

# 1991

## 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 1991		Michael White's <i>Gangsters by Day, Girls by Night</i> by is launched. White dies days later.	SSO 149
January 1991		A Jewish gay & lesbian group is formed following a community discussion evening in October 1990.	SSO 149
January 1991		The newly formed Gay & Lesbian Choir sings for the first time at the 1991 blessing of the Mardi Gras.	SSO 149
January 1991		The Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby (GLRL) submits a series of detailed complaints alleging misconduct by the Kings Cross Police during the October 1 1990 demonstration against the Festival of Light, to the NSW Ombudsman, David Landa.	SSO 148
January 1991		46 licensed Mardi Gras Rangers complete their training course and provide security for mardi gras and other gay and lesbian community events.	SSO 148
January 1991		The AIDS Council of NSW (ACON) commences distributing safe sex packs to Sydney gay venues.	SSO 148
21 January 1991		The <i>Take Back the Streets</i> rally of 1500 & 2000 protesters against anti-gay violence, marches from Belmore Park to Taylor Square.	SSO 149
26 January 1991		<i>Summer 2</i> dance party is held at the Alexandria Stadium.	SSO 148
February 1991		The Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations calls for the speedy licensing of the new AIDS drugs ddl and ddC.	SSO 150
February 1991		The Albion Street Centre is to become an out-patients clinic of the Prince of Wales and the Prince Henry hospitals.	SSO 150
February 1991		David McDiarmid's exhibition <i>Kiss of Light</i> opens at Syme Dobson Gallery.	SSO 150
February 1991		A dozen ACT-UP demonstrators occupy the Federal Health Department switchboard and read out a prepared statement to callers.	SSO 151
February 1991		The radio station 2SER-FM receives a grant from the Public Broadcasting Foundation to produce and broadcast a national gay & lesbian radio program.	SSO 151



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February 1991		<i>City of the Plain</i> by Gary Wotherspoon, the first comprehensive history of Sydney's gay sub-culture is launched by the Independent member for Bligh, Clover Moore.	SSO 151
1 February 1991		The first national campaign aimed at promoting safe sex practices among gay & bisexual men is launched by the Federal Minister for Community Services and Health, Brian Howe.	SSO 150
1 February 1991		The SGLMG Festival is launched at the Belvoir Theatre.	SSO 150
14 February 1991		ACT-UP activists invade the offices of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board as part of a campaign for an inquiry into discrimination based on the grounds of real or imputed HIV infection.	SSO 151
16 February 1991		An estimated 230 000 people watch the Mardi Gras Parade.	SSO 151
26 February 1991		The LGBTI <i>Outrage</i> magazine is advertised on Australian commercial television.	SSO 152
March 1991	Paris	Richard Turner's documentary film, <i>In the Shadow of Gaol</i> , is selected for inclusion in the "Cinema du Reel" festival.	SSO 152
March 1991	Canberra	The Federal government promises action on reports that undercover RAAF police are conducting witch hunts against gay & lesbian personnel.	SSO 152
March 1991		Three men are found guilty of the murder of Richard Johnson at a toilet in Alexandria in January 1990.	SSO 152
March 1991	Canberra	A gay and lesbian caucus meets at the World Council of Churches Assembly	SSO 152
March 1991		The Foundation Housing project, which provides accommodation for people living with AIDS is wound up.	SSO 152
March 1991		Ian MacNeill's book <i>Libbing</i> is published.	SSO 152
March 1991		South Sydney City Council provides office space for the Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby.	SSO 153
March 1991		The first major film to deal with the impact of HIV-AIDS, <i>Long Time Companion</i> premieres.	SSO 153
March 1991		The cover of the March edition of <i>Campaign</i> states "AZT: why it doesn't work" is criticised by AIDS researchers and community leaders.	SSO 153



