaide at the State Library on 22 May for the 'About Time History Festival', and in Goolwa. Interest has also come from Oodnadatta, Coober Pedy and Robe so country areas are getting organised.

Peter Hackworth put up a good suggestion that we put together a package to be sent out to community

groups to promote the workshops. The committee decided to put together a pack which could be advertised through the Community History network at History SA.

Events past and future

In August 2013 I attended an event to acknowledge the interviewees who participated in the Adelaide City Council Oral History Project and to talk about oral history. Madeleine Regan found many interesting people to interview from an architect to a caterer and the interviews provide an in-depth picture of life in Adelaide over several decades. It is a real shame that the Council decided to stop funding the project at the end of 2013.

In December 2013 the Organisation of Hellene and Hellene-Cypriot Women of Australia (SA) (OEEGA) launched interviews relating to their oral history project: *The Greek Migration Experience* on our SA/NT website: <http://oralhistoryaustraliasant.org.au/category/greek-migration/>. Helen Haltis and David Smids organised the material for the website in a very short time and should be congratulated on the wealth of information which is now available for researchers and the design of the site, so well done.

The Committee met in February 2014 and welcomed new committee member Peter Hackworth and the president of the OHA Inc Sue Anderson. John Mannion, who could not be present that day, is our other new member.

Decisions made by the committee include:

- Visit to the Royal Agricultural Society Archives at Wayville showgrounds on 19 June at 12.30 where Rob Linn will tell us all about his oral history project and publication, *Sharing The Good Earth, 175 Years Of Influence And Vision*. Rob Linn writes, "Behind the Society's one hundred and seventy-five years of activity is a generosity of spirit that has made its activities a cornerstone of South Australian life. It has adapted, rejuvenated and responded to the pressures of the outside world, yet it has also led so much of the State's creative thinking in regards to agricultural industries."
- Investigation to put *Word of Mouth* online with members-only access and to look at adding audio links to specific articles as an extra feature. The issues relating to the conference to be made available to everyone online as well as a 'taste' of past editions of the newsletter. Hopefully this will inspire people to join the Association.
- An advanced workshop to be held in September revolving around the concept *Creating a Community Oral History Project* which would

include a section on project planning.

- Advanced workshop based on the successful conference session *Dealing with Difficult Histories: Vicarious Trauma and the Researcher*.
- Assess the grant scheme for the World War One commemorations to see if there are opportunities for OHA SA/NT to get funding for a project.

Name change

Sally Stephenson must be thanked for going through our previous constitution and updating it to meet the new requirements for OHA Inc SA/NT. It's one of those necessary jobs which is not all that exciting. Also thanks to Catherine Manning who updated all the stationary and David Smids for updating the website. A name change creates a bit of work.

Thanks to the committee for keeping the work of the Association moving along. Handbooks are still selling at a reasonable pace, the finances are in good order, workshops are in hand, membership details are maintained, and *Word of Mouth* continues to be a valued publication.

Hopefully we will see you on 19 June, as the Royal Agricultural Society's Archives are fascinating and Rob Linn's history has had great reviews. He's also a lovely speaker.

Please note: the OHA SA/NT website address has changed to <http://oralhistoryaustraliasant.org.au/>

Lizzie Russell Oral History Grant Scheme 2014-2015

This grant of \$500 aims to foster small oral history initiatives in South Australia/Northern Territory. It is made possible through sales of the Oral History Handbook by Beth M. Robertson which is managed by Oral History Australia SA/NT.

Please go to our website for more information and to download the application form. Applications close 30 June 2014

<http://oralhistoryaustraliasant.org.au/>

Oral History Australia SA/NT Event

Join members at the Adelaide Showgrounds, Wayville to hear fellow member, historian and author Rob Linn speak about his oral history project and publication *Sharing The Good Earth, 175 Years Of Influence And Vision*.

When: Thursday 19 June, 2014 at 12.30pm

Where: Royal Agricultural Society Archives

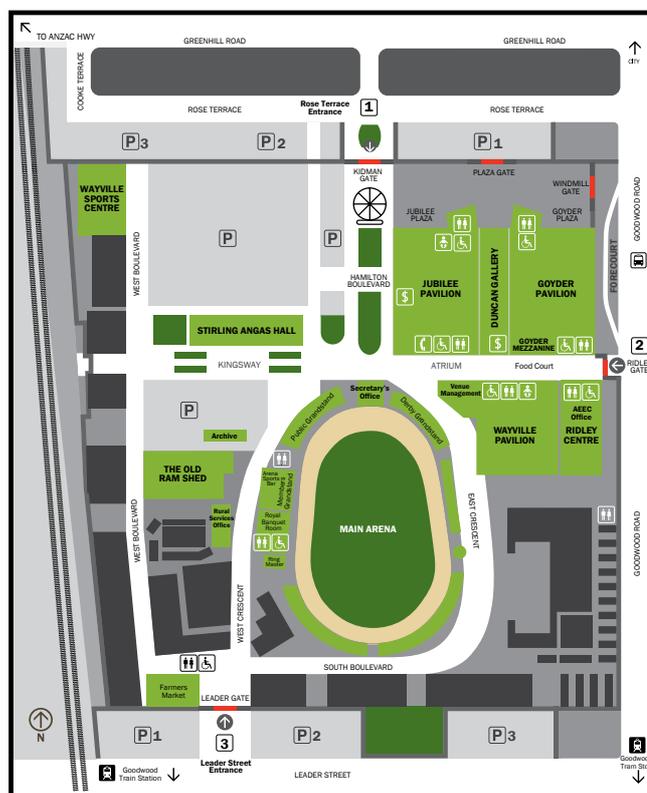
Hosted by: Marilyn Ward, archivist

BYO lunch, coffee/tea/water provided

RSVP to: June Edwards at ejune32@yahoo.com

by Friday 13 June to assist seating and catering arrangements

How to get there:



Symbol Key

- Toilets
- Disabled Toilets
- Telephone (Cash Only)
- Bus Stop
- Car Park
- ATM
- Baby Change



Boom gates are in place in the parking areas. Cost is \$3 for up to two hours. Generally Rose Terrace 2 and Leader Street 2 are the parking areas, depending on the direction you are coming from. Car-pooling would reduce costs. From the car park, it is just a short walk to the Archives. The Showgrounds are also accessible by tram, rail or bus.

