

In this newsletter ...

MIDSUMMA CARNIVAL EVENTS 12 JANUARY – 2 FEBRUARY

NEW PUBLICATIONS — 5 NEW BOOKS!

QUEER HISTORIES SYMPOSIUM, 3RD ASIA PACIFIC OUTGAMES, DARWIN, 14 MAY

COMING EVENTS

Sunday 12 January 2014, from 11am

Midsumma Carnival Day! ALGA will again be having an information table in two locations. Experience our history first hand – come down and take a look at some of the archival material we will have on display. There will also be information about how to get involved. ** NOTE: This year, the carnival has been moved from Birrarung Marr back to Alexandra Gardens, on the south side of the Yarra River.**

Tuesday 14 January 2014, 7pm

BOOK LAUNCH - *After homosexual: the legacies of gay liberation*

Where: Hares & Hyenas Bookshop, 63 Johnston St, Fitzroy VIC 3065

“Forty years after the publication of Dennis Altman’s classic, *Homosexual Oppression and Liberation*, this new book edited by Carolyn D’Cruz and Mark Pendleton, *After Homosexual*, is collection of memoir, political reflection and creative non-fiction bringing together an exemplary line up of writers, spanning generations that have both shaped and inherited the legacy of gay liberation and its intersections with other social movements. ... Illustrated with photographs, clippings and the reproduction of some of the most famous liberationist manifestoes collected from the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives, *After Homosexual* is a must for the queer section of any social movement reader’s bookshelf.”

Please note that this event requires an RSVP for entry. Please send your RSVP to: rsvp@hares-hyenas.com.au or call (03) 9495 6589.

Website: <http://wordisout.com.au/after-homosexual-in-stock>

Wednesday 15 January, 4:30pm and 7pm

WESTANDPROUD Documenting Queer History in the West

PART I: Rainbow Crossing Construction – 4.30 pm

Where: Louis Joel Arts and Community Centre, 5 Sargood St, Altona

Join us in creating a rainbow crossing, a first of its kind in Melbourne's West. The rainbow crossing will act as a metaphor for 'crossing over' to acceptance - for the whole community to experience. The painting of the crossing will be documented through time-lapse photography, ensuring the message has a lasting impact, long after the event. If you are interested in taking part in painting the rainbow crossing, please register to be involved via: commdev@hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au or phone 9932 1000. Participants should meet from 4.30pm at the Louis Joel Arts and Community Centre. The rainbow crossing will remain intact for one week following the event. As this event will be outdoors, it’s advised to bring a picnic blanket and wear suitable clothing.

Registrations appreciated via commdev@hobsonsabay.vic.gov.au

PART II: Westandproud Project Launch – 7pm

After creating the rainbow crossing, at 7pm we will launch the WESTANDPROUD website, which documents the area's GLBTIQ heritage and culture. The Website showcases a series of short films which highlight lived experiences of queer life in the West, as well as a historical timeline of significant milestones. The personal stories, brought to life via film, navigate broad territory, from coming out

stories to gender transitioning to same-sex parenting and beyond. WESTANDPROUD is a joint venture between RMIT social work students and Hobsons Bay City Council. Join us for a symbolic stride across our rainbow precinct followed by a screening of some of our short films by MQFF short-film maker Cait Bryan as well as addresses from key contributors to the project. There will be live music and a panel of interviewees who are the subjects of the films, reflecting on their experiences. Light refreshments will be served.

RSVPs to sklein@hobsonsbay.vic.gov.au

For a bit more background to the project

see: <http://eurekamichael.blogspot.com.au/2013/11/westandproud.html>

For more information on the GoWest program as part of Midsumma

see: <http://midsumma.org.au/program/gowest>

Sunday 19 January 2014, 11 am

Midsumma presents **ALGA's 20th lesbian and gay history walk of Melbourne**, this time at Melbourne University ... 'beyond the gracious sandstone towers'. Meet at the 1888 Building, Grattan Street (just west of Swanston Street). \$20 full, \$10 concession and ALGA members, plus booking fee. Book through the Midsumma website, at <http://midsumma.org.au/program/spoken-word/archives-history-walk>.

RADICALISM EXHIBITION, 16 JANUARY – 23 FEBRUARY (Midsumma)

Radicalism brings together several artists and activists from across Australia to examine some of the sites of radicalism, resistance and defiance associated with questions of gender and sexuality in the contemporary moment. This exhibition explores representations of queerness beyond a celebration of queer pride and queer identity to look at some of the social, political and cultural challenges that confront queer identity today. The artists in this exhibition are both radical queers and queer radicals. Their works raise a number of important questions around the politics of queer identity in the early 21st century. Does identity still matter in our understanding of queerness? Where are the boundaries that limit discourses of queerness in our contemporary culture? Is queerness still linked to radicalism in any way? This exhibition is accompanied by a range of public programming initiatives to encourage an active discourse around these themes.

