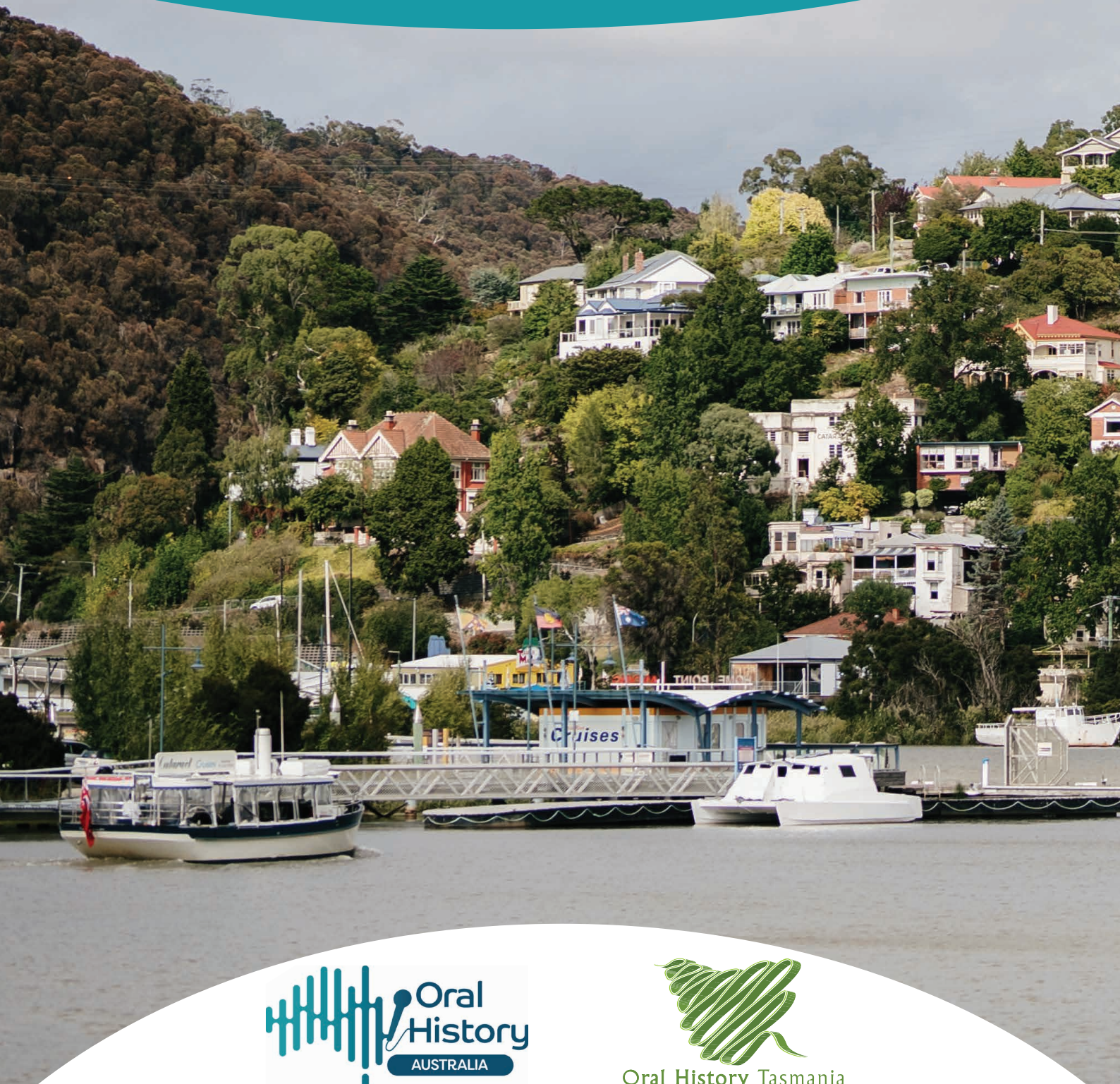


ORAL HISTORY IN TROUBLING TIMES

Opportunities
and challenges

The 22nd
Biennial Conference
of Oral History Australia

Thursday 13 – Sunday 16 October 2022





UNIVERSITY of 
TASMANIA

**QV
MAG**

Presented by Oral History Tasmania and Oral History Australia
in partnership with the College of Arts, Law and Education at the
University of Tasmania and the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery.

