

BRISBANE CONFERENCE – HIGHLIGHTS

This year's Australian Homosexual Histories Conference, the 11th, was held on the picturesque surrounds of Griffith University's South Bank campus in Brisbane over the Queen's Birthday Weekend (Friday 8 June to Saturday 9 June). Jointly organised by ALGA's Graham Willett and Yorick Smaal of Griffith University, 40 or so history lovers from around Australia heard 20 papers (two streams over one-and-a-half days) and two keynote speakers.

Both the keynotes in different ways dealt with the fragmentary nature of so many sources of homosexual history before 1970. Chris Brickell from New Zealand spoke about his new book, *Manly affections* – with a slide presentation about how he went about finding images from pre-World War 1 days – provincial museums in small New Zealand towns were a rich source, eBay another (“Gay interest photographs”) – along with thoughtful reflections on reading the homoerotic possibilities in photos of men expressing affection for each other in times different to our own. [Lisa Featherstone](#), from Newcastle University, talked on the topic ‘Multiple meanings – thoughts on writing an integrated history of sexuality’. Audio of both talks is on file at ALGA.

Contemporary history was represented with presentations on the Campaign for Marriage Equality in Australia (Kat Henderson), Queer student activism (Jessica Rogers) and GLBTI police liaison programs (Angela Dwyer and others). Older but still relatively recent history formed the bulk of the conference – including the treatment of homosexuals in the Commonwealth Public Service 1957-76 (Robert French), Shirleene Robinson's situating of Australian ACT-UP activism in an international context, Alan Peterson on 1970s debates on the meaning of the gay bar scene... and much more.

Among many interesting presentations were the fruits of research on 19th century Victorian capital case files – police entrapment of a man engaged in male-male sex in Melbourne in 1860 (John Waugh on George Bateson), and the apparent suicide pact of Charles Marks and Edward Feeney in 1872 (Amanda Kaladelfos). Some of the Feeney/Marks case is recorded in *The Argus* newspaper, available on line through Trove – starting [7 March 1872](#) through to [10 June 1872](#) (clippings on file at ALGA).

The conference organisers have contracted with Monash University Publishing for a book on a selection of papers from the conference.

LA TROBE GENDER AND SEXUALITY PROGRAM FACES CLOSURE – CALL FOR SUPPORT

ALGA members and friends are urged to lend their support to the Gender Sexuality and Diversity Studies (GSDS) Program at La Trobe University, which faces loss of funding and imminent closure as part of a restructure of its Humanities and Social Sciences faculty. GSDS was a primary partner with ALGA and Victoria University in organising the recent conference commemorating the 40th anniversary of Dennis Altman's book, *Homosexual: oppression and liberation*. The program has only one ongoing position, we understand it has not been losing money, it attracts students in good numbers (over 400 in first year courses, currently around 56 with GSDS as a major), and it is well regarded by academics in the field. Why would a university with a stated commitment to diversity and gender/sexuality equality in the workplace relinquish such a valuable asset?

Further information is available at

The Age: <http://theage.com.au/national/tertiary-education/gender-studies-face-axe-at-uni-20120626-210ka.html>

The Australian: <http://www.theaustralian.com.au/higher-education/la-trobes-loss-in-gender-studies-is-rivals-gain/story-e6frgcjx-1226409544167> (a pay site)

New Matilda: <http://newmatilda.com/2012/06/27/la-trobe-falls-corporate-razor>

If people would like to express support for GSDS, please send letters to the Dean, the Vice-Chancellor and the University Council – addresses as follows:

Executive Dean, Professor Tim Murray
School of Social Sciences, La Trobe University, Bundoora, 3086

Letters to The Vice-Chancellor, John Dewar, can be addressed to his Executive Assistant, Cathy Besliev, Vice Chancellor's Office, La Trobe University, Bundoora, 3086

Email addresses are:

Professor Tim Murray, t.murray@latrobe.edu.au;

Vice-Chancellor John Dewar, j.dewar@latrobe.edu.au;

University Council, council@latrobe.edu.au

VOLUNTEERING FOR ALGA

The Archives recently hosted a social night for volunteers, prospective and current. This was an attempt to introduce ourselves to people who've expressed interest in volunteering, and for volunteers to meet each other (bearing in mind of course that we're all volunteers at the Archives). People who would like to volunteer are urged to contact ALGA president Daniel Marshall at algarchives@hotmail.com. We can't always promise to find projects and times that fit everybody, but we'll certainly do our best.

ALGA BOOKS

For that history-minded friend, one of ALGA's books might be just the birthday present they'd like. Check out the merchandise page at <http://www.alga.org.au/merchandise>

Discounted prices apply to ALGA members.