Profile John Mannion



It was back in August last year when June Edwards asked me if I was interested in being a country member on the 2013/2014 OHA SA/NT committee. June convinced me that 'the tyranny of distance' was not a problem – 'We make most of our decisions via email'. Considering that South Australia is what I consider largely a 'city-state', I decided that perhaps I could offer the committee my 'wisdom' from a country, or 'rural and remote' perspective, and agreed. To date, June was right about emails.

These days I live about a kilometre from where I grew up in the 1950s and 60s on the mixed family farm near the small township of Pekina – just south of Orroroo – 260 kilometres north of Adelaide, on the edge of the outback. After leaving school – Orroroo Area School – in 1971, I was 'packed off' to Port Augusta to get a trade as an electrical fitter at the ETSA Playford Power Station. I wanted to be a shearer like my father, but he maintained that no son of his was going to be a shearer.

My seven years at Port Augusta broadened my horizons and exposed me to an outside world (only 60 miles away) that my Irish-Catholic background never prepared me for, but I still maintained my contact with the farm, helping out during seeding, shearing and harvest times. While oral history was not part of my vocabulary back then, I was aware of the rich social history that was all around me at Pekina, and in 1974 when the district commemorated the Centenary of European settlement, I recorded the official speeches of the event on my new Sony radio-cassette recorder, which cost about three weeks apprentice wages. The recordings are now at the State Library of South Australia.

After seven years and one day (to qualify for pro-rata long service leave) I left 'the Port' and headed bush on 'the Ghan', to work as a ringer on a large cattle station east of Alice Springs. My rural background did not prepare me for that either – long hours, hard work alongside white fellas and black fellas and basic 'rations'. The romantic and idyllic visions of life in the saddle did not live up to my expectations and after several months I 'fell back on my trade'

and found work at the Alice Springs Power Station, and later at Ross River Resort, where I met my now ex-wife and mother of my daughter. 1980 saw me back on the tools again, this time at the ETSA Leigh Creek coal field, where we stayed for six years, buying a small farming block adjoining the farm at Pekina, before taking a year off on an overseas working holiday to the UK, Ireland, Europe, North Africa, USA and Mexico.

In 1989 I tried farming back at Pekina, with my father, but that didn't really work out either, so it was back to my trade again at the nearby Peterborough Power House. My marriage broke down around this time and I based myself at the once major railway town, which due to the restructuring of the rail industry, was a town undergoing major social changes. These changes saw some of the population reflect on its background and identity, and my repressed passion for local history was again aroused – at Pekina and Peterborough. In 1998 I co-wrote a local history book for the Pekina 125 Years commemoration and my partner Helena encouraged me to go to university – at the University of New England at Armidale, NSW, graduating with an Advanced Diploma in Local, Family and Applied History in 2003.

Nothing prepared me for tertiary studies either – but I enjoyed the challenges of external study, meeting lecturers and fellow students from all over Australia (including Alison McDougall) and the annual eighteen hour drive to Armidale for residential schools. The basic history skills I gained at UNE helped me find work as a researcher and consultant, all encompassing oral history. I have presented papers at various conferences, local and interstate, and I have also conducted oral history workshops locally and out 'in the bush'. Meanwhile, I am back on the farm, juggling sheep grazing (and I can shear a few sheep) with ongoing history projects. Oral history is a fascinating and challenging discipline and I find the recording and preservation of 'ordinary people's stories' a very rewarding and privileged experience.

It has taken me a while to get around to doing what I am passionate about, and the knowledge gained along the way, combined with the current technology, has enabled me to hopefully contribute to the State's social history.

The J.D. Somerville Oral History Collection State Library of South Australia

by Richard Moriarty

OH 1046 – South Australian Druze oral history project – Denice Daou

The Unitarian Druze faith is considered an offshoot of the Shi'a Muslim sect, and the world's Druze are based mostly in Syria and Lebanon. They are a closed community, but have a long history of strong feeling and loyalty to their community of residence. Druze started to migrate to South Australia in the late 19th century, culminating in the establishment and building of a Druze hall in Glynde in 1963. Built using a loan guaranteed by approximately twenty local families, this important structure was the first Druze hall ever built outside of Lebanon. The destruction of the hall by a random arson attack in 2012 prompted Denice Daou, author of *Rahlitna : an oral history of Lebanese women migrants in South Australia over 50 years* to capture the story of the hall using oral history. On commencing interviewing, Denice found that her focus changed to interviews with the oldest Druze in our community, who she calls 'early settlers'. Denice captures their stories of establishing themselves in South Australia by the traditional Druze ways, and their curiosity for newer migrants and their seemingly different perspective on community integration.

OH 1052 – Courtship and dating: things your grandparents never told you – Dawn Kanost

In 1994 Dawn Kanost mounted an exhibition for the Adelaide Fringe at the State Library of South Australia Lending Library and the Scott Theatre. To gain material she went into Adelaide homes, accompanied by photographer David Summerhayes, and interviewed elderly Adelaidians about how they met and fell in love. Dawn recently presented eight recordings and accompanying photographs used for the exhibition, including partial transcripts, to the Collection. Mavis Knapp tells of the first time she arrived home very late with Jim, the boy she would later marry. Her father indicated that Mavis would get a thrashing. 'That's alright', said Jim, 'but there'll be two of us in it.' She wasn't punished. The interviews feature a lot of detail about parents, careers and weddings in 1930s and 1940s Adelaide.

OH 1043 – Joan Stone – Liz Burge

Joan Stone was born and raised in London, and emigrated to Windsor Gardens, a 'ten pound Pom', in 1962. Soon after she started helping the Girl Guides and this launched her career in community volunteering. In a long interview, Liz Burge records Joan's experiences in the second migration boom post-World War Two, including ways in which Australia promoted itself to prospective migrants. Joan's volunteer work continued through a move to Point Pass near Eudunda in 1975, and Magill in the 1980s, but consolidated in 1994 with a move to Leabrook Lodge Retirement Village. Here Joan's advocacy took as its focus concern for the elderly and, between this time and her retirement in 2012, she became an important figure in Adelaide volunteering. Joan has held many important positions, including President of the South Australian Retirement Villages Residents' Association; Chair, South Australian grants for Seniors Advisory Committee; President of the Council of Pensioners and Retired Persons; member of the South Australian Ministerial Advisory Board on Ageing and has received many honours. In her interview with Liz Burge, Joan forcefully expresses her concerns about aged rights, ageism and aged care.

