

# 1987

## 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 1987		Barry Lowe resigns as editor of <i>Campaign</i> .	SSO 45
January 1987		The Albury Hotel launches its social club.	SSO 45
January 1987		A dispute erupts between the AIDS Council of NSW (ACON) and the executive of the Community Support Network (CSN) over the employment of an ACON employee rostering CSN members.	SSO 45
22 January 1987		The City of Sydney Medical Officer Dr R I Hamilton with the Director of the City Health and Community Services Bill Fitzgerald submit a report to the City Council's Health and Environment Committee on AIDS. It is criticised by ACON President Greg Tillett as "an extraordinary mixture of unprofessional prejudice and misunderstanding of the nature of AIDS".	SSO 48
February 1987		Clinical trials of the drug AZT begin in Sydney and Melbourne.	SSO 47
4 February 1987		<i>The Daily Telegraph's</i> editor John Hartigan agrees to gay activist Ken Lovett's representation that HIV was not exclusively gay and instructs staff not to use the term "gay plague" in future articles on AIDS.	SSO 47
5 February 1987		The Sydney Gay Mardi Gras (SGMG) Festival is launched at the Hogarth Galleries, Walker Street, Paddington.	SSO 46
5 February 1987		<i>On Parliament Hill</i> , a play originally premiered by the UK Gay Sweatshop in 1983, is staged by Company B at the Belvoir Street Theatre.	SSO 46
6 – 28 February 1987		A SGMG art exhibition is held at the Hogarth Galleries in Paddington.	SSO 46
8 February 1987		The Gay Business Association (GBA) Fair is held at Green Park.	SSO 45
11 February 1987		Rod McRae's exhibition of drawings <i>The Showbags as Gay Icons</i> opens at the Albury Hotel's piano bar.	SSO 45
13 – 22 February 1987		The 1987 Australian Film Institute and Sydney Gay Mardi Gras (SGMG) Gay Film Festival is held at the Chauvel Cinema, Paddington.	SSO 46



# 1987

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
16 February 1987		Peter McCarthy is granted life membership of Community Support Network.	SSO 48
18 February 1987		The Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project is re-launched.	SSO 46
20 February 1987		<i>As Is</i> , a play by William M Hoffman, premieres at the Seymour Centre.	SSO 46
20 February 1987		Murray McLachlan, President of SGMG defends the Association's decision to drop "Sydney Gay" from the 1987 Gay Mardi Gras T shirt design.	SSO 47
21 February 1987		Sydney Rams hosts the annual Sydney Gay Mardi Gras Tenpin Bowling Tournament.	DARE 3
21 February 1987		The annual Mardi Gras parade is viewed by 100,000 people as it commences in Art Gallery Road, moves along College, Oxford and Flinders Streets to the RAS Showgrounds. Firework displays are held at the commencement and the end of the parade. 8,000 later attend the party at the Hordern Pavilion and the party is broadcast live on 2RSR-FM radio.	SSO 46 SSO 47
22 February 1987	New York	Artist Andy Warhol dies days after gall bladder surgery.	SSO 48
March 1987		The rural newspaper <i>The Land</i> refuses to accept an advertisement for Country Network, a gay support group saying that it was "not in keeping with <i>The Land</i> General Conditions".	SSO 68
March 1987		Sidestep, a new gay bar opens in the old North Sydney fire station at 86 Walker Street.	SSO 51
2 March 1987		John Lewis, the man who drafted the Peterson Bill in 1981 dies.	SSO 49
9 March 1987		The demon of homophobia is exorcised from Darlinghurst Police Station by the Sisters of the Order of Perpetual Indulgence before it is closed and incorporated into St Vincents Hospital.	SSO 49
11 March 1987		Greg Tillet resigns as president of ACON. He is replaced by Don Baxter.	SSO 49
25 March 1987		ACON extends its AIDS education policies and programmes into the general community.	SSO 50

