

1990

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 1990		Australia's AIDS Councils boycott the 6 th International Conference on AIDS in protest against US travel restrictions on people with HIV.	SSO122
January 1990		The AIDS Council of NSW (ACON) expands its services using increased government funding to include extra Beat Outreach workers, extra regional staff and new ACON offices in Goulburn Street.	SSO 123
January 1990		Social groups organiser and charity fundraiser, Donnie Smith dies.	SSO 147
January 1990	Adelaide	The national convention of Young Liberals calls on all states to decriminalise homosexuality.	SSO 123
19 January 1990		Patchs re-opens after its new owners complete an extensive face-lift.	VVA 33
26-27 January 1990	Brisbane	The 4 th Australian Gay Games, "The Friendly Games", is staged by the AFAA.	VVA33
27 January 1990		<i>Bacchanalia: Disco Inferno</i> is held at the Hordern Pavilion.	VVA 32
February 1990		Living Clean and Sober is formed.	SSO 497
February 1990		Sue Thompson, a career public servant is appointed Sydney's new Police Gay Liaison Officer.	SSO 124
February 1990		Robert Ariss, convenor of People Living with AIDS (PLWA), claims people with HIV are dying because of restrictions limiting use of AZT only to people with full blown AIDS.	SSO 124
February 1990		Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras announces changes to the parade with the assembly point moved to Macquarie Street.	SSO 124
1 February 1990		The 1990 Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras is opened by Professor Di Yerbury, Vice Chancellor of Macquarie University, at the Belvoir Street Theatre.	VVA 35
1 February 1990		Most of the Australian AIDS Memorial Quilt is exhibited at the Powerhouse Museum.	VVA 36
6, 13 February 1990		Pink Ink presents two readings of lesbian and gay writers at the Harold Park Hotel.	VVA 33



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7 February 1990		<i>Blood and Honour</i> a new play about racism and illness by Alex Harding previews at the Belvoir Street Theatre.	VVA 33
8 February 1990		The 1990 Gay and Lesbian Film Week at the AFI Cinema Paddington, commences.	VVA 33
12 February 1990		ACON re-locates to 188 Goulburn Street, Darlinghurst.	VVA 36
14 February 1990		A public meeting to decide on the form of the organisation behind the proposed Pride Centre is held.	SSO 123
24 February 1990		Mardi Gras Fair Day is held in Bi-Centennial Park, Glebe.	SSO 124
March 1990		Gary Pye, the founder of Acceptance, dies of AIDS.	SSO 127
March 1990		A new law is proclaimed which extends domestic violence legislation. Anyone harassed, physically threatened or molested can now take out a court order to impose conditions and restrict another person's behaviour.	SSO 126
March 1990		The Federal National Party calls for a ban on government funding of gay and lesbian arts events is rejected by the shadow Liberal arts minister, Chris Puplick.	SSO 126
March 1990		The NSW Minister for Tourism, the National Party's Gary West, orders the NSW Tourism Commission to remove material about the Mardi Gras from its premises and computer data bases.	SSO 128
March 1990		A new venue, the Bentley Bar, opens on the corner of Crown and Campbell Streets.	VVA 39
3 March 1990		Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby organises a march to protest against the rise of anti-gay violence.	SSO 125 SSO 126
15 March 1990		Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras Association (SGLMG) will become a company following a special general meeting.	SSO 127
21 March 1990		Peter Brider, former owner of the Flinders Hotel, dies of AIDS.	SSO 127
April 1990		The Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service (GLCS) withdraws from the Pride community centre initiative over disagreements with its decision to establish a licenced club.	SSO 128
April 1990		Gerry Courtenay, President of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Sports Association announces Sydney's bid for the 1994 Gay Games IV.	SSO 129

