CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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ORAL HISTORIES

'FORGING LINKS ON SOCIAL SOUND PLATFORMS' - THE MARGARET HENRY ORAL HISTORY ARCHIVE

ASA CONFERENCE 2016 PARRAMATTA

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THE TALKING RINGS
TIME MACHINE (1960)
TIME MACHINE (1960)
George Pal. H.G. Wells
WHO WAS MARGARET HENRY?

- Born 1934 in Newcastle and Newcastle Girls’ High, trained as a History/English teacher and gained a Masters degree in History.
- Worked as an academic (1969-1990) mainly at History Dept at the UON
- Established innovative new courses within Department of Community Programmes.
- Mentoring indigenous students and active role in the establishment of indigenous studies at the university.
- Supported hundreds of mature aged students (in particular women) and encouraged generations of Novocastrians to engage in history/cultural heritage of the region.
- Loved for people to share their stories, and oral history interviews are testament to Margaret’s passion for history.
- March 2014 came into Cultural Collection to see and hear her Open Foundation Student Projects
- Sudden illness April 2015
- Project embarked on to digitise the significant and ground breaking Oral History programme part of Community Programmes oral history tapes by Open Foundation Students in the 1986-89
- Students researched/interviewed/transcribed/reflect
- Digitising process during June-Sept 2016 of 210 recordings
- Funded by the Vera Deacon Regional History Fund and donation by Marilla North
- Sadly Margaret passed away September 2015
Digitisation process

- Digitise cassette tape as WAV file (save as master file)
- Store in folder on computer
- Download ‘Audacity’ free editing software http://www.audacityteam.org/
- Using audacity edit WAV file as required, join sides together if required
- Save edited version as WAV file and convert to MP3 for upload to social sound platform eg. SoundCloud
Interview by Heather Rooney in 1989 with her grandmother Veronica Phillips (nee Harper) who is 105 about her life growing up in the Hunter Valley. Veronica was born in Scone in 1884, she was the eldest of five children, and attended St. Joseph’s Catholic School in Scone. Her father Harry Harper was a horse trainer, he used to deliver the mail by horseback with his good friend “Jimmy Jimmy” when they were young. Jimmy was Aboriginal, he would protect his friend and they would camp on the riverbank together. Later her father was a shoemaker “very well known in Scone”. Veronica recalls the great drought in 1898 that hit Scone and the Hunter, she also talks about young women politically at the turn of the century and “that was the time of the suffragettes. I was right up with that... I wanted the vote for women, and you know Heather, Australia led, was one of the leaders of the women gaining the vote.” In 1904 she marries Steven Phillips, his in-laws owned the Shamrock Hotel, she recalls the “unsinkable Titanic”, all the young people keen to go to WWI, the light horse brigade training at Scone at “Bakerwells paddock” and helping fundraising for the Red Cross to support the soldiers. Veronica played the the piano at the silent movies at Cardiff, she used to come down by horse and sulk from Weston. This is an exceptional and rare interview because the interviewee not only recalls pre-1900s but able to describe the years during WWII later decades. As she says “I have had an interesting life Heather, I’ve had from a horse and clay and to see the landing on the moon and to see all the wonderful vehicles they ride around in nowadays and the aeroplanes. I’ve had a very interesting and a very good and healthy life.”
Veronica Phillips (nee Harper) (1989) - Talks about social etiquette, was very musical, “the Great Drought”, Suffragettes movement.

Del deGlorion (1989) – Great grandfather’s career as a trapeze artist and manager of Newcastle’s Victoria Theatre

Annie Whilamena Kelly (1989) – Speaks about her Aboriginal family, hardship, achievements and delights in success of her children.

Bazil Manunczak (1989) - born 1921 in Ukraine was a displaced persons who settled in the Hunter Region, NSW. He described his life in Europe during WWII
The Margaret Henry Oral History Archive is a collection of audio tapes, transcripts, summaries and essays that were part of the Oral Histories Open Foundation Course (1986-1989). Margaret Henry was a history lecturer at the UON in the 1980s.

