

# ANNUAL REPORT 2020



Image: Hoardings highlighting ALGA collection created for the façade of the Victorian Pride Centre – designed by Lin Tobias

## SAVING OUR VERY QUEER HISTORIES SINCE 1978



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## **Committee members 2020**

as elected at Annual General Meeting, 30 October 2019

Angela Bailey (President)

Timothy Jones (Vice President)

Clare O'Hanlon (Secretary)

Graham Willett (Treasurer)

Sarah Rood

Daniel Marshall

Yorick Smaal

Nick Henderson

Richard Keeble

## **Patrons**

Professor Dennis Altman AM

Joan Nestle

*Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives Inc*

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*Website: [alga.org.au](http://alga.org.au)*

*Incorporated Assn No. A0000240Z*

*ABN 92 450 443 760*

The Committee wishes to acknowledge the support of the Board, staff and volunteers of Thorne Harbour Health in their continued support of ALGA in providing us accommodation.

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land on which Melbourne is today – the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin Nation and acknowledge the historic injustices to which they have been subjected.

We pay respect to Elders past, present and emerging.



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## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR THE YEAR 2020

The Annual General Meeting of the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives Inc. will be held on Thursday 3 December, 2020 at 6.30pm. Due to current Covid restrictions this meeting will be held by Zoom. We are asking members to RSVP by 20 November 2020 to assist us with the meeting logistics. Please email [mail@alga.org.au](mailto:mail@alga.org.au) with 'RSVP AGM 2020' in the subject heading. A Zoom invite link will be sent out to members who have rsvp'd 48 hours prior to the AGM.

### AGENDA

1. Chairperson to open meeting
  2. Apologies
  3. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting- included in the 2020 Annual Report
  4. Office Bearers' Reports
  5. Treasurer's Report
  6. Name change consultation overview and special resolution vote to change the name from Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives to Australian Queer Archives.
  8. Election of Committee members. The Chairperson will call for nominations at the AGM.
    - President
    - Vice-President
    - Secretary
    - Treasurer
    - Ordinary Members
  9. Number of Ordinary committee members
- Clare O'Hanlon , Secretary 2020

**Under ALGA's rules, to be eligible to vote at the AGM, members must be financial for year 2020-21 and if suspended have renewed their membership by 20 November 2020.**

## Office Bearers Report

The last 12 months has been a challenging one for the Archives. Due to Covid Restrictions we had to close the Reading Room and restrict physical access to the collection. We have however, still been able to facilitate access in a digital capacity for many reference and research requests, as well as exhibition loans, and while not being able to welcome visitors we have also been able to present about the collection to various groups via Zoom as well.

We have continued to meet as a Committee (via Zoom) on a monthly basis and this has kept our projects and operations moving along. There have inevitably been some setbacks to the timeline of some projects and, in particular, due to the delay in the Victorian Pride Centre (VPC) opening and Thorne Harbour Health (THH) finishing their tenancy at the Cancer Council of Victoria (CCV), we had to close and pack up the Reading Room and temporarily store the collection. Thanks to the CCV for providing us a storage space at St Kilda Rd offices until early January 2021 when we move to the VPC. Thanks also to THH for all their support and rent free accommodation over the years.

At the 2019 AGM we outlined the name change consultation process to date, since it began in late 2018, and our commitment to initiating a new name for the organisation. We have continued to have conversations with members and within committee on various feedback and how we plan to move the process forward. We recently sent out a survey to members to vote on the top three names as identified by previous consultation and through committee discussion (overview of results below) This has then informed the special resolution that is being presented at the 2020 AGM.

We applied for and were successful in receiving a grant from the Victorian Government Equality Department for our Building Digital Capability Project to further some of our digitisation of the collection, redesign and refresh our website and improve our digital storage and back-up. Richard Keeble was engaged to manage this project and due to the impact of Covid – the project has continued longer than anticipated and we look forward to launching the new website soon (further update below).

Our collection continues to be featured across a range of platforms including exhibitions, publications, online presentations and even in an episode of Neighbours, where we recreated our ALGA stall for an episode storyline of the annual Erinsborough Pride Festival!

We have committed to engaging a part-time office coordinator position for the next 2-year period. This position will assist in managing the operations of the Archives and be based at our spaces at the VPC. The recruitment has been slightly held up due to Covid and we are planning to activate this in early 2021.

We continue to align our work to our Strategic Plan, with a basic review taking place prior to our 20/21 budget. In 2021 we will start working towards a new strategic plan for 2021-2023.

Thanks to all of the Committee, our Finance Sub Committee, Membership Team and volunteers for their incredible work over the last 12 months that makes all these amazing projects and community engagement happen.

### **The key identified major projects of 2019/2020 were:**

- Victorian Pride Centre negotiation/planning
- Name Change Consultation
- Building Digital Capability Project
- Heritage 100 Project
- GALE

## **VICTORIAN PRIDE CENTRE**

This year we signed an 'Offer to Lease' agreement with VPC to affirm our tenancy at the Pride Centre. Thanks to Justice Connect for facilitating lawyers to provide us with advice on the agreement. Throughout the last 12 months we have worked with the VPC in various ways including some of the logistics regarding the design of our space. We have also contributed in discussions regarding gallery spaces and gallery infrastructure within the centre. We have been working with Andrew Zunica design to provide some design/layout elements for our new space.

Due to Covid restrictions in Melbourne, the VPC build was delayed from its original finish date and the new date has been set at 18 December 2020. We anticipate moving into the space in January 2021. Angela has been attending Tenant Working Group meetings, facilitated by VPC which have developed Terms of Reference and a Code of Conduct.

We also worked with VPC and City of Port Phillip to generate 10 hoarding panels that portrayed ALGA collection images and accompanying text. Designed by Lin Tobias, the panels were placed around the exterior of the VPC building site in St Kilda.

## **NAME CHANGE CONSULTATION**

At the 2018 AGM we initiated the plan to consider a new name for the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives. The first step was reaching out to key stakeholders, ALGA membership and the broader LGBTIQ+ communities to ask the question if we should change the name - the answer was an overwhelming yes.

