

1988

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 1988		<i>C.J.'s</i> , a lesbian restaurant and disco opens near the corner of Cleveland and Elizabeth Streets, Surry Hills.	SSO 72
January 1988		Peter Tully resigns from the Sydney Gay Mardi Gras (SGMG) Committee. Ron Smith is now the Artistic Director of SGMG.	SSO 70 SSO 71
January 1988		The AIDS Council of NSW (ACON) launches a Safe Sex Summer Campaign.	SSO 71
January 1988		Richard Wherrett and Peter McDonnell are appointed to the SGMG Committee.	SSO 71
26 January 1988		Lesbians and gay men join support contingents in the non-Aboriginal section of the anti-Bicentennial march from Belmore Park to Hyde Park. Some sport T shirts with the slogan "200 years of oppression and bad taste"	SSO 72 SSO 71 SSO 70
28 January 1988		The shareholders of Sydney Gay Community Publishing (SGCP) hold their first meeting and decide to purchase the <i>Sydney Star Observer</i> .	SSO 71
February 1988		President Tony Vickery announces the winding up of the Albury Social Club.	SSO 73
February 1988		Ken Davis, Tim Carrigan and Lex Watson float the idea of celebrating the 20 th anniversary of the gay movement.	SSO 73
February 1988		The Sydney Police-Gay/Lesbian Liaison Group, begins meeting again after a hiatus of several months.	SSO 77
February 1988		The first issue of <i>Wicked Women</i> , a magazine of lesbian erotica and S/M, is published.	SVV 73
10 February 1988		Don Baxter resigns as President of ACON and takes up the job of ACON Education Officer. He is replaced by Gray Sattler. Levinia Crooks replaces David Buchanan as Vice President.	SSO 73
14 February 1988		The Aboriginal/Islander Dance Theatre Company join other dance companies for <i>Dancing for Hope</i> to raise money for the AIDS Trust of Australia.	SVV 70
15 February 1988		The 4 th Gay Mardi Gras Festival is launched at the Paddington Town Hall.	SSO 72



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16 February 1988		Robin Tyler, US lesbian feminist comic, opens a short season at the Sydney Trade Union Club, Foveaux Street, Surry Hills.	SSO 71
17 – 28 February 1988		The SGMG and the Australian Film Institute (AFI) hold the Mardi Gras Film Festival at the Chauvel Cinema.	SSO 71
20 – 21 February 1988		The Third National Network of Young Lesbians and Gay Men is held at the University of NSW (UNSW).	SSO 73
22 February 1988		The Gay Mardi Gras Festival Art Exhibition, opens at the Roslyn Oxley Gallery.	SSO 73
27 February 1988		The annual SGMG Parade is held along Art Gallery Road, Oxford and Flinders Streets with around 120,000 spectators and 60 floats and costumed groups and includes <i>Dykes on Bikes</i> . 10,000 will later party on at the Manufacturer's Pavilion until 9am Sunday.	SSO 74 SSO 98
27 February 1988		Aldo Gennaro who had spent much of his career working with institutionalised people, dies from an AIDS related illness aged 44.	SSO 77
March 1988		John Pearce is appointed administrator of the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation (BGF)	SSO 76
March 1988		The Jungle at 504 Elizabeth Street, Surry Hills opens its doors to men.	SSO 76
March 1988		Body Positive winds up due to dwindling support.	SSO 76
March 1988		Lex Watson is awarded the first Mardi Gras Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Lesbian and Gay Community.	SSO 76
8 March 1988	Los Angeles	Divine (Glen Milstead) dies in his sleep.	SSO 75
10 March 1988		The Babylon Club at 141 Parramatta Road, Concord, advertises gay men and women nights, Wednesdays and Thursdays.	SVV 72
19 March 1988		Openly gay, former Young Labor President, Paul O'Grady is elected to the Legislative Council.	RF
19 March 1988		In the NSW state election, the Liberal /National Party Coalition defeats the Labor Party. In the Bligh electorate, sitting Liberal Party member Michael Yabsley is defeated by independent Clover Moore.	SSO 76
21 May 1988		<i>Black Party V</i> is held at the Hordern Pavilion.	SSO 80



