

1980

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
1 January 1980		CAMP NSW takes part in the Festival of Sydney procession.	CN 47
18 January 1980		International Vanities latest show is <i>Didgeree Drag</i> .	SS 1/14
27 January 1980		<i>The Sydney Star</i> newspaper hosts a Tea Dance fundraiser for a Gay Community Services Centre. Attendance is poor and the event loses money.	SS 1/14
27 January 1980		A Summer Offensive event, a <i>Bridget Goes Gay</i> beach party is held at Bondi Beach.	SS 1/14
3 February 1980		Robert Lovett is arrested by Detective Sergeant Brazel at Flo's Palace Disco following a complaint from 'someone' and seeing him dancing intimately with another man.	SS 3/1
9 February 1980		A Summer Offensive event, Lesbian Action Day, is held at Glebe Town Hall.	SS 1/14
9 February 1980		Fitness Exchange opens at a new location, 121-129 Crown Street.	SS 1/14 SS 1/17
14 February 1980		Peter Allen opens for a three-week season at Her Majesty's Theatre with his show <i>Up in One</i> .	SS 1/14
17 February 1980		The final scene of <i>Desire</i> a film about Sydney's gay scene is filmed at Patches.	SS 1/15
23 February 1980		A Summer Offensive event, Gay Relationships: a Spiritual Symposium is held at Sydney University.	SS 1/14
March 1980		A Task Group is set up within Gay Solidarity Group (GSG) to run the third Mardi Gras.	KD
March 1980		The first issue of <i>Gay Information</i> is published.	KD
March 1980		The Exchange Hotel opens as a gay venue.	SSO 75
9 March 1980		The Lambda Radio CB Group holds a <i>Forum</i> with speakers from community and business and the Anti-Discrimination Board at the Acceptance Centre 46 Oxford Street.	SS 1/17
11 March 1980		A Summer Offensive event, a forum <i>Gays in our schools</i> is held at Federation House. The booklet <i>Young, Gay and Proud</i> is discussed.	SS 1/14



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20 March 1980	Hawaii	Gary Whitelaw, 29 is questioned by Immigration and Naturalisation Service airport officials when he arrives from Australia on suspicion he was homosexual.	SS 1/19 SS 1/20
22 March 1980		1000 marchers and some floats participate in a march for gay rights in the city as the culmination of the Summer Offensive. A festival, dinner and a dance are later held at Bondi Pavilion.	KD SS 1/18 SS 1/19
April 1980		Max Pearce wins pre-selection as a Labor Party candidate for the Sydney City Council. He is the first openly gay candidate endorsed by a major party.	KD
8 April 1980		Patrick Brookes is chosen as Mr Leather Australia at Stranded nightclub. He will represent Australia at the International Leather Contest in Chicago.	SS 1/20
25 April 1980	Melbourne	Socialism and Homosexuality Conference is held.	No ref
May 1980		A group for married gays is formed through Phone-a-Friend.	SS 1/22
May 1980		The Gay Teens Group for under 20s is formed by MCC, Acceptance and CAMP.	SS 1/22
10 May 1980	Chicago	Patrick Brookes is chosen winner of the International Leather Awards.	SS 1/22
14 May 1980		The Gay Theatre Company presents <i>P.S. Your Cat is Dead</i> at the Wayside Chapel with the assistance of the first grant from the Australia Council for an openly gay play.	SS 1/19
17 May 1980		The Capricorn Social Club holds a disco and a show featuring Judi Connelli at Coronation Hall, Mascot.	SS 1/20
June 1980	ACT	New security guidelines for the Australian Public Service state that an openly gay person is not a risk.	RF
June 1980		<i>Nighthawks</i> , a British movie about a gay teacher screens at the Academy Valhalla.	L 2
1 June 1980		Community groups meet and form Gays Against Violence (GAV) in response to the release of the movie <i>Cruising</i> .	SS 1/24
10 June 1980		William Friedkin, director, previews his film, <i>Cruising</i> at the Village Cinemas. Community leaders decide to take no action about the film.	SS 1/23
11 June 1980		The first issue of <i>The Libertine</i> is published. The editor is Ross Crich and it is published by Sloane Street Publishing Co. Pty Ltd.	L 1