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Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
March 1991		Professor Ron Penny is to head the NSW Ministerial Committee on AIDS Strategy.	SSO 153
12 March 1991		The President of the Court of Appeal of NSW, Justice Michael Kirby, raises the issue of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Act covering HIV-AIDS in the first Tim Wilson Memorial Lecture.	SSO 153
20 March 1991		SGLMG cancels awards night because of financial constraints.	SSO 153
27 March 1991		Gays and Lesbians of University of Technology Sydney (GLUTS) holds its first meeting.	SSO 155
8 April 1991		Red paint is splashed on the doors and front steps of St Andrews Cathedral, St Marys Cathedral, Parliament House, Downing Centre Courts, Channel 10 and the Church Mission Society. The perpetrators claim their targets are responsible for "homohatred, discrimination and violence against gay men and lesbians".	SSO 155
15 April 1991		Justice Badgery-Parker sentences Alex Mihailovic and another youth to terms of a minimum of ten years for the murder of Richard Johnson at a beat in Alexandria Park in January 1990.	SSO 155
15 April 1991		A new federal government regulation recognises gay and lesbian relationships in the immigration process.	SSO 155
17 April 1991		NSW Anti-Discrimination Board hosts a community discussion on homosexual & lesbian vilification.	SSO 154
22 April 1991		Dr Mark Bloch, a member of the group <i>One in Seven</i> is convicted of a malicious damage for throwing red paint on 11 Sydney buildings in an attempt to draw public attention to violence against gays and lesbians.	SSO 156
27 April 1991		<i>Sweat Too</i> a Pride and Bacchanalia Dance Party is held at the Alexandria Stadium.	SSO 154
29 April 1991		ACT UP stages a protest outside the offices of the Department of Community Services and Health for failing to "face up to its responsibilities to Australians with HIV and AIDS".	SSO 155, 156
May 1991		Bruce Shepherd, a gay ex-policeman establishes a security firm to protect Oxford Street businesses.	SSO 156
May 1991		Students' Representative Council at University of Technology creates the first paid position to cater for the needs of gay and lesbian students.	SSO 157



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Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
May 1991		Terry Giblett, ACT-UP activist dies.	SSO 158
12 May 1991		The gay & lesbian anti-violence movement stages a march through Newtown.	SSO 157
20 May 1991		A Candlelight AIDS Rally & Memorial is held in Green park.	SSO 156
24 May 1991		Members of ACT-UP stage an action in Pitt Street Mall, followed by a short sit-in in Market Street.	SSO 158
25 May 1991		Clover Moore, Independent is re-elected to the seat of Bligh.	SSO 158
25 May 1991		<i>Bent</i> , A Mardi Gras dance party and awards night is held at the Banquet Hall, Showgrounds.	SSO 157
25 May 1991		<i>Dirt and Desire</i> , dance party is held at the Warehouse, 373 Pitt Street, Sydney.	SSO 157
June 1991		Richard Cobden is elected President of Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras.	SSO 159
June 1991		Pharmaceuticals company Wellcome Australia Ltd claims the Commonwealth Health Department is responsible for delays in approvals of HIV-AIDS drugs.	SSO 160
June 1991	Florence, Italy	A trial using the drugs ddC & AZT in combination leads to this therapy being recommended for patients with T-cells counts falling below 250.	SSO 160
6 June 1991	Canberra	ACT-UP demonstrates outside Parliament House against the Federal Health Minister Brian Howe's failure to increase drug access for HIV-AIDS patients	SSO 159
8 June 1991		An AIDS fundraiser dance party, <i>The Party</i> is held at the Alexandria Stadium.	SSO 157
9 June 1991		<i>Royal Attitude</i> , a dance party is held at the Alexandria Stadium.	SSO 157
9 June 1991		<i>Back to Black Party</i> is held at the Banquet Hall, Showgrounds.	SSO 157
20 June 1991	Perth	Andrew Carter, the founder of the AIDS Memorial Quilt Project dies.	SSO 160
22 June 1991	San Francisco	Phillip Mills (aka drag queen Doris Fish) dies of AIDS.	SSO 162
July 1991		The AIDS Council of NSW commences a 12-month pilot project to identify issues of concern to mature aged gay men.	SSO 161
July 1991		David Marr's biography <i>Patrick White: A Life</i> is published.	SSO 163

