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 1983		The Gay Rights Lobby (GRL) releases its draft Bill to amend the Crimes Act.	MM
January 1983		The NSW Department of Health stops distribution of a pamphlet <i>Boys Growing Up Pt 2</i> , claiming it was too favourable to homosexuality.	S 4/12
January 1983		The Gay Mardi Gras reaches agreement with the producers of Party I and Party II to produce the Mardi Gras Party. Steve Cribb will be the DJ.	S 4/12
January 1983		The Mardi Gras Workshop at the corner of Bourke and Griffin Streets, Woolloomooloo led by Peter Tully, prepares for the Gay Mardi Gras Parade.	OWN 51
2 January 1983		Reverend Don Johnson celebrates his last service at the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC)	S 4/12
14 January 1983		The Link Gallery, Sydney's first gay art gallery, opens at 91 Crown Street, East Sydney.	OWN 51
25 January 1983		A public meeting hears people's concerns about escalating violence in Darlinghurst Surry Hills and East Sydney and the inactivity of Darlinghurst police.	S 4/13
28 January 1983		A new lesbian venue – <i>Playground</i> has opened at 504 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills.	S 4/13
29 January 1983		Police raid the new Club 80. 200-300 are detained for several hours, 30 people are taken to Darlinghurst Police Station and six people are charged. A major campaign of gay groups and individuals is launched.	S 4/14
31 January 1983		300 attend a public meeting in Holt Street to protest against the police action.	KD
1 February 1983		The Sydney Gay Sports League, a group of sports players and supporters, is formed.	OWN 53
1 February 1983		The Australia wide Compass Club social club is formed.	OWN 83



Date	Location (if	Event	Reference
	not Sydney)		
5 February 1983		1000 march from Green Park to protest against the Club 80 raid.	KD
5 February 1983		The Peak Disco opens at 1 Newland Street, Bondi Junction.	S 4/14
11 February – 19 February 1983		Our Lives Our Selves Festival for Lesbians and Gay Men is held in the week preceding the Mardi Gras Parade.	S 4/10
14 February 1983		Gay Solidarity Group (GSG) challenges Mervyn Bright's deportation in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal.	KD
14 February 1983		The Clinic, a feature film set in an Australian venereal diseases clinic, screens at the Village City Cinema.	S 4/13
15 February 1983		Health in the Gay Community, a workshop covering Karposi's Syndrome and Herpes is held at the Gay Centre.	S 4/13
16 February 1983		35 women take part in the Grand Lesbian Pub Crawl.	OWN 54
18 & 25 February 1983		Phyllis Diller appears at Patchs.	OWN 52
19 February 1983		20,000 and 44 floats take part in the sixth Mardi Gras parade, themed <i>New Gay Dawning</i> . It is launched by San Francisco City Supervisor, Harry Britt.	KD S 4/15
19 February 1983		The post Mardi Gras Parade party is held at the AMP pavilion, Sydney Showgrounds. This is the largest party ever held in Australia with 6,000 attending.	OWN 51 S 4/15
25 February 1983		Women only film nights are held at the Gay Centre.	S 4/15
26 February 1983		The Sydney Vice Squad led by Detective-Inspector Ernie Shepard raids the new Club 80 again. 11 men are charged with 'scandalous conduct'.	S 4/16
27 February 1983		500 people meet at Holt Street in response to this raid. 300 march to the Darlinghurst Police Station.	KD
March 1983		In response to the 1983 Mardi Gras, the Sydney City Council and the property arm of the Anglican Church agree on a draft management plan for Town Hall Square giving each a veto on the use of the Square.	S 4/16
March 1983		In the wake of the police raids on Club 80, Premier Wran rejects repealing anti-homosexual clauses of the Crimes Act.	S 4/17