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17 June 1980		The Federal Executive of the ACOA union supports anti-discrimination protection for homosexual public servants.	RF
20 June 1980		The film <i>Witches, Faggots, Dykes & Poofers</i> by Digby Duncan screens weekends until July 13 at the Sydney Filmmakers Co-operative.	KD L 1
21 June 1980		Council of Gay Groups (COGG) holds a Gay Pride Week dance at the Acceptance Centre, 46 Oxford Street.	SS 1/24
27 June 1980		The first performance by the Gay Liberation Quire.	RF
28 June 1980		1,500 people and floats for the first time take part in the third Mardi Gras parade, themed <i>Outrageous</i> . From Town Hall Square it heads up George, Liverpool and Oxford Streets to Paddington Town Hall.	SS 1/23
30 June 1980		Lambda Radio CB Group dissolves.	SS 2/1
July 1980		The Sydney Morning Herald allows the word "gay" in accommodation adverts.	RF
July 1980		Gay activists picket Greek Consulate in defence of the Greek gay journal, <i>Amphi</i> .	KD
July 1980		The Capricorn Social Club folds.	SS 2/2
July 1980		The Flinders Hotel opens as a gay owned venue.	SS 2/1
July 1980		Lex Watson announces he has started an archive collection of gay printed matter and asks for contributions.	L 3
July 1980		<i>Chaps</i> the latest male escort agency suffers a fire at their Goulburn Street premises. They move to 12 Reilly Street, Woolloomooloo.	L 3
July 1980	Melbourne	The Plumbers and Gasfitters Union becomes Australia's first blue collar union to adopt a policy of opposition to discrimination on the grounds of sexuality.	L 4
16 July 1980		The first meeting of Parents of Gays is held at Friends House, Devonshire Street, Surry Hills.	SS 1/26
26 July 1980		The Boomerangs dance and floor show, <i>Tripping Across America</i> is held at Coronation Hall, Mascot.	SS 1/24
28 July 1980		The Albury Hotel, owned by Leigh Jennings, opens its doors.	L 4
August 1980		The Gay Theatre Company opens its production of <i>Spitting Image</i> at the Wayside Chapel theatre.	SS 2/4



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August 1980		Reverend Moyes and Reverend Nile organise opposition to the Uniting Church agreement to lease the Kirk Theatre in Cleveland Street to the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC). The agreement is subsequently rescinded.	SS 2/6
August 1980		CAMP NSW and Gaysoc publish the <i>1980 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Guide</i> .	SS 2/2
August 1980		The Peak nightclub is destroyed by fire.	SS 2/3
August 1980		85 Oxford Street "a man's disco", opens.	SS 2/4
11 August 1980		Bob Hay is elected secretary of CAMP, replacing Terry Goulden, at the group's 11 th AGM.	SS 2/1
16 August 1980		The University of NSW Gaysoc holds a dance at the Squarehouse Bar.	SS 2/2
16 August 1980		The South Pacific Motor Club (SPMC) celebrates its 10 th anniversary at Kei-Ron.	SS 2/3
22 August 1980		A Sixth National Conference fundraiser dance is held at the Labor Club 464 Bourke Street, Surry Hills.	SS 2/2
24 August 1980		The Footballers Club sauna is opened at 80 Oxford Street.	SS 2/3
29 August 1980		A conference of the Gay Union Tertiary Staff (GUTS) is held prior to the Sixth National Conference.	SS 2/2
30-31 August 1980		The Sixth National Conference for Lesbians and Homosexual Men opens at Sydney University.	KD
September 1980	Melbourne	Shiela Cruz, the producer of Les Girls for 16 years is killed in a railway accident.	SS 2/5
September 1980		Phone-a-Friend sets up a second counselling telephone line paid for by the Boomerangs social club.	SS 2/5
September 1980		A meeting of 12 community organisations and businesses discuss the possibility of a Gay Community Services Centre.	SS 2/6
September 1980		Black, Ethnic and Third World Gays, a contact group meets every Saturday at 33a Glebe Point Road.	SS 2/6
8 September 1980		The Pits at Oxford Street, Bondi Junction is destroyed by fire.	SS 2/5
14 September 1980		<i>The Ballroom</i> and <i>Didgeree Drag</i> shows close at International Vanities.	SS 2/5
17 and 24 Sept 1980		Public meetings discuss proposals for a summer Gay Mardi Gras for 1981.	SS 2/4

