

1972

A chronology of LGBTIQ+ communities and movements in Sydney from 1969 to 2018

Updated on 4/10/2019

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
19 January 1972		At the second <i>Sexual Liberation Forum</i> at Sydney University, featuring Germaine Greer, Gillian Leahy and Denis Altman, Gay Liberation declares itself as the revolutionary wing of the homosexual movement.	KD
February 1972		Gay Liberation groups replace CampUS CAMP at Sydney University and the University of NSW and form a loose alliance with Sydney Gay Liberation.	RF
28 February 1972		<i>Time</i> magazine reviews Denis Altman's book, <i>Homosexual Oppression and Liberation</i> .	KD
March 1972		Gay Liberation groups are formed the Universities of Sydney and NSW.	MM
March 1972		The NSW Law Reform Group meets with parliamentarians to discuss both the Federal and State Criminal Code.	CI V2N5
1 March 1972		<i>William and John</i> , closes after 8 issues.	KD
11 March 1972		Gay Liberation marches for the first time as a contingent in the international Women's Day March.	KD
April 1972		Homosexual Guidance Service established within CAMP.	KD
April 1972		<i>CAMP Ink</i> reveals that a member of the <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> staff has confirmed that the paper has a policy of not mentioning the gay movement favourably.	CI V2N6
10 May 1972	Adelaide	Dr George Duncan is murdered by drowning in the Torrens River, Adelaide. The S.A. Vice-Squad police suspected.	RF
11 June 1972		Sydney Gay Liberation runs sessions at the Women's Liberation Conference.	MM
July 1972		Gay Liberation Centre is set up in a room at 67 Glebe Point Road with the co-operation of co-tenants, Gillian Leahy and Bob Gould.	SGLV1N1
1 July 1972	Adelaide	The <i>Adelaide Advertiser</i> calls for the legalisation of homosexuality in an editorial.	RF
3 July 1972		Dennis Altman appears as guest on the national ABC-TV program <i>Monday Conference</i> .	RF



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8 July 1972		Gay Liberation fund-raising party held at 393 Darling Street, Balmain and over 550 people (including many straights) turn up.	SGLV1N1
11 July 1972		70 Members of CAMP and Gay Liberation demonstrate outside the ABC TV offices against the cancelling of a <i>This Day Tonight</i> report on gay liberation. One person, David McDiarmid is arrested.	RF
22 July 1972		A forum on aversion therapy is organised by UNSW Gay Liberation.	MM
27 July 1972		200 march in Sydney to mark the fifth anniversary of law reform in England, during CAMP Sex Lib Week, supported by Gay Lib. Posters are put up saying "Bill Posters will be prosecuted...because he is homosexual" (with a version for "Mary Posters").	KD
28 July 1972		Gay Lib Dance is held in the Manning Building, University of Sydney.	SGL pamphlet
29 July 1972	Adelaide	A CAMP symposium on homosexuality is held at the University of Adelaide.	RF
2 August 1972	Adelaide	A homosexual law reform bill is introduced into Parliament by Murray Hill MLC.	RF
3 August 1972		Dennis Altman and Sue Wills speak at an Forum on Homosexuality at Macquarie University Union.	SGL pamphlet
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8 August 1972		Street theatre protests are staged at the University of NSW against aversion therapy.	KD
10 August 1972		Gay Liberation Forum, "Homosexuals on Campus" is held at University of NSW.	SGL pamphlet
23 August 1972	Adelaide	A meeting with speakers Dennis Altman and Lex Watson, the Gay Activists Alliance (GAA) is formed.	RF
2 September 1972		Fundraising Party in aid of the CAMP Ink at 393 Darling Street, Balmain.	SGLV1N2
8 September 1972		Gay Lib Dance is held in the Manning Building, University of Sydney.	SGL pamphlet
October 1972		Red and yellow gay liberation badges are now sold by Sydney Gay Liberation.	SGLV1N4
October 1972		Trevor Wilson announces a collection of gay lib papers, books and pamphlets on loan from the Sydney Gay Liberation centre.	SGLV1N4
31 October 1972		The ABC <i>Chequerboard</i> program features gay couples – Peter de Waal and Peter Bonsall-Boone, Gaby Antolovitch and Sue Wills.	CI V2N12
9 November 1972	Adelaide	Limited homosexual law reform is enacted, that sees homosexuality remain a crime but allows a defence if the sexual act is committed in private between no more than two people aged 21 years or older.	RF
12 November 1972		A demonstration is staged at St Clements Anglican Church, Mosman, protesting against the sacking of a church worker, Peter Bonsall-Boone after he appeared on the ABC <i>Chequerboard</i> program on homosexuality.	KD
23 November 1972		General meeting of Sydney Gay Liberation, "Towards a workable Sydney Gay Lib", discusses organisational problems and suggestions for changes.	SGLV1N5
2 December 1972		David Widdup runs against the Prime Minister MacMahon in the Federal Seat of Lowe with the slogan "I've got my eyes on Billy's seat!" and "vote for a homosexual that lives in the electorate". He gets 218 votes.	KD

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2 December 1972		The Labor Party wins office and Gough Whitlam becomes Prime Minister.	RF
2 December 1972		Sydney Gay Liberation supports the Newcastle Gay Lib Group's party at the Cooks Hill Surf Club.	SGLV1N5
16-17 December 1972		Gay Liberation Weekend is held at Minto. Workshops and a party/dance are held.	A Gay Liberation Pamphlet
23 November 1972		General meeting of Sydney Gay Liberation, "Towards a workable Sydney Gay Lib", discusses organisational problems and suggestions for changes.	SGLV1N5
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Sources:

MM = Murray McLachlan

KD = Ken Davis

RF = Robert French

Based partly on previous listings by:

- Craig Johnston
- Maurice Blackman, Lex Watson and Robert French
- Kendall Lovett, John Cozijn and Ken Davis

Brisbane: by Nick Ward and by Carol Low in association with the Qld Association for Healthy Communities LGBT History Project and the Museum of Brisbane's Prejudice and Pride exhibition and with the assistance of Clive Moore

Melbourne – by Jamie Gardiner and Graham

Hobart – by Rodney Croome and the Tasmanian Gay and Lesbian Group website

Adelaide – by David Hilliard, the late John Lee, Chris Smith, Malcolm Cowan and Dino Hodge

Perth – by Neil Roberts

Northern Territory – by Dino Hodge

CI = Camp Ink

SGL = Sydney Gay Liberation Newsletter