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Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
2 July 1991		Reverend Fred Nile attempts to ban Mardi Gras in a notice of motion to the NSW Legislative Council.	SSO 161
3 July 1991		Charges against two people arrested during the 1 October 1990 anti-Fred Nile demonstration are dismissed.	SSO 161
7 July 1991		The inaugural meeting of GALTAS, Gay and Lesbian Teachers and Students is held.	SSO 161
16 July 1991		Union activist Jerry Davies dies.	SSO 162
27 July 1991		The <i>Strawberry Fields</i> dance party is held at the Phoenician Club.	SSO 162
August 1991		The Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Ltd posts a loss of \$188,000 for the financial year 1990-1991.	SSO 164
2 August 1991		Bacchanalia presents <i>Voomania</i> Dance Party is held at the Dome, Showgrounds.	SSO 161
3 August 1991		The SGLMG dance party, <i>Bent Over</i> is held at the Banquet Hall, Showgrounds.	SSO 161
21, 22 and 27 August 1991		The NSW Anti-Discrimination Board holds three public hearings as part of its inquiry into HIV and AIDS related discrimination.	SSO 163
27 August 1991		South Sydney City council approves a proposal to erect a Gay and Lesbian Holocaust Memorial in Green Park.	SSO 165
31 August 1991		Big Boys <i>Chill Out</i> dance party is held at the Banquet Hall, Showgrounds.	SSO 162
September 1991		Australia's first legal rights service for gay men and lesbians, is started by the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby.	SSO 165
September 1991	Los Angeles	Actor Brad Davis dies of an AIDS-related condition.	SSO 166
7 September 1991		300 people march against the Reverend Fred Nile's moves to restrict access to abortion.	SSO 166
12 September 1991		The Gay Solidarity Group changes its name to Lesbian and Gay Solidarity.	SSO 166
17 September 1991		Lesbians hold the majority of senior positions within Mardi Gras.	SSO 166
28 September 1991		The SGLMG <i>Sleaze</i> dance party is held at the Royal Hall of Industries, the Hordern Pavilion and the Dome, Showgrounds.	SSO 163
30 September 1991		To date 1,820 Australians have died from AIDS.	SSO 171



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October 1991		The Volunteer Community Street Patrol is formed to create a presence on Oxford Street in response to increasing levels of gay and lesbian hate crimes	SSO 222
October 1991		The Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO) calls on Federal & state Attorneys-General to enact legislation to protect people from AIDS-related discrimination.	SSO 169
October 1991		NSW TAFE is forced to update its 1985 policy on HIV/AIDS after a Lithgow TAFE teacher whose partner had recently died from an AIDS-related illness complained to the Anti-Discrimination Board about harassment & threats of violence from a co-worker.	SSO 169
October 1991		The international competition to design the official logo for Gay Games IV is won by Team Sydney Co-president, Vicki Jones.	SSO 169
October 1991		The Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) moves into its own premises in Darlinghurst after 16 years at the Uniting Church in Paddington.	SSO 169
2 October 1991		A trial of the anti-viral drug ddC starts.	SSO 167
7 October 1991		Seven people are charged following clashes between demonstrators and police at a Festival of Light rally.	SSO 168
17 October 1991		Team City members and SGLMG meet and form a planning group to begin a bid for the Gay Games of 1998 to be held in Sydney.	SSO 169
24 October 1991		The Rev. Fred Nile's latest attempt to ban Mardi Gras achieves little support in the Legislative Council.	SSO 169
25 October 1991		The <i>Reclaim the Night</i> march starts from Town Hall Square.	SSO 169
25 October 1991	Adelaide	The booklet, <i>Access</i> , written by ACON President, Levinia Crooks as a resource for medical practitioners to assist with the task of telling people they are HIV+, is launched.	SSO 169
26 October 1991		<i>Pink Ink</i> , an anthology of lesbian & gay writers is launched.	SSO 169
26 October 1991		The second meeting of Mature Age Gay Men's Group (MAG) is held.	SSO 169



