

alga NEWSLETTER

Australian Lesbian & Gay Archives Inc
Website: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~alga/>
Incorporated Assn No. A0000240Z
ABN 92 450 443 760

PO Box 124, Parkville, Vic 3052
Email: algarchives@hotmail.com
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Homosexual Histories 7

The homosexual histories conference returns to Melbourne for the first time since 2000.

Kate Davison and Daniel Marshall have put together a most impressive program for the seventh HH conference, to be held at the Gryphon Gallery, Graduate Centre, University of Melbourne (Grattan Street near corner of Swanston), on Saturday-Sunday 5-6 November.

People can still register for the conference – either on the form enclosed, or via ALGA's website at

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

To keep the conference as accessible as possible, registration is free. Any donations to ALGA will of course be welcome, tax deductible for \$2 or more. For planning purposes, people are encouraged to register.

For more details please contact:

Kate Davison, kate.davison@rmit.edu.au or
Daniel Marshall, mobile 0418 897 054

The conference is jointly sponsored by ALGA, the Postgraduate Association of University of Melbourne and Melbourne University Student Union.

Thesis prize 2004

ALGA's 2004 prize for the best fourth year honours thesis on a topic related to homosexuality was awarded to Ewan Evans from the Australian National University for his thesis, '(Un)Representing Queer: A Cultural Critique of Representations of Gay Men in the Mainstream Media'. Those who attended the Homosexual Histories conference in Sydney 2004 may recall Ewan's presentation of a part of his thesis, 'The personal is political consumption: the pink dollar'.

ALGA has suspended the thesis prize in 2005 (Graham Willett is indispensable), but we're hoping to resume in 2006. The prize has drawn much interest among students since it was first offered in 1999, and the benefit to ALGA's collection has been significant. For an indication of the breadth of theses now in our collection, visit the ALGA website at:

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

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Dates coming up

HH7 conference

Sat-Sun 5-6 November – see opposite

Working bee

The last ALGA open day / working bee for 2005 will be held on Sunday 27 November, in the training room at VAC (6 Claremont Street South Yarra), from 1 pm till about 5. Ring 9499 1769 if you're interested to attend, or email algarchives@hotmail.com

Annual meeting

ALGA's annual general meeting is scheduled for Wednesday 7 December, 7.30 pm at VAC Training Room, 5 Claremont Street, South Yarra. Refreshments provided. All members and friends are welcome (voting is restricted to financial members for the 2004-05 financial year which ended 30/9/05).

History walks

ALGA will offer a history walk twice as part of the 2006 Midsumma festival – same route both times, the idea being to make the numbers more manageable. This year we are also asking people to register in advance (email: algarchives@hotmail.com, or phone 9499 1769). The dates are Sundays 22 January and 5 February, meet 10.30 am at the State Library forecourt on the corner of Swanston and Latrobe Streets, and finish at McArthur Place (Gordon Reserve, near Treasury Building). Speakers will include Wayne Murdoch and Liz Ross. The cost is \$10 / \$5 concession, which includes a program produced by Helen Pausacker (who produced the much admired program for ALGA's fSt Kilda walk at the 2005 Midsumma).

The Collections Survey

During 2005, a survey of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender collections was conducted by Kate Davison, employed by Museum Victoria, in a joint project with State Library Victoria and ALGA. The survey report is in the final stages, and more will be reported to ALGA members next year. Suffice to say this has been a very fruitful project. As well as yielding previously unknown collections, the project has helped build constructive working relationships with a range of individuals, community groups and the sponsoring organisations. Congratulations to Kate and the volunteers who assisted in the project.

Here is an article from ALGA president Graham Willett, who has been living and working in Berlin since March this year.

So schwule ...

We all know Gay Berlin. Small city, huge gay and lesbian (and, oh yes definitely, *queer*) scene. But for those of us with a historian's bent, there is a thriving gay and lesbian history scene as well – something for the daytimes!

The Nazi years hang heavily over Berlin, especially in this, the 60th anniversary year of the liberation. They figure strongly, too, in the history of gay and lesbian life and politics. But this period is by no means the end of the story; or even the beginning. Some of us will know of the long years of political work associated with Magnus Hirschfeld and his Scientific-Humanitarian Committee (1897-1933). Others hark back further to Ulrichs' lonely struggle in the 1860s.

Much of what we know is due to the efforts of gay and lesbian scholars here, working for the most part independently, outside of the universities. Much of it is made available via the Schwules (slang for 'gay') Museum, which for about twenty years now has been collecting materials from Germany and around the world. In a large old building the Archives has been preserving, and a special exhibitions space has been displaying, the country's queer history. In the last year or so, thanks to state funding, this all-volunteer group has been able to open a permanent exhibition about Germany's homosexual history. And what an exhibition it is! Beautifully presented, chock full of information and stories and artefacts, it is a delight to visit. There is a very fine catalogue (in English and German versions) and guided tours (ditto) on Saturday afternoons – at which there are always good numbers of people.

Beyond the walls of the Museum-Archive, our history is visible too. At Nollendorfplatz, the heart of gay Berlin in the 1920s (and one of the hearts again today), there is a pink granite triangle affixed to the wall of the U-Bahn, a memorial to gay victims of the Nazis. On the day of the Pride march (Christopher Street Day as it is, rather oddly, called here) there were a number of wreaths. Meanwhile, plans for a major memorial, to be located in the Tiergarten not far from the new Memorial to the Murdered Jews of Europe are well underway, with the (in Berlin, inevitable) design competition happening and due to be decided by the end of the year. Again, state funding has played an important part in making this possible, but it is the work of volunteers that sustains and maintains the effort.

Homosexuals are an accepted part of the national story now, mentioned alongside other groups of victims on the National Memorial to the Victims of War and Oppression and prominently discussed in the

materials of the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, where many were sent in 1933 and after.

But at the local level too, gay people (men, especially, it must be said) are acknowledged. One of the more remarkable forms of remembrance are the *stolperstein*, literally 'stumble stones', small brass plaques set into the cobbled streets of Berlin outside the houses of people taken by the Nazis. There are thousands of these all over Germany, and three at least in Berlin commemorate homosexual men. All the stones have is name, date of birth and death (where known) and fate (arrested, deported, killed etc), but they are often all the more powerful for that simplicity. Similarly, wandering the streets one day, a bit lost, I came across a small park dedicated to Kurt Hiller, whose struggles for homosexual rights began in 1908 and extended into the 1960s. Where the Scientific-Humanitarian Committee had its headquarters (a building looted in the early days of the Nazi terror) there stands a small memorial to Hirschfeld and his colleagues.

For a city of three million people, Berlin has a remarkable cultural richness, and this applies as much to queer history as to any other aspect of life here.

Websites:

The Schwules Museum

<http://www.schwulesmuseum.de/>

The Memorial Site for the Homosexual Victims of National Socialism <http://www.gedenkort.de/eng-start.htm>

The Magnus Hirschfeld Society, established in 1982 to honour the man and his work [www.hirschfeld.in-berlin.de](http://www.hirschfeld-in-berlin.de)

Graham Willett

'Hidden History' is launched

The film *Hidden History of Homosexual Australia* was released in May 2005. Commissioned by SBS, and directed by Con Anemogiannis, *Hidden History* takes a panoramic look at the history of gays and lesbians in Australia, from settlement convict days through to the present. The film is built around archival records, popular media depictions of homosexuality and contemporary interviews with gay and lesbian historians and public figures, including Garry Wotherspoon, Sue Wills, Lex Watson, Ruth Ford, David Marr and John Marsden. ALGA's Graham Willett and Wayne Murdoch were among those who contributed commentary and research.

Early feedback suggests that *Hidden Histories* is proving a valuable resource for tertiary studies. It is now available on DVD, 84 minutes, distributed by Roadshow, cost Aus\$29.95. One online source is

<http://www.ezydvd.com.au/item.zml/778415>

Acquisitions

Recent acquisitions by ALGA have included:

CDs provided by Tony Whelan of gay radio programs in 1977 in Townsville (first known discussion of homosexuality on Townsville Radio) and in Western Australian 1978 to 1985.