Date	Location (if	Event	Reference
	not Sydney)		
March 1983		First of four issues of the <i>Green Park Observer</i> is published.	GPO 1
4 March 1983		A party at Club 80 raises \$4,000 towards the Legal defence fund.	S 4/16
7 March 1983		A successful lesbian night is held at 253 Baths.	OWN 54
8 March 1983		A Club 80 rally of 200 is held outside Parliament House.	OWN 55
		Speakers address the crowd in a cage.	
11 March 1983		The Honest Irishman Hotel promotes its women's bar "Vicki's Venue".	S 4/16
13 March 1983		The Task Force, a support group to raise funds for the Club 80 Legal Defence Fund meets at the Sydney Gay Centre.	S 4/16
17 March 1983		A support group co-ordinated by the Gays Counselling Service for men who may be arrested at future raids is formed at a meeting at the Gay Centre.	S 4/18
17 March 1983		The One Extra Company presents Kai Tai Chan's <i>Jacaranda Blue</i> — about the evolution of a gay man - at the Sydney Opera House.	S 4/16
19 – 20 March 1983		The Dykes, the Universe and Everything Show cabaret runs at the Gay Centre	OWN 55
24 March 1983		The Mardi Gras Show/Fun for all the Family exhibition of photography and video of the 1983 Mardi Gras and selected "extravaganza" costumes, opens at the Link Gallery.	OWN 56
April 1983		1 st issue of <i>OutRage</i> magazine is published. It is the successor to <i>Gay Community News</i> .	RF
April 1983		John Greenway and John Schwartzkopf from GRL meet Leon Punch, the leader of the NSW National Party as part of the Lobby's campaign for a new bill to decriminalise homosexuality.	S 4/19
April 1983	Newcastle	The Newcastle branch of the Gay Rights Lobby is launched by 50 people. The convenor is Kerry Bashford and the Secretary is Kim Spurway.	GPO 3
April 1983		Butt's Bar opens at 45 Oxford Street. It is a licenced bar and downstairs the 45 Steakhouse and Bar.	OWN 56
2 April 1983		King Steam re-opens at 22 King Street, City.	OWN 57
9 April 1983		Pedophilia: A round table discussion is held at the Inner City Education Centre in Stanmore.	S 4/18



Date	Location (if	Event	Reference
	not Sydney)		
10 April 1983		The third Club 80 public meeting is held at the Sydney Gay	S 4/16
		Centre and forms the Lambda Legal Defence Fund.	S 4/19
11 April 1983		The Sydney City Council rejects an application from the Gays	S 4/20
		Counselling Service for funding.	
13 April 1983		KKK Steam Bath holds a Gala Charity Night hosted by Dennis	S 4/18
		Scott in aid of the Gay Defence Campaign.	
15 April 1983	London	Gay News, a London based gay newspaper ceases publication.	OWN 60
18 – 22 April		The recently formed Lesbian and Gay Collective at the	S 4/18
1983		University of Sydney organise Gay Week 1983.	
20 April 1983		Australian Film and Television School's Franco Di Cheira's	S 4/17
		Waiting Round Wynyard a short film about a young man's first	
		time pick up with another man premiers at the University of	
		Sydney.	
21 April 1983		The Supreme Court of NSW rules Club 80 at 19 Oxford Street,	S 4/20
		Paddington is a disorderly house.	
24 April 1983		Jim Dykes is inducted as the Sydney MCC pastor.	KD
24 April 1983		The Knights of the Chameleons present the 2 nd Debutante Ball	S 4/17
		at the Sydney Hilton.	
May 1983	Melbourne	A second case of AIDS is confirmed.	S 4/21
May 1983		A small demonstration is held outside the Blood Bank in	S 4/21
		response to statements by Dr Archer of the Blood Bank.	
May 1983		A gay community delegation meets with the Director of Blood	S 4/21
		Transfusion Service, Dr Gordon Archer and Dr Crawford of the	
		Department of Health NSW.	
May 1983		Terry Goulden of the Gays Counselling Service attends a	S 4/22
		meeting with the head of the NSW Health Commission and	
		Professor Jenny Head of the St Vincents immunology clinic	
		and agree to include the gay community on a working group	
		to monitor and research AIDS in NSW.	
May 1983		The Gay Rights Lobby continue lobbying State	S 4/22
		Parliamentarians, meeting with Rosemary Foot, the Deputy	
		Leader of the Liberal Party.	
6 May 1983		A front-page article in <i>The Star</i> reads, "Fear and Loathing in	S 4/20
		America: AIDS inevitable here". It gives the latest US	
		descriptions of AIDS and ways to reduce risk.	