# 1987

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
26 March 1987		The State Government dismisses the Sydney City Council.	SSO 50
April 1987		A competition to improve Taylor Square after the Eastern Distributor is built, attracts over 100 entries.	SSO 51
April 1987		Chris Reilly is appointed the executive officer of the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service (GLCS).	SSO 51
April 1987		ACON appoints Simon Donohue as Information and Resources Officer and Terry Batterham as Welfare and Accommodation Officer.	SSO 51
April 1987		The NSW Minister for Health, Peter Anderson establishes the new Ministerial Advisory Committee to advise him on AIDS and related matters.	SSO 51
April 1987		Contrary to previous advice from a tax expert, the SGMG is now advised by the Australian Taxation Office that it is liable for tax on income earned from 1981.	SSO 52
April 1987		BGF President John Galletly announces a sub-committee to manage fundraising.	SSO 52
6 April 1987		ACON sets up a telephone information service for the National AIDS Education Campaign which is run through Lifeline, Ethnicline, Youthline and the Albion Street AIDS Hotline. It receives a large number of inquiries after the screening of <i>Grim Reaper</i> commercials.	SSO 50
17 April 1987		Sydney SLATS and Event Development present <i>A Boys Night Out</i> at the Paddington Town Hall.	SSO 51
19 April 1987		<i>Superatural</i> , a RAT party is held at the Paddington Town Hall.	SSO 50
25 April 1987	Newcastle	An AIDS benefit night is held at the Criterion Hotel Maitland Road, Islington.	SSO 51
26 April 1987		The Albury Hotel Social Club's inaugural Ten Pin Bowling tournament is won by the <i>Outpost</i> team from the Paddington Green Hotel.	SSO 52
28 April 1987		The 1987 CAPS Awards for Sydney's gay entertainment achievements, are held at the Imperial Hotel.	SSO 51
May 1987		The Lesbian and Gay Men's Anti-Violence Group begins meeting monthly at the Gay Centre.	SSO 53

# 1987

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
May 1987		The Therapeutic Division of the federal Department of Health recommends that AZT (aka zidovudine) not be made generally available because it has not had a sufficiently long trial.	SSO 54
May 1987		Ralph McAlister, the new SGMG Executive Director announces he will find a new workshop space and move the administrative centre for Mardi Gras to the first floor of the Green Park Diner.	SSO 54
May 1987		The Playground nightclub is renovated and opens as Rubyfruit Jungle.	SVV 53
2 May 1987		TSR Productions present a BGF fundraiser <i>Black Party Four</i> at the Banquet Hall, RAS Showgrounds.	SSO 51
5 May 1987		Charges against Fabian Lo Schiavo and Edwin Peter Collard for offensive behaviour during the 1986 papal visit are proven but dismissed by Castlereagh Street Local Magistrates Court. ( <b>See 26 November 1986</b> )	SSO 53
7 May 1987		The NSW Law Society rebukes Magistrate Brian Cook who had told Steven Glen Attwood 20, of Bondi 'who allegedly had AIDS', that solicitors would "be unlikely to come near you".	SSO 53
14 May 1987		ACON President Don Baxter and Executive Director Bill Whittaker meet with Dr Neal Blewett, the federal Minister for Health, marking a milestone in the development of relationships between AIDS organisations and the Commonwealth.	SSO 55
21 May 1987		ACON launches the <i>Safety Pin</i> – an easily recognisable safe sex symbol.	SSO 54
24 May 1987		The <i>Alburybald Art Exhibition</i> , the brainchild of the Albury Social Club is held at the Albury Hotel.	SSO 53
25 May 1987		Sydney links up with other cities around the world in a candlelight rally of "care, remembrance and concern" for people with AIDS.	SSO 53
26 May 1987		The newly elected 1987-88 Mardi Gras Committee consists of Anthony Babicci, Colin Fawcett, Graeme Gherashe, Kevin Golding, Heather Grey, Ron Handley, Paul Hayes, Chris Jarvis, Murray McLachlan, Bruce Pollack, David Ryan, Ron Smith, Peter Tully and David Wilkins.	SSO 55