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The 22nd Biennial Conference
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13 – 16 October 2022

We wish to acknowledge the Panninher and the Leterrermairrener people, the traditional owners and custodians of the land upon which this conference is being held, and pay our respects to their elders past, present and emerging.

PRESIDENT'S WELCOME

It is always a great pleasure to welcome visitors to Trouwerner/Loetrouwitter/lutruwita Tasmania, but this year I would like to offer an especially warm welcome after the uncertainties of the last two and a half years.

As you will know, this conference was due to be held in 2021. Even as late as the end of August last year we were still hopeful it would go ahead, at least in a hybrid version with some presenters online. But oral historians in particular need face-to-face contact, and when both New South Wales and Victoria went into lock down the decision was made to postpone for twelve months.

Looking at that decision now, it is obvious that we took the correct action. Not only are we able to meet in person, but we can also welcome delegates from the United States, Canada, the United Kingdom and New Zealand.

As we gather together at last after a long three years, we look forward to stimulating days with old friends and new, exploring the challenges and opportunities of Oral History in Troubling Times.

Jill Cassidy, President Oral History Tasmania

Oral History Tasmania committee 2020–2022: Jon Addison, Jill Cassidy, Virginia Greenhill, Karin Lê, Alison Johnston, Jai Paterson, Leonie Prevost, Cindy Thomas and Lana Wall.

National program committee 2020–2022: Jill Cassidy, Carolyn Collins, Elisabeth Gondwe, Judy Hughes, Linda Hunt, Scott McKinnon, Elaine Rabbitt, Annmarie Reid and Alistair Thomson.

VENUE

The Tramsheds Function Centre
4 Invermay Road
Inveresk



**PLENARY
SPEAKERS**
Mark Cave
Kim Mahood
Dr Julie Gough
Zoe Rimmer
Theresa Sainty



THURSDAY 13 OCTOBER

**PRE-CONFERENCE
WORKSHOPS**



8.45–10.40
JILL CASSIDY
Introducing oral history.
Room 29



9.00–12.00
ALISTAIR THOMSON
Interpreting memories.
Room 28



9.00–5.00
HAMISH SEWELL
Producing mobile-based audio walks from oral histories.
Boardroom



10.50–12.45
LINDA HUNT
Interviewing and the art of asking questions.
Room 29



1.30–5.30
GREG APPEL
Podcasting oral history.
Room 28

6.00–7.30
WELCOME RECEPTION
Room 29

Professor Rufus Black, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Tasmania, will welcome delegates.

FRIDAY 14 OCTOBER

8.15–9.00 Registration

9.00–10.30 CONFERENCE OPENING | Auditorium

Welcome to Country by Daisy Allan from the Tasmanian Aboriginal Centre for the Welcome to Country in palawa kani, the language of Tasmanian Aborigines.

Official conference opening by the Governor of Tasmania, Her Excellency the Honourable Barbara Baker AC.

OPENING PLENARY | Chair: Alistair Thomson

Mark Cave Why did this happen? Making meaningful answers in the aftermath of crisis.

10.30–11.00 Morning tea in Room 29

11.00–12.30 PARALLEL SESSIONS

1

WORKING LIVES | Auditorium | Chair: David Sweet

Paul Sendziuk The end of the line: comparing General Motors Holden's and its workers' perception and experience of employee separation.

Elaine Rabbitt Death of the travelling salesman: COVID-19 strikes the final blow.

Dianne Korare Entwined lives, divided roles: oral histories of Australian women educators in Papua New Guinea, 1974–99.

2

EXPLORING ISSUES AND APPROACHES TO INDIGENOUS ORAL HISTORIES

Room 29 | Chair: Skye Krichauff

Participatory workshop **Kath Apma, Travis Penangke, Katherine Ellinghaus**

When are troubling times, not troubling times: the ethical conundrums of sharing history that does not silence First Nations voices.

Hour-long panel **Kate Darian-Smith, Zoe Rimmer, Rebe Taylor**

Tasmanian Aboriginal oral histories from the early twentieth century to the early twenty-first century.

3

ORAL HISTORIES IN EXHIBITION AND FILM | Room 28 | Chair: Carol McKirdy

Tegan Burns, Elisabeth Gondwe Getting equal.

Stephanie Boyle Ink in the Lines: oral histories, tattoos and the military.