Date	Location (if	Event	Reference
	not Sydney)		
13 May 1983		Man into Woman the trans-sexual experience premieres at the Academy Twin Cinema Paddington.	OWN 59
15 May 1983		The AIDS Action Committee (AAC) is formed in Sydney. Lex Watson is the chair.	RF
21 May 1983		The Star re-publishes an article prepared by the Bay Area Physicians for Human Rights.	S 4/21
27 May 1983		Lesbian Line and coffee shop move to 3 rd Floor, 323 Darling Street, Balmain.	S 4/21
28 May 1983		The Fitness Exchange holds a Lambda Legal Defence Fund fundraising dance themed, <i>A Debutante's Ball</i> at the Gay Centre.	S 4/21
29 May 1983		60 Minutes television program screens a sensationalist segment on AIDS.	OWN 61
June 1983		The Gays Counselling Service, Twenty-Ten, the Transsexuals Association and the Gay Rights Lobby begin work on a joint submission to the NSW Government Inquiry into Prostitution.	S 4/23
June 1983	New York	The first international lesbian/gay health conference is held.	S 5/2
June 1983		GM Productions present <i>Party III</i> at the Sydney Showgrounds.	OWN 62
June 1983		The Exchange Hotel can now open until 2 am under new licensing hours.	OWN 62
June 1983		The Oxford Hotel can now open until midnight on Sundays under new licencing hours.	OWN 62
2 June 1983		The Gay Rights Lobby meets with Paul Landa, the NSW Attorney General as part of their ongoing law reform campaign.	S 4/23
19 June 1983		The first public meeting on AIDS, <i>Action Against AIDS</i> , is held at the Sydney Gay Centre. At least 23 organisations and businesses attend and adopt a pro-active strategy of research, media releases, government and community support.	S 4/21 KD
20 June 1983		A constitution of the Sydney Gay Mardi Gras Association is approved at the organisation's AGM. It allows for a Committee to organise the Mardi Gras and a membership to assist with its work when required.	OWN 59
23 June 1983		The Glasgow Arms Hotel advertises its <i>Centre Stage</i> as a gay venue.	OWN 62



Date	Location (if	Event	Reference
	not Sydney)		
24 June 1983		A Stonewall Dance is held at the Burland Community Centre,	S 4/21
		King Street, Newtown.	
25 June 1983		The 1983 International Day for Lesbian and Gay Male Freedom	S 4/21
		is held in Parramatta with the march commencing at the	
		railway station and ending with a picnic in Parramatta Park.	
26 June 1983		A public forum organised by the Gay Defence Campaign	S 4/21
		(previously Club 80 Raid Task Force) discuss Law Reform,	
		Community Development and AIDS.	
28 June 1983		The Stonewall cabaret, Gay Art Attacks, is held at the Gay	OWN 63
		Centre.	
29 June 1983		Fred Nile calls for all gay men to be quarantined.	KD
29 June 1983		The Stonewall Week screening of Word is Out is banned by	OWN 63
		the Parramatta City Council. The Stonewall Collective lodges a	
		complaint with the ADB.	
30 June 1983		An evening of lesbian films is held at the Liverpool Women's	OWN 61
		Health Centre.	
July 1983		The AIDS Action Committee sets up <i>Doctor Watch</i> to monitor	S 5/1
		medical and paramedical responses to AIDS.	
July 1983		After the collapse of the Sydney Gay Sports League, Sydney is	S 5/2
		without a gay sports association.	
5 July 1983		Icebreakers a new gay men's and women's social group	S 5/1
		announce weekly meetings at the Gay Centre.	
6 July 1983		The AAC requests its role on the NSW advisory AIDS	S 5/1
		committee be upgraded after it was relegated to merely	
		writing material about AIDS.	
6 July 1983	Lismore	A local social group, Summerland Gay People, is formed.	S 5/2
8 July 1983	Melbourne	Australia's first death from AIDS, a gay Australian man living in	OWN 65
		the US, occurs at the Prince Henry Hospital.	
9 July 1983		The Belmore Hotel closes.	OWN 65
13 July 1983		The AIDS Support Group is formed by the Gays Counselling	S 5/3
		Service, Acceptance, Metropolitan Community Church and the	
		Gay Disabled Club.	



