

2004

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

Updated on 26/10/2019

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
January 2004		Rainbow Labor executive withdraws a motion at the ALP national conference enabling same sex relationships scheme because it was apparent it would be defeated.	SSO 699
1 January 2004		1600 attend Pride's NYE party <i>Kooky Karousel</i> .	SSO 695
26 January 2004		Peter Trebilco is recognised for 40 years of service to the lesbian and gay and mainstream community with an OAM. Former president of PLWH/A (NSW) Phillip Medcalf is awarded an OAM posthumously.	SSO 698
February 2004		A Mardi Gras Festival photographic exhibition <i>Walking the Same Streets</i> documenting personal perceptions of fear and safety in Sydney is held at Pine Street Creative Arts.	SSO 699
February 2004		The Federation of Gay Games announces Chicago as the new host of the next Gay Games.	SSO 703
February 2004		Lesbian poet Dorothy Porter wins the SA Premier's Award for Literature for her verse novel, <i>Wild Surmise</i> .	SSO 703
6 February 2004		The Mardi Gras season is launched in Hyde Park.	SSO 699
7 February 2004		David Hudson and Glen Hill become the first same sex couple to register their relationship with South Sydney Council.	SSO 700
12 February 2004	San Francisco	San Francisco mayor Gavin Newsom distributes same sex marriage licences.	SSO 701 SSO 702
22 February 2004		New Mardi Gras Fair Day attracts 75,000 people to Victoria Park, Camperdown.	SSO 702
23 February 2004		Monica Hingston and Reverend Dorothy McRae-McMahon voice their support for gay marriage at a Sydney Gay and Lesbian Business Association forum.	SSO 702
28 February 2004		<i>The Practical Guide to Mental Hygiene</i> art exhibition by Shaun Weston and Suzanne Boccalatte opens at Gallery Barry Keldoulis.	SSO 702
28 February 2004		The annual Bobby Goldsmith Foundation's <i>Shop Yourself Stupid</i> is held in Oxford Street.	SSO 703



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March 2004		DJ Seymour Butz launches a "gay make out album" <i>Sauna Sessions</i> at Ken's at Kensington.	SSO 703
March 2004		The California Supreme Court orders the City of San Francisco to immediately stop marrying same sex couples.	SSO 705
March 2004		Greens MLC Lee Rhiannon launches a Private Member's Bill aimed at removing exemptions to the Anti-Discrimination Act for private schools and businesses with fewer than six employees.	SSO 706
March 2004	New York	Brazil withdraws its proposed UN resolution to include sexual orientation into definitions of global human rights allegedly after pressure from conservative countries.	SSO 707
March 2004	Canada	Quebec's Supreme Court rejects a bid by religious groups to have marriage declared a union solely between a man and a woman.	SSO 706
March 2004	Canberra	Democrats Senator Brian Grieg attempts to amend the wording of the <i>Military Rehabilitation and Compensation Bill</i> to give equal rights to same sex couples to compensation, grief counselling and death benefits, fails.	SSO 707
4 March 2004		Federal health minister, Tony Abbott fails to appoint any HIV community representatives to the new Ministerial Advisory Committee on AIDS and sexual health.	SSO 703
6 March 2004		Monica Hingston, the lesbian cousin of Catholic Archbishop George Pell and partner Peg Moran are the 2004 chiefs of parade.	SSO 703
6 March 2004		Prime Minister John Howard in a talk-back radio interview speaks out against adoption rights for same sex couples.	SSO 704
6 March 2004		130 floats are cheered on by 250,000 spectators in persistent rain at this year's Mardi Gras parade. 17,000 attend the post parade party.	SSO 704
24 March 2004		Eight drag queens protest at Myers store in the city against the ejection of Kirsten Damned from the store by police following complaints about how she was dressed.	SSO 706
27 March 2004		Independent Bligh MP, Clover Moore is elected the Lord Mayor of the City of Sydney.	SSO 707
31 March 2004		<i>The L Word</i> , a soap opera about a group of lesbians starts on Channel 7.	SSO 706



