



## Dear ALGA Supporters

In celebration of our 40th Anniversary we had a great range of programs during the Midsumma Festival including our regular stall at Carnival - we also raised a glass to honour ALGA's founding member - Graham Carbery who passed away in 2017. We marched in the Midsumma Pride March, partnered the exhibition *WE ARE HERE* at State Library Victoria, held our sell out History Walk through the CBD, partnered in the exhibition *Serving in Silence* at the City Library, republished our 'Secret Histories' publication and produced a 5 pack of postcards. We also commissioned graphic designer Lin Tobias to design us a new logo in celebration of our 40th year.

We then headed north to Sydney and marched in the Sydney Lesbian and Gay Mardi Gras Parade to celebrate both their 40th anniversary and ours. Thanks so much to all our supporters and friends who marched with us - thanks to Committee members Daniel Marshall & Clare O'Hanlon for coordinating. We were fabulous with a new banner and brightly lit placards highlighting some of our iconic badges from the collection! We even got on the live SBS broadcast and Nick Henderson received a shoutout.

In other news we have been adjusting to our new location at the VAC offices in St Kilda Road. Thanks again to Richard Keeble and Kathy Sport for coordinating the relocation. Thanks also for the ongoing support provided to us by VAC.

We have been busy in discussions with the Victorian Pride Centre and in recent news we have signed an initial Memorandum of Understanding with them. We look forward to being one of the key tenants when the building is completed in 2020.

Thanks again to all our supporters, all our members and those who continue to donate to our organisation. Thanks also to all our volunteers and our Committee of Management.

Angela Bailey  
ALGA President

**Please join us for our 40th Anniversary AGM at Hare and Hyenas on Thursday October 25th at 6pm.**



ALGA marching in the 2018 Pride March



ALGA stall, Midsumma Carnival Day, 2018



Minister Martin Foley visits the ALGA stall and talks with volunteers





## Other Highlights

In the lead up to Mardi Gras we were inundated with requests for material about all things Mardi Gras including this image library showcasing the diverse histories of Mardi Gras in its 40th anniversary year: [https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/feb/21/sydneys-mardi-gras-40-years-of-pride-and-protest-in-pictures?CMP=share\\_btn\\_fb](https://www.theguardian.com/australia-news/2018/feb/21/sydneys-mardi-gras-40-years-of-pride-and-protest-in-pictures?CMP=share_btn_fb) Nick was also on ABC Radio Sydney talking about the origins and evolution of the 'rainbow flag': <http://www.abc.net.au/radio/sydney/programs/breakfast/rainbow-flag-history/9453508>

### Black Mardi Gras online exhibition

We recently received a fantastic donation of photographs from Tony White covering the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras parades from the 1990s, and were delighted that this image of the 1993 Bangarra float was included in Timothy JM Bishop's fantastic online and interactive history of First Peoples entries in the Sydney Mardi Gras parade: [www.blackmardigras.net](http://www.blackmardigras.net).

### Out of the archives: Panel discussions, pride march, Mardi Gras, exhibitions, and more

We partnered with the State Library Victoria (SLV) and the Midsumma Festival in the exhibition - *WE ARE HERE*. The project invited artists to engage with the collections of ALGA and SLV to create contemporary interpretations of our often-secreted queer histories. The artists all explored their queer cultural heritage and created works that explored their own queer identity while also considering the collective memory of LGBTIQ communities. *Queers and Our Hidden Histories* was an intimate evening of Moth-style personal storytelling night was presented by Midsumma Festival, featuring our President and Curator of Midsumma exhibition 'We are here' Angela Bailey and academic and Archives' Patron Dennis Altman. We also supported the *Serving in Silence? Over 75 years of LGBTI military service in Australia* exhibition at Melbourne Library Service. This exhibition has drawn on a large research project on Australian LGBTI military history and commemorated 25 years since the ban on lesbian, gay and bisexual people serving in the Australian Defence Force was lifted. Transgender service was banned until 2010 (!). It focussed on LGBTI military service since World War II.



