

1989

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 1989		Federal funding of community organisations is announced and includes \$135,222 to Glebe House, producers of <i>Streetwise Comics</i> , to create an AIDS educational issue for prisoners.	SSO 96
January 1989		Wellcome Australia markets AZT (aka Zidovudine and Retrovir) through designated AIDS units for patients with AIDS related illnesses. The drug costs \$8,000 per year and is prescribed to 700 Australians.	VVA 9
10 January 1989		The AIDS Memorial Quilt is on display at the Convention Centre at the Greetings Koala Hotel in Oxford Street.	SSO 98
17 January 1989		A 12" single of the theme song of the AIDS Council of NSW (ACON) <i>OUT Living OUT Loving OUT Lasting</i> is launched at Kinselas and released nationally on the Safe Sect Record label through Polygram.	VVA 8
21 January 1989		Bacchanalia presents <i>Summer Wipeout</i> – a dance party at the Hordern Pavilion.	SSO 96
21 January 1989	Melbourne	The Gay and Lesbian Studies Conference urges gay and lesbian campus societies demand legitimate studies in homosexuality.	SSO 98
24 January 1989		The AIDS Council of NSW (ACON) calls for greatly increased funding for preventative education, particularly aimed at men having sex with men, but who don't identify as gay.	SSO 98
31 January 1989		The Bookshop in King Street, Newtown is daubed with anti-gay slogans.	SSO 98
February 1989		30 Transport Police and senior police officials attend a training session on practices and attitudes to gay men. The need for this arose from recent complaints at Central Station.	SSO 100
February 1989		Kings Steam moves from the city to first floor, 38 – 42 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst.	SSO 105
3 February 1989		The 1989 Mardi Gras Festival is launched at the opening of <i>A Fundamental Attack</i> at the Holdsworth Galleries.	SSO 96
3 – 24 February 1989		The Australian Film Institute (AFI) in association with the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras (SGLMG) presents a three-week festival of gay films.	SSO 97



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4 February 1989		An advertisement for <i>Blue Etchings from Querelle</i> finally appears in the Sydney Morning Herald after the paper receives advice from the Anti-Discrimination Board.	SSO 98
5 February 1989		The Mardi Gras Fair Day is moved at the last moment from Prince Alfred Park to Kippax Lake, Moore Park.	VVA 10
6 February 1989		A forum on gays and lesbians in film and TV presented by Keith Howes is held by the Gay and Lesbian Arts Association at the Drama Studios Burton Street, East Sydney.	SSO 96
8 February 1989		Alma May McFarlane, SGLMG Administrator resigns.	SSO 98
9 – 19 February 1989		Kai Tai Chan and Garry Lester stage <i>Blue Etchings from Querelle</i> at the Belvoir Street Theatre.	SSO 97 SSO 99
18 February 1989		Up to 200,000 people watch the annual Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras led by 50 Dykes on Bikes from Art Gallery Road to the Showgrounds. A record 15,000 attend the post parade party.	SSO 99
24 February 1989		The 222 campaign to encourage intravenous drug users to sterilise their needles with bleach is launched by the Australian National Council on AIDS.	VVA 11
24 February 1989		NSW Health Minister, Peter Collins announces \$1 million funding for St Vincents Hospital to help it meet increasing demands for AIDS in-patient and outpatient services.	VVA 11
25 February 1989		Sweatbox dance party presented by Meltdown is held at the Hordern Pavilion.	SSO 98
March 1989		Sydney photographer, William Yang presents a talk and slide show night <i>The Face of Buddha</i> at the Belvoir Street Theatre.	SSO 100
March 1989		Leaders of the three main surgeon associations issue demands, that their members will require any patient they suspect of being gay to be tested for HIV; that they will refuse surgery to those who refuse and they may refuse elective surgery for those who test positive.	SSO 101
March 1989		A National Coalition for Gay Law Reform is formed to add pressure to Tasmania, Queensland and West Australia to reform their anti-gay laws.	SSO 101