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April 2004		A 13-year-old girl, Alex is to begin undergoing sex-change treatment after a ruling by the Australian Family Court.	SSO 709
April 2004		Christian action group, Saltshakers, claim responsibility for five major advertisers dropping their ads from Channel 7's show <i>The L Word</i> . These advertisers subsequently distance themselves from Saltshakers	SSO 711, SSO 712
April 2004	Tanzania	Zanzibar's parliament passes a bill which will make homosexual sex illegal.	SSO 711
26 April 2004		Beat FM 87.6, a narrow cast, full time commercial radio station aimed at a GLBT audience, begins broadcasting.	SSO 709
May 2004		Cardinal Pell, arguing against gay marriage in <i>The Australian</i> , claims traditional marriage provides "a significantly lower danger of child abuse and murder" and "significantly lower risks of infant mortality, substance abuse, depression and suicide."	SSO 712
May 2004		The International Olympic Committee rules to allow transsexual athletes to compete in the Olympic Games conditional upon legal recognition of their assigned gender and two years after gonadectomy.	SSO 714
9 May 2004		Jo King, leather designer and entrepreneur is named leather person of the year at the Leather Pride Week Fair at Prince Alfred Park.	SSO 713
11 May 2004		Channel 10 screens a UK reality show <i>There's something about Miriam</i> starring a 'trannie' who dupes a group of straight guys. The Gender Centre claims the show exploits transsexuals.	SSO 712
15 May 2014		69-year-old gay activist, Lance Gowland and the Flotilla of Hope sets sail to Nauru as a gesture of support to asylum seekers on the island.	SSO 713
15 May 2014		Leather Pride Week's <i>Inquisition XII</i> is held at Fox Studios.	SSO 713
17 May 2004	US	Massachusetts becomes the first US state to legally issue same-sex marriage licences.	SSO 713
27 May 2004	Canberra	The Howard Government introduces the Marriage Amendment Bill 2004 to define marriage as between a man and a woman and prevent same sex couples from adopting children from overseas countries.	APH (1)



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June 2004		38% of the general community are in favour of legalising same sex marriage according to an SBS news poll.	SSO 717
June 2004		HIV related treatment, post-exposure prophylaxis is discontinued at the Albion Street Centre and almost cut at St Vincent's Hospital when demand exhausts funding.	SSO 717
June 2004		The late Nick Enright and singer Judi Connelli are appointed Members of the Order of Australia for services to entertainment.	SSO 718
June 2004		Gay activist and skipper, Lance Gowland reports that the Flotilla of Hope protesting the Liberal government's "Pacific Solution" is turned away from the island.	SSO 718
1 June 2004		Lesbian couple, Vicki Harding and Jackie Braw and daughter Brenna's appearance on Play School's <i>Through the Windows</i> segment on ABC TV is criticised by federal Children and Youth Affairs minister Larry Anthony who accuses the show of representing minorities and being too politically correct.	SSO 717
11 June 2004		The Dolphin Motorcycle Club celebrates 25 years with a series of weekend events.	SSO 717
12 June 2004		Queen's Birthday weekend ACON fundraiser <i>Big Queer Nation</i> attracts 6,000 and raises \$32,500.	SSO 718
15 June 2004	Canberra	The federal government rejects the UN demand that Edward Young should be paid a widow's pension, stating that Young did not provide sufficient evidence of his relationship with Larry Cain and that Cain's death was war caused.	SSO 718
22 June 2004	National	Rodney Croome holds a telephone conference with same sex marriage advocates. They decide to form a lobby group (Australian Marriage Equality) to campaign for marriage equality.	YYY p6
26 June 2004		750 attend a rally organised by NSW Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby, ACON, New Mardi Gras and the Sydney Pride Centre to protest in favour of equal relationship recognition before the law.	SSO 719
28 June 2004		The formation of the Australian Marriage Equality (AME) is formally announced.	YYY p9



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30 June 2004	Canberra	<i>The Superannuation Legislation Amendment (Choice of Superannuation Funds) Act 2004</i> is passed by the federal government and includes the term “interdependent relationship” which will include many same sex couples. It fails to cover government and public sector employees.	SSO 721, GLRL
July 2004		UNAIDS reports that 38 million people were living with HIV and that three million had died from the illness in 2003, a record number.	SSO 721
July 2004		The Feminist Bookshop celebrates its 30 th anniversary.	SSO 723
July 2004		Mission Australia is granted an exemption under the ADB Act by the ADB to be allowed to refuse services to transgender women at inner-city welfare centres.	SSO 724
July 2004		Ian Thorpe’s manager, David Flaskas dismisses media claims that Thorpe had taken offence at an artwork at the Gallery of Victoria that suggested he was gay. Thorpe had come out as hetero-sexual in 2002.	SSO 724
July 2004		Steph Sands is re-elected and Mark Orr chosen as co-chairs of New Mardi Gras.	SSO 722
July 2004	Rome	Pope John Paul II, in a letter to Roman Catholic bishops blames feminism for dissolving the difference between the sexes therefore making homosexuality and heterosexuality ‘virtually equivalent’.	SSO 725
13 July 2004	Bangkok	Protesters disrupt the XV International AIDS Conference calling for US drug company Pfizer to allow the production of generic versions of patented retro viral drugs in developing countries.	SSO 722
17 July 2004		The second Rainbow Umbrella Walk from Kirribilli across the harbour bridge to the Rocks is held.	SSO 722
17 July 2004		The Governor of NSW Marie Bashir officially opens the new offices of the Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service and Twenty 10 in Bedford Street, Newtown.	SSO 723
21 July 2004	Brisbane	130 people attend a protest after Queensland AIDS Council lost its application to provide care for PLWH/As to the Anglican Church St Luke’s Nursing Service.	SSO 723



