

1979

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 1979		Gary Pye, Convenor of Acceptance resigns.	CN 45
12 January 1979		A 6am picket greets State Premier Wran on his arrival at Sydney Airport.	KD
14 January 1979		The Council of Gay Groups (COGG) holds its inaugural meeting. The idea behind the Council is to involve lesbians and gay men in the gay movement, who cannot come out in public.	CN 45
22 January 1979		An Extraordinary General Meeting of CAMP NSW defeats a motion that CAMP NSW rejoin Gayfed.	CN 45
26 January 1979		Central Court is picketed. The charges against those arrested on the 27 August are dropped.	KD
February 1979		The Fitness Exchange operates from 41 Albion Avenue, Paddington.	SS 1/2
February 1979		Gary Pye, Founder of Acceptance resigns as Convenor.	CN 45
February 1979		CAMP NSW Youth Group begins meeting again.	CN 45
11 February 1979		Council of Gay Groups holds its first function – a cricket match.	CN 45
12-14 February 1979		The Anti-Discrimination Board conducts a phone-in on anti-homosexual discrimination.	MM
March 1979		The Villagers, a gay social group for people living in western and south-western Sydney, forms.	SS 1/18
24 March 1979		Gaysoc holds a dance in the Stage III Bar of the University of NSW Union.	CN 45
April 1979		The MCC Pastor, Reverend Cliff Connors resigns.	CN 46
20 April 1979		Gay Men's Rap hold a dance at the Glebe Town Hall.	CN 46
29 April 1979		COGG holds a cricket match in Northmead.	CN 46
11 May 1979		The NSW Summary Offences Act is repealed and replaced by the Offences in Public Places Act.	KD
21 May 1979	San Francisco	Dan White is convicted of the killing of San Francisco Mayor Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk.	SS 1/3
22 May 1979		Two lesbians are acquitted of offensive behaviour. They were charged after kissing in Hyde Park.	KD



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June 1979		The Sydney Gay Theatre Group stages <i>As Time Goes By</i> at the Film Makers Co-op Theatre.	SS 1/1
23-30 June 1979		Gay Solidarity Week is held with a dance at Balmain Town Hall, films, plays, a fair, art exhibitions, a students' rally and a Thursday night candlelight march to the State Parliament.	KD
30 June 1979		A Saturday morning march ends with a rally in Hyde Park. 5000 take part in the second Gay Mardi Gras that night.	KD
June 1979		A gay soccer team is formed.	SS 1/2
June 1979		The Dolphins Motor Club is formed.	SS 1/23
2 June 1979		Gaysoc dance is held at the Stage III bar, UNSW Union.	CN 47
6 July 1979		The first issue of the <i>Sydney Star</i> is published by Michael Glynn.	SS 1/1
11 July 1979		Gay Men's Rap meets weekly at Garibaldi's Community Centre.	SS 1/1
26 July 1979		The Gay Solidarity Group (GSG) moves meetings to its own shop front building in King St, St Peters.	KD
August 1979		Patchs changes ownership.	SS 1/4
August 1979		Tropicana 85 celebrates its first birthday.	SS 1/5
13 August 1979		The NSW Council of Gay Groups holds its AGM at Glebe Town Hall.	CN 49
16 August 1979		Lex Watson makes a submission to the NSW Police Department Inquiry in which he calls for non-discrimination in recruitment and better liaison with community groups.	RF
20 August 1979		CAMP NSW holds its AGM at Glebe Town Hall.	CN 47
26 August 1979		The Reverend Don Johnson is inducted as the Sydney MCC Pastor.	KD
30 August 1979	Melbourne	A national union meeting of homosexual unionists is held. It is sponsored by the Australian Council of Salaried and Professional Associations.	RF
30 August 1979	Melbourne	The monthly magazine <i>Gay Community News</i> (later <i>Outrage</i>) develops out of the Homosexual Conference newsletter.	RF
30 August 1979		The first Sydney Mr Leather Contest grand final night is held at the Barrel Inn. Noel Smith is Mr Leather 1979.	SS 1/3 SS 1/15
31 August – 2 Sept 1979	Melbourne	The fifth National Homosexual Conference is held.	SS 1/3

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Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
27 September 1979		<i>Ballroom</i> opens at International Vanities with Michelle, Corrine, Stefanie, Colleen, Ayesha, Phillip and Terry.	SS 1/7
October 1979		The Signal Bar is sold and is under new management.	SS 1/9
5 October 1979		The Sydney Gay Theatre stages <i>Haunted Host</i> and <i>Coffee</i> at the Bondi Pavilion Theatre.	SS 1/6
11 October 1979		The NSW Anti-Discrimination Board releases a report on homosexuals.	KD
November 1979		The Barrel Inn is sold and is under new management.	SS 1/10
November 1979		Gaywaves begins broadcasting on 2SER FM at the University of Technology, Sydney.	KD
November 1979		The Beresford Hotel opens as a gay venue.	SS 2/9
4 November 1979		The fifth annual Polympic Games is held with 1,500 men and women competing.	SS 1/10
21 November 1979		The Gay National Summer Offensive for Rights is launched at Trades Hall.	KD
13 December 1979		The NSW Council of Gay Groups (COGG) is officially refused a place for a float in the 1980 Festival of Sydney parade on the 28 th January because they were not fitting for the families present.	SS 1/11
29 December 1979		The outstanding charges (except those against Kate Rowe and Peter Murphy) from the 1978 Mardi Gras are dropped.	KD

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

CN = CAMP NSW Newsletter

SS = Sydney Star