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March 1989	Newcastle	The Sisters of St Joseph begin preparing an empty convent as a half-way house for up to seven AIDS clients in the coming months, taking pressure off the AIDS unit at the Royal Newcastle Hospital.	SSO 101
March 1989		<i>Telegay</i> , a new gay telephone contact service is launched Australia wide.	SSO 101
March 1989		Dorothys Disco at the corner of Queen and Harrow Roads, Auburn is under new management.	SSO 101
March 1989		Miss 3D's <i>Glamour World</i> a new gay Tuesday night at BASE night club 11 Jamison Street, City, kicks off.	SSO 101
1 March 1989		The first meeting of a self-help group for young people affected by HIV is held at ACON, 68 Sophia Street, Surry Hills.	SSO 99
5 March 1989		The Australian AIDS Memorial quilt is hung as a backdrop for the <i>AIDS Trust Stars of the Australian Opera</i> benefit.	VVA 13
7 March 1989		Larry Kramer's play <i>The Normal Heart</i> opens for a season directed by Wayne Harrison and starring John O'May and Graham Harvey.	SSO 91
8 March 1989		An exhibition of artworks by the late Michael Horne are held at the Oaklands Gallery, 55 Ross Street, Glebe.	SSO 99
8 March 1989		A meeting at the Heffron Hall, Darlinghurst expresses a need for a gay and lesbian community centre and for SGLMG to investigate how it will be set up and operated.	SSO 101
8 March 1989	Canberra	Panels from Victoria are added to the Australian AIDS Memorial Quilt and a ceremony is held in front of the new Parliament House. The Quilt is now 100 square metres.	VVA 13
30 March 1989	Blue Mts	The Blue Mountains Triangle, a gay male social group is set up.	SSO 102
April 1989	Burnie Tas	Calls for the compulsory testing of surgery patients by national surgeon organisations, are rejected by State and Federal Health Ministers.	SSO 102
April 1989		Martyn Goddard reports in the Sydney Star Observer (SSO) that tests are showing that HIV develops resistance to AZT.	SSO 103
April 1989		A women's night begins at Level One, 252 Pitt Street, City every Wednesday night.	VVA 15
1 April 1989		<i>April Fool</i> F.U.N. dance party is held at the Hordern Pavilion.	SSO 101



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4 April 1989	Heidelberg Vic.	Ethel May 'Monte' Punshon, a lesbian and pioneer of women's and gay rights in Australia dies aged 106.	SSO 103
10 April 1989		A forum of 150 people at the Teacher's Federation discuss the future of the SGLMG.	SSO 103
10 April 1989		12 men chanting anti-gay slogans invade a meeting of the Gay and Lesbian Immigration Task Force and are chased off by members of the Task Force.	SSO 103
21 April 1989		Bob Downe's <i>Disco Show</i> opens at Kinsela's nightclub.	SSO 103
29 April 1989		The Police and Gay Liaison Unit runs a 24-hour hotline to encourage reports of incidents of violence. Only six calls are received.	SSO 103 SSO 105
29 April 1989		<i>Big Time</i> dance party is held at the Hordern Pavilion.	SSO 103
May 1989	Minneapolis, US	The Dutch delegate to an AIDS conference in San Francisco is detained on arrival for being HIV positive.	SSO 104
May 1989		People Living with AIDS (PLWA) calls for doctors refusing to treat people because of their HIV status, to be struck off.	SSO 104
May 1989		The One Extra Dance Company stages <i>Urban Fairies</i> at the Rocks Theatre.	SSO 104
May 1989		Tony Ayres short film, <i>Cruel Youth</i> screens at the AFI cinema in Paddington.	SSO 105
May 1989		The SGLMG AGM committee election is the first based on competing tickets or teams. The new president is Cath Phillips, vice president is Tom Hatfield and the secretary is Suzanne Brooks. Six Committee members are women.	SSO 106
May 1989		A secret conclave of members of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence at Minto overthrow Mother Inferior, reducing him to a novitiate.	SSO 107
22 – 25 April 1989		The Celebration Games organised by Sydney's Frontrunners and Clover Women's Group is held at the Botany Athlete Field as the Australian lead up to the 1990 International Gay Games III in Vancouver.	VVA 17
12 May 1989		<i>Building Pride</i> Dance is held at the Hordern Pavilion. \$65,000 from the dance goes towards a deposit for a building to house a Mardi Gras Office and Workshop, the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service and the Fitness Exchange.	SSO 102 SSO 103 SSO 105