We also asked what was liked/disliked about the current name and what were the suggestions for a new name. Of the names that were suggested we then highlighted the top three names and sent a survey to members asking them to choose their first, second and third preferred name. Similar to the first round of survey consultation, Australian Queer Archives was the most popular choice. In line with our process to date we present this name to a special resolution vote at the 2020 AGM

## **BUILDING DIGITAL CAPABILITY PROJECT**

In 2019 ALGA received a grant from the Equality Branch of the Department of Premier and Cabinet of the Victorian Government that has provided funds to build ALGA's digital capabilities. When finished, the project will have rebuilt ALGA's website, replaced computer equipment and further digitised the collection, allowing us to better preserve and share collection material.

Richard Keeble completed a full review of the website's content and design in consultation with key ALGA volunteers and coordinated a team of designers from Ellis Jones and developers from Bone, Digital who have designed and built a new WordPress-based website that will provide responsive and consistent access over all sizes of device.

Text has been updated, more images supplied and the website's information architecture has been significantly improved, anticipating the organisation's planned name change. A new section with nearly 100 new web pages highlights the collection material, supplemented by updated and consistent collection listings, assisted by the work of Project Monte. Existing sections such as History Bites have been updated with new images, also highlighting the collection.

The content is being loaded at the time of writing and the new website will be published late 2020 or early 2021

Covid-19 means that replacement of computer hardware has been delayed until 2021. Volunteers would not have been able to use the new equipment, and prices of equipment rose in the first half of 2020 in response to the demand caused by people working at home.

The Building Digital Capability project has taken resources away from Project Monte. Data cleansing has continued, and the project will continue in 2021.

## **HERITAGE 100 PROJECT**

*A History of LGBTIQ+ Victoria in 100 Places and Objects* was commissioned by Heritage Victoria, the Victorian government's principal non-Aboriginal heritage agency. This report identifies 100 places, objects and collections that have specific and unique meaning to Victoria's contemporary queer communities and highlights the rich, diverse and unique history of queer communities in Victoria and demonstrates how these communities are reflected in the places, objects and landscapes that surround us.

The project relied on broad community consultation in order to meet its goal of encompassing a wide variety of perspectives and experiences. Chronologically the 100 objects, places and collections range from the 1830s to the present. Many locations in Victoria are included and there is a wide range of identities.

The initial research and drafting work was conducted by Graham Willett, ALGA's Project Manager, liaising with Dr Marina Larsson of Heritage Victoria. We were assisted by a Working Party of ALGA Committee members (Ange Bailey, Tim Jones and Sarah Rood) and a Reference Group which included, in addition, representatives of Heritage Victoria. The final report was assisted in preparation by Fiona Poulton and Lucy Bracey of Way Back When, consulting historians.

We expect the report to be released by Heritage Victoria in late 2020 or early 2021.

## **GALE**

The Archives' involvement in managing the digitisation of selected holdings for GALE's Archives of Sexuality and Gender (ASG) – Part 4: International Perspectives on LGBTQ Activism and Culture concluded in early 2020. In total our contribution comprised 150 periodicals titles, comprising 7,381 issues, 219,319 pages, and 312,955 articles. This collection is a game changing boost to Australian LGBTI studies, significantly expanding access to a wealth of research material that was previously only accessible onsite.

The ASG database will be available for researchers via our Reading Room once we reopen in the Victorian Pride Centre and is accessible from several research libraries online with a library card, including the National Library of Australia and State Libraries of Victoria, as well as many more libraries that currently are undertaking trials. Committee Member Nick Henderson, who managed the project on behalf of ALGA, has spoken about the project at the VALA - Libraries, Technology and the Future Inc. 2020 Conference in February, and in one of GALE's In Conversation online talk series in August.

As previously highlighted in our last Annual Report, in addition to expanded onsite and offsite access to these newly digitised periodicals, the royalties paid to ALGA over the next five years under our license to GALE will greatly assist us with the many pressing expenses that we have and allow for the expansion of our activities.

## **Committee**

The Committee currently has 9 active members – all of which are the same as those nominated at the 2019 AGM. We continue to meet monthly and have a number of sub-committees for various projects. Continued thanks go also to Gary Jaynes for all his work for the organisation. Thanks also to the contribution of Gary, Trevor Sutherland and Bruce Dixon in managing the membership and annual membership drive.



### **ALGA Finance Sub-Committee**

The Finance Sub-Committee was formed to have oversight of the financial operations of the Archives and advise the Committee on financial decisions. It meets quarterly, with additional strategic meetings for budget preparation and when required. The Sub-Committee membership is Tim Jones (Vice-President, chair), Graham Willett (Treasurer), Gary Jaynes, Darren Williamson, and Kerry Harris (bookkeeper). The additional support in financial matters provided by the Sub-Committee is proving to be valuable in managing the additional responsibilities the Archives faces with an increasing scope of operations, expenses and income streams. Particular thanks to Kerry Harris for supporting the Sub-Committee and providing financial literacy training to the Sub-Committee and Committee.

### **THESIS PRIZE WINNER**

Robin Eames was awarded the 2020 ALGA Thesis Prize Robin's thesis: 'Harry Crawford v History: Problem Bodies, Queertrans Cosmogonies, and Historiographical Ethics in Cases of Gender Transgression in Late Nineteenth-Early Twentieth Century Australia' was described by the judges as 'a strong microhistory which shows just how complex queering or trans-ing one example from the past can be, but also how those very complexities and tensions reveal so much about the how societies construct(ed) and read gender, sexuality and the body'.

Robin says of their win: "I'm very grateful to have my research recognised by ALGA, and was very touched by the Judges insightful comments. Now more than ever I think histories of marginality are profoundly necessary."

Robin wins \$250 and a 1-year ALGA membership. The Judges also awarded 'Highly Commended' to: Cedar Brown, Danielle Scrimshaw, Deborah Trachtenberg-Ray and Dylan Rowen.

ALGA received a great response with over 20 entries from across Australia and overall the judges were incredibly impressed with the quality of entries and topics explored. The 2020 ALGA Thesis Prize was judged by Dr James Bennett, Dr Hannah McCann, Dr Joel Anderson, Prof. Noah Riseman, Ass/Prof Lucy Nicolas and Dr Timothy Jones.

### **ALGA HISTORY CONFERENCE, Canberra November, 15-16 2019**

The 2019 ALGA History Conference took as its theme 'Before Mardi Gras: Gay+ in the 1970s). This was chosen to commemorate the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the formation of the first group in Australia established to campaign for homosexual rights – the Homosexual Law Reform Society of the ACT.

