

1976

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
January 1976	Melbourne	The Homosexual Electoral Lobby (later Homosexual Law Reform Coalition) is formed by Gay Liberation and Society 5 to lobby for homosexual law reform.	RF
January 1976		CAMP NSW forms a company limited by guarantee, CAMP Lobby Ltd. The aim is to make it easier to get grants and obtain money in wills.	CN 76_01
24 February 1976		CAMP NSW holds its AGM at Balmain Town Hall. It replaces Co-President positions with two elected executive members, in an attempt to increase member participation in the running of CAMP.	CN 76_01 CN 76_02 CN 76_03
6 March 1976		International Women's Day is held.	CN 76_02
29 March 1976	Launceston	The Tasmanian Homosexual Law Reform Group is formed.	RF
16-19 April 1976	Derby, Tasmania	An all women festival is held.	CN 76_03
21 April 1976		CAMP's Ron Austin and Mike Clohesy speak about homosexuality with police cadets at the Police Academy.	CN 76_05
30 April 1976		CAMP's Mike Clohesy attends an ABC meeting to provide ideas on programmes about sex role stereotyping.	CN 76_05
May 1976		The Homosexual Rights Coalition questions candidates in the upcoming State election.	MM
May 1976		A room at CAMP NSW Centre has been set aside as a reference and resource library and information centre.	CN 76_05
May 1976		For a trial period, the NSW Council for Civil Liberties assists homosexuals who have been charged by the police.	CN 76_05
1 May 1976		The Wran Labor Government is elected.	MM
1 May 1976		Graeme Donkin, a gay Christian activist and member of Acceptance, runs for the State seat of Bligh.	RF
5 May 1976		The Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) take part in a sit-in at the Daily Telegraph newspaper to protest the banning of their advertisement.	CN 76_05



1976

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
9 May 1976		CAMP NSW Executive has endorsed today's National homosexual mobilisation day.	CN 76_03
10 May 1976		Gay march through Kings Cross.	MM
14 May 1976		Activists picket Club Castelllos in Kellett Street Kings Cross for refusing to admit women.	RF CN 76_05
14 May 1976		Formation of Socialist Lesbians and Male Homosexuals.	KD
15 May 1976		A seminar on Transvestism is organised by the Seahorse Club.	CN 76_03
26 May 1976		Several people from CAMP zap a Jewish Free University talk on the Jewish view of Gay Liberation.	CN 76_05
29 May 1976		A CAMP NSW fund-raising dance is held at the Glebe Town Hall.	CN 76_05
June 1976		Premier Neville Wran addresses the NSW State Labor Conference and advocates homosexual law reform as a conscience vote.	RF
8 June 1976		Tasmanian conservationist Dr Bob Brown 'comes out' on ABC-TV.	RF
14 June 1976		CAMP NSW sets out its priorities in negotiations with the NSW Labor government – anti-discrimination legislation; the Michigan statute relating to sexual conduct and a Committee of Inquiry.	CN 76_07
July 1976		A CAMP survey of Sydney Metropolitan libraries reveals only a few do not discard CAMP publications such as CAMP Ink.	CN 76_07
24 July 1976		A CAMP NSW fund-raising dance is held at the Glebe Town Hall.	CN 76_05
24 July 1976		The CAMP NSW Young people's group begins meeting again as Young camp.	CN 76_07
26 – 27 June 1976	Melbourne	The National Homosexuals in Education Seminar, organised by the AUS Homosexual Collective, is held the Melbourne University Union.	CN 76_05 CN 76_07
27 July 1976	ACT	A Law Reform (Sexual Behaviour) Bill is passed by the Legislative Assembly and is forwarded to the Minister.	RF
August 1976		The Royal Commission into the (Federal) Public Service publishes its findings. Homosexuality is a target for its proposals to eradicate discrimination in seeking employment and promotion.	CN 76_08

1976

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
August 1976	Melbourne	The Victorian Secondary Teachers Association resolve to set a policy objective to abolish sexism and set up a sub-committee on homosexuality to recommend guidelines for discussion and action.	CN 76_08
August 1976		Ten minutes tapes about CAMP and homosexual discrimination had been distributed to radio stations. A community radio station in Penrith refuses to use them, considering the subject too controversial.	CN 76_08
5 August 1976		The Homosexual Rights Coalition (Acceptance, CAMP, Gay Liberation, Lesbian Feminists, MCC and Socialist Lesbians and Male Homosexuals) meets with the new Attorney-General, Frank Walker. It pursues changes in the law and a parliamentary committee of inquiry on homosexuality.	CN 76_08
20 August 1976		CAMP holds its first meeting with NSW Premier Wran.	MM
17-19 August 1976		Second National Homosexual Conference is held at Sydney University.	MM
27 – 29 August 1976		Second National Homosexual Conference is held at Sydney University.	CN 76_05
14 September 1976	Mt Isa	Gay activist, Lex Watson is assaulted whilst appearing on the ABC's Monday Conference.	MM
17 September 1976		The Centre for Non-sexist Resources is opened by Senator Susan Ryan at Homebush West Primary School.	CN 76_08
20 September 1976		CAMP meets with Premier Wran, who urges gays and lesbians to change public attitudes to homosexuality before there can be law reform in NSW.	RF
1 October 1976		A lesbian feminist dance is held at the Cellar, Old Union, Sydney University.	CN 76_08
10 October 1976		An anti-Festival of Light demonstration is held.	CN 77_01
17 October 1976		The Gay Film Fund is launched at a BBQ by a collective of lesbians, including Digby Duncan.	DD
4 November 1976	ACT	Ordinance legalising homosexual acts in private is signed by the Liberal Attorney-General.	RF



1976

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
18 November 1976		An Anti-Discrimination Bill which does not include 'homosexuality', is introduced into State Parliament.	MM
23 November 1976		A second reading of the Bill includes "homosexuality".	MM
23 November 1976		NSW Labor Government's bid to outlaw discrimination against lesbians and gay men is defeated by a conservative majority in Upper House. The homosexual provisions of the Bill are to come into force by Regulation after the ADB undertakes further research and report on its findings.	KD RF
27-28 November 1976		Tribunal on Homosexuals & Discrimination is held at the University of NSW and is organised by CAMP (NSW). Dr Jim Cairns MHR, Bridget Gilling, Barry Egan and Senator Arthur Gietzelt sit on Tribunal.	RF
29 November 1976		The Cronulla Gay Group form at a meeting at the Taren Point Hotel.	SSO 41
10 – 14 December 1976	Canberra	The Alternative Life-Styles and Social Change Conference is held.	CN 76_07

Sources:

DD = Digby Duncan *History of the Gay Film Fund 1975-1980*

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

SSO = Sydney's Star Observer

CN = CAMP NSW Newsletter

