

ALGA eBulletin no. 43, 4 January 2011

VALE RALPH MCLEAN

26 March 1957 - 25 December 2010

Sad news to report - community activist Ralph McLean passed away on 25 Dec at St Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne.

Ralph was the first openly gay person elected to public office in Australia. In July 1982 he was elected unopposed to Fitzroy City Council as the endorsed ALP candidate, and in 1984 became Mayor of Fitzroy.

In a wide-ranging career of public service, Ralph was a former Executive Director of the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO), was an advocate for better resourcing of rural health, and was active in community television in Melbourne. He chaired Channel 31 for 4 years at a time the station was securing a permanent licence, and helped set up BENT TV. In recent times he was a director/producer of Channel 31's arts program, YARTZ.

Tributes to Ralph from several friends, colleagues and comrades appear on the following websites

<http://www.thelastpost.com.au/tributes.php?tribute=Ralph-McLean>

<http://www.onlinetributes.com.au/Mclean>

<http://syn.org.au/news/2010-12-29/vale-ralph-mclean>

<http://sometimesmelbourne.blogspot.com/2010/12/rip-ralph-mclean.html>

<http://www.yarracity.vic.gov.au/Hot-Topics/Ralph-McLean.html>

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TyIZR5mfUc0> (selection of YARTS segments compiled as a tribute to Ralph)

From the Australian Lesbian & Gay Archives Inc
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More details [at our website.](#)