

Dear ALGA members and friends

BOOK LAUNCH

ALGA's long awaited book, *The secret histories of queer Melbourne*, will be launched by Christos Tsiolkas on Wednesday 20 April, 6 pm for formalities from 6.30 pm at the Gryphon Gallery, University of Melbourne (Grattan Street, near Swanston Street). ALGA members and friends are invited but RSVP is essential (numbers are limited) – please email algarchives@hotmail.com by Wednesday 6 April.

Secret Histories has grown out of ALGA's history walks over many years, with a dozen authors, about 100 illustrations, and 51 episodes from Melbourne's very queer history, including the lady squatters, homo bushrangers, the Tasty Raid, ASIO, kiss-ins, Myers windows, the floral clock, radicalesbians ... and much, much more

The book is edited by Graham Willett, Wayne Murdoch and Daniel Marshall, and publication was assisted by a grant from the City of Melbourne.

A special launch price of \$35 is being offered. ALGA is also selling direct for a cost of \$40 or \$35 to ALGA members, plus \$5 postage within Australia.

GLP6 IS OUT HERE

The sixth in the Gay and Lesbian Perspectives series, *Out Here*, is now available, published online by Monash University Publishing, edited by Yorick Smaal and Graham Willett.

Most of the contributions were presented originally at ALGA's 9th Australian Homosexual Histories conference in Melbourne in 2009 (a table of contents is on ALGA's website).

Hard copies are available for purchase from ALGA: \$35 or \$30 to ALGA members, plus \$5 postage within Australia.



ALGA is also selling a small number of copies of *Queer Queensland*, a special edition of *Queensland Review* (Vol 14 No. 2, 2007) edited by Yorick Smaal and Belinda Mc Kay; \$25 or \$20 to ALGA members, plus \$5 postage within Australia. Among many interesting articles in this issue (full table of contents on the [Queensland Review](http://Queensland Review website) website) is Belinda McKay's fascinating account of "queer" men and women spanning four generations within her family, beginning in early twentieth century Cooktown to the present.

THESIS PRIZE AWARDED

ALGA's 2010 prize for the best 4th year honours thesis on a GLBTI topic has been awarded to Senthoran Sunil Raj for his thesis in Gender Studies, University of Sydney, titled "Moving Representations: Queer Refugee Subjectivities and the Law". The judges considered the entrants this year to be of particularly high quality. A specially commended prize has been awarded to Naomi Cranenburgh for her thesis in Monash University's School of Philosophical, Historical and International Studies, "From invisible to 'menace': lesbians in Australia from 1939 to 1965".

ALGA's theses and research papers collection is on the ALGA website at <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~alga/docs/thesesandpapers.pdf>

CAMP QLD 40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Friday 15 April marks 40 years to the day since the CAMP Club in Brisbane had its gala opening in 1971. It will be celebrated in appropriate style (a 70s night to remember) at Queensland Association for Healthy Communities, 30 Helen Street, Newstead – 6 pm. Cost \$10 for champagne on arrival, gourmet nibbles, 3 drink tickets ... and performance and reunions galore! RSVP essential: Ph QAHC on (07) 3017 1777 by Monday 11th April

SOUTH YARRA HISTORY WALK

ALGA's annual Midsumma history walk went to South Yarra for the first time and was well received by a crowd of over 50 people on one of the few very hot days Melbourne experienced this summer. Thanks to all who made it happen as well as those who braved the heat to be there. Thanks also to Barry, who gave an impromptu talk at one of the stops about a funny occasion at Embers Nightclub when Ava Gardner was a reluctant visiting celebrity there.

History walks are often good sources of new information about our camp past, and this year was no exception with light being shed on a gay-ish 1960s coffee shop/cafe called Brummel's (95 Toorak Road). An interesting post-walk find was a reference to Brummel's on the blog of a Melbourne man who used to [go there](#).



Graham Willett addressing the crowd opposite where Maisies (Her Majesty's Hotel) and Val's Adlib Café used to be.
Photo – Francis Good

LOST AND FOUND

ALGA's oral history interviews often throw up names of people and places that we can't immediately put into context. Brummel's (see above) is one that that has only recently been fitted into the jigsaw. Others elude us and we'd be delighted if people can tell us about any of these –

- Bailey's Hall in Richmond – where Jan Hillier is said to have held her first Melbourne dance in 1964. Does anyone know where Bailey's Hall is or was?
- barmaids or other employees of the old camp pubs – such as Hotel Australia, Hosie's, The Graham, or the Imperial in Prahran – who might like to share their insider view of what these places were like.
- two 1960s venues in Toorak Road South Yarra called Devil's Inn and The Other Place – we've got conflicting info on the locations of these.
- a place called The Drum in Russell Street at the Flinders Street end – a venue for big private parties in the late 1940s. We've had one tantalising mention only of this place in interviews and would love to know more.
- soirees held in the mid to late 40s by a photographer, Davis Gray (uncertain spelling, possibly Grey) at his studio at Grosvenor Chambers (9 Collins Street).

ORAL HISTORY – SEEKING 100 STORIES

Sydney's Pride History Group is creating an accessible archive of its oral history interviews, with a target of 100 interviews in 2011. The group is looking for oral history interviewers (training available) and people who can help prepare the 100 interviews for public access - cataloguing, logging/transcribing etc. Contact PHG at info@pridehistorygroup.org.au.

