

ALGA Bulletin
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No. 45

SOUTH YARRA WALK THIS SUNDAY

There are still a few places left in ALGA's history walk this coming Sunday 30 January. Bookings are through the Midsumma website. <http://www.midsumma.org.au/component/jevents/icalrepeat.detail/2010/12/05/64/-/->

One of the stops on this walk is titled "The lost cafes". Over the years we've learned much about South Yarra's camp haunts of the 50s and 60s - but there are places mentioned from time to time about which we know little, not even a firm address. Places such as the Devil's Inn, The Other Place and Flowers are in this category. Feel free to enlighten us if you can!

BRIAN AND NORM - A LOVE STORY

ABC Radio National's 360 Documentaries recently replayed a poignant interview with a gay man talking about his relationship with Norm, his partner of more than 50 years, now living with dementia in a nursing home. The podcast (18 minutes) is available at <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/360/stories/2010/2839237.htm> By clicking on the video link further down the page you can also hear the interview with an accompanying a photo montage - click on <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/360/stories/2010/2839237.htm> Thanks to Dale for drawing this to our attention.

BERT EDWARDS REMEMBERED

Our tribute to Ralph McLean in Bulletin 43 prompted an ALGA member to remind us that in a very different era, Bert Edwards (1888-1963) was re-elected to public office in 1948 having served a prison term with hard labour 1931-33 for a homosexual offence, amidst much public scandal. For more about Bert Edwards' extraordinary life, see his entry in the Australian Dictionary of Biography <http://adbonline.anu.edu.au/biogs/A080440b.htm>.

Adelaide writer and activist Ian Purcell wrote a play about Bert Edwards' prosecution, *King of the West End*, which was performed in Adelaide in 2008. With the benefit of the National Digitisation Program, it is now possible to readily see press coverage of Bert Edwards' life - eg from <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper>, search on "Albert Augustine Edwards" (make sure the words are in double quote marks). One sample, the Adelaide Advertiser's report of the jury verdict on 14 February 1931 is at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/ndp/del/printArticlePdf/29865384/3?print=n>

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Among several interesting acquisitions in the early part of 2011 are the following donations for which we are most grateful:

- * photos of men in drag at the 1951 Arts Ball in Melbourne (donated by Noel Tovey)
- * a diverse and visually exciting collection of postcards, stickers and flyers from the lesbian feminist student movement, 1997-99 (donated by DL)
- * the photographic book, # *Untitled*, with plates of Ross Watson's paintings and photographs (donated by Ross Watson)
- * papers from the partner of a now deceased man who was president of a private social club for gay men, The Bunbury Club, which operated in Melbourne c.1977-79 (donated by CC).
- * two photographic books plus posters and ephemera with a Brisbane focus, mixed lesbian and gay (donated by Cathy Clarke)

THINKING OF DONATING MATERIAL?

If you have material which you think may be of interest to the Archives, please get in touch: algarchives@hotmail.com. We encourage potential donors to contact us in advance of sending material. It helps if you can describe the material (a list is great!) and the approximate volume (we have a list of large-ish offers on hold till our new space is bedded down). If you are thinking of donating periodicals, books or posters, you might want to check against ALGA's existing holdings on the website's collection page, <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~alga/collection.htm>. Our collecting policy might be of interest too - <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~alga/docs/collectionpolicy.pdf> There are tips at the end (Appendix 1) for groups thinking of donating records.

Best wishes,

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Give our past a future.

"Helping to keep the Archives alive, through volunteering and through financial support, is a key way of honouring the lives of previous generations of gays and lesbians and passing the precious gift of collective memory to the next generation." - Joan Nestle, ALGA patron.

More details [at our website.](#)