

alga NEWSLETTER

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ALGA in 2006 and beyond

2006 has been a year of consolidation for the Archives. We now have about a dozen people consistently contributing to aspects of ALGA work – a well-functioning committee of six and a band of other volunteers working on the collection and administration. We also have offers of help with fundraising, which we plan to take up more concertedly in 2007.

ALGA's president Graham Willett returns to Melbourne soon – much missed since his departure in March 2005 to work overseas. Although the entrepreneurial side of ALGA's work has subsided in Graham's absence, a good deal of other useful work has occurred. This has included work on the collection (see p2), and the development of policy to guide ALGA's future direction.

As the Archives gets older – now in our 29th year – it becomes more necessary that we formalise things we have until now taken for granted (such as our ability to readily contact people who did oral history), or which require review because of changing circumstances (such as space constraints or the rise of the internet).

This year the committee has developed a collection policy (close to being ratified), and procedures such as disclosure protocols for oral history interviews, access agreements for visitors, and backup procedures for electronic files.

Research enquiries to ALGA have become more frequent over the past few years – averaging 3 or 4 each week. Generally people now contact us by email having done preliminary research from conventional sources on the net. Hard copy mail is rare except for the periodicals, the occasional leaflet and bank statements! Sometimes we can respond to enquiries by email alone (the scanning capability of our new photocopier has been a great help there) but most often the enquirer will need to visit. We've been fortunate this past six months to have had two people available to provide regular weekly daytime access for Archives visitors. The retirement of the baby boomer generation is much welcomed by ALGA in this regard!

The ALGA financial position is good for current needs, but we know that ALGA's sustainability in the future will require greater fundraising capacity than we have had to date. This will be a testing time for the Archives, but one that we face with a reasonable degree of optimism.

In this issue

Sasha Soldatow 1947-2006	2
Collection work and acquisitions	2
'Prove first you're a male' - Ruth Ford paper	3
Longevity of CDs and DVDs	6

Dates coming up

November open day/working bee

The final ALGA open day for this year will be Sunday 26 November, 1 pm till about 5 pm at the Victorian AIDS Council, 6 Claremont Street, South Yarra. Enquiries 9499 1769. Things on display will be 3CR's activist calendar for 2007 ('Seeds of dissent') to which ALGA contributed, books and articles by and about Eve Langley, whose 1942 novel *The Pea Pickers*, was recently donated to ALGA, and a collection of cover issues of *Time* magazine on gay/HIV themes dating back to 1969.

Annual General Meeting

Thursday 14 December 2006 at the Victorian AIDS Council, 7.30 pm. All members and friends are invited. Light refreshments served.

History Walks 2007

We return to St Kilda for the Midsumma walk – Graham Willett and Wayne Murdoch again doing the commentary. There are two walks scheduled:

Sunday 28 January, 4 pm and repeated

Sunday 4 February 11 am

Meet at Luna Park entrance, The Esplanade.

Cost \$10 full, \$5 concession (includes program)

To register, email algarchives@hotmail.com or phone 9499 1769, nominating your preferred date and giving contact details.

The 2005 St Kilda walk was extremely popular – and since then more interesting stuff about St Kilda's famed camp life has come to light through our oral histories and *Truth* research.

There is a limit of 50 per walk to keep things manageable. Last year we had to say no to many people, so we would encourage ALGA members to book early to avoid disappointment.

Carnival

Midsumma Carnival is in the Treasury Gardens again, on Sunday 11 February. Feel welcome to drop by our tent for a look and a chat.

Quiz night – keep free

Sat 28 April is the tentative date for an ALGA quiz night at the community centre at the old Fitzroy Football Ground – arrangements to be confirmed closer to the date.

Sasha Soldatow 1947 – 2006

Sasha Soldatow, writer and activist for many libertarian causes over the past 35 years, including gay liberation from its earliest days in Australia, died in Sydney on 30 August.

