

1978

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 1978		A book, <i>Poofters and Lesos: Homosexual Activism in Australia</i> , by Robyn Plaister and Jeremy Fisher is being planned for publication for August 1978.	CN 35
January 1978		The NSW Association for Mental Health sponsors a questionnaire for legal, health and social work professionals to seek opinions on lesbian and gay parents, their children, divorce, custody and access. The survey will go to the Family Law Council to illustrate changes in attitudes.	CN 35
January 1978		CAMP NSW appeal for donations for its Legal Aid Fund to help homosexuals caught up in a spate of police harassment and arrests in Sydney and Newcastle.	CN 35
21 January 1978		CAMP NSW holds a picnic in the Royal National Park.	CN 35
27 – 30 January 1978	Minto	A Lesbian Feminist Festival is held at the Minto Bush Club. Sheila, a women's ban and the Lean Sisters provide entertainment.	CN 35
February 1978		AnGays is formed.	MM
February 1978		The Greg Weir Defence Committee is re-established in Sydney.	CN 35
February 1978		A new committee is elected for the Sutherland Shire CAMP Group.	CN 36
27 February 1978		The CAMP NSW AGM motion to allow the executive of CAMP to hold an extended term of office, is declared illegal and lapses. Election for office bearers will again be held at the end of the new reporting period in September.	CN 37
March 1978		Robyn Kennedy is appointed CAMP NSW Secretary. Ian Smith is co-opted to the executive and Elaine Whiteman is appointed as Publications Co-ordinator	CN 37
March 1978	Brisbane	400 women defy Premier Bjelke-Peterson's ban on political marches and 53 are arrested. Support is organised by the Queensland Solidarity Group.	CN 37



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March 1978		Members of CAMP speak to second year medical students at Sydney University as part of their Behavioural Sciences in Medicine course.	CN 37
March 1978		CAMP's over 40s Group meets weekly at CAMP.	CN 37
March 1978		A bi-sexual group starts meeting at CAMP on Tuesdays.	CN 37
March 1978		The CAMP Actions Group plan a <i>Resource Kit on Homosexuality</i> for public libraries.	CN 37
March 1978		The CAMP Actions Group writes to European embassies to see if their laws allow homosexuals to bring their partner in as immigrants.	CN 37
2 March 1978		A fund-raising dance for the 4 th National Homosexual Conference is held with the band <i>Sheila</i> , a disco and a light show providing entertainment, at Sydney University.	CN 36
4 March 1978		The Weekend Australian runs articles on "The New Homosexual".	780304 WA
8 March 1978	San Francisco	A letter from the San Franciscan Gay Freedom Day Committee, asks for solidarity activities on 24 June to coincide with their march, which will be held in the face of the anti-gay Briggs Initiative in California.	KD
12 March 1978		The (Public Transport) Gay Welfare and Social Group, formed as a result of the November 2 nd 1977 meeting of the Trading and Catering Sub-Branch of the Australian Railways Union meets to plan ongoing social functions.	JW
20 March 1978		A collective of gay activists hosted by the Active Defence of Homosexuals on Campus (ADHOC) meets at Sydney University. The collective later takes the name Gay Solidarity Group.	KD
April 1978		The CAMP Actions group holds weekly meetings over the month to discuss, "Law and Employment", "Family and Children", "The Education System" and "Community Education".	CN 37
April 1978		A new floorshow "Starwhores" is playing at Capriccios.	CN 38
1 April 1978		A seminar on counselling married homosexuals is organised by Phone a Friend and Acceptance.	CN 37
1 April 1978		CAMP's youth group re-starts.	CN 37



