

Oral History Victoria

Annual Report

2018–2019



ABN 92078050909

Our committee

As at 30 June 2019, the OHV Committee comprised:

Executive

President	Francesco Ricatti
Vice President	Alistair Thomson
Secretary	Geraldine Fela
Treasurer	Jodie Boyd

Committee members

Communications	Jessica Ferrari - Website & social media Judy Hughes – Publicity & Rewind editor
Events	Elizabeth Triarico Marney Jones
Membership	Marie Nunan

President's report

By Francesco Ricatti

In the past two years, first as a Committee Member and then as the President of Oral History Victoria (OHV), I have been amazed by the capacity of this association to develop wonderful initiatives in support of Oral History. Organisations such as OHV could not operate effectively without the commitment and hard work of their committee members. Over the past year, Jodie Boyd, Geraldine Fela, Jess Ferrari, Judy Hughes, Marney Jones, Marie Nunan, Al Thomson, and Elizabeth Triarico have all played a fundamental role in the successful operations of OHV. My heartfelt thanks to all of them, not just for their commitment, but also for the wonderful collegiality they have demonstrated.

As this report will show, OHV is committed to make sure that the association remains effective and relevant in times of rapid changes. In 2018-2019, for instance, we assessed and improved the accessibility of the website, increased the traffic on the website and social media by more than 20%, and organised two successful symposia, a series of joint events with other historical, heritage and community organizations, and a series of innovative and well attended workshops. Our membership and financial position remain strong, and I am confident the association will remain viable and effective in years to come.

Members of the OHV committee have also strongly contributed to the activity of Oral History Australia, including being involved in the organization of its biennial conference, the current revamping of the OHA website, and the editorial work for the *Oral History Australia Journal*. My personal thank goes in particular to Judy Hughes, for her exceptional work at both State and National level, and Al Thomson, for the amazing OHA conference many of us had the fortune to attend in Brisbane just a few weeks ago.

With new committee members joining an already great team, and a number of initiatives already being planned for 2020, I am confident that OHV will continue to thrive.

Team reports

Membership

At 30 June 2019 Oral History Victoria had 132 members. These included one life member and seven institutional memberships, the remainder being individual and concession/student members.

In 2018-19 we simplified our ticketing for OHV events. Previously we had offered tickets that combined attendance at a workshop with OHV membership (for non-members). This was changed to simply offering member and non-member tickets.

This system has resulted in a slight decrease in membership in the long-term.

We remind all those non-members who consider attending our workshops without paying for membership first, that they are missing out on considerable discounts. It is nearly always more financially advantageous to pay for membership first and then book for a workshop.

Communications

The communications team is responsible for:

- managing the OHV website, our primary communications platform
- posting news items of interest to current and potential members and related organisations via the website, social media and the Rewind newsletter
- producing a suite of marketing and promotional materials
- managing publicity for OHV events.

In performing these tasks the team aims to ensure OHV communications is strategic, effective, anticipates the needs of our members and potential members and furthers the OHV goal of promoting oral history.

Rewind

In 2018-19 the communications team implemented a major redesign of the OHV newsletter 'Rewind' with a view to making the content quicker for readers to scan and read and more accessible on a range of electronic devices.

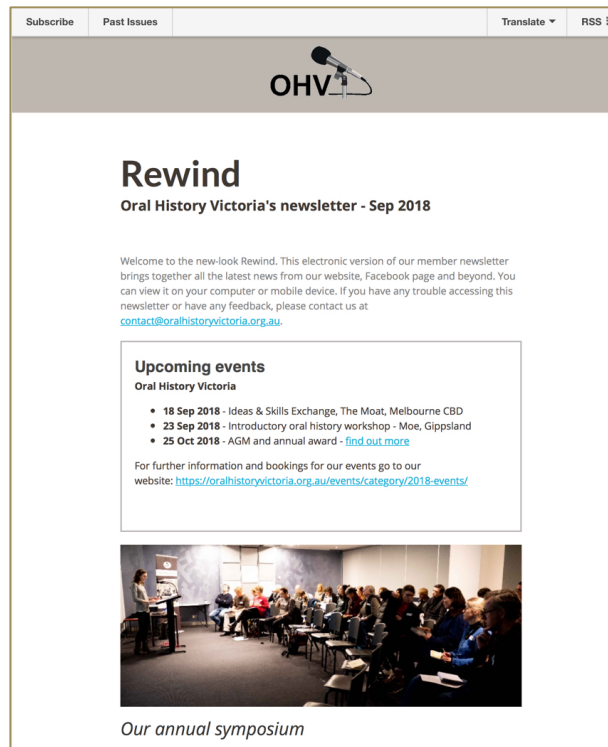
Distributed through the MailChimp platform, the new-look 'Rewind' newsletter was first produced in September 2018. The responsive design allows readers to view the newsletter on a computer or a mobile device.