Aunty Annette Xiberras giving the Welcome to Country at the beginning of the ALGA History walk in the CBD as part of Midsumma, 2018



ALGA's 'Secret Histories of Queer Melbourne' - reprinted and for sale



Artist Susan Maco Forrester speaking at the WE ARE HERE artist talk, SLV





ALGA Committee Member Sarah Rood and Chill Out Committee member Kay Bricknall



### Chill Out Archive

On Monday 14 May, Chill Out Committee member Kay Bricknall delivered the collection to ALGA which documents the festival from its origins in 1997 right through to the present day. We couldn't be more thrilled to care for and provide access to this amazing collection.

Daylesford and the surrounding area is well known as a LGBTIQ+ friendly area for living, holidaying and having a good time. But up until recently, there has been surprisingly little in our ALGA collection representing the Daylesford and Hepburn area. Over the past few years there have been a few projects exploring the history of this area and how and why it has become such an important place to our community. One of the most recent of was a collaboration between ChillOut Festival, Way Back When Historians and ALGA. To celebrate the 21st anniversary of the ChillOut Festival in Daylesford, Way Back When created a history component on the Chill Out website, which showcased the events, people and stories that have helped to make ChillOut Australia's biggest Queer Country Pride festival. Over the years, ChillOut has played a vital role in not only advocating for the rural LGBTI community, but also giving back to the Daylesford and Hepburn region, raising over \$250,000 in funds for the local community. One of the most exciting outcomes of this project is that ALGA has now become the custodian of ChillOut Festival's archival collection. Kaye Bricknall, a ChillOut committee member, spent the past two years consolidating the collection from the garages of past committee members and it was inventoried as part of the website history that was recently produced.

### Australian Society of Archivists - Victorian branch newsletter

President Angela Bailey writes in the May 2018 issue of the Australian Society of Archivists VIC Branch Newsletter:

"In 2018 ALGA celebrates its 40th Anniversary. Initiated in 1978 by a group of dedicated Gay activists the Archives have developed into an organisation with a rich and diverse collection dedicated to preserving our LGBTIQ+ histories and also a vital resource from which new forms of self-determination, interpretation and affirmation can be constituted..." Read more: <https://www.archivists.org.au/documents/item/1265>

### Australia says YES: collecting marriage equality campaign ephemera

Nick Henderson has contributed a short article to the current issue of the Ephemera Journal of Australia (Ephemera Society of Australia Inc.). The article features a small selection of our extensive and expanding marriage equality collection. Thank you to all our donors who have helped to build this collection, and if you have material you'd like to preserve, please get in touch: [mail@alga.org.au](mailto:mail@alga.org.au). For more information on the Ephemera Society of Australia check out their Facebook, website, and consider becoming a member!





ALGA Postcard featuring Val in her coffee shop, 1950s

### Storyline Podcast

Storyline is a podcast series about the ghosts of people, places and events that changed Melbourne along the tram lines that crisscross the city. Tram route 1, Melbourne Town Hall featured Val's place: "This was a place where bohemian Melbourne could meet. A dimly lit room filled with mauve chairs ... Frank Thring reciting a racy poem or two." Listen here:

<https://www.theage.com.au/national/victoria/storyline-time-travel-through-melbourne-s-past-20180328-p4z6rk.html>

### Tasmanian LGBTI history

Ryk Goddard (ABC Radio Hobart Breakfast) interviewed Nick Henderson about Robert Thompson's Tasmanian LGBTI Oral History Project, broadcast this morning (1:02:35-1:12:40). If you'd like to support the project with a donation go to GoFundMe: <https://au.gofundme.com/gay-tas-history>; and if you'd like to be interviewed please get in touch: [mail@alga.org.au](mailto:mail@alga.org.au).

### Queering Heritage panel at Hares and Hyenas

Presented in collaboration with National Trust of Australia (Victoria) as part of the Australian Heritage Festival in everyone's favourite queer bookstore. It was a big step for the National Trust to include queer heritage in their festival program and started some great conversations on preserving and memorialising queer history in the built environment.

### Towards Equality: From Mardi Gras to Marriage

The National Museum of Australia is currently exhibiting sixteen of the Archives' wonderful photographs documenting Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras in a new exhibition 'Towards Equality: From Mardi Gras to Marriage', on show at the National Museum of Australia, Canberra, until 8 August 2018.

