

2002

A chronology of LGBTIQ+ communities and movements in Sydney from 1969 to 2018

Updated on 8/10/2019

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
January 2002		The Attorney General Daryl Williams, appeals a Family Court ruling of October 2001 that recognised the rights of a transgendered person to legally marry his female partner.	SSO 594
1 January 2002		PRIDE's NYE party <i>Superheroes</i> party at Fox Studios is attended by 6,500 a number less than expected	SSO 591
6 January 2002		Rodney Thorpe, former Mardi Gras festival director and gay activist dies.	SSO 592
26 January 2002		Drag performer, Joyce Maynge wins the Miss Overall Best and Fairest title at the Sydney Fringe Festival Bondi Drag Race Meet.	SSO 595
February 2002		<i>Queer Express</i> an exhibition of young artists aged 12 – 25 is held at the Seymour Centre.	SSO 598
2 February 2002		ACON launches <i>On Any Street</i> , a new safety campaign for the Lesbian and Gay Anti-Violence Project.	SSO 596
8 February 2002		A 20,000 crowd attend the launch of the 2002 Mardi Gras season on the Opera House steps.	SSO 597
10 February 2002		The Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby Report, <i>Meet the Parents: A Review of the Research on Lesbian and Gay Families</i> is launched by Kerryn Phelps.	SSO 597
15 February 2002		The inaugural Velocity Party for young people is held at Mortuary Station.	SSO 598
March 2002		ACON offers an advisory code of practice to sex-on-premises venues aimed at setting health and well being standards.	SSO 603
March 2002		<i>Slit</i> , a new Sydney based lesbian sex magazine is launched.	SSO 601
2 March 2002		An estimated 550,000 spectators watch the 24 th annual Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras parade. 19,000 partied on at Fox Studios.	SSO 600
12 March 2002		Federal Senator Heffernan, using Parliamentary Privilege, alleges Justice Michael Kirby of the High Court misused his Commonwealth Government car privileges and solicited young male prostitutes who worked the Wall in Darlinghurst.	SSO 601



2002

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
12 March 2002		Activist, Gary Burns receives a judgement in his case against a former neighbour's harassment. Only one incident cited constitutes Homosexual Vilification and he is awarded a letter of apology and \$1,000.	SSO 601
17 March 2002		The Melbourne based Roman Catholic activist group, the Rainbow Sash Movement, holds its first Sydney meeting.	SSO 602
April 2002		In a press statement, convenor of Country Labor, Tony Kelly criticises the new leader of the NSW opposition, John Brogden and his call for an equal age of consent for gay men.	SSO 605
April 2002	Cairo	The Damanhour 5, five men arrested on 15 January for suspected consensual homosexual sex and convicted on March 11 are cleared by an Egyptian Appeals Court.	SSO 606
April 2002		Michael Primrose wins the 2002 Leatherperson of the Year.	SSO 608
April 2002		David Austin's proposal for a gay male sauna at 300 Pitt Street is rejected by the City of Sydney on planning grounds.	SSO 608
16 April 2002		Anti-Discrimination Board President, Chris Puplick gives an impromptu critique of politicians' and community leaders' complacency in the struggle for gay and lesbian rights at the Gay and Lesbian Business Association tribute dinner to Justice Michael Kirby.	SSO 606
18 April 2002		The Full Bench of the High Court unanimously dismisses the challenge by the Catholic Church to the Federal Court's McBain Decision (that infertility treatments cannot be restricted on the basis of marital status). Prime Minister Howard announces he will legislate to exempt IVF services from the Sex Discrimination Act.	SSO 607
19 April 2002	Chenna (Madras)	Indian HIV activist Ashok Pillai dies.	SSO 607
21 April 2002		7,500 visitors enjoy Leather Pride's 11 th annual Forbes Street Fair.	SSO 607
27 April 2002		Sydney Leather Pride's <i>Inquisition X</i> at Fox Studios.	SSO 607
29 April 2002		Members of Sex and Gender Education Foundation (SAGE) meet with the NSW Attorney General's Department to discuss legislative reform to improve the legal and human rights of the gender diverse community.	SSO 608
May 2002		Gay men's sauna, Ken's At Kensington (aka Ken's Karate Klub) celebrates its 30 th anniversary.	SSO 607