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April 1990		Popular female impersonator Tracey Lee dies aged 56.	SSO 129
2 April 1990		Gay activist Brian McGahen dies.	SSO 128
8 April 1990		The new Pride Club at 58a Flinders Street holds a “warming” for the community.	SSO 128
9 April 1990		The NSW Police Minister, Ted Pickering announces extra police to combat anti-gay violence in the Darlinghurst area while launching the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby <i>Streetwatch Report</i> .	SSO 129
9 April 1990		The GLRL <i>Streetwatch Report</i> is launched and makes a number of recommendations, including that the Anti-Discrimination Act be amended to outlaw anti-gay vilification.	SSO 129
10 April 1990		80 people meet to form AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACTUP). It advocates non-violent direct action to end the AIDS crisis.	SSO 207 SSO 129
11 April 1990		The NSW Anti-Discrimination Board finds widespread discrimination against lesbians. It advocates education and legislative change for it to end.	SSO 129
21 April 1990		<i>Ratmania</i> “dance ringside – no holds barred” party is held at the Hordern Pavilion.	SSO 128
27 April 1990		The first public demonstration by the Sydney branch of ACT-UP is held to coincide with a meeting of ADEC (Australian Drug Evaluation Committee) at the Department of Community Services and Health 333 Kent Street for failing to consider the drug AZT.	SSO 130 SSO 129
30 April 1990		The Pride Steering Committee vacates the High Club.	SSO 130
May 1990		National People Living with AIDS Coalition sets up an office at the ACON Resource Centre.	SSO 130
May 1990		The support and social group <i>Asians and Friends</i> , is formed.	SSO 156
May 1990		SGLMG Ltd writes to the Director of Public Prosecutions, requesting a review of a coroner’s decision to commit seven youths to trial for manslaughter. In January they had lured Richard Johnson to a public toilet where he was bashed to death.	SSO 132
May 1990		Bill Whittaker is elected as President of the Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations.	SSO 132



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May 1990		Patchs has a name change – DCM.	VVA 43
5 May 1990		Sweatbox <i>Sign of the Times</i> Dance Party is held at the Hordern Pavilion.	SSO 129
9 May 1990		A “Meet the Police Night” is held at the Imperial Hotel.	VVA 40
12 May 1990		A <i>Boys Own Dance Party</i> is held at the Hordern Pavilion.	VVA 43
19 May 1990	Canberra	The inaugural <i>Mr Australia Drummer</i> finals are held at the Yarralumla Woolshed. Clive Platman from Melbourne is the winner.	VVA 43
19-20 May 1990		The first NSW Gay and Lesbian Rights Conference is attended by 80 people. 18 workshops covered violence and bashing to adoption.	SSO 132
20 May 1990		Oz Bears begin meeting at the SPMC Headquarters each Sunday.	VVA 44
27 May 1990		ACTUP demonstrates at Parramatta gaol to protest against legislation proscribing the distribution of condoms, bleach and clean fits in prisons.	SSO 132
31 May 1990		The Federal Minister for Community Services and Health, Brian Howe approaches the Australian National Council on AIDS, seeking advice on how best to encourage AIDS drug trials in Australia. He criticises Wellcome Australia for not applying for approval to widen the use of AZT.	SSO 133
June 1990		Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby begins the <i>Whistle Project</i> as part of a new anti-violence project.	SSO 134
June 1990		Terry Goulden is appointed General Manager of Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras.	SSO 134
June 1990		David “Dot” Wilkins is elected first president of the Sydney Lesbian and Gay Community Centre Ltd. (The Pride Initiative)	SSO 134
June 1990		7 people are arrested and charged after an ACT-UP demonstration outside the US consulate.	SSO 135
1 June 1990	Manilla	Gay activist, Richard Wilson, is murdered.	SSO 133
1 June 1990		Paul O’Grady MLC, is the first person to publicly acknowledge he is gay while he is a member of parliament in an interview with the Sydney Star Observer.	SSO 132
16 June 1990		<i>Dance Indulgence II Headache</i> is held at the Hordern Pavilion.	SSO 132

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18 June 1990		The <i>Community Coalition Consensus</i> wins all 14 positions on the board of Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras Ltd	SSO 134
19 June 1990		Stars of the Australian Opera Concert raises \$50 000 for the AIDS Trust	SSO 134
24 June 1990		The Reverend Gary Walker is inducted as the new Pastor of the Metropolitan Community Church Sydney.	SSO 133
27 June 1990		The Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby holds a public meeting to launch the <i>Whistle Project</i> which aims to encourage gays men and lesbians to carry a whistle to use whenever they witness or are the victim of an assault.	SSO 133
2 July 1990		A video version of 2SER-FM's weekly Wild GALS is transmitted as part of a series of Community Access Television test broadcasts.	SSO 136
7 July 1990		The <i>Dream Corporation</i> dance party is held at the Darling Harbour Exhibition Hall No 5.	VVA 45
16 July 1990		Gay activist, Paul Young, dies.	SSO 136
29 July 1990		Artist Allan Booth dies.	SSO 138
August 1990	Canberra	Australian Drug Evaluation Committee recommends approval for wider use of AZT.	SSO 138
August 1990	Canberra	Fourth National Conference on AIDS is held.	SSO 138
August 1990	Canberra	An ACT-UP demonstration is held at the National AIDS Conference.	SSO 138
4 August	Vancouver	The 1990 Gay Games III and Cultural Festival is opened.	SSO 137
7 August 1990		ADB President Steve Mark proposes to the NSW Government that the Anti-Discrimination Act be amended to include the ground of homosexual vilification.	SSO 137
10 August 1990		The SGLMG is a party to a conference called by the Liquor Administration Board (LAB), which will consider the future of dance parties at the Showground. At present all Showground dance parties have been banned following a decision of the LAB.	SSO 137
25 August 1990		The <i>Family Fancy Dress Party</i> is held at the UNSW Roundhouse, Kensington.	VVA 48
25 August 1990		Gays Living Out West (GLOW) holds its first social function at the North Rocks Community Hall.	VVA 50



