Talk given by Sally Hone at the Oral History Australia Biennial Conference - *She Said He Said: Reading Writing and Recording History* - September 2013, Adelaide, South Australia
WAGGA WAGGA
MARCH 2012 FLOODS

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT
Scope of interviews
At least 20 people, a wide representation of the community including:

• **residents in North Wagga** the worst hit area with both first timers and long term residents

• **rural residents** of Oura and Eunonyhareenyha;

• **Wagga Wagga City Council engineers and infrastructure workers** including Heinz Kausche Director Infrastructure Services

• **Other Council staff** who manned the Flood Response/Recovery centre and personally handled paperwork for over 9,000 evacuees;

• **local residents and business owners in the CBD** who were forced to evacuate late at night;

• **SES, Army and Rural Fire Services** who worked side by side
Interview themes
• Short biography of each person

• Account of events – the flooding, timing, evacuation

• Thoughts and feelings throughout that time

• The North Wagga Wagga residents – ‘we shall not be moved’ movement

• Damages and loss

• Return and clean up

• Recovery and help from agencies

• Memory of previous floods and differences

• Communications including online and use of social media

• Emergency services – their responses and evaluation

• Environmental aspects

• Multicultural responses (include recent African communities)
Allan Woolstencraft, North Wagga resident
Frank Newah Jarfoi, Secretary General Wagga African Association (WAFRICA)
Virginia Anderson – recent North Wagga Wagga homeowner
Evelyn Patterson
James McTavish  SES Regional Controller for the Murrumbidgee Region
March 5, 2012
Would you bet your life and your families' lives on the length of a handspan compared to the height of a 3 storey building? If you stay behind in Wagga Wagga in the evacuation area and do not evacuate - that is what you are doing. Please take the order seriously and leave as soon as possible.

Issued Monday at 9pm
The Murrumbidgee River is expected to reach 10.8m at Wagga Wagga 7.00am Tuesday March 6, which is likely to threaten the Wagga Wagga CBD, Wagga Wagga central Flowerdale and surrounding areas. The likely affected areas are those that are located: