

ALGA Bulletin

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Dear ALGA members and friends

SECRET HISTORIES NOW AVAILABLE

ALGA's *Secret histories of queer Melbourne* is now on sale after its launch by writer Christos Tsiolkas on 20 April at Melbourne University's Gryphon Gallery.

Annette Xiberras welcomed the large gathering on behalf of the Wurundjeri people, and speakers thanked the many people who brought the book to fruition. In a thoughtful and appreciative talk, Christos paid the book the compliment of triggering possibilities in his imagination for future characters in his writing.

Secret Histories has grown out of ALGA's history walks over many years, with a dozen authors, about 100 illustrations, and 51 episodes from Melbourne's very queer history. The book is edited by Graham Willett, Wayne Murdoch and Daniel Marshall. Publication was assisted by a grant from the City of Melbourne. Donors to ALGA over many years also played a key part in financing the book's publication.



Secret histories can be purchased direct from ALGA – details on the [merchandise page](#) of ALGA's website, including table of contents and a link to the [current issue of MCV](#), which features the book on its cover along with editorial comment and an interview with Graham Willett. It is also available at [Hares and Hyenas Bookshop](#) in Fitzroy.

The selling price is \$40, or \$35 to ALGA members, plus \$6 postage within Australia.

Also available is *Out here : Gay and lesbian perspectives VI*, edited by Yorick Smaal and Graham Willett. Recently published by Monash University Publishing, most of the contributions were presented originally at ALGA's 9th Australian Homosexual Histories conference in Melbourne in 2009 (see table of contents on [ALGA's website](#)). Hard copies are available for purchase from ALGA at \$35, or \$30 to ALGA members, plus \$6 postage within Australia.



OPEN DAY SUNDAY 29 MAY

ALGA will host an open day on Sunday afternoon, 29 May from 2 pm at the Victorian AIDS Council (6 Claremont Street, South Yarra). More details about the day's program closer to the date.

TALK ON US GLOBAL AIDS POLICY – ORIGINS AND EVOLUTION

Professor Laura Belmonte, teacher of US foreign relations at the University of Oklahoma, will present a talk, "Contagious, Outrageous, Courageous: A Brief History of US Global AIDS Policy" [1981 to the present], on Wednesday 25 May, 6-7 PM, Theatre 1, 221 Bouverie Street, Carlton. Further information at <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ozhomohist/message/980>



Launch speakers from left: emcee Graham Willett, Annette Xiberras, Christos Tsiolkas, Avril McQueen (City of Melbourne) and Daniel Marshall (who spoke for the editors)

BAILEY'S HALL NOW 'FOUND'

In the last *Bulletin* we asked if anyone knew the location of Bailey's Hall in Richmond, where Jan Hillier's first dance was held around 1964 (Checkmates social club had at least one function there too in about 1980). A former president of Acceptance Melbourne was able to tell us that Bailey's Hall was also a venue for Acceptance's Gay Rage balls in the 1980s, and moreover, the building still stands ... at 401 Church Street, Richmond, on the east side just north of Charlotte Street. For a long time called the Soldiers Memorial Hall (its foundation plaque is dated 1922, see opposite), the building now houses a fitness centre. Bailey's was a catering firm from around 1960 in one of the shops next to the hall and this appears to be the source of the name by which it became later known at least until the 80s.



GALLERY GIRLS – ANY RECOLLECTIONS?

ALGA would love to hear from any readers who can tell us more about the Gallery Girls, the devoted female fans of singer Gladys Moncrieff who Helen Pausacker wrote about in *Secret Histories*. First hand accounts might be a bit of a stretch now ... but among our older friends, perhaps there are recollections?

MARDI GRAS HISTORY LINK

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sBPF5LuEArc> for youtube footage by Stuart Round of a Gay Solidarity Group march on the morning of the first Gay Mardi Gras in Sydney on 24 June 1978. John Witte from Sydney's Pride History Group has identified various people in the march (see caption at the same site). Thanks to Liz Ross for drawing this link to our attention.

WOMEN'S WEEKLY NOW IN TROVE

The National Library of Australia's collection of digitised newspapers keeps growing, and now includes *The Australian Women's Weekly* for 1932-1982 . Was there gay stuff in the *Weekly*? Searches on 'homosexual' currently yield 160 hits, the earliest in 1955, 'lesbian' yields 43, the earliest 1966 ... check it out at <http://trove.nla.gov.au/newspaper> And just for fun, enjoy the *Weekly* covers [over time](#) – including a memorable one on [10 October 1973](#), when the rumour of the day was that Graham Kennedy and Lana Cantrell might soon be engaged.

RESEARCH TIP

So many of the tools for family history are also great resources for gay and lesbian history, and the Australian War Memorial's online Nominal Roll is no exception. <http://www.ww2roll.gov.au/script/name.asp#searchtabs> If our forebears enlisted for war service, the Nominal Roll gives a potted history of their service (where/when enlisted, next of kin, rank etc) and for a small fee a person's detailed service record can also be obtained.

Best wishes

From the Australian Lesbian & Gay Archives Inc
PO Box 124,
Parkville, Vic 3052
email: algarchives@hotmail.com
website: www.alga.org.au