Dale Blair, Rebecca Fleming In their own words: the use of oral history in the creation of the Department of Veterans' Affairs educational and commemorative resources.

12.30–1.30 Lunch in Room 29

1.30–3.00 PARALLEL SESSIONS

1

QUEER HISTORIES AND THE HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC | Auditorium | Chair: Scott McKinnon

Shirleene Robinson HIV/AIDS, trauma and 'Insider' oral history interviewing.

Sian Edwards Oral histories with health care workers during the AIDS epidemic: '... it caused everything to become so confused and so boundaryless' (JK).

Geraldine Fela 'You're bound to know people': reticence, confidentiality and the queer rural past.

2

MIGRANTS AND REFUGEES | Room 29 | Chair: Kate Bagnall

Long Yin Ko, Christopher Cheng Not only in English: oral histories with Cantonese (or other non-English) immigrants in Australia.

Jennifer Rose Music, multiculturalism and cultural rights: the Boîte as a historical case study.

Joan Kelly, Leonie Lane Migration stories: sound design in place.

3

RESPONDING TO COVID | Room 28 | Chair: Judy Hughes

Lynette Shum Pivoting to online training: a New Zealand experience.

Catherine Cottle Collecting most vulnerable oral histories during troubling times.

Carol McKirdy The Sutherland TAFE Literacy-Languages section's response to COVID-19 Oral History Project.

3.00–3.30 Afternoon tea in Room 29

3.30–5.00 PARALLEL SESSIONS

1

CONTESTED MEMORIES AND HISTORIES | Auditorium | Chair: Jill Cassidy

Cindy Hanson The construction and erasure of memory about Indian Residential School abuses in Canada.

Skye Krichauff 'Reconciling with the frontier': juxtaposing oral histories and archival research.

Susanne Roff Rewriting the narrative of British atomic and nuclear tests in Australia using the 1985 Royal Commission transcripts.

2

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ORAL HISTORY | Room 29 | Chair: Christeen Schoepf

Carla Pascoe Leahy, Anisa Puri Using oral history in pandemic times: adopting remote interviewing in the Mothering in Crisis project.

Louise Whelan The creeping disaster: drought, photography, oral history and collaborating with the archive to process environmental grief.

3

NEW APPROACHES TO ORAL HISTORY | Room 28 | Chair: Geraldine Fela

Marion Meischke Exploring the accuracy of using traditional or current methods.

Christopher Chevalier Riding the 'hybrid mule': making sense of oral history.

Sandra Gorter Navigating the hazards of oral history accounts: what actually happened?

5.00–6.00

OHA AWARDS & AGM

Room 29

Hazel de Berg Award, Media Award, Book Award.
OHA Annual General Meeting.

SATURDAY 15 OCTOBER

9.00–10.15 PLENARY SESSION | Auditorium | Chair: Kate Darian-Smith

KIM MAHOOD Mapping place, mapping story.

10.15–11.00 Morning tea in Room 29

11.00–12.00 PARALLEL SESSIONS

1

QUEER ORAL HISTORIES | Auditorium | Chair: Sian Edwards

Scott McKinnon Against the law: gay men's memories of criminality in pre-law reform New South Wales.

Dante DeBono Exploring non-monosexual experiences using oral history.

2

CREATIVE WRITING | Room 29 | Chair: Margaret Leask

Yvette Barry Reanimating the untold stories of women and children in a Tasmanian mining town during the 1920s.

Ashley Barnwell, Cate O'Neill, Kirsten Wright Writing wrongs right: using creative writing to record traumatic life stories.

3

PROTEST AND ACTIVISM | Room 28 | Chair: Ellen Forsyth

Lynette Shum presenting on behalf of herself and **Margaret Pack, Jane McDonald, Nergis Narayan** and **Chris Hannah** A history of abortion care in Aotearoa New Zealand.

David Faber Writing *Green Light: a Brief Oral Political History of the Australian Greens (SA) 1995–2020* in *Troubling Times*, 2018–2021.

12.00–12.30 LAUNCH OF THE 2022 JOURNAL

Studies in Oral History | Room 29

12.30–1.30 Lunch in Room 29

1.30–3.00 PARALLEL SESSIONS

1

INDIGENOUS ORAL HISTORIES | Auditorium | Chair: Rebe Taylor

Carly Heinrich 'It's all chat, chat, chat, but no-one's listening': reckoning with colonial pasts to build more just futures.