Date	Location (if	Event	Reference
	not Sydney)		
15 July 1983	Canberra	The Australian Minister for Health Dr Neal Blewett is critical of the June 11 1983 Journal of the Australian Medical Association for its prejudicial and sensational approach to AIDS cases. He announces an expert working party on AIDS that will be chaired by D.G. Pennington, Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, University of Melbourne.	S 5/1
15 July 1983		The AAC dismisses the CMI Multitest for AIDS at teaching hospitals as "worthless".	S 5/1
16 July 1983		Young Gays Sydney discuss AIDS and sexually transmitted diseases at the Gay Centre.	S 5/1
18 July 1983		The 1984 Mardi Gras Committee is Brian McGahen, Philip King, Marty O'Neil, David Wilkins and Allan Deith.	OWN 66
21 July 1983		A fire caused by an electrical fault severely damages the Beresford Hotel.	S 5/2
21 July 1983		A benefit night for the Lambda Legal Defence Fund is held at the Midnight Shift.	OWN 67
25 July 1983		Deportation order against GSG member Mervyn Bright is revoked.	KD
August 1983		Flo's Palace closes after alleged licensing law breaches.	S 5/9 OWN 75
August 1983		A report released by Twenty-Ten reveals alcohol consumption by young gay males is five times and by young lesbians is twenty times higher than the national average.	S 5/2
August 1983		A ban by telephone technicians on the handling of equipment used by telephone exchange operators for fear they will catch AIDS is revealed to be a hoax perpetuated by the straight press.	S 5/2 OWN 72
August 1983		The NSW Government announces a \$84,000 grant to St Vincents Hospital to fund a research project into AIDS.	S 5/3
4 August 1983		Sydney's first hotel for lesbians, the Belmore Park Hotel, opens.	OWN 68
6 August 1983		The Hiroshima Day Rally of 15,000 is opened by the Gay Liberation Quire. There is a large Enola Gay contingent.	KD
15 August 1983		AIDS: A Public Forum is held at Paddington Town Hall. The speakers are Associate Professor Ron Penny, Dr David Cooper, Professor David Pennington, Dr Trevor King and Terry Goulden and Lex Watson. 500 attend the forum.	S 5/3 KD