OH 1044 – Shirley Peisley – Sue Anderson

On 27 May 1967, Australian voters recorded the largest ever 'Yes' vote in a referendum to alter the Australian constitution. This referendum finally enabled Aboriginal people to be counted in the national census and to be subject to Commonwealth laws, rather than just state laws. In preparation for the 40th anniversary of this event, National and State Libraries Australasia have begun collecting material, including oral history. Sue Anderson has interviewed Shirley Peisley as SLSA's first contribution. Shirley was raised in Kingston by her grandparents while her mother travelled for work. At eighteen she moved to Adelaide, completed her studies, joined the Council of Aboriginal Women of South Australia (CAWSA), became active in the Federal Council for Aboriginal Affairs and Torres Strait Islanders (FCAATSI), and was a central part of the referendum campaign. A current manager at the State Library considers her a 'rock star' at this time. Her work and volunteer history has included: the first Aboriginal female Probation and Truancy Officer working with the Children's Court, the Aboriginal Friends Association, the Aboriginal Legal Rights Movement, the National Aboriginal Conference, the Aboriginal Childcare Agency, Counsellor for the Huntington's Disease Program with the Aboriginal Health Organisation based at Norwood, Manager at the SLSA, an elected Councillor on the Aboriginal and

Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), church and youth groups and the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry. Shirley's Order of Australia membership is for service to the indigenous community of South Australia through heritage, cultural, legal, health, welfare, religious and government organisations.

Over 2013/2014, we are also adding several interviews of local heroes as part of a longstanding partnership with the National Library, called Eminent Australians:

Pat Rix, CEO Tutti Arts, interviewed by Alison McDougall,

Professor Ian Maddocks, palliative specialist and Senior Australian of the Year 2013, interviewed by Rob Linn,

Graeme Young, Professor of Global Gastrointestinal Health at Flinders interviewed by Peter Donovan, John Ralston, Emeritus Laureate Professor, founder Ian Wark Research Institute, interviewed by Susan Marsden,

John Bannon, ex-Premier South Australia, interviewed by Sue Anderson.

Coober Pedy Centenary Oral History Project

Coober Pedy will be celebrating its centenary in 2015. The Coober Pedy Historical Society will be inviting past residents to come back for a reunion. We would like to use this opportunity to record oral histories.

We have a longer term project as well – to record the history of Coober Pedy's unique mining machinery, most of which was designed and built by the opal miners themselves. This project will start this year and continue.

To achieve our aims we are looking for someone who can come to Coober Pedy this year and help us get started. We need advice and practice in using recording equipment of OHA standard. Please contact Sue Britt, CPHS Treasurer, if you are interested in helping with this project.

sue.britt@westnet.com.au



THE GREEK MIGRATION EXPERIENCE

Oral histories of Greek migrants in South Australia during the 20th century

AN OPEN FORUM

In December 2013 OEEGA (The Organisation of Hellene and Hellene Cypriot Women of Australia SA Inc) proudly launched The Greek Migration Experience. OEEGA is the first organisation of non Anglo speaking background to have collectively recorded the experiences of Greek migrants for the Oral History Association of Australia SA branch, in conjunction with the State Library of SA. As part of 'About Time', **South Australia's History Festival**, we welcome you to our open forum to hear all our audio/visual display, taste some delicious coffee and cake and most importantly share your stories with us.

When: Sunday 18th May 2014

Time: 2pm - 4pm

Venue: The Chapel, Migration Museum Courtyard
82 Kintore Avenue, Adelaide

RSVP: Free admission but RSVP essential (seating is strictly limited)

Contact: Helen 0404 210 553 or Joanna 0422 617 015 or oeegasa@bigpond.com



Organisation of Hellene and Hellene-Cypriot
Women of Australia (SA) Inc

OEEGA

Hostel Stories: Migrant Lives

by Catherine Manning

For me it was the start of the beginning of a new life. I was an outdoor person before I came, and Adelaide seemed to me to be very bright and airy. I have never lived anywhere else since. I have never been back to the UK.

Rick Coburn, British migrant, Finsbury Hostel 1966, recorded 2010

There were at least twelve government-operated hostels in South Australia between 1947 and the mid-1990s with accommodation at Rosewater, Finsbury/Pennington, Woodside, Gepps Cross, Elder Park, Smithfield, Gawler, Glenelg, Mallala, Whyalla, Woodville and Semaphore. In addition there were a number of migrant work camps or other forms of employer-associated migrant accommodation. The hostels were a government response to housing shortages during a period of mass migration. Thousands of migrants passed through these temporary homes, from Displaced Persons and refugees, through to 'Ten Pound Poms'.

The opportunity to gather first-hand accounts of day-to-day life in the hostels is diminishing as the years pass by. In partnership with the University of Adelaide, the Migration Museum has been calling for information from former hostel residents. Nearly 500 people have registered in writing with details of their hostel experiences. Museum staff, volunteers, student interns and university researchers have so far undertaken 60 oral history interviews.

It has been a significant project, starting in 2010 with a 'reunion' at the Migration Museum, and followed with a successful Australian Research Council grant application by Professor Rachel Ankeny at the University of Adelaide. This grant has allowed the partnership project to undertake far more extensive research. Dr Karen Agutter, undertaking her second PhD and PhD student Daniella Pilla have worked through a vast volume of archival records as well as undertaking interviews. A number of other students have contributed to related research.

While the research continues through 2014, already a number of fascinating stories have emerged. The exhibition *Hostel Stories: Migrant Lives* opened at the Migration Museum on 30 November, and a website was launched at the same time.

Using QR codes the exhibition links to short clips from the oral histories on the website so that visitors are able to hear personal stories first hand.



Krystyna Luzny, 1949 Identity card, HT 85.390
Migration Museum collection

For example Krystyna Luzny, a Polish resistance fighter during the Second World War, tells us about what happened after she and her husband Tomasz arrived at Bonegilla in Victoria:

But women and men were separated of course and after one week when we stay there my husband was sent to Adelaide for work because when we decided to migrate here, you know, everybody had to sign contract that will be working two years anywhere in Australia ... the job. And he got the job and you know came to Adelaide.

