

HOMO HISTORIES GOES TO BRISBANE – CALL FOR PAPERS

The next in ALGA's (nearly) annual conference series, Australia's Homosexual Histories, will be held in Brisbane on Friday and Saturday 8-9 June 2012 (Queen's Birthday [long weekend](#) in most states), and the conveners are seeking offers of papers.

The Australian Homosexual Histories Conference has generated some pioneering and innovative work on the histories of GLBTIQ life, politics and culture in Australia – with books of selected papers published in [2000](#) and [2011](#) and podcasts in [2010](#) ("Into the Streets", Sydney). The conference brings together members of the GLBTIQ communities, academics, professional and independent scholars, researchers and students within the broad field of sexuality and gender studies. Conference conveners, Graham Willett and Yorick Smaal, are now inviting proposals for presentations in Brisbane. They are especially interested in papers with an historical perspective, although sociological, discursive, legal and cultural and other approaches are also welcome. Abstracts for conference papers should be approximately 100 words and must be submitted by **Friday 13 April 2012**. If accepted, all papers must adhere to a strict twenty minutes time-length.

ALGA is grateful to Griffith University for providing a venue for this conference. We have an agreement with Monash University Publishing to publish a collection of papers from the conference early in 2013. Abstracts, along with questions or queries, should be addressed to the conveners—Graham Willett: gwillett@unimelb.edu.au or Yorick Smaal: y.smaal@griffith.edu.au

VAC/GMHC HISTORY – EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST INVITED

The Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Men's Health Centre is advertising for an historian to write and produce its 30th Anniversary History. It's proposed that a website, a DVD and, if funds permit, a booklet of 30,000 to 40,000 words be completed by July 2013 to mark the anniversary. Expressions of interest are invited from people who have a track record of writing for history websites and/or print publications, preferably a degree in history and a good knowledge of historical research methods and sources, significant understanding of the HIV epidemic and empathy with the gay and lesbian community. The deadline for Expressions of Interest is **Friday 20 April**. The tender document is available on [VAC's website](#). Initial enquiries should go to Rowena Doo, Executive Officer—Administration at the VAC/GMHC, phone (03) 9865 6730, email rowena_doo@vic aids.asn.au. ALGA members and friends are asked to circulate this call to interested people.

COLLECTION NEWS

For the first time in a very long time, most of the ALGA collection is in one place at the Victorian AIDS Council. The purpose-built shelving, including a compactus, has enabled that, with volunteers involved in rehousing and relocating remaining material from offsite over the summer — thanks especially to Anton and Trevor. Duplicate periodicals and books remain off-site (as a disaster recovery measure), as do some large size items (mainly framed posters, which we're not well equipped to store at VAC).

Work has now begun in progressing a large backlog of offers of material, some dating back to 2006, during a period when we have been able to accept only small amounts of material. With the compactus now over 80% full, we are still constrained in what we can accept, but we can at last accept some personal and organisational collections that were previously on hold. Offers of material are reviewed by ALGA's committee on a monthly basis.

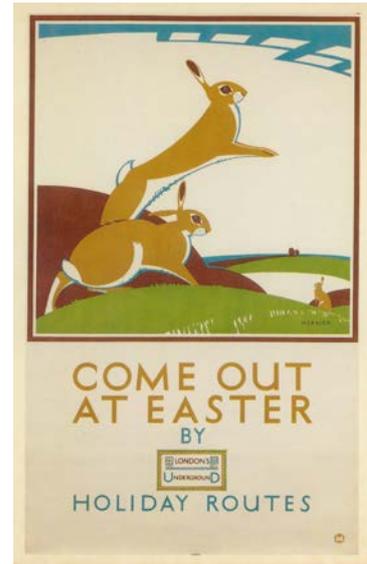
People offering material are encouraged to provide as much detail as possible to assist in assessments of significance and our capacity to store — lists, as ever, are a great help.



One of eight sides of ALGA's compactus, nearly seven of them now full.

RECENT ACQUISITIONS INCLUDE:

- ❖ Missing issues of periodicals from the AIDS Council of South Australia, 1986-2006
- ❖ Mardi Gras-themed caps x2 – from SC and DA
- ❖ Photos of 1970s and 80s activism in Sydney – from Dennis Altman
- ❖ Photos by John Storey of Dulcie du Jour performing at Midsumma Carnival
- ❖ Books donated, some inscribed by authors – from Dennis Altman, Nick Henderson, Mary Rawson, Simon Rosser, John Storey, Jackie Stricker and Kerryn Phelps, Ardy Tibby
- ❖ Interviews by ALGA with a 71 year old woman about Melbourne's camp and lesbian scenes, 1960s onwards, plus related photos; and with a 90 year old man about his experiences in WW2, Melbourne, Adelaide and London
- ❖ A transcript by Joseph Chetcuti of Francesca Curtis' television interview representing Daughters of Bilitis, c. June 1970
- ❖ Pink Magpies t-shirt, 2012
- ❖ "Skinhead" jacket and jumper, c.1985, and thesis, 'The influence of contemporary male photographic portraits on the self-esteem of gay men' (PhD, 2000) – from Marcus Bunyan
- ❖ Australian Gay Gaymes t-shirts 1995 and 2001, and related information – from Bart van der Wel
- ❖ A perpetual trophy/sash for the Miss Peninsula competition, 1965-1996 – from the Boilers Society
- ❖ Rainbow Labor selected papers – including signed speeches
- ❖ A listed collection of references to homosexuality in Spartacist League publications, 1974-2011
- ❖ Miscellaneous digitised newspaper articles x104 from Australian tabloid newspapers, 1980-83 and 1986 – from Barry McKay - also available at <http://www.sendspace.com/file/tm4ns2> (227 MB)
- ❖ Ephemera collected at Fair Day 2012, where ALGA had a presence for the first time, thanks to Nick Henderson in collaboration with Sydney's Pride History Group.



