

AUTUMN 2024 | NUMBER 84

## IN THIS EDITION

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Elaine Rabbitt Workshop

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The South Australian Frontier and its Legacies

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OHA Technology Survey Results



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*Cover image: The Elaine Rabbitt Workshop group (page 4)*

*Photo supplied by Carly Heinrich*

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# Editors' Letter

Welcome to the 2024 Autumn edition of *Word of Mouth*, there's much to report on!

Working with Elaine Rabbitt to present the Goolarri Media Enterprises Oral History Workshop in February was a highlight of the year so far, it was fantastic to see OHA SA/NT Membership Secretary, Christeen Schoepf, promote the association to a new cohort of budding oral historians! Participants were asked to put forth their learning goals for the session and several spoke of their desire to learn protocols for respectful communication with First Nations peoples and other marginalised communities with whom they hoped to work, which was a pleasant reminder of the purpose and potential of our work, to speak truth to power and to amplify the voices of those whose stories are rarely told. Looking forward to hearing the stories captured by the next generation, many of whom are poised to become our new members! Thanks Christeen! Read more about the workshop in Christeen's write-up on page 4.

As we prepare to look back for SA's annual History Festival in May, we also look ahead to the future of reconciliation with new committee member Dr Skye Krichauff, the ugly truth of Artificial Intelligence in Oral History with Dr Carolyn Collins and to the 23rd International Oral History Association Conference, in Poland in 2025. See page 28 for details about the Call for Submissions.

Lastly, from Carly—thanks to Dante for a huge effort getting to print the Spring 2023 edition solo in my absence, great to be back on board!

We trust you'll enjoy reading as much as we enjoyed putting together this issue!

Sincerely,  
Carly Heinrich & Dante DeBono

*We acknowledge Kurna as the Traditional Custodians of the land on which we live and work. We recognise their cultural heritage, beliefs and continuing connection to the land, and thank them for caring for Country. We pay our respect to Elders, past and present, and extend that acknowledgement and respect to the First Nations people of other regions. Sovereignty was not ceded. This always was and always will be Aboriginal land.*

## About Oral History Australia SA/NT

***The objectives of Oral History Australia Inc. are 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: David Sweet (President); Dianne Korare (Secretary); Carolyn Collins (Treasurer); Christeen Schoepf (Membership Secretary); Judy Bailey (Website); William Martin; Sally Stephenson; Enid Woodley; Skye Krichauff.

Annual membership fees:

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

Editors: Dante DeBono and Carly Heinrich, [editor@oralhistoryaustraliasant.org.au](mailto:editor@oralhistoryaustraliasant.org.au)

Contributions to *Word of Mouth* (Spring, 2024) should reach the editors by 15 September 2024



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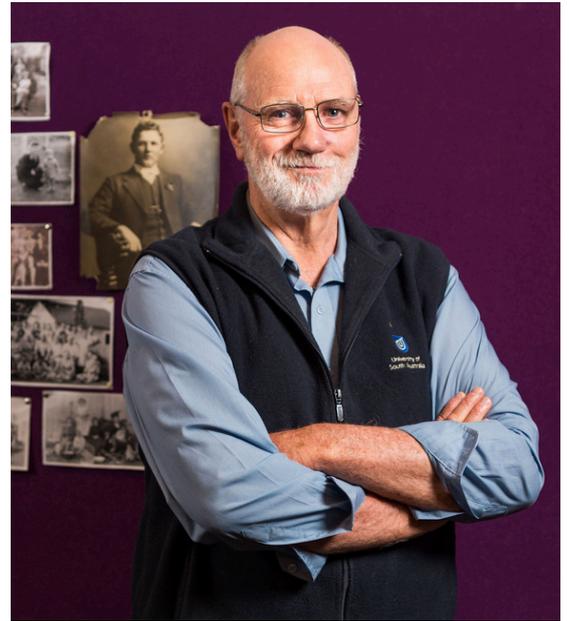
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The views expressed in *Word of Mouth* are not necessarily those of Oral History Australia (SA/NT Association) Inc.

# President's Report

David Sweet

In May each year, we celebrate the History Festival in South Australia where those passionate about history, or others who have but a passing interest, can indulge in the happenings of yesteryear. However, I would posit that we are living history every day of our lives. The current events of today are the history of tomorrow; this is what makes oral history so valuable. Like the COVID lockdowns and deaths we experienced in recent memory, no matter the issue, our recollections are interesting and can be prompted in different ways. There is historical memory, constructed memory, and popular memory amongst other descriptions. We can use prompts to recall. An artefact, photograph, or a discussion may bring to mind an incident. For some people, it can be a diary.



Dr David Sweet, photo supplied

Personally, I have never kept a daily diary other than for travel and holidays. I recently discovered such a record; my old Scouting journal. On May 21st, 1962, Malcolm Pitcher, Hugh Everly, and I headed into the relatively unknown (for us) Adelaide Hills as fourteen-year-old Boy Scouts. It was a three-day hike to earn us a Scout badge. I swear, I could still smell a faint aroma of campfire smoke and eucalyptus from old, dried gum leaves that I had collected, still there between the pages.

My teenaged writing describes activities we undertook on that 'First Class' Scouting test. My father dropped us off at Waterfall Gully for our hike up Long Ridge to Mount Lofty, and on to Woodhouse, the Scout camping ground. My journal notes that there had been six inches (150mm) of rain in four days. Our journey was testing; we were cold, wet, and caked in mud. It was foggy, hailing with strong winds and we had no shelter. Have you ever been caught in a hailstorm? It hurts. There wasn't any trail to follow, we never saw another person on our way to the campground, didn't spot a single vehicle, or even hear a plane fly past overhead. We spent three days soaked through and carrying everything on our backs.

In these few paragraphs in my journal, sixty-two years since that coming-of-age hike, I can draw on so much history from just that experience. Many people go on hikes, undertake orienteering with great equipment, but all we had was a paper Army Ordinance map, and a small compass. That was the technology of the day. I wonder, would we let teenagers of that age head off alone and equipped like that now? There were tests set by our Scout Master, Jerry Buxton, that we had to complete on our way. Some of the activities included sketching the Piccadilly Post Office, noting the Foundation Stone at the Crafers District Hall: *'This stone was laid by Mrs Joseph Johnson, March 14, 1909'*, or the Foundation Stone in the ruin at the top of Brown Hill Creek: *'This stone was laid by Mrs Joseph Caice, 1847'*. The sketching of a post office, which has long closed, is a unique rendition of that place at that time. The Foundation Stones that memorialised two married women

recorded only their husbands' names, but who were they? Not a question I asked then, but I do now. Have they been forgotten?

So, what does this nostalgic trip have to do with oral history? As I read through my Scout journal and looked at the few black and white photographs, my sketches, and 'mud maps', it reminded me of being interviewed by Peter Donovan for the *Australian Lives* (Puri & Thomson 2017) oral history project. I do not recall mentioning this event in those interviews, a part of my history that I'd not considered at the time. If I had remembered this Scouting adventure, how would I have spoken of it? My recollections are now clear, detailed, with a touch of sadness that I never kept in touch with Hugh and Malcolm, whose nickname was 'Foo'. Why Foo? I have no idea. Unfortunately, Malcolm died some years ago, so I won't have the chance to ask him.

