

Annual Report 2010



Postcard for Pride History Group's Into the Streets conference,
Sydney, 24-25 September 2010,
marking 40 years of gay rights activism in Australia

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Committee members 2011

as elected at Annual General Meeting 25 November 2010

Graham Willett (President)

Daniel Marshall (Vice-President)

Mark Pendleton (Secretary)

Gary Jaynes (Treasurer)

Nick Henderson

Sarah Rood

Patrons

Professor Dennis Altman, AM

Joan Nestle

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OFFICEBEARERS' REPORT

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 25 NOVEMBER 2010

Over the past year the Archives has maintained its core activities – collecting and preserving material relating to Australia's gay, lesbian and queer history; and celebrating that history with the materials and stories collected. We can be very pleased with what we have achieved.

Relocation of the Collection

But before we get to that, it is worth noting activities that have taken up so much of our time – and have moved us well along the path of being a safe and comfortable place to work in. The upstairs area now houses the most frequently used parts of the collection: periodicals, ephemera, theses, articles and monographs, photos, posters, audio cassettes, CD/DVDs, and a selection of reference books.

Last year we reported on progress with the fit out of the new upstairs space, so generously made available to us by the Victorian AIDS Council. At that stage we had completed the installation of the lockable shelving and had set up working space larger and more pleasant (natural light!) than we had been able to provide in the basement. We breezily announced that we would be setting up a compactus in the basement, enabling us to bring most of the collection together into one place – the first time in a very long time (how much of the books will fit is still our only uncertainty). But to give some indication of the size of this task – in order to enable the compactus to be installed and the walls plastered (to reduce dust hazard), we needed to arrange temporary offsite relocation of 250 boxes to commercial storage.

As it turned out, refitting the basement was such a task that it was dubbed Relocation Stage 2 and a great deal of time and effort was spent on planning, purchasing, implementing. We are pleased to say that that task is now finished and only the final effort of moving stuff in remains.

The cost of the relocation was about \$43,000 (stage 1 about \$17,000; stage 2 about \$26,000.)

The committee wants to express its heartfelt gratitude to Gary Jaynes who once again devoted himself to making this happen, applying his eye for detail and Excel spreadsheet skills to great effect.

The Significance Assessment

A significance assessment was funded by a project grant from National Library of Australia's Community Heritage Grant program. The assessment was conducted by Sarah Rood of Way Back When – Consulting Historians, and resulted in a number of detailed recommendations which will serve as a guide to work on the collection and future collecting. The overall assessment was very positive and will assist ALGA in future applications for funding assistance from public institutions. It has already supported a successful application for funding by the Community Heritage Grant program for a preservation needs assessment, to be undertaken early in 2011. (Essentially, there is a three stage funding process – significance, preservation needs, preservation action.)

Memorials

One of our sadder tasks is to help the community remember those who have died, drawing on our collections and our connections .

Val Eastwood died the day of the last AGM, but when we sent the annual report out to members, we had Val on the cover with her dates of birth and death. A memorial function in January 2010 at the Melbourne Town Hall (overlooking the site of Val's most famous cafe) included a number of tributes (one of them prepared by the Archives) as well as a display of photos. Graham Willett published an obituary in *The Age*.

James Spence was a friend of many of us and we were greatly saddened by his death. An exhibition of photos by and of James was curated by Helen Pausacker at our Open Day in July, and an album of the photos is now held in the collection.

Grants and fundraising

The Archives is, as most of us know, an entirely self-supporting community-based and volunteer-operated organisation.

Membership and donations remain our primary source of funds. In the last year we have received \$8611 from 79 separate donations. Of this amount, some \$6169 came as specific purpose donations from 42 people, mostly for binding of periodicals. (This was in fact oversubscribed, and parts of some larger donations were allocated to shelving expenses.)

In the middle of the year our attention was called to the fact that Jean Devanny's *Virtuous Courtesan* (one of the earliest novels in Australia to feature homosexual characters) was for sale. The cost was prohibitive, but at the suggestion of one member we sent out a call for people willing to donate to a purchase fund. This was very successful and we are now pleased to be able to include this volume among our rarer treasures.

But we have also received and have been working with a few government grants. These include:

City of Melbourne for the book *The Secret Histories of Queer Melbourne*. This has been a long time coming, but we are very pleased to say that production is in the final stages and we expect the book launch in the new year.