Date	Location (if	Event	Reference
	not Sydney)		
20 August 1983		A dinner at the Gay Centre celebrates the 10 th anniversary of the Catholic gay group, Acceptance.	S 5/3
21 August 1983		The AAC working group meets and discusses setting up a national AIDS committee and hears of the experience of the San Francisco AIDS and KS Foundation.	S 5/4
24 August 1983		The second meeting of the NSW government's AIDS consultation committee is held.	S 5/4
27 August 1983		Police raid the "old" Club 80 at 48 Little Oxford Street. 11 men are handcuffed and taken to Darlinghurst Police Station and charged with scandalous conduct and indecent assault on a male.	S 5/5
27 August 1983		A support group assemble outside Darlinghurst Police Station until the Club 80 arrestees are releases at 4 am.	S 5/5
27 August 1983		A public meeting is held at the Gay Centre to repeat demands to the Premier, the Attorney-General and the Police Minister to drop all charges, repeal anti-gay sections of the Crimes Act and to stop police harassment against gay people. The meeting organises a 11 pm rally to protest the raids which goes from Taylor Square to Whitlam Square and back to Taylor Square with a sit down in the middle of the intersection.	S 5/5
27 August 1983	Terrigal	The last function of the Pelican Club is held.	S 5/3
September 1983		Max Pearce is elected to Woollahra Council and is the first openly gay man elected to NSW public office.	MM
2 – 4 September 1983	Melbourne	The Ninth National Conference of Lesbians and Homosexual Men is held.	S 5/2
2 September 1983	Melbourne	A meeting of AIDS Action groups meeting is held as part of the 9 th National Conference. It meets with the Federal Minister for Health, the Director General of the Department of Health and Professor Pennington and discuss a formal liaison and involvement in federal decision making over AIDS relation questions.	S 5/5
2 September 1983		FM Sydney Gay Radio begins broadcasting.	OWN 73



Date	Location (if	Event	Reference
	not Sydney)		
4 September		Fuck Art Lets Dance benefit party for Twenty-ten and the	S 5/5
1983		Star is held at 85 Commonwealth Street.	
7 – 20		A tent embassy is set up outside Premier Neville Wran's home	S 5/5
September		in Wallis Street, Woollahra. Subsequent embassy events	S 5/6
1983		include a gay cake and jumble sale, an official garden party	KD
		and a dog show.	
11 September		Women Together a new social group for women holds its first	S 5/4
1983		event.	
17 September		The 1983 Gown of the Year Award and 10 th Empress of Sydney	S 5/2
1983		is held at Kei-Ron.	
19 September		200 people attend the Hormones or Jeans – The Gay	S 5/6
1983		Liberation Quire Goes Down on Vinyl launch at the Gay Rights	
		Embassy.	
20 September		The Gay Business Association 1,000 strong rally Gay Bars	KD
1983		Should Not a Prison Make is held at Hyde Park and goes to to	S 5/5
		the State Parliament. The Gay Rights Embassy leads the rally.	S 5/6
26 September		18 men sign declarations that they had committed illegal acts	S 5/7
1983		with other men as a protest against the Club 80 raids. The first	
		two are delivered personally to Detective Inspector Shepherd	
		of the Vice Squad.	
29 September		Lesbian comedy duo Mary Hartman/Mary Hartman launch the	S 5/7
1983		first Australian anthology of gay writing, Edge City on Two	
		Different Plans, at the Town Hall Hotel.	
30 September		The renovated Midnight Shift opens.	S 5/7
1983			
October 1983	Canberra	Australian Democrat Senator Don Chipp places a number of	S 5/7
		questions on notice in the Senate concerning discrimination	
		against gays in the defence forces.	
October 1983		The Darlinghurst Community Youth Support Scheme employs	S 5/8
		David Cook, a gay man as its new Project Officer. Workshops	S 5/9
		on health for young gay males are held in November.	
October 1983		Detour is forced to close because of alleged breaches of the	S 5/9
		Liquor Act.	
October 1983		A group of gay prisoners publish <i>Inside Out</i> a newsletter	OWN 75
		linking other prisoners and the gay movement.	
October 1983		Mr Gay Sydney 1983 is Shaun Roney, the Patchs entrant.	OWN 75