VOLUNTEER WORK – THANKS TO ALL

Much work has been done in the past two months relocating and rehousing ALGA's international periodicals from off-site storage to the new basement compactus at VAC. We are now about one third of the way through the demanding task of bringing ALGA's collection together for the first time in many years. Many thanks to Anton, Harsh and Trevor for their work on this.

John W has recently completed lists at the document level of the Young Gay and Proud papers (1977-85, 410 records), and a small but interesting collection of papers from the Gay Rights Embassy in Sydney (1983). Lee completed an index of the nationally distributed Adelaide paper. *The Galah* (1989-90) late last year (over 700 records), and has now returned to *Campaign*, which he previously indexed for the first five years (1975-79).

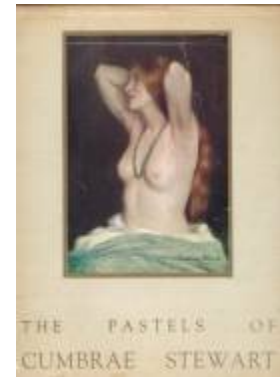
Luke continues to digitise a selection of VHS videos in the ALGA collection (one per week on a regular basis).

We're grateful to Francis for donating a high quality dual cassette recorder to enable backup of audio tapes before they go offsite for digitisation, and for advising us on archival standards for audio digitising.

ACQUISITIONS

Whilst we are not yet in a position to accept large volume offers of material (pending the relocation of all the off-site material), physically small sized acquisitions are feasible (less than about 10 cm of shelf space we'd consider 'small'). All potential acquisitions are reviewed on a monthly basis by the committee. Recent offers accepted include –

- DVDs purchased from the ABC Archives of two significant television documentaries from the 1970s: Dennis Altman and Ron Barassi in conversation with Gerald Stone on "The changing face of masculinity" (1973) and a famous Monday Conference (1976) featuring Lex Watson with a live audience at Mount Isa (1976).
- Donation by Peter Di Sciascio of a rare edition of *The pastels of Cumbrae Stewart : with an appreciation by John Shirlow* (c.1921), featuring one of Janet Cumbrae Stewart's paintings on its cover (opposite). Cumbrae Stewart's work is written about in an article by Peter "Australian Lesbian artists in the early twentieth century", now published in *Out Here : Gay and Lesbian Perspectives VI*.
- Hard copy of *The Potential Wedding Album* vols 1 and 2 donated by Tanya Smith (project co-ordinator), with accompanying letter to Prime Minister Gillard dated 14 December 2010. The Potential Wedding Album project is also online with vignettes supporting same-sex marriage contributed by a range of couples. ALGA members may be interested in participating in future albums. Further details on the [website](#).
- Ephemera donated by Phyllis Papps & Francesca Curtis: a flyer for the film *The Naked Bunyip* (a documentary on sexual attitudes in Australia) when it was released in 1970; an annotated copy of *The Boys in the Band* which was performed by an all-lesbian cast (members of the Australasian Lesbian Movement), c.1972; and an annotated typescript of a parody by Francesca Curtis of *Boys in the Band* titled "Girls on the Roundabout".
- Electronic copies of photographs by Paul Drakeford of Queen's Birthday picnics in Melbourne 1978-1981, and events celebrating milestone anniversaries of the ALSO Foundation and ALGA.



- Photo album and 8 mm film footage of 1960s and 70s Melbourne social events donated by Dean P with background information supplied by Dean in collaboration with Mac Ronan.
- Theatre programs and ephemera donated by Noel Tovey relating to his performance work and activism in Australia and England, 1954 to the present.
- Photo album of gay social and political events in Sydney late 1970s onwards donated by Michael Fenaughty
- Copy of an Australian-themed issue of [Drummer magazine, no. 146](#) (Feb 1991) with its cover featuring the Australian and international Mr Drummer that year, holding an Australian version of a leather pride flag (opposite).



LINKS OF INTEREST

- *Historical Archive of The Flying Bouffants* 1988-2008
<http://flyingbouffants.wordpress.com/> - developed by Tom Benditz, one of the founders of the flight attendants drag performing group
- Article by Ian MacNeill about Brian Finemore 1925-1975 : The first Australian art curator, reproduced with permission from [Art Monthly Australia No. 183 \(Sep 2005\)](#) on the website of Ken Lovett and Mannie De Saxe. <http://www.josken.net/hateaus1.htm>.
- Jewish Lesbians Victoria anthology at <http://jlgvic.org/anthology.html> - includes stories with historical themes by Joan Nestle ('A Jew from New York') and Rachael ('Way Back When', reflecting on 1950s Melbourne).

MINING THE TREASURES OF TROVE

The National Library of Australia's Trove database is a wonderful source of archival material, particularly for [newspapers up to the end of 1954](#). Apparently NLA is working on ways of making it easier to roll up the results of searches into a single file for easier viewing and analysis, but in the meantime, an enterprising developer from the National Museum has written a 'harvester' tool which does this and is sharing it with whoever wants to use it on his website <http://discontents.com.au/shed/mining-the-treasures-of-trove-part-1>. The tool does take a little effort to install, and the introduction is a trifle technical, but you don't need to be a programmer to work it out (a tip - go to 'Quick Start (for the impatient)' and follow the instructions from there). The result is a CSV file (Comma Separated Values) which you can then save as an Excel spreadsheet, or export to a database program if you have one.

Best wishes

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