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24 March 1988		The National Council on AIDS now replaces the AIDS Task Force and the National Advisory Committee on AIDS.	SSO 77
26 March 1988		The Rock Hudson radio show on 2RSR-FM ceases after 18 months on air.	SSO 76
30 March 1988		Hugh Whitmore's play <i>Breaking the Code</i> , about the WWII code breaker Alan Turing, begins a season at Northside Theatre.	SSO 76
31 March – 4 April 1988		The Andrew (Boy) Charlton Pool hosts the opening event of the Australia's Celebration Games.	SSO 75 SSO 77
April 1988		The NSW Branch of the Australian Medical Association (AMA) demands compulsory AIDS testing of all patients undergoing major surgery.	SSO 78
April 1988		Alma-May McFarlane is appointed SGMG Administrator.	SSO 78
April 1988	Newcastle	ACON forms a Branch in Newcastle.	SSO 78
2 April 1988		Sky Brooks & Co's new show begins at the Imperial Hotel Erskineville.	SSO 77
3 April 1988		<i>Congrats</i> , the 21 st RAT party is held at the Bondi Pavilion.	SSO 77
7 April 1988		A 300 strong rally in support of British lesbians and gay men against Clause 28 of the British Local Government Act 1988 is held in front of the British Consulate, Goldfields House, Circular Quay.	SSO 75 SSO 76
10 April 1988		The Reverend Jim Dykes resigns as pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church (MCC).	SVV 75
21 April 1988		250 people meet at the Heffron Hall to re-constitute the Gay Rights Lobby (now the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby), as activists predict a push back of lesbian and gay rights by the newly elected conservative state government.	SSO 78
May 1988		The <i>Sydney Star Observer</i> reports that Qantas is making no distinction among its workers who are HIV+ or suffer from AIDS related conditions, so long as they are fit for work.	SSO 80
3 May 1988		<i>Only Heaven Knows</i> , a gay musical by writer performer and composer, Alex Harding opens at the Stables Theatre, Kings Cross.	SSO 67
11 May 1988		A Sydney Day Care Centre working bee, prepares Arncliffe's Samaritan House for a Wednesday venue for the Centre's activities.	SVV 78



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24 May 1988		The SGMG Association AGM is held. The new Committee is Jack Allen, Anthony Babicci, Colin Fawcett, Celia Hutton, Christopher Jarvis, Panos Kouros, Peter MacDonnell, Murray McLachlan, Kimberley O'Sullivan, Catherine Phillips, David Ryan, Anthony Sleiman, Richard Wherrett and David Wilkins.	SSO 78 SSO 80
30 May 1988		A candlelight rally to highlight AIDS issues is held. It starts at Taylor Square and ends at the Pitt Street Uniting Church.	SSO 78
June 1988		Ken Davis of the Gay and Lesbian Immigration Task Force rejects claims from conservative federal politicians that 'AIDS carrying' gay migrants are being secretly allowed into Australia and are getting preference under the family re-union programme.	SSO 81
June 1988		Changes to the Summary Offences Act are made by the NSW Parliament. They include sweeping powers to restrict soliciting and prostitution.	SSO 81
June 1988		<i>Words from the Same Heart</i> edited by Margaret Bradstock and Louise Wakeling is published.	SSO 81
June 1988	Perth	The WA State Government introduces restrictions to new state superannuation policy holders – they must sign a declaration that they are AIDS free or submit to a blood test.	SSO 82
June 1988		Wellcome Australia makes a \$10,000 grant to the BGF.	SSO 83
11 June 1988		ACON presents the fund-raising dance party, <i>Safe Sex Ball</i> at the Banquet Hall, RAS Showgrounds. The party raises \$10,000.	SSO 80
15 June 1988		The Gay History Project Colloquia holds its first meeting at the University of Sydney.	SSO 81
18 June 1988		John Tasker, theatrical director, dies from cancer.	SSO 82
21 June 1988		Roger Garling, a founding member of Icebreakers dies aged 65.	SSO 83
22 June 1988		The world's first condom bar opens at the Virgin shopping centre in Darling Harbour.	SSO 82
25 June 1988		Twenty Ten holds an Open Day at its refuge at 130 Glebe Point Road, Glebe.	SSO 82
25 June 1988		Wild Gals, the new gay and lesbian show on 2RSR-FM (Radio Skid Row) is launched.	SSO 82