Krystyna Luzny, Polish Displaced Person
Bonegilla and Finsbury 1950
Interviewed 2011

Visitors to the Museum can listen to Krystyna talking about her experience while viewing the letter sent to her by Tomasz from the Gawler hostel. He writes:

My darling, let our mutual aim be to try and be together as soon as possible. I don't feel well here without you Krystynka and I miss you very much. But I know that this will not last long.

Letter on loan to Migration Museum
Courtesy Krystyna Luzny



*Tomasz Luzny, late 1940s
With permission of Krystyna Luzny and family*

Krystyna and Tomasz were soon united at the Finsbury hostel before finding independent accommodation. Other migrants were not always so lucky and some endured long months, occasionally years, apart, before being able to secure work and accommodation close to each other.

While many hostel residents were Displaced Persons like Krystyna and Tomasz, others came on assisted passage schemes. The Australian government actively recruited British migrants, and many of the respondents to the *Hostel Stories* projects migrated from the UK. Some, like Rick Coburn quoted at the beginning of this article, found it a positive experience and never looked back, but others struggled with the hostel accommodation and adjusting to life in Australia.

Nothing could have prepared us, soft pampered creatures that we were, for hostel life. A small, narrow room with four hard beds, a tiny window that could be looked through only by standing on the rail of a bed – the view was an expanse of corrugated iron, the roof over the laundry block. ... The water was the colour of river water – horrid brown – and smelled foul.

*Josie Mirus, British migrant
Elder Park Hostel 1963
Recorded 2010*

Even among those who 'did well', stories of homesickness and return were common.

The family sold everything and returned to England in 1959. On arrival it was realised

that they had made a mistake and my parents along with my brother returned to Australia in 1960. ... My sister and I remained in the UK until 1961 when we applied for and were granted an assisted passage back to Australia and arrived back in October of that year. My sister and I were both interviewed by the media as being second time '10 pound Poms.'

*Janet Moore (née Yates), British migrant
Rosewater hostel 1951
Recorded 2013*



*The Yates children and friend, Gepps Cross hostel,
December 1952*

*Migration Museum photographic collection, PN05832
Courtesy Janet Moore (formerly Yates)*

Research is continuing through 2014 with a focus on interviews with some of the cultural groups under-represented in the responses to date, particularly refugee arrivals from the late 1970s through to the 1990s.

One of the moving features of the exhibition is three drawings by refugee children from Pennington hostel who attended the New Arrivals program at Pennington Primary School in the mid-1980s. Their teacher Rosa Garcia collected their 'memories of home' and shares her thoughts on Pennington hostel through a clip on the website.

So I thought a great idea would be to ask them what they remembered of their homelands. Very naively I asked them this and they drew these pictures. Some of them are quite horrific ... I had to excuse myself and leave the classroom because I got quite emotional. I'd read about all of this. I knew about what happened in Cambodia, I knew

about the Vietnam War. I knew what had happened in Chile, I'd been campaigning about Chile. But somehow being confronted with these drawings and these stories, told by these little children was quite affecting.

Rosa Garcia

Teacher at Pennington Primary School mid-1980s

Recorded 2013

The oral history recordings have provided a rich resource of personal experiences and memories to draw on in the exhibition. A number of themes have emerged through the research and interviews, and these have shaped the exhibition and website. Strong in many memories is of course the food served at the hostels and the struggle to cope with basic accommodation that was hot in summer and cold in winter.

Esmerelda Yates had worked as a cook in the canteens at Gepps Cross and at Gawler where her husband William was caterer.

The hostel shop proved to be very lucrative enabling my parents to purchase another grocery shop on the Main North Road at Enfield. The hostel shop was sold and my father then opened the very first 'supermarket' in Kilkenny.

Janet Moore (née Yates), British migrant

Rosewater 1951, Gepps Cross 1952

Recorded 2013

People's personal memories add colour to the archival records. We are still adding more stories online, and it is hoped that the website will provide a lasting resource for people seeking to learn more about the migrant hostel experience.



Grocery store, Gepps Cross Hostel, early 1950s

Migration Museum photographic collection PN05822

Courtesy Janet Moore (formerly Yates)

The exhibition *Hostel Stories: Migrant Lives* is showing at the Migration Museum, Kintore Avenue, Adelaide until 5 October 2014. If you would like to know more about the project visit <http://migration.historysa.com.au/research/projects/hostel-stories>

Catherine Manning has been part of the Migration Museum team since 2002 where she works on exhibitions, collections management and online content. She has a particular interest in oral history and greatly enjoys working with community groups on collaborative projects.

OHA SA/NT Digital Recorder for Hire

Members \$20 per week and \$5 per day
Non-members \$25 per week and \$10 per day.
Hirers will be required to sign a form stating they will be fully responsible for the recorder while it is in their possession.

For further details contact Catherine Manning
P: 8203 9888 (History SA: ask for Catherine Manning)
E: cmanning@history.sa.gov.au

'How to do Oral History' Workshop

This workshop introduces participants to the practice and methods of doing an oral history interview and provides equipment training on the State Library of South Australia's Sound Devices 702 digital recorders.

Date: Thursday 22 May, 2014

Time: 10am – 3.00pm

Venue: Crawford Room, State Library of South Australia

Cost: \$60 per person per day or \$30 for concession/pension/student/OHA member

Bookings essential

Contact June Edwards OHA SA/NT by going to <http://oralhistoryaustraliasant.org.au/> and send an email via 'Contact Us' or by contacting the State Library on (08) 8207 7260

The Biennial National OHAA Conference & the 21st State History Conference Reports

Histories of Place

- *The Summer People* by Liz Harfull (Journalist and Historian).
- *Men and Women at Work* by Dr Ann Herraman (President of the Mount Lofty Districts Historical Society).
- *Filling the Gap: Writing and Presenting Indigenous Local History of Tea Tree Gully, problems and perspectives* by David Brooks (Local History Officer, City of Tea Tree Gully Library).