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5 April 1978		The 4 th National Homosexual Conference Collective meet at 106 Goulburn Street.	CN 37
7 April 1978		The Gay Film Fund holds a fund-raising dance at Petersham Town Hall with the bands <i>Wasted Daze</i> and <i>The Faye Lewis Band</i> and <i>Wendy Saddington</i> .	DD CN 37
21 April 1978		A dance at Petersham Town Hall featuring the band Sheila is held to raise funds for the publication <i>Poofters and Lesos: political activism in Australia</i> .	CN 37
22 – 23 April 1978		A Lesbian Feminist Conference is held.	CN 37
May 1978		Planning meetings for the 4 th National Homosexual Conference are being held every first Wednesday of the month at Paddington Town Hall.	CN 38
May 1978		The Publications Co-ordinators at CAMP are compiling radio programmes on homosexuality for distribution to radio station.	CN 38
10 May 1978		Sydney Morning Herald and Age poll shows a 57% support for homosexual law reform.	MM
11 May 1978	Melbourne	The annual conference of the Victorian Teacher's Union passed a resolution maintaining that the Education Department should not discriminate against a teacher on the grounds of their sexuality.	CN 39
21-23 May 1978		900 attend a gay film festival at the Paris Theatre on the corner of Oxford Street and Wentworth Avenue. On Sunday 21, a benefit screening of <i>Word is Out</i> for the 4 th National Homosexual Conference is held with a discussion afterwards.	KD CN 38
24 May 1978		The Gay Film Fund holds a benefit screening of <i>Journey Among Women</i> as part of the Gay Film Festival at the Paris Theatre.	DD CN 38
10 -11 June 1978		200 attend a Lesbian Feminist Conference held at Stanley Palmer's Culture Palace. Proceedings were videoed and will be made into a book.	CN 39
14 June 1978		Robyn Kennedy (Secretary), Robyn Plaister and Marg McMann (Elected members) resign from their positions on the CAMP Executive. Kennedy sites a struggle between those who believed in a collective structure and those wanting to pass responsibility on to a few.	CN 39

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24 June 1978		The Weekend Australian runs a feature on gay rights.	KD
24 June 1978 10am		500 march from the Town Hall to Martin Place. This is the largest gay march in Sydney to date.	KD
24 June 1978 2pm		A Forum on the international gay movement is held at the Paddington Town Hall.	KD
24 June 1978 10pm		The first Mardi Gras is pushed down Oxford Street by police. The lead sound truck is taken by police and the parade spontaneously moves to Kings Cross. The crowd grows to 2000 and subsequently 53 are arrested, some seriously beaten by police.	KD
25 June 1978		An early morning vigil is held outside Darlinghurst Police Station and arrestees bail is organised. Later meetings and a press conference is held at CAMP, 33a Glebe Point Road.	KD
24 June 1978	San Francisco	300,000 march in the Gay Freedom Day parade against Briggs Initiative.	KD
26 June 1978		300 protest outside closed court in Liverpool Street and 7 are arrested.	KD
27 June 1978		The Sydney Morning Herald publishes the names, addresses, jobs of those arrested.	SMH p3, p12
27 June 1978		A small delegation meets with the State Premier, Neville Wran.	KD
30 June 1978	Melbourne Brisbane	400-600 march against the Sydney arrests. A protest is held in Brisbane.	KD
30 June 1978		400 people meet at the Stanley Palmer Culture Palace in Darlinghurst and vote to hold a daytime march on 15 th July.	KD
July 1978		Peter Blazey stands as a candidate for the State seat of Earwood.	MM
3 July 1978		An extra ordinary meeting of CAMP NSW Executive discusses Elaine Whiteman's posting former Secretary Kennedy's critique of CAMP. (14 June 1978). Former Executive members resign verbally, but these are not accepted.	CN 40
8 July 1978		The (Railway) Gay Welfare and Social Group, has collapsed through poor organisation and a backlash over the Mardi Gras riot.	JW