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Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
26 October 1991		Pride and Sweatbox's <i>Pump Up the Gym</i> dance party is held at the Alexandria Stadium.	SSO 168
27 October 1991	Adelaide	A policy document presented at the AFAO annual general meeting states that the primary responsibilities of Australian AIDS organisations in Australia are to remain in the gay community.	SSO 169
28 October 1991		ACT UP "zaps" Eastern Area Health Service Director, Dr. Diana Horvath, for delaying the trials of a new anti-viral drug, <i>Nevirapine</i> .	SSO 169
November 1991		SGLMG announces that tickets to the Mardi Gras 1992 Party will only be sold to members of the SGLMG.	SSO 169
November 1991		The Sydney gay historian, Bob Hay, publishes the results of 5 years of archival research into the life of convict William Williams.	SSO 170
November 1991	Wellington, NZ	The New Zealand government has made changes to the Births, Deaths & Marriages Act which allows the issue of a new birth certificate for people who choose to change their sex.	SSO 170
November 1991	Hobart	The Tasmanian Government passes anti-discrimination legislation. There are no exemptions from the provisions of the bill as happened in NSW.	SSO 170
November 1991		The Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras abolishes entry fees for the 1992 Mardi Gras parade.	SSO 170
November 1991		The radio documentary, <i>Centre of the Storm</i> , by Martyn Goddard is to be broadcast on Triple J on World AIDS Day.	SSO 171
November 1991		The <i>Australian HIV/AIDS Legal Guide</i> & the 3 <sup>rd</sup> edition of the pamphlet, <i>AIDS &amp; your Rights</i> , are launched by Professor Peter Baume, Head of the School of Community Medicine.	SSO 170
November 1991		A total of 15,254 people are reported as being HIV-positive in Australia, 10,269 in NSW & 7,891 of these being men.	SSO 171
November 1991	Gold Coast	Holly Brown, international drag star, dies "days before her 46 <sup>th</sup> birthday".	SSO 172
November 1991	Cairns	The Australian Gay & Lesbian Travel Association (AGLTA) established. Rod Stringer is named as convener.	SSO 173



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Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
2 November 1991		<i>Halloween – Attitude</i> Dance Party is held at the Alexandria Stadium.	SSO 167
2 – 3 November 1991		The first national meeting of all state working groups of the Australian AIDS Memorial Quilt Project is held.	SSO 169
7 November 1991	Helsinki	Tom of Finland, Touko Laaksonan, dies aged 71.	SSO 171
9 November 1991		<i>East My Sweat</i> Bacchanalia dance party is held at the Alexandria Stadium.	SSO 169
19 November 1991		The Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby Anti-Violence Project launches a new campaign, called <i>Count and Counter</i> , aimed at encouraging gay men & lesbians to report incidents of violence against them.	SSO 171
22 November 1991		Rex Cramphorn dies of an AIDS-related illness.	SSO 171
25 November 1991	London	Freddie Mercury of rock group Queen, dies of an AIDS-related illness.	SSO 171
27 November 1991		The AGM of Pride ratifies the new board: (President) David Wilkins, Gary Cox, Phillipa Playford, Malcolm Thorne, Adrian Gough, Paul Nicholson, Gilliam Minervini.	SSO 171
30 November 1991		The national tour of the AIDS Memorial Quilt, starts.	SSO 171
December 1991		The University of New South Wales School of Social Work removes the terms “deviance” and “abnormality” from the School’s curriculum.	SSO 172
December 1991		The Australian Drug Evaluation Committee and the Commonwealth Health Department has approved ddl for use in Australia with patients intolerant of AZT or with severe immunological deterioration.	SSO 173
December 1991		The latest incarnation of <i>Rubies</i> , on the old Crown Street site, opens.	SSO 172
December 1991		The SGLMG sacks general manager, Cath Phillips.	SSO 173
7 December 1991		The <i>Summer Camp</i> dance party is held at the Dome at the Showgrounds.	SSO 171





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Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
14 December 1991		<i>2000AD</i> , 'Sydney's legendary annual rave event' is held at the Showgrounds.	SSO 171
21 December 1991		The Party Company presents <i>Spangles – dance for drugs</i> – an AIDS fundraiser dance party is held at the Banquet Hall, at the Showgrounds.	SSO 171
31 December 1991		Pride NYE dance party, <i>Locker Room</i> is held at the Alexandria Stadium.	SSO 171
31 December 1991		<i>Rat plus Sweatbox NYE Dance Party</i> is held at the Banquet Hall, the Hordern Pavilion and the Royal Hall of Industries at the Showgrounds.	SSO 171
31 December 1991		The NYE <i>Attitude</i> dance party is held at the White Bay Studios, Rozelle.	SSO 172

**Sources:**

SSO = Sydney Star Observer

