

## AUSTRALIAN GENERATIONS ORAL HISTORY PROJECT END OF PROJECT REPORT 27 FEBRUARY 2015

The Australian Generations Oral History Project is now coming to an end. Here are some details about recent and forthcoming research, and about accessing the interviews and other project outcomes.

### PROJECT WEBSITE

The Australian Generations Project website can be accessed at <http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/australian-generations/>. The site will continue to be available but is no longer being updated (except for the Publications list).

### THE AUSTRALIAN GENERATIONS COLLECTION AT THE NATIONAL LIBRARY OF AUSTRALIA

All recorded interviews have now been archived at the National Library of Australia, as per the conditions outlined in each Rights Agreement. The collection contains just over 1220 hours of interview material recorded with 300 people born between 1920 – 1989 living across the country. Access the collection-level record here:

[http://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Record/5973925?lookfor=Australian%20Generations%20%23\[format:Audio\]&offset=1&max=673](http://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Record/5973925?lookfor=Australian%20Generations%20%23[format:Audio]&offset=1&max=673).

### ACCESS INTERVIEWS ONLINE

81 out of 300 recorded interviews are now available online. This link will direct you to all interviews which are currently available online:

[http://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Search/Home?lookfor=my\\_parent:%22\(AuCNL\)5973925%22&iknowwha\\_timean=1&filter\[\]=access\\_type:%22All%20online%22](http://catalogue.nla.gov.au/Search/Home?lookfor=my_parent:%22(AuCNL)5973925%22&iknowwha_timean=1&filter[]=access_type:%22All%20online%22). The National Library will continue to make many more interviews available online during 2015.

### HISTORYPIN MAP

The project created a HistoryPin map to invite our listeners to explore our collection visually. We've created a pin for each interviewee and these pins are linked to interviewees' online catalogue records. Please note that we have used the address of local post offices instead of interviewees' home addresses due to obvious privacy concerns.

Explore the collection: <http://bit.ly/1Ajq9NC>

Explore the map: <http://bit.ly/16MxqJX>

### THE AUSTRALIAN GENERATIONS CONFERENCE

*Australian Generations: Researching 20th Century Lives and Memories* was held at Monash University on 30 – 31 October 2014 in Melbourne, Victoria. You can find the conference program, an overview of the conference and photographs of the post-conference gathering here:

<http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/australian-generations/australian-generations-conference/>.

Audio recordings of all conference papers are available online here:

<https://soundcloud.com/australiangenerationsproject/sets/australian-generations-conference>.

These recordings will remain online until November 2015.

## RADIO SERIES

ABC Radio National's *Hindsight* series using Australian Generations Project interviews:

### ***Fathertime: the making and shaping of fatherhood in Australia* (first aired on 3 November 2013)**

How has fatherhood changed over the 20th century? In this program we hear memories from across the generations, alongside the views of historians and sociologists including Professor Alistair Thomson (Project Leader) and Associate Professor Dr. Kerreen Reiger (Chief Investigator)

Listen here: <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/hindsight/fathertime/5051830>

### ***Crowded Houses, Empty Nests* (first aired on 23 March 2014)**

This feature goes inside that personal space we call home and opens the door on Australian houses and homes to discover the way we've lived domestically over the past eighty years. In this program we hear memories from across the generations, alongside the views of historians, an economic sociologist and an urban policy thinker.

Listen here: <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/hindsight/houses/5320382>

### ***Mother's Turn* (first aired on 11 May 2015)**

In this program, memory meets imagination to reflect on the changing nature of motherhood in Australia over the past sixty years. Alongside personal recollections, we also hear how a selection of Australian poets have given voice to their ideas about motherhood.

Listen here: <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/hindsight/mothers-day/5426494>

### ***Going Away to School* (first aired on 1 June 2014)**

Going away to school has been part of the education of a wide range of people in Australia. This program draws on the memories of eight people born between the 1920s and the 1980s, all of whom spent part of their schooling away from home.

Listen here: <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/hindsight/boarding-school-memories/5473898>

### ***Glory Boxes* (first aired on Sunday 13 July 2014)**

This program charts the excitement and eventual decline of the practice of collecting household items in anticipation of one's own home after marriage. Five women remember vividly the shifting social expectations around them as the world changed from the 1950s to the 1970s.

Listen here: <http://www.abc.net.au/radionational/programs/hindsight/glory-boxes/5535312>

To explore the 5 program radio series produced using interviews from the Australian Generations Pilot Project, visit: <http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/australian-generations/category/radio/>. The five programs are: *Australian Generations: Beginnings*, *Australian Generations: School*, *Australian Generations: Playtime*, *Australian Generations: Family* and *Australian Generations: Making a Life*.

## PUBLICATIONS ON THE AUSTRALIAN GENERATIONS COLLECTION

### Recent publications:

- **Thomson, Alistair.** (2014) 'Australian generations? Transformative events, memory and generational identity', in Michael Boss (ed.), *Conflicted Pasts and National Identities: Narratives of War and Conflict*, Aarhus Universitetsforlag, Denmark, pp 55-68.
- **Curby, Nicole.** (2014) 'Confession and Catharsis: Crafting a Life Story and Charting a History of Emotion', *Circa: The Journal of the Professional Historians Association*, pp 53 – 58. Read

here: <http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/australian-generations/files/2014/08/Circa-2014-N-Curby.pdf>

- Puri, Anisa. (2014) 'Oral History Ethics: the Australian Generations Project', *INSITE Magazine*, Museums Australia (Victoria), November 2014 – January 2015, pp 4-5. Read here: <http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/australian-generations/files/2014/08/MA-Vic-INSITE-article1.pdf>

**Forthcoming publications:**

- Puri, Anisa and Thomson, Alistair. (2016) *Australian Lives: An Aural History*, Monash University Publishing, Melbourne, Australia.

**Planned publications:**

- *Australian Historical Studies* journal theme issue on the Australian Generations Project.

Visit the current publications list here: <http://artsonline.monash.edu.au/australian-generations/publications-on-the-australian-generations-collection/>. Details of new publications will be added to this list over the next few years.

**QUESTIONS ABOUT THE AUSTRALIAN GENERATIONS PROJECT AND COLLECTION**

- If you have any questions about the Australian Generations Collection, contact the Oral History and Folklore Branch of the National Library at 02 6262 1111.
- If you have questions about research methods and project methodology, contact our Project Leader Professor Alistair Thomson at [alistair.thomson@monash.edu](mailto:alistair.thomson@monash.edu).

Alistair Thomson and Anisa Puri (Project Leader and Project Officer)  
Australian Generations Oral History Project  
27 February 2015