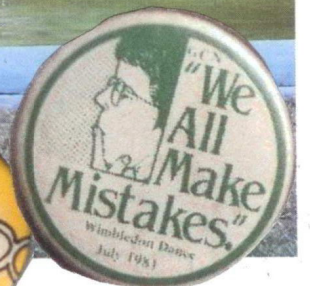
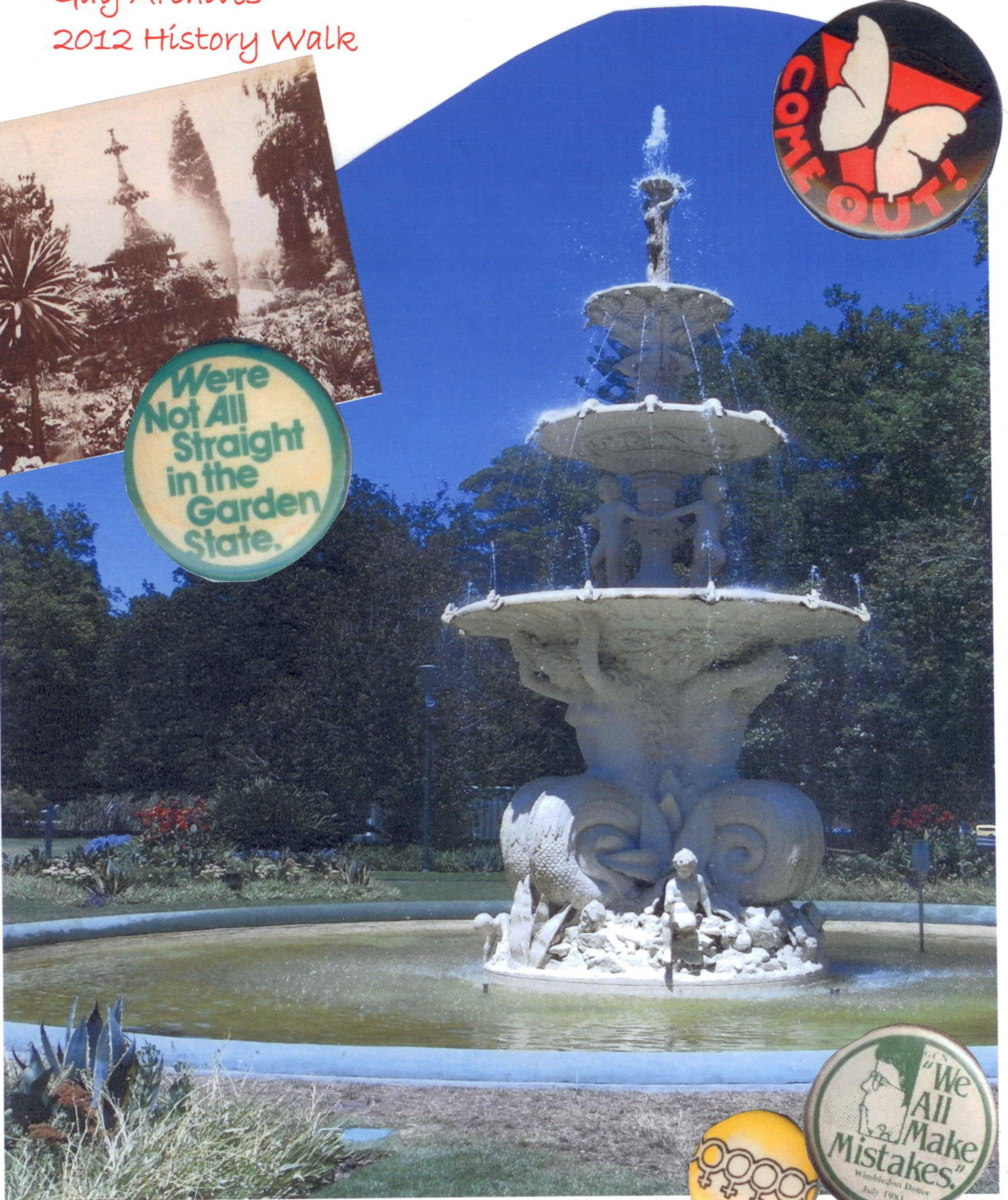
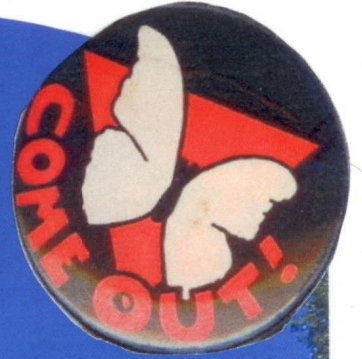
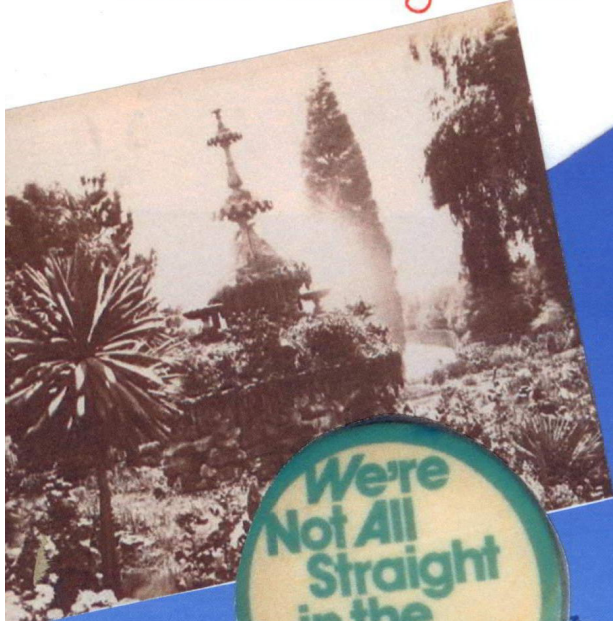


Melbourne

Australian Lesbian and
Gay Archives
2012 History Walk





Start - State Library of Victoria

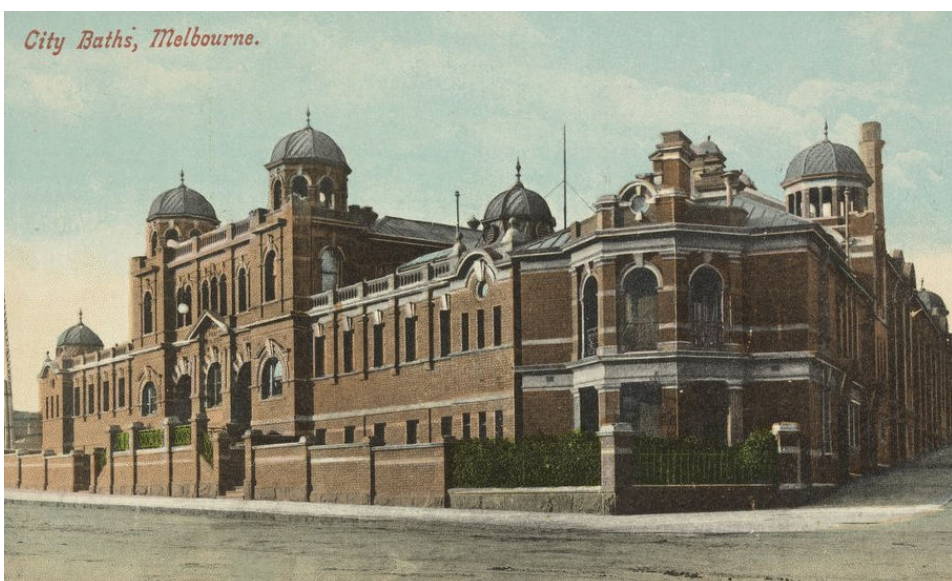
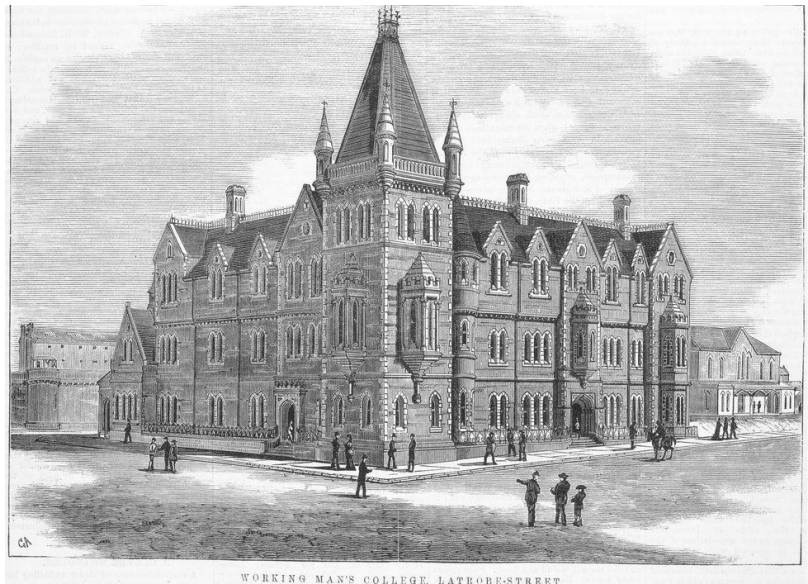
Melbourne: Queen City of the South – in so many ways. Grand boulevards, proud civic architecture ... But a queer eye sees some of this rather differently.

Mourning brooch made from the hair of Miss Anne Drysdale, ca. 1853 (State Library of Victoria [SLV] collection)

Stop 1 – RMIT cnr LaTrobe and Swanston St

RMIT - the Working Men's College - tradie boys and earnest commercial studies students; during the 1930s RMIT had one of Melbourne's biggest student beats.

The Working Man's College, wood engraving published in *The Illustrated Australian News*, 13 June 1883 (Pictures Collection, SLV)



Stop 2 – City Baths 420 Swanston St

Bathing, swimming, relaxing – and picking up and getting off. Much of what we know about the history of the Baths as a camp site comes from the *Truth* newspaper – and is all the more entertaining for that!

