

SPECIAL OPEN DAY & LIFE MEMBERSHIP INDUCTIONS – SUNDAY 27 MAY

As a community-based archive – one of only a few around the world – we have always known that without our volunteers and members we are nothing. And despite the fact the Archives is a collective effort, it is important that we acknowledge the labour, love and commitment demonstrated by people who have given to the Archives in exceptional ways. Indeed, as the founding generation of gay and lesbian archives ages it is important that we highlight the dedication and the achievements of elders in the community as a way of ensuring that we tell our own histories as well as promoting mentorship within the LGBTIQ communities.

For these reasons the Archives warmly invites all of our friends to a special Open Day where we will induct two outstanding supporters of the Archives as Life Members. Over many years, and in many ways, Helen Pausacker and Liz Ross have contributed to the Archives' success as it travels through its fourth decade. The Archives has only held one such public induction before. So, we invite you to dust off your finest Archive memories of Helen and Liz and come along to this special day. Details below:

What: ALGA Special Open Day & Life Membership Inductions
When: 1-4 pm [formalities at 2], Sunday 27 May 2012
Where: Training Room, VAC/GMHC 6 Claremont Street South Yarra
RSVP: So we have enough champagne and sparkling mineral water it would be great if you could RSVP to algarchives@hotmail.com by Thursday 24 May.

Also – please feel free to send through any recollections of Helen or Liz that you would like to have included in the commemorations to daniel.marshall@deakin.edu.au. There will also be an opportunity to share reflections from the floor.

HISTORY LOVERS ALERT! AUSTRALIA'S HOMOSEXUAL HISTORIES 11

This year's HomoHistories Conference is being held in Brisbane over the Queen's Birthday Weekend (Friday 8 June to Saturday 9 June). Jointly organised by ALGA and Yorick Smaal of Griffith University, we will assemble at the university's [South Bank campus](#) (Building S05, Lecture Theatre 2.04) for two days of listening, learning, thinking, debate and conversation. We have two dozen papers, addressing issues such as the AIDS narratives of Gary Dunne, the gay press, gay liberation, the Adelaide Homosexual Alliance, the police and homophobia in South Australia, lesbians (not) in Australian film, William Yang, the queer geography of Sydney, turn-of-the-century Queensland and Melbourne, ASIO, Crime and Intimacy in the Colonial City, ACTUP... and much, much more.

Special mention should be made of the opening plenary – Chris Brickell from New Zealand will be speaking on his new book, *Manly affections*; and a panel of speakers will reflect upon on the 40th anniversary of Dennis Altman's *Homosexual: oppression and liberation*, including the author himself.

The conference costs \$90 (waged) or \$70 (student/unemployed) for the two days, which includes meals. There is a daily rate as well. We are asking people to register in advance for catering purposes (email Graham Willett for the form: gwillett@unimelb.edu.au) and to pay upon arrival.

We are pleased to be able to offer Australian history lovers another in our annual series of opportunities for stimulating historical inquiry and we do hope you can join us there.

The full program and the registration form will be available on the Archives website. Inquiries to Graham Willett, gwillett@unimelb.edu.au

ALGA'S EDUCATIONAL WORK

For the first time, ALGA now has a profile of its educational activities on the ALGA website. Please visit the new pages here: alga.org.au/education. Thanks to Daniel Marshall for content development and John Waugh for website work.

On this page you will find links to a range of educational and outreach activities that the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives engages in. Education and outreach is an important part of the Archives'

work. We do this work in various ways, such as welcoming researchers to the Archives, organising History Walks and conferences, and producing publications based on our collection. We see our education and outreach work being about everyone, not just specific groups.

In about 2008 Daniel started using the Archives' collection to run educational workshops on queer history with young people. These workshops have been run at the Archives as well as off-site in metropolitan and rural sites, mainly in youth group settings. This work now has its own "Queer Youth Education Project" page on the ALGA site:

alga.org.au/education/queer-youth-education.

Please check it out and spread the word! Email Daniel for more information or feedback:

daniel.marshall@deakin.edu.au.

