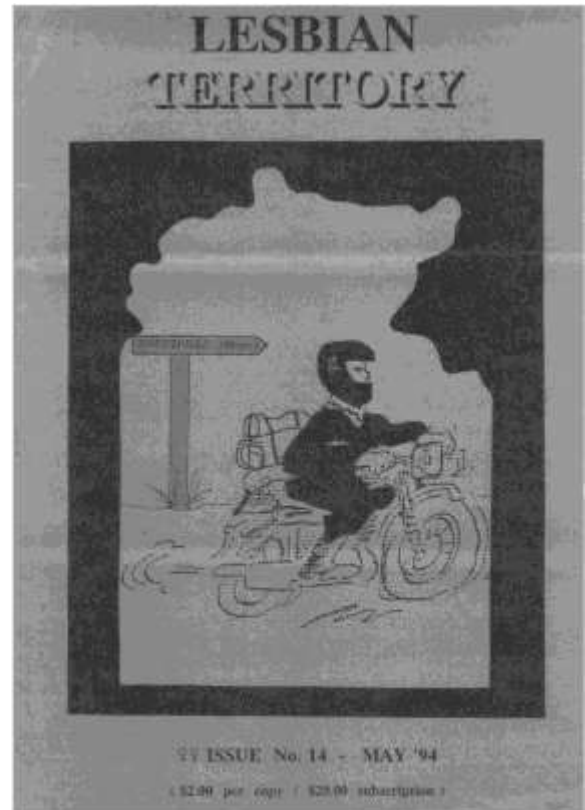


# Darwin Gay History Walk

3rd Asia Pacific Outgames, May 2014



*Boomer Motor Club, 1977*



*Lesbian Territory, cover of May 1994 issue*

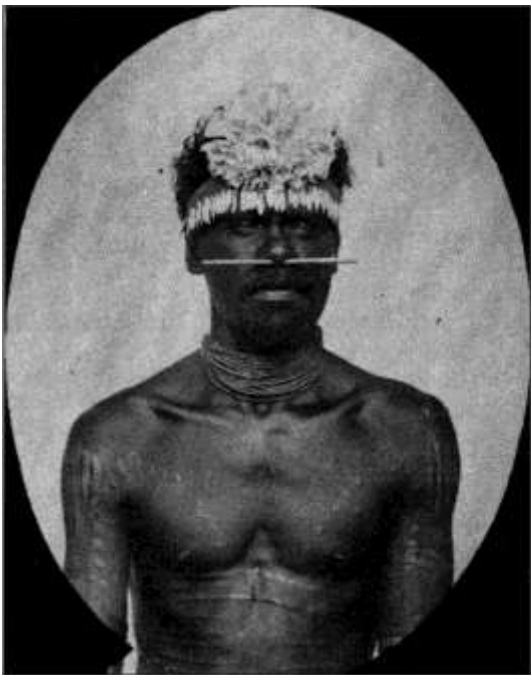
Thank you: Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives  
Northern Territory Archives Service  
Dr Terence McClafferty, Andy Ewing, Sim Lee  
and Caitlin, Damien, Jacqui, Jane, Mel, Noya, Sam, Tait  
Program: Alan Drummond

# Timeline

- 1845 Ludwig ‘brotherly kissing’ Leichhardt leads overland team to Darwin
- 1870s Stockman George enjoys domestic life with ‘His Own Special Friend’
- 1892 Reports of ‘boy wives’ in the Chingalee (Jingili) tribe from Elliott region
- 1939–1945 World War II: 10,000 defence personnel in Darwin ... ‘enormously hung’
- Late 1950s First Aboriginal man comes out; first Aboriginal woman comes out 1960s
- c. 1969 John Spellman opens Pianola Palace – statue of David marks ‘camp’ area
- 1977 Boomer Motor Club ‘encourages friendship’ and ‘promotes road safety’
- c. 1980 Darwin Gay Society established (later Darwin Gay and Lesbian Society)
- 1984 Government establishes AIDS Committee but ‘not happy with poofs’
- 1985 Darwin Stonewall Gay Pride celebrates first public discussion about gay life  
First newspaper reports about HIV-positive Territorians
- 1986 NT AIDS Council incorporated; Sim Lee elected president  
Darwin-based Asian man in same-sex relationship applies for residency
- 1990 NT AIDS Council makes submission for law reform
- 1992 Convent of Equal Opportunity nuns exorcise homophobia from NT Parliament  
Government includes sexuality in anti-discrimination legislation  
Territory University Gay Society (TUGS) established
- 1993 First theatre shows about lesbian and gay life performed at Browns Mart  
Darwin gay community history *Did you meet any Malagas?* published
- 1996 Gary Lee’s report *Malaga to Malaga* about Aboriginal gay life published
- 2002 Darwin Community Legal Service makes submission for law reform
- 2005 Elliott (population 355) holds its first annual Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras
- 2014 Darwin hosts 3rd Asia Pacific Outgames