Date	Location (if	Event	Reference
	not Sydney)		
October 1983		Plan 8 – Phil Colville keyboards and Cat Critch vocals –	OWN 75
		perform on Sundays at the Albury Hotel.	
8 October	Wyong	A bus transporting the Pattaya Beach Show and Les Girls	OWN 75
1983		crashes and burns. The props are lost, but the members of the	
		show escape unharmed.	
12 October		NSW Branch of the Australian Railways Union informs its	KD
1983		members, after agitation by gay members, that it has	
		negotiated privilege travel passes be issued for the employee	
		and one other, not just married partners.	
15 October		The 1983 Sydney Sleaze Ball is held at the Sydney	S 5/5
1983		Showgrounds. A liquor licence for the event is granted to the	
		Gay Mardi Gras Committee against police objections.	
18 October		Rose's Turn, starring Rose Jackson and written and directed by	S 5/8
1983		David Mitchell and David Penfold opens at Kinselas.	
21 October		Michael Winter of the Gay Disabled Club announces a project	S 5/8
1983		– Through the Door – an accessibility guide to venues,	
		services, clubs and groups in Sydney.	
27 October		The Beresford re-opens after a recent fire.	S 5/8
1983			
30 October		Gayfair is held at the Shannon Reserve, Crown Street, Surry	S 5/8
1983		Hills.	
November		Charges against three of the four men arrested in the January	S 5/10
1983		Club 80 raid are dismissed.	
November		The first confirmed case of AIDS in Sydney is diagnosed. He is	S 5/10
1983		believed to have contracted the disease in the US and is	
		contact with the AIDS Support Group.	
November		Capriccio's Theatre Restaurant and Function Centre, re-opens	OWN 76
1983		at the former Fantasy Island building 150 Allison Road,	
		Randwick.	
November		The Liquor Act Reform Group (LARG) is formed to pursue	OWN 77
1983		more rational liquor and licencing laws.	
2 November		Patchs' liquor licence is cancelled because of breaches of the	S 5/9
1983		Liquor Act.	
5 November		Police arrest members of the Paedophile Support Group in	KD
1983		raids in Sydney and Melbourne.	
7 November		Flange Desire, drag artist dies aged 33.	S 5/10
1983		-	



Date	Location (if	Event	Reference
	not Sydney)		
18 November 1983		The National Health and Medical Research Council Working Party reports four cases of AIDS in male homosexuals and	S 5/10
18 November 1983		bisexuals. Sydney Gay Radio (SGR) ceases transmission after Radio Sydney (aka Radio Skid Row) alleges John Innes of SGR had violated Australian Broadcasting Tribunal Regulations.	OWN 78
30 November 1983		The 1983 Poly-lympics is held at Vale of Ah Park Reserve, Milperra.	S 5/6
December 1983		A Gay Consultation Form is established to advise the Anti- Discrimination Board. Members include, Terry Goulden (GCS), Murray McLachlan (SGMG) and Robert French (GRL).	RF
December 1983		Sydney Rams, a new bowling league for 19 Pin bowling is formed.	S 5/12
December 1983		The ALP Gay Group reports a high number of ALP Branches calling on the State Government to repeal sections 79 to 81b of the Crimes Act in response to its letter writing campaign to Branches.	S 5/12
5 December 1983		Sydney Rams forms their ten-pin bowling league.	S 5/13
6 December 1983		The North Sydney Council repeals its policy prohibiting council facilities being used 'to promote or encourage the practice of homosexual behaviour'.	S 5/12
13 December 1983		Frank Walker, Minister for Youth and Community Services, opens a centre for transsexuals in Annandale – <i>Tiresia's House</i> .	S 5/12
13 December 1983		The Chief Executive of the State Rail Authority agrees to include sexual preference in the Authority's Equal Employment Opportunity policy.	S 5/20
16 December 1983		Twenty-Ten receives \$56,000 to set up a gay youth refuge to provide medium to long term accommodation.	S 5/12
31 December 1983		Barry Cecchini presents a New Year's Eve party at the Royal Hall of Industries, Sydney Showgrounds.	S 5/10 OWN 80

Sources:

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

KD = Ken Davis

S = The Star

OWN = Oxford Weekender News GPO = The Green Park Observer

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