PERIODICALS LIST 2012 ON THE WEBSITE

The 11th edition of ALGA's periodicals list is now available on the ALGA website – go direct to the PDF at alga.org.au/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/periodicals.pdf, or you can go to the home page, alga.org.au, then click on Collections, and scroll down. The periodicals collection at May 2012 now runs to over 1350 titles – with over 300 new titles since the last edition in November 2010. The number of bound volumes is now 613, with 35 added recently – accounting for about 10,700 issues, nearly a quarter of the total collection. In the coming few months, ALGA donors who elected to be binding sponsors will receive replicas of the acknowledgement slips pasted into relevant volumes.

It's not always understood that ALGA has no acquisitions budget and the periodicals collection is a tribute to the generosity of the many individuals and publishers who have sent complimentary copies of their publications, some of them continuously for over 30 years now. We owe them a great debt.

Key missing issues are also highlighted at

alga.org.au/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/missingissues.pdf

ALGA has an impressive collection of the regular community papers from all states, but there are some gaps in otherwise complete collections of *Queensland Pride* and Sydney's *SX Weekly* that we would really love to fill. Any help there would be greatly appreciated.

VAC EMBARKS ON A STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

As some readers will know, the Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Men's Health Centre is currently embarking on a major strategic planning process. This is a wide-ranging consultative process and ALGA is pleased to be a part of it. There is no question that without the rent-free space and facilities generously provided to us by the VAC/GMHC we would not be able to serve Victoria's gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans*, intersex and queer communities in the ways we currently do. In many respects the VAC/GMHC has made the preservation of Australian queer history possible and we are indebted to the organisation for its support. Feel free to let them know how much you appreciate their support for ALGA too. Over the coming months we will be liaising closely with the VAC/GMHC as it conducts its strategic planning and will keep you all updated on any implications for ALGA. Further information is available at www.vicaids.asn.au/strategic-plan. The deadline for public responses to the online survey is next Tuesday, 15 May.

STROPPIY DYKES – A DOUBLE ACT

Jean Taylor and Ardy Tibby will be at Hares and Hyenas Bookshop (87 Johnston Street, Fitzroy) for readings (Jean) and storytelling (Ardy), 7 pm, Saturday 26 May. This is to mark Jean's newly published [*Stroppi dykes: radical lesbian feminist activism in Victoria during the 1980s*](#), a companion to the 1970s volume, *Brazen hussies*. The event is free but RSVP is requested: rsvp@hares-hyenas.com.au.

RACIALISING DESIRE CONFERENCE – CALL FOR ABSTRACTS

31 July 2012 is the abstracts deadline for the 2012 Australian Critical Race and Whiteness Studies Association Conference, "Racialising Desire", to be held in Adelaide, 11-13 December 2012. Keynote speakers are: Professor Jasbir Puar, Department of Women's and Gender Studies, Rutgers University; Professor David Eng, Program in Asian American Studies, University of Pennsylvania; Dr Rebecca Stringer, Department of Sociology, Gender and Social Work, University of Otago; and Dr Sandy O'Sullivan, Wiradjuri Nation, ARC Senior Indigenous Research Fellow, Batchelor Institute of Indigenous Tertiary Education. Conference organisers are Barbara Baird and Damien Riggs. Further details are available at www.acrawsa.org.au/conference.

80 DAYS THAT CHANGED OUR LIVES – HERE'S THREE OF THEM

ABC Archives has developed a website called '80 days that changed our lives', and three of them include text and moving images on some memorable events in the history of gay liberation and women's liberation in Australia -

- www.abc.net.au/archives/80days/stories/2012/01/19/3411558.htm - about the violent death on 10 May 1972 of Dr George Duncan. The footage here includes segments from ABC archives showing Dr Duncan's body being pulled from the Torrens River. According to a report in an Adelaide gay newspaper, *The Galah* (May 1990), this scene was staged for the camera as the body had already been removed from the water by the time the cameraman arrived, though not used in the report on *This Day Tonight* (19 July 1972).
- www.abc.net.au/archives/80days/stories/2012/01/19/3411655.htm - about Australia's first AIDS death (*Four Corners*, 19 March 1985).
- www.abc.net.au/archives/80days/stories/2012/01/19/3411580.htm - about the publication of Germaine Greer's *The female eunuch* in 1970, including a report by Caroline Jones on *This Day Tonight* in 1972 when Germaine Greer was in Australia to promote the book.

