

1982

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 1982		The Kings Cross Youth Refuge closes due to lack of funds.	SS 3/7
January 1982		The Sydney Gay Writers Collective and its publication <i>inVersions</i> is advertised in the <i>Sydney Star</i> .	SS 3/12
January 1982		Lesbian Alcoholics Anonymous lists in the <i>Sydney Star</i> .	SS 3/12
January 1982		The Gay Task Force for lesbians and homosexual male activists, lists in the <i>Sydney Star</i> .	SS 3/12
January 1982		The Women's Warehouse lists in the <i>Sydney Star</i> .	SS 3/12
January 1982		Women's Space meetings are listed in the <i>Sydney Star</i> .	SS 3/12
January 1982	Victoria	Five men are discharged from the RAAF over homosexual activities in three separate bases and forced to sign the Official Secrets Act or face gaol.	OWN 22
January 1982	New York	The Gay Men's Health Crisis Inc (GMHC) creates a central source of information about the outbreak of acquired immune deficiency syndrome, (AIDS).	S 4/17 Wikipedia
14 January 1982		A nine-member working committee, The Homosexual Law Reform Coalition (HLRC), representing gay groups and businesses designed to co-ordinate the 1982 law reform campaign, is formed at the Gay Centre.	OWN 19
19 January 1982		Terry Goulden resigns from the Gay Counselling Service's executive and is replaced by Antony Green.	SS 3/13
23 January 1982		The Green Carnation Florist is damaged by a suspicious fire.	SS 3/13
24 January 1982		Police take two men off the dance floor at Capriccios and arrest them. The two men state that they were bashed, intimidated, threatened and coerced to sign statements.	SS 3/13
28 January 1982		The Gay Solidarity Group launches its <i>Rights on Arrest Card</i> at the Heffron Hall.	SS 3/12
30 January 1982		One of the organisers of <i>The Party</i> joins with the Albury, Beresford and Flinders Hotels to present <i>Party II</i> .	SS 3/12 OWN 20
February 1982		The Chairman of the Military Law Committee announces that the three-armed services come under ACT law and this entails that homosexual activities are acceptable if they occur off service premises.	SS 3/14



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February 1982		Social worker, Garry Bennett begins to develop a Gay Youth Work Program to address juvenile prostitution, youth unemployment and teenage homelessness in Kings Cross and Darlinghurst.	SS 3/15
February 1982		Barry Cecchini is issued with a Function Licence for the Mardi Gras Party at the AMP Pavilion at the Sydney Showground.	SS 3/15
2 February 1982		Craig Johnston steps down from the Gay Rights Lobby. Barry Charles and Robert French are the new convenors.	SS 3/14
3 February 1982		The first meeting of the Free Olympic Association is held at the Sydney Gay Centre.	SS 3/14
5-11 February 1982		The Australian Film Institute holds a gay film festival in honour of Vitto Russo's book <i>The Celluloid Closet</i> .	OW 14
18 February 1982		The Crimes (Homosexual Behaviour) Amendment Bill is moved by Barrie Unsworth MLC in the NSW Upper House. The Gay Rights Lobby and the Homosexual Law Reform Coalition call for the defeat of the Bill.	SS 3/15
27 February 1982		8000 people and 31 floats take part in Mardi Gras led by the HLRC – theme: <i>On Our Way to Freedom</i> . Robert French launches the Parade which begins at Town Hall Square and proceeds to the Showgrounds via George, Liverpool, Oxford and Flinders Streets and Anzac Parade.	KD SS 3/13
28 February 1982		Two men are detained by police in the Bottoms Up Bar of the Rex Hotel as intoxicated persons. Note: In October 1982 the NSW Ombudsman finds they were unlawfully detained.	S 4/6
March 1982		The Gay Counselling Service publishes the <i>1982 Sydney Gay Guide</i> .	SS 3/16
March 1982		Garry Bennett announces that the Kings Cross and Darlinghurst youth project has been named Twenty-Ten. It will support young gay kids in the area.	SS 3/17
March 1982		Juan Davilla painting, <i>Stupid as a Painter</i> , is seized from the Biennale exhibition at the NSW Art Gallery by the Vice Squad for its explicit gay content.	KD
March 1982		The Board of Social Responsibility of the Uniting Church in Australia supports the legalisation of consenting adult male homosexual acts.	MM