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19 May 1989		Martyn Goddard replaces Tim Carrigan as editor of the <i>Sydney Star Observer</i> .	SSO 105
20 May 1989		<i>Black Party Six</i> is held at the Hordern Pavilion.	SSO 104
21 May 1989		2,000 people led by the Premier, Nick Greiner, walk through Sydney to raise \$40,000 for AIDS research.	SSO 104 SSO 106
27 May 1989		Byarmu Pty Ltd and DPA Productions present <i>Karnivale Erotica</i> party at the Hordern Pavilion.	SSO 105
June 1989		Dr Julian Gold announces a link between the Albion Street clinic and the San Francisco General Hospital and consequent local trials of GLQ223 (Compound Q) DDI, hypercine and passive immunotherapy.	SSO 108
June 1989	Canberra	Professor Gust, the newly appointed Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer, suggests quarantining people infected with HIV.	SSO 108
June 1989	Canberra	General Peter Gration, Chief of the Defence Force counters the Federal Ombudsman's attempt to pursue discrimination by stating that if a member of the ADF admits to being homosexual they are "permitted to seek a discharge at their own request."	SSO 108
June 1989	Tasmania	The ALP and the Greens commit to homosexual law reform as part of their Accord.	RF
June 1989		PLWA criticises St Vincents Hospital for discharging people with AIDS 'much too soon', because of a severe shortage of beds.	SSO 107
June 1989		Drag performer, Sonia McMahon, dies of an AIDS related illness.	SSO 107
3 June 1989		Sweatbox dance party, <i>let them eat cake</i> is held at the Hordern Pavilion.	SSO 105
4 June 1989		Pink Ink, publishers of an anthology of lesbian and gay writers hold a fund raiser at the Rose, Shamrock and Thistle Hotel, Evans Street, Rozelle.	VVA 18
4 – 9 June 1989	Montreal	Members of New York and Canadian ACT-UP (AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power) groups take over the opening of the Fifth International Conference on AIDS.	SSO 107

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4 – 9 June 1989	Montreal	A section of the Australian AIDS Memorial Quilt is unfolded at the Olympic Stadium Velodrome is part of the Fifth International Conference on AIDS.	VVA 17
6 – 17 June 1989		<i>Like is Please with Like</i> , an exhibition of six gay and lesbian artists is held at the Works Gallery, City Art Institute, Greens Road, Paddington.	VVA 18
24 June 1989		Bacchanalia presents <i>Spellbinder</i> dance party at the Hordern Pavilion.	SSO 107
24 June 1989		The Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence elevate several new saints – Julie Bates for her work in sex worker and intravenous drug user organisations; Barry Fitzgerald in honour of the Safe Sex Sluts and Kendall Lovett for his work in gay radio news and as a reporter for overseas gay newspapers.	VVA 20
30 June 1989		Actor Tony Sheldon claims that an illegal “pink list”, banning gay or gay associated actors is maintained by several television casting directors.	SSO 108
July 1989		Community AIDS/HIV Initiative for Treatment Education, a group of people with HIV/AIDS starts a study of self-treatment usage experiments.	SSO 109
July 1989		Max Bourke, Chief Executive of the Australia Council addresses a public meeting organised by the Gay and Lesbian Artists Association.	SSO 110
July 1989		Anthony Wesmore is appointed Executive Director of Mardi Gras.	VVA 22
1 July 1989		<i>Come to Hell</i> dance party is held at the Hordern Pavilion.	SSO 107
6 July 1989		A public forum is held to discuss ideas for a new Gay and Lesbian Community Centre. Gender parity for the Committee was adopted.	SSO 108 SSO 109
7-8 July 1989		RAT and Delirium present <i>Unite</i> at the Hordern Pavilion over two nights.	SSO 108
10 July 1989		A special gay premiere of the <i>Torch Song Trilogy</i> film is held at the Academy Twin Cinema on Oxford Street.	SSO 107
14 – 15 July 1989		The <i>Mid-Winter</i> F.U.N. dance party is held at the Hordern Pavilion over two nights.	SSO 107