Secret histories of queer Melbourne, based on ALGA's history walks, is selling fast – don't miss out!

Thanks to Carla and the team who took ALGA's books to the Fitzroy Market stall recently – photo opposite.

In the photo is ALGA's new pop-up banner – our thanks to Leigh Millward for assisting in its design and production.



Daniel and Carla at the Fitzroy Market



New life members with the ALGA committee. Photo by Joseph Chetcuti

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

As mentioned in the last bulletin, Helen Pausacker and Liz Ross were inducted into life membership of the Archives at a special open day on 27 May 2012, in recognition of their exceptional contribution to ALGA over a long period. Daniel Marshall's speech at the induction is now available on ALGA's [website](#).

INDEXING – A CALL FOR DUPLICATE LOTLs

For some time we've lamented a significant gap in our indexed periodicals – no lesbian title has been indexed. Now there are two on the go: *Wicked Women* (thanks to Kristy) and *Lesbians on the Loose* – thanks to Erin, and more recently, Roz. In the case of *LOTL*, we were able to accept an offer from a volunteer to index at home by providing duplicates (our policy is generally not to let original material go off-site). Whilst ALGA holds a full first set of *LOTL*, our duplicate set is good in some years, patchy in others, hardly any in 2001-2005 – see list below. If you can help fill any gaps, that would be great.

1990 2-5, 7-12. **1991** 13, 14, 17, 19. **1992** 27-31, 34, 35. **1993** 37, 41-44. **1994** 48, 49, 50, 53, 55, 57, 58, 60. **1995** 61, 62 (wrongly numbered 61), 64-68, 72. **1996** 74, 75, 77, 79, 82-84. **1997** 85, 92-94, 96. **1998** 97-108. **1999** 110, 112-117, 120. **2000** 121, 122, 126, 128, 131, 130. **2001** 140. **2004** 177. **2006** 194, 195, 199, 200, 204. **2007** 206, 207, 212-216. **2008** 217-219, 221-228. **2009** 229, 230, 232-235, 237-240. **2010** 241-252. **2011** 253-264

ALTMAN PAPERS AT NLA

The National Library of Australia is now cataloguing Dennis Altman's papers, including his collection of printed materials. Among these are various single issues and small runs of international periodicals (~50 titles) particularly from New York, California and New Zealand published in the 1970s. Some of these are also held by ALGA, many are not. To access the list, go to <http://catalogue.nla.gov.au> and in the Search box, type a string within quotation marks, for example, "Altman collection printed materials".

VAC 30TH PROJECT APPOINTMENT

The Victorian AIDS Council celebrates its 30th anniversary next year. The VAC/GMHC 30th Anniversary History Committee has now appointed Way Back When consultants, with principals Sarah Rood and Katherine Sheedy, as the consultants to write and produce a website and book on the organisation's 30 year history, to be commemorated in July 2013. A mediated [Facebook](#) page has been set up so that our community can follow the progress of the VAC/GMHC history as well as contribute images and recollections. If you are interested, the group is called the Victorian AIDS Council History Project. All you need to do is visit the page and request to join.

LOST GAY SYDNEY

A new Facebook group, Lost Gay Sydney, was established in mid-June — <http://www.facebook.com/groups/251339868304161>. In the space of two weeks over 2500 members joined, uploading over 1500 images, and generating media attention in the online press, see for example <http://www.samesame.com.au/forum/showthread.php?p=569069>. The LGS group largely focuses on Sydney club nights, venues and personalities from the 1980s and 1990s, although some material from the 1960s and 1970s has also been posted. The inspiration for the group was from similar general Facebook groups for Lost Sydney and Lost Melbourne, which one of the founders of LGS was involved with. ALGA has been part of the group since late June, posting photographs and images from the collection and responding to some of the recollections which the group has generated. Many of ALGA's uploaded images have received a lot of attention and generated new information on collection items. The group has been a very useful forum to promote ALGA's work and collection, and to engage with new prospective donors. If you would like to be part of the conversations, please join up.

LOT'S WIFE NOW DIGITISED

Monash University's student newspaper, *Lot's Wife*, is now online – go to <http://arrow.monash.edu.au> and click on the link on the left under 'Newspapers'. Click through to a volume and issue number, and then look for the link to the PDF at the bottom of the screen, labelled 'View/Open' (it's not obvious). There is an embargo of 10 years for the online version, so at present nothing is available online from about 2003 onwards, but otherwise it is available back to 1961 (note, the original title was *Chaos*, 1961-64). The earliest reference to homosexual content in *Lot's Wife* to ALGA's knowledge is 3 September 1968: a feature on [venereal disease](#) with sections helpfully headed "Queers et al" and "Pox-ridden homos". The next is a letter from the [Australian Lesbian Movement](#) on 27 July 1970. It's conceivable there are other early references and if someone has the time and interest to check out *Lot's* online, we'd really love to hear about them. Thanks to Liz Ross for drawing this to our attention.