The oral history tapes have been digitised and made freely available to the wider global research community thanks to the generosity of the Vora Deacon Regional History Fund.

The wider collection of Margaret Henry Oral History Archive – over 220 in total and with many stories of...
The Oral History Digitised Collection
Lost Newcastle Oral History Project

- **STEP 1:**
  **WHO TO INTERVIEW**
  You can choose someone who has an interesting story to tell about the Hunter Region. It could be a friend, relative or someone you know. They may talk about where they used to work, a family business, or a place they grew up. People they knew. Here are some other themes:


  Also have a listen to some of the interviews from the 1960s - for ideas and inspiration - [Margaret Henry Oral History Archive](http://www.oralhistoryproject.com.au/)

- **STEP 2:**
  **RESEARCH TIPS**
  When you have chosen someone to interview and they have given consent, you can be guided by your initial contact during informal conversation about a topic that could be covered in an interview. It is also a good idea to ask them to complete a written [Interviewee Information Sheet](http://www.oralhistoryproject.com.au/) before the formal interview. When you are clear about a topic, it is a good idea to do some general background research. For example, if the person worked in a particular profession or industry, you may want to explore this. It is important to have some general understanding of the topic of the interview so that you can formulate suitable questions. Many sources are available on-line, or you may consider contacting [Family History and other Historical Groups](http://www.oralhistoryproject.com.au/) for support.

  Cultural Collections at the UON has sources, including [Pods](http://www.oralhistoryproject.com.au/) and [WordPress](http://www.oralhistoryproject.com.au/), for guidance. Local libraries and Newcastle Library also have historical material associated with the Hunter Region, as well as local libraries, museums and historical societies. Also look at [Trove](http://www.oralhistoryproject.com.au/) for ideas.

- **STEP 3:**
  **WHAT QUESTIONS TO ASK IN THE INTERVIEW**
  The following is a starting point in formulating questions. The more you know about a person before the interview, the more can adapt questions to gain useful and valuable answers. Here are some Sample List of Questions you can use in an oral history interview. Refer these accordingly in line with a person's specific interests and life experiences.

- **STEP 4:**
  **TIPS FOR CONDUCTING ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW**

- **STEP 5:**
  **ETHICAL PRACTICE- GRANTING PERMISSION**

- **STEP 6:**
  **WHAT DEVICE(S) TO USE**

- **STEP 7:**
  **EDITING & TRANSCRIBING AUDIO RECORDINGS**
Sharing the Archive
Oral Histories only part of a story

- Over 64.5K images ([flickr](https://www.flickr.com)) hi res and free
- 37M hits to date – Sept 2016
  Thousands of documents our UoNCC, CRWP blog, libguides, databases
- Links shared via print/radio/tv, twitter, FB (Lost Newcastle) and images used in art/science collaborations
  e.g. City Evolutions, ABC Open Then & Now, History Channel, Coast Australia
Visual Index to Subdivision Plans

http://lachlanwetherall.com/then-and-now/newcastle-historical-real-estate-maps-index/
UON- GLAM Living Histories Digitisation Centre


- Pilot projects – Former Aboriginal Factory/Palais site Project

- Other projects- diverse and original offering students creative practical experience
Oral history in middle of conversation on digital humanities – curation

Networked info-linked data empowers users

Importance of context

“Information deemed relevant for the interpretation of the oral history by future users, such as photographs, documents, or other records should be collected, and archivists should make clear to users the availability and connection of these materials to the recorded interview.” Principles and Best Practices. Oral History Association 2009

(eg. Ray Walker
https://hunterlivinghistories.com/2016/07/12/ray-walker/)
Thanks

- https://soundcloud.com/uoncc
- https://uoncc.wordpress.com/
- https://hunterlivinghistories.com/
- https://www.flickr.com/photos/uon
- https://www.youtube.com/user/UoNCC/videos