DVD from Rainbow Visions Hunter of presentations at their research seminar held in 2004 on GLBTIQ ageing by Jo Harrison and Peter Robinson

Photo albums compiled by the late Dennis O'Keefe, donated by Russell Grant – depicting camp life in Melbourne in the 1960s and 1970s

Periodicals donated by Paul Drakeford, including some rare physique mags that were in circulation in Australia in the 1960s (though not published in Australia)

Personal records relating to Team Melbourne donated by Adam Pickvance

Various materials (books, periodicals, posters etc) donated by ALSO Foundation, Australian Council for Lesbian and Gay Research (Sydney), Victorian AIDS Council, Victorian Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby, Helen Pausacker, Ashley Roberts, Barry Smith, Ron Thiele

PhD thesis from University of Otago by Roger LeBlanc, 'The first fifteen': understanding the conspiracy of silence of gay rugby players in Aotearoa/New Zealand'. We requested a copy of this thesis following Roger's presentation at the Sixth Homosexual Histories Conference in Sydney, 2004. The thesis is based on interviews with fifteen New Zealand gay male rugby players aged 25 to 63.

New books

Three recent books that may be of interest to ALGA readers are:

- Richard Peterson's *A place of sensuous resort; buildings of St Kilda and their people*, no 6 in a series published by the St Kilda Historical Society, 2005. Includes a chapter on the Prince of Wales Hotel, which traces the architectural and social history of the Prince back to 1936, with references to the Prince's homosexual clientele from its earliest days. Miss Elphinstone-Dick, who will be known to devotees of ALGA history walks, gets a mention in the St Kilda sea baths chapter as a swimming tutor in the nineteenth century. The same chapter recalls interesting facts about the acceptable standards of "decency" and dress in different eras. This book is well researched and written (and we say that not just because Richard's an ALGA member!). Available for \$18 including postage from the St Kilda Historical Society, PO Box 177, Balacalva 3183. For a sample, see the Society's website

<http://www.skhs.org.au/SKHSbuildings/buildings.htm>

- *Traffic* Number Six, 2005, a special issue, Quotidian Queer, co-edited by Daniel Marshall and Natasha Harris. *Traffic* is a twice-yearly interdisciplinary journal published by the Postgraduate Association of University of Melbourne. This issue features a range of writing: essays, fiction, conversations, retrospective and reviews. For queer history buffs, see especially Daniel Marshall's Young Gay and Proud in Retrospect, and Kate Davison's review of Australian Homosexual Histories Conference 6 (Sydney 2004). Crossing the boundaries of history, criticism and memoir, is Joan Nestle's touching appreciation of Henry Von Doussa's writing about beat sex, Watchful Eyes, which is itself a contribution to this collection. For more about *Traffic*, including content from previous issues, visit the website
<http://www.umpa.unimelb.edu.au/traffic/>

- 'Self Confidence and Persistence: Two Hundred Years of History', Schwules Museum, Berlin Exhibition and Catalog 2004, by Andreas Sternweiller, 190 pages, includes illustrations in full colour. It covers the Museum's permanent exhibition which spans the period from the witch burnings of the Middle Ages through to the movement of the 1970s and beyond. Refer Graham Willett's article in this newsletter, p2.

Websites of interest

To keep up to date on the activities of the Pride History Group in Sydney, visit

<http://www.pridehistorygroup.org.au/>

PHG is focusing on oral history collection in 2005-06, particularly the history of Sydney venues before 1978. The email address for PHG is mail@pridehistorygroup.org.au or contact the secretary, John Witte, at jwitte@chilli.net.au

For a nice example of queer history on line, check out, Brighton Ourstory: 200 years of gay and lesbian history at

<http://www.brightonourstory.co.uk/history.htm>

The British seaside resort has a particularly rich history of queerness, and guess what, it includes Miss Harriet Elphinstone Dick, who we'd rather thought of as our own. Harriet Rowell (Elphinstone Dick was her professional name as a swimming teacher in the 1870s) came from Brighton (UK), where she met and fell in love with Alice Moon. Harriet and Alice emigrated to Australia in 1879 to teach callisthenics at their gymnasium in Melbourne's city centre. But in UK Brighton folklore, she is more renowned for her long distance swimming feats, including a 2 hour 43 minute swim in a rough September sea from Shoreham to Brighton.