Thanks to Barry McKay for drawing these to ALGA's attention.

The fortieth anniversary of Dr Duncan's death will be the subject of a public forum in Adelaide on 10 May 2012 – see Graham Willett's post to Ozhomohist, "A looming anniversary" on 25 April 2010, at groups.yahoo.com/group/ozhomohist/message/1020.

EARLY GREYHOUND HISTORY SOUGHT

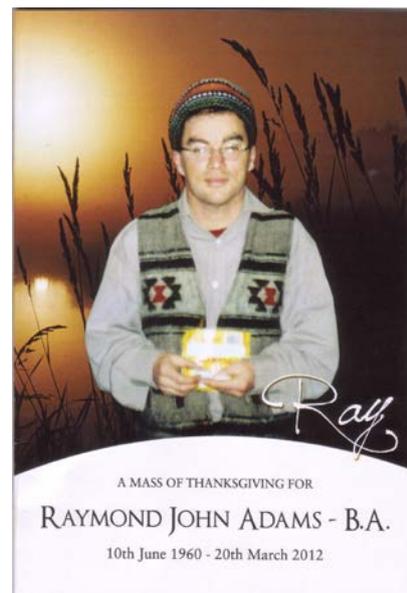
Melbourne's Greyhound Hotel will celebrate its 17th birthday as a drag venue in September, and a request has come to ALGA for information about the hotel's early years, c.1995–2003, for showcasing at the birthday celebrations. Any memorabilia from that period - photos, press clippings, flyers - would be appreciated. ALGA will forward contributions, and if the donor is agreeable, we would love to make copies for ALGA's collection.

For the tenth anniversary of the Greyhound in 2005 there was an interesting interview with its first owner-operator, Laurie Dunstan, in *Q Magazine* no. 17 (Sep 2005) - see it on Q's archive at www.qmagazine.com.au/images/issue/complete%20issues/QIssue%2017.pdf (scroll to page 16).

REMEMBERING SEAN (RAY) ADAMS, 1960-2012

The ALGA committee is saddened to record the death of our colleague Sean Adams (known to many as Ray Adams). Sean had been a volunteer for only a short time, following a visit by a group in which he was involved, OutMinds, in September 2011. Soon after, he took on the listing and summarising of ALGA's newspaper clippings, a task which he did with insight and pleasure. Alas we never got to know Sean as well as we would have liked, for he was hospitalised in mid-March with heart problems and died suddenly on 20 March.

At a memorial service for Sean organised by OutMinds, we learned of his love of Spanish language and culture, his travels to South America, his achievements as a published poet, his ability to support others who experienced mental health issues...and, not least, to make them laugh. Several speakers expressed their shock at the suddenness of Sean's death, and the fragility of a human life – sentiments which struck us forcibly too. Our condolences to Sean's friends and family at this sad time.



RENEE SCOTT, 1951 –2012

One of Melbourne's best known and admired drag performers dating back to the early 1970s, Renee Scott, has died, aged 61. While Renee was not known to us personally, the Archives holds material that illuminates Renee's place in Melbourne's camp, gay and trans history – articles, photos, videos of Pokeys shows, and references in oral histories. Some fine tributes have been published since Renee's death, among them Alan Mayberry's in *Q Magazine* (April 2012, pp. 18-19),

www.qmagazine.com.au/images/issue/complete%20issues/QIssue%2089.pdf

an obituary by Simon Hughes and Michael Carmen in the *Melbourne Age* (4 April 2012),

www.theage.com.au/national/obituaries/she-was-the-show-that-st-kilda-loved-20120411-1ws3d.html

and a pictorial tribute prepared for Renee's funeral, now posted on YouTube –

www.youtube.com/watch?v=aKKoKZws_Lo&feature=relmfu.

