

## ALGA Bulletin

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### THANKS TO VIC BEARS

ALGA was fortunate to be nominated as Charity Partner for VicBears' fundraising from Southern Hibernation 2011. At a presentation at the Laird Hotel on Saturday 23 July, outgoing VicBears' president, Rick Cooper (left in photograph opposite), presented ALGA's Mark Pendleton with a cheque for \$10,000. We were a little overwhelmed by the size of the donation, which enables us to bring forward plans to replace ALGA's ageing photocopier. A huge thank you to all at [VicBears](#) for their support and generosity.



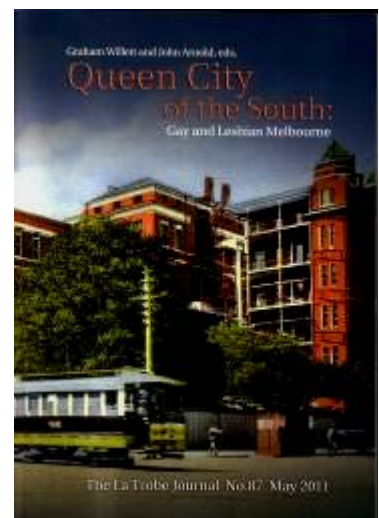
Photo by Benjamin Ashe for MCV

### OPEN DAY WELL ATTENDED

More than 50 people attended ALGA's open day on Sunday afternoon, 31 July, at the Victorian AIDS Council. ALGA's Graham Willett took the opportunity to thank the many people who have helped the Archives obtain the well-fitted out accommodation we now enjoy at the Victorian AIDS Council, not least outgoing VAC executive director, Mike Kennedy, who was unable to be present at the open day. VAC president Michael Williams accepted Graham's thanks on Mike's behalf and congratulated ALGA on its achievements, in particular the publications that have been a high point of 2011. Michael also spoke about VAC's own history project, which is taking shape via a [Facebook group](#) in time for VAC's 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013, and in which ALGA, through Graham and others, will be playing a part. Thanks to all who made the open day happen, especially Mark for publicity and food, Nick for displays and captions, our tour leaders, Sarah and Daniel for front-of-house duties over the afternoon, and speakers Sally Goldner (who kindly lodged a DVD of her film [Sally's Story : a coming of age tale](#) with the Archives) and Bill Calder whose talk about his work on the history of the gay and lesbian press in Australia provoked interest and discussion (more about Bill's project below).

### QUEEN CITY OF THE SOUTH NOW AVAILABLE THROUGH ALGA

The latest edition of State Library of Victoria's La Trobe Journal (no. 87, May 2011), titled *Queen city of the south : gay and lesbian Melbourne*, is now available for purchase [through ALGA](#) (\$30 or \$25 to ALGA members, plus postage). Graham Willett is guest editor of the special issue (John Arnold the series editor), and a [table of contents](#) is posted on ALGA's website. Among a raft of interesting articles is a photo essay based on previously unpublished photos by the renowned Melbourne photographer Rennie Ellis at Gay Pride Week 1973, including one of 42-year-old Gordon Doak's remarkable coming out (when he ran from his home in Sunshine to the city square carrying his home-made placard, to join a demonstration there, never having been involved with gay politics before). The book is beautifully produced and is great value at the price.



## VALE FRIENDS IN THE MELBOURNE COMMUNITY

We're sad to report the loss recently of three people remembered with affection around the Melbourne gay community: **Campbell Busch**, an early president of The Boilers, one of Australia's first gay groups, author of a history of The Boilers up to the time of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 1984, and an enthusiastic supporter of taking gay history to the wider world; **Jim Symmons**, a comrade from 1980s support work and activism (Gayline, *Gayzette*, teacher unions) and friend to many from those days; and **Roger Harrington**, a president of Society Five, Melbourne's main gay advocacy and service organisation through the 1970s and early 80s, and held in high regard by colleagues from that era. To the loved ones of Campbell, Jim and Roger, condolences from all of us at ALGA.