City Baths, circa 1909 (Pictures Collection, SLV)

Stop 3 – Trades Hall Lygon St, cnr Victoria St

The struggle for gay and lesbian equality and liberation found many allies over the years, not least in the trade union movement. From boofy builders labourers to teachers and nurses, gay people were everywhere – including in their unions.

Homosexual Law Reform Coalition demonstration at GPO, Nov 1980. Photo by James Spence, right



Dover Hotel Lygon St, cnr Victoria St

By about 1973 gay bars were the coming thing, replacing the old camp haunts. Upstairs at the Dover was one of the first.

Dover Hotel. Photo by Graham Willett, 2012, left

Stop 4 – Russell Street Police Station, the Magistrates Court Russell St, cnr LaTrobe St

While homosexuality was illegal (and even sometimes after) the cops and the homosexual world were often at each others throats (usually in a bad way!) Here we look at some of the saddest cases – lives damaged, reputations ruined, freedom lost.

Reginald Fleவில், February 1924, Public Records Office of Victoria, VPRS515/73/349.



Stop 5 – Exploration Lane Communist Party Headquarters, 12 Exploration Lane

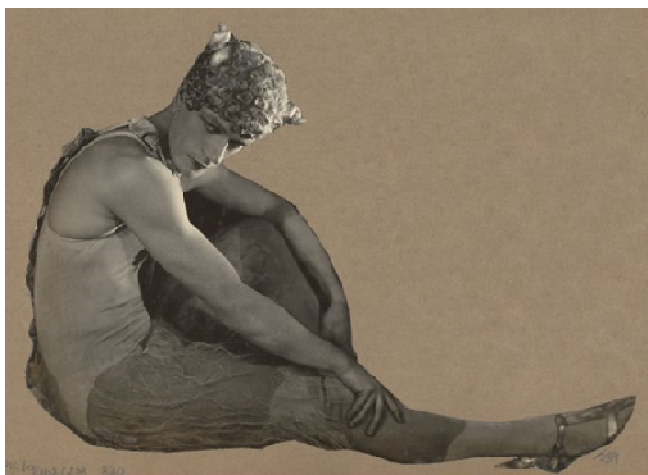
The social movements of the 1960s and seventies reshaped Australian politics, and the left played an important role in that. What used to be down this laneway played its part.

Logo from www.anu.edu.au/polsci/marx/gayleft/

Stop 6 – The Carlton Gardens Rathdowne Street

Warm dark nights, winding shrub-lined paths ... you can see where this is going. Tales from the nineteenth and twentieth centuries to lift your spirits. With the occasional arrest.

Dolphin Fountain in the Carlton Gardens, circa 1870-1880
(Pictures Collection, State Library of Victoria)



Stop 7: Theatreland 240 Exhibition Street

Bohemians, theatricals, communists, homosexuals and other non-conformists... Melbourne was never as dull as it was painted. For those who wanted to live different kinds of lives, Theatreland provide safe spaces, tolerance, like-minded people. A selection of stories.

Cyril Ritchard, NLA vn3666312

Stop 8 – Bohemia East End Bookshop, 181 Exhibition Street

The site of the East End bookshop in the late 1960s. In *Art and Life*, Philip Jones recounts his life with Barrie Reid (the State Librarian) and the bookshop they ran from here for many years. With a red plastic floor and blue hessian walls – could anyone not have known it was at the very least camp-friendly?

Stop 9: Her Majesty's 219 Exhibition Street

More on Theatreland, and especially 'Our Glad', Gladys Moncrieff, stage and recording star of the 1920s and 1930s, who did not retire until the 1960s. And behind every great woman ... Elsie Wilson, who became her secretary and companion, and stayed with her for the next 46 years. A story to gladden the heart.

Gladys Moncrieff (photo on wall, rear) and Elsie Wilson (front right) at the Gladys Moncrieff Library (photo collection, State Library of Queensland, 93-2-4)



Stop 10 Parliament House Spring Street

From the foundation of the city in 1835 homosexuality was a sin and a crime. Parliament passed laws and the police and courts enforced them. Until in 1980, Victoria threw off its Victorianism and legalised sex between men. And then made it illegal to discriminate. And then recognised same-sex relationships and then set up a register ... At last, a happy ending.

Gay Community News Law Reform issue, October 1980 (ALGA collection)



Melbourne

History Walk on Sunday 22 January 2012

was conducted by Graham Willett, with Graham Carbery, Daniel Marshall and Helen Pausacker. Gary Jaynes, Graham Willett and Helen Pausacker produced this programme. This is the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives' 18th History Walk of Melbourne.

2011 was a bumper year for Queer History. Check out the latest from the Archives and our friends

Secret Histories of Queer Melbourne	\$40
Queen City of the South	\$30
Out Here: Gay and Lesbian Perspectives VI	\$30
Special offer for January – buy all three and pay no postage!	

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