# Aboriginal culture, settler culture, World War II

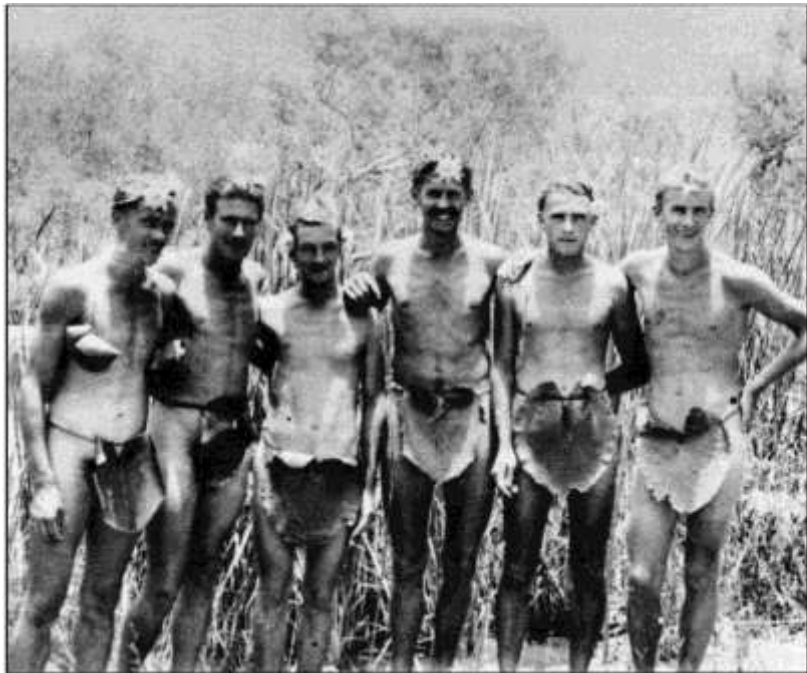
## Stop 1: Damoe-Ra / Lameroo Beach



'Chingalee' tribe Aboriginal men enjoyed 'boy wives', circa 1890



Pine Creek train crew enjoy a 'knees up', circa 1942



World War II servicemen relax at a billabong, circa 1942



Good friends at Lameroo Baths, circa 1930s

## Social attitudes and 'the scene' in the postwar decades

### Stop 2: Smith Street – location of the Pianola Palace



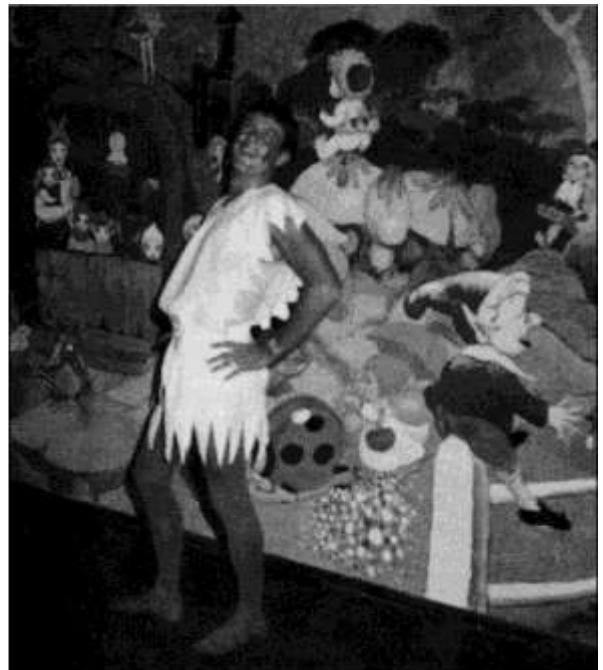
John Spellman opened the Pianola Palace in 1969 ... the 'perfect' host



John Spellman employed Phyllis, a transwoman, to DJ and entertain at Dix, circa 1976



'Barman' at the Pianola Palace ... 'confused the police no end'



Peter Morgan, proprietor of Fannies and Squires during the 1970s, lived to party

# HIV/AIDS in the 1980s and 1990s

Stop 3: corner Darwin Mall & Knuckey St – the NT AIDS Council's first premises

**Tests prove AIDS virus in NT**  
 Final test results today have confirmed that an AIDS-related virus has reached the Territory.  
 A Health Department spokesman said the tests show that a man admitted to Royal Darwin Hospital last week has Lymphadenopathy Syndrome, which is associated with the AIDS group of conditions.

**Calm plea on AIDS – society**  
 Darwin's Gay Society has urged the public to take a "rational and calm" attitude to the news that an AIDS-related virus has been found in the Territory.  
 "one and by itself is not necessarily fatal," the spokesman said.  
 "We are hoping the public response.

8 March 1985

9 March 1985

**AIDS blood donor dies** **EXTERMINATE GAYS FURORE**  
 LONDON. – A homosexual responsible for infecting 41 people with AIDS has died.  
 Darwin people have reacted angrily to a suggestion that homosexuals should be ex-  
 By RICK  
**What they said:**

10 March 1985

**AIDS sufferer dies in Darwin**  
 Territory's first category A AIDS sufferer Royal Darwin Hospital on Sunday.  
 Mr Chris Llorens, 35, a teacher, also suffered from leukemia and three years ago was given only two years to live.  
 By LEONIE BIDDLE  
 ago looking really well.  
 "Chris hasn't taught at death.  
 The spokesman said the community was angry.

The media reported full details about Chris Llorens, 22 October 1985

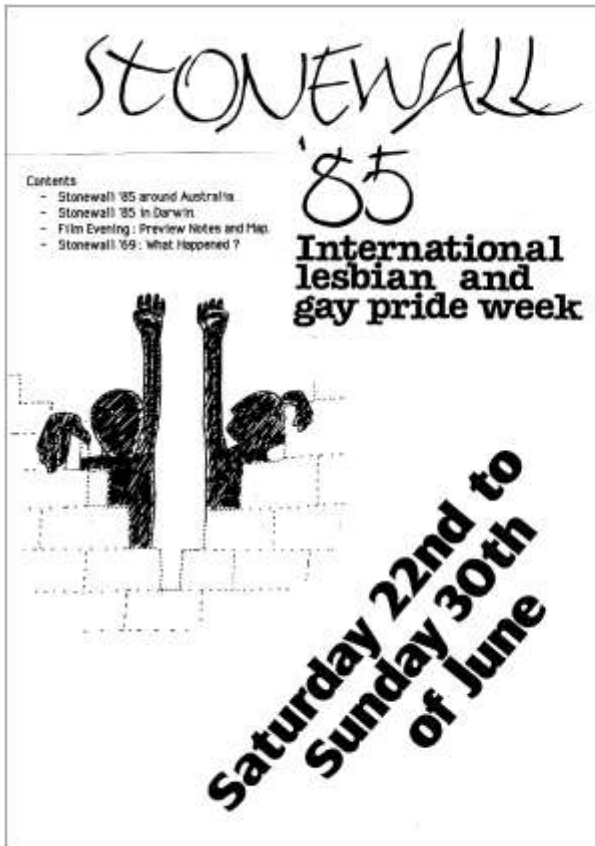
**AIDS victim harassed to the very last**  
 By NEALE GRUNDY  
 Kenny Spence was victimised from the day he was diagnosed as HIV positive.



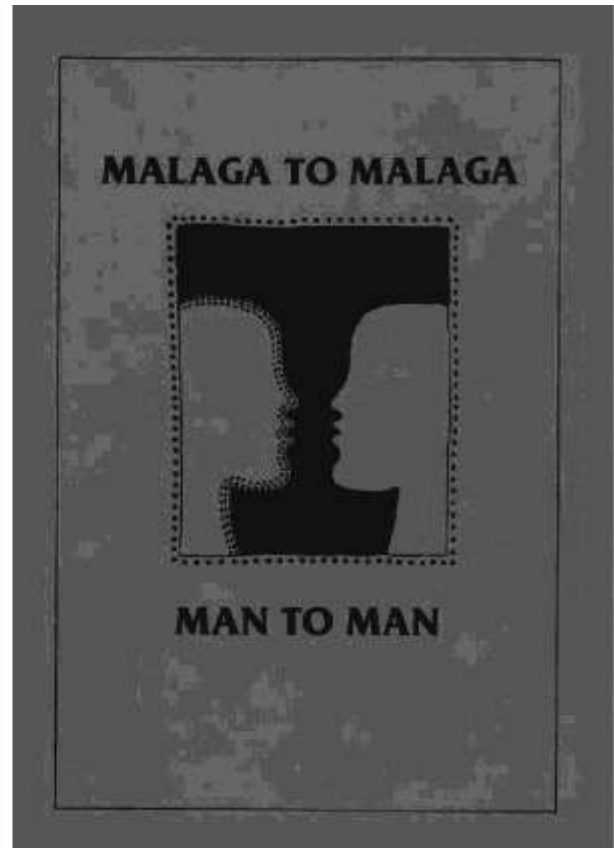

Kenny Spence's difficult times recalled by Norma Spence at World AIDS Day in Darwin, 29 November 1992

# Gay Pride: finding a voice and speaking out

## Stop 4: Browns Mart



Program cover of first Darwin Gay Pride, 1985



Cover of Gary Lee's report *Malaga to Malaga*, 1996



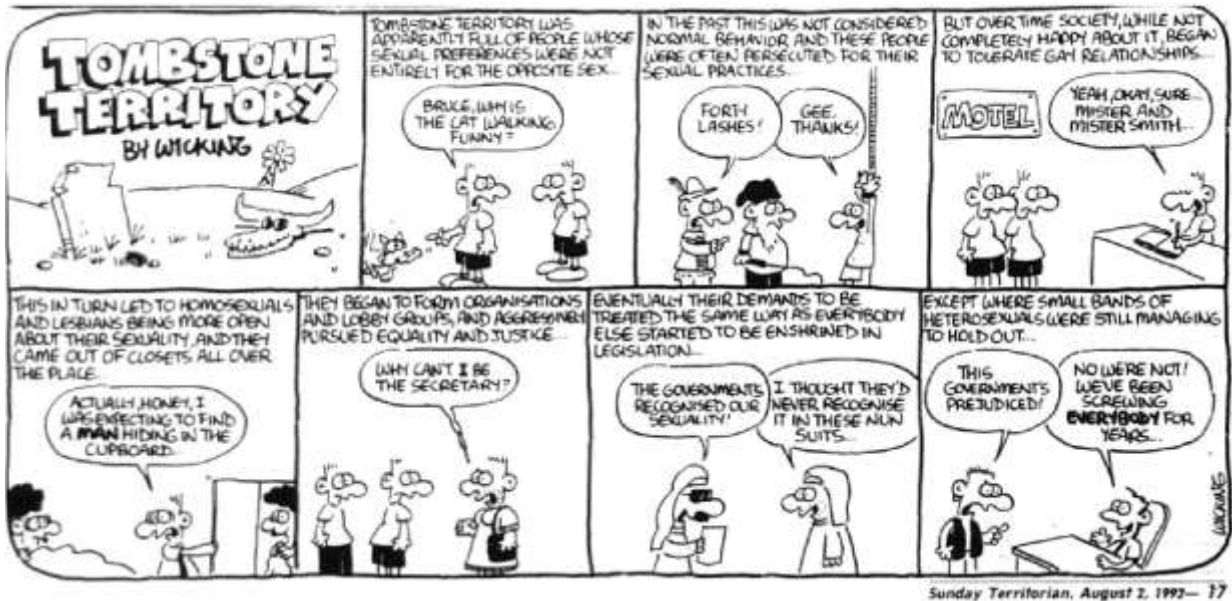
Darwin Gay and Lesbian Society ball ticket (safe sex was actively promoted), 1991



Ben Tyler self-portrait triptych, Darwin Pride Festival exhibition invitation, 2011

# Human Rights: from anti-discrimination to equality

## Stop 5: Old Parliament House



Sunday Territorian, August 2, 1992— 17

Sunday Territorian, 2 August 1992

**NORTHERN TERRITORY News**  
 EDITORIAL, July 7, 1992

## Equality is just that

The Country Liberal Party's platform of policies makes a big thing out of individual freedoms and responsibilities.

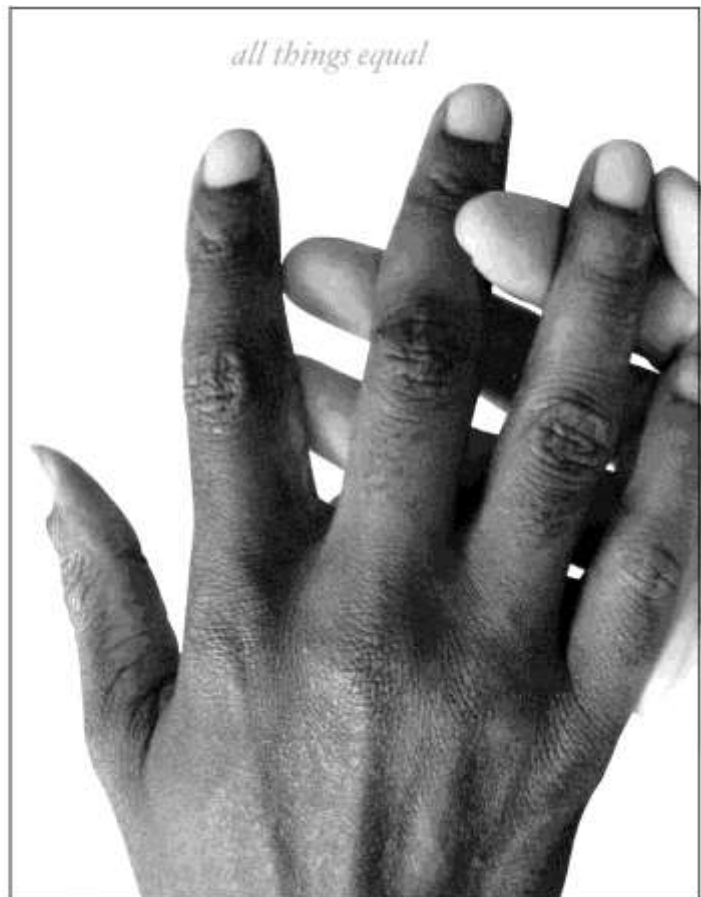
Presumably, this applies also to sexual freedoms — for example, the freedom to be a homosexual if so inclined.

By not including a clause on sexuality in the equal opportunities legislation, the CLP Government, in effect, has made it possible to discriminate against homosexuals. In other words, it has denied a group of individuals the right to their own freedoms.

This is not an argument for or against homosexuality. It is simply a statement in favor of the rights of individuals to work and live without fear of discrimination or worse.

The Minister in charge of equal opportunities, Mr Shane Stone, would argue that homosexuality in the Public Service is a matter of fact. Why then have anti-discrimination legislation when homosexuals are already employed?

It is a false argument. Homosexuals, even in this so-called enlightened age, find much discrimination in employ-



Northern Territory News,  
 Editorial, 7 July 1992

Darwin Community Legal Service's law  
 information booklet *All Things Equal*, 2005

# Human Rights: from anti-discrimination to equality



Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence from the Convent of Equal Opportunity march in the Darwin May Day Parade, 1992



Queer members of The Real Open Union Ticket (TROUT) successfully campaign for election to NT University Student Union, circa 1994



Tiwi Islands Regional Council election, 2012



Human Rights Forum flyer, 2014