This session focused on the histories of three very different places: Robe, the Adelaide Hills and Tea Tree Gully. After seven years of extensive research, Liz Harfull was about to release a book about 150 years of holiday traditions at Robe, South Australia. Labelled 'The Sanatorium of South Australia' in a 1908 marketing brochure, Robe has long been a favourite summer holiday destination for South Australians and Victorians alike. Ideally situated on Cape Dombey, Robe looks out on the Southern Ocean, giving it the feel of a secluded island hide-away. Liz described the history of the township, from its days as a busy port with clippers sailing directly to London to its time as a summer retreat for South Australian governors, through its quiet war years to its revival with the growth of surf culture in the 1960s. Liz's book is based on both archival history work and on oral history interviews with locals and the tourists who flock there every summer. Both groups described a strong connection to Robe and expressed their attachment to it with great emotion.

Similarly, the men and women of the Adelaide Hills communities of Scott Creek, Bradbury and Longford revealed strong links to the land where their families have lived and worked the soil for several generations. Their stories have been captured by the Mount Lofty Districts Historical Society and a booklet containing the interview transcripts has been produced. Dr Ann Herraman, representing the Society, explained that the interviews revealed lives of hard work, resilience and families working together to keep food on the table in tough times. Ann related fascinating stories from the interview collection including one of a young woman who was 'put out to work' at the age of eleven and who later hunted and skinned rabbits and foxes in order to earn sufficient funds to purchase her wedding dress! Like those people who felt a connection to Robe, the Hills dwellers felt a strong sense of attachment to their 'place' and their community.

Finally, David Brooks, the local history officer at the City of Tea Tree Gully Library described how he has attempted to work with local Aboriginal groups to document and record an Aboriginal history of the Tea Tree Gully area which is missing from the existing written records contained in the local history collection. Despite his failed attempts to facilitate an inter-generational oral history project between young and old members of the Aboriginal community, David *has* been successful in increasing the use of the local history collection by teachers who are searching for alternative resources to use in their teaching, given the new focus on History in the national curriculum. The interviews with Aboriginal community members can now be found in the Tea Tree Gully Library Local History Collection.

Annamarie Reid

People shaping place

• *Networked women, voluntary organisations and urban environmental reform in South Australia, c. 1900-1939* by Dr Christine Garnaut, Dr Kerrie Round and Louis Bird (University of South Australia)

• *An island fauna reserve and a forest? Would a social experiment of 1917 be the saviour of Kangaroo Island?* by Dr Bridget Jolly (Professional Historian and independent researcher)

The two papers in this session analysed two very different kinds of planning initiatives that occurred in South Australia at around the same time in the first decades of the 20th century. The interventions were different because one was focused in the urban context and the other had the potential to bring significant change to the rural environment of Kangaroo Island. Another significant difference in the interventions described in the two papers relates to gender; the first initiative was guided by women while the second appeared to be entirely organised by men.



*Christine Garnaut, Bridget Jolly and Madeleine Regan.
Courtesy Pauline Cockrill, HistorySA*

The first paper was delivered by Dr Christine Garnaut on behalf of two other University of South Australia colleagues, Kerrie Round and Louise Bird. Christine is Associate Research Professor in Planning and Architectural History and Associate Head of School: Research, and Director of the Architecture Museum in the School of Art, Architecture and Design. Kerrie Round is a historian and Research Fellow at the Centre for Regulation and Market Analysis in the Business School, and Louise Bird is a historian and PhD candidate in the School of Art, Architecture and Design.

The paper provided the opportunity to understand how networks of women worked informally and formally to advocate for urban social and

environmental reform in South Australia. A very surprising factor was the number of women who belonged to multiple organisations and groups which allowed for a diffuse influence across a broad range of planning and social developments. A number of questions from the audience indicated the admiration of the women and their public commitment to bring about social change.

Bridget Jolly, who presented the second paper, is a professional historian with a background in teaching art and architectural history at two Adelaide universities – Flinders and Adelaide. She is currently developing a social history of Kangaroo Island, 1890 – 1950.

The paper explored the processes involved in a 1917 proposal to develop two-thirds of Kangaroo Island into planned forest with the intention to use the location as a field site for a national forestry curriculum. The scheme, which did not ever eventuate, was investigated through staff at the University of Adelaide. One of these investigators, H. Hugh Corbin, was an early teacher of forestry at a time when students were serving at the Front.

An interesting aspect of the proposal was the hope that the initiative could be developed through prison labour, an attempt to introduce a type of social reform as a means of changing the environment. While the proposal was never accepted, it seems that it may have provided some impetus to the 1919 legislation for the development of Flinders Chase. Corbin had an ongoing role as a member of the first Fauna and Flora Board that managed the Chase.

The focus on the processes involved in developing the proposal made for interesting speculative questions about what might have been the future of Kangaroo Island had such a large proportion been handed over to forestry and the possibility of it becoming a penal place.

Both papers gave participants the opportunity to reflect on the movements of two very different kinds where people with vision acted to change and shape the environment. Both papers contained elements of surprise. The first was the remarkable and powerful networks of women who advocated change and brought their vision to urban and social reform. The second was the audacious image of transforming Kangaroo Island. It was clear that there was just not enough time in this session. It ended with a palpable sense of the desire for more extensive discussion of both papers.

Madeleine Regan

War and Memory

- **Object biography and oral history in the reconstruction of the Cheer-Up Society of First World War South Australia** by Christeen Schoepf (PhD candidate, University of New England)
- **To hold them in sweet and loving remembrance: South Australia's Soldiers' Memorial Gardens** by Louise Bird, Dr Christine Garnaut & Dr Julie Collins (Architecture Museum, School of Art, Architecture and Design, University of South Australia)
- **And she said, "I'm going to work in the munitions factory" and then Mum asked, "But who'll get Ted's lunch?"** by Dr Julie Holbrook Tolley (Independent Historian and author)

History is all about learning, and those who attended the three "She said" presentations on War and Memory went away knowing a lot more about three little-known effects of war at home and abroad.



Christeen Schoepf, Louise Bird and Julie Holbrook Tolley.
Courtesy John Mannion

The Cheer-up Society

Almost 100 years after the Cheer-up Society was founded in Adelaide in November 1914, Christeen Schoepf has embarked on a project dedicated to 'reconstructing' the volunteer organisation using oral history and object biographies. The Cheer-Up Society relied on hundreds of women who fed, entertained and helped keep up the morale of thousands of soldiers and sailors leaving for, or returning from, the European war front in World War One – a mammoth task at the time. A network of more than eighty suburban and regional Cheer-Up sub-branches supported the city-based headquarters, but in her early research into the society, Christeen has found that very few relics and little documentation remain of what she considers 'significant war work'. With only two oral histories relating to the society located to date – one by noted South Australian oral historian Beth Robertson in 1979 – Christeen too, has a mammoth task in front of her, describing it as 'challenging'.