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15 Sept 1990		Blackwattle Press launches Denis Gallagher's <i>These Tattoos</i> , Gary Dunne <i>As If Overnight</i> and Sasha Soldatow's <i>Rock'n'roll Sally</i> .	SSO 140
29 Sept 1990		Gay playwright Richard Barrett's play <i>Words of One Syllable</i> opens at Belvoir Street Theatre.	SSO 139
30 Sept 1990		Patrick White dies, aged 78	SSO 141
October 1990		Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras Ltd begins the Positively Pink List, a data base for people seeking skilled arts personnel.	SSO 141
October 1990		Peter Vanzella is elected Treasurer and President of the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation.	SSO 142
October 1990		ACON's Executive Director, Don Baxter, calls for an overhaul of Australia's drug trials and treatments system to provide faster access to drugs and more drug trials.	SSO 142
October 1990		A group of 14-20 year olds begin work on a community video project which will challenge homophobia, discrimination and violence against gay men and lesbians. The project was sparked by the bashing murder of Richard Johnson in Alexandria Park in early 1990.	SSO 142
October 1990		The GLRL calls for the police Gay Liaison Group to be re-established.	SSO 142
1 October 1990		20 people are arrested at Reverend Fred Nile's rally at Kings Cross.	SSO 141
17 October 1990		State Member for Bligh, Clover Moore, is supplied with 25 allegations of police misconduct during a protest against Rev Fred Nile and calls for all charges to be dropped.	SSO 143
22 October 1990		A silent demonstration sponsored by the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby and Rights for All Male Sexworkers (RAMS) is held outside the Dowling Street Courts to protest against police action during the Festival of Light's Kings Cross Jesus march.	SSO 142
25 October 1990		Ludwig Gertsch, gay venue operator is reported as missing.	SSO 143
November 1990		The Seahorse Society of NSW incorporates. The group was formed in 1971.	ON 3

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November 1990		Sydney AIDS Prospective Study predicts approximately 25% of people diagnosed as HIV+ will develop AIDS-related illness after 5 years.	SSO 143
November 1990		15 th annual Pollympic Games is held at the R.A.N. Sports Field, Randwick.	SSO 143
November 1990		Warren Abeshouse, gay composer wins 2 awards in the composition section of 1990 Sydney Eisteddfod.	SSO 143
November 1990		Community Access Television (CAT-TV) announces formation of QUEER-TV, a forum for gay & lesbian concerns.	SSO 143
November 1990		New gay club, <i>Oneiro</i> , opens in Newtown.	SSO 143
November 1990	New York	Vito Russo, cinema writer & gay activist, dies from an AIDS-related illness.	SSO 145
November 1990	Washington D.C.	United States Congress removes bans on gay & lesbian immigrants & visitors which had been in place since 1952. A ban in place for 3 years on people with HIV is also lifted.	SSO 144
November 1990		Anglican gay group, AngGays, disbands.	SSO 144
November 1990		The Supreme Court sentences two youths for the bashing murder of Richard Johnston at a beat in Alexandria last January.	SSO 144
7 November 1990		The Sydney Gay & Lesbian Chorus is formed.	SSO 144
10 November 1990		Denis Maloney, photographer & producer of Golden Aussie calendars featuring surf lifesavers, dies.	SSO 144
21 November 1990		Colin Fawcett is elected president of the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras.	SSO 145
24-25 November 1990	Adelaide	3 rd National Living Well Conference is organised by National People Living with AIDS Coalition.	SSO 136
December 90		A mobile police station begins operating at Taylor Square on Thursday, Friday & Saturday nights for a three-month trial.	SSO 147
December 1990		The NSW Young Liberal Movement rejects calls to ban or restrict the annual Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras.	SSO 147



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December 1990		General Manager of Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras, Cath Phillips, lodges a formal complaint with the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board against the General Manager of the Darling Harbour Authority, for refusing to allow the Mardi Gras parade to terminate in Darling Harbour.	SSO 147
14 December 1990		Danny Vadasz's, <i>Feeling Our Way</i> , a book of interviews with 100 gay men in relationships is launched.	SSO 146

Sources:

SSO = Sydney Star Observer

VVA = Village Voice of Australia

ON = Out Now