The exhibition is principally curated by Drew Pettifer.

The Radicalism exhibition will include a range of both loaned original and copies of items from ALGA's collection.

Website: <http://midsumma.org.au/program/premier-events/radicalism>

QUEER HISTORIES SYMPOSIUM, 3rd Asia Pacific Outgames

The theme of the Queer Histories Symposium, a joint initiative of the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives with the Darwin Outgames Human Rights Forum, is Diversity in Pride. The half-day Symposium's program has four sessions:

- Sexuality across Race, Culture and Gender: panel discussion
- Talking Technologies: case studies in creating queer history
- Queering the Archives: who, why and how
- Notions of Memory and Desire

The Symposium will take place between 9:15 am and 3:30 pm on Wednesday 14 May 2014, immediately prior to the Human Rights Forum and at the same venue.

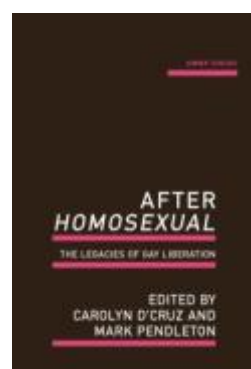
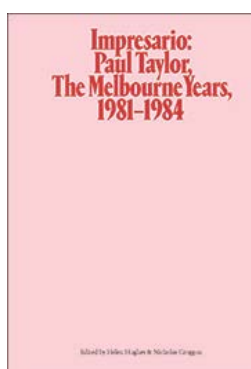
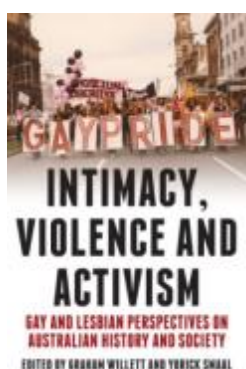
Registration is \$20 waged and \$10 unwaged. Please note that registration for this event does not include catering, and that food outlets are available at the conference venue. Any inquiries should be directed to the Symposium convenor, Dr Dino Hodge, at dinohodge@hotmail.com

Website: <http://www.darwinoutgames.com.au/index.php/conference/queer-histories-symposium>

PUBLICATIONS

Five books have been recently published:

- Graham Willett and Yorick Smaal (eds), *Intimacy, Violence and Activism*, Monash University Publishing. This is the seventh in the Gay and Lesbian Perspectives series and has 13 chapters by established and emerging scholars on a variety of topics from Australian queer history. <http://www.hares-hyenas.com.au/book.asp?RecID=19337>
- Helen Hughes and Nicholas Croggan (eds), *Impresario: Paul Taylor, The Melbourne Years, 1981-1984*, Surplus/MUMA. A collection of essays on the life, times and publishing of Paul Taylor, founder of the influential art magazine, *Art & Text*.
- Ardy Tibby, Barbary Clarke, Claudia Huber, Jean Taylor and Rosalinda Rayne (eds), *Lesbians Write On: A Celebration of Contemporary Australian Lesbian Writing*, Long Breast Press. This book is an eclectic collection of literary pieces through the eyes of 24 lesbian authors in Australia. With the use of poetry, prose, fiction or non-fiction writing styles, a diverse range of topics touching lesbian lives is explored. <http://www.hares-hyenas.com.au/book.asp?RecID=19429>
- Carolyn D'Cruz and Mark Pendleton (eds), *After Homosexual: The Legacies of Gay Liberation*, University of Western Australia Press (available from 14 January). Forty years after the publication of Dennis Altman's classic, *Homosexual Oppression and Liberation*, this new book is a collection of memoir, political reflection and creative non-fiction. <http://www.hares-hyenas.com.au/book.asp?RecID=19440>
- John Burbidge, *Dare Me! The Life and Work of Gerald Glaskin*, Monash University Publishing (available in February). The first biography of a major, if now forgotten, Australian literary figure, author of, among other things, *No End to the Way*, the first Australian novel of homosexual love.



