

THE KEY CLUB
For guys

ates
ht (not disco)
11.30
10
St. Fitzroy.

SIR ROBERT
PEEL
HOTEL

**Fitzroy
Australian Lesbian and
Gay Archives History Walk
2020**

What are you doing after work tonight?

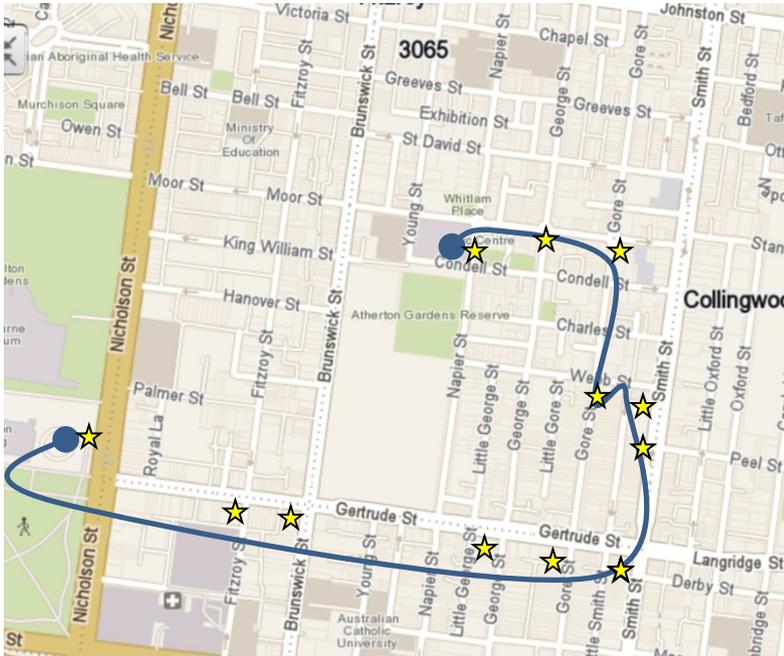
Make it a date with Greg Evans and Debbie Newsome 5.30 weeknights. **TEN**

... going to the lesbian bar

Fitzroy

2020 ALGA History Walk

★ indicates stopping points



Stopping points

start: Exhibition Buildings, cnr Gertrude Street

1. Gertrude Street
2. cnr Gertrude and Fitzroy Streets
3. cnr Gertrude and Brunswick Streets
4. cnr Gertrude and George Streets
5. cnr Gertrude and Gore Streets
6. cnr Gertrude and Smith Streets
7. cnr Smith and Peel Streets
8. cnr Smith and Webb Streets
9. cnr Webb and George Streets
10. St Mark's, cnr George and Moor Streets
11. Whitlam Place, cnr Moor and Napier Streets



For over 40 years, the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives (ALGA) has been collecting and preserving Australia's very queer history. From camp life in the 1950s, through Gay Liberation in the 1970s and eighties, to the vibrant queer communities of today.

ALGA celebrated its 40th year in 2018. We are volunteer-run, not-for-profit and community-based.

For more info, check out our website (alga.org.au) or our Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/ALGArchives>).

Except for the occasional project grant, ALGA is funded entirely by membership and donations. See 'participate' on the website. All donations of \$2 or more to the Archives are tax deductible.

Thank-you

... to the State Library of Victoria and the Rennie Ellis Photographic Archive for making available the photo: Jack Charles at Mario's café and the State Library of Victoria for the photo Cyclorama
 Front cover photo: Ken Lovett, 2015
 Map on this page: courtesy whereis.com



If volunteering for ALGA interests you, we'd love to hear from you. All skills welcome – archiving, IT, fundraising, promotions, design, data entry, admin. We try to match up volunteers with projects that fit their interests and time available. See details on back cover.



Start – Exhibition Building

opposite Gertrude Street

Fitzroy. Long one of Melbourne’s smallest suburbs it has had a remarkable history. From posh to perverts, buggery to bohemia, mansion, public parks and laneways. From discretion to courage. Just made for a queer history walk.

photo: Graham Willett, 2007

Stop 1 – Key Club

22 Gertrude Street

From discretion to courage wasn’t always an easy thing to do. There were many half-way steps. In the 1970s, Mama Seka opened the Key Club, a members-only club that offered safety and a chance to for gay men to meet others.

The Key Club (ALGA collection IP-13b)



Stop 2 – Marion-Bill Edwards

Corner Gertrude and Fitzroy Streets

The Cyclorama: a panorama of thrilling episodes from history – and from the marvellous life of Marion-Bill Edwards, the notorious man-woman.

Photo Bill, Weekly Times, 13 October 1906, p 8 (available through Trove); photo Cyclorama: 1889, source: State Library of Victoria

MARION EDWARDS.
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "BILL."



photo: Graham Willett, 2015

Stop 3 – Mansions, Flats & Cabaret

Corner Gertrude and Brunswick

Fitzroy went from boom to bust and back again in the 19th and 20th centuries. Nowhere was this more visible than in the way mansions, boarding houses and flats appeared.

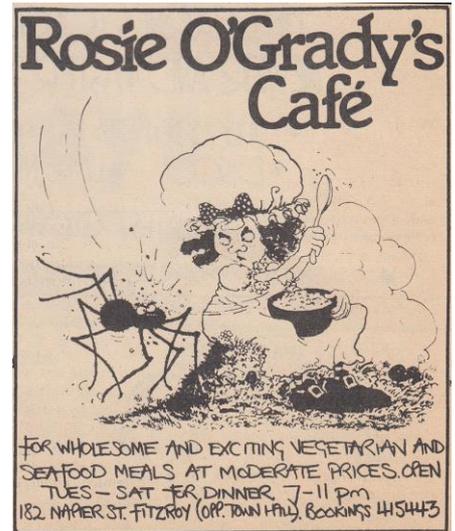
The Blue Cellar, opened in 1956, to a mixed crowd, including prostitutes, bent coppers and homosexuals.