An artefact or photograph coupled with the narrative have a multifaceted affiliation; they can be viewed, and the associated stories are told and retold many times. Often with each telling, something new is added. One of the many aspects of oral history I enjoy is that there is no one correct way of recording the narrative, nor is there just one subject to consider. Technology has opened up exciting and innovative options. As oral historians, we are no longer confined to a sound-proofed studio. We can record interviews with people almost anywhere, take people on a guided tour of a location, create podcasts with overarching narratives, include environmental sounds for richness, or use photographs and artefacts at a kitchen table, in the comfort of a home.

People have interesting lives and stories to tell. There may have been an event, a street, a building, a community group that generates interest, and we can capture its history through interviews. I am continually amazed at the projects our members undertake, the research, ethics, and passion that is captured. But what are we doing to future-proof these oral histories? Not every interview can be accepted by the State Library. Some remain with the interviewee, are in community group collections and archives, regional libraries, or up on a website. It is important to remember as historians that we also have a responsibility to ensure oral histories are not just recorded, but saved to not be forgotten.

**David Sweet**  
**State President**  
**OHA SA/NT**



*Malcolm (left) and Hugh (right) halfway up Long Ridge, May 21, 1962. Photo taken by David with a Box Brownie camera and hand-developed in his parents' blacked-out bathroom.*

**Reference:**

Puri, A & Thomson, A 2017, *Australian Lives: An Intimate History*, Monash University Publishing, Clayton, Victoria, Australia.

# Elaine Rabbitt Workshop

Christeen Schoepf

Thanks to a grant from the Community Broadcasting Foundation (CBF), Elaine Rabbitt, oral historian and training manager at Goolarri Media Enterprises in Broome Western Australia, was able to travel east, first to Brisbane, and then to Adelaide to deliver her nationally accredited oral history and broadcasting workshop. Held over two days on 29 February and 1 March at community radio station, 5 EBI in Adelaide, sixteen attendees from Radio Adelaide, Umeewarra Media, Oral History Australia SA/NT, and others with an interest in enhancing their interview skills and projects participated in the workshop. OHA SA/NT President, David Sweet, was unable to attend, and in his place, Christeen Schoepf welcomed everyone and thanked Elaine for bringing her course to Adelaide which was free for those attending. Christeen also gave a small talk about OHA SA/NT and the benefits of membership.

Day one of the course covered oral history basics for those who were unfamiliar with the method and comparisons were made between oral history interviewing and broadcasting. Ethics, informed consent, and cultural protocols were discussed across the group with indigenous interviewing being explored at length and various scenarios presented. Pre-interview preparation, letters of invitation to possible project participants, and interview techniques and questions were also considered. Before the end of the day, the group paired-off and briefly conducted preliminary interviews for interview that would be recorded the next day.

On day two, the learning outcomes of the previous day were recapped and prior to lunch, the interviews were recorded. OHA SA/NT member and co-editor of *Word of Mouth*, Carly Heinrich, assisted Elaine in collating the interviews on a central device to be listened to by Elaine later for comment. Carly also spoke on her own journey with oral history and answered questions from the group.

The course was well received by all attendees and new friends were made. Thank you Elaine!



# The South Australian Frontier and its Legacies

Skye Krichauff

Research for 'The South Australian Frontier and its Legacies' project began in 2020 in the midst of the COVID pandemic. I am the project's oral historian and, with Chief Investigator Rob Foster, responsible for archival research. The project is funded by the Australian Research Council as a Linkage Project (LP190100561 Reconciling with the Frontier) and based at the University of Adelaide (UoA). Project partners are the State Library of South Australia (SLSA), the History Trust of South Australia (HTSA), Reconciliation SA (RecSA), State Records of South Australia (SRSA), and the South Australian Museum (SAM) [Figure 1]. In addition to Rob and myself, members of the project team include Amanda Nettelbeck (UoA), John Carty (SAM), Mandy Paul (HTSA), and Kristy Kokegei (HTSA). Project partners assisted in a variety of ways—with access to and the digitisation of archival records (SLSA and SRSA), access to records (SAM), publicity, the hosting of events, and the dissemination of the website (HTSA and RecSA). The project team was assisted by the South Australian Aboriginal Heritage Committee and advised by the project's Aboriginal Reference Group. We also received funding from the South Australian Department for Education (to develop learning resources for educators and students), and worked with the History Teachers' Association (SA Branch).

The impetus for this project was the release of the 'Uluru Statement of the Heart'; members of the project team and the project partners see this as a truth-telling project, and anticipate that it will contribute to the reconciliation movement. The outcome is a website that hosts an interactive story map [Figure 2], on which is mapped encounters that took place between Aboriginal people and colonists in South Australia in the nineteenth century. Each incident included on the map is fully referenced; viewers are able to access a detailed account of the incident and the relevant sources drawn on (the archival records have been digitised and transcribed, and audio extracts from oral



Figure 1



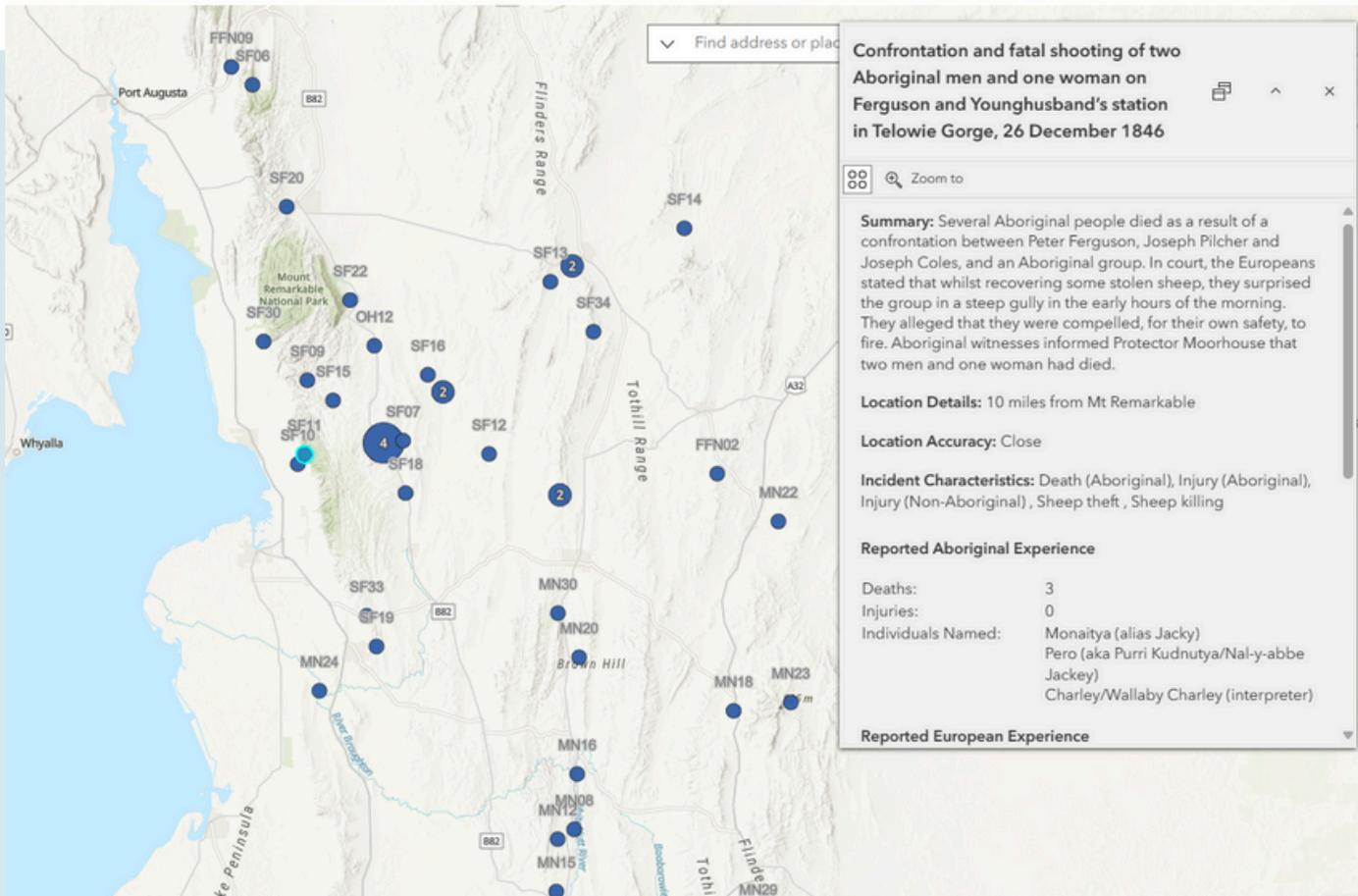


Figure 3

Monaitya and Pero (aka Purri Kudnutya/Nal-y-abbe Jackey) were tried at the Supreme Court Criminal Sessions in March 1847.<sup>4</sup> They were sentenced to twelve months imprisonment with hard labour. Judge Cooper successfully applied for a pardon for Pero.<sup>5</sup>

1. 'Police Commissioner's Court: Monday, 4<sup>th</sup> January', *SA Register*, 6 January 1847, 3DE.
2. Colonial Secretary to Protector Moorhouse, 20 January 1840, GRG 24/4/17(1847), 54-55, SRSA. [Digitised](#) [Transcript](#)
3. Moorhouse to Colonial Secretary, Native School Establishment, 5 March 1847, GRG 24/6/1847/287, SRSA. [Digitised](#) [Transcript](#)
4. 'Supreme Court - Sittings in Banco: Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> March', *Observer*, 13 March 1847, 11A.
5. 'Supreme Court - Criminal Side: Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> March', *SA Register*, 17 March 1847, 3C.

Figure 4

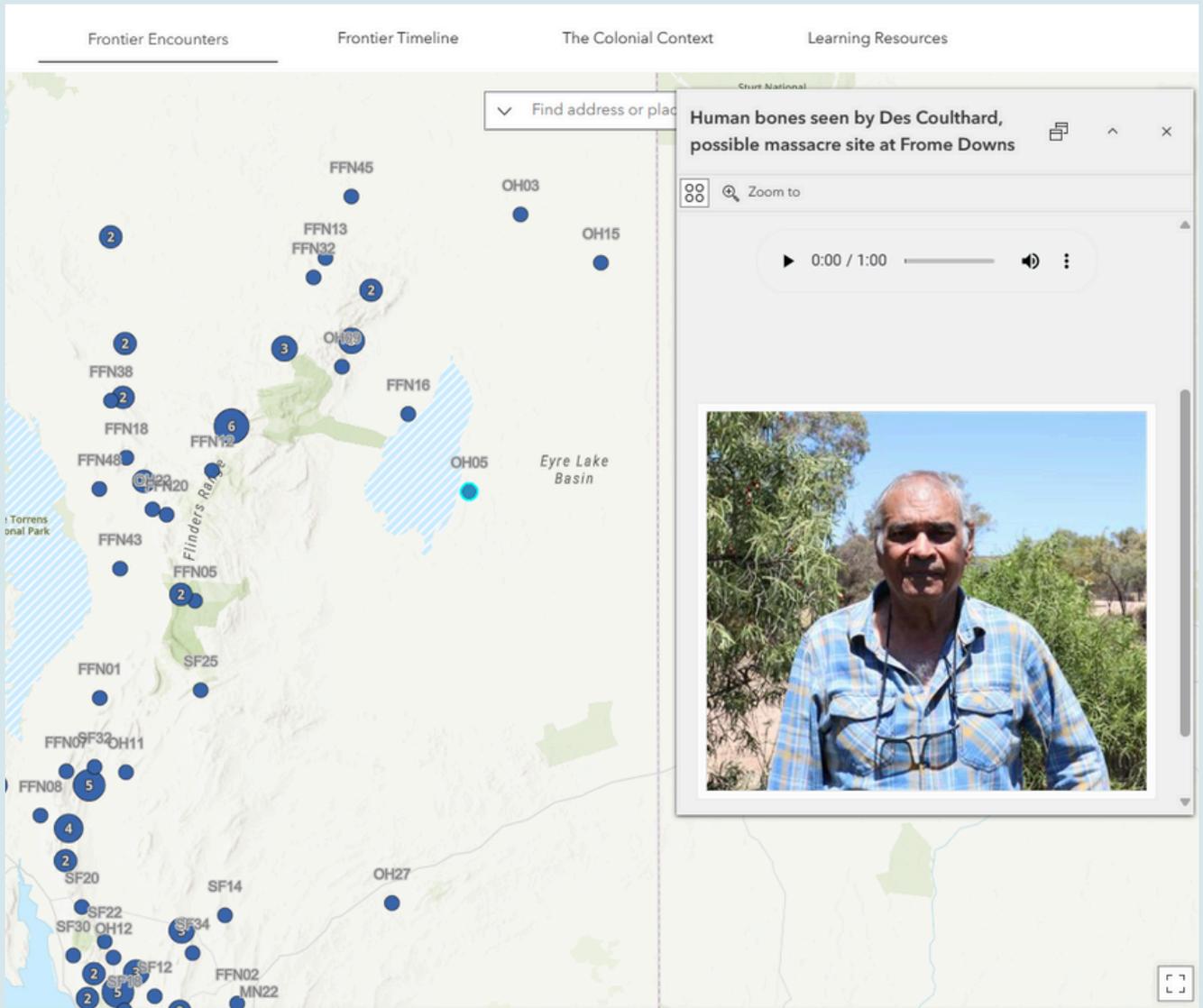


Figure 5



## The Colonial Context

We aim to map accounts of frontier conflict in colonial South Australia (c.1830s - c. 1900s) to engage current national debates about truth telling and recognition.

European pastoral activity and settlement was followed by systems of colonial governance which turned Aboriginal Country into spaces of cross-cultural contact, co-existence and, often, conflict. The social, cultural, legal and environmental legacies of these introduced systems continue today.



