

# alga NEWSLETTER

Australian Lesbian & Gay Archives Inc

<http://home.vicnet.net.au/~alga/>

Incorporated Assn No. A0000240Z

ABN 92 450 443 760

PO Box 124, Parkville, Vic 3052

Newsletter No 20, September 2004

ISSN 1037-3756

## MONETARY BEQUESTS AND DONATIONS POLICY

From time to time the Archives is approached by people wishing to donate money or make a bequest in their Will. Both are, of course, welcomed. Occasionally, the possibility of substantial bequests is raised, where the donor wants to restrict the uses to which the money can be put.

Recently, the Committee has been examining what mechanisms might exist by which we could balance the desire to reassure potential donors that substantial donations and bequests would be preserved for thoughtful use, without unduly tying the hands of the Committee of the day. We are concerned that the purposes nominated by a bequest might not actually be relevant to the needs to the Archives by the time the donation becomes available and what this would do to the Will.

We consulted with Jill Reichstein of the Reichstein Foundation, a major philanthropic organisation. She suggested the use of the Melbourne Community Foundation Network Ltd. This not-for-profit company is essentially a community-based trust fund, with the advantages of trusts, but operated with the needs of small community organisations in mind.

Donations and bequests can be made to sub-funds within either of these funds, specifying the uses and beneficiaries to which distributions may be made by the sub-funds. Both require substantial initial donations and an expectation of growth.

The Committee is now seeking feedback from interested members as part of the process of preparing and adopting a formal policy on bequests and donations. It is proposed that the policy would include the following terms:

- that we express our preference that monetary donations be made for the general purposes of the Archives or for such special purposes as the Committee may decide
- that we recognise that in some cases donors may wish to specify, even restrict, the purposes to which their donation is dedicated
- that in such cases we would recommend the creation (or, after the first has been established, the

nomination) of a subfund within the Melbourne Community Foundation Network Ltd.

- that responsibility for establishing such a sub-fund rest with the donor or the executor, but that the Archives commit itself to working with donors or executors to facilitate the process, and to identify the kinds of purposes that might be usefully defined for distributions.

Committee members are keen to discuss this proposal with interested members. In the first instance please contact Graham Willett on [gwillett@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:gwillett@unimelb.edu.au) or 03 8344 6865. A fuller document is available.

### **Camp As ... Melbourne in the Fifties**

Graham Willett has been commissioned by the Melbourne City Council's City Gallery on Swanston Street to curate an exhibition on gay and lesbian Melbourne in the 1950s.

Tentatively titled 'Camp As ... Melbourne in the 1950s', it will highlight an all too often overlooked aspect of our all too often overlooked history. It is a history of repression, of course – of ASIO, the police, of scandal sheets like the *Truth*. But it is also a history of subversion and resistance; a history of a minority that, although criminalised, marginalised and vilified, managed to make a life for itself in the nooks and crannies of their city.

Seen through camp eyes, iconic Melbourne places such as Myers, the Hotel Australia, St Paul's Cathedral took on a secret hue, invisible to those not in the know. Moomba, that great Melbourne event, was very much more camp than most of those watching might have suspected.

The Archives is supporting this project and several of the volunteers are involved in brainstorming and preparing. It will happen during Midsumma 2005.

Highlights will include:

**Val and her Coffee Shop:** Val's attracted a very bohemian crowd – theatricals, communists, and camps. Val herself was an unmissable, flamboyant figure.

**Frank Thring, theatrical Melbourne and Moomba:** Thring's camp persona was always on

display but never so much, perhaps as during his reign as King of Moomba.

**Fred Asmussen and Myers:** Asmussen was head of display at Myers for many years and responsible for the famous Myers windows. He was as openly camp as it was possible to be and provided employment for many camp men. His floats for Myers were among the highlights of the Moomba parade for many years.

**City pubs, parks and toilets:** Men seeking men had fewer options in the 1950s than they do today and the pubs, parks and public toilets of Melbourne served as locations for sex, companionship, socialising.

## Thanks and a call for help!

A farewell and a big thanks to Craig Johnston who has retired as webmaster after two years of service as a volunteer. Originally designed by Steven King assisted by Mary Mavroudis, the website was taken over and maintained for us by Craig from Sydney. Unlike many small groups, the Archives has managed to keep its site up-to-date and even to add new features and expand its content thanks to his efforts.

Craig will be sorely missed – and we are looking for a replacement who has the skills, the interest, a small amount of time (and a fair degree of patience when dealing with the web-illiterate!) to step into his shoes.

Meanwhile, the **working bees** have proved a very successful innovation. Held on Sunday afternoons about once a month, and usually attracting about half a dozen volunteers, we have been working away on a number of projects and making some real progress.

Robert French's invaluable listing of references to homosexuality in the mainstream press (*Gays Between the Broadsheets, 1948-1980* [1986]) is being updated from our clippings collection, which has a lot of more references from the Melbourne press than the original edition had. We are also including references from Wayne Murdoch's listing of references from *Truth* newspaper.

Ken and Mannie and Liz have been heroically going through the accumulated clippings of many years, sorting them.

John Waugh has been listing the theses submitted for our thesis prize over the past five years as well as other theses and dissertations donated to us over the years.

Various volunteers (including Daniel and Kate) have been working on the Posters listing – which now has details of some 400.

Anita is well into listing our very bulky venues file and Daniel the banners.

Other volunteers work from home – including: Lee who has been updating Adam Carr's OutRage index and Kim who is working on our video collection

We hope that when we find a new webmanager we will be able to upload these listings to the website to make them as widely available as possible.

## Dates coming up

### Working bees

Working bees will be held on Sundays, starting 1 pm in the training room at VAC (6 Claremont Street South Yarra), from 1 pm till about 5 on Sundays, 26 September and 7 November

### HH6, Sydney

The Sixth Australian Homosexual Histories Conference, organised by the Australian Centre for Lesbian and Gay Research in collaboration with ALGA is scheduled for Friday – Saturday 1-2 October 2004 at the University of Sydney. See page 3 for more details.

### Committee meetings

ALGA committee meetings are open to interested members – the next two scheduled are on Thursdays 23 September (changed from 30 September) and 25 November, 7.30 pm at VAC

### Annual meeting

ALGA's Annual General Meeting will be held on Wednesday 8 December, 7.30 pm at VAC Training Room

There will be light refreshments after the meeting and all members and friends are invited to attend.

## NLA grant application

ALGA's submission in 2003 to the National Library's Community Heritage Grants program for preservation activities was not successful.

ALGA had asked for funds to digitise the badge and t-shirt collections, in order to minimise handling and exposure to direct light of originals.

While disappointed with the result, there were some useful outcomes from the process, in particular, the development of a preservation policy by Kate Clifford and Rosi Carr, sections of which were reprinted in our last newsletter.

Discussion with the CHG representatives indicated that there may be value in ALGA applying in future

for a preservation assessment. This is under consideration for 2005.

## Thesis Prize 2003

ALGA's 2003 Thesis Prize of \$250 for the best honours thesis on a gay/queer topic was won by Gilbert Caluya for his thesis entitled 'Memoirs of a Gaysha'. Thanks to John Waugh for again judging the award.

## Homosexual Histories 6

The sixth almost-annual Australian Homosexual Histories conference will be held on Friday and Saturday 1-2 October 2004 at the University of Sydney, conveniently timed for Sleaze-loving historians.

Organised by the Australian Centre for Lesbian and Gay Research, in collaboration with ALGA, the conference will celebrate in particular the 20th anniversary of homosexual law reform in NSW - as well as more than 10 years of existence of the ACLGR and more than 25 years of the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives.

The conference is free, though donations to cover costs and to support the work of the organising institutions (both of which are volunteer run, not for profit, community-based organisations) are more than welcome.

Papers to be presented include Sydney gay liberation, Miss Elphinstone Dick; 'the lady swimmer' (1858 - 1902), Kerryn & Jackie, Sydney's queer alternative scene, Bondi's gay gang murders, the Cold War, the Pink Dollar, gay and lesbian writing and publishing, Queensland's homosexual subculture 1890-1914, queer musicology, the human rights of gays and refugees ... and heaps more. Speakers come from as far afield as Perth, Hobart, Brisbane, making the event very nearly national in its reach.