Harriet Elphinstone Dick has become something of an online celebrity for her pioneering contribution to

women's sports, callisthenics in particular. Do a Google search and as well as ALGA references (courtesy of Wayne Murdoch's research), you'll see links to ABC Radio's Sports Factor (9 July 2004), University of Queensland talking history on line, the Oxford Companion of Australian Sport, among others. The Victorian State Library has a lovely picture of Harriet Elphinstone Dick at:
<http://www.slv.vic.gov.au/misccpics/0/1/3/doc/mp013347.shtml>

Vali Myers – studio, films

Earlier this year ALGA received an enquiry from Julia Inglis, asking if we could help her make contact with people who knew the late Vali Myers, a dancer and painter who left Melbourne in 1949 to live in Paris, New York and Positano in Southern Italy before returning to Melbourne in 1995, where she lived until her death in 2003, aged 73.

Vali was a part of Bohemian Melbourne in the late 1940s, and a frequenteur of Val's Coffee Shop at 123 Swanston Street. By a combination of luck and detective work, we were able to help Julia make contact with Val herself – that is another story – the point of this story is to alert interested people to a wonderful part of Melbourne social history which survives in work being done by friends of Vali Myers.

By modern definitions, Vali would have to be considered 'queer'. She was a free spirit, a sensualist, an original in every sense (dress, personality and artistic achievement).

Friends of Vali's have managed to keep open the studio where Vali Myers worked, located on the 7th floor of the Nicholas Building at 37 Swanston Street – so that more people can better appreciate Vali's extraordinary life and work. With stunning views over the roof of St Paul's, the studio is being kept in as close to the original working state as possible. There is a range of Vali's beautiful, fine drawings, and a host of memorabilia. Open on Thursdays and Fridays 11 to 4 pm or by appointment, tel (03) 9650 4014, it is well worth a look – allow a good hour or more to take it in properly.

There have been several films made about Vali, and two by Melbourne filmmaker Ruth Cullen have been digitally remastered and screened recently at ACMI. Now available on DVD, the films are titled 'The tightrope walker' (1990) and 'Painted lady' (2001). For those of us who never knew Vali, the films capture this remarkable woman in all her vitality.

For further information, visit www.valimyers.com

Gary Jaynes

Binding of periodicals

It is almost one year ago that Jack Marks, our long-time bookbinder died. Until his death Jack had done all the bookbinding for the Archives. Not only was the quality of Jack's work terrific, his prices were very

reasonable. If we had to get our binding done by a commercial bookbinder we would have to pay at least double what Jack charged us.

Not long after Jack's funeral I got a phone call from Jack's son, Ian, who told me he was thinking of taking up his dad's business. Ian said he was going to do some formal training to develop his skills. I told Ian we would be happy for him to do our binding if he decided to take the business on.

Fortunately for us Ian has taken the business on and so far this year has bound some 25 volumes for us. I'm sure Ian won't mind me saying that the quality of his work is not quite up to his dad's standard yet, but he is getting there, and we are pleased to continue our relationship with the Marks family.

Ian enjoys books and often visits second-hand bookshops. A few months ago he came across a tattered paperback that he thought might be of interest to us and bought it for fifty cents. The book is called *The Drag Scene* and was published in London in 1970. When I told Ian we didn't have a copy of this book he repaired it, and re-bound it, and donated it to the Archives. This was a generous gesture and one that is greatly appreciated.

Let's hope Ian Marks remains our bookbinder for as long as his father did.

Graham Carbery (Periodical Secretary)

Periodicals update

Researchers, and others, continue to make good use of our periodicals collection, which arguably the single most important part of our collection.

When people see the collection the first thing that hits them is the impressive number of bound periodicals we have (almost 400 now). We continue to place great emphasis on maintaining complete sets of as many Australian periodicals as possible, although we occasionally miss out on a issue here and there and have to chase them up (more about that later). Users often tell us that their research is made so much easier having access to so many periodicals in the one place and they appreciate the fact that we have a large number of complete sets. Researchers frequently bemoan the fact that university collections of lesbian and gay periodicals are nearly always incomplete, and therefore of limited value to them.

