

ANZHES 2016

A PROPOSAL FOR AN AUSTRALIAN & NEW ZEALAND HISTORY OF EDUCATION SOCIETY ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BACKGROUND

In 2014 a survey of the ANZHES membership asked 'Should ANZHES have an oral history project to collect interviews of members for the ANZHES website?'. Of the 32 members who responded to this question, 17 agreed, 11 were unsure and 4 were opposed. At the 2014 AGM where these survey results were presented, there followed a discussion of an ANZHES oral history project. The sum of up to AU\$15,000 was suggested to support the proposal. It was noted that AARE (established 1970) has a parallel program in place (see Appendix A). A motion that the Executive be asked to pursue the oral history of the Society 'with all vigour' was carried. Subsequently Jo May undertook to write a more detailed proposal for the project to be presented to the members in 2015. This proposal was circulated to the Executive for comment and was amended to become the 'ANZHES Oral History Project Fellow'. As part of facilitating generational change in ANZHES, as well as assisting new scholars in the field, it was decided that the Fellow would be an early career academic who would undertake management of the Project.

PROPOSAL: AN ORAL HISTORY OF ANZHES

ANZHES, established in 1971, has been in existence for forty-five years. Over that time the Society has provided the vital umbrella for the creation and sharing of important and internationally recognised research in the field of educational history in Australia, New Zealand and beyond. As Karseth and Nerland claim: 'professional organisations are actualised as critical agents of knowledge'.¹ Centrally concerned with historical research, ANZHES has made some efforts to preserve its own past. At the Society's website under the 'History' tab, there are two article-length studies:

John McMahon, 'ANZHES: The first twenty-five years', *History of Education Review*, vol. 25, no. 1, pp. 1-22.

Craig Campbell & Geoffrey Sherington, 'History of education: The possibility of survival', *Change: Transformations in Education*, vol. 5, no. 1, pp. 46-64.

However, the records of the Society are not held in any one archive but are scattered among the membership. Furthermore, like most voluntary professional associations, much of the experience of the Society has occurred at annual ANZHES conferences, at symposia and members' meetings. The basis of this proposal is that the key to accessing the treasure trove of experiential ANZHES history is through harnessing members' memories. Now is an opportune time to intervene to invite members to share their memories of ANZHES so that future members and researchers can access the experiences and insights of their intellectual forebears. When it comes time to write the history of the Society, there will be, it is hoped, a rich archive of memories upon which to draw.

¹ Berit Karseth, and Monika Nerland, 'Building professionalism in a knowledge society: examining discourses of knowledge in four professional associations', *Journal of Education and Work*, volume 20 (4), 2007: 335 – 355, p.336.

THE ANZHES ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Scope

This project will canvass the involvement of all previous and future members as can be contacted through the Society's mailing lists. They will be invited via various channels (website, email, newsletter, post) to write or record their memories of the Society either by themselves (with an Information Sheet, List of prompt questions/topics, a Consent Form and a Permission to Publish online form) or by telephone, skype or in person with an interviewer) and send them to the Project Coordinator. They will also be invited to share any photographs and relevant written materials (for example, early conference programs, calls for papers, brochures, membership forms etc) to be digitised and stored online at the Society's website. At least two members of the Executive will be responsible for curating the interviews by listening to them or reading them before publication.

When

The project, managed by the ANZHES Oral History Project Fellow, and overseen by the ANZHES Executive, would be in two phases:

- The first phase would be managed by the ANZHES Oral History Project Fellow. It would run from January 30, 2018 through to 31 October 2018. The Fellow's tasks would include the creation of: lists of former and current members; gantt charts of project timelines and milestones; and participant information forms. All participants would be solicited; records created; protocols and design for ANZHES website housing of the interviews created; at least 30 telephone or Skype interviews or face-to-face conducted; project forms and archive materials catalogued. A member of the ANZHES Executive would act as point of contact for the Fellow.
- The second phase would be ongoing invitation of former and current members to share their memories and relevant archival materials. The Executive Media Officer would take over the ongoing management of the project.

Budget

\$15,000 - Paid over three instalments, this budget is to fund the research and may not be considered as a stipend. It is envisaged that the funds would be expended in research hours only, although the Fellow is expected to consult the ANZHES Executive if they wish to vary this practice.

Staff:

The ANZHES Oral History Project Fellow would set up and manage the project for the first weeks of its operation. One volunteer member of the Society conversant with oral history projects would act as supervisor and the Executive would oversee the project.

Ethics

In the absence of an Institutional Ethics Committee, it is suggested that the ANZHES Executive have oversight of the Project and for best practice, the Project will adhere to the Guidelines of Ethical Practice of Oral History created by the Oral History Association of Australia www.oralhistoryaustralia.org.au/files/oha_guidelines_for_ethical_practice_2007.pdf [accessed 18 January 2017].

Digital Participant Information Package

- Letter of Invitation/Call for Participants
- Information Statement
- List of prompt questions/topics
- Consent Form
- Permission to Publish
- Thank you letter

Preliminary Timeline

Monday January 30, 2018

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. 30/1 - Payment 1 \$5,000 | 21. 19/6 |
| 2. 6/2 | 22. 26/6 |
| 3. 13/2 | 23. 3/7 |
| 4. 20/2 | 24. 10/7 |
| 5. 27/2 | 25. 17/7 - Second Report Due |
| 6. 6/3 | 26. 24/7 |
| 7. 13/3 | 27. 31/7 |
| 8. 20/3 | 28. 7/8 |
| 9. 27/3 | 29. 14/8 |
| 10. 3/4 - First Report Due on set-up | 30. 21/8 - Payment 3 \$5,000 |
| 11. 10/4 | 31. 28/8 |
| 12. 17/4 | 32. 4/9 |
| 13. 24/4 | 33. 11/9 |
| 14. 1/5 | 34. 18/9 |
| 15. 8/5 Payment 2 \$5,000 | 35. 25/9 |
| 16. 15/5 | 36. 2/10 |
| 17. 22/5 | 37. 9/10 |
| 18. 29/5 | 38. 16/10 |
| 19. 5/6 | 39. 23/10 |
| 20. 12/6 | 40. 30/10- Final Report Due |

through to 31 October 2018.

APPENDIX A

EXEMPLAR: AARE Oral History Project

The Australian Association for Research in Education is seeking to record accounts of its history from the perspectives of members who have built and shaped the Association. The AARE Executive is inviting foundation members, past presidents, and long-serving members of the AARE to participate in an interview about their career in educational research, the emergence of the AARE and its current role, and their observations of educational research in Australia more generally. These interviews will be available online for viewing by members of the Association and future researchers, and will contribute to a living archive of 'stories of association' about the AARE.

These interviews can be conducted in person or participants can record or write responses in their own time. There will also be opportunities for interviews to be held at the time of the AARE annual conference, which will take place in Fremantle later this year.

Professor Julie McLeod (Melbourne Graduate School of Education, University of Melbourne) co-convenes the History and Education SIG and is undertaking this project at the invitation of the AARE Executive; project and research assistance is provided by postgraduate student Ms Rosie Barron. If you are interested in finding out more about the project, would like to be interviewed, or have recommendations for people we should contact for interviews or for further information, please get in touch with either Julie or Rosie. j.mcleod@unimelb.edu.au, (03) 8344 3455 rbarron@student.unimelb.edu.au