GVEHO (Grants to Voluntary Environmental and Heritage Organisations) from the federal Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts has provided a grant over three years. The current tranche is being used for oral history logging and development of a collection management system.

People

This year's membership stands at 122 – our highest ever.

The Committee has seen a few changes. Mark has returned after studying abroad. The sad news is that after a break overseas, Esther is heading off to live in Sydney. ALGA Vice-President from 2008 to 2010 and a volunteer for the past 10 years, 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, 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). 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.

Volunteers and their activities

In all the demands on the committee's time this year, volunteers would be within their rights to feel a little overlooked. Despite this, many have continued on with their work: John Waugh (website and listings, also legal advice on copyright, contracts etc); Lee Johns (indexing magazines and newspapers); Luke Rogers is digitising VHS videos; Barry McKay and John Stevens have digitised audio cassettes. Angela Bailey has digitised scrapbooks. Various people helped with the relocation from basement to first floor (Katie Neville, Trevor Sutherland, Paul Wilson). Graham Carbery continues to do secretarial work on periodicals and membership. We have new regulars in Anton and Harsh. Many thanks to you all – and to anyone we might have forgotten. We have put volunteers near the top of the list for next year's priorities.

The collection

Listing, indexing and organising the collection has continued over the year. The aim is to have good top-level lists available for users and, wherever possible, to have these online (or at least their existence made known online) to help potential users to prepare for their time with us.

Listings include the Melbourne Gay Teachers and Students Group papers, including administrative records of the book *Young, Gay and Proud, The Galah*, Australian GLBT-themed exhibitions and the oral history logs. Digitisation has included: a major collection of audio cassettes about 1970s and 1980s activism in Sydney; oral history interviews from audio cassettes (ongoing); VHS videos (ongoing).

Collection use

With our extra space, we can have 4 or 5 visitors at a time, and most weeks on our open days, that has been the case (a mix of regular volunteers and researchers). Researchers engaged in honours and postgraduate work, researching books and documentaries and films and exhibitions, have used materials to help them with topics as diverse as: the gay media in Australia 1970-2000; lesbians in Australia from 1939 to 1965; male sex workers in Australia; anniversaries of the Laird Hotel as a gay venue, the ALSO Foundation (media series) and the Melbourne G&L Chorus; masculinity in gay media; the sex-radical movement; pre-movement Melbourne, social landscape and biographies; homosexual aspects of general history of sexuality in Australia since 1788; abuse in same-sex relationships; the history of the AIDS councils; gay and lesbian migration; lesbian/gay issues in education in the last 40 years; early 1980s gay media re AIDS; legal rulings entitling queer bars to institute sexed and gendered door policies.

Some researchers have made visits from other states to access the collection, and in one case, from overseas.

Publications

A second edition of Graham Carbery's 1993 survey of the history of reform of Australia's anti-homosexual criminal law is now on ALGA's website, updated to include a new appendix on age of consent laws across Australian jurisdictions at March 2010.

The *Periodicals List* is now in its tenth edition.

Events and community outreach

In a relatively quiet year on the events front, the following occurred:

* The history walk was replaced at Midsumma 2010 by a "virtual" history walk; well, actually a public lecture by Graham Willett, "Queer Oz Folk", with readings by Daniel Marshall, Wayne Murdoch, Helen Pausacker and Esther Singer

* A well attended open day on 4 July included an exhibition of photos of the late James Spence, curated by Helen Pausacker. Peter Di Sciascio and Dale Withers commented on material they donated to the Archives this year. Peter, who has a research interest in 20th century Australian women artists, donated a rare book

(only 1000 copies made) about a notable Australian artist, Janet Agnes Cumbrae Stewart (1883-1960) who was also a lesbian. At the open day he introduced this and two other donated books: *In a picture land over the sea ... Agnes Goodsir 1864-1939* (an Australian lesbian who became an accomplished painter in Europe) and *Colors* magazine No. 7 (published by Benetton c.1992), a special international AIDS edition which was controversial at the time. Dale donated a newsletter, *Watch and Ward*, produced in December 1943 on board the hospital ship *Wanganella*. Australian theatre designer Loudon Sainthill and his long time partner, Harry Tatlock Miller, were part of the editorial team which produced the newsletter.