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18 September 1980		Gay Men's Rap now meets at F/X, Liverpool Street, Darlinghurst every Tuesday.	SS 2/5
20 September 1980		A Women's Liberation Forum is held at the Women's Warehouse, Bay 9, 4 Ultimo Road, Haymarket.	SS 2/5
20 September 1980		MCC presents <i>A Night in Paris</i> at the Acceptance Centre in Oxford Street.	SS 2/5
20 September 1980		Young Gays Sydney form at the CAMP NSW centre, Glebe.	OWN 74
28 September 1980		The Gay Poetics Group meets for the first time at 33a Glebe Point Road.	SS 2/5
28 September 1980		The Mystics Group meets every second Sunday at 33a Glebe Point Road.	SS 2/6
October 1980		The Gay Jewish Social Group (GJSC) is formed to provide a mutually supportive environment for Jewish gays.	SS 2/8
October 1980		The Sydney Anglican Synod votes not to debate a motion from Fabian LoSchiavo of Angays, that it debate a motion on homosexuality.	L 11
4 October 1980		The Sydney University Gay Society and CAMP NSW Dance is held at Manning House, University of Sydney.	SS 2/5
10 October 1980		<i>Gay What's On</i> a recorded information service run by CAMP, commences.	SO 13
15 October 1980		A public meeting elects a 25 member 1981 Mardi Gras Committee.	SS 2/7
16 October 1980		NSW Trades and Labour Council adopts a strong pro-gay policy, calling on Premier Wran to repeal anti-gay laws and broaden the Anti-Discrimination Act. It is engineered by Craig Johnston and the Academics' Union.	RF
16 October 1980		The Gay Rights Lobby is formed by Lex Watson and Craig Johnston	SS 2/12
28 October 1980		Fire causes major damage to 85 Oxford Street (aka The Docks or Midnight Shift). The venue re-opens on 7 th November with the help of community volunteers.	SS 2/8 SS 2/9
November 1980		Lesbian Line is set up.	KD
November 1980		NEXUS, a group helping disabled gays meets fortnightly.	SS 2/9

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Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
November 1980	Gosford	The Central Coast Gay Group is formed and meets weekly at the Copper Door Restaurant.	SS 2/9
November 1980		Gay Al-Anon formed to help gay alcoholics, commences weekly meetings at the Acceptance Centre.	SS 2/10
2 November 1980		The annual Polympics is held at Milperra.	SS 2/5 SS 2/7
5 November 1980		The Gay Community Services Centre Trust, an educational and welfare organisation is set up by seven trustees who will launch an appeal for funds to purchase premises in the inner city.	SS 2/9
20 November 1980		The Gay Rights Lobby writes a letter to Premier Wran calling for the repeal of anti-homosexual laws.	MM
22 November 1980		COGGS <i>Olde Tyme Christmas Dance</i> is held at the Glebe Town Hall.	SS 2/8
29 November 1980		Gay organisations set up stalls at the Queen Street Fair.	SS 2/10
December 1980		NSW Teachers' Federation adopts a policy to recognise lesbian and gay relationships for the purposes of superannuation.	KD
7 December 1980		GayLeft, an organisation of lesbians and gay activists with a liberationist perspective, is formed.	SS 2/12
13 December 1980		Boomerangs hold a dance <i>Space Lace</i> at Coronation Hall, Mascot.	SS 2/10
16 December 1980		Patches nightclub entrance stairwell is firebombed at 4:30 am.	SS 2/12
17-18 December 1980	Melbourne	A Crimes (Sexual Offences) Bill as amended by a hostile Liberal Party backbench is passed by the Victorian Legislative Council.	RF
21 December 1980		A Gay Community Services Centre Christmas party is held at 600 George Street.	SS 2/11
27 December 1980	Amsterdam	70 lesbians from 16 countries meet at a conference organised by the International Lesbian Information Secretariat of the International Lesbian and Gay Association.	SS 2/17

Sources:

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

KD = Ken Davis

CN = CAMP NSW Newsletter

OWN = Oxford Weekender News

SO = Star Observer

L = The Libertine

SS = The Sydney Star



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RF = Robert French

Based partly on previous listings by:

- Craig Johnston
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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