One of the highlights was a panel of speakers composed of four of those who had been founders and activists of the HLRS (James Grieve, Thomas Mautner, Elizabeth Reid, Peter Sekules). We were saddened to hear of the death of James in March 2020. The second plenary included speakers from contemporary queer activism and advocacy in Canberra.

Over two days more than 50 people attended, with 30 papers presented covering the long history of Australian queer life. The conference was staged by the Archives and supported by the ACT government's Office of LGBTIQ+ Affairs and the ANU's School of History. Particular thanks to David Momcilovic and Professor Frank Bongiorno.

The conference was preceded by the launch of *ACTing Out: Canberra's Very Queer History* by Graham Willett.

2020's conference was scheduled to be held in Sydney but was unable to proceed due to the COVID19 pandemic.

### **RESEARCH**

Research has been significantly reduced during 2020, largely due to the Covid-19 lockdown restrictions; however, we have continued to provide a high level of reference support to researchers, this has been significantly assisted by the accessibility of our contributions to the Archives of Sexuality and Gender (ASG) database.

Notable research projects that we have supported in 2020 include "Transgender Australians: The History of an Identity", an Australian Research Council (ARC) Discovery project (2018-20) led by Professor Noah Riseman. Noah's research assistant Geraldine Fela visited the Archives regularly during 2019 and early 2020, and the project has also funded the digitisation of a number audiovisual recordings, and the transcription of our holdings of Australian Transsexual Association radio programs that were broadcast as part of the Gaywaves program (2SER).

The Archives has provided access to digitised collections for Brisbane-based researcher Timothy Roberts, who published his book 'Blue and black in Brisbane: Boot Co. a history', the first published history of an Australian leather club.

We have supported the research for three film projects: Abbie Pobjoy's 'Why did she have to tell the world?' (<https://www.abbiepobjoy.com/copy-of-bub>), 'A documentary uncovering Australia's first televised lesbian couple and their lives fifty years on'; Kate Lefoe's 'Wicked Women' web series (<http://katelefoe.com/in-development/>), a dramatic series on the founders of Australia's first lesbian sex radical magazine; and Anna Brownfield's 'A Big Life' an online documentary 'exploring the life of Bobbie Nugent, a well-known part of the Australian butch and femme scene in the 1950s and 60s, this project tells a story of gangsters, sex workers, travelling side shows and Australian transgender history'.

### **Volunteers**

Volunteer engagement has understandably been significantly down due to Covid-19 lockdown restrictions, with onsite volunteers unable to be supported following our regular Christmas-New Year's shutdown, for only three months. However, we have continued to support online volunteers, through transcription of oral history interviews, summarising oral history interviews, logging radio programs, and transcribing a collection of WWII correspondence. In addition, Nick has undertaken some offsite digital and physical archival processing.

### **ACQUISITION HIGHLIGHTS AND COLLECTION DEVELOPMENT**

The Archives' acquisitions are significantly down from the same period last year; however, we have continued to acquire a range of physical and digital material during the year. Of note is the increase in women's and trans archival collections. The following list highlights significant collections received by the Archives this year. In addition to these highlights, we receive a regular stream of small donations of books, badges, posters, ephemera and t-shirts. The latter includes a wealth of material regularly collected and donated by our tireless Sydney Collection Officer Ulo Klemmer.

### **Archives**

Papers of Patricia (Patt) Cristina. 218cm: records and banners relating to the Geelong Lesbian Group.

Papers of Narelle Grace. 36cm: publications, articles, ephemera relating to HIV/AIDS in Canberra.

Records of Vintage Men. 36cm: records, ephemera, and periodicals.

Records of Vic Presence. 150cm: banner, DVDs, Mini DVs, t-shirts, and flags.

Records of AIS Support Group Australia. 102cm: banner, ephemera, badges, and photographs.

Papers of Frances Rand. 76cm: archives, photos, artwork, objects, and audiovisual recordings relating to Lesbians of the Loose (LOTL).

Stations of the X Collection. 40cm: periodicals, ephemera, and photographs relating to Kings Cross.

Papers of John Hewson. 126cm: archives, audiovisual recordings, books and periodicals, relating to transgender and drag life in Australia.



Papers of Patrick Harrop. 18cm: records and ephemera, relating to an Australian Permanent Residency application, and ephemera relating to Midsumma, Mardi Gras etc.

Records of Drag Kings Vic. 146cm: records, photographs, ephemera, and audiovisual recordings.

Papers of Ross King. 8cm: periodicals, ephemera, textiles and an audiovisual recording relating to Cruisers MCC, with additional material relating to SPMC, SCMC and Jackaroos.

Papers of Tony Kay (addition). 4cm: objects, photographs and ephemera relating to the Gay Games.

Papers of Rob Gould. 40cm: periodicals, posters, and newspaper clippings, relating to the Melbourne Jewish community response to marriage equality, and the Tasty Raid.

Papers of David Hilliard (addition). 10cm: periodicals, books, and ephemera relating to the Lesbian and Gay Christian Movement.

Papers of Martine Locke. 10cm: records, and audio recordings.

Martin Harsono Collection. 30cm: objects and ephemera relating to the Recreational Arts Team – RAT parties.

Papers of Dennis Altman (addition). 30cm: periodicals, ephemera, books, and textiles.

Papers of Judith Slade (addition). 5cm: newspaper clippings, photographs, ephemera and objects.

Papers of Peter Bonsall-Boone (addition). 4cm: records, periodicals and photographs relating to the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Sydney House.

Papers of Dr Trevor Fry Collection. 18cm: art exhibition ephemera.

Papers of Hubert Burt Koopman (Burt Cooper). 126cm: records, photographs, posters, and objects.

Papers of Ian Goller (addition). 4cm: records and photographs.

Papers of Geraldine Kirby (addition). 10cm: records, posters, artwork, textile and ephemera relating to ALSO Foundation and AIDS Mates.

Records of Waterbyrd Filmz. 60cm: records and photographs relating to the production of the documentary Remembering the man (2016), a doco about the true story of Tim Conigrave and John Caleo.

Papers of Noel Lewington (addition). 40cm: photographs relating to Australian motorcycle clubs (SPMC, Rangers and Dolphins) and Country Network.

Papers of Ken Noads: 5cm: records, audiovisual and audio recordings relating to amateur theatrical productions produced for South Pacific Motor Club (SPMC).