For more details please contact:

Graham Willett, Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives: [gwillett@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:gwillett@unimelb.edu.au)  
03 8344 6865 (w); 0402 703 198 (mob)

Bronwyn Winter, Australian Centre for Lesbian and Gay Research [bronwyn.winter@arts.usyd.edu.au](mailto:bronwyn.winter@arts.usyd.edu.au)

## The Collection: Acquisitions

Recent acquisitions have included:

Photographs of Quentin Buckle's ceremony of release donated by Paul van Reyk. Quentin's life of activism, which began in the 1960s in the anti-war movement, continued in the 1970s as a gay liberationist in Adelaide and Melbourne. He died in Sydney last year.

DVD reproduction of film of camp social events in the 1960s, donated by the filmmaker, Ken Hooke. Four segments include footage of parties and picnics, three in Melbourne and one in Sydney, including a beach party where some spectators seem to stumble good-naturedly into the event.

CD-ROM compilation by the late Jay Bell of gay/lesbian history in the Mormon church, courtesy of the Stonewall library of the University of Utah  
DVD of the 'Pink Files' (musical production based on oral histories of pre-1970s Adelaide gay life), donated by Ian Purcell

List of items held by Screensound (National Film and Sound Archive) with potential queer content, organised by decade - compiled by Barry McKay as part of the Imagining Queer production.

Video, 'Women at the Gay Games in Amsterdam', by Su Ryle and Li Hong, donated by Su Royle

Gayzette records donated by Helen Pausacker

Books donated by John Storey

Missing issue of *Bliss* (no. 18) donated by Betty

Badges and books donated by Brian Holding

Ephemera and newsletters donated by Donal Raethal, (1970s Adelaide and 1990s Darwin)

Oral history interviews with members of the Boilers Society.

## Inaugural Duncan Award

The inaugural George Duncan Award was presented to winners on 10 May 2004 by the South Australian Minister for Families and Communities, Hon Jay Weatherill MP. The award commemorates Dr George Duncan, whose murder on 10 May 1972 precipitated the first major homosexual law reform in Australia. It is for research, writing or a cultural work relating to Australian gay, lesbian, queer, bisexual, transgender or intersex people or matters.

The winners of the inaugural award, who each received a \$1000 cheque, were Stephen Woodlands, who submitted a report on laws that discriminate against homosexual people in South Australia and Peter de Waal of Sydney for his documentation on the history of the Gay and Lesbian Immigration Task Force and the Commonwealth government reforms they have achieved. Following the ceremony at the footbridge over the Torrens River in Victoria Drive, Adelaide (where a plaque commemorating Dr Duncan was unveiled in 2002), a ceremony took place to rename the Adelaide University queer space to the George Duncan Room.

## The Boilers turn 45

Archives committee members were pleased to attend a function in May this year to mark the 45<sup>th</sup>

birthday of the Boilers Society, one of the first gay social groups to form in Australia. Speeches by former presidents of the Boilers attested to the considerable change in the standing of homosexuals since 1959. Nevertheless, judging from the enthusiasm for Boilers activities in 2004, the formula for the Boilers' success seems to be no less relevant now – providing companionship and support in a relaxed social setting. Congratulations to the Boilers, past and present.

## Imagining Queer

A highlight for history buffs at the Melbourne Queer Film Festival in 2004 was *Imagining Queer*, based on a selection of images from 70 years of Australian film and television – material which, consciously or inadvertently, contained queer references or allusions, or revealed assumptions about sex, gender and desire.

The two-part program used material held at ScreenSound, the national screen and sound archive in Canberra. It was curated by Barry McKay, and presented by Marilyn Dooley, who runs a Research & Academic Outreach Program for ScreenSound. The first session covered 1910 to 1950 and consisted entirely of film, including newsreels, silent features, shorts and commercials; the second, from 1950 to 1980, included film and TV.

Congratulations to all concerned on a marvellous achievement.

## History on display

Our Midsumma 2004 history walk attracted about 70 people – considerably down on last year's 200, mostly because we missed out on getting ourselves into the official program. We were pleased to see that we made it into the *Passing Glances* columns of the gay press when the following notice appeared:

*"SUN 8/2. Gay Archives walk in city. You: red, green and white checked shirt, jeans. Me: yellow shirt, 3/4 pants. Would really like to make a history with you! Get in contact. 7018219"*

In March this year Graham Willett conducted a history walk through the CBD for Seniors Week which was attended by about 20 history-lovers. A few weeks before, the Fitzroy-Carlton walk was conducted for a similar number of same-sex attracted youth at the request of a number of local-council groups.