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22 July 1989		The Pollynesians Social Group celebrates its 25 th anniversary.	SSO 110
25 July 1989	Roma Q	Five men charged with having sex with one another “against the order of nature” appear in court.	SSO 109
29 July 1989	Melbourne	Long distance cyclist Graeme Milburn completes a 15,500 km fund raising trip around Australia and raises \$5,000 and public awareness of AIDS.	SSO 111
August 1989		St Vincents Hospital increases the capacity of the 7 th Floor AIDS Ward by 6 beds. It appeals for nurses to staff these beds.	SSO 111
August 1989	Washington DC	The US Court of Appeals rules that the army cannot discharge US Army Sergeant Perry Watkins because of his homosexuality.	SSO 111
August 1989	Melbourne	The Australian Gay and Lesbian Archives finally finds a home after 20 months in storage.	SSO 111
August 1989		After the incarceration of Sydney HIV positive prostitute “Charlene” under the NSW Public Health Act, AIDS activists call for reform of the Act. They claim draconian penalties do not create a co-operative environment to contain AIDS.	SSO 111
August 1989		Activist Brian McGahen presents the case for a licensed club as the basis for a new Community Centre.	SSO 111
August 1989		Wearing “Christian and Gay” T shirts, Fabian Lo Schiavo, David Englebrecht and Prue Borthwick receive holy communion from anti-gay cleric, Sydney’s Anglican Archbishop, Donald Robinson.	SSO 112
August 1989		Fruit, opens at the renovated Space bar at Kinselas night club every Thursday. Victor Li who is involved with the Sweatbox dances promotes the venture and Mandy Smith Mardi Gras workshop artist creates the interior design.	VVA 23
3 August 1989		Pleasure Pact open their new show at the Newtown Hotel <i>Go West Young Drag</i> .	VVA 23
5 August 1989		Paradise Garage ... <i>the way it should be ...</i> is held at the Warehouse, Danks Street.	SSO 109
12 August 1989		Gay activist, Bruce Belcher aka Sister Rose Incarnate dies	SSO 112
12 August 1989		Bacchanalia present <i>Subterranea</i> at the Hordern Pavilion.	SSO 110



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14 August 1989		Anthony Westmore takes up his appointment as the Executive Director of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras.	SSO 110
19 August 1989		Koala Deaf Federation, a national organisation for deaf gays and lesbians, holds its first national conference at the Eye Institute Building, Surry Hills.	VVA 25
September 1989		NSW Health Minister, Peter Collins announces the creation of lock ups for people with HIV who persist with unsafe behaviour.	SSO 114
September 1989		50 gays and lesbians picket the Queensland Tourist Commission office in support of five gay men who face long gaol terms in Qld.	SSO 113
September 1989		The Community AIDS Treatment Network is announced by Federal AIDS advisors, doctors and ACON. It will introduce "parallel track" drug trials dispensing with the need for half of the participants to go on a placebo treatment.	SSO 113
September 1989		Sydney DJ Evan Sheppard leads a campaign for the implementation of recommendations to change the Copyright Act allowing record shops to import records if the major record companies don't release them locally within a "reasonable time". The present law allows imports for personal use only.	SSO 113
September 1989		The federal Health Minister Neal Blewett launches a new policy White Paper with the major initiatives the government is required to take up through to the 1990s.	SSO 113
September 1989		SGLMG appoints Peter Thornhill, workshop artist, Di Henry Art Director, Gillian Minnervini, Festival Director and Adrian Gough Events Director.	VVA 26
1 September 1989		Jack's Bar opens at the Newtown Hotel.	VVA 25
2 September 1989		<i>BAT F.U.N.</i> is held at the Hordern Pavilion.	SSO 111
9 September 1989		Bacchanalia present <i>Trash</i> at the Hordern Pavilion.	SSO 112
12 September 1989		<i>Out on Tuesday</i> a series of six lesbian and gay documentaries from the UK, begins on SBS TV.	SSO 113