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March 1982		The Oxford Weekender News (OWN) quotes an anti-gay law reform pamphlet by Dr Jean Benjamin, the NSW Medical Women's Society President, advocating quarantining homosexuals from society.	OWN 27
March 1982		Club 80 moves to the 19 Oxford Street, Paddington. The previous premises will be revamped and opened as a "key only" style heavy leather venue.	OWN 29
9 March 1982		The Gay Rights Lobby (GRL) and the HLRC hold a public meeting and report on the results of lobbying against the Unsworth bill.	OWN 26
14 March 1982		International Vanities (Caps) is heavily damaged by a fire that breaks out in the top floor dressing room.	SS 3/17
15 March 1982		Charges against Robert Lovett arising from an incident at Flo's Palace in February 1980 are dismissed by an Appeals Court.	SS 3/17
16 March 1982		600 – 800 demonstrate against the Unsworth Bill outside Parliament House.	RF SS 3/16
16 March 1982		The Homosexual Law Reform Coalition NSW holds a public meeting at Paddington Town Hall to protest against the failure of law reform.	SS 3/14
25 March 1982		The OWN republishes a 1981 NY Times article about a rare cancer infecting gay men – Kaposi's Sarcoma.	OWN 29
28 March 1982		The Chameleons Social Club holds the <i>Gala Debutante Ball</i> at the Sydney Hilton Hotel Ballroom.	SS 3/15
30 March 1982		Vigil for Equality is held outside State Parliament.	RF
31 March 1982		Barrie Unsworth's <i>Crimes (Homosexual Behaviour) Amendment Bill</i> is defeated by five votes in Lower House.	RF SS 3/18
April 1982		The Gay Counselling Service publishes <i>Gays and their Families</i> .	SS 3/18
9 April 1982		The <i>Camping Outdoor Club</i> announces an Easter trip to the Snowy Mountains.	SS 3/17
22 April 1982		The Homosexual Law Reform Coalition convenes a meeting at the Gay Centre to discuss the next steps for law reform. It expands from a working party into a council with delegates elected from NSW lesbian and gay groups.	SS 3/18 SS 3/20

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22 April 1982	San Francisco	A US District Court judge rules that a gay foreigner's sexual orientation can no longer be grounds to deny entry to the US.	S 3/21
23 April 1982		Philip Chown, convenor of Gaysoc steps down.	SS 3/19
24 April 1982		The Campaign Against Repression is formed in response to the forthcoming visit to Australia by Jerry Falwell of the US Moral Majority.	OWN 32
May 1982		Gay activist Max Pearce gains ALP pre-selection for the federal seat of Wentworth.	S 3/21
May 1982	Newcastle	The idea of a local Gay Rights Lobby Group is discussed.	S 3/22
May 1982		Kings Steam Bath in King Street in the City closes prior to re-location.	OWN 36
7 May 1982		The Belmore Park Hotel on the corner of Reservoir and Mary Streets Surry Hills opens.	SS 3/19
10 May 1982		The 1983 Mardi Gras Committee is elected – Brian McGahen, Shane Mangan, Brett Collins, Lance Gowland, Philip King, Barry Power, Allan Deith and Dee Bergmon (the first woman on the Committee).	OWN 35
14 May 1982		Katacombs, the new look Kens Karate Klub opens.	OWN 34
21 May 1982		The first issue of <i>The Star</i> incorporating the Melbourne Star and the Sydney Star is published.	S 3/21
23 May 1982		A 500 strong rally for Campaign Against Repression against Jerry Falwell is held inside the Ryde Civic Centre.	S 3/21
30 May 1982		Yvonne's Place in Kensington closes. Yvonne had been involved with the 60s Karingal Social Club, the Mosaic Club and the Peak nightclub.	OWN 36
June 1982		Gay activist, David James, has a photographic exhibition at Watters Gallery.	S 3/23
9 June 1982		The Albury Hotel owners launch The Forum Disco at 11 Oxford Street, Paddington.	OWN 37
10 June 1982		Pete's Beat Bistro Bar, a Peter Langford venture opens at the corner of Oxford and Crown Streets, below where the Ox used to be.	OWN 36
11 June 1982		A new venue, After the Pubs opens at 11 Oxford Street, Paddington.	S 3/22
12-14 June 82		The Australian Labor Party (ALP) State Conference supports homosexual law reform and anti-discrimination.	MM