When we published the last edition of our periodicals list we had 825 separate titles in the collection. Since then we have added quite a few new titles. Some of these are new lesbian and gay magazines/newspapers/newsletters, but interestingly quite a few are publications that have ceased but of which we knew nothing. The following is a sample: *Banshee* a bi-monthly Melbourne lesbian magazine (1992); *Elam* newsletter of the Hunter Lesbian Group (1998); *Hunky* gay male erotic magazine (1981-82); *Melbourne Marching Girls Newsletter* (2001);

Switched On newsletter of Gay and Lesbian Switchboard Melbourne (2001) and *Views* newsletter of the AIDS Council of NSW Volunteer Management Team (1998).

We would like to ask readers of this newsletter to help us fill gaps in our collection. While most publishers support us by putting us on their mailing list and sending us gratis copies of their publication, every now and then we seem to miss an issue. The following is a list of the most glaring gaps in our collection and if you, or someone you know, could provide us with copies of these missing issues we would be very grateful.

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

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)

Gay Left no 2 (1975 or 1976)

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

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)

SX National No 26 (May 2005), No 29 (Aug 2005)

Vintage News April 2003, August 2003, July 2005.

We have only a few issues of *SX* in Sydney before it went national, and one issue for *Women Out West* from Perth.

Also does anyone know when *Lesbiana* ceased publication? The last issue we have is No 130 (March 2004). And was No 10 in 1980 the last issue of *Gay Left*?

Our collection of *Queensland Pride* has quite a few gaps in it now. We had a complete set up to No 123 (May 2001), but they stopped arriving after that date. Quite wrongly we assumed that it had folded, or was taken over by the Satellite publishing group which purchased several gay publications in late 2000.

Earlier this year we came across a 2004 issue of *Queensland Pride* in a collection of material that had been donated to us. I followed this up by contacting the original publisher, Wally Cowin. Wally had sold *Queensland Pride* in 2001 and somehow we had fallen off the mailing list. The current publisher has kindly put us back on the mailing list. Fortunately Wally and the current publisher were able to give us quite a few of the missing issues, for which we are

most grateful, however the following are still missing: Nos 126, 130, 145, 150, 151, 155-163, 168-178, 191, 193, 199.

Graham Carbery
Periodicals Secretary

Recent research at the Archives

University of Chicago undergraduate student, Derek Ciszek, spent most of his summer holiday in Australia recently researching a history thesis. Derek is writing about the link between the call in 1978 from the San Francisco Gay Freedom Day Committee for gay activists around the world to celebrate the ninth anniversary of the Stonewall Riots in New York, and the beginning of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras.

Derek emailed us while he was in Sydney and we were able to put him in contact with several people who were prominent in organizing the first Mardi Gras in 1978. Derek taped interviews with about eight 78ers. As a result of the information gained through these interviews Derek contacted us again asking if he could access documents relating to Mardi Gras. Fortunately we had all the documents he wanted and he spent two days at the Archives reviewing and copying material.

The undergraduate program at the University of Chicago requires all students to submit a major thesis as part of their final year coursework. The University offers twenty travelling scholarships to final year undergraduates which enable the successful students to travel anywhere overseas to conduct research for their thesis. Derek was one of the successful applicants and chose to visit Australia to conduct his research. Derek's thesis will be finished in April 2006 and he has promised to send us a copy.

Chauncey visiting lecture

George Chauncey, author of *Gay New York: the making of the gay male world, 1890-1940* was in Australia recently, guest speaker for a conference at the Australian National University. Whilst passing by Melbourne he gave a most interesting public lecture at Melbourne Uni about aspects of his current research, which picks up where *Gay New York* left off, ie. from the second world war to the rise of the Gay Liberation movement in the late 1960s. The Melbourne lecture was titled 'The strange career of the closet', in which he argues that the idea of the 'closet' that the post-gay lib generations are familiar with is quite distinct from the 'double life' which is so frequently mentioned in oral histories with gay men who lived through the 1940s and 1950s. Watch out for this book when it gets to be published. Chauncey is a meticulous researcher who can write (and speak) engagingly. His book is likely to challenge in surprising ways.

