

1986

A chronology of LGBTIQ+ communities and movements in Sydney from 1969 to 2018

Updated on 5/10/2019

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
January 1986		The AIDS Council of NSW appoints three additional full-time staff.	SO 19
January 1986		Sergeant Brian Geyer is appointed the new head of the Police-Gay Liaison Unit.	SO 20
January 1986		The Villager's Social Club disbands following the loss of three committee members.	SO 21
10 January 1986		Sadista Sisters, a disco, bar, restaurant opens at the Zorba the Buddha on the corner of Goulburn and Dixon Streets, Sydney.	SO 20
13 February 1986	Newcastle	Pipers Nitespot advertises "under new management" and it is now located at 800 Hunter Street.	SVV21
26 January 1986		The Recreational Arts Team (RATS) present another RAT party at the Bondi Pavilion.	SVV19
29 January 1986		Graham Terry, the owner of Brett's Boys the long-established male brothel, commits suicide.	SO 22
7 February 1986		The <i>1986 Mardi Gras Festival and Art, Photography and Craft Exhibitions</i> opens at the Mardi Gras Gallery, 121 Crown Street, Sydney.	SO 21
9 February 1986		The Gay Business Association Fair is held at Green Park, Darlinghurst.	SO 21
11 February 1986		Over the Top Theatre Company opens a season of <i>Love, Sex and Romance</i> at the Midnight Shift nightclub.	SO 21
13 February 1986		<i>An Exposition of Holy Relics</i> at the Bookshop Darlinghurst is blessed and opened by the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence (SOPI)	SO 21
15 February 1986	Vancouver	The Vancouver Lymphadenopathy-AIDS Study of 700 gay men suggests that the AIDS virus (HTLV III) is unlikely to be transmitted by oral sex.	SVV25
21 February 1986		The Star Observer changes its masthead to <i>Sydney's Star Observer</i> .	SO 22
17 – 23 February 1986		Vito Russo opens the AFI-Gay Mardi Gras Film Festival at the Chauvel Cinema, Paddington.	SO 19



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21 February 1986		The Mardi Gras Swimming Carnival is held at the Boy Charlton Pool, Woolloomooloo.	SO 21
22 February 1986		10,000 take part in and 60,000 watch the annual Gay Mardi Gras Parade which commences at Art Gallery Road, and proceeds via Oxford Street and Flinders Street to the Showgrounds, where a dance party is held at the Manufacturer's Hall.	SO 21
26 February – 2 March 1986		<i>Soft Targets</i> , a play about AIDS is held at the Stables Theatre, Nimrod Street, Kings Cross.	SO 21
28 February 1986		The recently appointed NSW Minister for Health, Barry Unsworth, visits St Vincents Hospital AIDS unit.	SO 23
March 1986		The Gay Community Services Trust, formed in 1980, winds up and passes on its funds to the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation (BGF).	SO 24
March 1986		The Bookshop Newtown opens.	SO 24
5 March 1986		The NSW Anti-Discrimination Board's conciliation officer, Greg Tillet is elected ACON President, replacing foundation president, Lex Watson.	SO 23
23 March 1986		The Gemini Social Club in Canterbury, holds its first dance and show at the Leichhardt Town Hall.	SO 21
27 March 1986		The federal Minister for Health, Dr Neal Blewett launches <i>AIDS and the New Puritanism</i> by Dennis Altman.	SO 25
31 March 1986		ACON approaches the Legal and Social Sub-committee of the National Advisory Committee on AIDS (NACAIDS) to hold a conference on insurance after insurance companies propose to deny insurance to AIDS anti-body positive people.	SO 25
April 1986		Dot and Fanny celebrate two years of their live <i>Tonight Show</i> .	SO 26
April 1986		French homosexual novelist, Jean Genet, dies aged 75.	SO 26
April 1986		The NSW Cabinet knocks back amendments to the Liquor Licensing Act which would allow hotels in certain areas to trade 24 hours and discos and night clubs to get licences.	SO 27
April 1986		Swensons at 252 Pitt Street, Sydney advertises as a gay venue.	SO 27
5 April 1986		The Gay Immigration Task Force holds a fund-raising benefit night at the Leichhardt Town Hall.	SVV24