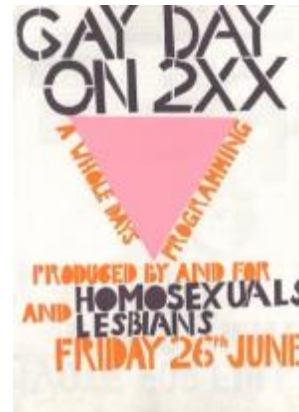
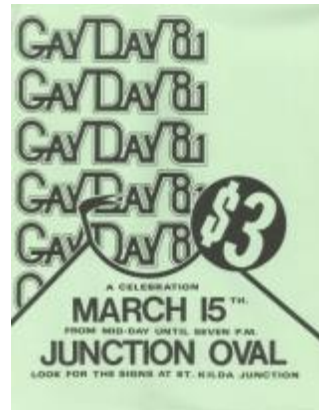
DIGITISATIONS

The ALGA Poster Collection is being progressively digitised to limit handling, improve access and assist with ready access to high and low resolution images for publication and reference. ALGA has digitised around 400 posters out of almost 2600 posters in the Poster Collection. This project is time-consuming due to the majority of the posters being larger than A3 (the size of our scanner), which means that multiple scans of sections of each poster are taken before being stitched together in Photoshop.

The following posters are a small sample of over 200 posters that have been digitised over the past two months:

- Some kids have two mums, Lovely Mothers Series, part of Word of Mouth III, lesbian visibility project, 1993 (Poster A71a), photographs by Marion Moore, concept coordination by Elisa Hall and Catherine Fargher.

- Red Party, May Day Russian Centre, Saturday May 1, 1982 (Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence) (Poster A77), unidentified designer.
- XES, a lesbian and gay journey to the dark side, Boans Warehouse, East Perth, Saturday June 3 [1995] (Poster A64), unidentified designer.
- GayDay 81 [ALSO Foundation], March 15th, Junction Oval, St Kilda (Poster A139), unidentified designer.
- Gay Day on 2XX, c. 1981 (Megalo Screenprint), unidentified designer, Ian Malloy Collection.
- Tropical Fruits presents Rainbow Circus V, New Year's Eve, Lismore Rugby Union Ground, c. 1993, unidentified designer, Les Smith Collection.



ACQUISITIONS

Acquisitions received since the October Bulletin (No. 62) are varied, though somewhat reduced over the Christmas and New Year period.

Newly donated material includes:

- Mr G.N.V. [Gay Nudists Victoria] 2001 [trophy], donated by anonymous
- A small collection of books and DVDs, with a particular focus on Dutch-Australian connections, donated by Bart van der Wel
- Flyer and ticket for Patch's, 1976, donated by Robert Taylor
- 'Men in a steam room', 2013, a large (61 x 43cm) watercolour by David Beschi, donated by David Beschi
- Desire (1980) [video], 29 min, donated by Matthew Reid
- It's show time! Gender, sexuality and the political economy in Dexter and The United States of Tara (2013) [Hons thesis] by Ayden Ferdeline, University of WA, donated by Ayden Ferdeline
- Two posters for Midsumma 2014, donated by Matthew Martini
- Archival material relating to GRINS (Gay Radio Information News Service) between 1993 and 1996, produced by Shane Wells and Steve Doherty, donated by Ken Lovett – this material extends the extensive archive of audio recordings and archival material previously donated by Ken to the Archives

- Supplementary oral history interview with John Langworthy, documenting his early years growing up in Melbourne during the 1950s and 1960s, prior to his involvement with Melbourne Gay Liberation in the early 1970s
- Children of lesbian and gay parents under the microscope: representations in research and their self-representations, by Gipsy Hocking, BA Hons (Faculty of Social and Behavioural Sciences, Flinders University)
- Oscar Wilde and Australia: colonial homosexuality and masculinity in the late nineteenth century, by Jaan Butler, BA Hons (School of History, Australian National University)
- Some rainbows never grey (University of Melbourne, 2013) by Peter Jacobsen [DVD], 15 mins, featuring personal stories of three gay men who were heterosexually married
- The effeminate child (2011) by John Paramor, unpublished autobiographical manuscript
- Papers of Dennis Altman (addition), correspondence, ephemera, book and pamphlet
- Digital copies of transcripts of ABC News reports relating to homosexuality from 1972 to 1977, copied from National Archives of Australia

VOLUNTEERS

John

“Over the last two months I have been gradually working through rehousing and auditing almost half of the Ephemera Collection (A-L, comprising almost 1300 files). This project continued work that had been initiated by another volunteer and former committee member, Carla. The project was established in order to replace the slightly acidic manila folders which house each of the ephemera files – files containing everything from flyers to postcards, circular letters to stickers. The rehousing will ensure that the material, mostly paper, has a longer lifespan. The project has also allowed for a detailed audit of the Collection, ensuring that each file is in the correct location, and sometimes updating or enhancing the catalogue entry for each file. Collectively the files contain a detailed history of GLBTIQ activities going back many decades, political, cultural and business enterprises and organisations from all parts of Australia.

