



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2014-15

It has been my pleasure to act as President of Oral History Australia for the last two years. This has been a period of settlement following the changes to the Constitution that were endorsed by the Annual General Meeting at the Adelaide conference in 2013.

As ever, the President's role has been supported by a dedicated Committee and I thank them for their contribution. Anne Johnson's term as Secretary was much appreciated but short-lived as it was necessary for her to step down for family reasons. In her place we welcomed David Sweet, who brings skills to the task that are proving to be of great benefit. It is with regret that we will see the retirement from the Committee of Sandra Blamey. Sandra's hard work, particularly on the Constitution, can be acknowledged by all of us and we wish her a more relaxed lifestyle in the future. Catherine Cottle was replaced as Queensland President and national representative by Margaret Ridley; and we welcome Alistair Thomson as the new Victorian President and their delegate for the Committee. Otherwise I am thankful for the experience and advice of Jill Cassidy, Jill Adams, Paula Hamilton, Len Cargeeg and Matthew Stephen.

I would also like to acknowledge the tireless work of the Western Australian membership, under the leadership of Len Cargeeg and Doug Ayre, in putting together a terrific conference in Perth, and for even turning on some spectacular weather to boot. I am sure all would agree that the keynote speech by Doug Boyd provided much food for thought and some exciting prospects for the accessibility and dissemination of the oral histories that we all work so hard to capture and preserve. The next conference in 2017 will be held in New South Wales.

The Committee has met regularly by teleconference and this way continues to keep the ball rolling. One of the issues we have been grappling with for a while now is whether to continue publishing hard copies of the Journal, by far our greatest expense. At our meeting last night we finally decided that we will aim to move the Journal on line for 2016. Members will retain exclusive access via a password for at least a year, after which it will be available more openly. The details are still to be determined but the savings we make will enable us to broaden the scope of what we can offer to promote oral history, which is an exciting prospect.

I look forward to a productive year ahead.

Sue Anderson

President