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July 1988	Cannes	The NACAIDS <i>Grim Reaper</i> commercial is awarded a Gold Lion at the 1988 Advertising Film Festival.	SSO 83
July 1988		A self-defence course developed for gay men and lesbians, by the Fitness Exchange begins.	SSO 83
July 1988		John Marsden is appointed to the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board.	SSO 84
1 July 1988		A 300 strong Stonewall Week Rally for the Defence of Lesbian and Gay Rights is held at Parliament House.	SSO 82 SSO 83
2 July 1988		<i>Rat Rapping Winter Dance Party</i> is held at the Hordern Pavilion.	SSO 82
2 July 1988		Stonewall Week <i>Lesbos Island Ball</i> is held at the Performance Space.	SSO 82
16 July 1988	Mildura	Artists, writers and theatre workers organise support for Cath Phillips who is defending herself against obscenity charges arising from her work in the local Sculpture Exhibition.	SSO 84
20 July 1988		The Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby adopts a new constitution guaranteeing minimum parity between men and women on the members committee.	SSO 85
21 July 1988		The <i>Jools Cabaret Room</i> at the Imperial Hotel opens with a drag benefit for entertainer, Sonia McMahon.	SSO 85
21 July 1988		The ABC Documentary <i>Mardi Gras!</i> , produced by Martyn Goddard is screened on national television.	SSO 85 SSO 83
24 July 1988		Radio 2UW refuses to play four new safe sex commercials launched by the federal government.	SSO 84
24 July 1988		Vice Squad police officers warn young men working the wall that they now will face charges under the new Summary Offences Act.	SSO 84
26 July 1988		Ita Buttrose hosts three documentaries on AIDS to be screened on SBS television over July and August.	SSO 84
30 July 1988	Wollongong	The Wollongong Police-Gay Liaison Group conducts a phone in for the local gay community.	SSO 84
1 August 1988		<i>Performers at the Purple Onion</i> an exhibition of screen prints by Julian Halls, opens at Ariel Bookshop.	SSO 84