* ALGA was a co-sponsor of the 10th Homosexual Histories conference in Sydney, organised by the NSW Pride History Group. Timed to coincide with the 40th anniversary of the national rights organisation Campaign Against Moral Persecution (CAMP), the "Into the streets" conference included several presentations about CAMP NSW but also the significance of CAMP in other Australian cities: Adelaide (David Hilliard), Brisbane (Carol Low) and Melbourne (Graham Willett, "Society Five and its audience").

Among the acquisitions of note this year we have:

- Three rare books – including the already mentioned,
 - Jean Devanny's *Virtuous Courtesan* (1935), held in only 3 Australian Libraries;
 - *The Pastels of Janet Cumbrae Stewart*, (1921 edition, 1000 copies) , donated by Peter Di Sciascio;
 - *Homosexuals Today : A handbook of organizations and publications* (1956), published by the ONE Institute, Los Angeles (acquired by a Sydney man living in London in the 1950s, and not held by any Australian library).
- The literary papers of Lyn Palmer, poet, 1939-1965, donated by Angell Productions
- A collection of audio cassettes of radio coverage of gay activism in Sydney, 1970s-1980s - donated by Peter de Waal with assistance in digitisation by Barry McKay
- Articles from *Australian House and Garden*, 1962, re bachelor living, donated by Dale Withers
- Mildura Gay and Lesbian Support Group's administrative records 1997-2007
- Coloured plates and captions of an exhibition at Midsumma 2010 of costumes worn by the late Vivien St James, courtesy of Alan Mayberry
- CD of interview with Shirley Breen, friend of Val Eastwood, about 1940s and 50s camp life in Melbourne, courtesy of JOY 94.9
- Book *Quite possibly so ... John Gilmour Slater : a life*, written and self-published by Richard Peterson on 18 April 2010, to coincide with the 83rd birthday of Richard's friend John Slater – an English gay man, now living in Melbourne, who has written widely about Australian urban art.
- Photo portraits by John Storey of activists for Melbourne Gay Liberation c.1972-75
- T-shirt and photo collection depicting events at the Laird Hotel, donated by former proprietor, David Allen
- Photo collection from the opening of CAMP Clubrooms, Brisbane, 1971 - donated by Cora Zyp

This is by no means exhaustive – it is intended only to give some indication of what we collect and how the collection is developing.

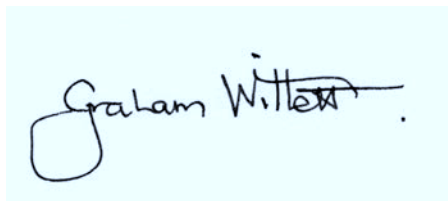
Thesis Prize 2009

Congratulations to Leigh Heatherton for winning ALGA's 2009 prize for the best fourth year honours thesis in the field of GLBT studies. His BA (Hons) thesis in La Trobe University's Politics and International Relations Program was titled 'Death of a movement? : The Australian gay movement and its contemporary manifestation'.

Future Plans

Following on from our committee planning day earlier in 2010, and with many of the bigger projects around relocation drawing to a close, we want the committee to meet in early 2011 to set some priorities for the coming year. Some of these are concerned with the continuation of our use of the collection to celebrate Australian gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer histories. Our Open Days and Working Bees have often prioritised the diversity of the collection (and the diversity of pasts that it embodies), as have the history walks, exhibitions and books. We are always on the lookout for new ways to highlight the rich tapestry that is our community.

In relation to fundraising, we have launched an Xmas Appeal as the opening of a larger fundraising project. Our intention is to raise enough money to employ a part-time worker – the collection is rapidly outgrowing the purely-volunteer model – though, of course, we are keen to retain the volunteer focus as the chief means of operation. This is a big ask, but we draw confidence from the success of our earlier fundraising for the relocation.

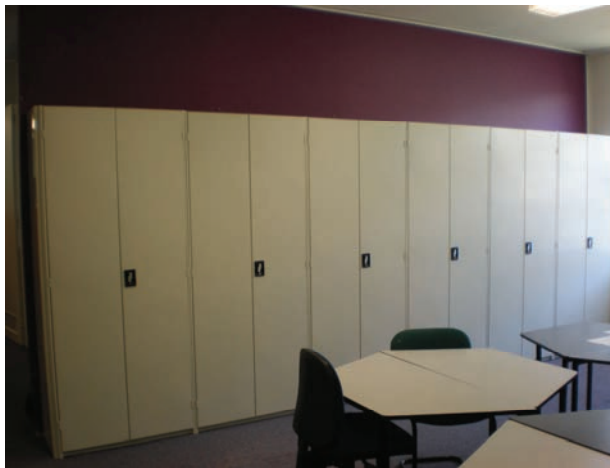
A handwritten signature in black ink on a light blue background. The signature reads "Graham Willett" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Graham Willett

