

ALGA eBulletin no. 42* , 19 December 2010

Dear ALGA members and friends

NEW EDITION OF ALGA'S PERIODICALS LIST

A 10th edition of ALGA's periodicals list is now on the Collection page of ALGA's website alga.org.au. The 76 page list gives ALGA's periodicals holdings at 30 June 2010. Updates will appear on the website from time to time. Any help in filling gaps in the collection will be much appreciated. Hard copies of the list are available to members for \$10 including postage, \$15 to non-members.

NEW COMMITTEE ELECTED

ALGA's committee for 2010-11 as elected at the recent AGM is:

Graham Willett (President), Daniel Marshall (Vice President), Mark Pendleton (Secretary), Gary Jaynes (Treasurer), Nick Henderson and Sarah Rood.

We're pleased to welcome Sarah Rood to the committee. Sarah brings considerable expertise as a professional historian, writer and consultant on collection management.

The office bearers' report for 2009-10 as presented by Graham Willett at the annual meeting is on the ALGA website at

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~alga/docs/annualreport.pdf>

FAREWELL ESTHER

We're sorry to report that Esther Singer, ALGA's Vice-President from 2008 to 2010, is not rejoining the committee, as she will be moving interstate. Esther has made major contributions in many aspects of ALGA's work. Starting in 2001 she took on the job of organising our photo collection, identifying large numbers of photos about which little was recorded, developing an index and arranging for the photos to be housed into acid free sleeves and albums. Painstaking work over nearly a decade has vastly improved the accessibility of the photo collection and the quality of its housing. Esther has been a judge in ALGA's annual thesis prize from time to time, she set up ALGA's email announcements list, and in 2008 she played a key role in organising events to celebrate the Archives' 30th birthday (the Queer Quiz and birthday party at Fitzroy Town Hall were memorable highlights from that year). In recent years she has prepared funding submissions which resulted in ALGA being granted funds for various projects (significance assessment, digitisation of photos, oral history logging and the development of a collection management system). Her work in setting up processes for auditing the collection before moving into the new space at VAC was monumental. We'll miss her energy and enthusiasm, and feel sure that wherever she lives, Esther's exceptional talents won't be lost to queer archiving.

CITY OF MELBOURNE EXHIBITIONS ONLINE

City of Melbourne has created a webpage for City Gallery exhibitions. Here is the link to the 'Camp As...' exhibition, which Graham Willett curated in 2005

<http://www.melbourne.vic.gov.au/citygallery/PastExhibitions/Pages/CampAs.aspx>

***ALGA's eBulletin is now numbered.**

For back issues see ALGA announcements posts (not numbered but in date order) at

<http://groups.google.com/group/alga-announcements>

AGMC'S 'UNITED WE DANCE'

The Australian GLBTIQ Multicultural Council's annual fundraiser dance at the Market Hotel on 28 November was a fabulous night – as well as a profitable one for its two beneficiaries, ALGA and Gay & Lesbian Foundation Australia (GALFA). With live floor shows, excellent DJing (and for the historically-minded, the Market's remarkable wall of treasures to keep us intrigued). Many thanks to AGMC, Colin Krycer and the Market for bringing it off.



Photo Graham Willett

BOOKS ON THE WAY

Stand by for launches in 2011. Two books published by ALGA are at the design stage – the much-awaited *Secret Histories of Queer Melbourne* made up of some 52 chapters by almost a dozen authors. Full of tall tales and true from Melbourne's very queer past, and lavishly illustrated, the book draws for much (but not all) of its content upon ALGA's famous history walks. Also due out early in the new year is *Out Here: Gay and Lesbian Perspectives VI*, an edited selection of papers from recent Homosexual Histories conferences, edited by Yorick Smaal and Graham Willett, to be published by Monash University Publishing.

ARCHIVE BOXES GOING FREE

ALGA has surplus archive boxes (30 or more) – but they're not acid free. Coloured brown, the dimensions are 40 x 15 x 25 cm. Good for storing plastic CD/DVD cases. Email us at algarchives@hotmail.com to arrange pickup if you're interested.