2002

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
May 2002		OutFM President Sean Crillen, calls on Sydney's gay and lesbian community to support its application for a full time AM licence.	SSO 609
May 2002		Greg Fisher charged with making improper use of his position as a company officer of the Satellite Group, takes the stand at the Downing Centre Courts. The trial is aborted and relisted for 19 August 2002.	SSO 610 SSO 611 SSO 612
May 2002		<i>Sexual Racism Sux</i> , an online campaign kicks off to encourage gay men to express their sexual preferences in a positive way rather than in a racist way.	SSO 659
4-5 May 2002		Young Labor passes a resolution in support of equal age of consent in NSW of 16.	SSO 609
6 May 2002	Amsterdam	Openly gay anti-immigration Dutch politician Pim Fortuyn is assassinated by an environmental activist.	SSO 609
6 May 2002		Paul Capsis and Judi Connelli win major awards at the second Helpmann Awards.	SSO 609
11 May 2002		Police return to Oxford Street pubs with random drug sniffer dog searches.	SSO 610
21 May 2002		The NSW Council for Civil Liberties and the Redfern Legal Centre launch an SMS alert service, a key feature of which is www.snifferdogalert.com .	SSO 611
June 2002		Rainbow Labor, a GLBT special interest group for ALP members is formed at the NSW State ALP Conference.	SSO 613
June 2002	Melbourne	Uniting Network for GLBT Christians convene the <i>Daring to Celebrate</i> Conference. Dorothy McRae McMahan is the guest speaker.	SSO 614
8 June 2002		Only 3,000 attend the last Hand in Hand dance party <i>Playground</i> , held at Fox Studios. The ACON fundraiser will be dropped as a result of rising costs of public liability insurance.	SSO 611
19 June 2002		Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras will post a loss of \$530,000 this financial year. The loss is caused by insurance hikes and shrinking returns from Festival events and parties.	SSO 615
24 June 2002		Pride Week 2002 <i>Rhythm of Our Rights</i> is launched at the Gilligans Bar at the Oxford Hotel.	SSO 616



2002

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
25 June 2002		The Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby encourages community members to send NSW Premier, Bob Carr <i>NSW: The Last State</i> postcards registering their concern about the slow pace of gay and lesbian reform.	SSO 616
29 June 2002		The 3 rd annual Aurora Group dinner raises more than \$40,000 for gay and lesbian organisations.	SSO 620
July 2002		The Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby receives a grant from the Law and Justice Foundation of NSW to fund the third phase of its gay and lesbian parenting campaign which had begun in 2000.	SSO 618
July 2002		QueerScreen President Pip Newling, says her organisation will survive, despite the financial woes of the Mardi Gras. It will do this by curtailing its activities and seeking corporate or community sponsorship.	SSO 619
July 2002	London	The European Convention on Human Rights finds the UK in breach of the European Convention on Human Rights for failing to legally recognise transsexual Christine Goodwin as a woman.	SSO 619
July 2002		Sean Crellin, OutFM president, applies for a community AM radio licence.	SSO 619
July 2002		The Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby report an encouraging response to their latest campaign to send "DSCRMN8" postcards to the Premier, Bob Carr, to move him on promises of law reform.	SSO 620
July 2002		Tobin Saunders a.k.a. Vanessa Wagner, and boxer Anthony Mundine are the first evictees from celebrity Big Brother.	SSO 621
July 2002		People receiving HIV/AIDS rent subsidies will not be forced into public housing after a meeting with HIV lobby groups and the NSW Department of Housing.	SSO 621
3 July 2002		A nationally televised fund-raising campaign, "Just a dollar a day", to build community action against HIV/AIDS is launched by the AIDS Trust of Australia.	SSO 617
4 July 2002		After a \$538,000 end of year financial loss, the SGLMG receives bank approval for a \$250,000 overdraft, thus saving the organisation from voluntary administration. Seven organisations and individuals are guarantors for the overdraft.	SSO 617



