

1977

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 1977		Following on from discussions with Premier Wran, CAMP discusses a position on the inclusion of "homosexuality" into the NSW Anti-Discrimination Bill.	CN 77_01
January 1977		CAMP Actions Group is preparing a submission on the Summary Offences Act.	CN 77_01
February 1977		CAMP delegation's second meeting with Premier Wran.	MM
February 1977		CAMP NSW position on the proposed Anti-Discrimination Bill favours "sexual orientation" over "homosexuality", "marital status" to include homosexual relationships and religious bodies and clubs not be exempt from provisions of the Bill.	CN 77_02
February 1977		Telecom Australia refuses to list Phone-A-Friend/Homosexual Information and Advisory Service. CAMP NSW lobbies the Minister to review the decision.	CN 77_02
21 February 1977		CAMP NSW holds its AGM at Balmain Town Hall.	CN 77_02
24-25 February 1977		State Government holds a Victimless Crimes Seminar.	RF
26 February 1977		The Homosexual Rights Coalition speaks on homosexuality at the Victimless Crimes Seminar.	CN 77_02
March 1977		Issue 40 of Camp Ink is the last published.	KD
23 March 1977		The Legislative Council rejects homosexual provisions of the Anti-Discrimination Act. Change to the Act by Regulation is omitted and the Anti-Discrimination Board is required to conduct research into discrimination against homosexuals.	MM
27 April 1977		The Gay Film Fund presents <i>Satdee Nite</i> (Gillian Armstrong); <i>Adam</i> (Paul Bugden and David Perry); <i>Home Move</i> (Jan Oxenberg) and <i>Coming Out</i> (a UK documentary on transsexualism) at the Sydney Filmmakers Co-op, St Peters Lane, Darlinghurst.	DD
June 1977	Melbourne	The Australian Union of Students appoints Manda Biles as its Homosexual Research Officer.	KD



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June 1977		The Roman Baths opens at 250 Pitt Street, City.	OWN 62
23-24 July 1977		The Tribunal Two on Homosexuals and Discrimination focuses on "Homosexuals and children".	CN 77_01
24 June 1977		CAMP (NSW) meets with the Labor Premier Wran. Both parties believe homosexual law reform should be delayed until more public education changed the state's conservative attitudes. He tells them the Anti-Discrimination Board is commencing an investigation (of anti-homosexual discrimination).	CN 77_08
24 June 1977		CAMP NSW discussed the current increase in arrests and use of agent provocateur tactics by NSW Police with Premier Wran. Wran declares that the "Parks and Gardens Squad" would not be allowed to operate in his administration.	CN 77_08
3 July 1977	Tasmania	The Labor Party's State Council supports homosexual law reform.	RF
25 July 1977		The Gay Film Fund presents a second monthly session of gay films at the Sydney Filmmakers Co-op, St Peters Lane, Darlinghurst – <i> Holding (Constance Besson); Monster (Sally Trevena); A Point of Departure (Don McLennan) and Empty Spaces (Lynda Blagg).</i>	DD
August 1977		The NSW Police Safety Education Unit screens the anti-homosexual film "Pedophile" at community events.	CN 77_08
August 1977		CAMP NSW is alerted to Qantas providing a free plane ticket to the Reverend Fred Nile in return for free advertising in <i>Light</i> , the Festival of Light publication.	CN 77_08
August 1977		CAMP NSW speakers have their invitation to talk to an adult matriculation class at Liverpool Technical College about the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act withdrawn after Fred Nile speaks to the College the day before.	CN 77_08
August 1977		CAMP NSW Executive is revamped as the CAMP Collective to increase input from the membership.	CN 77_08
August 1977		The Department of Services rejects CAMP NSW's application for charity status.	CN 77_08
6 August 1977		Gay Film Fund fund-raising dance is held at the Balmain Town Hall with the band <i>Wasted Daze</i> and Wendy Saddington.	DD



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Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
26 – 28 August 1977		The third National Homosexual Conference is held at Adelaide University. The Conference nominated Sydney at the location of the 4 th NHC and to be called “Homosexual Women and Men in the Workforce”. Ad Hoc takes on the responsibility to call the first meeting.	CN 77_10
31 August 1977		The Gay Film Fund screens “Fortune and Men’s Eyes” at the Film Makers Co-Op Cinema in Darlinghurst.	CN 77_08
7 October 1977		CAMP, MCC and Acceptance hold a fund-raising dance at Paddington Town Hall. Rubberband and Wendy Saddington perform.	CN 77_08
8 October 1977		Alan Edge, a reporter for the Newcastle Herald was murdered in his apartment and police begin a campaign of heavy-handed questioning and harassing of the local gay community.	CN 34
14 October 1977		Lesbian cause celebre Sandra Wilson is released from prison.	CN 77_10
19 October 1977		The next meeting of Social Freedom Action Coalition, a group set up to respond to a planned visit by Anita Bryant to Sydney, is held at Glebe Town Hall.	CN 77_10
26 October 1977		The 4 th National Homosexual Conference Committee meets to discuss organising the conference at Sydney University’s Student Representative Council offices.	JW
28 October 1977		Gay Film Fund fund-raising dance is held at the Petersham Town Hall with the band <i>Stiletto</i> .	DD CN 77_10
November 1977	Bathurst	A third-year nurse and a young wards person are sacked because they are known to be homosexual. They find their unions unhelpful and decide to act against the Hospital.	CN 34
November 1977		The NSW Teachers’ Federation complete a draft comprehensive pro-gay policy on Sex Discrimination.	CN 34
2 November 1977		Members of the Socialist Lesbians and Male Homosexuals address a meeting of the Trading and Catering Sub Branch of the Australian Railways Union at the Transport Club, Regent Street. They propose that lesbian and homosexual workers “organise to defend themselves”.	JW
16 November 1977	Perth	A homosexual law reform Bill after passing the State’s upper house on Oct 8, fails to pass the lower house due largely to the opposition of Premier Court.	RF

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25 November – 18 December 1977		The Film Makers Co-Op runs a series of women's films with discussion sessions.	CN 34
30 November 1977		The Gay Film Fund presents another monthly session of gay films at the Sydney Filmmakers Co-op, <i>Brad and Jenny</i> (Film Australia)	DD
December 1977		Amnesty International take a first step towards adopting gay prisoners. It agrees gay prisoners are prisoners of conscience, but has not taken up the fight for their release.	CN 36
2 December 1977		Royal Commission into Human Relationships releases its findings, including a recommendation for the decriminalisation of homosexual acts and anti-discrimination legislation for lesbians and gay men.	MM
14 December 1977		The National Homosexual Conference Planning Collective meet at the GOSPOR Room SRC, Wentworth Bldg, Sydney University.	CN 34
25 December – January 2	Bredbo NSW	The annual Down to Earth Confest is held. CAMP NSW organises activities from its tent.	CN 35
30 December 1977	Ontario, Canada	<i>Body Politic</i> the Canadian gay publication is raided by the Ontario police Morality Squad, seizing records and charging the directors for publishing obscene written matter.	CN 36

Sources:

MM = Murray McLachlan "Appendix One: Homosexual Law Reform in NSW, Timeline of Significant Events"

KD = Ken Davis

RF = Robert French

Based partly on previous listings by:

- Craig Johnston
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- 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

CN = CAMP NSW Newsletter

OWN = Oxford Weekender News