Various tributes were published shortly after Sasha's death –one by Bruce Sims and George Papaellinas in *The Australian*, 15 Sep 06, **Creative soul never far from revolution** - see

<http://www.theaustralian.news.com.au/wireless/story/0,8262,8-20412498,00.html>

another by David Marr in the *Sydney Morning Herald* 9 Sep 06 **A spirit gone to another place** - see

<http://www.smh.com.au/news/obituaries/a-spirit-gone-to-another-place/2006/09/08/1157222325334.html>

Author and poet Pam Brown also posted a tribute, 'Sasha: some further notes', on her website

http://thedeletions.blogspot.com/2006_09_01_thedeletions_archive.html

along with handsome reproductions of some of Sasha's drawings and book covers, and photos and commentary about Sasha's work and life.

While most of Sasha's records are held in the Mitchell Library, ALGA holds material by/about Sasha up to the mid 1980s, mainly his political and literary work, and audio recordings of an oral history interview and a conference speech.

Work on the collection included

- computerising of the card index for ALGA's monographs and articles collection (see p3)
- re-housing and listing the poster collection (see p7)
- listing the Melbourne Gay Liberation collection and Chris Johnson papers
- backing up oral history CDs to external hard disk
- reformatting the newspaper clipping list into a more searchable form (completed for 1919-1969)
- digitising a paper list of 511 gay liberation records 1968-78 compiled in the 1980s by Craig Johnston, Di Minnis and Philip Carswell (records still in paper form, only the list has been digitised)
- indexing of *Melbourne Voice* (1984-85) and *Campaign* 1975-79
- selective indexing of the Melbourne scene magazines *City Rhythm* (1982-89) and *Focus* (1992-2000)
- listing of various individuals' ephemera collections
- re-housing of badges housed in damaged pockets
- listing and photographing of banners (ongoing)
- listing and photocopying items of interest in *People* magazine 1950-57 at State Library Vic (gay/camp/bohemian/unconventional gender style)
- digitising Melbourne *Truth* clippings from microfilm at State Library Victoria (1950-57)

- preservation assessment of scrap books, and a rehousing plan for those in particularly frail condition (in process)
- ongoing listing of photographs, theses, audio and videotapes
- listing of HLRC and other law reform records (ongoing)

Acquisitions over the past year

- A second instalment of photos from Sydney photographer, C Moore Hardy
- Victorian Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby non-current records from the Lobby's formation in 1997 up to 2001
- Records of campus queer groups (La Trobe Uni, Victorian College of the Arts and Deakin Uni)
- Records donated by Rob Cover relating to the Monash Gay Society and its successors (Not Quite Straight Society, and the Queer Collective) – extend ALGA's existing collection for Monash Gay Soc (1975-84).
- Manuscript of an unpublished autobiographical novel by John Garrard
- Material collected by a Melbourne man and his late partner during their relationship of nearly 50 years– comprises books, theatre programs, magazines, and newspaper clippings. Includes Gordon Westwood's *Society and the Homosexual* (Gollancz, 1952), the first English language release of Marise Querlin's *Women without men* (Mayflower, 1965); three *Pix* magazines from 1954 featuring Roberta Cowell's account of her sex transformation, theatre programs for Melbourne productions of *Tea and Sympathy* in 1957 and *Boys in the Band*, 1970. The clippings span 1966 (*Truth*) to 2001 (article in local paper about Joy Radio seeking a licence).
- Thesis by Darek Ciszek, University of Chicago, 'Stonewall: The Making of a Transnational Icon and Australian Gay Liberation, 1969 – 1979' – following Darek's research in Australia in late 2005 which ALGA assisted in collaboration with Pride History Group Sydney. Includes rare photos courtesy of Di Minnis of the CAMP Women's Association meeting 1973, Gay Pride Week, Sydney, 1973 and Gay Liberation protests, 1974, and from Sally Colechin of a Sydney street march on the morning before the first Mardi Gras, 1978.
- BA Hons thesis, University of Melbourne, Lian Beveridge, "'They didn't get married after all': Picture books for proto-gay, lesbian and bisexual children', 2005 – presented at Homo Histories 7 (Melb 2006).
- Various materials (books, periodicals, posters, DVDs, badges, frig magnets etc) donated by the ALSO Foundation, Australian Council for Lesbian and Gay Research, Bent TV, Colin Billing, Mannie De Saxe, Josephine F, Donal Raethal, Mark Riley, Liz Ross, 3CR, Nick Tolhurst, and the Victorian AIDS Council.