2002

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
11 July 2002	Canada	A ground breaking ruling handed down by the Ontario Superior Court deems it “unconstitutional” not to allow same sex couples the right to a marriage licence.	SSO 620
30 July 2002		A \$400,000 private loan that was to prop up SGLMG, is withdrawn placing the organisation on the brink of voluntary administration.	SSO 621
31 July 2002		Judith Fletcher is appointed acting chief executive officer of the Sydney 2002 Gay Games, in the wake of Geoffrey Williams’ resignation.	SSO 621
August 2002		Sydney Pride Centre announces an end of year financial loss of \$47,000, attributable to declining dance party attendances and rising costs for their public liability and professional indemnity insurance policies.	SSO 622
August 2002		<i>Hatred, Murder And Male Honour: Anti-Homosexual Homicides in NSW 1980-2000</i> , written by Stephen Tomsen and published by the Australian Institute of Criminology, is released.	SSO 623
August 2002		The Mardi Gras board is forced to withdraw their proposal to keep the organisation in community hands when an unsecured \$1.2 million Vodafone 3 year sponsorship deal falls through. A community coalition consisting of Pride, ACON, the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby and Queer Screen assess options to ensure Mardi Gras remains under community ownership.	SSO 625
August 2002		New co-convenors, Somali Ghosh and Andrew Pickles are appointed at the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby AGM.	SSO 625
2 August 2002		The SGLMG moves into voluntary administration with administrators Sims Lockwood overseeing meetings with private companies seeking to buy Mardi Gras for commercial interests and community consortiums seeking to keep the organisation in community hands.	SSO 622
12 August 2002		Trudi Valentine wins Entertainer of the Year, Courtney Act the DIVA Rising Star and Amelia Airhead the Miss Congeniality Award at the 12 th DIVAs.	SSO 623
19 August 2002		South Australian lesbian Labor senator Penny Wong takes her place in the Australian Senate.	SSO 623



2002

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
21 August 2002		Simon Watts takes over as executive director of Bobby Goldsmith Foundation.	SSO 621
27 August 2002		Pride announces it would take up the licence to run this year's Sleaze Ball.	SSO 625
28 August 2002		SGLMG directors refute administrators, Sims Lockwood's claim, that the board was guilty of insolvent trading since mid-March.	SSO 625
31 August 2002		A community forum supports the community celebrating Mardi Gras for future events regardless of whether the trademarks are bought by a private bidder.	SSO 626
September 2002		Community broadcaster, Channel 31 begins a weekly one hour show with a gay, lesbian and transgender focus.	SSO 622
September 2002	UK	Rowan Williams, the new Archbishop of Canterbury, backs church doctrine and condemns homosexual relationships.	SSO 623
September 2002		Debate to equalise the age of consent is postponed and referred to the NSW Upper House's Social Issues Committee to prepare a report for the attorney general.	SSO 626
September 2002		SGLMG administrators, Sims Lockwood, support a new Deed of Company Arrangement (DCA) put forward by the board of SGLMG that will see New Mardi Gras buy assets of SGLMG.	SSO 629
4 September 2002		The Miscellaneous Acts Amendment (Relationships) Bill, designed to change the wording of acts of parliament that were written before same-sex and de facto couples' rights were recognised, passes the NSW Upper House.	SSO 626
11 September 2002		A "new" Mardi Gras, the initiative of community groups and "key community members" is formed, and a caretaker board is appointed.	SSO 627
18 September 2002		The Miscellaneous Acts Amendment (Relationships) bill, aimed at equalising the rights of de facto and same sex relationships, passes the NSW Parliament.	SSO 629
21 September 2002		Sniffer Dog teams raid venues along Oxford Street. 25 people are charged with drug-related offences.	SSO 629
30 September 2002		SGLMG creditors agree for key assets of the organisation to be bought by New Mardi Gras for \$349,000.	SSO 630