Papers of Keith Stodden (addition). 432cm: archives and photographs.

Papers of Jossi Clyde. 240cm: records (diaries).

Papers of Stuart Black. 18cm: records, photographs and ephemera.

## **Books**

Let's eat cake / by Maylei Hunt

Rainbow warrior: my life in color / Gilbert Baker

Books by Pam Brown x12

Start with your own onion / by Gregory Kelly

The rise of the versatile: gay male sex roles in Australia / Peter Di Sciascio

Palely loitering / Hugh Patrick O'Keefe

The day you came before / Alistair Sutton

Conspiracy of skin / Peter Mitchell

Sex variants / George Henry (1941), 2 vols [previously banned]

Activism and the policy process / Anna Yeatman (ed), includes Australian chapters etc

## **Photographs**

Carol Leen Huish Collection. 1cm: negatives and proof prints of a 1990 ACT UP demonstration in Melbourne.

Lane Collection. 7cm (1 album): photographs, with some ephemera and newspaper clippings documenting Lane's life and social circle in Kings Cross during the 1960s.

Johannes (Hans) Schepers Collection. 31 digital photographs taken at the National Summer Offensive March, Melbourne, 1980.

Ron Reid Collection. 2cm: photographs of Adelaide social events in the 1970s-1980s.

Leigh Visser Collection. 1cm: colour slides documenting Vietnam War training at the School of Army Health, Healesville, Vic., and 1st Australian Field Hospital at Vung Tau, Vietnam (1967-1969), and Ian Goller's retirement in 1992.

Elaine Norlington Collection. 159 colour photographs of Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, 1994-1998.  
Ponch Hawkes – Lesbians Are Lovely photograph

### **Objects**

Pair of Volley Australia Pride High-Leap shoes  
Pair of Just Love Crocs designed by Ruby Rose

### **Posters**

Forum: Sexual Oppression & Liberation : Campaign Against Moral Persecution S.A. Branch, c.1972  
Sydney Sexual Health Centre Collection: 21 posters

### **Textiles**

'Lesbians and Gays for Reconciliation, Queers Stick with Wik' banner  
Scouts Victoria Pride March 2020 patch  
3 face masks, including a Progress Pride Flag, Ally Pride Flag, and Bear Pride Flag.  
Here for Health (ACON) face mask

### **Audio**

Bill West Collection (addition): 12x 1/4" reels; 11x compact cassette tapes

### **Audiovisual**

Sydney Sexual Health Centre Collection: 11x VHS tapes  
Frances Rand Collection: 20x VHS tapes  
John Hewson Collection: 20x VHS tapes

## **SOCIAL MEDIA**

### **Facebook**

The Archives' Facebook page and group continued to grow in number of likes and views throughout 2019-20. The Facebook page continued to focus on events, new acquisitions, researchers, volunteers and the work of our Committee Members. ALGA's Facebook page has 11,033 likes (25 October 2020), up from 9073 likes (24 September 2019), 6950 likes (28 October 2018) and 4,422 likes (3 August 2017). Our most popular post highlighted the 50th anniversary of the establishment of CAMP Inc, which received 187 likes, 118 shares, and reached 26,883 people, with 3,119 engagements.

Our Facebook group focuses on articles and issues on LGBTI history and archives in Australia and internationally and facilitates discussion and community around Australian and international LGBTI history. Our group currently includes 4,553 members (25 October 2020), up from 3,321 members (24 September 2019).

### **Twitter**

We have 2,110 Followers (November 9 2020) and our tweets earned approximately 140K impressions from November 1, 2019 to November 1, 2020.

Popular content included #OnThisDay about National Homosexual Conference (and ALGA's birthday), Trans Day of Visibility post about Seahorse Victoria, our thesis prize winner, Midsumma events and the Heritage 100 project, online queer archive/history resources to help people 'queery the quarantine' as we went into lockdown. Our primary audience on Twitter continues to be researchers and GLAM sector workers.

## **EXHIBITIONS, EVENTS AND PROGRAMMING**

Queer Objects Book launch at Hare & Hyenas coordinated by Nick Henderson  
NGV – World AIDS Day programming 'Art for Change' coordinated/chaired by Angela Bailey  
Midsumma Carnival Stall, Alexandra Gardens with Heritage 100 mapping queer histories around Victoria inspired activity  
Midsumma ALGA History Walk – Fitzroy

This year's queer history walk was led by Graham Willett and Wayne Murdoch and surveyed the queer history of Fitzroy and Collingwood. Other speakers included Ange Bailey, Clare O'Hanlon, Richard Watts, Helen Pausacker, Richard Keeble, Gary Jaynes and Nick Henderson. About 50 people registered and attended. Thanks to Helen Pausacker and Gary Jaynes for producing the program.

Other Midsumma activities included: a history walk conducted for staff of the City of Melbourne; a public lecture to the Hobson Bay Library; a contribution to ThorneHarbour Health's Fairfield Hospital History Walk.

QTV - Bill Calder and Kathy Sport produced a series of programs for QTV. Each episode contained a history spot developed and presented by Graham Willett. He also offered a series of public lectures for the THH COVID-lockdown series.

Amazine Adventures in Remaking History (with Prahran Mechanics Institute Library) - queer history research and zine making workshop with Committee members Clare O'Hanlon and Nick Henderson

*Creating community in Melbourne's west* (Williamstown Library)- contributed some material

*Pleasure* exhibition RMIT Gallery – loan of collection items

*Small Town Queer* – Tweed Regional Museum - loan of digital images

*Friendship is a Way of Life* exhibition – UNSW Galleries - loan of collection items, talks by Nick Henderson and Daniel Marshall

Australian Love Stories online exhibition, National Portrait Gallery – loan of collection items, talk by Nick Henderson  
Digital images from collection provided, on request, to media outlets, film makers, publications etc.

## **VALE**

Ken Lovett

Sandi Banks

Ronne Arnold

Frank Watters

Prof Ron Penny

William Mansfield-Bennett (Mother Premonstratensia)

Ian Richard

Geoff Honnor

Liz Fell

Susan Ryan

Raven Baylock

James Grieve

## **TREASURER'S REPORT**

### 2019 – 20 Finance Report

ALGA's financial result for the 2019 – 20 financial year is a profit of \$79,146.