# 1987

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
26 May 1987		The Sydney Gay Mardi Gras Association defers all donations to gay groups until its tax position is clarified.	SSO 55
27 – 28 May 1987		The Trade Union Training Authority (TUTA) conducts a seminar <i>AIDS: An Industrial Hazard</i> at the Masonic Centre.	SSO 53
1 June 1987		The AIDS unit at Westmead Hospital is launched by the NSW Health Minister, Peter Anderson.	SSO 54
2 June 1987		Donations to CSN are now tax deductible.	SSO 55
7 June 1987		The Albury Social Club presents <i>Not Quite the Royal Command Performance</i> at the Paddington-Woollahra RSL.	SSO 54
18 June 1987		<i>Rip Off III</i> starring Simone and her new cast of six male dancers, opens at the Imperial Hotel.	SVV 54
18 June 1987		A women's page <i>A Woman's Point of View</i> by Jane Taylor and Veronica Meyer, begins in Sydney's Village Voice newspaper.	SVV 54
21 June 1987		A marriage of two women, Lyn and Stirling is held at the Belmore Park Hotel.	SVV 55
23 June 1987		What was seen as a breakthrough in Sydney gay community development, the first gay community outreach dinner, is organised by ACON and is attended by venue owners, entertainers, "politicos" and gay media representatives.	SSO 56
26 June 1987	Washington DC	The US Supreme Court gives the US Olympics Committee the right to prevent a San Franciscan group from using the term "the Gay Olympics".	SVV 55
27 June 1987		Clover, the social club for women celebrates its 15 <sup>th</sup> anniversary at Keiron, Waverley.	SSO 53
29 June – 4 July 1987	Cologne	80 delegates from 46 lesbian and gay organisations attend the 9 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the International Lesbian and Gay Association.	SVV 56
July 1987		Burroughs-Wellcome increases the production of AZT allowing around 600 people to take part in trials of the drug by the end of 1987.	SSO 57
July 1987		Zorba's opens at 13 Goulburn Street, Sydney.	SSO 57
July 1987	Newcastle	The inaugural Newcastle AIDS Benefit Ball is held at the Newcastle University Sports Union Hall.	SSO 57

# 1987

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
July 1987		<i>Only Heaven Knows</i> , a new music theatre piece about Sydney's demi monde 1944 – 1957 by Alex Harding has its second workshop. It is later presented as part of <i>Invisible Heritage</i> – the Arts Council's contribution to the Bicentennial.	SSO 58 SSO 66
4 July 1987		Wayne Gait-Smith joins Jac Vidgen and Billy Yip to stage the Recreational Arts Team (RAT) party, <i>Eratcipation</i> at the Banquet Hall, Sydney Showgrounds.	SSO 56
4 July 1987		Scamps, a gay group expands its activities to now include Saturday nights on the first floor of the old Zodiacs Building 12 Good Street, Granville.	SSO 57
4 July 1987		<i>The Sydney Morning Herald</i> reveals that doctors in NSW are testing patients for HIV if they are suspected of being gay, without the patient's consent. President-elect of the Australian Medical Association (AMA), Dr Bruce Shepherd says his organisation will support doctors who take these tests.	SSO 57
4 July 1987		A fund-raising <i>Condom and Western Night</i> is held by the Artists in Direct Support.	SSO 57
11 July 1987	San Francisco	Dr Tom Waddell, the founder of the Gay Games dies of AIDS aged 49.	SSO 58 Wikipedia
18 July 87		John Galletly, founding president of the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation dies of AIDS related conditions aged 44.	SSO 60 SSO 58
23 July 1987		<i>Urban Fairies and Other Stories</i> is presented by the One Extra Dance Company at the Seymour Centre.	SSO 58
24 July 1987		30 overseas public health officials and ministers visit the resource centre of the AIDS Council of NSW to learn about the community's response to AIDS.	SSO 59
25-26 July 1987		<i>A Holistic AIDS Forum and Workshop</i> , sponsored by Thymos House, is held at the Reg Murphy Hall, Potts Point.	SVV 55
29 July 1987		A protest is held over the comments of the Canadian High Commissioner, Ed Schryer which he made opposing the amendments to the Human Rights Act in Manitoba, guaranteeing protection to lesbians and gay men.	SSO 59