WORK THAT KEEPS THE ARCHIVES TICKING

While Midsumma is the time when ALGA is on show, our off-season is no less busy, just less visible. Collection work, administration and housekeeping are the main things – some samples from the last few months being:

- processing new acquisitions
- responding to email enquiries and requests
- being present for researchers using the collection
- indexing (work recently commenced on indexing *Lesbians on the Loose*)
- rehousing material into acid free boxes and folders
- listing and sorting old unfiled collections, extracting books, periodicals, photos etc for special format collections
- organising duplicate periodicals and books
- arranging the annual binding program
- photographing and housing t-shirts (we'd like to start doing this with posters too when resources permit)
- conducting two oral history interviews
- putting in a funding submission to the Community Heritage Grants program for items arising from last year's preservation needs assessment (blinds and transcription of oral history interviews)
- organising the next Homosexual Histories conference (Brisbane, 8-9 June)
- stocking up on archival supplies (over the past few years that has been a \$3000-per-year budget item)
- liaising with a professional advisor about a humidity issue in our basement repository (purchase of a dehumidifier has been part of a solution still under review)
- purchase and set up of new computers - 2 laptops and a new desktop (this has made a big difference to our ability to accept volunteer offers)
- setting up of a wireless internet connection
- obtaining quotes for a replacement photocopier.

Thanks to all involved in this work – especially to Anton, Trevor, Daniel and Graham W who cheerfully take on whatever needs to be done on their days or nights in; Carla (for IT advice and hands-on support); volunteer indexers Kristy and Erin; John W for web support including preparation for a major addition to the website later this year (watch this space); Graham C for periodicals and membership admin; Luke R for VHS digitising; Nick C, Nick H and Sarah for their professional expertise in a range of archive processes ... and apologies to anyone we've missed out!

Our 2010 annual report noted that the ALGA collection is "rapidly outgrowing the purely-volunteer model - though, of course, we are keen to retain the volunteer focus as the chief means of operation." This is still the case, perhaps more so. We are aware for instance that we have not been able to take up in a timely way all the volunteer offers that have been extended. A major limitation is the scarcity of people experienced in ALGA's processes to be physically present at the archives to induct and supervise volunteers. Alas our submission to government late last year to fund a volunteer coordinator was not successful. This remains a pressing need and a priority for resourcing.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS RECEIVED WITH THANKS ...

- ❖ Papers of BlackWattle Press, pioneering gay and lesbian publishers, 1987-1997. Special thanks to Laurin McKinnon and Gary Dunne for their work in arranging and describing the collection, and to Graham Carbery for safely transporting it from Sydney to Melbourne.
- ❖ Two additions to the papers of Dennis Altman. The first includes periodicals, books, unpublished papers, photographs, t-shirts and ephemera relating to HIV/AIDS and community organisations such as VAC/GMHC, NPLWAC and ANCA, as well as some Australian Government reports. The second is largely comprised of matchbooks and matchboxes from Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra gay nightclubs, restaurants and businesses from the 1970s to the 1990s, along with a selection of postcards produced by the AIDS Council of New South Wales (ACON).
- ❖ An addition to the papers of Dino Hodge, including newspaper clippings, periodicals, and two VHS videos documenting the decriminalisation of homosexuality in the Northern Territory, Sistergirls and Darwin Pride.
- ❖ Books, ephemera and a poster from Canberra-based transgender rights and support organisation A Gender Agenda.
- ❖ Books, t-shirts, periodicals, posters and ephemera from the AIDS Council of New South Wales.
- ❖ Books donated on a range of issues, including three books on GLBT end-of-life-care from Professor Colleen Cartwright, Southern Cross University; a book of same-sex attracted youth stories from Melbourne's west, from ISIS Primary Care; a book on stories of Defence families, including one on *Two men and a baby* from Defence Families of Australia; and two books listed on ALGA's wish list from Nick Henderson.
- ❖ Photographs by Benjamin Ashe of the interior of the former St Kilda nightclub Mandate, with thanks also to Robert Taylor of the National Theatre for making the photo shoot possible.