“Prove first you’re a male”...

“Prove first you’re a male” begins Ruth Ford’s article about a farmhand in 1920s Australia. William Smith, as Wilhelmina Smith called herself, seems to have worked all her life on the land. Her public story began when she put in a claim for back-pay through the industrial court and her employer tried to deny the payment because she was female. She won her case, with the Sydney *Truth* describing her as “Australia’s most romantic figure”. The paper went on to say she typified “the spirit of Australia, debonair, self-sufficient, challenging” and “riding through the pages of romance and unfolding nationhood.”

Ruth Ford writes that “stories of working class women who lived, dressed and worked as men circulated widely within the press, literature and film in late nineteenth and early twentieth century Australia.” But she also points out that not all cross-dressing or “passing” women received such favourable press treatment. Others like Eugenia Falleni (Harry Crawford), Valerie Arkell-Smith (Colonel Victor Barker) were jailed for living as men and marrying – and were condemned for it. Quoting the sentencing judge, *Truth* said Arkell-Smith was an “unprincipled, unscrupulous adventuress.”

As Ruth Ford concludes, the interwar years (between WWI and WWII) were a period of marked change in gender relations, where women were going to work and rejecting or delaying marriage and motherhood. While the Depression allowed a more tolerant attitude to cross dressing women if they were trying to get work, on the other hand there was increasing medical and state intervention into people’s private lives. Women were condemned if they ‘transgressed’ as men in relationships, marriage and the like, but praised as enterprising adventurers when they lived single hard working lives.

Smith, it seems, continued to live as a man in country Queensland, working with horses and as a jockey. It was only in his last days in 1975 when he became ill that hospital workers discovered he was female. He was buried as Miss Wilhelmina Smith.

Read Ruth Ford’s article “Prove First You’re a Man” is in *Labour History*, Nr 90, May 2006.

The Archives has extended its collection about cross-dressing women and men from popular publications such as *Truth* and *People*, as well as theses, journal articles, books, etc. We welcome additional contributions to this collection.

Queer student collections

The Archives has been contacting campus Queer Officers to build our collection of student publications, posters, leaflets, badges and other campaign materials. Campus activism has often been the lifeblood of gay and queer campaigns, from gay liberation to the latest

Equal Love Rights and we are keen not to lose this vital part of our history.

We have sent a request via the National Queer Officer to every campus and in Melbourne have visited LaTrobe and the Victorian College of the Arts, with RMIT to come. Melbourne University has a considerable collection held in the Student Union library. Its early history “From camp to gay” by Archives President Graham Willett is a fascinating tale (now on the web - see p5) and hopefully other campus histories will be written as part of our project to collect student materials.

One campus keen to record its history is the Victorian College of the Arts. The Archives is working with enthusiastic student activists on that campus with a view to putting out a history of VCA’s queer activism sometime in 2007. We’re hoping to have a spectacular ‘launch’, to show that VSU hasn’t killed queer activism.

Computerising our monographs and articles index

In the 1980s the Archives developed a collection of one-off journal articles, monographs, film scripts, submissions and other records that didn’t neatly fit into other collections such as newspaper clippings, periodicals, books or ephemera. Housed in over 30 boxes, the collection runs to more than 1,300 items spanning the 1960s to the mid 1980s. Already recorded on cards (thanks particularly to Helen P) we are about half way through transferring the information to a computerised format which will allow easier access to this rich collection. Among the gems that have surfaced to date are drafts of scripts for Australian films and plays (*The Clinic* among them) and Church of England commissioned reports on homosexuality in the 1960s and early 70s (Adelaide and Melbourne). And for researchers looking at the medical/psychiatric literature on homosexuality before and after the rise of Gay Liberation, this collection would be a useful starting point.

The GLBT Materials Survey

During 2005, a survey of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender collections in Victoria was conducted by Kate Davison, employed by Museum Victoria, in a joint project with State Library Victoria and ALGA. The final report of the survey has now been prepared and is expected to be publicly released in the new year. With appendices, the final report runs to 134 pages. It is a most impressive document and provides an excellent overview of known GLBT collections in Victoria. The report analyses key issues for ensuring GLBT collections are preserved and made accessible. It also makes recommendations for state collecting institutions to better represent GLBT material. Congratulations to Kate Davison and the volunteers who assisted in the project.