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9 July 1978		Meeting (Possibly inaugural) of the Sydney Gay Trade Unionists at CAMP to draft a pamphlet about the recent police attacks and drawing the link between the labour movement and the homosexual movement.	JW
13 July 1978		At the Earlwood State election, the Gay Lib candidate, Peter Blazey polls 107 votes.	CN 40
15 July 1978		2000 take part in largest ever gay rights march demanding all charges be dropped. 14 people are arrested near the Darlinghurst Police Station.	KD
23 – 24 July 1978		<i>An Exhibition of Works by Lesbian and Homosexual Artists</i> is held at the Watters Gallery as a pre-4 th National Homosexual Conference Event.	C 34 p12
31 July 1978		Peter de Waal pens <i>A Contribution to the Political Debate at CAMP NSW: An analysis of its hierarchical structure</i> . He is critical of growing conservatism within CAMP.	CN 42
August 1978		Tropicana at 85 Oxford Street opens as a gay venue.	SS 1/5
20 August 1978		A Drop the Charges motorcade drives from Glebe to Parramatta.	KD
23 August 1978		The Anti-Discrimination Board releases a 5-volume report on NSW laws and calls for the decriminalisation of homosexual behaviour and the repeal of the Act and the repeal of the Summary Offences Act.	RF
25 -27 August 1978		Labor Senator Susan Ryan opens the 4 th National Homosexual Conference at Paddington Town Hall, Sydney. The conference theme is <i>Homosexuals at Work</i> . The Gay Trade Unionists' Group and the Australian Gay Archives are formed at the Conference.	RF
25 – 27 August 1978		A photographic and poster exhibition is to be held in the Gallery at Paddington Town Hall at the 4 th National Homosexual Conference.	CN 37
27 August 1978		Police arrest 73 at Taylor Square and 31 protesters are arrested at the Right to Life Rally in Hyde Park. (The total arrested is now 178)	KD
27 August 1978		A National Committee of Rank and File Gay Trade Unionists and a Gay Labor Party Caucus were established.	JW

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29 August 1978		The <i>Sydney Morning Herald</i> again publishes names and personal details of arrestees.	KD
September 1978		The Fitness Exchange is formed.	SSO 422
12 September 1978		The Australian Public Service bans discrimination against lesbians and gay men.	RF
12 September 1978	ACT	The ACT Branch of the federal public service union, ACOA, passes a motion supporting anti-discrimination for homosexual public servants.	RF
16 September 1978		A Drop the Charges rally is in the Trades Hall.	KD
22 September 1978		A Drop the Charges picket is held outside Central Court.	KD
23 September 1978		A group called the Coalition Against Repression demonstrate against the Festival of Light Rally in Hyde Park.	KD
24 September 1978		The Gay Trade Unionists' Group holds its first meeting.	KD
25 September 1978		CAMP NSW/CAMP Lobby Ltd holds its AGM at Glebe Town Hall.	CN 41
October 1978		The first newsletter of Gay Trade Unionists' Group is published.	KD
3 October 1978		The Gay Solidarity Group pickets the Labor Party election launch in the suburb of Ryde.	KD
14 October 1978		The Federation of Lesbian and Male Homosexual Rights is formed from welfare to political groups. Behind its formation is C.H.U.G.G.S.	CN 42
16-20 October 1978		The Australian Council of Salaried and Professional Associations (ACSPA) calls for a gay workers' conference against discrimination.	KD
18 October 1978		The Sydney Morning Herald editorial defends listing names, details of arrestees.	KD
November 1978		The Minister for Services signs an application from CAMP Lobby Ltd to become a registered charity. CAMP become the first gay group in Australia to achieve this.	CN 42



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3 November 1978		William Crabtree, the Minister for Services signs the certificate which makes CAMP the first homosexual organisation to be registered as a charitable organisation.	CN 45
4 November 1978		About 300 march from Circular Quay to Hyde Park demanding "Drop the Charges" and "Solidarity against Briggs vote".	KD
11 November 1978		NSW Gay Fed, a coalition of gay groups is founded.	KD
26 November 1978		Acceptance premises at 46 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst is inaugurated with High Mass.	
27 November 1978		The NSW Gay Teachers and Students Group meets at the CAMP Centre.	CN 42
3 December 1978		A meeting of gay health and welfare workers is held at CAMP to discuss common issues.	CN 42
9 December 1978		Gaysoc, holds its final dance for 1978 at the Stage III Bar at the University of NSW. A Sound Affair provides the disco.	CN 42
18 December 1978		NSW Teachers' Federation adopts a gay rights policy.	MM

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

C = Campaign

CN = CAMP NSW Newsletter

SS = Sydney Star

SSO = Sydney's Star Observer

SMH = Sydney Morning Herald