We thank Mark Riley for preparing an application for recognition of ALGA's 2003 Midsumma Walk in Information Victoria's 2004 Community History Awards. We weren't successful but we were given a glimpse of ourselves as part of a thriving world of local and community history.

**Living and Loving**, Melbourne's first ever conference on queer multiculturalism on 15-17 October, will be the site of a display organised by the Archives on the history of multicultural queer. From Cor, the Dutch immigrant in *No End to the Way*, through g&l organising in Australia's ethnic communities, we will be highlighting an often overlooked aspect of our community's history.

Meanwhile, the Museum of Victoria and the State Library of Victoria have decided to fund a survey of collections and holdings relevant to Victorian queer history. The intention is that materials in public institutions and private hands will be identified and recorded for the benefit of future researchers and to help collecting institutions (such as the Museum and the Library) to develop and focus their policies.

## Missing issues

*Centre Lines* (Hobart) We have only one copy in 1995 (August), but we have a complete set from 1996 onwards

*Country AIDS Network* (Castlemaine, Vic) Nos 42 (1999) and 50 and 52 (2000), 59 and 61 (2001), 69 (2002), 72 (2003)

*Globe Newsletter* (Melbourne) No 46 (1996) and any issues since no 80 (Oct 1999)

*Panda* (Canberra) Vol 4, Issue 8, September 1996, plus June, July, August, September, October, November 1995 if these were ever issued.

*Sydney Gay Liberation Newsletter* No 14 (1973)

*Brother Sister* (Qld) No 33 (1994), No 137 (1998), Nos 163-165 (1999), and any issue after No 167 in 2000.

*Gayline Newsletter* (SA), Nos 213 and 221 (1997); 240 (1999); 250 and 252 (2000), and any issues after no 253 (Sep 2000)

*Talkabout* (Sydney), Nos 30 (March 1993), 41-46 (Mar – Aug 1994), 80 (Oct 1997)

We have only a few issues of *SX* in Sydney before it went national. And we've still not managed to get on the mailing list for *Women Out West* in Perth. If you happen to have a set of these (or some clout with the publishers) we'd love to hear from you.

*If you can help with any of these, please email Graham Carbery (Periodicals Secretary) on [algarchives@hotmail.com](mailto:algarchives@hotmail.com).*

## Thanks

The Archives acknowledges the following people for making donations in 2004:

KWA	Laurie Bebbington
Gordon Campbell	Michael Carnes
David Connolly	Harriet Cornfeld-Fraser
Christopher Cutler	Mannie De Saxe
Peter Di Sciascio	Robert Gibbs
David Hilliard	Carol Hutchinson
Leigh Keen	Kendall Lovett
Richard Peterson	Ian Purcell
John Rickard	Mark Riley
Keith Stodden	Richard Stone
Rohan Storey	Alison Thorne

And we would like to thank John Rickard whose donation has enabled ALGA to purchase a much needed replacement photocopier.

## Websites of interest

<http://www.andrewsloat.com/lki/> for an on-line exhibition curated by Jonathan Ned Katz, titled 'The Pink and the Blue', on lesbian and gay life at Yale and Connecticut, 1642-2004.

<http://www.glbtq.com/> for an online encyclopedia of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer culture. Use the search facility on the home page to find Australian references, of which there are several. The general editor is Dr Claude Summers from the University of Michigan. ALGA's Graham Willett is among the 300 contributors. Michelle Antoinette from Monash University has contributed entries on William Dobell and Donald Friend.

[http://www.dw-world.de/english/0,3367,1441\\_A\\_1242635\\_1\\_A,00.html](http://www.dw-world.de/english/0,3367,1441_A_1242635_1_A,00.html), for an on-line article by Barry McKay for Deutche Welle on Berlin's Gay Museum. For those whose PCs have Real Player (for audio), there is a radio interview by Barry about the museum at <http://barrymckaydw.tripod.com/arts.html>

[http://www.glcsnsw.org.au/about/long\\_history.html](http://www.glcsnsw.org.au/about/long_history.html) for a history of the NSW Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service, including its predecessor, Phone-A-Friend, which operated within the NSW branch of CAMP. The history is written by life member Peter Trebilco.

<http://www.101media.com.au/elders/home.html> for the Elders website, includes transcripts of interviews with Jan Hillier on Joy Radio from November 2000, with friends of Monte Punshon and with Richard James.

