

Amplify

Listen to newly
released sound
recordings from
the State Library
of NSW

Media release



From your backyard to the world: State Library takes local collections global

26/10/2016

TODAY at a special event in Orange the State Library of NSW announced a new partnership with four NSW public libraries that will bring local oral history collections out of the archives and to the world.

Central West Libraries, Ryde Library Service, Wagga Wagga Libraries and Wollongong Libraries will be the first public libraries in Australia to use the State Library's innovative online tool called *Amplify* which allows anyone to search, listen to and transcribe local audio collections.

According to State Librarian Dr John Vallance: "*Amplify* will give communities unparalleled access to their local histories. Over 400 hours of oral histories that document the lives and experiences of local people and events across history, including our recent history, are just waiting to be explored and transcribed."

"Many of the oral histories held in these public library collections have never been made available online before," says Dr Vallance.

Some of the first recordings to be made available on *Amplify* include:
moving accounts by 2012 Wagga Wagga flood survivors;

- fascinating interviews with workers from a WWII small arms factory in Orange;
- interviews with Italian and Chinese market gardeners in Ryde; and
- significant migration stories of Indigenous Australians around Illawarra and Wollongong.

The State Library plans to extend the program across all NSW public libraries in the future, which will see the release of thousands of little-known and important stories from communities across the state.

Jan Richards, Manager, Central West Libraries, said locals could get involved by joining digital volunteers from around the world in the important task of transcribing these oral histories so that more people could discover the amazing stories our communities hold.

To start exploring, visit amplify.sl.nsw.gov.au

MEDIA CONTACT:

Golda Mitchell, Media & Communications, State Library of NSW
(02) 9273 1691, 0434 683 435, golda.mitchell@sl.nsw.gov.au



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