Colonial Law and the Judicial System



Conceptualising the Frontier



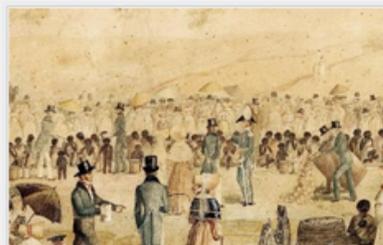
Pastoral Leases and the Frontier



Policing the Frontier



'Protectors'

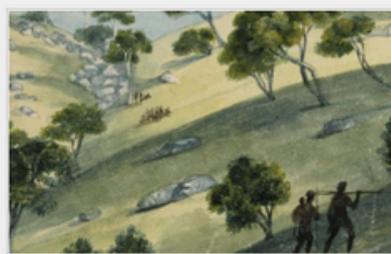


Ration Distribution

Figure 6

## Frontier Regions

Investigate how frontier relations evolved in different regions of the colony of South Australia. These seven regions reflect how colonists saw the country, but it was already mapped and occupied by First Nations who knew the distinctive boundaries of Country in ways that few colonists appreciated.



Adelaide District, Hills and Fleurieu



Eyre Peninsula



Flinders and Far North



Mid North and Southern Flinders



Murraylands and Lower Lakes



South East

Figure 7

# Resources in Regional South Australia and Broken Hill

## Christeen Schoepf

The previous edition of *Word of Mouth* featured the resources for recording oral histories and podcasts that are available at the Port Adelaide Library and the Parks Council Library studio. In this issue, several options that have recently become available in the mid-north of South Australia and Broken Hill are presented. As new resources, the business models for both are at present still being worked through, however, the fees for hiring the studios and equipment are intended to be reasonable. Port Pirie National Trust Museum has had extensive conservation works undertaken and become one end of the Silver to Sea Way—a road experience that travels the route of the railway that carted ore from Broken Hill to the smelter at Port Pirie. Broken Hill is Australia's only heritage listed city and is fast becoming one of Australia's cultural hotspots being the location of several iconic film locations, artists, and theatre groups. As the opposite ends of the journey, both are featured here.

### Story Lab, Port Pirie

Story Lab is located within the newly refurbished Port Pirie Railway Station Complex in the Customs House that also hosts the Silver to Sea Way Immersive Experience. The intent of the studio is to provide museum volunteers, locals, students, and oral historians with a space and facilities with which to record the memories and experiences of local people and visitors. At this stage, there is equipment available for recording oral histories and podcasts, however, plans for the future include the purchase of film equipment and portable recording equipment. Story Lab is located at **77 Ellen Street, Port Pirie** and is contactable via [the Port Pirie National Trust on Facebook](#) until the new complex is formally open.



*Story Lab, Port Pirie National Trust Museum  
Photo supplied by Christeen Schoepf*

## Arts and Media Hub, Broken Hill

The Arts and Media Hub is an acoustically sound studio that also provides access to film and sound equipment and a state-of-the-art editing suite that was funded through several grants. The complex houses the studio, has kitchen and toilet facilities, and is the office of West Darling Arts (office hours Monday to Friday, 9am to 3pm). The following is just some of the equipment available for hire or use at the Hub:

- ASUS Laptop & Backpack
- Rodecaster Pro II integrated audio production studio with cover
- XLR cables 3m (blue, green, orange, pink)
- Rode NTH 100 Headset
- Rode NT1 5th gen Hybrid Microphone with shock mount
- Rode Procaster Microphone with shock mount and WS2 windshield
- Rode PSPSA1 + Pro Studio Arm (boom)
- Zoom H5 Field Recorder Kit
- A variety of cameras including Sony A7RIII Camera with travel bag
- GoPro Hero 9 and case
- A variety of lenses, tripods, and gimbals
- Speaker systems and monitors
- Clip-on microphones and set of three digital wireless transmitters and receivers
- Projectors and power banks
- A vast selection of lighting options for filming



Should you find yourself out that way and needing recording, filming, or editing equipment and facilities, then contact **West Darling Arts on 8087 9035**. They are located at **242 Blende Street, Broken Hill**.

*Arts and Media Hub, Broken Hill  
Photo supplied by Christeen Schoepf*

# Artificial Intelligence and Oral History: The Good, the Bad, and the (Very) Ugly

Carolyn Collins

If you missed US oral historian, archivist, and technology guru Professor Doug Boyd's thought-provoking lecture on the challenges and possibilities of Artificial Intelligence (AI) at the end of last year, the good news is that you can still view it online.

Boyd, the director of the Louie B Nunn Center for Oral History, University of Kentucky Libraries, presented La Trobe University's Bernard Bailyn Lecture in North American History online on 21 November 2023. Entitled, ***Artificial Intelligence and Oral History: The Good, the Bad & the Ugly***, it explored the implications of AI for research and interviewing across multiple disciplines.

Many of us are already using AI in our work. It is transforming the way oral historians and archivists transcribe and search online interviews and offers a wonderful opportunity for older interviews to be made more accessible. It does, however, come with some huge ethical and legal challenges to the way we collect and archive personal information. Some of the possibilities Boyd raises are, frankly, downright scary.

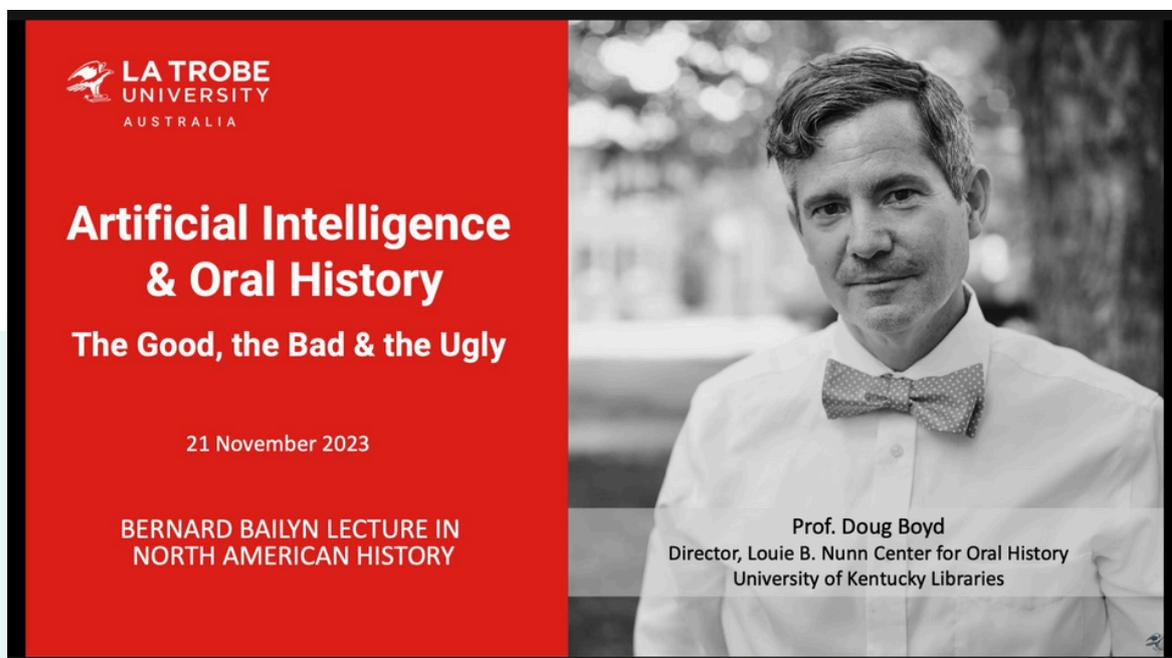


Doug Boyd is well versed on the subject, having envisioned, designed, and implemented the open-source and free OHMS system (Oral History Metadata Synchronizer), which synchronizes text with audio and video online. In 2019, he received a Fulbright Scholars Research Grant to collaborate with the National Library of Australia on innovative access to online oral history.