President

25 November 2010

Photos of ALGA's shelving at the Victorian AIDS Council, 2010



Lockable shelving in the upstairs space: **above left** (six bays for ephemera and loose periodicals), **above right** (four bays for Australian bound volumes), **below left** (for theses, articles and monographs, scrapbooks, calendars and frequently used manuscripts collections). The office (below left) has open shelving on two walls – photographs, audio and DVD collections held here, along with work in progress. Total shelf space upstairs is about 100 shelf metres (about 85% utilised at present – balance is for expansion of ephemera and periodicals collections)



Compactus in basement: **above right and below.** The compactus has three double sided units, and two single sided units, all units are four bays deep. The walls in the basement have been plastered as a dust control measure. Total capacity of the compactus is about 180 shelf metres, which will enable material currently stored off-site in houses and garages to be brought to VAC (much of ALGA's 3,500 book collection, international periodicals, many organisational and personal collections and the VHS video collection). The scope for expansion will be better known when the off-site material is relocated.



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TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1.10.2009 – 30.9.2010

	Ordinary a/c	Gift A/c	Online saver A/c	Cash Mgt A/c	Total	Comparison with 2008-09
C/fwd from 30.9.09	6,895.64	2,300.76	59,038.37	3,640.33	71,875.10	51,337.59
Internal transfers	42,600.00	-10,600.00	-30,000.00	-2,000.00	0.00	0.00
Income*	23,270.57	8,611.19	2,198.47	96.56	34,176.79	30,594.52
Expense ♣	-63,410.81	-19.18	0.00	0.00	-63,429.99	-10,057.01
Balance at 30.9.2010	9,355.40	292.77	31,236.84	1,736.89	42,621.90	71,875.10
Net change in past year	2,459.76	-2,007.99	-27,801.53	-1,903.44	-29,253.20	\$20,537.51

* income for 2009-10 included

- \$10,000 from the Grants to Voluntary Environment and Heritage Organisations (GVEHO) program within the Department of Environment, Water, Heritage and the Arts, the second and third instalments of a three year grant for administrative services.
- \$4,400 **Community Heritage Grant Program** grant from National Library Australia, for a significance assessment of ALGA's collection.
- \$2,000 **private grant** for an ALGA publication (towards production costs).

♣ approximately \$40,000 was expended in 2009-10 on storage infrastructure and refurbishment of ALGA's space at the Victorian AIDS Council – more details in this report.

Explanatory note re ALGA's four accounts: the Gift a/c is where all tax deductible donations are deposited (a Tax Office requirement); the Ordinary a/c is where all other income is received (apart from interest) and all operating expenses occur. The Online saver a/c (with Commonwealth Bank) and the Cash management account (with Goldman Sachs JB Were) are where funds that are not needed for short term operating purposes are transferred (enabling a higher interest rate return). The Online saver account was opened on 2 March 2009 to take advantage of the Australian Government's bank guarantee, following the onset of the financial downturn in October 2008.

Details of income and expenditure in the four accounts, and comparisons with the previous financial year, are contained in Attachments A, B, C and D.