Periodicals – new issues

Early in the new year we will publish the ninth edition of ALGA's periodicals list which is a complete list of our holdings by title and issue number as at 31 December 2006. We now have close to 900 separate titles and in excess of 21,000 items.

To help preserve the collection, and make it easier to use, we bind many of the most commonly used periodicals for which we have complete sets. We now have about 415 bound volumes, compared with 347 when the last list was published three years ago. The cost of binding remains ALGA's most significant ongoing expense and represents an investment of over \$20,000.

New publications are always popping up and it is important that we keep an eye out to make sure that we get on their mailing list from an early time. We need to do more in this area as there are gaps in our collections of some recent publications (*SX weekly* from Sydney is a notable one). The formation of new social/support/activist groups is often reported in the GLBQTI press and if we scan the press carefully we can contact these groups to see if they publish newsletters/magazines for their members. When we make contact with publishers and ask them to send us gratis copies of their publications we have almost always find them to be very supportive, but if we don't know of their existence we can't contact them! Having recently retired I now have more time to devote finding out what is being published and making sure that we get on mailing lists ..and stay on them!

We have almost complete sets of some early publications but can't get them bound because they are incomplete. Occasionally we have a bit of luck and strike gold. Recently we found – on the web - the one missing issue of *Gay Left*, a gay socialist journal from London that was published 1975-80 and was quite influential in Australia at the time. It's always a bit of a thrill when that happens.

A few years ago we thought we held a complete collection – nos 1 to 20 - of the early 70s publication *Stallion* (later known as *Gayzette*). Then no 22 turned up, so now we're searching for no 21 ... and, older and wiser, not so sure that no 22 is the last issue!

Online periodicals are a new challenge for the Archives. These sometimes come and go before we're aware of them. And even when we are aware of them, there is the question of how best to capture and preserve them. At present we are printing off hard copy of online periodicals – also keeping electronic copies where possible.

The National Library's Pandora Archives sets out to preserve online publications for the historical record – <http://pandora.nla.gov.au/about.html> - but of course they have to be selective. For example it holds two issues only of the now defunct online journal for gay, lesbian and queer liberation, *Word Is Out*, which produced seven issues (2001-03). *Word Is Out* was once available on Sydney University's website – the links for the back

issues are still there but no longer functioning. Fortunately we've been able to figure out the correct link and thus save the missing issues. Sometimes the link disappears entirely. This is one small illustration of the complexities of preserving online material.

Graham Carbery (Periodicals Secretary)

The ALGA committee extends condolences to long-time Archives member and supporter, Trevor Sutherland, whose partner of 15 years, Paul Donovan, passed away recently.

Camp Nites

Camp Nites - Sydney emerging drag scene in the '60s 24 page booklet, published by the Sydney Pride History Group, 2006.

Based on stories from PHG's oral history project, *Camp Nites* gives lively accounts of Sydney venues such as The Jewel Box, Les Girls, The Purple Onion, Chez Ivy, Ivy's Birdcage, Karen's Castle, The Trolley Car Bar and Finocchios. There are great quotes and photos from the personal collections of people such as Ivy Richter, Kandy Johnson, Ayesha and Karen Chant and archival photos from City of Sydney and Go-Set publication.

Camp Nites sells for \$8 including postage from PHG at GPO Box 415, Sydney NSW 2001. Make out cheque or money order to 'Pride History Group' and clearly print your name and postal address. It's also available from the The Bookshop (207 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst) or Hares and Hyenas Bookshop in Melbourne (who move to 63 Johnston Street, Fitzroy at the end of November).

Camp Nites is the first of an occasional series that is planned to become a book on the history of camp/lesbian/gay and transgender Sydney. The next in the series, about Sydney's early social groups, is planned for February 2007.

Membership of the Pride History Group costs \$20 pa or \$5 concession, plus \$1 joining fee. See <http://www.pridehistorygroup.org.au/>, or email the Secretary, John Witte, at phg@pridehistorygroup.org.au.