## Pride History Group forms in Sydney

After several months of preparatory work, a number of people in Sydney have established an organisation to collect and preserve materials relating to GLBTQ lives, politics and communities in Sydney and to educate the community and the public through programs, exhibitions and publications.

The Pride History group had its origins in a project to celebrate the anniversary of 1973's Gay Pride Week, the first nationally-organised gay rights campaign in Australia.

ALGA welcomes this development and wishes the group well.

## Periodicals list updated

The eighth edition of ALGA's periodicals list is about to be published, recording ALGA's holdings by title and issue number as at 31 December 2003.

It includes an updated shelf list of our bound volumes, which now number 347, compared with 286 when the last edition was issued three years ago.

It is timely to acknowledge a very good friend of the Archives, Mr John Marks of Lalor, who has been binding the Archives' periodicals since the Archives started in 1978.

John learnt his trade while working at Yooralla Spastic Society in the 1960s, went out on his own in the late 1970s and has a workshop set up in his garage at home. Whereas most modern books are glued along the spine rather than stitched, a feature of John's work is that he continues to use the traditional stitching method. John's wife, Cynthia, does the stitching. Stitching requires more work but it strengthens the book and makes it easier to open up, which is particularly important for photocopying. A stitched bound volume will last at lot longer than a volume that is glued, as glue will eventually dry and crack causing the volume to fall apart. John's work is of a high quality and the amount he charges is about half what commercial book-binding companies charge.

Unfortunately we may not have the services of John for much longer. He recently became seriously ill and may have to stop working soon. It will be sad to end our association. John Marks has been a good friend to the Archives, not only by doing quality work at a more than reasonable price, but his support of us in the late 1970s was much appreciated. Lesbian and gay organisations experienced open hostility in those days and many businesses would have declined to accept our

business (or if they did they would have charged us more!) but John has always been welcoming and accepting.

Graham Carbery

Copies of ALGA's periodicals list can be purchased for \$10 (add \$3 if you would like us to post a copy to you).

## Books of interest

*Little Black Bastard*, Noel Tovey (Hodder Headline). Noel Tovey's autobiography is in part the story of one aboriginal man's coming to recognise his homosexuality in 1940s and 1950s Melbourne.

*Radical Melbourne 2*, by Geoff Sparrow and Jill Sparrow (Vulgar Press) contains a chapter on Val's Coffee Shop (123 Swanston Street), a bohemian, camp-friendly venue in the early 1950s run by one of the pioneers of Melbourne's gay social venues.

## John Lewis

**25 April 1942 – 7 November 2003**

We are saddened to report the death from cancer late last year of John Lewis, who was known and held in high regard by many of us.

As a member of the Central Committee of the Victorian Secondary Teachers Association (VSTA) from 1977 to 1983, John played a central role in the adoption of landmark anti-discrimination policies by Victorian and national teachers' unions teachers in the 1970s and 1980s. As an out gay teacher in difficult times, he also did much unheralded work through his union to assist individual gay and lesbian teachers facing discrimination.

Less well known perhaps to those of us in the gay movement is John's reputation as a teacher. On 17 November 2003, *Education Age* published an obituary by Terry Hayes, former chief assessor of literature, in which Hayes said he considered John 'to be the seminal figure in the teaching of literature in Victoria in the past 20 or so years'.

A tribute to John in the magazine of the Australian Education Union by former VSTA president Brian Henderson described John as 'the embodiment of what teacher unionism stands for, a brilliant teacher widely respected by his peers and a progressive social activist and staunch unionist.'

The ALGA committee extends condolences to John's partner of 30 years, Graeme McKenzie.

## Sydney Morals, 1958

Continued from page 7

of the day drinking in the pubs, and if you are lucky your staggering feet may lead you to escape the cruising Black Marias which are hunting for drunks, and thus escape the customary ten-shilling fine. A convenient side-line income for policemen, this! Sometimes, even sober people are caught (it is enough to express some kind of gaiety) and the unlucky person will find himself behind bars. That night, at home in bed, you can read a sensationalised scandal in one of the many such magazines – and another happy day has come to its end...

Recently in New South Wales an inquiry into homosexuality, along the lines of the Wolfenden Committee, was established by the government, to study its causes, treatments and effects. It is hard to visualise and [sic] progressive steps resulting from the Committee's findings. Not, at any rate, in our lifetime!