A 1922 poster by F C Herrick reproduced as a postcard by the London Transport Museum – per Graham Willett, 2005

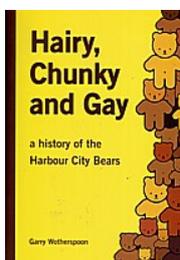
RESEARCH POSITIONS AT MACQUARIE

Two Macquarie University PhD scholarships (MQRES) are available in the Department of Modern History and Politics at Macquarie University to work with Dr Rebecca Jennings who has recently been awarded an ARC Future Fellowship on 'Lesbian Cultures of Intimacy in Australia since 1945.' She is seeking two outstanding doctoral candidates to carry out PhD research under the umbrella of this ARC Fellowship. One scholarship is available to a suitably qualified international candidate or both may be awarded to domestic candidates. The closing date is Friday 30 March 2012. For more information, see:

http://www.hdr.mq.edu.au/information_about/scholarships/hdr_scholarships_domestic_and_international

In addition, Dr Jennings is inviting expressions of interest in research assistance work based in Melbourne related to this project, in particular to go through lesbian and gay journals / newspapers which are only held at ALGA. Initial inquiries should be directed to Dr Jennings, email: Rebecca.Jennings@mq.edu.au, phone: +61 (0)2 9850 7861

CLUB HISTORY



Garry Wotherspoon has written a book about the history of the Harbour City Bears, *Hairy, Chunky and Gay: a history of the Harbour City Bears*. Launched at Mardi Gras 2012, the book marks the group's 16th anniversary and is available through [The Bookshop, Darlinghurst](#) for \$12.99.

NEW COMPUTERS

ALGA has purchased a new desktop computer and two laptops, which will enable more volunteers to be engaged in computer-related work at VAC. Many thanks to committee member Carla for guiding us through the purchase and assisting in setting up the new computers.

PROV RECORD OF THE MONTH

The Public Record Office of Victoria (PROV) Showcase Record for March 2012 highlights a unique series of love letters between two men from 1920s Melbourne. The letters were part of the Criminal Trial Brief against the men who were accused of 'committing unnatural offences.' Author and ALGA member Wayne Murdoch brought these records to light in his article in the *La Trobe Journal*, No. 87 (May 2011) [Queen City of the South](#) (guest editor, Graham Willett, series editor John Arnold). More info <http://prov.vic.gov.au/blog-only/the-king-vs-bruin-and-morris-homosexuality-in-1920s-melbourne>

AFTER HOMOSEXUAL – A MEMORABLE CONFERENCE

'After Homosexual: The Legacies of Gay Liberation' conference was organised by LaTrobe University's Gender, Sexuality and Diversity program, Victoria University and the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives to mark the 40th anniversary of Dennis Altman's path-breaking book, *Homosexual: Oppression and Liberation*.

Keynote speakers for the conference (held over 3-4 February) were Professor Jeffrey Weeks (UK), Professor Alice Echols (USA) and Professor Dennis Altman (Australia), and they were joined by about 170 registrants who attended forums, workshops and plenaries on numerous aspects of the GLBTI past and present. We welcomed guests from North and South America, Europe, Asia and Australasia. Topics ranged across the globe from Colombia to California to Japan and even to Outback Australia. From cinema to queer youth, intersex, footy, True Blood, Gay Lib and (more than once) same-sex marriage ... Debates were vigorous, discussions stimulating, cruising subdued ... One of the more visceral highlights was the food – provided by the Asylum Seeker Resource centre – highly recommended.

On the Thursday night prior to the conference Helen Razer hosted a conversation with the keynote speakers at ACMI – an event supported by Midsumma.

Two publications are planned: a collection of reflections from local and overseas people reflecting on the forty years since the publication of *Homosexual: Oppression and Liberation* (which was reissued this year in a pleasingly shocking-pink cover by the Uni of Queensland Press); and a collection of conference papers.

ALGA was also pleased to host a reception for Professor Jeffrey Weeks at the Archives after the conference. The reception provided a relaxed opportunity for ALGA members to socialise, and to meet Professor Weeks. The evening included a tour of the Archives. In his remarks, incoming President Daniel Marshall paid tribute to the achievements of Graham Willett's presidency

MEMBERSHIP

ALGA membership for 2011-12 currently stands at 130, just short of last year's high of 131 with six months of our membership year to go. Membership renewal reminders should have reached people by now, but email us if you're uncertain about your membership status:

algarchives@hotmail.com Membership is \$20 pa (\$5 concession) plus \$1 joining fee. If you'd like to give more, donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

People on the ALGA announcements list who'd like to join up can do so from the website page, [Join our association](#). There is no obligation of course – the announcements list is just to keep people in touch. As a former vice president used to say, flirt with us if you wish, get to know us a bit, membership (like marriage) is entirely optional!

Best wishes

From the Australian Lesbian & Gay Archives Inc
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email: algarchives@hotmail.com, website: alga.org.au