Kameny papers honoured

Frank Kameny, pioneer of the 1960s US gay rights movement, handed over his vast collection of records to the Library of Congress in a ceremony at the Library on 6 Oct 2006. It's a heart warming story - read it at <http://www.365gay.com/Newscon06/10/100606kameny.htm>

Websites of interest

- ❖ **International Lesbian Day** has been celebrated on 8 October at least from 1990 in Australia and earlier elsewhere. Yet the reason for settling on 8 October is a mystery. For an informative summary of what is known or suspected about the choice of 8 October for ILD, see What's On for Women, a website for women in the Northern Rivers area of NSW at <http://www.nrg.com.au/~wow/ILD.html>
WOW's web mistress Biff Gaia was in touch with ALGA and we were able to help in a small way with her research. Thanks also to Jean Taylor from the Women's Liberation and Lesbian Feminist Archive for input.
- ❖ Sydney's Pride History Group is adding material to their site progressively. A **chronology of key events** is a work in progress - <http://www.pridehistorygroup.org.au/history/activism/activism.html>
and there's a **Who's Who** section at http://www.pridehistorygroup.org.au/gay_z/whosWho.html
- ❖ Graham Willett's monograph *From Camp to Gay: The homosexual history of the University of Melbourne, 1960-1976* is now on the web at www.history.unimelb.edu.au/huu/pdf/camp.pdf
- ❖ For an **archival history of censorship decisions by the Commonwealth Literature Censorship Board in Australia 1933 to 1967**, see Nicole Moore's 'Secrets of the censors: obscenity in the Archives' at http://www.naa.gov.au/About_Us/nicolemoore.html#history
- refers to the restriction of D W Cory's *The homosexual outlook* (1954) and the favourable reconsideration in 1965 of Gore Vidal's *City and the pillar*, previously banned in 1947. Refers also to G W Glaskin's novel *No end to the way*, set in the camp pub scene of 50s Perth. For more on Gerald Glaskin's battles with the censors, see his interview by Rob Cover in *West Side Observer* July 1994 (reprinted in *ALGA Newsletter* 10, May 1996).
- ❖ State Library of NSW has a '**Gay and lesbian life and culture collection**' - its aims, scope and holdings are at <http://www.sl.nsw.gov.au/doclifensw/social/gayles.cfm>
- ❖ *Gay Left*, published in England 1975-80, was an influential magazine in Australia at the time and all back issues are now on the web at <http://www.gayleft1970s.org/issues/issue10.asp>
- ❖ For **writings from the Australian gay left**, including by trade union activists, see <http://www.anu.edu.au/polsci/marx/gayleft/>
The focus is 1970s with 1990s and contemporary additions and some British, American and Canadian articles. Watch for updates early in the new year.
- ❖ **GLBT history calendar**
For significant events in GLBT history organised as a calendar (eg what happened on 4 October in years past), go to <http://www.365gay.com/InTime/InTime.htm> and then choose a month. Its bias is North American, but still interesting.
- ❖ For potted biographies of **famous GLTB people, living and dead**, see <http://andrejkoymasky.com/liv/fam/fam00.html>
This is not an academic site but does state its sources. Includes a memorial section for those who suffered anti-homosexual persecution in different eras.
- ❖ The *Australian Humanities Review*, published since 1996, is a rich source of articles about Australian gay and lesbian life, and its website has an Archives page with a keyword search facility - see <http://www.lib.latrobe.edu.au/AHR/archive.html>
- ❖ For a **wide ranging resource on contemporary and historical lesbian/gay activism in Australia**, see <http://www.zipworld.com.au/~josken/>
Includes back issues to 1998 of the Lesbian and Gay Solidarity Newsletter (hard copy back to 1978 held by ALGA), material on gay and lesbian ageing issues, the Sydney Park AIDS Memorial Tree Planting Project (SPAIDS) and links to AIDS memorial projects world wide.
- ❖ **AusQueer.info** is a project of the Queer Activist Network - a place for young Australian queers and queer activists to come together, share and collaborate: <http://www.ausqueer.info/cgi-bin/ausqueerwiki.pl>. The website allows upload of new content (subject to copyright constraints), and you can edit most pages.
- ❖ For word lists of **Polari, the British term for camp slang**, go to <http://www.chris-d.net/polari/> and <http://www.ling.lancs.ac.uk/staff/paulb/polari/home.htm>
- ❖ To **find out which libraries in Australia hold a particular book**, go to the National Library's site <http://librariesaustralia.nla.gov.au/apps/kss>
ALGA has this link on our website - to aid people who want to borrow titles on ALGA's book collection. ALGA's book collection is a reference collection only but many titles can be borrowed on inter-library loan through your local library.