## ARCHIVING CONFERENCE IN LA

In May this year I attended the third international GLQ archiving conference in West Hollywood, Los Angeles. Formally known as the GLBT ALMS (Archives, Libraries, Museums and Special Collections), this conference followed the first two – Minneapolis in 2007 and New York in 2009. Next year (due to a quirk in the organising, the two yearly schedule is a bit out of whack) the conference will be held in Amsterdam.

The conference was organised by the June Mazer Lesbian Archives based in West Hollywood, which gave it a particularly strong focus on community-oriented archiving, community-building and activism. Speakers addressed a wide range of issues from community-based archives in Australia (guess who), Canada, Vermont and the Pacific North West of the USA ; managing sound recordings, film and video (including home movies) and photos; even the ethnography of small archives. Keynote speakers included Lillian Faderman (author of *Surpassing the Love of Woman* and many other herstories of the lesbian past), who spoke about the role of mainstream archives in allowing and suppressing lesbian histories and Cleve Jones who spoke movingly of his own history from street kid to Harvey Milk's offsider and beyond.

There was considerable discussion around the recent decisions of the One Archive (which dates back to the earliest days of gay activism in the USA) and of the Mazer Collection – made pretty much independently of each other – to hand themselves over to universities – the University of Southern California (a private university) and UCLA (state owned), respectively. In both cases the decisions were prompted by user issues (numbers and expectations regarding services and access), the limits of free accommodation, and digitisation expectations. It was clear that these decisions had provoked a degree of disquiet in some quarters. And it does mean that the number of independent community-based GLQ archives is now down considerably (Australia, Canada, Quebec, Berlin, New York's Lesbian Herstory Archives and a number of smaller German collections).

**Graham Willett**

## POSTER COMPETITION FOR WORLD AIDS DAY 2011

Sponsored by the Victorian AIDS Council, the competition's theme is "Inform yourself, educate others". Prize money totalling \$5500 is being offered to the winner and two place-getters.

**Submissions close Friday 2 September.** Details at <http://www.vicaids.asn.au/world-aids-day-poster-competition-submissions>

## MEMBERSHIP HITS A HIGH

The *ALGA Bulletin* is free to whoever wants to see it – an email list of about 400, and available on the [website](#). Membership is for those who want to support the Archives in a more tangible way. Seven new members at the recent open day took membership to 128 in 2010-11, a new high for ALGA membership. For information about membership, visit the ALGA website at <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~alga/join.htm> And don't forget, donations of \$2 or more to ALGA are tax deductible.

## SEEKING RECOLLECTIONS OF VAL'S SWANSTON STREET DAYS

Author Barb Angell is writing a book about Val Eastwood (of Val's Coffee Lounge fame) and would especially like to hear from people who have first hand recollections to share of Val or Val's Swanston Street venue, or the flat above the Tivoli where Val lived. If you would like to contribute, please email Barb at [biz@angellpro.com.au](mailto:biz@angellpro.com.au) to receive a list of questions available as a guideline. First names only will be used unless people give express permission.

Incidentally, there are copies still available of *The travelling mind of Val Eastwood*, a collection of short stories by Val published by ALGA in 2009, supplemented by photos from Val's album and a transcript of an interview with Val by Ruth Ford in 1995 (cost \$25 or \$20 to ALGA members – details on the [merchandise page](#) of ALGA's website).



Entrance to Val's early 1950s – Val Eastwood collection, ALGA, photo courtesy Val's estate.