2002

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
October 2002		Gay man, Brian Greig takes over the leadership of the Australian Democrats party.	SSO 629
October 2002		Bligh state election candidate, Gary Burns launches a “No (sniffer) Dogs” campaign.	SSO 631
October 2002	Melbourne	A church inquiry into allegations Dr George Pell, had molested a 12 year old boy in 1961 or 1962, is ‘not satisfied’ that the complaint had been established.	SSO 632
October 2002		The NSW Ice Skating Association tells its members to stay away from the Gay Games or become ineligible to participate in other events or be members of the NSWISA.	SSO 632
October 2002	Broken Hill	A motion calling on the NSW government to amend the discriminatory age of consent legislation is passed at the annual conference of the NSW Local Government Association.	SSO 634
1 October 2002		The Safe Place Program is launched by ACON’s Anti-Violence Project. Stickers identify a business as a safe haven if they feel threatened.	SSO 632
5 October 2002		7,000 attend Pride’s 2002 Sleaze Ball, <i>In Uniform</i> at the Hordern Pavilion and Dome.	SSO 627
15 October 2002		New Mardi Gras begins planning a smaller than usual 2003 festival.	SSO 631
23 October 2002		New Mardi Gras receives a \$45,000 one-off grant, putting the organisation in a strong position to make its first contract payment on time.	SSO 634
24 October 2002		Harry Hay, considered a founder of the American gay movement, dies aged 90.	SSO 634
24 October 2002		The Gay Games cultural festival is launched at the Australian National Maritime Museum.	SSO 634
25 October 2002		Despite rising public liability insurance costs, the <i>Reclaim the Night</i> rally goes ahead.	SSO 633
31 October 2002		The second international <i>Workers Out!</i> Conference of lesbian and gay trade union representatives calls on the Education International and the Public Services International to create a forum on LGBTI worker issues.	SSO 637
November 2002		<i>Just Sensational! Queer Histories of Western Sydney</i> – an exhibition of queer histories of western Sydney opens at the Liverpool Regional Museum.	SSO 635



2002

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
November 2002	UK	A new HIV vaccine that delivers genetic information from the HIV virus into the skin to stimulate the immune response is to be trialled in 2003.	SSO 638
November 2002		<i>Skool's Out</i> , a report on experiences of homophobic bullying in schools by the Anti-Discrimination Board is released.	SSO 640
November 2002	Belgium	The Belgian Senate approves a bill allowing same-sex couples to marry.	SSO 640
1 November 2002		<i>Hello Kitty</i> , an event where four Asian-Australian writers, Andy Quan, William Yang, Tony Ayres and Natasha Cho, read from their work and sing karaoke.	SSO 633
2 November 2002		Eight days of competition are launched at Gay Games IV opening ceremony at the Aussie Stadium. Highlights include Justice Michael Kirby's opening speech, the indigenous creation spirit Biame, the parade of heroes and the pom-pom stunt	SSO 635
3 November 2002		Rainbow Labor holds its first major conference at Sydney University.	SSO 633
3 November 2002		The entire Australian AIDS Memorial Quilt goes on display at the Darling Harbor Convention Centre.	SSO 634
9 November 2002		The Sydney Gay Games IV ends with a closing ceremony <i>Corroboree</i> . Alice Hoglan, the mother of Mark Bingham a player with the San Franciscan Rugby team, and who died during terrorist attacks on 11 September 2001, acknowledges a standing ovation.	SSO 637
24 November 2002		The ceiling of the first floor crashes onto the dance floor of the Stonewall Hotel, injuring 16 people.	SSO 639
24 November 2002		Sex workers Saul and Erica, members of the Sex Outworkers Project (SWOP) receive awards at the World AIDS Day Awards for their lobbying and volunteering work.	SSO 639
December 2002		Sydney 2002 Gay Games administrator RSM Bird Cameron Partners, tell a meeting of 150 creditors that they are investigating where the money went and when the company went under.	SSO 641
December 2002		The board of New Mardi Gras, drops "Gay and Lesbian" from the parade name, intending to make the event more inclusive and that after 25 years, the parade "speaks for itself".	SSO 641



2002

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
December 2002	UK	Under changes recommended by the Minister for Social Exclusion and Equalities, UK same sex couples will be able to sign a contract and have their relationship recognised.	SSO 641
2 December 2002		The Sydney 2002 Gay Games is placed in voluntary administration and faces possible liquidation, after making a loss of \$1.5 to \$2.5 million.	SSO 640
2 December 2002		Caesars Bar closes after the death of its licensee and director, David Mack.	SSO 642
20 December 2002		The last Harbour City Bears event at the Beresford Hotel is held, before the hotel is re-developed in early 2003	SSO 641

Sources:

SSO = Sydney Star Observer