Members receive notification of each new issue by email and can view the newsletter from within their mail program. They have the option to 'unsubscribe' if they wish.

Website

In May 2019, we assessed the accessibility of our website and implemented improvements. There are now accessibility tool buttons on the right-hand side of the website (pictured right) to change colour/font size and all links are underlined. We also added two links to 'skip to content' and 'skip to navigation' so when a person with visual impairment can turn off style of website to view raw text/images only. The website is now compliant with WCAG 2.0 (Level AA) its standard compliant.

In a continued effort to increase accessibility we are also moving away from providing material in PDF format. To this end, we will be streamlining the 'register of practising oral historians. Currently, historians fill out a form, then the information



is manually added it to a word document which is then printed to a PDF and uploaded to the site. We will be moving to automate the registration process and improve the information display. Once successfully implemented, we will roll out the automation process for award and bursary submissions and explore online surveys and feedback forms.

Google analytics reveal that we had over 2,200 Australian visits to our website in 2018-19 compared to 1,800 in 2017-18. Mostly from Victoria, our website visitors look at two to three pages each visit and stay on our site for an average of about three minutes.

Social media

In the past year we have sought to extend the range of posts on our OHV Facebook page, which has grown from 400 to 550 page 'likes'. We have also opened a Twitter account with our first tweet going out on 14 May 2019.

Links

- OHV website - <https://oralhistoryvictoria.org.au>.
- OHV Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/oralhistoryvictoria/>
- OHV Twitter - <https://twitter.com/OralHistoryVic>.

Events

In 2018-19 OHV presented a popular series of innovative events which included a special presentation by oral history technology expert Dr Doug Boyd and joint events with the Professional Historians Association (Vic & Tas), the History Council of Victoria and Monash University.

Details of the events:

- two introductory workshops at Emerald Hill Library – in August 2018 and March 2019
 - two advanced workshops at Emerald Hill Library – one looking at challenges in oral history interviewing (held in August 2018) and one aimed at training attendees to teach oral history (held in March 2019)
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- two informal catch-ups known as the 'Ideas & Skills Exchange', held at The Moat in the Melbourne CBD
- a special event on digital technologies and innovation featuring oral historian, archivist and oral history technology wiz Dr Doug Boyd from the United States (held in May 2019)
- two joint events – 'Oral History & Community: risks, challenges and rewards', with the Professional Historians Association (Vic & Tas) as part of the Australian Heritage Festival (held in May 2019), which dealt with oral history and communities and was hosted by CO.AS.IT. Museo Italiano and the other a seminar with the History Council of Victoria and Monash University, titled: 'Living Histories' which was held at the Old Treasury Building and featured our 2018 OHV award finalists talking about innovative approaches to oral history (held in June 2019)
- two annual OHV symposiums were held in the same financial year and generously hosted by CO.AS.IT. Museo Italiano:
 - 'Oral History and the emotions', on 29 July 2018
 - 'Oral history interviewing', on 16 June 2019.

The Doug Boyd workshop

On 19 May 2019 OHV presented a workshop with Dr Doug Boyd (pictured right), Director of the Louie B. Nunn Center for Oral History at the University of Kentucky Libraries.

Dr Boyd outlined some of the dramatic technological shifts in the oral history field and the potential consequences that range from 'revolutionary' to 'scary'.

He described some of the latest innovations in transcription, finding aids for oral history and online viewing platforms and talked extensively of the system he developed for oral history management, the Oral History Metadata Synchronizer (OHMS), now used by 400 institutions in 40 countries.



OHV is currently working with Dr Boyd with a view to making a portion of the audio from his workshop available on our website as a podcast. An aim of this project is to better service our members in regional areas who have difficulty in accessing our events. An account of this workshop is included in the 2019 issue of the Oral History Australia Journal.

Oral History Victoria Award

In October 2018 OHV announced three finalists with the award going to Kirby Fenwick for her audio documentary '[The First Friday in February](#)', which tells the story of the first AFLW game, between Collingwood and Carlton in February 2017, through the memories of women who were in the stands.

The other two finalists were:

- Lee Valentine and Ryan Gustafsson – [Call Me by My Name](#), a series of moving and insightful podcasts with 10 trans and gender diverse people in and around Melbourne, and
- Rose Turtle – [Light at the End](#) – an oral history performance work where Rose asks refugees living in Victoria to respond to two intriguing questions, about a moment of light in their life and about what makes you strong.