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13 June 1982		The Royal Arts Ball is held at the Paddington Town Hall as a fund raiser for the Australian Free Athletic Association (Gay Olympic Team).	SS 3/20
15 June 1982		Lambda Sundowners holds the first of their social nights for the over 40s.	S 3/24
26 June 1982		<i>A Stonewall Week exhibition</i> opens at the James Harvey Gallery in King Street, Newtown.	S 3/23
29 June 1982		The Gay Rights Lobby (GRL)'s booklet, <i>Homosexuality: Myths and Facts</i> , is launched by Don Dunstan at the Sydney Gay Centre.	KD S 3/22
July 1982		Merrill Wheeler's Fantasy Island venue opens at 150 Alison Road, Randwick.	OWN 38
1 July 1982		GSG pickets in Blacktown against the homophobic local member John Aquilina.	KD
3 July 1982		<i>Stonewall Gay Pride Day</i> is held with a rally and parade starting in Belmore Park, a concert in Hyde Park and a cabaret at Leichhardt Town Hall.	S 3/24
6 July 1982		<i>Male: A group exhibition</i> is held at the James Harvey Gallery.	S 3/23
7 July 1982		Socialist Lesbian meetings at Women's Liberation House are listed in <i>The Star</i> .	S 3/24
16 July 1982		<i>Discrimination and Homosexuality</i> report by the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board is released.	3/25
16 July 1982		The Midnight Shift re-opens. The owners are Stuart, Terry and Jim.	OWN 38
16 July 1982		The Oxford Hotel opens. Peter Whittle is the licensee.	OWN 40
19 July 1982		A group supporting homeless gay youth, Twenty-Ten, holds its first meeting.	KD
27 July 1982		A public meeting at the Sydney Gay Centre calls on the NSW Government to implement the recommendations of the ADB's report <i>Discrimination and Homosexuality</i> .	S 4/2
29 July 1982		Twenty-Ten takes steps at its AGM to establish the organisation as a charity.	S 3/25
5 August 1982		The OWN runs a blurb announcing the Gay Army (AGARM) – a "fighting force, fighting for your rights and welfare, against people like Fred Nile ..."	OWN 40a
7 August 1982		Trans Internal and Rebel Airways (TIARA) holds its 1982 Outrageous Tour with proceeds going to the Australian Gay Olympics team.	S 3/24