ACCEPTANCE SYDNEY'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY EXHIBITION, 4-29 JUNE

Acceptance Sydney, the world's second oldest gay Catholic group (after Dignity in the USA), has been celebrating its fortieth anniversary with an exhibition at the Surry Hills Library.

Founded in Sydney in 1972, Acceptance first met in homes, halls and churches offered by other faiths as they were unable to celebrate Mass in a Catholic Church in Sydney for nearly 20 years. In 1975 Margaret Bernasconi established Acceptance Melbourne, with the organisation spreading nationwide in the late 1970s and 1980s, with chapters in Canberra and all mainland State capitals. In 2012, chapters remain in Sydney and Melbourne.

For those who missed the official opening by Kristina Keneally, Catholic and former Premier, below is a link to an abridged version of her talk, in which she provided her perspective on the story of Acceptance and the need for change in today's Church.

'Feminists and gay Christians who accept the Church', Vol. 22, No. 11
<http://www.eurekastreet.com.au/article.aspx?aeid=31786>



Photo from Acceptance website

TAKING ALGA TO FACEBOOK and FACEBOOK TO ALGA

[ALGA's Facebook group](#) now has 563 members, providing another forum to keep members and friends acquainted with our activities and events.

Members of the group will have noticed new photos in the 'Recent acquisitions' photo album, including photographs of matchbooks donated to the Archives by Dennis Altman. These form a wide-ranging record of more than 80 gay venues and businesses in Sydney, Melbourne and Canberra during the 1970s and 1980s. Dennis has also provided brief recollections of some items, such as the matchbook for the Roman Baths, the gay sauna where he launched his book *Coming out in the seventies* in 1979 to a large crowd which included his mother.

Facebook can be a useful vehicle for collecting as well as disseminating or inspiring interest in gay and lesbian social history. The Lost Gay Sydney group is an example (see p 2 in this bulletin). Recently ALGA was sent a Facebook thread containing interesting recollections and photos of Pokeys and Jan Hillier. Bear us in mind if you come across material which you think might otherwise be lost – email algarchives@hotmail.com or share it with [ALGA's Facebook group](#).



A Melbourne selection from Dennis' matchbook collection

RECENT ACQUISITIONS RECEIVED WITH THANKS ...

Material donated to the Archives in the last month or so includes:

- ❖ Papers of the late Andi Nellsson – an artist and HIV/AIDS activist, whose artworks were shown in exhibitions such as *Don't leave me this way: Art in the age of AIDS*, National Gallery of Australia, 1994, and *Self-Documentation, Self-Imaging, People Living with AIDS*, 1992-1993. Andi's papers also include material relating to his HIV/AIDS fundraising walk from Adelaide to Melbourne in the 1990s, diaries and photographs, and a collection of handwritten poetry.
- ❖ Papers of Linda Phillips – a transgender drag performer in the Playgirls Revue, Pokeys, Les Girls Melbourne and other shows during the late 1970s and 1980s. Linda's papers include books, ephemera and scrapbooks.
- ❖ Digitised photographs by Paul Drakeford of Queen's Birthday picnics in Melbourne, supplementing an earlier donation by Paul, now ranging from 1975-1981, 783 images in total.
- ❖ Audio cassette donated by Gary Dowsett of a two-part radio program, 'HIV/AIDS in Sydney's Gay Community I' and 'HIV/AIDS in Sydney's Gay Community II', produced by Simon Nicholas, 2SER-FM, undated, possibly 1995.
- ❖ Ephemera relating to marriage equality, including material from GetUp!, Marie Claire, Sunrise (TV program) and the Australian Christian Lobby (ACL). Includes materials handed out in Catholic churches in Sydney donated by Professor Kerryn Phelps.
- ❖ Books donated by the Darwin Community Legal Service, Graham Carbery, Nick Henderson, Drew Pettifer (photographer, *Hold on to your friend*), Mark Robinson/Exisle Publishing (*Being gay, being Christian: you can be both*, by Dr Stuart Edser) and Rod Anderson, who donated two inscribed books of poetry by Laurie Collinson: *The moods of love (1957)* and *Poet's dozen (1953)*. Laurence (Laurie) Collinson was a playwright, poet and teacher, who made an unsuccessful attempt to establish a homosexual law reform group in Australia in the 1950s. Rod is the author of the self-published memoir *Free Radical (2006)*, which traces the author's emerging sexuality from the time he enlisted in the RAAF in 1943, age 18, to the early 1960s.
- ❖ A DVD featuring the Victorian AIDS Council (VAC) AGM from 1992, from Colin Krycer.
- ❖ Oral history interviews with Rod Anderson and Phil Carswell undertaken recently in Brisbane by Liz Ross, as part of her forthcoming history of the Left and Gay Liberation in Australia.
- ❖ Memorabilia and administrative records from Ken's of Kensington, Sydney, one of Australia's earliest gay saunas (formerly Ken's Karate Club and KKK) - donated by Reiner Becker, documenting the last approximately 25 years of Reiner's ownership – including objects such as sauna towels, a locker key and interior signage; and four photographic collages by John Jenner.
- ❖ Photos by ALGA volunteer Mohamed of the interior of Ken's at Kensington on the morning of its last day of operation. To view a selection of these see the [ALGA Facebook group](#).

