

ALGA Bulletin

Number 49, 17 July 2011. ISSN 1838-7586

OPEN DAY

ALGA members and friends are warmly invited to our **next open day on Sunday afternoon, 31 July**. The day will highlight acquisitions over the past six months or so, give tours of newly renovated spaces and hear about some new queer history research projects. We will also be thanking outgoing Victorian AIDS Council Executive Officer Mike Kennedy for his and VAC's longstanding support of the Archives.

Date: Sunday, 31 July 2011

Time: 2pm to 5pm

Place: 6 Claremont Street, South Yarra

Recent acquisition highlights on display include:

- a rare 1920s book featuring nude watercolours by lesbian artist Janet Cumbrae-Stewart (ALGA now holds two editions of this exceptional work – see photo in [Bulletin 46](#), p. 3)
- the first edition of an early gay publication, *Butch*, from 1972;
- letters of support and vilification relating to Ralph McLean's election as Mayor of Fitzroy in 1984;
- new photographs of Melbourne's sometimes controversial but much loved Queen's Birthday Picnics from the 1960s onwards;
- additional materials related to Australia's first lesbian organisation, the Australasian Lesbian Movement, including an annotated copy of the play *Boys in the Band* performed by an all-lesbian cast in 1972;
- a wide-ranging collection of ephemera donated by a South Australian member;
- material from the 2006 ACT Civil Unions Act, including an original *Canberra Times* political cartoon;
- the *Potential Wedding Album*, volumes 1 and 2;
- material from Noel Tovey including photos from the Arts Ball 1951, theatre programs for 1950s to 70s and posters about his activism in Indigenous issues and HIV/AIDS fundraising

plus much more!

Recently released books will be available for sale: *Secret Histories of Queer Melbourne*, *Out Here: Gay and Lesbian Perspectives VI* and *Queen City of the South: Gay and Lesbian Melbourne* ([special prices for ALGA members](#)).

We will also hear from former gay editor and publisher Bill Calder who has completed the first stage of a history project researching the start of gay media in Australia during the 1970s. Hear him recount his findings into these early newsletters, porn mags and fledgling newspapers. Share your recollections and if you have a copy of the 'lost' *Gay Times* publication produced in Sydney during 1971 bring it along. Bill will next focus his research on media developments during the 80s and 90s.



Queen's Birthday picnic 1976,
The Organizers collection,
photo by Paul Drakeford

PHASE 3 RENOVATIONS COMPLETED

The third and final phase of ALGA's renovations of the new spaces at the Victorian AIDS Council has now been completed. This involved installation of extra shelving in the basement, to supplement the compactus which was installed there late 2010. The new shelving includes two plan cabinets, giving us much needed storage capacity for ALGA's poster collection (which numbers about 1150 catalogued and [listed online](#), and a backlog of over 300 yet to be properly housed and listed). We're grateful to the many people whose donations and advice over several years has enabled the refurbishment work at the Victorian AIDS Council, and not least, to VAC for the opportunity to give our collection a professionally fitted out home.



BOOK COLLECTION NOW AT VAC

After decades in storage in various members' houses, the ALGA book collection (about 3600 titles) is now been located in the main collection at the Victorian AIDS Council. We're much indebted to Liz R for housing the book collection these last four years. Thanks also to the volunteers who helped with the relocation and rehousing the books, and in particular John W and Anton for several days of work on this task in the past month. ALGA's VHS video collection, international periodicals and now the books have all been rehoused and relocated this year.

Books wishlist updated

Even though ALGA has never seen its primary role as collecting books, we do aim to keep books on GLBT themes with an Australian connection (either through the author, publisher or content, or some combination of these). A wishlist of books we'd like to acquire is on our website at <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~alga/docs/bookwishlist.pdf>.

Thinking of donating material?

If you are thinking of donating material to ALGA, please contact us first – email algarchives@hotmail.com. ALGA's collecting policy is online at <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~alga/docs/collectionpolicy.pdf>. Whilst a number of offers are on hold until the available space is known (there are still some large collections stored offsite awaiting relocation to VAC), we are able to accept smaller quantities (up to say 10 cm shelf space) that meet our collecting policy. All offers are considered by the committee on a monthly basis.

AFTER *HOMOSEXUAL*: THE LEGACY OF GAY LIBERATION

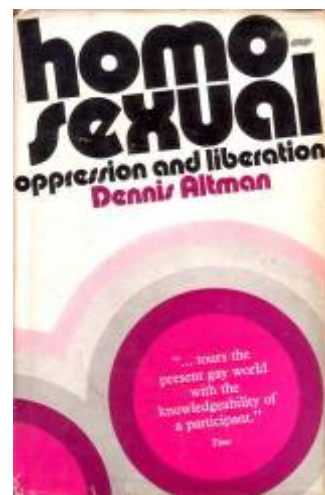
An International Conference
2-4 February 2012
Melbourne, Australia

Hosted by the Gender, Sexuality and Diversity Program at La Trobe University In conjunction with the Australian Lesbian & Gay Archives and Midsumma.

Keynote Speakers:

Professor Jeffrey Weeks, London Southbank University
Additional speakers to be confirmed.