Using Beth's interview with Elva Morrison (nee Harding), who as a 17 year-old was the Cheer-Up's youngest volunteer, Christeen has found that Elva's interview, not only complements the sparse written experiences she has unearthed, but adds new insights into women's voluntary war work on the home front. Christeen related how Elva said, 'It was lovely to see the boys in uniform', adding an emotional and patriotic perspective to her experiences. The Cheer-Up Society had its headquarters in a 'temporary hut' on South Australian Railways (SAR) land behind the city baths on King William Street. After the war the hut was taken over by the SAR Institute. In 1939 it was requisitioned for use during World War Two and used until 1947 for the entertainment of all allied servicemen and merchant navy men. It was used later as a post-war migrant hostel before its demolition in 1974 to make way for the Festival Centre. In 2012 Christeen hoped that the excavation of the former site by contractors building the pedestrian bridge across the Torrens to Adelaide Oval may have unearthed some tangible evidence of the hut – but to date nothing has been found. So using what information she does have, including many photographs, Christeen is left with lots of questions, including the mysterious logo on the bib of the volunteers' white tunics. However she has found out that pastoralists, farmers and household gardeners donated food supplies – tons of it; that the majority of women volunteers, aged from seventeen to seventy, lived on suburban train or tram routes; that the women contributed to the cost of burials of destitute soldiers and that the society was initially founded by women, 'before the men took over'. Christeen was also pleased to report that the Cheer-Up founder, Mrs Alexandra Seager, may have sown the seed for the establishment of the RSL; that the women's work was supported by the Rejected Volunteers' Association, and that there is a Cheer-Up Society Roll of Honor at the army museum at Keswick.

Soldiers' Memorial Gardens

Louise Bird's presentation, 'To hold them in sweet and loving remembrance: South Australia's Soldiers' Memorial Gardens' was on behalf of a joint research team. Louise pointed out that traditional war memorials are easily identified and the use of trees – along avenues, in groves or even individually – as memorials to those killed at war, are nothing new. Neither it seems are cemetery or memorial gardens as places of mourning to remember and commemorate deceased family and friends, particularly those killed in World War One. Dedicated soldiers' memorial gardens, however, appear to have been a uniquely South Australian concept and apart from the Victor Harbor example,

little research has been done into the garden cemetery movement. The Victor Harbor concept had its roots in 1917 with the planting of a Norfolk Island Pine, but by the end of the war it was realised that the garden area was not big enough to plant pines in honor of all the dead from the area.

Unlike today, when the bodies of those killed in battle are retrieved back to Australia, those grieving during and after World War One, found it difficult to mourn their loss without a body. These memorial gardens – and there were 42 such sites proposed across South Australia after the war – whilst public memorials, were also private places to grieve, somewhat like temporary cemeteries. Louise also mentioned the memorial gardens at Parafield, West Terrace in Adelaide, Kadina and Jamestown and how these have changed over time due to design and layout changes, time itself and local politics. The vast war cemeteries in Europe were also mentioned, many of which have developed into memorial gardens themselves, some with native plants from the homelands in them – ‘corners that are forever Australian’. These cemeteries too have changed over time, from their establishment in the years after the war when there were lots of bodies but very few visitors to grieve over them, to the present when thousands of Australians visit, often to mourn soldiers they never knew.

World War Two munitions production

Wartime stories are usually male-oriented, but Julie Holbrook Tolley’s entertaining presentation on the production of World War Two projectiles in South Australia was a look back to another era, to the home front when ‘work’ was gender-based, and with some women believing that their men could not, or would not, survive without them. Julie has interviewed several women who worked in South Australian munitions factories and has used these interviews and their personal photographs – photographs of themselves in uniform (overalls) they were not supposed to have had taken – to acknowledge this important input to the war effort. Julie feels that her work, along with the input from the women of course, has finally recognised the efforts of ordinary, but proud and patriotic, young women during extraordinary times. Julie’s research has found that initially young boys were chosen to work in the munitions factories, but they proved unreliable, and women were soon deemed to be useful factory workers. Looking back, Julie found that the women enjoyed the financial and social aspects of the work. Twenty-nine thousand women, and quite a few men, were employed in South Australian munitions factories and allied work during World War Two. The women Julie has spoken with could still recall the machinery they worked on, the

clothing they wore, the metals they used, the sounds and smells of the materials they worked with and the dangers associated with the work. Julie has also found that the common belief that women factory workers were displaced after the war is a fallacy, particularly in South Australia. ‘After the war, Tom Playford helped establish a number of production line-based industries in the suburbs and the women who “manned” the munitions factories had factory-work experience and enjoyed the independence of having a job. A lot of the men did not come back, and many who did, did not want to work in factories,’ Julie said. And the title, ‘I’m going to work in the munitions factory’, and then Mum asked, ‘But, who’ll get Ted’s lunch?’. Ted was Dot’s husband and, as was often the norm at the time, Dot called her mother-in-law ‘Mum’. Dot’s sister already worked in a munitions factory and convinced Dot to do the same, but Mum was concerned that Ted might not be able to fend for himself. Ted was not as useless as they thought however and replied, ‘It’s alright Mum. I’ll make a sandwich and have a cuppa tea.’

John Mannion

War and Peacekeeping

- **Participant Interviewer** by Ben Morris (Master of Arts candidate, Wollongong University)
- **From the trenches to Afghanistan: Australian peacekeepers remembering a place for themselves** by Kimberley Doyle (PhD candidate, School of History, Australian National University)
- **Recording from the frontline: the Australian War Memorial's experience of interviewing current serving Defence force members** by Stephanie Doyle (Senior Film and Sound Curator, Australian War Memorial)

This session was opened by Ben Morris, a graduate from Duntroon with nearly forty years' service in the Army. Ben's presentation, 'The Participant Interviewer', was on his Master's research topic, based on oral histories of Vietnam War veterans. Not just any Vietnam veterans however; Ben has interviewed the members of the platoon he commanded. The initial motivation for his research was setting the official record straight about a particular incident during the war. However, as his project developed he became intrigued with the issue of the dynamics of his relationship with his former men. He began to question his own bias and potential to skew the interview process, how his interviewees might direct their answers to their former commander and what was really at stake in terms of recording 'the truth'. Ben's was a lively and engaging presentation that was well-received.