Boyd also co-edited (with Mary A Larson) the book ***Oral History and Digital Humanities: Voice, Access, and Engagement*** published by Palgrave MacMillan in 2014, authors the blog [Digital Omnium](#), and has written numerous articles pertaining to oral history, archives, and digital technologies.

You can view his lecture here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DOg0iCefZjw>



*Professor Doug Boyd's presentation  
Photo supplied by La Trobe Archaeology & History YouTube Channel*

# Conference Bursary for 2024 OHA National Conference in Melbourne

Oral History Australia SA/NT is offering a conference bursary for one of our members to cover the cost of conference registration (early-bird rate for members) and attendance at the conference dinner.

This year, the conference will be held at Trinity College, University of Melbourne, Parkville. The conference theme is 'The Power of Oral History: Risks, Rewards & Possibilities'.

Applicants for the bursary must be current financial members of Oral History Australia SA/NT, and be full financial members at the time of the conference (21-24 November 2024).

The successful bursary recipient is expected to present at the conference. A copy of their accepted abstract should be sent along with their completed application form. The bursary recipient is also required to write a short report for *Word of Mouth*.

**Application forms can be downloaded [here](#).**

To apply for the bursary, please complete the application form and send to [contact@oralhistoryaustraliasant.org.au](mailto:contact@oralhistoryaustraliasant.org.au).

**Closing date for applications is 30 June 2024**



## We're pleased to welcome Dr Skye Krichauff to the Oral History Australia SA/NT Committee.



*Dr Skye Krichauff, photo supplied*

Skye Krichauff is a co-editor of [\*Studies in Oral History\*](#). She is an ethno-historian who combines the methodologies of history, anthropology and oral history. 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). She is employed as a Senior Lecturer at the University of Adelaide and is currently working on an ARC Research Fellow on the linkage project investigating cross-cultural violence in colonial South Australia. The project's website will be available to the public in late May and is titled 'The South Australian Frontier and its Legacies'.



# Barossa History Fair 2024

Christeen Schoepf

The Barossa History Fair is happening again on **Sunday, 5th May from 10am to 4pm**, this time in the beautiful town of Tanunda. The fair aims to promote not only local Barossa history, but history in general and his it is relevant to everyone. Across Tanunda, a variety of attractions will be open, including exhibitions, bands, historic vehicle display, a conducted walking tour of the churches of Tanunda, Biedermeier furniture, and historic photographs, together with the treasures of the Barossa Museum, local heritage group displays, and some insight into tracing your family tree. The Victorian Society will be promenading in the streets, and the Barossa Light Horse will also be traversing Murray Street. At St Paul's Church Hall will be the Pioneers Association, Genealogy SA, the Headstone Project, Moculta District Family History Society, Gawler Council, and of course, Oral History Australia SA/NT who will be promoting the aims of our group, telling everyone of the benefits of oral history interviews and membership, and where to find information about OHA and other oral history resources.

So, make the short drive to Tanunda to enjoy a fabulous day of all things historic, and comes and see us there! Check out [the Barossa History Fair on Facebook](#) for all the activities.



*President David Sweet manning the OHA table at the Barossa History Fair, 2022  
Photo supplied by Christeen Schoepf*

# National Library of Australia Seeking Stories from Indian Australians

The National Library of Australia is actively looking for stories from Australians with Indian heritage to add to the national collection.

Australians with Indian heritage are the country's fastest growing migrant group, comprising over 750,000 people in 2022. Indian diaspora communities have made a significant contribution to many aspects of Australian society and culture.

The NLA is calling on Australians with Indian heritage to help the Library build a collection about their stories. The Library will be guided by those who are by self-definition a part of the Indian diaspora in Australia. That may include people who trace their heritage to the pre-Partition Indian subcontinent.

By collecting stories of the Indian diaspora, the Library can preserve and make accessible to social historians of the future, the stories of today. The Library aims to ensure that a permanent documentary record of Australia's migration history is publicly available.

The NLA is looking for material by and about Indian-Australian people and communities, their lives and experiences, their work and organisations. These materials may be:

- Oral histories
- Books
- Newspapers or newsletters
- Manuscripts
- Pictures
- Photographs
- Posters
- Electronic publications
- Websites
- Ephemera



If you have items you'd be happy to donate, [you can offer them for consideration here](#). If you would like to express interest in contributing to our oral history collection and share your story and experiences, [get in touch with the library](#).

You can deposit your electronic publications with the Library using the [National edeposit service](#) (NED). The Library's National edeposit collection includes a diverse range of publications including [Indian Voice](#), [Indian movie entrepreneurship: not just song and dance](#), and [Annapurna: Gastronomic Delights from my Fiji Indian Childhood](#).

The Library has collected some amazing and rare items in the past. These include:

- A collection of photographs taken at the [Boishakhi Mela, Bengali New Year festival](#), Sydney Olympic Park, Sydney, 20 April 2013.
- A photograph of [Bharatam Dance Company production, Navagraha: The Planets of Destiny](#), George Fairfax Studio, Melbourne Arts Centre, 7 June 1996.
- Oral histories, such as an interview with musician and former Artistic Director of the Institute of Eastern Music, [Ashok Roy](#) recorded in 1998 and an interview with [Sadhana Mahajani](#) recorded in 2019 which describes her life as a doctor including working in health care in the Northern Territory.
- Personal papers of astrophysicist, [Ragbir Bhathal](#).
- A collection of archived websites on the [Indian diaspora in Australia](#) —from the Westpac Indian Film Festival in Sydney to news sites such as the *Indian Sun*.
- A run of issues, from 2011 to 2017, of the newspaper, [G'day India](#), published in Melbourne. The [G'day India website](#) has been captured every year since 2008 in our web archive.

The project's webpage can be located on the NLA website here:  
<https://www.nla.gov.au/collections/building-our-collections/current-collecting-priorities/australians-indian-heritage>

# Congratulations Carolyn!

## New Joint Editor for OHA's Journal

Our very own OHA SA/NT Committee Member and Treasurer, Dr Carolyn Collins, has been appointed joint editor of the Oral History Australia journal, *Studies in Oral History*. With unanimous support from the National OHA Committee, Carolyn took over the role from Dr Carla Pascoe Leahy who had been with the journal since 2019 alongside Dr Skye Krichauff. A recent addition to the OHA SA/NT Committee, Skye will be remaining a joint editor with Carolyn.



