



The Use and Abuse of Oral Histories

A professional update on the issues and challenges in creating and using oral histories at heritage places and museums. The event is hosted jointly by the National Library of Australia and the Institute for Professional Practice in Heritage and the Arts.

Date: Monday 18 October 2010

Venue: National Library of Australia

Time: 9.30 am - 4.30 pm

Cost: The event cost is \$90/person or \$45/student - bookings are essential

Details: Learn from the experts how museum and heritage place curators and researchers create and use oral histories for public programs and exhibitions. Go 'behind the scenes' with the *Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants Oral history Project*, with insights provided by National Library staff. Presented with the National museum of Australia.

Themes to be covered in the professional update workshop include: creating content, working critically and ethically; cultural sensitivities and protocols; oral histories and public memories; preserving oral histories; challenges of using oral histories in interpretation, including misuse; educational potential; auditory, non-textual qualities.

Enquiries: Nicholas Hall

Email: nicholas.hall@anu.edu.au

Phone: 02 6125 5887

Enrol and pay: Download the *enrol and pay* form from the IPPHA website event calendar and return as directed by the 11 October 2010.

Program

<i>Session time</i>	<i>Component</i>	<i>Presenter</i>
9.00 – 9.30 am	Sign in and meet other participants	
9.30 – 9.45 am	Welcome and introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Welcome to NLA ▪ Introduction to event 	Margy Burn (NLA) – TBC Sandy Blair (IPPHA) Emerita Professor Isabel McBryde (IPPHA Board)
9.45 – 11.00 am	<i>Session 1: Creating, using and preserving oral histories – issues and challenges</i>	Paula Hamilton & Kevin Bradley
11 am	Morning tea	
11.20–12.30 am	<i>Session 2: Using oral history as a source - creating content, working critically and ethically</i>	Panel discussion: All
12.30 pm	Lunch	
1.20-2.10 pm	Collecting and preserving oral history – visit to the preservation area	Kevin Bradley – walk and talk
2.10-3.30 pm	<i>Session 3: The practice of using oral history in museum and heritage place interpretation:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Indigenous perceptions of Canning Stock Route ▪ Rugged beyond imagination: Oral history in the Snowy Mountains ▪ Old Parliament House political and parliamentary oral history project ▪ Interpreting community memories of place ▪ Reflections on the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants Oral history Project 	John Carty Matthew Higgins Barry York and Joy McCann Mary Hutchinson Joanna Sassoon
3.30 pm	Afternoon tea	
4.00-4.30 pm	Summing up	Paula Hamilton & Kevin Bradley

Target Audience

The professional update session will benefit those already working in the heritage or museum sectors who want to consolidate their skills in critically creating and using oral histories in public programs and exhibitions.

This session will also appeal to undergraduate and graduate students seeking to gain an insight into the roles and perspectives of curators, researchers and oral historians working with oral history collections and sources. The workshop will be presented from a range of perspectives that incorporate multi-disciplinary approaches from researchers and industry leaders.

Convenors

Associate Professor Paula Hamilton

Australian Centre for Public History, University of Technology, Sydney.



Paula Hamilton is Associate Professor of History at the University of Technology in Sydney and Director of the Australian Centre for Public History. Her specialist areas of research include cultural history and memory studies, especially individual and public memory; oral history and biography. She has conducted consultancies and research with museums, including Powerhouse, Australian Museum and National Museum of Australia. She has strong links with the oral history community, indicative of her long-term interest in cultural memory, particularly collective remembering through oral narratives. She has extensive experience interviewing working women, migrants, journalists and women survivors of disaster. Paula has written extensively on oral history, including recently co-editing a publication with Linda Shopes for Temple University press: *Oral History and Public Memories* (2008).

Kevin Bradley

Curator, Oral History and Folklore & Director, Sound Preservation, National Library of Australia



Kevin Bradley is Curator of Oral History and Folklore and Director of Sound Preservation at the National Library of Australia. He is a member of the UNESCO Memory of the World Sub Committee on Technology (MoW SCoT). He has been manager of the National Library's digital preservation program and has been the Sustainability Advisor for the Australian Partnership for Sustainable Repositories. He is past President of the Australasian Sound Recordings Association (ASRA) and is currently President of the International Association of Sound and Audiovisual Archives, and is editor of the widely accepted standards *Guidelines in the Production and Preservation of Digital Audio Objects* (IASA TC04). He has been a sound engineer for more than 30 years, and first worked with the Library's Oral History and Folklore collection in 1983. He has interviewed for the collection on many subjects and is currently involved in a number of projects including the "Generations" ARC funded oral history project.

Presenters

John Carty, Curator and Anthropologist



John is an anthropologist who has worked extensively throughout the western desert and Kimberley regions. As the Canning Stock Route Project anthropologist, he has recorded many oral histories with artists and custodians of the desert Country. John is also co-curator of *Yiwarra Kuju* and is co-editor of the Project's upcoming book. His broader research examines contemporary Aboriginal art, with an emphasis on Western Desert painting and Balgo art.

Matthew Higgins, historian



Matthew Higgins has been working professionally as a historian for the past 25 years. He has worked for the Australian War Memorial, the Australian Heritage Commission, the Heritage Division of the Department of Environment and Heritage as well working as a freelance historical consultant. He completed a broad range of projects for a variety of government, professional and community clients, and he published very widely. Since 2004, Matthew has worked as a Senior Curator at the National Museum of Australia.

Barry York, Historian



Dr. Barry York OAM is a Historian at the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, Canberra. Among other roles, he records interviews for the Museum's Oral History Program. Barry received his Medal of the Order of Australia for service to the community through research into and recording of aspects of Australian immigration, particularly Maltese migration.

Joy McCann, historian



Joy McCann holds a MA degree in Public History from Monash University and a PhD from the Australian National University. She has worked extensively in community history and heritage projects, including at the Australian Heritage Commission where she was project manager for the Migrant Heritage Places in Australia project. She is currently Research Manager and Senior Historian at the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House, Canberra, and her role includes managing the Museum's Oral History Program. She is also a Partner Investigator on an ARC Linkage project on the history of women and leadership.

Mary Hutchinson, historian



Mary Hutchinson has conducted oral history for research purposes, for community and national archives and for interpretive purposes including museum and heritage site interpretation. She is currently a Visiting Fellow at the Research School of Humanities and the Arts at the ANU.

Joanna Sassoon, historian



Joanna Sassoon is currently Project Manager for the Forgotten Australians and Former Child Migrants Oral History Project at the National Library of Australia. She is a well-known as an archivist, educator and historian in Australia and internationally with longstanding interests in Indigenous and photographic archives. In recent years she has brought her understanding of the limits of archival materials to shaping social justice policy outcomes. Joanna has published widely in photographic theory and history, heritage studies, archival practice, and environmental and Australian history. She has previously taught Archives and records management at Edith Cowan University, and contributed to units in Cultural Heritage at Curtin University. Her introduction to oral history as a teenager at the Kent History Workshops with Raphael Samuel left a lasting impression on her understanding of the medium. Joanna is an Adjunct Senior Lecturer at Edith Cowan University in Perth.