In what would seem to contrast with war, Kimberley Doyle's presentation, based on her doctoral research, addressed Australian peacekeepers who served in Bougainville, East Timor and the Solomon Islands from 1997 to 2006. This raised for her the current debate about including peacekeepers on the Honour Roll at the Australian War Memorial and the ambiguity of the role of peacekeepers generally. The dichotomy of their nomenclature as 'peacekeepers' and their very real experiences of war events in fulfilling their roles was palpable. The role of peacekeepers seems destined to become mythologised as non-combative in the way that the ANZAC legend has eulogised larrikin warriors, but where does that leave them emotionally and psychologically?

Stephanie Boyle's paper added yet another perspective on the session topic. As the senior film and sound curator at the Australian War

Memorial, Stephanie was deployed to the Middle East in 2011 to film and record oral histories with both military veterans and current serving Defence force members. This is a new approach to that of the past when interviews were conducted long after the participants came home. One can only try to imagine the concerns of a non-military person venturing into sites of active service to record this information. I take my hat off to her! Apart from the issue of her own security, Stephanie had to deal with many other factors, particularly trying to infiltrate the ingrained reluctance of Defence force personnel to talk on the public record. It was a fascinating account and a very rewarding session overall.

Sue Anderson

[And apologies to Sue for omitting her name after her review of Indigenous Voices in the Summer 2013 edition of *Word of Mouth* – Ed]

Conference Workshops

Four workshops, held at the Migration Museum and the State Library of South Australia (SLSA), were presented on the Tuesday after the conference and were well attended.

How to do oral history workshop

June Edwards writes

Madeleine Regan, Silver Moon (SLSA) and I ran a half day workshop on *How to do oral history*. Susan Mann worked with me to produce a workshop outline which would cover theory and practice in a three hour session. The Chapel at the Migration Museum was full and Madeleine's teaching skills ensured the audience were very engaged, asking lots of questions. People ranged from those new to the work to very experienced, so there was a good exchange of ideas. Silver ran a lively practical session on the digital recorders and Sue Berman from New Zealand was very helpful. Sue runs workshops in NZ so was interested in our approach. The extracts which were played were appreciated and the morning was very positive. During morning tea there was a lot of networking with new people discovering avenues by which to engage in the profession. As the workshops were at the end of a busy three day conference it was lovely to see the participants still showing enthusiasm. It enabled Madeleine and me to stay standing!

Madeleine Regan writes

The 32 participants came from diverse areas and contributed to a lively experience of the workshop. It seems from the range that oral history is being

considered and used in very different professional and personal contexts. Two New Zealanders and five people from interstate were able to capitalise on the timing of the workshop after the Conference. The interstaters included two representatives from a local government in suburban Melbourne, an archivist from the Catholic Archive in Townsville, an employee from the Museum of Brisbane and a postgraduate student from New South Wales.

The workshop attracted a wide range of South Australian participants. Four were from the country, including two members of the Loxton Old Machinery Group who had set out at 5.00 that morning! Another country participant was from the Mannum History Group and a fourth represented the Polish Hill River Museum in the Clare Valley. A number of South Australian participants represented historical groups or societies, and others were employees from local government. Some state government organisations were represented including the Women's Information Services and State Records. In addition, a few attended the workshop because of personal interest and involvement in family history and there were two freelancers. Participants involved in education were well represented – two schools, two people from UniSA and one university student.

Using oral histories in exhibitions and public programs

Presenters: Catherine Manning, Mandy Paul and Amanda James (HistorySA)

This workshop covered structuring exhibitions and public programs, and examined in detail the use of oral history as a research source and as content in a range of programs. Topics included dealing sensitively with interviewees, difficult histories, editing, text versus audio versus video, the question of voice and emerging technologies. The workshop was well attended and feedback indicated that the participants enjoyed the presentations and tours of Migration Museum galleries. Participants also found the hands-on challenge of devising an exhibition idea and approach from the primary sources provided, both fun and worthwhile.

Mandy Paul

Dealing with difficult histories: Vicarious Trauma and the Researcher

Presenters: Alison McDougall, Dr Karen George, Ela Samoraj and Sarah Green

Through our own professional work as researchers and oral historians, Karen George and I had become aware of the cumulative impact of working in areas of trauma. We decided to devise this workshop to make historians and project organisers more aware of the dangers inherent in working in difficult and

painful fields of history. Ela Samoraj, from Victim Support Service (SA), provided valuable information about what vicarious trauma is, how to recognise symptoms and shared strategies to minimise and manage its impact. Sarah Green, historian and Client Liaison Officer for the Find and Connect web resource, shared the challenges of this Australia-wide project which provides history and information about Australian orphanages, children's Homes and other institutions. This site can be found at <http://www.findandconnect.gov.au/>



*Alison McDougall, Ela Samoraj, Sarah Green and Karen George
Courtesy Pauline Cockrill, History SA*

Ela has kindly provided this summary for the newsletter

Exposure to stories of hurt, loss, abuse and neglect carries a risk of vicarious traumatising. It can affect our physical health and change the way we think about ourselves, others and the world. It can change how we relate to our loved ones. Since the early 1990s terms such as compassion fatigue and secondary traumatic stress have also been used to describe that experience. Researchers, oral historians and transcribers of traumatic narratives are not immune to that risk. Interviewing survivors, witnessing their courage and resilience – positive aspects of work – make it often difficult to acknowledge that listening, reading and writing about trauma can also hurt. While compassion satisfaction and vicarious resilience can act as protective factors, the negative impact ignored, dismissed or brushed aside can gradually build up. Noticing how our bodies, minds and hearts respond to the narratives of trauma can support our resilience. Putting in place effective self-care strategies and accessing support will mitigate initially transient effects and, over time, successfully transform potentially debilitating personal and professional consequences of secondary traumatic exposure.