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6 April 1986		Reverend Gary Walker's proposal for a new MCC church in Sydney, MCC of the Southern Cross, is realised with its first service.	SVV32
17 April 1986		ACON holds an open forum on AIDS anti-body testing at the YWCA in Surry Hills.	SO 25
23 April 1986		Louise Hay, a counsellor on holistic self-healing, speaks at Sydney Town Hall.	SO 26
25 April 1986		Robert French's <i>Gays Between the Broadsheets</i> , is launched at the 11 th National Homosexual Conference.	SO 26
25 -27 April 1986		The 11 th and last National Conference of Lesbians and Gay Men is held at the University of NSW.	KD
26 April 1986		The Knights of the Chameleons Annual Debutante's Ball is held at the Sydney Hilton.	SO 22
28 April 1986		A national AIDS seminar is held at the YWCA Conference Centre as an adjunct to the National Homosexual Conference. It calls for a national toll-free AIDS information service to reach people who don't identify as gay.	SO 27
May 1986	New York	The New York State Department of Health rules out using the AIDS anti-body test for mass screening or as a pre-condition for employment, admission to health care facilities or admission to school.	SO 29
May 1986		Work commences refurbishing the Marks Pavilion at Prince Henry Hospital to provide a 13-bed unit for people with AIDS.	SO 30
May 1986		A new research project carried out by the Macquarie University and ACON into homosexual sex practices, gay identity, the sense of belonging to a gay community and gay men's willingness to adopt safer sex, begins.	SVV29
May 1986		A monthly community fundraising bingo is held at the Paddington Green Hotel by the Triangles Basketball Club.	SVV29
3 May 1986		Dr Julian Gold head of the Albion Street Medical Centre, claims that there is "an active homosexual campaign currently operating around Australia discouraging people from being (AIDS anti-body) tested."	SO 28
7 May 1986		ACON adopts a policy on anti-body testing.	SO 28
9 May 1986		Entries close for ACON'S Safer Sex Porn Writing Competition.	SO 24
11 May 1986		Stuart Dick, the licensee of the Midnight Shift retires, selling his half of the business to partner Jim Winslett.	SO 28

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12 May 1986		209 cases of Category A AIDS have been reported in Australia. 99 people have died.	SVV29
22 May 1986		A lesbian and gay caucus is formed in the Administrative and Clerical Officers Association (ACOA) NSW Branch.	SO 26
23 May 1986		The new managing editor of <i>Sydney's Village Voice</i> is Trevor Reeve.	SVV28
23 May 1986		Querelle, a nightclub for men and women at 273 Crown Street, Darlinghurst (formerly Ruby Reds) advertises in <i>Sydney's Village Voice</i> .	SVV28
27 May 1986		The new Gay Mardi Gras Association's Committee is elected.	SVV29
30 May 1986		Terry Divola, a driving force behind the T-cell Group, dies from an AIDS related illness, aged 38.	SO 30
June 1986		The AIDS Workers Information Group (AWIG) co-ordinated by the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service, Sydney STD Clinic, Health Department and Albion Street, meets monthly at the Albion Street Clinic.	SO 31
June 1986	France	A research team from Lacennec Hospital shows that cyclosporine is an ineffective treatment for AIDS.	SVV31
June 1986	Bethesda, Maryland	Dr Fauci, head of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Disease reports that an AIDS patient's immune system is restored using a bone marrow transplant from an identical twin, transfusions of lymphocytes and an anti-viral drug.	SVV31
2 June 1986		Mardi Gras management committee elects Bill Whittaker as its president, Murray McLachlan Vice President, Kevin Golding Secretary and John Murray treasurer.	SO 30
6 June 1986		63 newly trained members of the Community Support Network graduate.	SO 29
6 June 1986		The South Sydney Junior Leagues Club is advertised as a venue for Simone and Monique's <i>Playgirls Extravaganza</i> .	SVV29
8 June 1986		<i>Ratarama</i> , a Recreational Arts Team dance, is held at the Enmore Theatre.	SVV28
11 June 1986		An increase in anti-gay violence is discussed at the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board's gay consultative meeting.	SO 29
14 June 1986		The Boomerangs Social Club donates \$3,700 to the BGF and the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service (GLCS)	SO 31

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July 1986		Larry Galbraith is appointed editor of <i>Sydney's Star Observer</i> .	SO 33
July 1986	US	Gay activists rally across the country to protest against the Supreme Court decision upholding state laws against consensual homosexual acts.	SO 33
July 1986		ACON announces a pilot AIDS Home Care support program which will back up support provided by the Community Support Network.	SVV33
July 1986		The International Committee on the Taxonomy of Viruses renames HTLV III or LAV as the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) .	SVV33
2 July 1986		The Sydney City Council resolves to prohibit sex in all public toilets "following complaints from local residents."	SO 32
3 July 1986		The Sydney Gay Mardi Gras Committee elects Bruce Pollard Secretary and Kevin Golding Treasurer after two resignations.	SVV32
11 July 1986	NZ	The NZ parliament repeals the country's anti-homosexual laws.	SO 33
12 July 1986		The Gay Dance Company holds the first of their dance parties at Querelle in Crown Street.	SVV32
15 July 1986		A meeting convened and chaired by the federal Health Minister Dr Neal Blewett of health officials and gay community leaders urges all individuals at risk of AIDS to seek confidential counselling and the decision to have the test should be made voluntarily.	SO 33
17 July 1986	Canberra	The ALP National Conference resolves to emphasise "constructive educational strategies" to halt the spread of AIDS rather than using punitive legal measures.	SO 33
18 July 1986		The Imperial Hotel opens.	SVV32
20 July 1986		Tim Berry and Gordon Biggs of the Unicorn Hotel, take on the management of the Balmain Town Hall Hotel.	SO 33
28 July 1986		Lynda Pace is elected President of the Gay Business Association, the first woman to hold this position.	SO 34
30 July 1986		The Body Positive group is accepted for affiliation with ACON.	SVV33
August 1986		ACON moves to its new resource centre at 68 Sophia Street, Surry Hills.	SO 35
August 1986		Ross Crich (formerly of the Handlebar venue) and his partner Josie Cain take over the Paddington Green Hotel.	SO 36

