Keystrokes Per Minute

The women of the Public Service Typing Pools from 1945 to the present day

October 2021

Newsletter No. 7



The New Zealand Historical Association Conference

Tuesday 23 November - Friday 26 November 2021 Online, hosted by Massey University

The Keystrokes Per Minute project has been included as part of an abstract submitted to the NZ Historical Association by Dr. Rachel Patrick, Therese O'Connell and Dr. Emma-Jean Kelly.

The abstract will be presented in the form of a roundtable session called 'Keep On Walking Forward: learning from the songs, work, and stories of women typists and clerical workers 1950s to the 1990s'; to illuminate the lives and work of women typists, office workers, and their organisations. In doing so, it will centre the voices and stories of an oftenneglected sector of the female workforce, during an era of rapid social, cultural, and technological change in women's working lives

Rachel Patrick's paper will focus on themes of gender, class, and modernity, with a focus on women's pathways into and through the typing profession, and the impact of rapid technological change on the nature and content of women's work.

Shifting from the nature of women typist's work to their organisations, Emma-Jean Kelly and Therese Frances O'Connell will present a feminist history of the private sector Wellington Clerical Workers Union from the 1970s until 1991, drawing on archival records and the oral histories of the Wellington Clerical Workers' Union recorded by historian Grace Millar in 2017.

Fees are between \$15 and \$30 to register for this online conference, registrations via Massey University's website here



Podcast production is now underway, and we aim to have the episodes available for you to listen to before Christmas, although we will wait to host a launch until the early months of 2022, due the changing alert levels across the country.

Whilst listening to all 55 oral interviews, two events have piqued our interest and we would love to know more about them...

Govt Typist General Strike (1985)

We have heard from four interviewees about a Govt Typist Strike, and a march on the State Services Commission, that concluded on the steps of the Reserve Bank building forecourt, cnr of The Terrace & Bowen St, to protest the stalling of pay awards and gradings, sometime in 1985.



If you attended that march, or were part of the strike action in 1985, please get in touch with us via keystrokes@storycollective.nz

Were you an audience member at a live recording for a radio play called 'Typists in Charge', in 1979?

'Typists in Charge', is a radio play written by Lorraine Williams, which was recorded in Auckland in mid to late 1979.

Lorraine remembers the producers were concerned that they would not have a studio audience for the recording, and so after she made a few phone calls, typists turned up, over two days, to ensure there was an audience.



If you were there, or know someone who might have been there, please get in touch with the Keystrokes Team via email keystrokes@storycollective.nz

Submission to the National Library Archive

We are preparing all the oral interview audio files, with any submitted documentary material, to be submitted to the National Archive, with the aim to have this completed by the end of 2021.

Email us at keystrokes@storycollective.nz | Find us at keystrokes.storycollective.nz | Find us at keystrokes.st