*Dr Carolyn Collins, photo supplied*

### About Carolyn

Dr Carolyn Collins is an author and oral historian based at the University of Adelaide and an interviewer for the National Library of Australia (NLA). She is the co-author of *Trailblazers: 100 Inspiring South Australian Women* (Wakefield Press, 2019) and co-editor of *Foundational Fictions in South Australian History* (Wakefield Press, 2018). Her most recent book *SOS: Women, Dissent and Conscription During the Vietnam War* (Monash University Press, 2021) was shortlisted in the 2021 Victorian Community History Awards. Her doctoral thesis on the same topic was awarded the University of Adelaide's Doctoral Research Medal. A former journalist, Carolyn is a member of the SA Working Party of the *Australian Dictionary of Biography*, and a past editor of the *Journal of the Historical Society of South Australia*. Between 2015-2018, she conducted interviews for an Australian Research Council project examining Gough Whitlam's Australian Assistance Plan. More recently, Carolyn has been recording the life stories of former Holden workers for the NLA.



# Upcoming Events at South Australia's 2024 History Festival

## **Madge and Bibs and the Advancing Girls**

Presented by Prospect Productions

**Wed 8 May, 2pm & Fri 10 May, 11am**

**Hetzel Room, InSTITUTE Building, State Library of SA**

**Fri 24 May, 11am**

**Domain Theatre, 287 Diagonal Rd, Oakland Park**

A new documentary film produced and directed by Rob George. The Advanced School for Girls was Australia's first state high school and it aimed to educate girls to the same standard as boys. Madeline Rees George, 'Madge', was headmistress for 22 of its 29 years. Former students included the great Helen Mayo. Screenings (65 mins) followed by Q&A.

Bookings online at <https://festival.history.sa.gov.au/events/madge-and-bibs-and-the-advancing-girls/>

## **The Many Loves of Geoffrey Dutton**

Presented by Prospect Productions

**Wed 8 May, 11am & Fri 10 May, 2pm**

**Hetzel Room, InSTITUTE Building, State Library of SA**

**Fri 22 May, 11am**

**Domain Theatre, 287 Diagonal Rd, Oakland Park**

Return screening of last year's sell-out documentary. Writer and founder of the Adelaide Festival and Writer's Week, Dutton was married to Ninette, but after 40 years he walked out on Adelaide and his family. His many loves included two wives, a fiancé, mistresses, his children, cars, literature, and a republic. Screening (74 mins) followed by Q&A.

Bookings online at <https://festival.history.sa.gov.au/events/the-many-loves-of-geoffrey-dutton/>





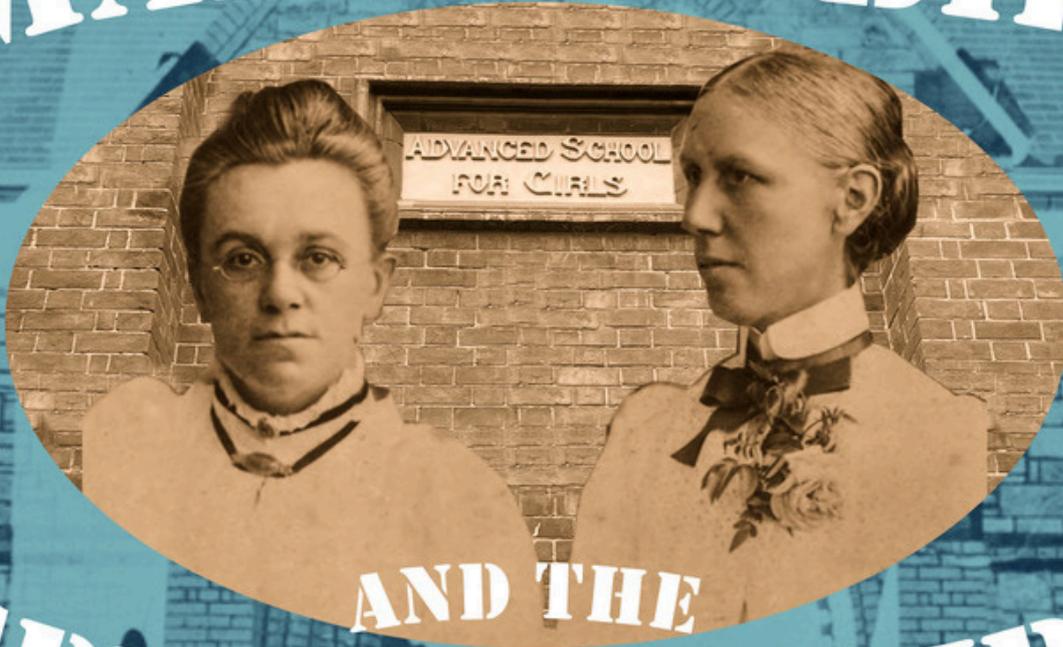
2024 S.A. History Festival



Prospect Productions presents

The women who led the way

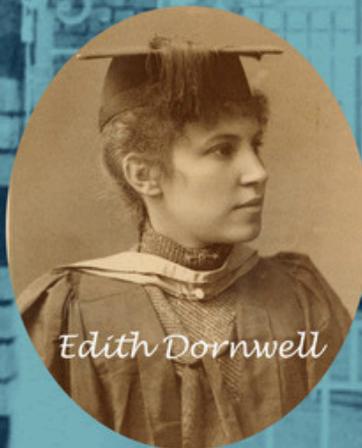
# MADGE & BIBBS



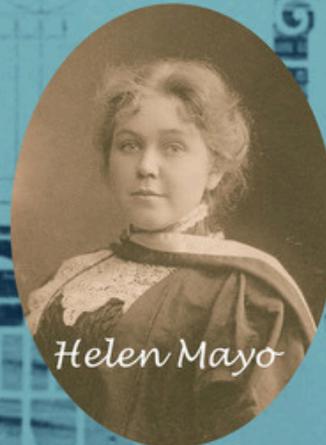
# AND THE ADVANCING GIRLS



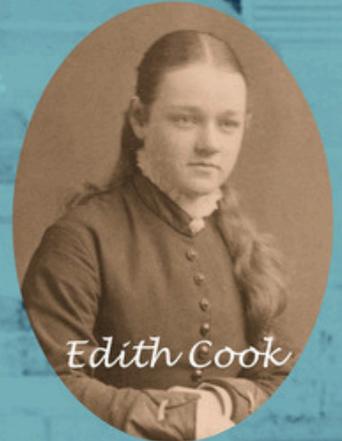
*Agnes Heyne*



*Edith Dornwell*



*Helen Mayo*



*Edith Cook*

Hetzel Room - State Library SA Wed May 8 at 2pm, May 10 at 11am \$10  
Domain Theatre - Marion Cultural Centre May 24 at 11am \$10.  
Bookings: [www.trybooking.com/eventlist/historyfilms](http://www.trybooking.com/eventlist/historyfilms)





An SA History Festival Presentation

# The Many Loves of Geoffrey Dutton



Hetzel Room - State Library SA  
Wed May 8 at 11am, Fri May 10 at 2 pm \$10  
Domain Theatre - Marion Cultural Centre  
Wed May 22 at 11 am \$10  
[www.trybooking.com/eventlist/historyfilms](http://www.trybooking.com/eventlist/historyfilms)



# OHA Technology Survey 2023

In 2023, Oral History Australia decided to run a survey of its members to find out what technology they were using and how best to support their technology learning needs. A further aim was to better understand how the pandemic years had impacted oral history practice, given the many lockdowns that forced oral historians to pause work or adopt remote interviewing techniques.