Censorship regulations have recently been tightened up, along the lines of that infamous example in Ireland. The reaction of the public was to pack for two months a small theatre, 'The Independent' where Tennessee William's "Cat on a hot tin roof" (including its homosexual references) was being played. The great success prompted the management to bring next "A view from the bridge", a similarly controversial play by Arthur Miller.

It would seem that the strictest censorship, severe and antiquated laws, tough-acting, conviction-happy police are unable to wipe out or keep permanently suppressed, mans basic biological need – whatever its form of expression.

Footnote: (by the author). To test the fairness of the points discussed above, in addition to the impression of many cutting from the *Daily Telegraph* of Sydney (Feb./Apr. 1958), I showed this paper to 17 friends, from between 16 to 60 years of age with from Secondary to University education. All approved of it, and agreed with the points discussed. Fourteen volunteered to recall their personal experiences similar to those I have mentioned.

## About Homodok

Homodok-Lesbian Archives Amsterdam (source of the above article) and the Anna Blaman Huis in Leeuwarden collectively comprise IHLIA, the International Homo/Lesbian Information Center and Archive. Their website <http://www.ihlia.nl> includes English pages. IHLIA's database totals over 100,000 titles. Over 1500 meters of shelves hold 20,000 books, 4800 magazines titles, 2000 videotapes and DVDs with movies, documentaries, television series and advertisements, 6500 posters and tens of thousand of theses, brochures, and Dutch government policy papers, bills and laws.

## Sydney Morals, 1958

While browsing through the Homodok Gay & Lesbian Archives in Amsterdam last year, Graham Willett came across the following in the *ICSE Newsletter*, December 1958. ICSE was the International Committee for Sexual Equality, a European lobby group established in the 1950s. Graham believes this must be one of the earliest articles about Australian camp life published anywhere. Are readers aware of anything earlier?

*The ICSE receives many letters from friends all over the world. We print here a report received earlier this year from an Australian subscriber who is anonymous.*

IN AUSTRALIA, WITH ITS MILD CLIMATE and beautiful coastal shore, Nature has done everything to ensure for the inhabitants a balanced and tolerant sexual outlook. The natives, the dark-skinned aboriginals, have that.

But the Anglo-Saxons managed to establish a sex-frustrated community suffering under a church-dominated guilt complex. Gambling, drinking, sex, and other forms of like human activity are considered sinful, and is kept hidden or dismissed as being a fairy-tale. Sex especially so. The people must, therefore, resort to the 'lesser evils' – gambling and drinking. The racecourse, the illegally operated gaming houses, the pubs – all are packed.

Only marital relations are considered clean. Any other form of sexual activity is considered shameful and sinful. Girls are frigid, uninterested in sex and have virginity-fixations. But as unmarried people still seem to need a sexual outlet, they turn to the line of least resistance: young girls are singled out and raped. Recently, two girls were dragged from the "Ladies Methodist College" and raped. One of them being murdered in the process. Young boys and girls are unsafe from the age of six years upwards. Some years ago, a soldier aged 20 years was convicted for raping a woman aged 80. The newspapers are full of sex-crimes – murder, rape, violence, people peeping into bedrooms and every sort of perversion.

It could hardly be otherwise, because the antiquated sex laws are harsh, cruel, and run contrary to human biological needs. Indeed, only a frustrated or frigid person could hope not to run against any of them. Especially the million or so migrants from Europe, used to more liberal sexual attitudes, have little chance of not coming into contact with the police.

The maximum sentence for the 'abominable' crime' is fourteen years hard labour. In practice, however, homosexual behaviour carries usually a sentence of from 1 to 4 years imprisonment, if it is clearly proved. Nevertheless, Sydney still has its few 'friendly' bars where homosexuals gather. These activities are checked and prosecuted by a harsh gestapo-like police force, which employs extorted statements, beatings, perjuries and any sort of bullying to gain a conviction. The more convictions,

the more chances there are for promotion.

Considerable amounts of money change hands in bribes. Although British justice is fairly impartial and tries to give every chance to the defendant, effeminate youngsters are often ignorant of their basic rights and fall victim to unfair police tricks and broken promises. They are easy prey for conviction-seeking policemen.

It is more difficult to do this to more experienced and intelligent adults, who know that the courts do not tolerate beatings, do not accept extorted statements and bullyings, as leading to admissible evidence. Juries, aware of the customary police methods, often acquit in cases where they have sympathy with the defendant.