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23 July 2004		Dykes on Bikes member, Debbie Gilbert's short documentary <i>The Wiradjuri – Fight to the Bitter End</i> about the effects of mining in Lake Cowal is screened at Chauvel Cinema.	SSO 723
24 July 2004		The Polynesian Social Club celebrates its 40 th anniversary at a party at the University of NSW.	SSO 696, SSO 723
25 July 2004		The 30 th Sydney Park AIDS Memorial Grove Tree Planting is held.	SSO 719
25 July 2004		A rally organised by Community Action Against Homophobia (CAAH) at Sydney Town Hall protests against the federal government ban on same-sex marriage and overseas adoption. The rally moves to St Marys Cathedral.	SSO 723 GLW
August 2004		The leaders of New Mardi Gras and Pride meet to discuss the possibility of a merger.	SSO 726
August 2004		California's Supreme Court annuls more than 4,000 same sex marriages, ruling that the City violated State laws that defined marriage as a union between a man and a woman.	SSO 727
August 2004		John Marsden's autobiography <i>I Am What I Am</i> is published.	SSO 730
11 August 2004		Melbourne video producer, Steven King creates four television commercials protesting against the same sex marriage ban and hands copies of them to federal politicians before the vote takes place.	SSO 728
12 August 2004	Canberra	<i>Marriage Amendment Act</i> passes the Senate on the third reading, 38 for, 6 against.	APH (2)
24 August 2004	Iowa US	US Vice President Dick Cheney acknowledges his lesbian daughter when he states he does not support President Bush's drive to ban same sex marriage.	SSO 728
26 August 2004	Wollongong	A 47hour sit-in protest at the function room in the Uni Centre Building by Wollongong University's queer collective over demands for a new queer space, ends with police in riot gear storming the building and arresting three people.	SSO 729
30 August 2004		Sydney's Pride History Group is incorporated.	PHG
September 2004		Sydney-based queer youth support web site Mogenic holds its first dance party in New York.	SSO 724



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September 2004		In the absence of an official ACON campaign, sex club Signal, implements its own crystal meth information campaign. ACON CEO Stevie Clayton reveals federal funding for a drug campaign had been rejected in April.	SSO 730, SSO 731
September 2004		<i>Page 8</i> a play based on the composer David Page's life, is staged at the Belvoir Street Theatre.	SSO 730
September 2004		Marie Bashir AC, Governor of NSW volunteers at the Luncheon Club at the Gordon Ibbet Community Centre in Waterloo.	SSO 731
September 2004		The Gender Centre boycotts the ADB's community consultation meetings accusing it of failing to consult with transgender people.	SSO 732
September 2004		<i>Sex and the City</i> star, Cynthia Nixon reveals she is in a same-sex relationship.	SSO 733
September 2004		Dorothy McRae-McMahon's autobiography, <i>Memoirs of Moving On: A Life of Faith, Passion and Resilience</i> , is published.	SSO 734
September 2004		The first ACON crystal meth forum is held, sparking debate between researchers and the community.	SSO 734
26 September 2004		Queer Northside which organises Rainbow Umbrella Walks, holds a "celebration of northern delights" at 11 Alfred Street, Milsons Point.	SSO 731
30 September 2004	Washington	The House of Representatives fails to amend the US constitution to ban gay marriage by 49 votes.	SSO 734
October 2004		Bev Lange is appointed executive director of the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation.	SSO 734
October 2004	Perth	The 13 th Australian General Synod of the Anglican Church decides at its triennial meeting of delegates not to bless same-sex unions, ordain ministers in gay relationships or appoint women bishops.	SSO 735
October 2004		Dr Darren Russell tops <i>The Bulletin</i> magazine's annual Smart 100 list in the health category for his work in HIV/AIDS.	SSO 735
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October 2004	UK	<i>The Line of Beauty</i> a gay novel by Alan Hollinghurst wins the Man Booker Prize.	SSO 736
October 2004		Jane Marsden is voted chairperson of the Aurora Group, replacing Bruce Pollock.	SSO 736
October 2004		The Gender Centre re-joins the Sex Gender Diversity Consultation Group after Stepan Kerkyasharian re-affirms his commitment to the gay and lesbian community.	SSO 737
October 2004		Labor Senator Penny Wong becomes Australia's first openly gay politician to sit on federal parliament's front bench.	SSO 737