Heather Goodall Cross purposes: learning from the memories of Indigenous former students at Tranby Adult Education campus, 1980–2000.

Doug Racine Indigenous storyteller and lawyer who represented Canadian Indian Residential Survivors, will contribute as discussant.

2

ORAL HISTORY AND FAMILY HISTORY | Room 29 | Chair: Elaine Rabbitt

Terry Young, Kate Bagnall Voices and connections: reflections on using oral history in researching a migrant family history.

Sophie Couchman Oral histories as sources for family historians: a challenge for oral historians and the GLAM (galleries, libraries, archives & museums) sector.

Linda Hunt The value of oral history in family history: student perspectives.

3

PLACE, COMMUNITY, MEMORY | Room 28 | Chair: Elisabeth Gondwe

Christeen Schoepf 'A picture of the past in the people's own words'.

Hour-long panel **Maria Daly, Ellen Forsyth, Cathrynne McLean, Fran O'Flynn, Julie-Anne Sykes** Portable local studies collecting: sharing new stories in NSW public Libraries.

3.30–3.30 Afternoon tea in Room 29

3.30–5.00 PARALLEL SESSIONS

1

WOMEN'S HISTORY, MEN'S HISTORY | Auditorium | Chair: Nikki Henningham

Kate Murphy, Alistair Thomson Explaining gender inequality in the Australian home: combining oral history interviews and time use studies.

Sianan Healy 'Happening in a shadow world': privacy and silence in oral histories of women's infertility.

Ruth Melville 'Beneath The Mask': exploring the story of Agatha Quinlan's admission to a psychiatric hospital during the Spanish influenza epidemic of 1919.

2

ETHICAL AND LEGAL CHALLENGES IN ORAL HISTORY | Room 29 | Chair: Linda Hunt

Margaret Leask What's the brief? On the receiving end of commissions to record oral history interviews.

Sue Anderson, David Sweet Whose story? A case of possible litigation.

Alice Garner, Mary Leahy Does it have to be the full story? The ethics of editing audio for a web-based oral history.

3

WAR STORIES AND ORAL HISTORY | Room 28 | Chair: TBA

Alexander J. Potocnik WWI remembrance along the former Soča/Isonzo front.

Mia Martin Hobbs Reading empathy and ideology in oral history transcripts: race, gender and the US reconstruction in Iraq.

**6.30 for 7.00
CONFERENCE
DINNER**

The Boathouse
55a Lindsay Street
Invermay

SUNDAY 16 OCTOBER

9.00–10.30 PARALLEL SESSIONS

1

INTERPRETING MEMORIES | Auditorium | Chair: Alistair Thomson

Nikki Henningham 'If I wasn't there already, it would have led me to drink': using oral history narratives to reveal the nature and calculate the cost of women's bravery.

Anisa Puri Using archived interview collections: reflections on conducting secondary analysis.

Alexandra Dellios Reading activist lives in oral history collections: ethnic women and early multiculturalism.

2

RECORDING INTERVIEWS DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC | Room 29 | Chair: Linda Hunt

Lucy Bracey, Fiona Poulton, Katherine Sheedy COVID kids: a pandemic oral history project

Heather Kelly 'I remember when...': one community's journey.

Judy Hughes Is remote oral history interviewing here to stay?

3

PLACE, COMMUNITY, MEMORY | Room 28 | Chair: Sue Anderson

Hamish Sewell The emerging opportunities to archive the 'situated listening' experience.

Janis Hanley Milling around: collectively remembering work at the factory.

Frances Crawford, Roslyn Budd Putting an idea into action: how an oral history of 'welfare' in Western Australia 1969–1984 developed.

10.30–11.00 Morning tea in Room 29

11.00–12.30 CLOSING PLENARY

PALAWA PEOPLE OF TROUWERNER/LOETROUWITTER/LUTRUWITA TASMANIA:

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES | Auditorium | Chair: Sadie Heckenberg

Julie Gough, Theresa Sainty, Zoe Rimmer will talk about the significance of memory and oral history for palawa people, and raise issues for discussion by all oral historians working with First Peoples in Australia and other countries.

1.30 POST-CONFERENCE TOURS

The buses will leave promptly at 1.30 from outside the Tramsheds. Participants should bring their own water and a snack if required.