In early 2019 ALGA formed a Financial Framework Working Group to look at a financial framework that will document what constitutional requirements, policies and procedures are to be used to make sure ALGA's money is being sustainably and properly managed. The working group produced a paper that recommended some changes to ALGA's financial operations with the significant changes being the formation of a Finance Sub-Committee, appointment of a paid bookkeeper, a change of accounting system (to Xero) and reporting format and the adoption of accrual accounting. These changes took effect from 1 July 2019.

ALGA continues to receive tremendous support from members, donors and benefactors to support its operations and we again thank our supporters for their generosity. We would also like to thank the

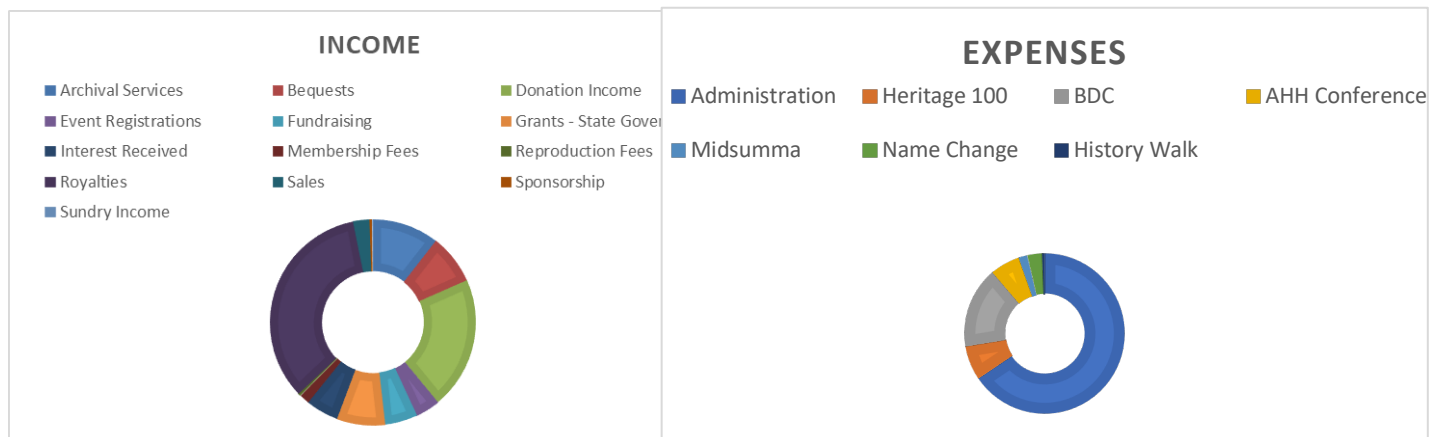
Victorian Government through the LGBTIQ Community Grants Program for their \$38k investment in ALGA's Building Digital Capability project which commenced in 2019–20.

The financial management of the organisation has matured to aid in good decision making and ALGA is cognisant that long term financial sustainability depends on being able to diversify its income, closely manage its expenses and invest in the future. The profit of \$79,146 was driven largely by new income streams; royalties from digitising the periodicals in the collection and receiving archival service fees to complement ALGA's usual income sources. The change of financial operations has seen bookkeeping fees added to expenses for the first time. 2019–20 also saw ALGA host the AHH Conference in Canberra, an event that is held every 2 years, and the income and expenses from the conference are included in ALGA's finances.

Financial Performance

**Profit & Loss Statement**  
**1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020**

Income	\$ 141,650
Expenses	\$ 62,504
<b>Ordinary Net Profit/(Loss)</b>	<b>\$ 79,146</b>



ALGA's solid financial performance in 2019 – 20 combined with the level of output of the Committee and volunteers ensure ALGA will be used for future significant ongoing costs for:

- Relocation to the Victorian Pride Centre
- Project Monte – collection management software
- Employment of a Coordinator

Income

- **Membership Fees** – with the changeover to accrual accounting the 2019/20 amount is less as memberships 2018/19 were recorded when they were received, not according to the membership year it applied to, so this figure is higher.
- **Donations** – ALGA continues to receive strong support from donors and we thank everyone for their generous gifts that enables ALGA to collect and preserve queer history.
- **Interest** – through prudent financial management and generous benefactors, ALGA is able to earn interest from a term deposit.
- **Publication Sales** – have been consistent for another year.
- **State Government** - \$38k investment in the Building Digital Capability project.

## Expenses

ALGA's main areas of expenditure relate to administration, projects and events:

- **Administration** – a significant part of the collection is stored offsite and is the main administration expense. With the move to the Victorian Pride Centre imminent the majority of the collection will be housed there.
- **Building Digital Capability** – the purpose of this project is increase ALGA's digital capabilities through a refresh of the website and the purchase of new technology, made possible by funding from the LGBTIQ Community Grants Program.
- **AHH Conference** – the main expense for the conference is catering for attendees. This cost is offset by registration income.
- **Heritage 100** – ALGA received funding from DELWP to produce a report 'A History of LGBTIQ+ Victoria in 100 Places and Objects'. There were costs associated with writing and editing the report.
- **Name Change** – involves costs associated with the name change consultation process.
- **Events** – ALGA's annual stall at Midsumma and Mardi Grass and the annual History Walk.

## Financial Position

With the introduction of accrual accounting and the use of Xero accounting software, ALGA is now able to produce a Balance Sheet to understand its financial position of assets, liabilities and equity. This will aid in long term financial planning and sustainability.

ALGA's asset position is strong with cash making up a significant proportion of its assets.

### ALGA's Cash Position

Bank accounts	128,594
Term Deposit	350,000
<b>Total Cash</b>	<b>478,594</b>

Reporting under accrual accounting means ALGA is able to recognise income, particularly grant income, when it is earned. In the Balance Sheet as at 30 June 2020 there is \$46,253 in unexpended grant funds that will be spent in 2020 – 21. ALGA liabilities are minimal with the largest liability being \$49,397 in accrued income for the 2019 – 20 financial year.

### MEMBERSHIP REPORT FOR 2019-20

There were 316 financial members of ALGA in 2019-20, down from the high of 371 in 2018-19.

152 of last year's 371 members did not renew (41%), offset by 71 new members and 18 people who re-joined as members after lapsing one or more years.

The attrition rate of 41% is higher than it has been in recent years (26% in 2018-19, 25% in 2017-18 and 2016-17, 26% in 2015-16, 25% in 2014-15). We note there has been a significant improvement in the renewal rate in the new membership year, 2020-21.