GRANT FOR PRESERVATION ASSESSMENT

ALGA has been awarded a grant of \$4,400 by National Library of Australia's Community Heritage Grant program, for a professional conservator to conduct a preservation needs assessment of the collection in 2011. The same program funded a significance assessment in 2010.

CHG offers grants up to \$15,000 to assist community based archives, museums and history groups in their preservation work, but as a starting point, groups must first establish they meet the program's criteria for national significance. Support will then be given to the implementation of recommendations prioritised by a preservation needs assessment.

VOLUNTEERING FROM HOME

From time to time people ask if there are ALGA tasks that can be done at home. The short answer is yes, but with the constraint that in general we don't let original material leave the Archives. Indexing is one task however that lends itself to off-site work. We have duplicates of a lot of the major Australian periodicals. You can see on our website which ones have already been indexed (Collections - Periodicals). A major gap is that no lesbian title has yet been indexed. Don't think you have to do the entire run of a periodical for it to be valuable. For instance, *Campaign* has been done for its first five years (1975-79) but it went on till 2000 – and every year indexed is a step forward. Indexing just the feature articles is also useful. Indexing is not everybody's cup of tea we realise, but if you'd like to give it a try, we're happy to talk with you, and maybe put you in touch with others who've done this sort of work. Another task for work at home could be downloading podcasts that have Australian GLBT history themes. ABC's Radio National has lots of these, as do community stations around the country such as JOY 94.9. Drop us a line if you're interested.

ADELAIDE GAY HISTORY BLOG

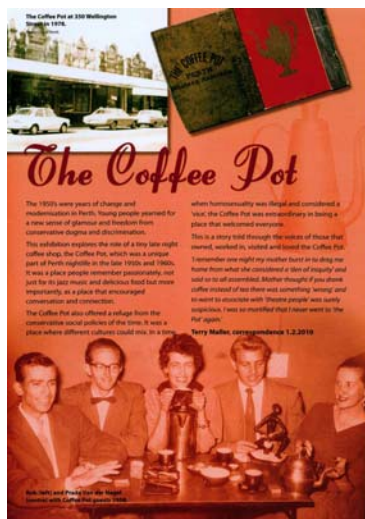
Ian Purcell has posted the first instalment (In the beginning) on his blog titled 'The pink files' and would welcome feedback

<http://pinkfilessa.blogspot.com/2010/12/in-beginning.html>

Over the years Ian has run history walks in Adelaide and written scripts for gay history-themed musicals. His blog aims to bring to light the stories of camp men and women who lived their lives in the pre-Gay Liberation era.

'COFFEE POT' EXHIBITION

City of Perth recently hosted an exhibition featuring 'The Coffee Pot', a late night coffee shop in Wellington Street, Perth, that was refuge to many seeking alternatives to the conservative social mores of 1950s and 60s Australia. An ALGA member visiting Perth saw the exhibition and was struck by how similar The Coffee Pot sounded to Val's Café, which operated in Melbourne in the early 1950s. The Coffee Pot was not a gay venue as such – it was owned by Dutch Indonesian migrants, Prada and Rob Van Der Nagel - although a silent partner in the business was Gerald Glaskin, author under a pseudonym of the 1965 novel *No end to the way*, about a male homosexual relationship set in the camp world of Perth.



For interesting insights into City of Perth's approach to funding the exhibition, see the council's minutes at <http://www.perth.wa.gov.au/documentdb/1708.pdf> (scroll to p3). The council funded a simultaneous exhibition on the Coolbaroo Club (1947-1960), a social club in East Perth for Aboriginal people. As noted in the minutes, "The Coolbaroo Club held yearly balls at the Perth Town Hall in the mid 1950's. This was quite significant given that from 1927 until 1954 it was illegal for Aboriginal people to enter the Prohibited Area of Perth, unless they had a permit issued from the Protector of Aborigines."