1.30–5.00

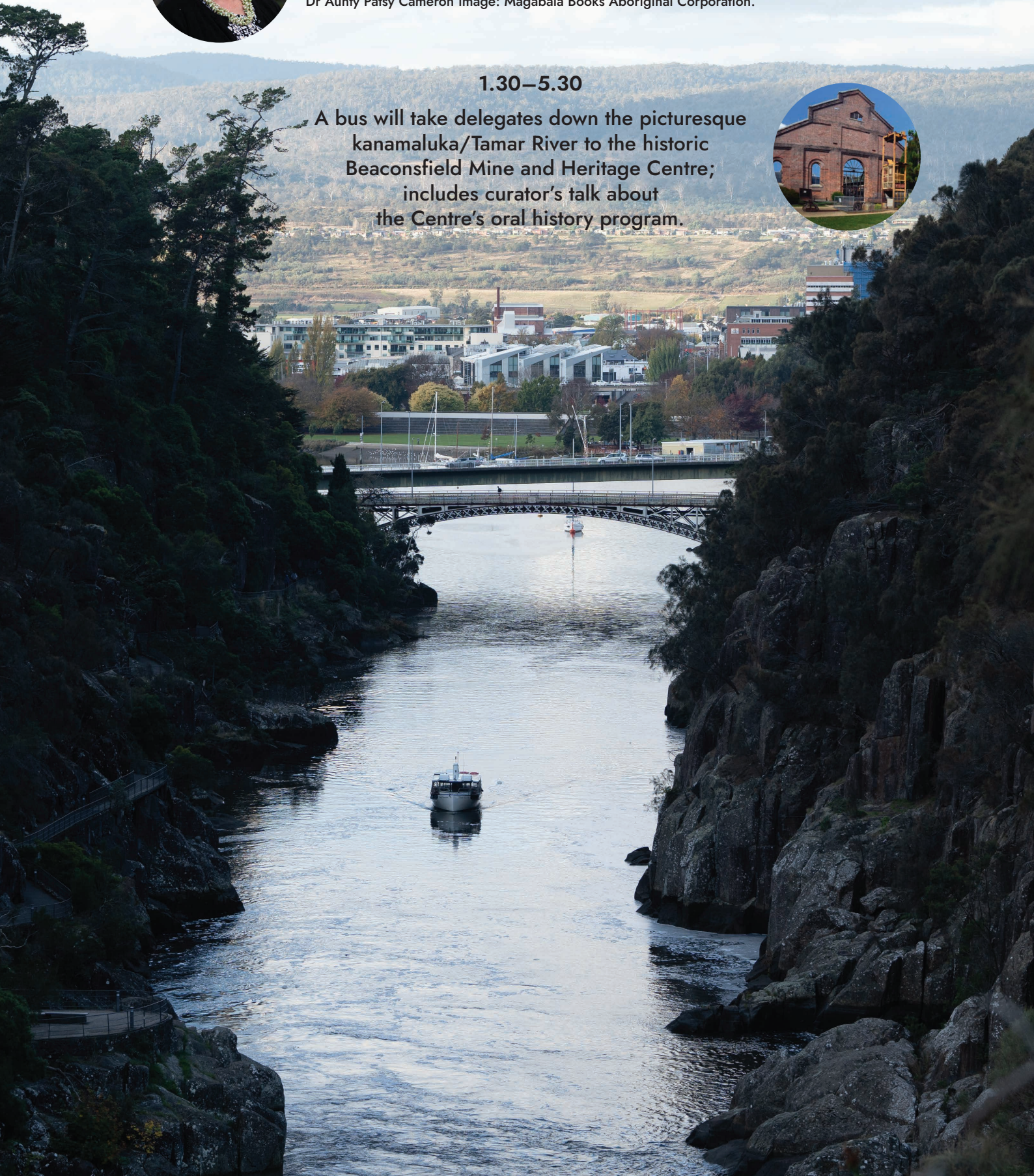


DR AUNTY PATSY CAMERON AO
will lead delegates on an Aboriginal cultural walk
in the stunning Cataract Gorge.

Dr Aunty Patsy Cameron image: Magabala Books Aboriginal Corporation.

1.30–5.30

A bus will take delegates down the picturesque
kanamaluka/Tamar River to the historic
Beaconsfield Mine and Heritage Centre;
includes curator's talk about
the Centre's oral history program.



NOTES