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Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
10 Aug 1982		HLRC representatives meet with Carmel Niland, the new President of the Anti-Discrimination Board. She is optimistic that the recommendations will be adopted.	MM S 4/2
12 August 1982	San Francisco	A restraining order is placed on San Francisco Arts and Athletics Inc barring their use of the word "Olympic".	S 4/2
12 August 1982	Newcastle	The local Trades Hall Council passes a resolution calling on the State Government to repeal anti-homosexual laws and extend the Anti-Discrimination Act to include homosexuality.	S 4/3
12 August 1982		The NSW Corporate Affairs Commission after rejecting the new name for CAMP Inc – Gay Counselling Service of NSW - and finally accepts "Gays Counselling Service of NSW".	S 4/3
13 August 1982		Barry Cecchini announces the purchase of the Newtown and the Milton Hotels in Newtown by him and his partners.	S 4/2
19 August 1982		The US gay comedy <i>Mass Appeal</i> is staged at the Ensemble Theatre.	S 4/2
26 August 1982		A gay rights rally in Sydney Square demands the implementation of ADB recommendations. The Anglican Church tries to prevent its use of the Square.	KD
26 August 1982		A motion by the Australian Theatrical and Amusement Employee's Association (ATAEA) to have the NSW Labour Council support the ADB report's recommendations, is overwhelmingly defeated.	S 4/4
28 August 1982	San Francisco	The first Gay Olympic Games (sic) is held at Kezar Stadium. 1,500 athletes from 12 countries attend. Bob Goldsmith from Sydney wins 17 of the 21 medals won by Australia.	SS 3/10 S 4/4
31 August 1982		The first <i>Star</i> ad appears for the regular gay night at the Majestic Roller Rink at 49 New Canterbury Road, Petersham.	S 4/3
September 1982		<i>Becoming Visible: Lesbians and Male Homosexuals – from Oppression to Liberation</i> , an exhibition from South Australia is shown at the Liverpool Centre in Liverpool and the Sydney Gay Centre.	S 4/3
3 September 1982		The Koornkoo Hikers bush walks are listed in <i>The Star</i> .	S 4/3
3 September – 5 September 1982	Canberra	The 8 th National Homosexual Conference, themed <i>Building the Gay Movement</i> is held.	S 4/3

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9 September 1982		A rally and march are held in the city in support of amendments to the Anti-Discrimination Act.	S 4/4
9 September 1982		<i>Lettuce Cutlets</i> by Barry Lowe and the first production of the Hullabaloo Theatre Co, opens at the Bijou Room, Balmain Town Hall Hotel.	S 4/7
16 September 1982		<i>Taxi Zum Klo</i> – a film about gay subculture lifestyle in the late 70s, early 80s, opens at Trak Cinema 150 Elizabeth Street, Sydney.	S 4/3
18 September 1982		The first big party for the summer is styled as the <i>Sydney Sleaze Ball</i> . It is held at the Paddington Town Hall where 500 had to be turned away and \$3,000 - \$4,000 is raised for the next Mardi Gras.	S 4/2
18 September 1982		<i>The Gown of the Year</i> and <i>the Ninth Empress of Sydney Awards</i> are held at the Kei-Ron Hall. Lex Watson is crowned Empress.	S 4/4
24 September 1982	Atlanta	The Centre for Disease Control (CDC) adopts the term Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome – AIDS.	KD
25 September – 4 October 1982	Uki	The 1982 Mandala Spring Festival for gay men is held.	S 4/3
October 1982		The first case of AIDS in Australia is identified – an American at St Vincents Hospital.	KD
October 1982		The Gay Solidarity Group lodges a submission with the Broadcasting Tribunal for its hearings into the licence renewal for Radio 2GB arguing that the Fred Nile program contravenes broadcasting standards.	S 4/6
October 1982		The Gay Solidarity Group and Roberta Perkins of the Transsexual Association protest the court decision that transsexuals are still legally male.	S 4/6
October 1982		The Sussex Hotel lists its Saturday night discos in <i>The Star</i> .	S 4/9
October 1982		The Link moves into the old Thomas Dixon Funeral building at 251 Crown Street, Surry Hills.	OWN 45
October 1982		The Courthouse Hotel, at the corner of Redfern and George Streets Redfern become a gay friendly venue with a Saturday revue <i>Sky and the Jury Girls</i> .	OWN 46