# 1987

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
August 1987		A working group from the AIDS Council of NSW, Gay Rights Lobby, the Gay Solidarity Group and the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service advises that it has prepared a submission calling for the completion of law reform started by Premier Wran's 1984 Act and undoing the anomalies introduced by the 1985 Child Assault laws and the 1987 <i>Statute Law (Miscellaneous Provisions) Amendment Act</i> .	SSO 60
2 August 1987		Frontrunners, Sydney's gay running club enters two teams in the 1987 City to Surf.	SSO 57
3 August 1987		A 'gay premiere' of the musical <i>Jerry's Girls</i> at the Footbridge Theatre, organised by the Knights of the Chameleons and Donnie Smith, raises over \$4,000 for the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation.	SSO 59
4 August 1987		Ken Smith succeeds the late John Galletly as President of the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation.	SSO 60
8 August 1987		30 members and supporters of the Enola Gay Group take part in the 1987 Hiroshima Day March.	SSO 60
10 August 1987		The AIDS Council of NSW Committee is elected at its AGM. They are Don Baxter, David Buchanan, Steve Auburn, Steve McDonald, Rolph Petherbridge, Phillip Black, Sharon Brown, Bronwyn Ridgeway, Levinia Crooks, Lex Watson, Gray Sattler and Andrew Morgan.	SSO 60
18 August 1987		The Lesbian Space Collective, a group of women aiming to create a multi-purpose lesbian space, appeal for donations.	SSO 60
20 August 1987		The <i>ParAIDS</i> fashion event is held at the Jamieson Street Nightclub. Jenny Kee, Linda Jackson, Peter Tully, Clarence Chai and Harry Thurston participate	SSO 57
27 August 1987		Klub Kakadu a new lesbian and gay venue opens at 163 Oxford Street, the site of the old Caps nightclub.	SVV 59
September 1987		A new literary magazine, <i>Cargo</i> with separate editions for men and women, is published by the new Blackwattle Press.	SVV 60
1 September 1987		The NSW Minister for Health, Peter Anderson pledges \$500,000 to extend the availability for AZT.	SSO 61
5 September 1987		5,900 people attend the annual Sleaze Ball at the Royal Hall of Industries. The advertising poster features the <i>Mona Lisa</i> . Peter Tully is the party co-ordinator. Robert Lake is the lighting and sound designer.	SSO 60 SSO 62

# 1987

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
9 September 1987		David Buchanan, Vice President of the AIDS Council of NSW speaks on "Discrimination and Homosexuality" at the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board's colloquium <i>Making Rights Work</i> , celebrating the 10 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act.	SSO 61
15 September 1987		A meeting to consider setting up a day care centre for people with AIDS or AIDS Related Conditions, is held at the ACON Resource Centre, 68 Sophia Street, Surry Hills.	SVV 59
16 September 1987		The NSW Ombudsman, George Masterman QC, strongly criticises the Police Department for its failure to act on the recommendations he made following his investigation into the police raid on Club 80 at 19 Oxford Street Paddington on the 29 January 1983.	SSO 63
19 September 1987		The 25 <sup>th</sup> annual ball of the Chameleons is held at Keiron reception centre. The 14 <sup>th</sup> Empress of Sydney, Terry Patterson, Treasurer of the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation, is inaugurated.	SSO 60 SSO 63
19 September 1987		Recreational Arts Team (RAT) party for <i>Carnivale '87</i> "Ratfricarnivale" is held at Paddington Town Hall.	SSO 61
27 September 1987		Artists in Direct Support present an AIDS fund-raising dance <i>Equinaids</i> at Kakadu night club.	SVV 61
30 September 1987		The NSW Police Tribunal finds charges of misconduct against two policemen, after bashing victim Paul Mortimer pursued claims that he was assaulted, wrongfully arrested and falsely imprisoned by the pair on the 5 May 1985 at the Taxi Club and at the Darlinghurst Police Station.	SSO 63
October 1987		The Sydney Gay Mardi Gras Association moves to Workshop C (behind Ryrie House) 15-19 Boundary Street, Rushcutters Bay. It formally opens on 15 November.	SSO 65 SSO 67
October 1987		The three commissioners running the Sydney City Council close the Green Park Toilets. Moore Park Toilets are only opened when used by sporting groups.	SSO 64
3 October 1987		Clover Moore announces her candidacy for the State seat of Bligh.	SVV 62
6 October 1987	Adelaide	The 10 <sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of Acceptance is held.	SSO 64