A selection of matchbooks from Dennis Altman

BILL MUNRO – ALIVE AND WELL!

The founding publisher for early 1970s *Butch* magazine and *Little Butch*, Bill Munro, has been found alive and well after earlier reports that he had died. Gay media history researcher, Bill Calder, interviewed him, and what a colourful life he led. Before *Butch* he was a horse jockey and radio disc jockey and after *Butch* he was a male stripper in Kings Cross. Bill Calder is compiling the history for his PhD and a subsequent book. Other 70s media people Bill C hopes to interview include: John Baker, the founder of *William & John*, believed to be living in Sydney; Peter Langford, first *Campaign* editor and other publications, believed to be dead, though any news on this would be appreciated; Bill Horne, the publisher of *Gay* magazine; and Harry Lyle Mitchell, ad rep for several publications in the 70s and early 80s. To follow research progress go to gaymediahistory.wordpress.com or email: wfcalder@student.unimelb.edu.au.

GREG WEIR ORAL HISTORY AT SLQ

Oral history recordings with political activist Greg Weir, and their finding aid, are now available with the State Library of Queensland digital repository. There are links to the mp3 audio and a pdf interview log for each of the 16 recordings in the collection. Take a look at this amazing resource at hdl.handle.net/10462/eadarc/8190 or do a search for Greg Weir in One Search: onesearch.slq.qld.gov.au.

The finding aid has also been harvested to the National Library Trove catalogue: trove.nla.gov.au. Click on Music Sound and Video on the menu bar above the search box and then search for 'Greg Weir oral history'.

Thanks to Neal Fitzgerald and the Queensland LGBT History Action Group for bringing this to ALGA's attention.

LINKS OF INTEREST

- ❖ www.abc.net.au/rural/content/2012/s3483380.htm#.T5UKN618Df8.twitter: article and audio clip from ABC Rural (23/4/2012) about the 8th Annual Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras at the remote Northern Territory town of Elliott – thanks to Dino Hodge for bringing this to our attention.
- ❖ humanrights.gov.au/age-positive/stories.html: profiles of Kendall Lovett and Mannie De Saxe, and their involvements as older gay men in various forms of political activism.
- ❖ aep.lib.rochester.edu: a remarkable collection of AIDS education posters compiled by the University of Rochester, grouped by country (2,325 digitised items from a collection of over 6,200 posters donated by Dr Edward C Atwater in 2007, representing over 100 countries in over 60 languages). The Australian selection is at aep.lib.rochester.edu/find?keys=australia (31 items).
- ❖ thenewcivilrightsmovement.com/jewish-lesbian-a-luminary-american-poet-for-the-ages-adrienne-rich-dies-at-82/arts/2012/04/01/37274: an appreciation of the life of Adrienne Rich, Jewish lesbian poet and essayist, who died at her home in Santa Cruz, California, aged 82.
- ❖ groups.yahoo.com/group/ozhomohist/message/1019: a review by Chris Brickell (Otago University) of the three books that ALGA published or contributed to in a major way in 2011 (*Secret histories of queer Melbourne*; *Out here: gay and lesbian perspectives VI*; and *Queen city of the south: gay and lesbian Melbourne*).

MEMBERSHIP HIGH

ALGA membership for 2011-12 currently stands at 135, now passing last year's high of 131 with five months of our membership year to go. Membership renewal reminders were sent out earlier this year, but email us if you're uncertain about your membership status: algarchives@hotmail.com. Membership is \$20 pa (\$5 concession) plus \$1 joining fee. If you'd like to give more, donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

People on the ALGA announcements list who'd like to join up can do so from the website page [Join our association](#). There is no obligation of course – the announcements list is just to keep people in touch. Membership, though, is a tangible way of supporting the Archives.

Best wishes

From the Australian Lesbian & Gay Archives Inc
PO Box 124, Parkville, Vic 3052
email: algarchives@hotmail.com,
website: alga.org.au

This issue of the ALGA Bulletin was compiled by Gary Jaynes with contributions from Nick Henderson, Daniel Marshall and Graham Willett.