Police search parks, with torches, sometimes watching from trees or near by roofs: well-known lavatories are constantly under observation, and it was in was of these that a well known Chilean pianist was arrested allegedly for winking at a man – and a police-sergeant at that! Another world famous musician (a conductor) was arrested, and charged with smuggling indecent photographs into the country. Both were fined only five pounds, but the cases ridiculed Australian morality.

Such laws and attitudes are 'upheld' by Churchmen, the Housewives' Association, the Temperance League, the Lord's Day Observance Society and similar frustrated bodies divorced from and uninterested in every-day life.

In March of this year, some politicians on a fact finding tour of jails – where flogging is still a punishment – belatedly discovered what any school-boy would surely know: that homosexuality was rife in the prisons. To prevent this it was decided to put three prisoners in one cell. On the 15th of April two young prisoners were charged with holding down their cellmate and committing in turn an offence upon him. The third youth complained next day to the Warden, the other two were charged. They denied the offence and were acquitted on the following day. But there must be thousands of cases where nobody complains and only the participants know anything about it.

Most single men live in 'residential' – houses with rented rooms. Usually no visitors are allowed, and so the tenants keep pets – canaries, cats, and goldfish to share their loneliness. The customary weekend in Australia is spent in the morning at the races, the rest

Continued page 7

## Why an Archives – and how you can contribute

The Archives is the memory of the gay and lesbian community. We aim to preserve records of Australian homosexual life, past and present, for use by future generations.

The Archives has been going since 1978. The collection of periodicals is probably the core of the Archives' collection. But we also seek records of gay and lesbian life outside of organised groups, through personal letters, photographs and other memorabilia, including from times before there was a gay movement. We also encourage those with recollections of pre-movement days to record these for posterity through the Archives' Oral History Project. Requests for confidentiality are strictly adhered to.

**You can support the Archives financially** by becoming a member (\$20, \$5 concession, \$1 joining fee), or by making a donation. All donations to the Archives over \$2 are tax deductible.

**For those with the time and interest, you can contribute as a volunteer.** There is a range of tasks to suit people's different talents and levels of commitment. For example:

- ◆ writing to groups around Australia to let them know about the Archives, and seeking their support
- ◆ listing and ordering parts of the collection that are of interest to you, eg. t-shirts, banners or posters, theses, venues, theatre programs.
- ◆ taking care of the collection of a group that has special significance to you – ordering and listing that group's papers, maybe interviewing some of the people who are involved in running the group
- ◆ photocopying and ordering press clippings
- ◆ liaising with other collectors of gay and lesbian material, and arranging swaps of duplicate material
- ◆ helping with fund raising and organising major events (trivia nights, conferences etc)
- ◆ helping us distribute ALGA publications to bookshops
- ◆ writing promotional material to help raise awareness of the Archives
- ◆ arranging displays
- ◆ helping us solve the perennial problem of insufficient space.

**The Archives lives in the basement of VAC at 6 Claremont Street, South Yarra. We are open for visits by appointment. Tel. (03) 9482 1184, or email on [gwillett@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:gwillett@unimelb.edu.au)**

### SUBSCRIBE FOR 2005



**Note to existing members**  
**please disregard this form – which is for readers of the newsletter who are not already members.**

**Existing members will be invited to renew for 2005 later this year.**

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Postcode \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to become a member and enclose

\$1 joining fee (new members only) \$ .....

\$20 (full membership) \$ .....

or \$5 (student or pensioner concession) \$ .....

Donation (tax deductible over \$2) \$ .....

TOTAL \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please make cheques payable to 'Australian Lesbian & Gay Archives', or 'ALGA'.

Please indicate if you are agreeable to your donation being publicly acknowledged, eg. in ALGA's newsletter:

Yes  No

If yes, please state if you are happy for your full name or only your initials to be used.

Full name  Initials only

In the case of donations over \$50, ALGA would like to acknowledge the donation as sponsoring the binding of a periodical. This would be in the form of a slip pasted inside the cover of a bound volume. Are you agreeable to this?

\_\_\_\_\_

If more than one person is the donor, please print names and \$ for each

\_\_\_\_\_

.....  
 Signature

Please return this form to ALGA at  
 PO Box 124, Parkville, Vic 3052