Find out more at: [http://www.nma.gov.au/about\\_us/news/articles/mardi-gras](http://www.nma.gov.au/about_us/news/articles/mardi-gras)



## Film and sound projects

Our collection is increasingly being used for research for dramatic films, documentaries and news reports. For those interested in accessing the Archives for research for films please contact us as soon as possible in the research phase at [mail@alga.org.au](mailto:mail@alga.org.au). Early contact ensures that we have enough time to work through digitisation, copyright and licensing issues.

Kate Britton and Hayley Forward visited the Archives as part of their work on Campbelltown Arts Centre's 'Queer Sound Project' (working title).

The Project involves the commissioning 7 new audio-based works by Australian artists whose practices engage with notions of queerness; providing a platform for critical lines of inquiry into queer culture in the form of conversation, talks, performances, writing, historical audio materials, and an aural catalogue that will act as both documentation and resource that will live beyond the project showcase period. The live event will take place on Saturday 1 September 2018 and run like a long form radio program with a 'live studio audience'.

Georgia, a Victorian College of the Arts (VCA) Screenwriting student visited us to do some initial research for a fictional TV show set in St Kilda in the mid 1980s, covering everything from Pokey's to the Prostitutes Collective of Victoria - definitely a time and place worthy of a TV series!

Three Swinburne University of Technology students visited us to do archival research for their graduate short film set during the early gay liberation movement in Melbourne.

Performer, choreographer and producer James Welsby is working on a new work exploring Australian queer dance histories, and his research has explored everything from photos of 1950s-60s drag balls to our collection of mixtapes and DJ sets produced by Bill Morley, Stephen Allkins and David McDiarmid.

## Love bites: Wicked Women

We completed a small video digitisation project funded by a generous donation from Dykes On Bikes Melbourne, who donated funds from their 2017 Pillions for Pride Raffle. This project saw a number of important collections digitised, including 16 tapes relating to Ms Wicked from the Records of Wicked Women, and this material has already been used in Anna Brownfield's short documentary on Wicked Women, which is available on ABC iView: <https://iview.abc.net.au/programs/love-bites-wicked-women/>. The documentary was funded through ABC ARTS and Screen Australia's Love Bites, which celebrates the 40th Anniversary of Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, with additional support from Film Victoria.

Other videos digitised includes: 9 Que er TV tapes from the Records of Queer TV, featuring material relating to ACT UP Sydney, Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras and DIVA Awards; two additional DIVA awards tapes donated by Victor Li; a performance of the drag show Ballroom at Capriccio's (Caps), donated by Tommy Brown; and two HIV/AIDS education videos from 1992, donated by the Melbourne Sexual Health Clinic.

If you have unique/master recordings that you think should be preserved, or are interested in funding a digitisation project, please get in touch: [mail@alga.org.au](mailto:mail@alga.org.au)

### Into the Archives: Researchers, volunteers, students and more visitors

ALGA continues to support a significant number of researchers and students throughout the year to access the collection. We also have a great range of volunteers who continue to provide fantastic support - here are a few highlights:

Charles Sturt University (CSU) Information and Library Studies students continue to visit us as part of their biannual study visits program to Melbourne cultural organisations, and they are always a pleasure. A number of students said that their visit to ALGA was one of the highlights of the tour and it was great to see that students are so actively engaging with community-based volunteer organisations and our modes of practice. It is great that we have an increasing number of Information Management and Library Studies students from CSU, RMIT and Curtin University volunteering with us - sharing their emerging knowledge and skills and ideas with us and gaining experience related to the Galleries, Libraries, Archives and Museums (GLAM) sector.



Kate Sommerville (right) and Marg (left) holding the banner for the Fairfield Hospital Melbourne float, Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade, 1996, unidentified photographer, Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives (ALGA)

#### Kate (Cathy) Sommerville

A visit by former Australasian Lesbian Movement (ALM) Secretary Kate (Cathy) Sommerville provided an opportunity to show her some material relating to her involvement in ALM that she hadn't seen since 1971-72; however, there was also a photo of her in the Mardi Gras from 1996 that she had never seen before, she writes:

"That photo is a gift. It was on my bucket list to go to the Mardi Gras and at a lunch with buddies in Kensington in 1996 we decided to drive to Sydney! Both Marg and I have friends who worked at Fairfield Hospital and they organised for us to hold the banner. The night was an utter joy. In fact, being in Sydney that time was something I will never forget. For the first time in my life, the whole world was gay. Thank you so much. Happiness is indeed possible for all activists. I never thought of myself as such back then, but indeed I was."