OHV 2018 award finalists (from left): Rose Turtle, Ryan Gustafsson, Lee Valentine and Kirby Fenwick.

National perspective

By Al Thomson, President of Oral History Australia and Victoria's representative on the national committee

Oral History Australia is a national committee comprising a representative from each State and Territory association. Most of the activity of Oral History Australia occurs at the level of the State and Territory associations, each of which has an active committee that runs state-based events and activities.

Over the past year, the main activities at the national level have included planning the next national conference in Queensland in 2019; producing the annual Australian oral history journal and appointing two new editors (Carla Pascoe Leahy and Skye Krichauff); improving the national website and coordinating with state and territory association websites to ensure shared resources and avoid too much overlap or repetition; developing a guide for university oral historians applying for ethics approval; taking responsibility for awarding the 2019 Hazel de Berg award and developing two national oral history awards that will be announced at the Brisbane conference (a book award and a media award); advocating for state and territory oral history collections and programs (for example in the Northern Territory); and sharing ideas between the states and territories about new and successful oral history activities. The national committee is continuing to think about how to play a role in a project intended to future-proof Australian oral history collections in a digital age.

Treasurer's Report 2018-2019

Oral History Victoria (Inc)

Prepared by Jodie Boyd, Treasurer

This report is part of the Oral History Victoria (Inc) annual report for the financial year of 2018-2019. This statement has been prepared pending the receipt of the independent auditor's report.

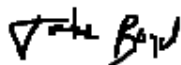
The statement of income and expenditure for OHV (Inc) for the 2018-2019 financial year presents a substantial profit of **+\$5921.60** as compared to the smaller profit of **+\$386.64** for 2017-18. As of 30 June 2019, total assets were a healthy **\$26,602.09**, significantly more than the total assets of 2017-18 of \$20,480.

It should be noted that the reported expenditure (and profit) does not reflect the capitation fees owed to OHA (Inc) that are outstanding and as such, will be paid in the 2019-20 financial year. If membership at 30 June 2019 is confirmed at 132 then capitation fees will @\$15 per member will total \$1980.00. This anomaly should be noted for the benefit of the succeeding Treasurer's Report of 2019-20.

As usual, memberships were a major source of income for the financial year, although unusually, income from events and workshops slightly exceeded income from memberships. This is partly due to the fact that the 2018 Symposium and the 2019 Symposium were held in the same financial year.

There was also good take up of workshop events offered as well as excellent attendance at a special event (Doug Boyd's workshop). As a consequence, catering costs were significantly higher than the previous year - \$1255.49 as compared to \$408. This, however, is proportionate to the relative income generated by events in the 2018-19 financial year, which was \$4173.35 as compared to \$1797.30 in the previous financial year.

Thanks are due to the 2018-19 Committee for their constructive and positive suggestions.



Jodie Boyd

Treasurer

24 October 2019

Financial Statement

1 July 2018 – 30 June 2019

Statement of Income and Expenditure

Income

	2018-19	2017-18
Membership 18/19	4051.35	5399.20
Workshops / training	4173.35	1797.30
Symposium	2713.72	0
Interest income (term dep)	209.73	217.19
Other	0.00	0.00
Total Income	11148.15	7413.69

Less expenditure

Corp expenses	772.73	436.46
Capitation	0.00	1500
Insurance	589	563.48
Innovation Award	250	250
Professional fees	1220	1512.50
Venue hire	0	250
Website	1139.33	955.70
Catering	1255.49	408.91
Other	0	150
Total Expenditure:	5226.55	7027.05
Net profit for the year	+5921.60	+\$386.64

Bank Reconciliation

	2018-19	2017-18
<i>Bendigo Bank Statement Account</i>		
Opening balance (1/7/2018)	10852.17	10,492.72
Plus income	11148.15	7196.50
Less expenditure	-5226.55	-7027.05
Closing Balance (30/6/2019)	\$16,574.22	\$10,662.17

Bendigo Bank Term Deposit Account

Opening balance (1/7/18)	9818.14	9600.95
Plus income	209.73	217.19
Less expenditure	-	-
Closing balance (30/6/19)	10027.87	\$9818.14

Petty Cash

Opening balance (1/7/18)	-	-
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Plus income	-
Less expenditure	-
Closing balance (30/6/19)	\$0.00

Statement of assets as at 30 June 2019

	30 June 2019	30 June 2018
Statement account	16,574.22	(10,662.17)
Term Deposit account	10,027.87	(9,818.14)
Petty cash in hand	0.00	(0.00)
Total	\$26,602.09	(\$20,480.31)