Forty years ago, a young Australian expat living in the USA synthesised the politics of the emerging gay liberation movement in a provocative book called *Homosexual: Oppression and Liberation*.



Cover of the Angus and Robertson Australian edition, 1972

Described by the *New York Times* then as ‘the one to read’ and consistently ranked as one of the most influential books about homosexuality in the English language, *Homosexual* marked a significant milestone in the development of gay and lesbian politics and served a key role in the personal development of many people. It has been reprinted multiple times and translated into several languages. The book’s author, Dennis Altman, went on to have a career as one of Australia’s leading public intellectuals, an important writer on US politics, Australia/US relations, the politics of HIV/AIDS, and studies of sexuality, particularly in Asia and the Pacific.

In recognition of the fortieth anniversary of the publication of *Homosexual* and to mark Professor Altman's retirement, this international conference will bring together leading and emerging scholars to reflect on the impact of *Homosexual* and the legacy of gay liberation. The conference organising committee is calling for paper and panel proposals on questions relating to:

- *Homosexual's* publication and reception
- the political philosophy of gay liberation
- the relationship between queer theory and gay and lesbian studies
- literature of oppression and liberation
- gender and sexual politics
- gay liberation's connections to other social movements (such as feminism, socialism, anti-racism and the counterculture)
- transgender movements and gay liberation
- the relationship between academia and activism
- the politics of identity, then and now
- contemporary gender and sexuality movements
- other topics related to *Homosexual* or the legacy of gay liberation

The conference organisers plan to publish selected conference papers in a special issue of a leading academic journal.

Abstracts of 200 words are due by 5 August 2011. All abstracts will be reviewed by the conference committee. Unfortunately at this time there are no funds to assist conference attendees with their expenses.

For further details or to submit abstracts, please contact Mark Pendleton at m.pendleton@latrobe.edu.au.

After *Homosexual* Conference Committee: Dr Carolyn D'Cruz, Dr Graham Willett, Mark Pendleton, Dr Michael Connors.

JOHN WARE 20.3.1938 - 20.5.2011

Robert French, secretary of Sydney’s Pride History Group, recently advised the Ozhomohist email group of the passing of John Ware, co-founder in 1970 of the Campaign Against Moral Persecution (CAMP). From Robert:

“John, of course, was important in the history of the gay movement in Australia being the first gay man to openly self-identify as homosexual in the media (*The Australian* - 10 September and 19th September 1970) when, together with Christabel Poll, he announced the formation of CAMP [...].

John and Chris were recognised as the co-founders and leaders of CAMP at the first public meeting in February 1971 but, within the year, had both withdrawn from any administrative role though John, an intensely private and self-effacing man, continued to edit the magazine *CAMP Ink* for a few years. John



John Ware (left) and David Widdup pose for *Camp Ink* Vol 3 No 1 (1973) – photo Philip Potter

withdrew from movement activity to pursue his business interests in the mid-1970's and balked at further public recognition of his important foundation role in the movement.”

Much of John's work with CAMP is reflected in the early issues of *Camp Ink* and the *CAMP NSW Newsletter*, complete sets of both being held by ALGA.

VENUE INTERIOR PHOTOGRAPHS

ALGA member John Storey, a photographer, has commenced a project photographing venues when they are empty – the idea being that such photographs convey things about a place that are not easily appreciated in scene pics taken at the same venue. John has started the project with some beautifully crafted photos taken on the recent final night of the Market Hotel in South Yarra, and these will be displayed at the open day on 31 July.



Photo John Storey

FOUND – THE DEVIL'S INN

Our lost and found notice in *Bulletin #46* continues to bear fruit. We were delighted to hear recently from a gay man, Wally P, now living overseas, who with his late partner, Ian, opened the Devil's Inn as a late night camp-friendly coffee lounge in 1959 and ran it successfully for two years. It was upstairs at 156 Toorak Road, South Yarra, above what is now Tamani Bistro, with its stairway entrance at street level on the right hand side of the downstairs frontage. Wally says they saw it as a complementary venue to the nearby Her Majesty's Hotel (Maisie's). The Devil's Inn wasn't licensed but offered live entertainment every Sunday night, arranged by Ian. Wally says these were often professional entertainers drawn from The Treble Clef further down Toorak Road, and sometimes they were enthusiastic amateurs, especially folk singers. Wally is digging into his old photos and we're hopeful that a picture of Devil's Inn in its early years might have survived.

SPAIDS 36th PLANTING

The 36th planting of trees in the Sydney Park AIDS Memorial Grove will take place on Sunday 31 July, 11 am till 3 pm. SPAIDS invites you to plant a young Australian tree provided by Sydney City Council's tree nursery to commemorate the life of someone who has died from HIV/AIDS. SPAIDS plantings also include commemorating lesbians, gay men and transgender people who have died as the result of violence. A memorial book listing the names of all 1200 people commemorated since the first plantings on 15 May 1994 will be available at the planting. Further information at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ozhomohist/message/989>



From ALGA's t-shirt collection

Best wishes

From the Australian Lesbian & Gay Archives Inc
PO Box 124,
Parkville, Vic 3052

email: algarchives@hotmail.com

website: www.alga.org.au