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2 August 1986		Professor David Pennington, head of the National AIDS Task Force, breaks from the agreed consensus reached with the federal Minister of Health. <i>(See 15 July 1986)</i>	SO 34
3 August 1986		The Roman Bath relocates to the basement of the Aero store 36-42 Oxford Street Darlinghurst. <i>(see 15 December 1986)</i>	SO 33
12 August 1986		The Albion Street Clinic outreach bus is attacked by men armed with iron bars, timber and bricks at Green Park.	SO 35
12 August 1986		Greg Tillett is elected for a second term as president of ACON. Vice president is Robert French, Secretary Peter Connolly and treasurer Peter Collingwood.	SO 35
9-17 August 1986	San Francisco	More than 3,700 athletes from 15 countries compete in this year's Gay Games II. Australia wins medals in track and field, swimming, high jump and golf.	SO 35 SVV28
17 August 1986		A Tea Dance for the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation (BGF) and the Crystal Carrington Group is held at the Tivoli.	SVV33
23 August 1986		The 1986 Family Ball is held at the UNSW Roundhouse.	SVV27
24 August 1986		The Sydney Gay Centre is officially opened at 33 Wellington Street, Chippendale by Mardi Gras President, Bill Whittaker.	SO 35 SO 36
28 August 1986		The Police-Gay Liaison Group (PGLG) considers reports of homophobic attacks by small gangs of youths and propose a four-point strategy in response.	SO 36
29 August 1986	Adelaide	The second conference of the National Network of Young Lesbians and Gay men is held.	SO 31
29 August 1986	Adelaide	<i>Gay Youth in Australia: 1950 – 1980</i> by Craig Fairweather is launched at the 1986 national Network Conference of Young Lesbians and Gay Men.	SO 36
31 August 1986		Michael Glynn announces a 'once only' forum for people with AIDS and their partners. Health professionals and the press are excluded.	SVV34
September 1986		The Nine TV Network screens an episode of <i>Flying Doctors</i> which features a character played by Gerard Kennedy who learns he has AIDS.	SO 33
September 1986		The Erskineville Hotel opens its theatre space, 'Stage Two' with Simone Troy reviving her <i>Rip Off</i> show.	SO 33
September 1986		Inspector Denis Dack is the new head of the Police-Gay Liaison Unit.	SO 37

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6 September 1986		A record 6,000 attend the annual Sleaze Ball held at the Royal Hall of Industries. The special guest is US disco star, Sylvester.	SO 34
8 September 1986		AIDS researcher Brett Tindall tells the AIDS Workers Information Group that a cure for AIDS is unlikely in the near future.	SO 37
13 September 1986		PRATY, Recreational Arts Team party, is held at Paddington Town Hall.	SO 36
13 September 1986		The Knights of the Chameleon 24 th Annual Formal Ball is held at Kei-Ron. This year's Empress of Sydney is Alderman Brian McGahen.	SO 37
16 September 1986		The Police-Gay Liaison Group meets at Westmead Hospital with the intention of learning about the needs of western suburbs gays.	SO 35
23 September 1986		Murray McLachlan is elected President of the Sydney Gay Mardi Gras Association following the resignation of Bill Whittaker.	SO 38
October 1986		The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence (SOPI) perform an exorcism of the demon "Hornophobia" at the North Sydney headquarters of the Australia Arts Council, in response to the federal Liberal Party attack on the Council's making grants to gay organisations.	SO 40
October 1986		St Vincents Hospital fails to get supplies of the new anti-viral drug azidothymidine (AZT) due to a world shortage of key ingredients.	SO 40
October 1986	New York	Two new anti-AIDS drugs capable of prolonging life without dangerous side effects – CS85 and ST – are announced 24 hours after AZT is approved by the US federal government.	SVV38
1 October 1986	Canberra	Warren Talbott, is appointed national co-ordinator of the Australian Federation of AIDS organisations (AFAO).	SO 37
3 October 1986		Charly's bar on the corner of Harris and Union Streets Pymont, opens as a new gay venue.	SO 38
7 October 1986		Fabian Lo Schiavo, convenor of Angays, takes part in the Sydney Anglican Synod unchallenged, despite last year's Synod ban on homosexuals from all forms of the ministry.	SO 39
13 October 1986		Professor David Pennington argues that all young people be taught the proper use of condoms at the launch of <i>AIDS – Your Questions Answered</i> .	SO 40