Recent research at the Archives

Research enquiries are too numerous to itemise – more in the annual report - but two fairly substantial projects that we have been involved with this year have been:

- Work by a researcher from Indiana University in the US researching the globalisation of gay liberation. As well as providing access to ALGA's collection over a few visits, we helped with contacts for interviews in Victoria and other states. Copies of the videotaped interviews will come to ALGA on completion of the project and we believe will make a significant addition to our understanding of the origins of Australian activism;
- A researcher from University of Tasmania, again over a few week-long visits, used the collection to examine same sex marriage debates, lesbian parenthood and the concept of gay citizenship.

Other research topics have included the work of Martin Smith, AIDS media coverage, passing women (for a film script), the history of camp/gay venues/Mardi Gras (several of these), history of drag (VCE film project), gay male brothels / prostitution, the history of queer urban spaces, authentic props for a play in a particular era, books, access to books, posters and theses on our website.

Bookbinding - good quality work at very reasonable rates!

Having a thesis or book bound can be expensive, but it doesn't have to be. We're happy to give a plug to our bookbinder, Ian Marks, whose business is Bookmarks Bindery. There are at least five good reasons why we use Bookmarks Bindery; first their prices are very reasonable (much less than you'd pay at a commercial bookbinder), second, they don't glue pages together—they stitch them, which greatly improves the strength and longevity of the binding—third, the finished product is of a high quality, fourth, prompt service, and finally, the Marks family has always been GLBQTI friendly.

Our association with the Marks family goes back to the late 1970s. Shortly after the Archives was formed in 1978 we had the good luck to be referred to Ian's father, Jack, who was an experienced bookbinder and had just set up his own business. Sadly, Jack passed away just on two years ago; that's when Ian stepped in and continued the business. Jack's wife, Cynthia, has always been an important part of the business and she continues to do the stitching. All of the Archives' bound periodicals, that's more than 400, have been bound by the Marks family.

Ian Marks can be contacted at:

Bookmarks Bindery 8 Derrick Street LALOR, 3075
Telephone: (03) 9465 3922, mob 0418 535 982
Email: iandmarks@yahoo.com

For easy access to websites mentioned in this newsletter, go to the PDF version available on ALGA's website at
<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~alga/news.htm>.

Newspapers online

Staff members and students of tertiary institutions generally have options for accessing online databases of newspapers, magazines and journals. Some of these are also available to the public through membership of a local library. For example Victoria's Virtual Library can access the Gulliver databases – see

http://www.libraries.vic.gov.au/cgi-bin/library_links/dbases.cgi

From there just click on your local library and you will see the range of databases available to you.

If your local library has access to Proquest, for example, simply type in the barcode number from your library card, and then provide relevant search details:

- the words that you want to search eg a person's name
- a date range (all dates, last 7 days etc)
- the publication title (browse the full list and select)

The *Melbourne Age* and *Sydney Morning Herald* are both available on Proquest for full text searching back to 1996, the *Adelaide Advertiser*, *Courier Mail* (Brisbane) and *Mercury* (Hobart) back to 2001.

If you run into problems, just ask a librarian for help.

Ozhomohist

Ozhomohist - Australia's homosexual histories - is an email group started by ALGA's president, Graham Willett, in 1999. Its purpose is 'discussion of, debate about and the dissemination of information to do with the history of same-sex desire and practices in Australia'. To see past postings, go to

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ozhomohist/>

You can also join Ozhomohist from that site.