The survey was conducted in June and July 2023 and attracted responses from all State associations, more than half of whom described themselves as established oral historians with more than three years of experience.

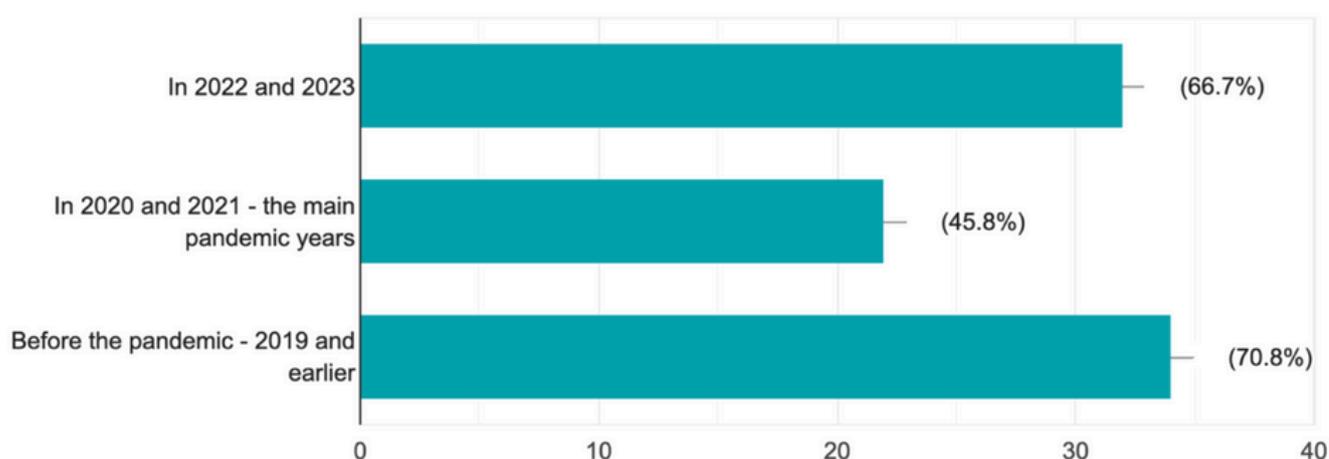
The top five primary purposes for conducting oral history were:

- community project (22.9%)
- academic - student or researcher (20.8%)
- institutional - library or museum (16.7%)
- business as a professional historian (12.5%)
- family history (12.5%)

## Oral history through the pandemic

As expected, the survey showed that oral history practice dropped during the main pandemic years of 2020/2021, but did not stop altogether. Just under half of participants (45.8%) conducted interviews in those years.

**4. Did you record oral history interviews (including during training) in any of the following periods. Check all those that apply.**

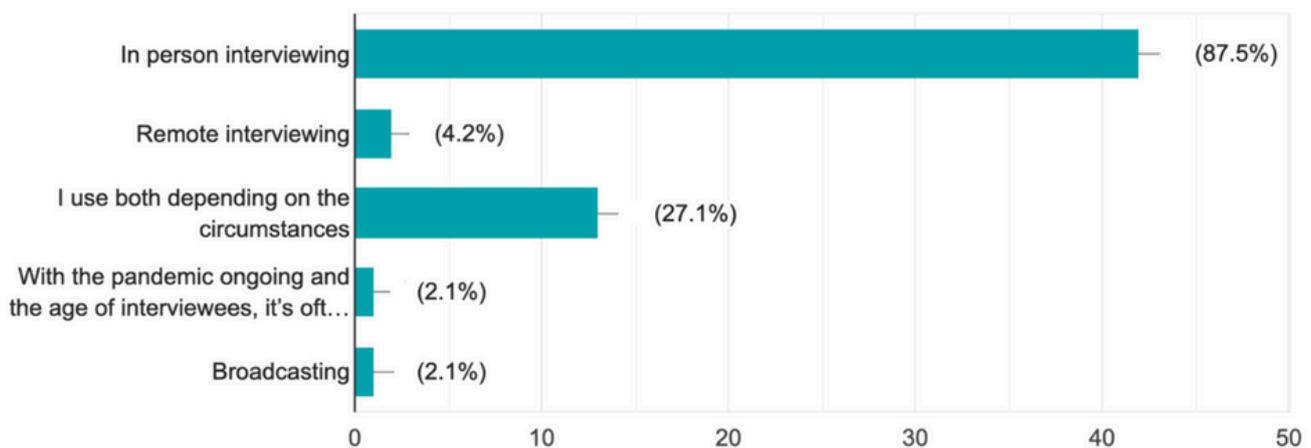


## Interviewing

The most used interview format was an in-person audio interview, followed by online platforms, and video and phone interviews. Most participants preferred in-person interviewing, but a significant number said they used both, depending on the circumstances.

The survey results indicate about half of our members utilise remote interviewing. The most popular technologies are Zoom, Skype, Teams, and mobile phones. There seems to be some lack of awareness about platforms offering higher quality audio such as Cleanfeed and Zencastr.

### 10. What do you prefer?



## Equipment and Software

Most respondents used field audio recorders such as the Zoom H4N and H5 or recorders produced by Tascam and Marantz. Some also used mobile phones (with and without accessories), tablets, dictaphones, and wireless systems such as the Rode Wireless Go II.

The most popular microphones used were tabletop condenser microphones and lapel microphones. Smaller numbers of participants used shotgun microphones, the in-built microphone in their audio recorder or mobile phone, a dedicated mobile phone microphone, or a handheld microphone.

Only about one-third of respondents provided information about video interviewing. Of those who responded, the equipment most used was a mobile phone (40%), followed by a camcorder, and then a DSLR or mirrorless camera.

Half of respondents said they used Audacity for audio editing. Other popular options included Adobe Audition, Hindenburg Journalist, Sound Forge, and Da Vinci Resolve.

The most popular software for video editing was Adobe Premiere followed by Final Cut Pro X, Da Vinci Resolve, Corel Video Studio, and iMovie.