This year the proportion of members from outside Victoria was 35%, a similar proportion to the previous few years. Membership by state of home address over the past four years is as follows:

Members x state	2019-20 nos	%	2018-19 nos	%	2017- 18 nos	%	2016- 17 nos	%
ACT	7	2%	10	3%	10	3%	6	2%
NSW	74	23%	85	23%	88	26%	76	28%
NT	1	0%	2	1%	2	1%	1	0%
QLD	9	3%	8	2%	10	3%	10	4%
SA	11	4%	8	2%	9	3%	8	3%
Tas	6	2%	5	1%	1	0%	1	0%
VIC	204	65%	245	66%	214	62%	162	60%
WA	3	1%	4	1%	7	2%	4	1%
Overseas	1	0%	4	1%	4	1%	2	1%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>371</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>345</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>270</b>	<b>100%</b>

Donations from members continues to be a substantial proportion of total donation income (\$20,230 of \$29, 413 total). See analysis below of income from donations and membership.

#### Donation and membership income analysis 2019-20

Donations contributed \$29,412.70 from 285 separate donations. This is up from \$23,906.22 (222 separate donations) in 2018-19

See list of donors below. The spread of donations in 2019-20 is as follows:

Donations 2019-20				
	Number of donations	\$	Average	Number of donations
0 to \$20	117	\$1,681.44	\$14.37	6%
\$21 to \$50	92	\$3,700.48	\$40.22	13%
\$51 to \$100	41	\$3,775.00	\$92.07	13%
\$101 to \$500	25	\$7,137.40	\$285.50	24%
\$501 to \$1000	4	\$3,512.00	\$878.00	12%
Over \$1000	6	\$9,606.38	\$1,601.06	33%
	<b>285</b>	<b>\$29,412.70</b>	<b>\$103.20</b>	<b>100%</b>



The median donation (50% of donors gave more, 50% less) was between \$25 and \$30, compared with just below \$25 in 2018-19. The mean donation (\$103) was slightly lower than last year's mean of \$107.

220 of the 285 separate donations (77%) in 2019-20 were from members, accounting for \$20,230 (69%) of donation income, a little less than the equivalent proportion last year (71%).

About half of the ALGA's 316 members donated in 2019-20, some members making more than one donation. The average donation amount by members was \$93. Most of these donations were made via RegisterNow at the time of membership payment, although some donors of larger amounts kindly donated by direct credit to minimise fees charged to ALGA.

Membership fee revenue was \$2,170, compared with \$5,975 in 2018-19. The 2019-20 figure is abnormally low because of the move to accrual accounting in 2019-20 (membership fees for 2020-21 paid in June 2020 have been treated as income in 2020-21).

**THANK YOU TO OUR DONORS**

	Big Gay Brunswick Party (July 2019)	Gideon Cohen
		Sally Colechin
Robert Aldrich, Geoff Allshorn	Gray Birch	David Conolly
	Roy Bishop	Francesca Curtis
Dennis Altman	Frank Bongiorno	Chris Cutler
Kevin Anderson	Jacobin Bosman	ED
Andrew B	David Bradford	Justine D
Anna B	William Brougham	Phuong D
ANVA Holdings	Gary Bryer	ZD
Colin B	Andrew C	Sophia Davidson Gluyas
JB	HC	Ken Davis
RB	MC	Mannie De Saxe
Barbara Baird	Scott C	Laura Deriu
Barry Brian	Bill Calder	Megan Dew
Laurie Bebbington	Emil Canita	Bruce Dixon
Jason Benjamin	Michael Carnes	Paul Drakeford
James Bennett	Lauren Clair	Louise Dressing
Ian and Javant Biarujia	Anthony Clark	

Kerryn Drysdale	Brenton Head	Mathew M
Alan Duncan	Camille Heisler	Vicki M
Quinn Eades	Christiane Marie-Josee Hennequin	Jodie Martire
Sam Elkin	Anthony Hillis	Mark Matthews
Jonathon E	John Hobson	Bartley McGowan
Maureen Engel	Philomena Horsley	Erin McKenna
Estate of the late John Storey	Michael Huxley	Murray McLachlan
Estate of the late Stuart Black / The Laird Hotel	DJ	Jonathan McLay
Paul Evans	LJ	Kirsten McLean
CMF	Tim J	Tristan Meecham
Lucy F	Sue Jackson	David Menadue
Brett Fenton	Gary Jaynes	Craig Middleton
Bernard Fitzgerald	Megan Jenner	Michael Monty
Claire Flynn	Mike Jones	Louise Muller
Astra G	Vicki Jones	BN
BG	Barbara K	Neighbours film crew
MG	Leigh Keen	Joan Nestle
Jamie Gardiner	Amy-Rose King	Ivan Nunn
Robert Gibbs	Trevor Kollman	Claire O
Ian Goudie	Kendall L	JO
Ian Gould	LL	Michelle O
Bruce Grant	Leigh Keen	Mark Orr
Ren Gregoric	Patrick Kelly	Dianne Otto
MH	Kim Kemmis	David Owen
RH	John Kennedy	BP
Trent H	Luca Lana	Moya Palmer in memory of James McCraket
Melissa Hardie	Jessie Lymn	Phyllis Papps
Kerry Harris	Adam M	Fiona Paskulich

Mark Payne	YS	Deb W
Richard Peterson	David Sansome	RW
Barburam Poudel	Melanie Schwerdt	Richard W
Frank Prain	Gary Schliemann	SW
David Provan	Trevor Scroop	Bart van der Wel
Amy R	William Sergeant	Paul Van Reyk
GR	Hunter Smith	Son Vivienne
Rebecca R	Steve Stephanopoulos	Anthony Whelan
Ciara Redmond	John Stevens	Graham Willett
Eric Riddler	Geoffrey Stewardson	Dale Withers
Mark Riley	Douglas Stewart Fine Books	Liz Wright
James Robinson	Jeffrey Stewart	Alex Wyatt
Joe Rocca	Keith Stodden	Margaret Young
Raymond Rogers	Richard Stone	DZ
Peter Ronge	Trevor Sutherland	
Michael Ryan	Geoff T	
BS	Dejay Toborek	
CS	Robert Thompson	
ES	Alison Thorne	
Emma S	Francesco Triolo	
GS	Anthony Venn-Brown	
PS	AW	

**Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012**

Sections 94(2)(b), 97(2)(b) and 100(2)(b)


**ANNUAL STATEMENTS GIVE TRUE AND FAIR  
VIEW OF FINANCIAL POSITION OF  
INCORPORATED ASSOCIATION**

We [Angela Bailey and Graham Willett] being members of the Committee of the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives Inc, certify that —

The statements attached to this certificate give a true and fair view of the financial position of the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives Inc during and at the end of the financial year of the association ending on 30 June 2020.

