



## President's Report 2018–2019

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It gives me great pleasure to present the President's Report for 2018–2019.

In August 2018 we held another interesting seminar. In 'Glimpses: stories from the Tasmanian Archives', Anthony Black spoke about this project combining oral histories with photographs, letters and films, helpfully mentioning the various resources that the State Library and Archives Service can provide. Dr Tony McCormack's 'Stories of farmers in the Evandale municipality' was based on interviews conducted for several books. Finally, Rena Henderson rounded off the day by giving a fascinating account of the various attempts to control the spread of rabbits in Tasmania through the eyes of her interviewee, pest controller Doug Brooks.

The seminar attendance was lower than previous years which may have been due to clashes with other events. September seminars seem to attract more people.

Another successful workshop was held at the Glenorchy library in May, with spirited discussion from the usual variety of attenders. We have used the library for some years now for our Hobart workshop and it has proved an excellent venue.

As mentioned in last year's report, I was asked to write a history of Oral History Tasmania to be included in the book, *The Kaleidoscope of Launceston: Shedding More Light on the Fabric* (a follow-up to 2016's *The Fabric of Launceston*). The committee felt that members would be interested to read the story and it appeared in a recent issue of our newsletter, *Real to Reel*. An abbreviated version appeared in the *Examiner*.

A new inclusion in the newsletter is information from our institutional members. So far we have had contributions from Jaydeyn Thomas of Devonport's Bass Strait Maritime Centre and Kym Matthews from the St Helens History Room. They have been well received.

Because of my own ongoing relationship with the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, Oral History Tasmania archives have always been kept at the museum's Inveresk campus. Due to a reorganisation of space, there was some concern about where they might continue to be held safely. I am therefore very pleased to report that they have now been officially accepted into the museum's archives, with annual additions to be accepted into the future. This is a very pleasing outcome.

The reorganisation also led to the rationalisation of the association's equipment. Several small tape recorders plus a transcribing machine using tapes were found to have no monetary value and were given away. The 20-year-old Marantz tape recorder was sold for \$100.

As usual in a national conference year we offered a scholarship for a student to attend. Two applicants, Yvette Barry and Elisha Goss, were deemed equally worthy. Eventually the committee decided to award a scholarship to both, as some years back a scholarship had not been awarded at all. We look forward to reading their conference accounts in the December issue of *Real to Reel*.

The committee is still running smoothly, with Alison Johnston continuing to take the minutes and Lana Wall keeping track of the finances. However, there have been several changes of personnel as Andrew Parsons and Jen Thompson stood aside, and later the long-serving Pauline Schindler moved away. Fortunately, they have been replaced by Jon Addison, Jai Paterson and Karin Lé who have fitted in very well. I would like to thank them all for their contributions, along with Terry Fritsche and Leonie Prevost who have continued on the committee. And as always I would like to thank the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery for its continued support.