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October 2004		Australian Idol contestant, Anthony Callea declares "I'm not gay".	SSO 737
1 October 2004	Madrid	Spain's government approves same-sex marriage and adoption to be made effective in 2005.	SSO 732
2 October 2004		10,000 attend the New Mardi Gras fund raising Sleaze Ball, with the theme <i>Porn</i> .	SSO 726, SSO 734
9 October 2004		The Federal Liberal Howard Government is re-elected.	SSO 735
30 October 2004		62,000 attend the annual Sydney Food and Wine Fair in Hyde Park helping raise \$250,000 for the AIDS trust of Australia.	SSO 738
November 2004	US	The re-elected US President George W. Bush reveals plans to ban gay marriage nationwide.	SSO 739
November 2004	Melbourne	The Gay and Lesbian Foundation of Australia is formed, aimed to remedy under-funding of gay and lesbian health projects.	SSO 740
November 2004		David Scammell and Julie McDonnell are elected co-convenors of the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby.	SSO 740
November 2004	US	The US Supreme Court rejects an attempt by a conservative law group to overturn Massachusetts's same sex marriage legislation.	SSO 742
November 2004	US	Oliver Stone's epic movie <i>Alexander</i> which highlights the homosexual relationship between Alexander and Hephaestion, is released.	SSO 742
November 2004		Lesbian artist, Ana Wojak wins the 53 rd Blake Prize for Religious Art.	SSO 746
3 November 2004		The Deaf and Gay Association of NSW celebrates its 20 th anniversary.	SSO 733
3 November 2004		Gay organisations call on 2UE radio announcer John Laws to publicly apologise for his offensive remarks about visiting <i>Queer Eye</i> star Carson Cressley. Laws subsequently apologises.	SSO 739, SSO 740
18 November 2004	London	The <i>Civil Partnerships Act</i> is given Royal Assent, allowing same-sex couples in Britain to have their relationships legally recognised.	SSO 741



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22 November 2004		The NSW Administrative Decisions Tribunal rule that on-air comments by 2UE announcers John Laws and Steve Price about gay couple Gav and Waz of the reality show <i>The Block</i> constituted “homosexual vilification” and they must apologise.	SSO 741
25 November 2004		DJ and former Pride Director, Sioux Spears, dies.	SSO 742
30 November 2004		The Channel Nine <i>Today</i> TV sporting announcer, Sam Newman’s anti-gay comments lead to the program making a public apology after viewer complaints.	SSO 742
December 2004		National gay and lesbian rights group, Equal Rights Network calls on the ALP to support civil unions.	SSO 744
December 2004		After six months, Newtown karaoke event, <i>Dike on Mikes – Lesbian Idol</i> , becomes a sell-out hit, attracting a broad range of women.	SSO 744
December 2004	Miyazaki, Japan	Delegates to the XVII International Confederation of Free Trade Unions pass a resolution presented by ACTU president Sharan Burrow, committing the Confederation to combatting HIV and AIDS.	SSO 744
1 December 2004		Federal Health Minister Tony Abbott launches World AIDS Day urging individuals at risk of HIV to take greater responsibility for themselves.	SSO 742
1 December 2004		A World AIDS Day press release by the NSW Police warning positive people to disclose their status or face 25 years’ imprisonment is condemned by health organisations.	SSO 743
2 December 2004	Canberra	The Coalition and Labor vote against amending the Veteran’s Bill to recognise same sex relationships despite a demand to do so from the UN.	SSO 743
17 December 2004		The merging of hearts artwork for the 2005 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras branding, created by Euro RSCG Worldwide Australia advertising agency, is launched at the State Theatre.	SSO 743

Sources:

SSO = Sydney Star Observer

YYY = Yes, Yes, Yes: Alex Greenwich and Shirleene Robinson, 2018

APH (1) = Australian Parliament House, [LINK](#)

APH (2) = Australian Parliament House, [LINK](#)

GLW = Green Left Weekly, [LINK](#)

GLRL = Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby Guide “Super Annuation, Super Discrimination”

PHG = Pride History Group records