Longevity of CDs and DVDs

An article in the *Age Green Guide* in July alerted us to the possibility of burned CDs and DVDs having a short life span compared with commercially pressed disks (on average only about two years, perhaps five if kept in a dark, cool place). As ALGA has a number of oral histories on CD, this matter is quite important for us. In fact we were backing up cassette tapes on to CDs, thinking that these would be longer lasting than the cassette tapes. Our oldest CDs are now about six years old, and so far there is no sign of deterioration, although we do know of people who have lost data from burned CDs as a result of deterioration. The *Green Guide* article gave details of CDs and DVDs which are claimed to offer greater longevity (more expensive of course than standard ones), but the recommendation of the Australian Archivists Association was to back up CDs on an external hard disk rather than on CDs. Their view is that CDs are not an archival medium – with inevitable problems of software or hardware obsolescence if not physical deterioration – and that when conversion is necessary, it is more easily done from a hard disk. We have now purchased a 500 GB external hard disk, and are in the process of backing up all ALGA's unique material from CDs to the external hard disk.

Volunteers' work this year ...

- **Kym re-housed and listed ALGA's poster collection**- which now numbers over 1,100 - filing by size so as to enable two piles per drawer of the A2 and A3 posters – thus delaying the time when we must obtain another plan cabinet, a big help given our current space constraints. The project had a conservation element, interleaving the posters with acid free tissue and doing repair work on damaged posters where necessary. Kym has also separated the many duplicates – we have second or more copies in about 440 cases – enabling us to use duplicates to minimise handling of the first copy. Where we hold more than 2 duplicates, ALGA will either sell, trade or give to other archives. The updated list is soon to go on ALGA's website. Kym continues to house and maintain ALGA's book and video collections.
- **Lee prepared an index of *Melbourne Voice* (1984-85) and is well into indexing *Campaign* 1975-79.** The *Campaign* index will supplement an index of *Gay Community News/OutRage* first developed by Adam Carr (for 1979-1993) and extended by Lee up to 2000 when *OutRage* ceased publishing. Lee has previously done indexes for *William and John* (1972-73) and *Stallion/Gayzette* (1973-74).
- **Don B** helped with the **listing and photographing ALGA's banner collection**, and with **digitising *Truth* clippings** from State Library Victoria.
- **Esther** liaised with interstate donors of photos, negotiating an agreement in one case, and is in the process of evaluating a bequest in another, also **introduced systems for archival storage of larger than A4 photos**
- **John W, Shannon, Fran** all helped with **collections listing**
- **Alan D** and **Barry M** helped with **advice on audio-visual technical matters for ALGA**
- **Helen P** continued to do logging of **oral history tapes**
- **Wayne, Rohan, Helen P, Liz, Graham C** and **Gary** helped make the **Midsumma '06 history walks happen** -
- **Daniel and Kate D** organised **ALGA's presence at Midsumma Carnival '06** – the stickers, the lollies, the hard sell of 'what happened on your birthday in the history of sodomy'! – it was great fun, and profitable! Daniel also organised our first themed **open day on transgender issues**. Thanks also to **Kate C** for doing a basic archiving principles talk – Archiving 101 - at the open day.
- **Ken L** produced a special leaflet for Carnival, unearthed material for a possible Melbourne Museum exhibition, gathered material for the transgender open day, & much more.
- And not to forget **our committee**, who of course are also volunteers – and keep things ticking over.

Emergency bin

Late last year we reported a member's donation towards the purchase of an emergency bin. The member, himself an archivist, proposed that we locate a readily identifiable wheelie bin near the Archives, stocked with materials that would be used only in the event of an incident such as flood or fire or accident. The bin – bright orange - and the recommended contents were purchased this year at a cost of about \$408, well over half of which was supported by the member's donation. We appreciate the thought and generosity behind this donation.

Donations of property can be tax deductible

We sought clarification this year from the Australian Tax Office about gifts which come to a Deductible Gift Recipient (such as ALGA) as goods rather than money. The ATO allows tax deductible gifts to a DGR to be money or 'property' (but not services). Property is defined broadly – it's not confined to real estate, and it effectively means any material items.

There are various obligations on the donor and the DGR as far as record-keeping is concerned if the gift of property is to be claimed as a tax deduction – these are set out at on ATO's website at <http://www.ato.gov.au/content/downloads/n3132-07-2006.pdf> - see especially p57 and p78 to 83.