Signed: 

Dated: 11/11/2020

Signed: 

Dated: 11/11/2020

# MINUTES OF 2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Draft pending adoption at the 2020 AGM

Held on Wednesday 30 October 2019, 6pm at Hares and Hyenas, 63 Johnston St, Fitzroy

## 1. Chairperson to open meeting

Acknowledgement of Country

Present at meeting:

Members: Angela Bailey, Clare O’Hanlon, Nick Henderson, Daniel Marshall, Gary Jaynes, Richard Keeble, Liz Ross, Graham Willett, Timothy Jones, Bruce Dixon, Michael Barnett, Brett Fenton, Chris Friday, Jamie Gardiner, Marina Larsson, Matthew Martini, Gene Melzack, Richard Peterson, Anton Provan, Trevor Sutherland, Darren Williamson, Dale Withers, John Witte, KL Joy, Marina Larsson

## 2. Apologies

Kate Rowe, Nick Smart, Bart van der Wal, Michael Williams, James Worner, Margaret Young, Dennis Altman, Kevin Anderson, David Bradford, Bill Calder, Mannie De Saxe, Kendall Lovett, David Menadue, Anthony Hillis, Roger Jones, Sarah Rood, Yorick Smaal

Angela welcomed everyone to the AGM and thanked Crusader and Rowland from Hares and Hyenas team for providing the venue.

## 3. Confirmation of Minutes of the 2018 AGM

Moved: Timothy Jones

Seconded: Chris Friday

Passed by consensus

## 4. Office Bearers Report

Angela provided an overview of the last 12 months, noting many of our key projects.

- ALGA is still based at Thorne Harbour Health within their tenancy of the Cancer Council building in St Kilda Rd. ALGA also has offsite storage at two locations. A process of access and retrieval of material for researchers has been put in place and is coordinated by Nick and Richard
- The 2018, ALGA 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations were celebrated as part of the – Queer legacies, new solidarities conference, held in Melbourne in late 2019
- ALGA’s strategic plan has guided us through the last 12 months with priorities and future direction until 2021 and while the measures might change our goals remain the same.
- The engagement of Kerry Harris, as office coordinator was extended from 6 to 8 months. The majority of this position was funded through a grant from the equality department of state government. Kerry has brought a range of new Administrative procedures and created a more streamlined financial process to the organisation which has been fantastic. Thanks to Kerry. As recommended by the Finance Subcommittee and Committee a dedicated Bookkeeper was to engaged to manage our finances and financial reporting and at the end of Kerry’s contract she

began in her role as our bookkeeper. This will ease the load off Gary Jaynes who has managed this in a volunteer capacity for many years. Thanks to Gary Jaynes

- We received a Project grant from department of Equality for our Building Digital Capability project to digitise our parts of collection, better manage our digital storage and reworking our website.
- In June 2019 ALGA committee members attended and participated in the LGBTQ ALMS in Berlin – Queering memory- and presented papers, participated on panels, chaired sessions. The conference was co-organised by former committee member Kate Davison. It was a great opportunity to compare notes on databases, programming and name changes, with other International queer Archives.
- ALGA also showcased some of our collection in digital displays at Australia House in London as part of London Pride week in June. We were also welcomed to a function at Australia House Sydney that also welcomed the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras world pride bid.
- Victorian Pride centre - most recently we have been negotiating our agreement with the VPC re moving in as a key tenant. This is anticipated to be September 2020.

#### Questions from the floor

- KL Joy – “will the pride centre have climate control archival storage – for example for items like leather artefacts?” Answer – The ALGA space will have its own temperature controls and we will monitor temp and humidity – which is much better than we have ever had. The space itself is approx. 187 sq metres and, with a growing collection, locate as much as we can on site but may need managed storage. There will be new, dedicated compactus – an area for processing material – room for plan drawers – office space and desks – and tables for handling items. We are hoping to set up a library – with duplicates – which will enable browsing even without an appointment. We plan to be more open/accessible/more visitor friendly and aim to display some of the collection alongside research access.
- Richard Peterson – “Does the compactus have a fire rating?” Answer We provided a quote to VPC with size details of compactus – the engineers had to create a special corner of our space that could handle the loading of compactus. Not sure re ‘fire rating’.
- Chris Friday – “How does ALGA compare with similar organisations overseas?” Answer - We think we’re doing pretty well, and our issues are similar to other orgs – the Schwules Museum for example has 80% unprocessed material- much more than us currently; One archive have 7 paid staff and government grants to keep them going. They also have large scale donations from benefactors. Most have basement storage – Bishopgate/Schwules. For organisations that are most similar to us – we are near the top.

#### 5. Treasurers report

The Figures reflected in the Annual Report outline our funds in the bank. With Kerry Harris coming on board as bookkeeper we will move to an accrual accounting system. A few notes regarding the funds the ‘Building Digital Capability’ grant – arrived towards the end of year but won’t be expended – precommitments – income in 18/19 year is not expended until 19/20. At present with \$400,000 in bank – net profit around \$17,000

Other costs were the Office coordinator position (from a grant); Commercial storage –significant – it didn’t begin until November 2017 and 2020 will probably be similar to this year. All other expenses very



similar to previous year - \$16,000 for operational – which included more insurance – we now hold: Volunteer Insurance; Public Liability Insurance; Association Insurance and Workcover.

Thanks to Gary Jaynes for his honorary bookkeeper role and in handing over to Kerry Harris.

Our Finance subcommittee better enables a fine-tuned understanding of costs.

Thank you to donors – the majority of our money still comes from donors/members and contributes significantly to our ongoing operation.

Thanks also St Albans Bingo – Mathew martini – thank you. We also receive funds from book sales; loan fees for lending to other cultural institutions and for digital reproduction.

Our finances have also benefited from in-kind rent-free accommodation with Thorne Horne Health - Thank you to Thorne Harbour Health.