Gary Jaynes

GayWaves and ACLGR

Two long standing organisations in Sydney have ceased operating this year: the weekly GayWaves program on radio station 2SER-FM went to air for the last time on 14 April, and the Australian Centre for Lesbian and Gay Research, attached to the University of Sydney, was disbanded at a general meeting on 3 March.

GayWaves began in 1980, and has been a vigorous voice for gay and lesbian matters over its 25 year life. Management of 2SER-FM decided to replace it with a new program called Queernoise.

The Australian Centre for Lesbian and Gay Research was established in 1993 to facilitate multi-disciplinary research into issues related to lesbians and gay men. ACLGR hosted an array of conferences, public lectures, seminars and occasional forums and workshops. It has been a prolific publisher, including the Gay and Lesbian Perspective series (5 vols, the last of them co-published with ALGA), Gary Symes' Bibliography of Homosexuality; A Research Guide to the University of Sydney Library (1998) and Health In Difference Conference Proceedings.

One of the panels at the forthcoming HH7 conference titled The Future of the Queer Past – Directions in Historical Research will be addressed by Bronwyn Winter and Garry Wotherspoon, two people who played key roles in ACLGR's work over the years.

'Camp As ...'

A highlight of the 2005 Midsumma Festival was an exhibition at the Melbourne Town Hall, 'Camp as ... Melbourne in the Fifties', curated by Graham Willett and sponsored by Melbourne City Council. The exhibition attracted good publicity and sizable attendances for nearly a month. A forum accompanying the exhibition 'Secret life of us – fifty glorious years of gay and lesbian Melbourne' was also well received. Chaired by Graham, a panel comprising speakers on different eras (Noel Tovey on the 50s, Laurie Bebbingon 70s, Trace Wall 80s and Mark Robinson the 90s onwards) sparked lively discussion with a near full-house audience at the Lower Melbourne Town Hall on 3 February.

The exhibition's comments book indicated people thought that more 50s camp memorabilia is available than was displayed. Sadly that is not the case – visual material relating to the 1950s camp scene (photos, films or objects) is scarce indeed. Although happily one outcome of the exhibition was the donation of two photograph albums which will definitely enrich ALGA's collection in that respect.

ALGA is grateful to the Melbourne Town Hall for providing an electronic copy of all exhibition material.

Ken Sinclair,

6 Feb 1927 - 19 May 2005

Fr Ken Sinclair, openly gay man and priest at St Francis (Melbourne) for many years, died earlier this year, aged 78.

Many of us who went to the national homosexual conferences of the 1970s and 1980s will remember Ken with affection. He only missed one of the 11, and was a great counter-example to the prevalent view of the time that Christians were the enemy of gay people. The conferences helped Ken affirm his confidence in being gay - and in gratitude he spoke publicly for gay rights, sometimes in the face of considerable censure from his own Church.

Ken contributed to the gay community in many ways: in his pastoral work, in his writing, as a supporter of groups, the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives among them, to which he donated large amounts of material over the years, and in friendship to the many whose path he crossed along the way. His PhD thesis in 1995 examined the churches' responses to HIV/AIDS through the filter of their attitudes to homosexuality, based on interviews with clergy and people living with HIV/AIDS.

There is an interview with Ken in Dino Hodge's book, 'The fall upward; spirituality in the lives of lesbian women and gay men' (1995), which captures much of what was so likeable about Ken. For Ken, simple principles of love and charity were at the heart of his religion and nothing could excuse cruelty dressed up as piety. It was summed up in this passage about 'particular friendships', which were frowned on by official teaching when Ken was a novice.

"But as our director said: 'Any friendship has to be particular otherwise it's not a friendship'. I can't remember if it's Charlie Brown or Linus in the cartoon strip that says: 'I love humanity. It's individual people I can't stand'. But of course you can only meet humanity through individuals."