One important guideline for deductible gifts is that the DGR is the sole beneficiary of any donation. The only benefit to the donor must be the tax deduction (which is why, for example, membership can't be treated as a deductible gift).

If these provisions are of interest to members, we will of course be happy to discuss further.

Thanks to our donors

The Archives acknowledges the following people for making donations in 2006 – whose contributions truly make ALGA possible:

C J Baskerville	Laurie Bebbington
Paul Black	Robert Bridges
Gordon Campbell	Michael Carnes
Paul Caulfield	Sarah Chapman
Peter Collingwood	David Connolly
Christopher Cutler	David & Michael, Cairns
Michael Davies	Mannie De Saxe
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Ching S	John Stevens
GS	Keith Stodden
Richard Stone	Rohan Storey
Alison Thorne	Victorian Gay and Lesbian
GW	Rights Lobby
John Witte	

And not least, ALGA thanks the Victorian AIDS Council for its generosity in continuing to house ALGA in the Claremont Street basement.

Why an Archive – and how you can contribute

The Archives is the memory of the gay and lesbian community. We aim to preserve records of Australian homosexual life, past and present, for use by future generations.

The Archives has been going since 1978. The collection of periodicals is probably the core of the Archives' collection. But we also seek records of gay and lesbian life outside of organised groups, through personal letters, photographs and other memorabilia, including from times before there was a gay movement. We also encourage those with recollections of pre-movement days to record these for posterity through the Archives' oral history project. Requests for confidentiality are strictly adhered to.

You can support the Archives financially by becoming a member (\$20, \$5 concession, \$1 joining fee), or by making a donation. All donations to the Archives over \$2 are tax deductible.

For those with the time and interest, you can contribute as a volunteer. There is a range of tasks to suit people's different talents and levels of commitment. For example:

- ◆ writing to groups around Australia to let them know about the Archives, and seeking their support
- ◆ listing and ordering parts of the collection that are of interest to you, eg. t-shirts, banners or posters, theses, venues, theatre programs.
- ◆ taking care of the collection of a group that has special significance to you – ordering and listing that group's papers, maybe interviewing some of the people who are involved in running the group
- ◆ photocopying and ordering press clippings
- ◆ liaising with other collectors of gay and lesbian material, and arranging swaps of duplicate material
- ◆ helping with fund raising and organising major events (trivia nights, conferences etc)
- ◆ helping us distribute ALGA publications to bookshops
- ◆ writing promotional material to help raise awareness of the Archives
- ◆ arranging displays
- ◆ helping us solve the perennial problem of insufficient space.

The Archives lives in the basement of VAC at 6 Claremont Street, South Yarra. We are open for visits by appointment. Tel. (03) 9499 1769, or email on algarchives@hotmail.com

Time to renew

ALGA's financial year spans 1 October to 30 September, so for most people, membership renewal is due. The exceptions are people who have paid in advance or renewed recently – there should be a note to that effect enclosed with this newsletter. If uncertain, however, please don't hesitate to contact us.

There is a separate membership form enclosed with this newsletter. The form below therefore need not be used. But if it's of use to any interested non-member friend, that would be great!

SUBSCRIBE FOR 2007

If you've already renewed for 2007 please disregard this form

Name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Phone _____

I would like to become a member and enclose

\$1 joining fee (new members only) \$.....

\$20 (full membership) annually \$.....

or \$5 (student or pensioner concession) \$.....

Donation (tax deductible over \$2) \$.....

TOTAL \$ _____

Please make cheques payable to 'Australian Lesbian & Gay Archives', or 'ALGA'.

Please indicate if you are agreeable to your donation being publicly acknowledged, eg. in ALGA's newsletter:

Yes No

If yes, please state if you are happy for your full name or only your initials to be used.

Full name Initials only

In the case of donations over \$50, ALGA would like to acknowledge the donation as sponsoring the binding of a periodical. This would be in the form of a slip pasted inside the cover of a bound volume. Are you agreeable to this?

If more than one person is the donor, please print names and \$ for each

.....
Signature

Signature

Please return this form to ALGA at

PO Box 124, Parkville, Vic 3052