This workshop was well attended and generated much thoughtful discussion with one participant reporting 'it deserves more attention than it has historically been given' and another saying, 'the penny suddenly dropped – this is about us!'

Alison McDougall

Remembering Lives: Strategies for Retrieving Memories and Creating Personal Life Stories

Facilitator: Alison McDougall

Presenters: Pauline Cockrill and Allison Russell, Lenore de la Perelle

This workshop was run last year by the OHAA SA/NT Branch and the committee felt it would be worthwhile to present it again. Allison Russell and Pauline Cockrill from History SA discussed reminiscence projects and memory including some recent projects with aged care providers and a research collaboration with Flinders Medical Centre (FMC).



*Allison Russell showing museum artefacts taken in to FMC patients
Courtesy Pauline Cockrill, History SA*

Lenore de la Perelle, Manager of the Dementia Learning and Development Unit in the ACH Group, outlined adaptations and communication strategies that are needed to support a person with dementia to participate in creating a personal life history which is then a valuable tool for that person's interaction with others and for their wellbeing.



*Lenore de la Perelle showing items from a memory box.
Courtesy Pauline Cockrill, History SA*

Feedback from OHAA QLD conference bursary recipient, Nicolette Dixon, illustrates how useful cross disciplinary sharing of information can be: 'I got so much more out of it than what I expected. Although directed towards people suffering from Alzheimer's, I was pleased the techniques had application across the board in varying situations of memory loss. I have in mind the gentleman on whose biography I have been working – he suffered loss of memory from serious burns and subsequently the drugs required to manage the pain. However, the workshop really inspired me to perhaps utilise some of its suggestions in ways I would not have considered before.'

Alison McDougall

Last Words

**The City of Adelaide Oral History
(Extension) Project 2012 – 2013
by Madeleine Regan**

The City of Adelaide Oral History Project was initiated by South Australian historian Dr John Tregenza in 1971 when he recorded three trial interviews with former employees of the Adelaide City Council. The project continued over twenty years and a number of oral historians were involved including Karen George who was the author of *City Memory 1978 – 1998: A Guide and Index to the City of Adelaide Oral History Collection* (1999).

After an interval of ten or so years, the Council provided funds to extend the project in 2012 and 2013 and Madeleine Regan recorded twenty interviews with a range of people who had close connections with the City. These included two Lord Mayors, former employees, long-time residents and business people. A total of 128 interviews have been recorded for the project.

**Keith Altmann, owner of the Popeye
business on the River Torrens**
(OH 123: used with permission
of Adelaide City Archives)

The following excerpt is from the third interview with Keith Altmann recorded by Madeleine Regan on 6 March 2013. Keith owned the Popeye business on the River Torrens for over 49 years from 1962 to 2011. In this section he describes the arrangements for the visit of the Queen and Duke of Edinburgh in 1963.

... Well that was a fairly exciting time when the Queen and the Duke were there, because I was virtually new at the game myself. It all went off very well. They got on the Popeye boat in front of Jolleys, and went on the River, and got off at Elder Park, and they had a red carpet from the landing at Elder Park to the centre of Elder Park, where they had a revolving stand, and Tom Playford was the Premier at that stage, and we went in there and done that, and that went off very well, and they did that for a couple of hours probably, and when that was over they got back on the boat and we went and did here, and took them around back to Jolleys.

I understand that you made the Popeye into a 'Royal barge'.

Yeah! Well that happened by taking the roof off, and at the back where you'd get on the boat and go down in, it was made a platform across there, and this is where they sat, and then all their entourage or whatever you call them, were on the boat, all the security guys to make sure nothing happened to them, and all this type of thing. No, that went off very well.

I understand that you had a second Popeye following the Royal people?

Yes, I had the hood off for that as well. That had a choir on it, and there was also a big choir on the opposite of Elder Park, lots and lots of voices there, and the other Popeye had a choir on it, and they were sort of moved from point to point when they were needed to be.

And what was the occasion, do you remember?

Well all for entertainment for the Queen, yeah, it was all set up just for the Queen and the Duke. The revolving stage, if you like, in the centre of Elder Park, something was going on over there and over there and over here. They'd press a button and the thing would turn without the Queen having to move, and it moved from whatever was happening here to over here, to over here, that type of thing...

And how did it feel having the Royal guests on board?

[laughs] It was exciting I suppose, and nervous at the same time. No, it went off really well. She was quite a friendly person, when she got off the boat she bowed and walked off, and this sort of thing, and that was the end of that particular session.the Council (Adelaide City Council) or the government, I don't know, one or the other. They came along and they said, We want the top off, and I turned it into just a straight boat situation, and that's what happened there. That worked pretty well.

Oral History Australia Inc

South Australian/Northern Territory Association

Oral History Australia Inc is a non-profit body whose members practice and promote oral history. The aims of Oral History Australia [OHA] are:

- to promote the practice and methods of oral history
- to educate in the use of oral history methods
- to encourage discussions on all aspects of oral history
- to foster the preservation of oral history records

The South Australian Association of OHA came to life just seven months after the national body was founded in Perth in July 1978.

Services provided by the volunteer committee of Oral History Australia to members of the SA/NT Association include:

- *Word of Mouth* Branch newsletter which is published twice a year and includes articles about work being done in South Australia
- Annual Journal of Oral History Australia which contains papers given at the biennial conference or other papers considered of particular topical interest
- Hire of Fostex digital recording equipment at a membership discount
- Various publications including the *Oral History Handbook* by Beth Robertson which have a membership discount
- Biennial conference of OHA which has a membership discount
- Regular oral history training workshops. These full day workshops introduce participants to the practice and methods of oral history and provide equipment training on the Fostex digital recorders
- Advanced oral history workshops covering a range of issues including ethics, memory and technological advances in the use of oral histories
- Access to the annual OHA SA/NT Association grant scheme of \$500 to help foster small oral history initiatives in South Australia and a free workshop
- Access to the branch website: www.oralhistoryaustraliasant.org.au
- Participation in events which often coincide with the AGM and Christmas eg tours of the Migration Museum and the State Library of South Australia focusing on the audio visual aspects of these organisations; a New Year get together over afternoon tea; talk by Peter Kolomitsev at the State Library on digital technology and equipment; seminars during the Family History Fair and History Week; and exhibitions during History Week