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18 October 1986		The second hotline set up by the Police-Gay Liaison Group seeks information from gay victims of harassment or violence by police. 120 calls are received.	SO 38
18 October 1986	Newcastle	Boomerangs holds a benefit at Pipers Disco for the Newcastle Hospital AIDS unit.	SO 39
21 October 1986		ACON questions the trial of immunomodulating drug Isoprinosine that was announced by the Albion Street Clinic.	SO 41
25 October 1986		<i>The Rock Hudson Show</i> aka <i>The Show with No Name</i> , a new radio program targeting a gay and lesbian audience begins broadcasting on 2RSR FM (88.9FM) on Saturday evenings.	SO 39 SO 43
27 October 1986		The Gay Rights Lobby makes a submission to the Individual Rights Committee of the Constitutional Commission, requesting the Committee to consider the right of sexual expression and the need for its enshrinement in the Constitution.	SO 40
31 October – 1 November 1986		The Second National AIDS Conference is held at the Hyatt Kingsgate at Kings Cross and is open to the public.	SVV 33
2 November 1986		The annual Poly-lympics is held at the Macquarie (Uni?) Sports Fields.	SO 40
9 November 1986		The Beresford Hotel goes straight.	SO 41
10 November 1986		The Sydney City Council agrees to assist the 1987 Mardi Gras parade by erecting flags and banners and making the end of the march area available free of charge.	SO 43
23 November 1986		A meeting of people with AIDS and their lovers is held at ACON office in Surry Hills.	SO 41
23 November 1986		The NSW Ombudsman, George Masterman QC, finds that police taking part in the January 1983 raid on Club 80 had acted “improperly” and “illegally”.	SO 42
25 November 1986		Steve Cribb, DJ dies from AIDS related illnesses.	SO 42
26 November 1986		Gay activists Fabian Lo Schiavo and Edwin Peter Collard are removed by police and charged with Offensive Behaviour at the Pope’s address at the University of Sydney, when they began chanting, “Anti-woman, anti-gay, fascist Pope go away.”	SSO 53

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Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
27 November 1986		<i>My Beautiful Laundrette</i> , Stephen Frear's and Hanif Kureshi's ground breaking movie opens at the Dendy Cinema.	SO 42
27 November 1986		The inaugural awards dinner of ACON is held at the Midnight Shift.	SO 43
December 1986		The City of Sydney Council branch of Homecare Service begins to provide a special service for people with AIDS to enable them to stay in their homes.	SO 43
December 1986		The Australian Public Service adopts a set of guidelines to eliminate anti-gay discrimination against its homosexual employees following negotiations with unions, principally the Administrative and Clerical Officers Association (ACOA).	SO 43
December 1986		The Western Way Centre Inc is set up at 17 Alice Street, Auburn to provide advice, support and assistance in the western Sydney region for lesbians, gays, their families and friends.	SVV 76
5 December 1986		Former premier of South Australia, Don Dunstan launches <i>Being Different</i> , a book of personal accounts of homosexual men by Garry Wotherspoon. A performance by Monsignor Porca Madonna at the launch results in uproar from a number of Roman Catholic community figures.	SO 43
5 December 1986		200 competitors and spectators attend the Southern Cross Outdoors Group (SCOG) 1986 opening of the Summer Swimming Carnival.	SO 43
15 December 1986		The Sydney City Council allows David Ross to transfer the Roman Bath to 38-46 Oxford Street, providing "unauthorised cubicles" are removed.	SO 44
18 December 1986		The Midnight Shift is granted a hotel licence. This will allow the downstairs to open as a bar.	NSO 1 SSO 47
31 December 1986		19RATY7 – A new year's eve Rat Party is held at Luna Park.	SO 44
31 December 1986		The Bobby Goldsmith Foundation (BGF) presents the New Years Eve Masked Ball at the Showground Banquet Hall.	SO 44
31 December 1986		The SLATS' New Year's Eve Party is held at the corner of Fig and Jones Street, Ultimo.	SO 44

Sources:

KD = Ken Davis

SO = Star Observer

SSO = Sydney's Star Observer

NSO = National Star Observer

SVV = Sydney's Village Voice