As a volunteer involved in this project I found the experience extremely enlightening and also very moving. These files reveal the amount of time, energy and dedication contributed by so many people over so many years to our community – it is truly inspiring.”

Angela

““Would you like to organize the Midsumma photos?’
‘Would I?!’

And no, they’re not famous last words...even if the collection did turn out to be a bit all over the place.

For those who don’t know, Midsumma is Melbourne’s premier gay & lesbian arts and cultural festival, running over three weeks from January to February. Off to a modest start in 1989, it continued to grow, before becoming really big in 1995 when it attracted corporate sponsorship. Pride, Ride (Luna Park), the Brunswick Street and Commercial Road Street Parties, Carnival (Alexandra Gardens), Red Raw, the Ruby Lounge, Swimming Carnival and launch parties are all captured in ALGA’s Midsumma non-digital photos collection, spanning 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001, and 2002. Full of colour and energy, photos captivate with summer’s day Pride marches, nuns-on-bumper cars, swimmers diving to their races, dog shows, concert bands, kids, and Drag aplenty. If Melbourne was trying to diversify its festival’s events to distinguish itself from Sydney’s, I think it succeeded!

These photos I have been placing in archival quality plastic sleeves and filing according to year and event, grouped by photographer. Initially I trusted that all photos contained within each Kodak or Fuji envelope were taken by the same photographer. Ha! Many of them were, though. Fortunately,

Midsumma attracted a number of prolific photographers – Virginia Selleck, Mark Munro, Jason Reynolds, Maureen O’Flaherty, Angela Bailey, Ruth De Bron and Richard Israel – who, rather wonderfully, left their and the respective Midsumma event’s name on the back of photos. Their photos in turn provided most of the clues needed to identify the unlabelled.

Only one problem remained: What if the people in the photo you’re looking at don’t feature among the prolific photographers’ photos? And what if the background behind them excludes rides, palm trees, or Fitzroy/Prahran Streetscapes? Again I found assistance on the back of photos: Kodak logo, Kodak Sydney Olympics sponsor logo, or Fuji logo in variation 1 or 2 or 3?

Last of all, I checked that the photos I’d put together logically belonged together. And there you have it: 8 years of – a picture’s worth a thousand words – Midsumma History.

Hooray for ALGA, the photographers, and the donations that make buying preservation materials possible! Thank you.”

THANKS TO OUR COMMUNITY SUPPORTERS

In recent times, ALGA has benefited from significant financial support from two community organisations. Over 2013, the Laird Hotel in Abbotsford nominated ALGA and Gay and Lesbian Switchboard as joint beneficiaries of fundraising tins placed in the Laird’s bars. Over the year, ALGA received nearly \$1000 from this initiative.

Late in 2013, the New Wave Christian Fellowship Church in Melbourne closed down due to falling numbers, having supported the gay and lesbian community for 26 years. At its annual general meeting, the group decided to distribute its assets to deserving organisations, allocating \$2000 to ALGA.

Our thanks to all who made these generous initiatives possible – they are much appreciated.

MEMBERSHIP AND DONATIONS

We now have a new and easier way to become an ALGA member, using the online form in our new [RegisterNow](#) system. If you prefer to pay your membership fee by cheque, money order or directly into ALGA’s bank account for 2013–14, please visit our website and fill in the printed form to accompany payment: alga.org.au/participate/join-our-association. If you are making a payment direct to ALGA’s bank account, we request that you include your surname in the narrative (as well as sending the printed form).

For those who are either joining for the first time, or renewing their membership after lapsing, there is a \$1 joining fee.

If you or others you know wish to donate to the Archives, all donations of \$2 or more are tax-deductible. You don’t have to be a member of ALGA to donate. [GiveNow](#) is an option for those who wish to donate by credit card. Where donors are agreeable, we like to acknowledge them by name (but not dollar amount) in our annual report. Please let us know in the ‘Special message’ area if you are happy to have your donation publicly acknowledged (full name, initials only, or not at all).

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From the Australian Lesbian & Gay Archives Inc
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Facebook page: www.facebook.com/groups/35361025625/

This issue of the ALGA Bulletin was compiled by Kate Davison and Nick Henderson, with contributions from Gary Jaynes and Graham Willett