## Training and Resources

The most sought-after training and resources options were:

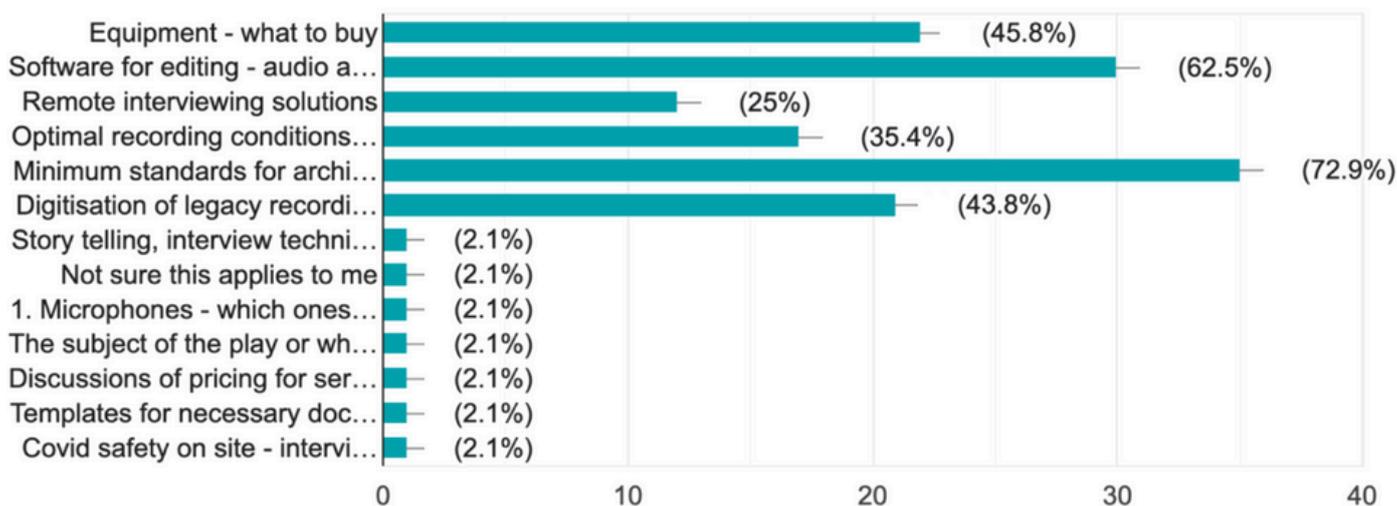
- online tutorials and webinars
- in-person workshops
- a dedicated technology page on the OHA website

In response to the survey results, Oral History Australia will be developing a dedicated technology page on our website and considering what technology-based training programs can be provided. There is clearly a demand for information about how technology impacts oral history practice.

The subjects of most interest are:

- minimum standards for archiving
- software for editing
- equipment (what to buy)
- digitisation of legacy recordings
- remote interviewing solutions

### 14. What subjects are of most interest?



Originally shared by Oral History Australia, 10 October 2023

<https://oralhistoryaustralia.org.au/oha-technology-survey-report-2023/>

## Call for Papers

### 23<sup>RD</sup> IOHA CONFERENCE

16-19 September 2025  
Kraków, Poland

# Re - Thinking Oral History

**Proposals to be submitted by July 31, 2024.**

**Decisions on the acceptance or rejection of proposals will be announced by the end of September 2024.**

**Registration will be open between October 2024 and January 2025.**

**The conference's program will be ready by February 2025.**

The organisers of the **23rd International Oral History Association Conference** are calling on oral historians worldwide to rethink the idea and practice of their discipline.

Oral history today faces both old and new challenges with long-lasting and unpredictable consequences: the crisis of liberal democracy, growing tensions in international politics, climate change with its devastating outcomes on human life, increasing inequalities, wars, and mass migrations. All of the foregoing not only affect the conditions in which oral history is made, but also compels us to rethink its very aim.

Proposals for individual papers, session panels, or audio-visual presentations are to be submitted by the **deadline of July 31, 2024.**

The Conference will take place in **September 2025 at the Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland.** English will be the main language of the conference. Only the plenary events will be translated into Spanish

For more information about the conference, visit <https://ioha2025.conference.pl/>. If you have any questions, please get in contact via email: [ioha.krakow@gmail.com](mailto:ioha.krakow@gmail.com)

# Do you have an oral history project to share with us?

Members of OHA SA/NT are always welcome to tell us about the work they're doing, or projects from the past that deserve to be shared. If you have a project that you think would be suitable for inclusion in an edition of Word of Mouth, please get in touch at [editor@oralhistoryaustraliasant.com.au](mailto:editor@oralhistoryaustraliasant.com.au) or via our new postal address:

Oral History Australia, SA/NT  
PO Box 163  
Barmera SA 5345

## Oral History Handbook by Beth Robertson

Beth Robertson's Oral History Handbook is the bible for oral historians. First published by the SA Branch of the Oral History Association in 1983, it has been in print ever since, and is well established as the national standard. The author draws on more than 30 years' experience of practising and teaching oral history techniques and preserving sound recordings. In 2022, there was a steady demand for the handbook. In response, we have obtained more copies which are now available to order.

### Product details

Author: Beth M Robertson  
Format: A4 size, stiff paperback, 112 pages, illustrations  
Publication date: Fifth Edition, fifth impression, 2013  
Publisher: Oral History Australia SA/NT, ISBN:  
0646454447

### How to order

Details about ordering a copy can be found on our website: <https://oralhistoryaustraliasant.org.au/the-oral-history-handbook-old-version/>

### Pricing

\$28 for OHA members (plus postage)  
\$35 for non-members (plus postage)

### The book includes chapters on:

- Introducing Oral History
- Preparing for the Interview
- Copyright and Oral History
- Developing Questionnaires
- Recording Equipment
- Digital Recording Standards
- Interviewing Techniques
- Summaries and Transcripts
- Funding for Oral History
- Guidelines of Ethical Practice
- Commissioning Oral History
- Recommended Reading

For more details, please email us at [contact@oralhistoryaustraliasant.org.au](mailto:contact@oralhistoryaustraliasant.org.au)



# Oral History Australia - South Australia/Northern Territory

Oral History Australia is a non-profit body whose members practice and promote oral history. OHA South Australia/Northern Territory (OHA SA/NT) came to life just seven months after the national body was founded in Perth in July 1978. There are now associations in each state.

The aims of Oral History Australia SA/NT 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 in Australia
- to pursue common objectives and maintain links with other Australian oral history associations through membership of Oral History Australia Inc.
- to do all such things as may be incidental to the achievement of such aims

OHA membership benefits include:

- early access to the *Word of Mouth* newsletter, published twice a year
- access to the annual *Studies in Oral History* journal which contains papers given at the biennial conference or other papers considered of particular topical interest
- opportunity to publish peer-reviewed papers in Oral History Australia Journal
- access to members' resources on the [Oral History Australia SA/NT website](https://www.oralhistoryaustralia.com.au/south-australia-northern-territory)
- invitations to participate in events such as behind-the-scenes tours of exhibitions, talks and seminars
- discounts on publications, including the *Oral History Handbook* by Beth Robertson
- discounted registration for oral history workshops
- opportunity to apply for an oral history grant
- discounted hire of the Fostex digital recording equipment
- discounted registration for the biennial conference of Oral History Australia
- opportunity for professional oral historians to register in the online directory

## Connect with us



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<https://twitter.com/oralhistoryaus>