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Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
1 October 1982	Melbourne	A new gay feature film, <i>Breaking Through</i> is premiered at the Melbourne State College.	S 4/5
8 October 1982	Melbourne Adelaide	The Australian Theatrical and Amusement Employees Association and the Victorian Arts Centre Trust and the Adelaide Trust sign an agreement providing bereavement leave for employees living in an established gay relationship.	S 4/6
14 October 1982		Allan Deith writes a feature for the OWN – “Mystery disease kills U.S. gays” It is called either acquired immunodeficiency disease (AID) or gay-related immunodeficiency disease (GRID). (<i>see also</i> 24 September 1982)	OWN 45
20 October 1982		The State Parliamentary Labor Party agrees to amend the Anti-Discrimination Act to outlaw discrimination on the ground of homosexuality.	S 4/7
23 October 1982		The Gay Business Association’s <i>Gay Fair</i> is held at the Shannon Reserve, Crown Street, Surry Hills.	S 4/6
23 October 1982		The fifth Annual Fancy Dress Ball of the Family is held at the St Ives Showground and Pavilion.	OWN 46
November 1982		The Sydney Gay Writers Collective publishes their first Australian anthology of short stories.	SS 3/19
November 1982		The Mardi Gras Committee receives a grant of \$6,000 towards the cost of paying artist Peter Tully and an assistant for six weeks.	S 4/9
November 1982		HQ 47 advertises as a gay venue in <i>The Star</i> .	S 4/9
November 1982	San Francisco	The city’s Board of Governors passes a law which gives official recognition to gay couples, so that they have the same rights as married couples.	S 4/10
1 November 1982		The Flinders and Beresford Hotels are refused an application by the City of Sydney Council to the closure of Hills Street linking the two hotels to accommodate excess NYE crowds.	S 4/11
4 November 1982		The Hullabaloo Theatre Co present <i>There Are Fairies At the Bottom of the Garden</i> at the Balmain Town Hall Hotel.	S 4/8
7 November 1982		The 8 th Annual Polympics is held at St Johns Park, Fairfield.	S 4/7
12 November 1982	San Francisco	Musician and record producer, Patrick Cowley, dies aged 30.	OWN 48

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Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
17 November 1982		Beach Boys, a male escort agency is raided by the police and its owner, John Innes is charged.	S 4/10
18 November 1982		GSG is granted status in the Australian Broadcasting Tribunal to challenge Fred Nile's homophobic statements on Sydney radio station, 2GB.	KD
23 November 1982		A rally is held at Parliament House to support ADB recommendations to ban discrimination against homosexuals.	S 4/9
25 November 1982		A discussion <i>Gay Liberationists and the Gay Community</i> is held at Heffron Hall.	S 4/9
26 November 1982		The NSW Anti-Discrimination Act is amended to include Homosexuality after the adoption of a Government Bill moved by Premier Neville Wran.	RF
27 November 1982		A general meeting of the Australian Free Athletics Association is held to discuss irregularities in the accounts of the Association.	S 4/10
December 1982		Peter Binder, licensee of the Flinders Hotel announces his hotel is granted midnight closing on Sundays.	S 4/11
December 1982		The manager of the Exchange Hotel, Chris Liston, announces renovations to its three bars -The Saddle Tramp, the Ragtime Follies and the Spanners.	OWN 50
9 December 1982		Detour Bar, formerly Four AM at 11a Oxford Street opens. It is a venture of Leigh Jennings and "Gerard".	OWN 50
15 December 1982	Canberra	<i>The Defence Force Discipline Act</i> passes the Federal Parliament, outlawing sexual activity between gays in the Services from December 31 1982.	RF
21 December 1982		A public meeting on the rise of gay bashings is held at the Gay Centre.	S 4/11
31 December 1982		<i>I'm Gunna Party</i> a NYE party, is held at the Cattle Pavilion at the Showgrounds.	S 4/10

Sources:

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

KD = Ken Davis

SS = The Sydney Star

S = The Star

OWN = Oxford Weekender News

OW = Oxford Weekender



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RF = Robert French

Based partly on previous listings by:

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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