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3 August 1988		7 panels made in Sydney for the Names Project Quilt are flown to the US. They commemorate Gordon Cass, Bobbie Goldsmith, Colin Hamilton, Martyn Ilbury, Barry McGrath, Sam Nichols and Tone Wieruszewski.	SSO 85
4 August 1988	Hobart	1000 attend the Third National AIDS Conference.	SSO 84
6 August 1988	Hobart	Shadow Federal Minister for Health, Wilson Tuckey, tells the Third National AIDS Conference "AIDS is very much a disease which results from deliberate and possibly unnatural activity. You don't catch AIDS, you let someone give it to you". Three weeks later he is relieved of his Health portfolio.	SSO 86 SSO 89
16 August 1988	Mildura	Sculptor and Mardi Gras Committee member, Cath Philips, appears in the District Magistrate's Court and is found guilty and fined \$400. (<i>see: 16 July 1988</i>)	SSO 85 SSO 86 SSO 89
17 August 1988		MLC the Reverend Fred Nile places on notice in the NSW Upper House, a resolution calling for Clause 28 style legislation.	SSO 87
20 August 1988		3,000 attend the first winter Mardi Gras fund raising dance party, <i>Cool with Sunny Periods</i> , at the Hordern Pavilion.	SSO 87
22 August 1988		The Gay and Lesbian Arts Association is launched. It aims to promote, encourage and assist gay and lesbian participation in the arts.	SSO 86
26-28 August 1988	Melbourne	200 people with AIDS, ARC (AIDS related condition) and HIV, attend the first <i>Living Well</i> conference.	SSO 87
27 August 1988		<i>Dance Delirium</i> is held at Darling Harbour's Exhibition Hall 1.	SSO 86
27 August 1988		At the AGM of the Community Support Network (CSN), Graeme Flavel is re-elected chairman (sic), Annella Wheatley Secretary and Alan Munro Treasurer.	VVA1
September 1988		Gay men with computers will be able to communicate with others across Australia after the "systems operators" of 2 leading bulletin boards EAGLE ONE in Sydney and BIG TEDD in Melbourne agreed to start "Aussie Gaynet".	SSO 87
September 1988		Andrew Carter and Richard Johnson call for contributions for memorial panels bearing the name of someone who has died of AIDS, for a Sydney version of the US Names Project Quilt.	SSO 87
September 1988		A motion in the NSW Upper House by Fred Nile's Call to Australia Party seeking a ban on the Gay Mardi Gras, fails.	SSO 89



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18 September 1988		The BGF <i>Boys Own Bake Off</i> is held at the Seymour Centre.	SSO 89
27 September 1988		James Timmins is elected President of Bobby Goldsmith Foundation (BGF), Ron Cashmere the Vice President and Helen McCabe elected to a Committee vacancy.	SSO 90
28 September 1988		A meeting at the Trade Union Club in Surry Hills endorses moves to establish People Living with AIDS Coalition NSW.	SSO 90
October 1988		EAGLE TWO, a gay computer bulletin board, is set up to meet a 100% increase in demand.	SSO 91
October 1988	Charleyong	The Roo Bike Club stages its final run.	SSO 91
October 1988		The SGMG Committee announces that a private company <i>Sydney Gay and Lesbian Enterprises Pty Ltd</i> will be formed to use workshop facilities and seek commercial work.	SSO 90
October 1988	Canberra	Peter Shack, the new federal shadow Health Minister, reverses the stance of his predecessor and prepares a paper <i>Understanding AIDS</i> .	SSO 92
October 1988		BGF Administrator, John Pearce and Secretary John Pattison resign. Craig Brown is now Acting Secretary.	SSO 93
8 October 1988		Bacchanalia's <i>Pandemonium</i> dance party is held at the Hordern Pavilion.	SSO 89
8 October 1988		Acceptance holds its 11 th National Conference in Sydney at which Australian and overseas delegates attend.	SSO 90
17 October 1988		The Gay and Lesbian Arts Association hold their first annual general meeting.	SSO 91
22 October 1988	Hobart	Nine members of the Tasmanian Gay Law Reform Group are arrested and charged with trespass for staffing a stall at the Salamanca Markets.	SSO 91
26 October 1988		Dot and Fanny perform their final <i>Tonite Show</i> .	SSO 90
29 October 1988		The annual fund-raising <i>Sleaze Party</i> is held at the Royal Hall of Industries at the RAS Showgrounds.	SSO 91