## WEBSITE FOR G&L MEDIA HISTORY PROJECT

Former editor and publisher, Bill Calder, has launched a website for people interested in his Gay and Lesbian Media History Project <http://gaymediahistory.wordpress.com/>. The website includes a [newsletter](#), a copy of a thesis that Bill has completed as the first stage of the project ([The origins of gay and lesbian media in Australia 1969-1978](#)) and opportunities for people to provide information as Bill proceeds to the next phase of the project, a PhD investigating the social and political impact of Australia's G&L media 1969 to 2000. A section called [Seeking 70s publishers](#) lists various people who have not been contactable so far. The story of two Bill Munro's, both gay and both lived in Sydney in the early 70s, set the audience thinking at ALGA's recent open day. William G Munro (who published *Butch* and later *Little Butch*, the forerunner of *Gay*) remains on Bill's "Missing" list. Also missing is a Sydney magazine from 1971 called *Gay Times*, thought to have been one of Australia's first commercial gay papers. Two issues (nos 8 and 9) appear in the Mitchell Library catalogue - if any Sydney friends are able to check it out (none are held by ALGA). Email Bill Calder on [wfcalder@student.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:wfcalder@student.unimelb.edu.au) if you can help.

## RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Material donated to ALGA in the past few months includes:

- Thirteen issues of *Dykewise* (spanning Nov/Dec 1995 – Dec 1997/Jan 1998), a magazine catering for lesbians in South East Queensland, courtesy of the Museum of Brisbane (cover image opposite for the August/September 1997 issue; none previously held by ALGA).
- Report title "*We don't have any of those people here*" : retirement accommodation and aged care issues for non-heterosexual populations, published by GLBTI Retirement Association Incorporated [GRAI] and Curtin Health Innovation Research Institute, Curtin University, WA, plus related ephemera from the report's launch in 2010 – from GRAI.
- Five posters from the "Wherever sex happens" series (2011) and eight posters depicting safe-sex practices prepared for sex-on-premises venues (2010) - from Colin Batrouney/Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Men's Health Centre.
- Periodicals and orders of service (1976-98) published by Metropolitan Community Church (Melbourne) and miscellaneous ephemera – from Keith Stodden.
- catalogues for IDAHO (International Day Against Homophobia), Sydney, 2010 and 2011 – from Nick Baldas (curator).



## RECENT ACQUISITIONS – continued

- Miscellaneous books donated by Matthew Bills, Josie Emery\*, Nick Henderson, Kathy Anne Noble\*, Grant O'Sullivan\*, Damian W Riggs\*, Boaz Stark\* and Matt Vaughan\* (\* denotes author donations).
- Miscellaneous periodicals – from Christopher Anderson (INYA Gay Books)

## BOOK LIST

ALGA's book collection now lives at the Victorian AIDS Council and the latest list is at <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~alga/docs/books.pdf> - about 3600 titles (plus about 600 duplicates held off-site). The list now includes a column indicating special collections and shows Ardy Tibby's lesbian book collection for the first time (nearly 400 titles, some publishing details still to be included). Among many gems in Ardy's collection is a 1928 edition of Radclyffe Hall's *The well of loneliness* including 1929 press clippings from a British newspaper, *The World* (a report on the book's obscenity trial and a review).

ALGA's book collecting focus is books on GLBT themes with an Australian connection (either through the author, publisher or content, or some combination of these). In the case of *The Well of Loneliness*, for instance, we know it helped shape some Australian women's view of themselves, copies having been smuggled into the country while banned.

A list of books we'd like to acquire is at <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~alga/docs/bookwishlist.pdf>.

### Thinking of donating material?

If you are thinking of donating material to ALGA, please contact us first – email [algarchives@hotmail.com](mailto:algarchives@hotmail.com). ALGA's collecting policy is online at <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~alga/docs/collectionpolicy.pdf>. Whilst some larger offers are on hold (there are still a few large collections stored offsite awaiting relocation to VAC), we are happy to accept smaller quantities (up to say 10 cm shelf space) that meet our collecting policy. Offers are considered by the committee on a monthly basis.

## OPEN ACCESS RESEARCH DATABASE AT ANU

In a move that will be especially welcomed by researchers not attached to a university, the Australian National University has established ANU Digital Collections as an online location for collecting, maintaining and disseminating the scholarly output of the University, in part as an antidote to the [soaring costs of academic journals](#). Further information is available at <https://digitalcollections.anu.edu.au/>. Thanks to Liz for drawing this to our attention.

Best wishes

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