CALL FOR PAPERS

Aotearoa New Zealand Oral History Conference
National Oral History Association of New Zealand (NOHANZ)
Te Kete Kōrero ā-Waha o te Motu

Tūranga, Central City Library, Christchurch
60 Cathedral Square, Christchurch
18 – 20 September 2026

Tūranga **|** *Places we belong*

Our theme *Tūranga | Places we belong* acknowledges the library building itself. Christchurch's central library was designed in partnership with Ngāi Tūāhuriri and Ngai Tahu through the Matapopore Trust to ensure a diversity of cultural values, aspirations and narratives. The name Tūranga speaks of whakapapa across generations and connections to the north and out to Te Moana-nui-a-Kiwa and the wider Pacific (Turanga.pdf). Throughout the conference we hope to explore personal and collective oral histories *about Tūranga | Places we belong*.

- The idea of *Tūranga | Places we belong* has many meanings, from whenua, location and the physical environment to the mnemonic and cultural contexts within an iwi, hapu, family or community.

- 'Places' may also include memories and stories about participating in religious, recreational, political, occupational, or voluntary/activist organisations. And in the plural may include any combination of these.

- The concept of 'belonging' can be articulated in many different ways and may draw on customary cultural forms of communication as well as the expression of sensory memories and emotions.

- Those who have moved or migrated during their lives may feel that they are between different places, in liminal or transitory spaces.

- Of course, there can also be tensions in reflecting upon *Tūranga | Places we belong*: have some places of belonging conflicted with each other? Are there places from which some have been or are excluded, or feel they do not belong?

- And finally, are there places that oral historians do not belong?

We invite papers that explore *Tūranga | Places we belong* in new and interesting ways. Different forms of presentation, and panel proposals, are welcome. Conference proposals are also welcome from oral historians on any topic in oral history.

To submit a proposal for a paper or panel

Please send, as **a Word** document:

- a title
- 200-word (maximum) abstract
- a brief (two sentence) biography and contact details
- and, if possible, an indication of the focus of your paper within the broad themes outlined in this CFP (this helps when drawing up the conference programme)

To: Liz Ward at: nohanzexec@gmail.com
By: **Monday 25 May 2026**

It may be difficult to accept papers submitted after this date if the conference programme is already full.

You will be notified by **Monday 1 June 2026** if your paper has been accepted.

Please note:

Your abstract will be included in the conference programme.

There will be a conference dinner on Saturday night.

Conference participants are asked to organize their own accommodation.

Further information about the conference will be circulated through the newsletter and posted on the NOHANZ website. This will include, when finalized, information about the Friday workshops, conference programme, keynote speaker, any available registration grants, and the conference dinner.

If you have any questions about the conference, please contact:

Natalie Looyer or Liz Ward at: nohanzexec@gmail.com