

LHA MCHUGH-KENEALLY PRIZE for ORAL HISTORY 2017

JUDGES' CITATION for Dancing Through Life:

The judges noted that this modest story about what might at first glance seem an unremarkable life has much to offer. Margaret Pepper was a young professional dancer when her family migrated to Australia from the UK after World War 11. Kirstie's interviews captured both the rupture caused by migration and the ups and downs of one woman's life as she navigates the joys and challenges of becoming a 'modern woman'. The oral history is well crafted, edited into three parts with an understated aesthetic that suits the story's scale. Pace and texture are well judged, with judicious use of tonally appropriate piano music. The interview reveals a sense of the embodied life of the professional dancer, the subject's strong family ties and how her long happy marriage was marred by her husband's illness at the end. There is good narrative coherence and the piece ends well on a reflective note. In choosing her own grandmother as her subject, Kirstie Wellauer showed that interesting stories can be found in one's own family, and that 'ordinary' lives are worth documenting for the insight they can give into the human condition and the forces that shape our society.

HIGHLY COMMENDED:

1. A Guiding Hand by Jake Cupitt

This 30-minute podcast explores the impact that losing a parent has on a person's sense of identity. We commend Jake Cupitt for the empathy and sensitivity he demonstrates while interviewing three people about an emotionally delicate topic. He brings their experiences together by interviewing a psychologist about the impact of their loss. The podcast is well crafted and Jake's scripting and narration are clear and engaging. Overall, the podcast informs listeners in a moving and intimate style about an aspect of life that is often overlooked.

AUDIO is [here](#):

<https://soundcloud.com/jake-cupitt/a-guiding-hand>

2. And then Candy Rained Down from the Sky by Tayla Bosley

This written feature profiles World War 11 "Resistance fighter, daredevil, and POW survivor" Barbara Eustace, who came to Australia from Poland after the war. We commend Tayla Bosley for bringing to light an interesting personal story from another era that is hidden behind the subject's current description as a "retiree". The feature flows

well, with a good balance between interview quotes and Tayla's own observations. The latter show Tayla's nuanced insight into how memory works – a key aspect of oral history. The feature can be read [here](#).