Pre-commitments

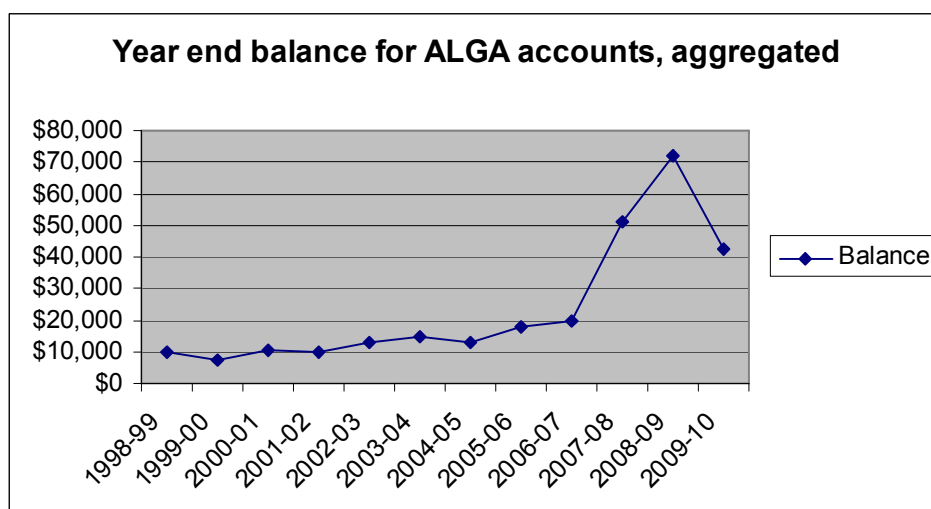
1. A **\$3,200** grant from the Local History Grant program in 2008-09 has not yet been expended, pending completion of a project to digitise and make accessible in a high quality digital album scrapbooks and a selection of frail and significant photographs from the ALGA collection. The grant conditions allow up to six years. Most of the digitisation has been completed. This is a priority for completion in the coming year.
2. The second and third instalments of a three-year grant (3 x \$5,000) from the Federal Government's Grants to Environment and Heritage Organisations (GVEHO) program were received this financial year. The second instalment is to be acquitted by 31 December 2010. The grant is for administrative services, and ALGA's successful grant submission to GVEHO was for oral history interview logging and the development of a collection management system. Work on the backlog of oral history logging is now complete. Developmental work on a collection management system is in its early stages and **\$10,000** has been set aside to advance this work in the coming 18 months.
3. An **\$8,000** grant from the City of Melbourne in 2007-08 for production costs for a book on Gay and Lesbian Melbourne has not yet been expended. The book is now at the design stage and is expected to be launched around March 2011. **An additional \$6,000** of ALGA's reserves has been allocated for the book's production. Although these amounts are pre-commitments, all proceeds from sale of the book will benefit ALGA in future years.

The above pre-commitments total \$27,200. **Thus the available funds from the year end balance of \$42,621 is effectively \$14,621.**

5. Expenditure associated with the third stage of the refurbishment of ALGA's space at VAC (additional shelving in the basement, including two extra plan cabinets for poster storage) has not yet been decided upon. However an indicative figure of \$5,000 has been quoted for two stackable plan cabinets.

The use of ALGA's reserves

ALGA's began accumulating funds for special purposes related to accommodation in the late 1990s, initially with a \$5,000 bequest. Donations and fundraising efforts, particularly in



in the celebrations of ALGA's 30th birthday in 2008, grew the nest egg to about \$70,000. In the past year we have drawn on the reserves to install shelving and a compactus to better utilize the space that has been generously provided to the Archives rent free by the Victorian AIDS Council. Money has also been spent in refurbishing the basement space (battens and plaster sheets now cover the brick walls and dust will be a much lesser problem as a result). The physical facilities that ALGA can now enjoy are really the fruits of more than a decade of contribution by many supporters of the Archives.

Bearing in mind pre-commitments, ALGA's reserves are now down to about \$14,000, and it is important that we rebuild the nest egg for expenditure that we can expect in the coming years.

Donation income

Donation income this year was \$8,611 down from \$15,903 in 2008-09, and \$27,045 in 2007-08. Attachment B gives details. There were 79 separate donations compared with 64 and 84 in the two previous years. The difference between this year and the previous year is a relative decline in large donations : nil over \$1K this year compared with 3 in 2008-09 (totaling \$9,889) and 4 in 2007-08 (\$16,500).

Specific purpose donations

Specific purpose donations from 42 people this year amounted to \$6169 out of total donation income of \$8611 (compared with 19 people for \$3580 out of total donation income of \$15,903 (23%) in 2008-09, and \$7384 (27% of \$27,038) from 33 people in 2007-08).

Most of the specific purpose donations were for binding of periodicals, \$5279 (37), along with \$100 (1) for a computer/IT related purpose and \$790 (4) for purchase of a rare book for the collection. Donations for binding exceeded the binding expenditure for the current year, so binding sponsors were allocated to volumes bound in previous years, and in the case of the larger donations, a portion was also allocated to shelving infrastructure purchases.

If donors are considering ALGA's short- and medium-term needs the following items on our wish list may be of interest.