For further about Ken's life and interests, visit his personal website at:

<http://ken7vic.tripod.com/kenspersonalwebsite/id3.html>

Gary Jaynes

Tax concessions secure

Readers of ALGA's last annual report will recall that ALGA was expecting to have its eligibility for tax concessions reviewed in 2005 under new rules enacted by the Commonwealth Government tax concessions. We are pleased to report that the Australian Tax Office has advised there is no change to ALGA's status. Thus gifts of \$2 or more to ALGA remain tax deductible, and ALGA is exempt from income tax (should its income ever exceed the threshold over which a tax return has to be lodged).

Thanks

The Archives acknowledges the following people for making donations in 2005:

KWA	Laurie Bebbington
Robert Bridges	Michael Carnes
Sharron Carroll	Paul Caulfield
David Connolly	Harriet Cornfeld-Fraser
Christopher Cutler	Ken Davis
Kate Davison	Mannie De Saxe
Peter Di Sciascio	Robert Gibbs
Ian Gould	David Hilliard
Deborah Hunn	Leigh Keen
Kendall Lovett	Kieran O'Loughlin
Richard Peterson	Ian Purcell
Ken Rathbone	John Rickard
Mark Riley	Keith Stoddan
Richard Stone	Rohan Storey
Alison Thorne	

ALGA thanks Con Anemogiannis and Fortian Productions for kindly donating \$660 raised for ALGA as a charity contribution when the 'Hidden History of Homosexual Australia' premiered at the Chauvel Cinema earlier this year.

Bon voyage but not goodbye... to Esther

Esther Singer who has been working on ALGA's photo collection for the past five years or so is travelling around Australia in the latter half of 2005. Until Esther came along, ALGA's photos were stored in albums or boxes as they came in, but not worked on beyond that. Esther has brought proper archival preservation methods to our collection, with photos now stored in acid-free pockets within acid-free binders organised chronologically. She has also electronically listed photos according to their location in the binders, identifying (as far as possible) people in the photos, events, places and photographers. And just before she went travelling, Esther wrote a paper outlining the systems she has set up, and identified issues that need to be considered in taking our photo collection to the next stage. A major one is the way we go about electronic storage of our photos, and Esther has proposed some standards for

consideration. Another is the beginning of a policy to manage the photos for which no identifying material is available and among which there is often a good deal of duplication (especially scene pics).

On return Esther has expressed a wish to be involved in other aspects of ALGA's work, but is happy to assist others who want to be involved with the photos. The committee would be pleased to hear from anyone who has this interest. Meanwhile, we would like to express our thanks to Esther for her dedicated and creative contribution to the photo collection.

and to Graham

ALGA president Graham Willett went to Berlin in March this year, where he is living and working for about a year, before returning to Australia in July 2006. Needless to say, Graham's absence is keenly felt at the Archives, where, apart from his general niceness to be around, his achievements have been considerable. President for the past eight years, and before that a committee member and researcher/user of the Archives, which culminated in his landmark book on the history of the Australian homosexual movement, *Living Out Loud* (2000), Graham has also organised the Australian Homosexual Histories conferences, the annual ALGA Thesis Prize, curated exhibitions, written innumerable articles, and conducted ALGA's history walks which have drawn huge and appreciative crowds in Melbourne for the past five years. He also set up and maintained the Ozhomohist email list (which he still does from afar).

Graham remains president of ALGA in absentia for the coming year - he's only an email away, he said before he left (and hope he doesn't regret now!) - still we miss him heaps and wish him well.

Volunteers work in progress

A range of tasks have been done this year by ALGA volunteers, among them:

- completion of the thesis listing by John W (which led another volunteer working on a less finite task to wryly remark, are we meant to actually finish things at the Archives?)
- logging of oral history tapes by Helen P
- ordering of our book collection by Kym in line with the Dewey system, in preparation for an open day for people to see the book collection which is located at Kym's house
- completion of Adam Carr's *GCN/OutRage* index by Lee J. Adam had done 1979-93, and Lee took the list up to 2000. Lee now working on *Campaign* 1975-79
- various working bee tasks – by Ken, Mannie and Liz, in particular the ordering of a large collection of papers donated by Geraldine K

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) 9499 1769, or email on algarchives@hotmail.com

SUBSCRIBE FOR 2006

**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 2006 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) annually \$.....

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

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Signature

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