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15 September 1989		SGLMG and RAT present <i>Pride Dance II</i> at the Hordern Pavilion.	SSO 111
October 1989	Burnie Tas.	Tasmania's Anglican Church votes in favour of decriminalising homosexuality at its state Synod.	SSO 116
October 1989	Perth	A bill to de-criminalise homosexuality is introduced into the West Australian parliament by Labor MP John Haldon and backed by Labor premier Peter Dowding.	SSO 117
October 1989		Bristol Myers the manufacturer of the anti-HIV drug ddI, announces it will supply the drug for trials in January 1990.	SSO 117
October 1989		David McDiarmid wins the 1990 Mardi Gras poster competition.	VVA 27
2 October 1989		1,000 fundamentalist Christians in Oxford Street led by Reverend Fred Nile are outnumbered five to one by gays, lesbians and their supporters, when they take part in a <i>Cleansing March of Witness for Jesus</i> aimed at banning the Sydney Mardi Gras.	SSO 115
8 October 1989		CJs nightclub closes with Cindy Pastel's final show.	VVA 27
15 October 1989		Greg Smith is commissioned as the pastoral leader of the Metropolitan Community Church.	SSO 114
21 October 1989		An international day of protest marking the first anniversary of arrests of gays and lesbians in Hobart's Salamanca Place is marked in Sydney by a 200 strong march and rally.	SSO 116
21 October 1989		The annual SGLMG Sleaze Ball is held at the Royal Hall of Industries and the Hordern Pavilion. It is the first Mardi Gras party to sell out with 9,000 tickets sold.	SSO 117
24 October 1989		AIDS activist Dr Ralph Deacon dies of AIDS aged 44.	SSO 117
November 1989		Gay man Daniel Franco's application to become a foster parent is refused following a ban by the NSW Coalition government on gays and lesbians fostering or adopting children.	SSO 118
November 1989		The One Extra Dance Company loses its Federal subsidy and disbands.	SSO 118

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November 1989		A study of nurses who work with AIDS patients by Lydia Bennett of the Sydney College of Advanced Education reveals these nurses suffer social stigma, discrimination and burnout.	SSO 119
November 1989		Changes to the <i>Public Health Act</i> providing for up to six months detention for HIV positive people found to be endangering others is rushed through the state parliament.	SSO 119
November 1989	Brisbane	The conservative government of Qld effectively cuts the funding to the state's AIDS council by 25%.	SSO 119
4 November 1989		A series of eight radio programmes on AIDS goes to air on Radio 2SER FM.	SSO 117
4 November 1989		The 14 th annual Polympics is held at Macquarie University.	SSO 117
11 November 1989		RAT's dance party, <i>Glitterati</i> is held at the Hordern Pavilion.	SSO 116
13 November 1989		Gay entertainer Tony Vickery dies aged 41 from a heart attack.	SSO 118
26 November 1989		The last service of the Metropolitan Church of the Southern Cross is held following a decision to close the church by Pastor Reverend Gary Walker.	SSO 118
December 1989		Maitraya, a day centre for people with AIDS re-opens in a pair of terraces in Bourke Street, Surry Hills.	SSO 120
December 1989	Canberra	The Federal Government extends its equal opportunity law to include gays, lesbians and people with HIV.	SSO 120
December 1989		Reverend Fred Nile asks if the NSW Minister for Police would withdraw the permit for the 1990 Mardi Gras parade. Mr Pickering refuses.	SSO 120
December 1989		The first issue <i>Lesbians on the Loose</i> produced by Frances Rand and Jackie Scherer is on sale.	SSO 121
December 1989		Murray McLachlan is awarded Empress of Sydney at the 27 th Annual Chameleons Dinner Dance and Award night.	VVA 31
December 1989		The Unicorn Hotel obtains an extended hours of trading licence to 3am Mondays to Saturdays and to midnight Sundays.	VVA 32

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1 December 1989		Noel Beckett, a founding member of the 60s social club, the Chameleons, dies.	SSO 120
2 December 1989		Bacchanalia presents <i>Hyperspace 2</i> at the Hordern Pavilion.	SSO 117
5 December – 2 January 1990		<i>A Decade of Drag</i> , a show where Sydney Drag Queens parade their favourite frocks, is held at Space Kinselas in three shows over December.	SSO 119
9 December 1989		F.U.N. celebrates its first anniversary and last party at the Hordern Pavilion.	SSO 119
12 December 1989		Miss 3D's <i>Glamor World</i> show runs at the Dome at the RAS showgrounds for a season of Tuesday nights.	SSO 119
15 December 1989		Terry Bell, gay activist and journalist, dies.	SSO 121
16 December 1989		Sweatbox presents <i>Barbarella</i> at the Hordern Pavilion.	SSO 119
19 December 1989		New immigration regulations exclude homosexual applicants from achieving permanent residency on the grounds of a committed relationship with an Australian citizen.	SSO 124
31 December 1989		RATs NYE party, <i>Accelerat</i> is held at the Royal Hall of Industries and the Hordern Pavilion.	SSO 119

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

VVA = Village Voice of Australia