Liz Ross asked “What the plans were for fundraising/philanthropy?” – Answer: We are aiming to ignite the philanthropy plan and use the base of a giving program that we have already developed to then align with our move to the VPC

John Witte from the Hunter Valley Rainbow History group asked “The collection is Australian wide, and the funding is rely only form Melbourne/Victoria. Is there a way of solicing funding from around Australia – particularly regarding digitisation. For example, if a Sydney group acquired funding to have digitisation particular to Sydney parts of the collection. – might ease the burden off Melbourne/Victoria?” Answer – We have had targeted donations from other parts of Australia – and sought funding for community specific projects – Mardi Gras, Sydney – Darwin and this should be enhanced via the GALE project – always presents challenges being a national organisation and yet being physically located in a specific place.

Annual Report approved

Moved: Nick Henderson

Seconded: Richard Keeble

Passed by consensus

## **6. Name Change Consultation Report**

Angela outlined process since initiating the consultation at the 2018 AGM, after repeated and increasingly regular feedback from community that the current name is not inclusive of the communities diversity, our collection and our collection policy. A powerpoint presentation was played to the meeting that outlined the consultation to date and acknowledged that the commitment to the process of consultation and a decision will not be rushed.

Key points:

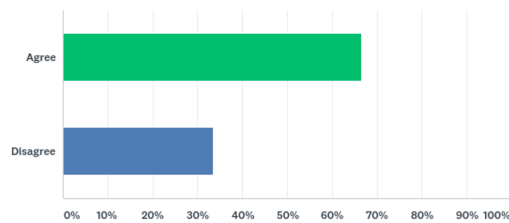
1. 1978: Founded as the Australian Gay Archives
2. 1991: the name was changed to the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives (ALGA)
3. Increasingly regularly receiving commentary from our communities and members about the dissonance between our holdings, our collecting aims and our name

4. 2019: conversations, survey and discussion forums to check in with members and supporters about how they feel about our name and discuss possible alternatives

1. Overview of consultation provided on website
2. Flyers outlining the name change at Midsumma Carnival 2019
3. 30-40 one-on-one conversations and email correspondence
4. 450 responses to on-line survey – first to members and then open to general public
5. Two facilitated discussion forums (28-30 people)
6. Email and phone follow up with people unable to attend forums

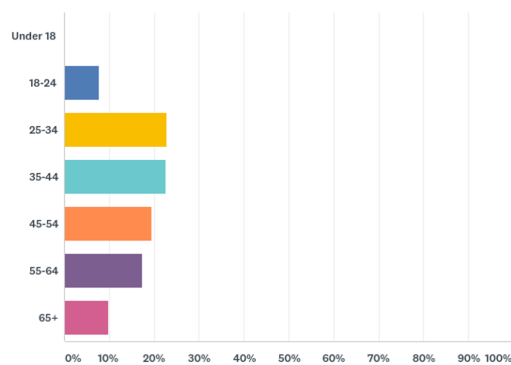
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Q1 Do you think the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives (ALGA) should develop a new name?



Survey Question – 447 responses – 66.44% agree and 33.5 disagree

Q5 Your Age bracket?



Across all age brackets the response was in the affirmative to change the name

Other Survey questions included

1. What do you like/dislike about the name (441 responses)
2. What would you like to retain in the name (430 responses)
3. What do you imagine a new name to be (420 responses)
4. The other questions were – how you identify your sexuality/gender(449 responses) and postcode

Considerations in a new name as referenced during consultation:

**Simple, unique and memorable:** The ability for people to easily recall and say the name

**Inclusiveness and diversity:** The diversity of collections and communities that are represented

**Available to register:** Availability to register trademark, domain name etc

**Longevity:** The ability to stand the test of time

**Vision and purpose:** The organisation's vision and purpose

Findings:

1. *Yes, ALGA should change its name*
2. *The name should be more inclusive to better reflect the diversity of our communities and collections*
3. *We should probably keep Archives and Australian (or use National)*
4. *Some of the most frequently suggested alternative names were Australian LGBTIQ+ Archives, Australian Queer Archives/AQA/AQuA*

Overview: We acknowledge this process has taken longer than anticipated and that we are not ready to bring a new name to consideration by members. There has been good feedback regarding our handling of this process and the number of people who have engaged with it.

Next Stage: the next stage will be some planning around our next steps and more consultation to bring a new name to a special meeting in 2020.

#### 7. Election of Committee Members:

Angela called for nominations for the Executive Committee positions.

President – Angela Bailey

Vice-President – Timothy Jones

Secretary – Clare O'Hanlon

Treasurer – Graham Willett

As there was only one nomination per position, each nominee was duly elected.

#### 8. Number of Ordinary committee members

The Committee agreed that the number of Ordinary members for the next year would be the same (6).

CARRIED

Committee Members nominated:

Richard Keeble

Daniel Marshall

Sarah Rood

Nick Henderson

Yorick Smaal

There were no nominations from the floor. As there were only five (5) nominations, each nominee was duly elected.

Noted that we do have currently one vacancy - Keen for someone with legal knowledge as we are working with an increasing number of contracts.

### **Life Membership induction – GRAHAM WILLETT**

Graham Willet was awarded Life Membership to ALGA – Daniel introduced Graham and read out reflections from Helen Pausacker, Wayne Murdoch, Bill Calder, and Dino Hodge, and a slide show of images was played. Gary Jaynes and Liz Ross shared reflections too. Graham accepted the award.

Graham's vast contributions to the Archives include serving as president for many years, as well as serving in other roles on the committee. Graham's involvement in the archives stretches back to the 1990s, and as a researcher and writer he has helped build Australian LGBTIQ history and shape the archives as a formidable research space and resource. As the author and co-editor of many publications, including the pathfinding work *Living out Loud: A history of gay and lesbian activism in Australia* and the first book on Melbourne's queer history, *Secret Histories of Queer Melbourne*, Graham has helped make the archives' collection accessible to countless people. By forging links between the Archives and universities, including through the Archives' conferences and thesis prize and his work supervising postgraduate students' research Graham helped to open pathways into the archives for a new generation of volunteers. Graham's leadership was particularly valuable during a period when the archives confronted the very real possibility of closure due to a lack of funds and resources. As a vocal advocate for public LGBTIQ history Graham has helped to energise the work of the Archives and articulate its value to all.