# 1987

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
13 October 1987	Washington DC	4,000 gays and lesbians demonstrate against the discrimination, harassment and neglect by the US Government of people with AIDS by trespassing on the steps of the US Supreme Court. 572 people are arrested.	SSO 85
14 October 1987		Maggie Kirkpatrick is the special guest on the Dot and Fanny Show at the Newtown Hotel.	SVV 62
31 October 1987		A fundraiser for BGF is held at the former site of Jools, celebrating the end of Dawn O'Donnell's long association with the Crown Street venue.	SVV 64
November 1987		Brian McGahen, gay activist, responds to a string of failures to get liquor licences for gay dance parties by writing to the State Treasurer, Ken Booth, to protest against the many restrictions <i>Liquor Act</i> places on large parties.	SSO 67
November 1987	Canberra	Australian Democrats leader, Janine Haines reveals in the Australian Senate that after secret HIV testing and sexual tracing, one airman at the Darwin RAAF base has been dismissed and up to 12 others investigated by military police.	SSO 66
November 1987		Alan See is the new licensee of the Flinders Hotel which he manages the Hotel with his partner John Cowan.	SSO 69
5 November 1987		The restaurant Spagos at 238 Crown Street, Darlinghurst launches a gay Thursday night function called <i>Transitionz</i> .	SSO 65
7 November 1987		The ABC radio programme, <i>Surface Tension</i> broadcasts a show on the impact of AIDS on gay culture.	SSO 65
8 November 1987		Co-op Media, the publishers of the Sydney Star Observer announce plans to sell the paper to Sydney Gay Community Publishing.	SSO 66
8 November 1987		Polly-lympics are held at the Macquarie University Sport and Recreation Ovals.	SSO 64
13 November 1987		The Boomerangs social club hold a harbour cruise called "Black Titanic".	SSO 65
13 November 1987		South Pacific Motor Club (SPMC) opens its new club rooms at 35 Septimus Street, Erskineville.	SSO 67
14 November 1987		The Sydney Gay Liberation Quire gives its final public performance at the Newtown Festival.	SSO 67

# 1987

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
14 November 1987		The <i>Boys Night Out Party</i> is held. Designs are by Wayne Gait-Smith (formerly of the RAT team) who replaces departing designer, Reno Dahl.	SSO 64
20 November 1987		Sydney's first day care centre for people with AIDS or AIDS related conditions, opens and operates Fridays only at 111 Jersey Road, Paddington.	SSO 67 SSO 70
24 November 1987		A rally to protest against the NSW Government's decision to "phase in" funding for AZT, is held at Parliament House.	SSO 67
29 November 1987		Australian dramatist, Peter Kenna, best known for his play <i>A Hard God</i> , dies after a long illness.	SSO 68
December 1987		ACON seeks funding for a Day Care Centre for people with AIDS or AIDS related conditions.	SVV 75
1 December 1987		A live variety concert held at the Paddington-Woollahra RSL Club for the newly formed AIDS Trust of Australia, raises \$3,200.	SSO 69
2 December 1987		<i>Scooters</i> , a new bar located on the site of the old <i>Palms</i> bar opens.	SSO 68
3 December 1987		Gays Against Racism meets at the Gay Centre in Chippendale. It hopes to mount an effective response to the Bicentenary.	SVV 66
8 December 1987		Sonia MacMahon, one of the most memorable performers of the Caps downstairs bar, retires.	SSO 69
11 December 1987		The Australian Broadcasting Tribunal decides that material relating to gay bath houses during the John Pearce programme on 15 January 1987 is likely to incite and perpetuate hatred against homosexuals.	SSO 69
12 December 1987		CSN endorses a joint Liaison Committee of ACON and CSN staff. ACON's Bill Whittaker becomes the Executive Director of CSN.	SSO 69
14 December 1987		Plan 8 (Cat Crich and Phil Colville) launch their first LP at the Midnight Shift.	SSO 69
15 December 1987		<i>Sydney and Beyond</i> , a new guide to gay Sydney by Larry Galbraith and Kimberley O'Sullivan, is launched on the Dot and Fanny Tonight Show at the Newtown Hotel.	SSO 69

# 1987

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
17 December 1987		Yvonne Allen and Dr Harry Michelmore's <i>Living and Loving in the AIDS Free Zone</i> is condemned by AIDS experts for its proposals that people who have tested negative for the HIV virus should form an 'AIDS Free Zone'. They claim the authors fail to consider the gap between infection and anti-body testing.	SSO 69
31 December 1987		<i>Celebrat 88</i> , a NYE RAT party is held at the Hordern Pavilion, RAS Showgrounds and attracts a crowd between 4,000 and 6,000.	SSO 69 SSO 70
31 December 1987		The BGF NYE party is held at the RAS Showground's Banquet Hall. It raises \$19,500.	SSO 70

**Sources:**

SSO = Sydney Star Observer

DARE = Darlinghurst Area Reporter

SVV = Sydney's Village Voice