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November 1988		Larry Galbraith, former editor of <i>Campaign</i> and <i>Star Observer</i> , is appointed Electorate Secretary to Clover Moore.	SSO 92
November 1988		The Committee of the Sydney Gay Sports Association agrees to change its name to the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Sports Association.	SSO 93
November 1988		The SGMG Association dismisses its Artistic Director, Ron Smith.	SSO 93
November 1988		The Albion Street Clinic releases a report to the media claiming that 40% of gay men continue to practice unsafe sex.	SSO 94
November 1988		Boogie Room is opened on the site of Ruby Reds at 273 Crown Street by the owner Roger Carroll.	SSO 94
2 November 1988		Gay History Colloquia – <i>the Greatest menace Facing Australia: Homosexuals and the Cold War</i> is presented by Garry Wotherspoon at the University of Sydney.	SSO 91
4 November 1988		<i>Streetwatch</i> , an anti-lesbian/gay violence project is launched by the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby, Lesbian Line and the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service to collect and analyse information about physical and verbal abuse.	SSO 91
5 November 1988	Hobart	27 people are arrested on complaints from the City Council to police at Salamanca Markets bringing the total arrested to 49. The City Council is refusing to allow the Tasmanian Gay Law Reform Group to distribute literature and circulate a petition calling for repeal of Tasmania's anti-homosexual laws.	SSO 92
6 November 1988		The 1988 Polympics is held at the Macquarie University Sports Fields.	SSO 91
11-18 November 1988		Community television UHF Channel 31 completes the first week of test broadcasts. Two gay and lesbian programs put together by the Gay and Lesbian Arts Association are screened – <i>Coming Out Tonight Show</i> and <i>Some of My Best Friends Are</i> .	SSO 91 SSO 93
18 November 1988		The Miatraya Day Centre for People with AIDS in Paddington, celebrates its first anniversary.	SSO 93
27 November 1988		The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence hold a re-union at Long Nun Point, Birchgrove to remember their first appearance there in 1981.	SSO 93



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Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
December 1988	Hobart	The Tasmanian Gay and Lesbian Rights Group wins the right to have a stall at Salamanca Market following the Hobart City Council ban and arrest of 130 people.	RF
1 December 1988		The Quilt Project is launched.	SSO 91
1 December 1988	Melbourne	The Victorian AIDS Council AGM re-affirms that it is a gay community based and controlled organisation.	SSO 95
3 December 1988		Bacchanalia holds a <i>Hyperspace</i> dance party at the Hordern Pavilion RAS Showgrounds.	SSO 93
3 December 1988		NSW local council elections are held.	SSO 94
3 December 1988	Hobart	A further 29 people are arrested at the Salamanca Market, bringing the total to 130. The Gay Law Reform Group continues to distribute literature and circulate a petition calling for law reform.	SSO 94
3 December 1988		AIDS Volunteers Day is held at Green Park.	SSO 94
6 December 1988		A Special General Meeting of the Sydney Gay Mardi Gras Association decides to change the Association's name to "Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras".	SSO 94
9 December 1988		The <i>Sydney Star Observer</i> , possibly for the first time, refers to the Rainbow Flag saying that it is "popularised in America as the symbol of a diverse but united homosexual struggle" in an article about the launch of the Quilt Project on December 1 1988.	SSO 94
9 December 1988	Hobart	The Hobart City Council lifts its ban on the Gay Law Reform Group's stall in the Salamanca Market. Charges against 130 arrestees are dropped when it is discovered the council has no right to prosecute for trespass.	SSO 95
10 December 1988		Party group, F.U.N. holds a dance party at the Hordern Pavilion RAS Showgrounds.	SSO 93
16 December 1988	US	Disco star Sylvester dies aged 44 from an AIDS related illness.	SSO 96
17 December 1988		The Gay and Lesbian Arts Association holds a forum <i>Is there a gay and lesbian sensibility in the arts?</i>	SSO 94

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17 December 1988		<i>Dance Delirium</i> is held at Pier 4 Hickson Road, Sydney.	SSO 94
31 December 1988		Grace Jones performs at <i>Ratty New Year</i> , the RAT team NYE party.	SSO 94

Sources:

RF = Robert French

Based partly on previous listings by:

- Craig Johnston
- Maurice Blackman, Lex Watson and Robert French
- Kendall Lovett, John Cozijn and Ken Davis

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

SSO = Sydney Star Observer

SVV = Sydney's Village Voice

VVA = Village Voice of Australia