Stop 4 – Lesbian Cafes

Corner Gertrude and George Streets

Lesbians, queers, Aboriginal people... Pleasures, politics, pints ... What a very checkered history Gertrude Street has.

Rosie advertisement from *Gay Community News*, February 1980, p 25



Stop 5 – The Builder's Arms

Corner Gertrude and Gore Streets

It looks like a pub – and it is. But what a role it has played in Indigenous and queer histories!

Photos: Jack Charles: Rennie Ellis / Pictures Collection, State Library of Victoria; Richard Watts ALGA collection



Stop 6 - Rainbows

Corner Gertrude and Smith Streets When Yarra Council decided to celebrate the city's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer community in Fitzroy, they could hardly imagine how events in the US city of Orlando would shape how Melbournians came to find solace in it.

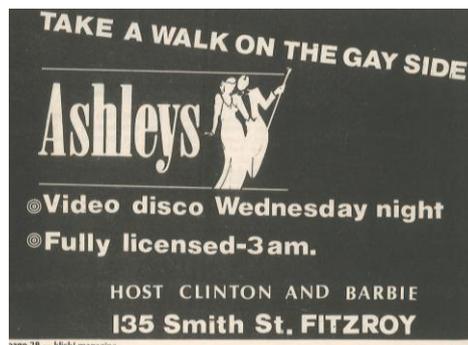
Photo: Helen Pausacker, 2020

Stop 7 – From Scene to Northside

Corner Smith and Peel Streets

In the 1980s, there was Ashleys disco, cafes and Hares and Hyenas. Today we have Northside – the Laird, the Peel, Sircuit. What a difference a few decades make.

Sources: left: Klick, n.5, 1980, p 28; right: Marshall logo, December 2009, ALGA collection



Stop 8 – Publishing Cooperatives

corner Smith and Webb Streets

Before Northside, the lesbian and gay community found a home here on Smith Street with two cooperatives offering quality publishing to the community. Anyone else remember typesetting and galley and layout?

Photo: James Spence and Helen Pausacker at Correct Line Graphics, 256 Brunswick Street, c. 1980. Photo by Sinon Hassett. ALGA collection.



THE MAN IN WOMAN'S CLOTHES.
TO THE EDITOR OF THE ARGUS.
Sir,—I was the man employed at the Polytechnic Institute, who detected the man John Wilson, who dressed in woman's clothes in Collingwood. I have been since discharged from my situation, because my employer says I got a free order for the admission of a woman of bad character into the Institute; but the reason I got the free order, without telling anyone, was because if I told anyone I should not have caught the person I was after. Besides, I knew the woman would look respectable, or she would not have been admitted. Will you kindly publish this, to clear my character? It is because the case was so bad that you would not publish the evidence that all this has not come out.
Yours obediently,
JAMES MORRIS.
Little Oxford-street, East Collingwood.

Stop 9 – John Wilson

Corner Webb and George

Poor John Wilson – one minute he is chatting up some bloke, trying to make some money for himself. Next minute he is in full flight towards George Street, a policeman in hot pursuit, his frock in one hand to stop him tripping. But getting caught was only the beginning of his woes. In 1863, his was an occupation that attracted the death penalty.

The Argus, Friday 23 October 1863, p 7

Stop 10 – St Marks

Corner George and Moor Streets

The churches have not always been queer folks' best friend – to say the least. But there is, as well as the oppression and discrimination, another story – refugee and friendship and support. St Mark's has long been in the second camp. Let's talk about both.

source: St Mark's website, 2015



Stop 11 – Fitzroy Town Hall

Whitlam Place, cnr Moor and Napier Streets

Fitzroy has the honour of having, in 1984, elected Australia's first (openly) gay mayor – Ralph McLean (1957-2010), a gay man, art lover, eccentric and activist. His courage, and that of the LGBTI community, is remembered and celebrated in Whitlam Square.

Source: *OutRage*, Sep 1985, p 6

Fitzroy

History Walk on Saturday 25 January 2020

was conducted by Graham Willett and Wayne Murdoch, with contributions by Angela Bailey, Nick Henderson, Gary Jaynes, Richard Keble, Clare O'Hanlon, Helen Pausacker and Richard Watts. Gary Jaynes, Nick Henderson, Helen Pausacker and Graham Willett produced this programme. This is the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives' 26th History Walk.

Join us!

The Archives has no on-going government funding and relies entirely on the support of its members and the community. You can become a member and/or give a (tax-deductible) donation through ALGA's website.



What we collect and preserve

Books, badges, posters, t-shirts, gay and lesbian newspapers and magazines, newspaper clippings, photographs, court transcripts, newsletters, videos, scrapbooks, banners and placards, postcards, party tickets, theatre programs, flyers, personal memorabilia. The collection has been used by students, filmmakers, novelists and historians, researchers and activists – as well as the just plain curious ...

2nd printing. Now available again!

Check out the books from ALGA and our friends:	
Secret Histories of Queer Melbourne	\$40/\$35*
Queen City of the South	\$30/\$25*
Out Here: Gay and Lesbian Perspectives VI	\$35/\$30*
Intimacy, Violence, Activism	\$35/\$30*

* Special discounts for ALGA members! Order online.

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ALGA turned 40 in 2018!