A catalogue for the Coffee Pot exhibition is held by ALGA (excerpt here).

An interview with Jo Derbyshire (exhibition curator) and Stephen Kinnane (director of a 1996 film on the Coolbaroo Club) is podcast at http://blogs.abc.net.au/wa/2010/10/the-coolabaroo-club-and-the-coffee-pot.html?site=perth&program=720_perth_breakfast

GLBT GROUP WITHIN THE ARCHIVISTS SOCIETY OF AUSTRALIA

Jenny Scott from Adelaide has set up a GLBT Group within the Australian Society of Archivists Network, ArchivesLive! <http://archiveslive.ning.com/> It's a "group for people interested in Gay, Lesbian, Bi-sexual and Transgender archives and GLBT people and their supporters working in the archives sector."

MEMBERSHIP – A REMINDER

To join or renew, go to the website <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~alga/join.htm> You can pay direct to the ALGA bank account (as well as by cheque or money order), but if paying direct, please don't forget to send us your details (email as attachment or snail mail to PO box 124, Parkville, Vic 3052).

MEMORIAL GARDEN RE-LAUNCHED

The AIDS Memorial Garden in the grounds of the former Fairfield Hospital in Melbourne was re-launched on World AIDS Day recently, with former hospital staff, patients and those involved in the HIV sector present. Future care of the garden, established in 1988, has been assured thanks to a new partnership between the Northern Melbourne Institute of TAFE and the Victorian AIDS Council. VAC's Vice-President, David Menadue, paid tribute to Mannie De Saxe and Kendall Lovett for their determination in making sure the gardens are looked after. "Where would the HIV community be without activism?", David told Melbourne's *Star Observer*



From left, Dale Withers, David Menadue, Mannie De Saxe, Kendall Lovett – photo Star Observer.

(<http://www.starobserver.com.au/community/2010/12/01/garden-of-hope-to-thrive/37973>).

The garden can be visited by the public – access via the main entrance in Yarra Bend Road. Details of times, parking etc at <http://www.nmit.edu.au/campuses/fairfield/>

A SNIPPET OF AUSTRALASIAN QUEER HISTORY

The Kiwis were a popular all-male variety group from New Zealand who toured Australia and New Zealand for JC Williamson in the late 1940s and early 50s. They are mentioned a few times in ALGA's oral history interviews in connection with their female impersonators, one in particular, Johnny Hunter, who socialised with some of the people interviewed.

You might wonder how the Kiwis managed to be so popular at a time when, in Melbourne at least, drag parties were being routinely raided by police and written about in scandalous terms by the press. New Zealand historian, Chris Brickell, has written a perceptive piece which provides some answers. Titled 'Parallel Worlds?: Queered Spaces and the Art of Camouflage' (2007), Brickell explains how the Kiwis were able to be viewed in different, even contradictory ways, by their 'queer' and 'square' audiences. "Queerness was sometimes invisible while in plain view." Brickell extends the analysis to other areas of homosexual male life (such as beats). See http://www.dab.uts.edu.au/conferences/queer_space/proceedings/veils_brickell.pdf, especially the section 'Queering the stage'.

There is a nice potted history of the Kiwis, including photos of its female impersonators, on an Australian website for performing arts - http://www.sbwfoundation.com/sbw_nl_july10iii.pdf

ALGA AT MIDSUMMA

This year our history walk tackles new territory for us - South Yarra. It's on Sunday 30 January at 11 am. Bookings essential, numbers limited. Tickets via the Midsumma site - <http://www.midsumma.org.au/component/jevents/icalrepeat.detail/2010/12/05/64/-/-> Concession price to ALGA members. Have a cuppa with us at the end of the walk and see the new space if you haven't already.

And, we will be at Carnival on Sunday 16 January. Don't forget the new site though (this year it is at Birrarung Marr park.) If you are there, do drop by our tent and say hi.

Best wishes,

From the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives

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website: www.alga.org.au