

STUFF YOU HOMOPHOBIC,
SEXIST, RACIST, CLASSISTS!
I'M GOING TO JOIN THE
QUEER DEPARTMENT!



join your union
join the resistance
join your queer
department

join alga's
midsumma history walk
university of melbourne
2014

university
of melbourne
student union
queer department

The University of Melbourne

2014 ALGA History Walk

Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives

For 35 years, the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives has been collecting and preserving Australia's very queer history. From camp life in the 1950s, through Gay Liberation in the 1970s and eighties, to the vibrant queer communities of today – all of this is part of our heritage; and all of it is represented in the holdings of the biggest such collection in Australia. The Archives is volunteer-run, not-for-profit and community-based.

What we collect and preserve

Books, badges, posters, t-shirts, gay and lesbian newspapers and magazines, newspaper clippings, photographs, court transcripts, newsletters, videos, scrapbooks, banners and placards, postcards, party tickets, theatre programs, flyers, personal memorabilia. The collection has been used by students, filmmakers, novelists and historians, researchers and activists – as well as the just plain curious ...

The Archives has no ongoing government funding and relies entirely on the support of its members and the community. You can become a member for \$20 per year (\$5 concession) plus \$1 joining fee – and if that's not enough you can donate as much as you like (it's tax-deductible).

For more info, check out our website – alga.org.au



We acknowledge with thanks

the State Library of Victoria for the photo on page 2; photos from the University of Melbourne and Queers for Reconciliation websites; and fa11ing_away (Rina).

Front page graphic: posters from ALGA collection. Above and left: badges from ALGA collection. Left: University of Melbourne carpark (photo, Graham Willett, 2013)



Start - The 1888 Building

From its beginnings in 1853 as a single building on the outskirts of the city to today's small community of 30,000+, Melbourne Uni has played a role in the queer history of the city. It has allowed scholars to research and teach, academics to draft and argue for policy, for queer folk to find each other, for students to agitate and protest ...

Today we explore the history of the University for what it can tell us about the history of same-sex desire in Melbourne.

photo: Graham Willett, 2013

Stop 1 – Graduate House

In 1979 two men were arrested, charged and convicted for kissing each other good night outside a well-known gay-friendly hotel. Bad enough. And then the Warden (!) of Graduate House expelled one of these men from his accommodation at Graduate House. Staff and students demonstrated, cafeteria workers held a stopwork and delivered a protest motion ...

'It's obscene', cartoon by Nicholson, reproduced in *Gay Community News* vol 1 no 2, November 1979, p 5



Stop 2 – University Square

For over 20 years academics have been teaching, researching and publishing in the fields of gay/lesbian/queer studies. Employing a variety of approaches from lesbian feminism to queer, examining not just Australia's experience but that of Europe and North America and East Asia – Australia's universities have been helping us to understand the past and present, and to shape the future of our societies.

photo: Graham Willett, 2013

Stop 3 – Baillieu Library

One of the ways in which we have been able to research queer history, politics and culture has been through the university's rich holdings in its libraries and archives. The Women's Liberation and Lesbian Feminist Archive, the John Willis Collection, the Pierre Gorman donation, John Ellis' photos ... But even before this was the case, the Library had a restricted collection that a lucky few could access.

Gorman book plate, Baillieu library (source: The University of Melbourne website)



Stop 4 – The Old Quadrangle

When Victoria decriminalised sex between men in 1980, it did so with the help of academics. Julian Phillips of the Law School researched overseas models and developed a proposal that, when enacted, was described as the best reform in the English-speaking world. Today the Law School remains an active supporter of gay and lesbian equality in Victoria, as well as at the national and international level.

photo by fa11ing_away (Rina): www.flickr.com/photos/fa11ing_away/1902151630/in/photostream/



Stop 5 – Wilson Hall

Wilson Hall, long the largest and most prestigious site on campus, hosted many public speakers, including some from overseas who helped in import liberal ideas on sex and sexuality to Australia, enriching the debate here with their controversial views.

But some of the artworks here point to the history of same-sex desire in Australia in less obvious ways. The Douglas Annand murals – not just because they contain male nudity – are a case in point.

photo: Wolfgang Sievers. Reproduced with permission of the Pictures Collection, State Library of Victoria.

Stop 6 – Murrup Barak

Here we can remember the long history of solidarity between the movements for change in Australian society and the ways in which women, gays and lesbians, and Indigenous people have struggled together – not always easily – for equality and justice.

graphic from website: reconciliation.tripod.com



Stop 7: Poster Bollard

Politics. What's a university without politics? In 1969, the newly formed lesbian rights group, Daughters of Bilitis, wanted to draw attention to their existence. One obvious place to start, the university; although few of the members were students. Flyers went up around the campus – and were promptly pulled down. Next stop – Farrago, the student newspaper, where a much more sympathetic response was found.

photo: Graham Willett, 2013

Stop 8 – Union Building

The heart of student life, the Union Building has long played host to gay, lesbian and queer students and provided resources for their activities. From the Debating Union in 1964, to the creation of the Queer Officers in 1999, from dances to leafletting, to meetings, to protests and zaps – the Union has seen it all.

photo: Graham Willett, 2013



Stop 9: Beaurepaire Sport Centre

How many changing rooms did a gymnasium and sports centre need in 1969? And where in Melbourne could gay liberationists and their friends dance in the early 1970s? But it wasn't all fun and games – what was going on in Trophy Hall that so upset the engines?

Posters from ALGA collection

Stop 10 Redmond Barry Building

The home of the Psychology Department, we can stop here to reflect upon the way in which academic understandings of homosexuality was transformed by the world around.

Redmond Barry Building. Photo: University of Melbourne website.



Stop 11 The Ian Potter Museum of Art

Art and debauchery?! Surely not! And yet, here in this temple to the Higher Things not a few of us have stopped to admire the Sappho panel in the great Leckie Window. What precisely was this lesbian heroine doing there? And what does it mean that she (and her colleagues) survived the great fire?

photo: Graham Willett (2013)



The University of Melbourne

History Walk on Sunday 19 January 2014

was conducted by Graham Willett and Wayne Murdoch, with Graham Carbery, Gary Jaynes and Helen Pausacker. Graham Willett and Helen Pausacker produced this programme. This is the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives' 20th History Walk.



Check out the latest books from ALGA and our friends:

Secret Histories of Queer Melbourne	\$40/\$35*
Queen City of the South	\$30/\$25*
Out Here: Gay and Lesbian Perspectives VI	\$35/\$30*
Intimacy, Violence, Activism	\$35/\$30*

* Special discounts for ALGA members! Order online.

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