- more storage capacity for posters : ALGA's poster collection, which runs to about 1500 posters, is held to be of high significance, but presently is not well housed (plan cabinet drawers over-crowded which increases risk of damage when being removed or replaced). Indicative cost about \$5,000 for two stackable plan cabinets.
- extra computers to better utilise volunteers' offers.
- acid free folders for the ephemera and loose periodicals collections – indicative cost about \$3,000.
- a replacement photocopier - our current photocopier was purchased from a special purpose donation six years ago and is still functioning reasonably, so its resale value would go a fair way towards purchasing a coloured photocopier copier (of similar speed but giving us the capacity to scan and copy in colour up to A3).

- It is likely that investigation of collection management systems options will point to the need for more sophisticated computer software systems than ALGA currently has, and if so, special fundraising for that purpose will be required.
- medium-term, ALGA needs to be in a position to employ a person in a part-time position which includes a mixture of archival management duties and volunteer coordination. At present, our ability to assist researchers and take up new volunteer offers is much constrained by the availability of volunteers who are familiar with the collection (a functioning collection management system will help in this regard as well).

We remind members that all donations of \$2 or more to ALGA are tax deductible – the only constraint on tax deductible donations is that the sole benefit to the donor is the tax deduction (it cannot otherwise materially assist the donor). We also invite suggestions of appropriate ways to acknowledge donors.

Other income

Donation income accounted for about \$8K of ALGA's income of \$34K in 2009-10. Grant income contributed \$16.4K, and the balance was from miscellaneous sources, the main ones being sale of publications (\$2488, of which about \$1890 was sales of *The travelling mind of Val Eastwood*), membership (\$1955, up from \$1509 in 2008-09); interest (\$2295, up from \$2050) and a profit of \$1138 from the 9th Australian Homosexual Histories Conference in December, 2009.

Abnormal vs ongoing costs

The following were abnormal items in the \$63,411 expenditure in ALGA's Ordinary a/c in 2009-10:

- \$35,041 for lockable shelving upstairs, a compactus in the basement and two large trestle tables for the upstairs working space.
- \$7,793 building services expenses (additional lighting and power installations in ALGA's spaces at VAC and refurbishment of basement with battens, plaster sheets and painting)
- \$4,400 consultant fee for significance assessment (offset by Community Heritage Program grant)
- \$3,381 printing, digitising and publishing expenses, offset by a private grant for ALGA's publication of *The travelling mind of Val Eastwood*, plus book sales
- \$1,014 for rekeying offices, lockable cabinets, securing a plan cabinet
- \$698 for commercial storage including courier costs

After allowing for these items (\$52,327), the cost of running the Archives in 2009-10 was about \$11,000. This is well up on the \$6,000 it cost to run the Archives in 2008-09, and \$9,000 in 2007-08. This higher figure reflects some new or increased expenses which are likely to continue.

This year archival supplies (\$2053) overtook binding costs (\$1240) as our consistently largest ongoing expense. Expenditure on archival supplies will again be reasonably large in 2011 with the need to rehouse much of the off-site material into standard archive boxes to be able to fit into ALGA's new compactus.

A new ongoing expense this year was public liability insurance (\$696) for all ALGA activities (previously only taken out for Midsumma Festival events).

Thanks to our donors

The Archives gratefully acknowledges the following people for making donations in 2009-10:

Anonymous	Alan Duncan	David Provan
JCA	Beatrice Faust	Ken Rathbone
Kevin A	Ian Gould	John Rickard
Dr Barbara Baird	Hiba Pty Ltd	Peter Robinson
Isabelle Basher	David Hilliard	Joe Rocca
Colin Baskerville	Leigh Keen	Liz Ross
Laurie Bebbington	KL	Colin Smith
David Bradford and	Robert Manning	Jeff Slingsby
Michael Williams	David Menadue	Geoffrey Stewardson
Gordon Campbell	KO'L	Keith Stodden
Sharron Carroll	F&LO	Richard Stone
Paul Caulfield	Timothy Ould	Rohan Storey
David Conolly	David Owen	Robert Taylor
Christopher Cutler	Phyllis Papps and	Alison Thorne
ED	Francesca Curtis	John Witte
Ken Davis	Michael Parry	Margaret Young
Mannie De Saxe	Richard Peterson	Darian Zam
Peter Di Sciascio	MP	

ALGA is grateful to the many people who have generously given their time and expertise this year (see Volunteers report elsewhere).

ALGA thanks the Victorian AIDS Council for its generosity in continuing to house ALGA at Claremont Street.



Gary Jaynes

Treasurer

28 October 2010