- ❖ Memorabilia and administrative records of the Taxi Club, donated by Michelle Mancini. Again, a selection of these can be viewed at the [ALGA Facebook group](#).
- ❖ A DVD of 31 images of the interior of the former Mandate nightclub in St Kilda (1980-89) – donated by Benjamin Ashe. ALGA is most grateful to Robert Taylor for arranging the photo opportunity.

THE LIFE OF PATRICK WHITE EXHIBITION

The Life of Patrick White exhibition at the National Library of Australia marks 100 years since the birth of Australia's only Nobel Laureate in Literature. The exhibition tells the story of White in all his guises, and provides insight into the post-war Australian arts scene – from the man who was often its star attraction. In addition to the literary exhibits, there are photographs by William Yang of White, his partner Manoly Lascaris and their circle. The exhibition runs from 13 April 2012 to 8 July 2012 at the National Library of Australia, Canberra, before touring to the State Library of NSW from 13 August to 28 October 2012. See <http://www.nla.gov.au/exhibitions/the-life-of-patrick-white>.

LINKS OF INTEREST

- ❖ <http://www.indigoz.com.au/qotd>: **Queers of the Desert**: the Central Australian gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex community history project. This very rich site includes oral history transcripts, court cases from the 1940s, accounts of the first AIDS conference in Central Australia (1990), NT's anti-discrimination law campaign (1992), Desert Dykes newsletter (1993-2002) – and much more.
- ❖ <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ozhomohist/message/1039>: for details of the **37th Sydney Park AIDS Memorial Groves Tree Planting** (SPAIDS) – Sunday 29 July 2012, 11 am – 2.30 pm.
- ❖ <http://orbitradioadelaide.wordpress.com/2012/05/15/dino-hodge-and-the-duncan-commemoration>: for an interview with Dino Hodge by Ewart Shaw on Radio Adelaide, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the death of Dr George Duncan in May this year.
- ❖ <http://www.qahc.org.au/digitalstories>: '**LGBT lives - Digital Stories**': 14 audio recordings with accompanying stills on the website of Queensland Association for Healthy Communities. Among them is an account by Laurie Steele of his arrest at the national homosexual conference march in Sydney, 1978, and the test case which helped turn the tide in favour of those arrested for illegal procession at Mardi Gras and other gatherings that year.
- ❖ <http://gaymediahistory.wordpress.com/presentations/homosexual-histories-conference-2012>: an online version of Bill Calder's presentation to the recent Homosexual Histories conference in Brisbane, 'The historic role of gay and lesbian print media in Australia'. Bill's latest newsletter about his research is at <http://gaymediahistory.wordpress.com/about/latestnewsletter>.
- ❖ <http://www.lagna.org.uk/archive/noel-mewton-wood>: the **Lesbian and Gay News Archive** in UK houses 200,000 cuttings taken from the non-gay press on all LGBT matters since the late nineteenth century. The link here is to a press report of the death of Australian pianist, Noel Mewton-Wood, in 1953.
- ❖ <http://www.inter-disciplinary.net/critical-issues/gender-and-sexuality/queer-sexualities/call-for-papers>: call for presentations for the **2nd Global Conference on Queer Sexualities**, Sydney, 11-13 February 2013 (deadline 14 September 2012)

MEMBERSHIP

ALGA membership for 2011-12 is now 147, passing last year's high of 131, with still a few months left of the membership year remaining. For those wanting to renew – [PayPal](#) is now an option, thanks to Carla and John W. PayPal is not yet working for new members but will be soon – bank transfer, money order or cheque are the payment options for now. 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. Donations to ALGA's Gift Account by credit card are possible through [GiveNow](#).

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 and Sarah Rood.