#### Queer Pals Zine Tour

We hosted two zine tours at ALGA organised by QueerContent Comix & Zines for Sticky Institute's Festival of the Photocopier ZINE FAIR 2018, and received a number of wonderful donations to expand our ever-growing zine collection!

Staff and members of RhED - Resourcing health & education in the Victorian sex industry and Debby Doesnt Do It For Free visited the Archives to view our sex worker collections. We have strong sex worker holdings and encourage you to keep an eye out for them in future issues of RhED's magazine Red.



### **Researchers**

Ali, a University of Technology Sydney (UTS) Visual Communications honours student, visited us as part of their research on the Sydney lesbian feminist community in the 1970s-1980s - from posters and flyers, to newsletters and badges! Katherine, a Sydney University PhD candidate in anthropology, visited us to augment her ethnographic research with historical documents relating to femmes and women in the Sydney queer scene for research on queer femininities in Sydney.

Annalise, a Macquarie University History Masters of Research student, visited us as part of research on the 'emergence of Police Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officers (GLLOs) in NSW in 1980s and 1990s'. This project is part of a larger Australian Research Council project on Gender, Sexuality and Citizenship after 1969.

Volunteers have been busy working on oral history production (?) and transcription, and capturing and cataloguing rare books, theatrical ephemera, tshirts and other textiles, and a collection of reports from the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society (ARCSHS).

### **Project Monte: Building an online catalogue for our collections**

Project Monte (named after Monte Punshon) is ALGA's project to migrate our current catalogue to an on-line system enabling our collection to be queried from anywhere in the world, and ultimately enable online exhibitions. ALGA's collection is currently catalogued in approximately 40 Excel spreadsheets which has happened organically over many years and different types of item have been consequently catalogued in different ways, resulting in complexity that can't neatly transferred to an off-the-shelf system. However we have been developing a data dictionary that conforms to industry standards where possible to enable us share our catalogue with systems like the National Library of Australia's Trove and thus enable those who might not know of ALGA to discover items in our collection. We've been cleansing the existing data and consolidating spreadsheets to align it to the data dictionary through 'metadata parties' with tea, cake and cataloguing. Once this process is complete, we will reassess catalogue systems and choose one. The final step will be to upload our existing data, retiring the spreadsheets and making the system available to the public.

### **Honours Thesis Prize**

We received a record number of submissions to our thesis prize from a diverse range of disciplines (including but not limited to History, Visual arts, English, Sociology and Law). The quality is extremely high and we have engaged external judges from a range of disciplines to volunteer their time and ensure the process is as far as possible. We hope to be able to announce the winner soon. Congratulations and thank you for completing such important research, which now comes into our collection. Thank you to our judges Dr Noah Riseman, Dr Deb Dempsey and Dr Ray Cook.

### **Victorian Pride Centre: a new home**

As a community organisation we are supported by an ongoing partnership with the Victorian AIDS Council who have supported us with accommodation for over 20 years and in the next few years, along with other LGBTIQ+ organisations, we will be moving into the new Victorian Pride Centre as one of their key tenants. This presents a unique opportunity to further connect and collaborate with our communities.



## Queer legacies, new solidarities

A conference presented by Deakin Gender and Sexuality Studies, the Australian Women's and Gender Studies Association & the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives.

It has been over four decades since second-wave feminism and Gay Liberation. 2018 is the 40th anniversary of the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives. In bringing together the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives and the Australian Women's and Gender Studies Association for the first time, this conference aims to reflect on collective histories and explore what kinds of solidarities can take us into the future. In the context of the marriage debate and its aftermath and renewed debates about patriarchy and misogyny, the activist and intellectual work of the 1970s is being revisited in a variety of ways. Similarly, activist campaigns across a range of issues including indigenous sovereignty, the detention of refugees, disability rights and cuts to welfare programmes have renewed a focus on practices of solidarity and coalitionist politics associated with the 1970s. As a conference that invites people who are both inside and outside of universities, it is an exciting opportunity to reflect on ways for doing work in sex, gender and sexuality across university and community settings.

**Call for Papers and Panel proposals – for more information please see the website.**

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and Twitter @ALGArchives

ALGA Postcard featuring iconic badges from our collection