

2006

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

Updated on 7/10/2019

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
January 2006		State MLA Clover Moore urges the attorney-general Bob Debus to investigate implementing a same sex register scheme for NSW.	SSO 799
January 2006		Tennis player Rennae Stubbs, comes out as a lesbian.	SSO 799
January 2006		British consulates begin offering civil partnerships to British citizens.	SSO 800
January 2006		Marcus O'Donnell steps down as editor of the <i>Sydney Star Observer</i> .	SSO 801
1 January 2006		Sydney Leather Pride faces an uncertain future, after its 1,200 ticket sales for the New Year's <i>Fantasy</i> party falls well short of the 4,000 expected.	SSO 797
18 January 2006		Federal Attorney-General Phillip Ruddock says that there are some coalition members who 'had no problems' with same sex civil unions, but it is up to the states and territories to enact civil union schemes.	SSO 799
26 January 2006		Dr David Bradford who helped lead early AIDS efforts is appointed a Member of the Order of Australia.	SSO 800
February 2006		<i>Thief River</i> , a play about a relationship of two men over 50 years begins a season at the New Theatre.	SSO 801
February 2006		Pip Ditzell is appointed the gay, lesbian and transgender project co-ordinator for the City of Sydney.	SSO 802
February 2006		New Mardi Gras devotes a series of events for young people in the Generation Youth Festival.	SSO 802
February 2006		A Newspan survey finds 52% of respondents agreed that the federal government should introduce a law to formally recognise same sex relationships in Australia.	SSO 803
February 2006		<i>The Pink, the Black and the Beautiful</i> , an exhibition of urban gay and lesbian Koori artists, is held at the Boomalli Gallery.	SSO 803
3 February 2006		New Mardi Gras charges a \$10 entry fee to the Mardi Gras Festival launch at the Opera House.	SSO 798
6 February 2006		<i>Beneath the Sequined Surface: an insight into Sydney Drag</i> by Carol Langley is published.	SSO 801



2006

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
11 February 2006		<i>Diverse Verse</i> poetry readings at the Feminist Bookshop is held again in conjunction with the Mardi Gras festival.	SSO 802
13 February 2006		The Ellen De Generes Show begins screening on Channel 10.	SSO 800
16 February 2006		Sydney film maker, Craig Boreham's <i>My Queer Career</i> opens the Mardi Gras Film Festival.	SSO 799
17 February 2006		<i>Transamerica</i> screens at the Mardi Gras film festival.	SSO 802
17 February 2006		A Queer Space exhibition of photos and stories, bouncing castles, and a documentary about PFLAG Western Sydney are held at the Joan Sutherland Performing Arts Centre, Penrith.	SSO 803
18 February 2006		The Pride History Group launches its new comprehensive history web site.	SSO 803
19 February 2006		The NSW Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby plant 10,000 pink paper hands in support for relationship recognition.	SSO 803
19 February 2006		The seventh Rainbow Umbrella Walk is held in an ongoing campaign for equal rights.	SSO 803
March 2006		The federal Liberal government announces plans to recognise same-sex partners of skilled migrants.	SSO 806
March 2006		Stacy Farrar is appointed editor of the Sydney Star Observer.	SSO 809
March 2006	ACT	Chief minister John Stanhope's plans to introduce his Civil Union bill are halted by Prime Minister Howard and Attorney General Ruddock's opposition to it, because it attempts to equate same-sex relationships to marriage.	SSO 810
March 2006		The Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society's survey <i>Private Lives</i> , reveals 35% of same sex couples are in an abusive relationship.	SSO 810
March 2006		<i>What's the Difference?</i> an anti-homophobia education comic book funded by the NSW Government is distributed to Year 7 students.	SSO 813
4 March 2006		The 2006 Mardi Gras Parade is led by the <i>Ship of Fools</i> float, a comment about 10 years of gay life under the Howard Liberal government. 300,000 line the path of the parade and 15,800 attend the post parade party at Moore Park.	SSO 805 SSO 806
9 March 2006		<i>50 Ways of Saying Fabulous</i> the film version of Graeme Aitken's 1995 novel, opens for a short season.	SSO 804



2006

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
24 March 2006		The NSW Administrative Decisions Tribunal gives John Christopher Sunol two weeks to publish an apology for on-line anti-gay messages. The decision confirms that internet publications constitute a public act – a key requirement for a vilification finding.	SSO 809
April 2006	Ipswich Qld	Transwoman Louise Brandish is sacked from Ian Boettcher Motors. Louise lays blame on the federal government's scrapping of unfair dismissal protection for employees in small and medium sized businesses for her sacking.	SSO 810
April 2006		The Women and Girl's Emergency Centre at 177 Albion Street begins case management and support for trans-women.	SSO 811
April 2006		New Mardi Gras announces a \$91,000 cash profit on the 2006 season.	SSO 812
April 2006		<i>Big Brother</i> the reality TV show, adds David Graham a 26 year old gay Queensland farmer to its current season.	SSO 813
April 2006	Belgium	Belgium same sex couples win the right to adopt children.	SSO 813
6 April 2006		NorthAIDS, the North Shore HIV/AIDS service provider, winds up after government funding cuts.	SSO 807
6 April 2006		St George and Sutherland gay youth support group GLYSSN celebrates its 10 th anniversary.	SSO 810
10 April 2006		Members of the Canterbury-Bankstown District Gay and Lesbian Social Group vote for the group to be taken over by another gay group – Rebellion.	SSO 810
21 April 2006		The Dolphin Motorcycle Club's annual Anzac Run from Sydney to Mudgee is held.	SSO 811
May 2006		ACON announces a new three year draft strategic plan naming improved mental health and less drug-related harm as goals, as it continues beyond HIV-specific work.	SSO 816
May 2006		Gina Potter wins Australia's first national lesbian pool competition at the Imperial Hotel and qualifies for the Chicago Gay Games.	SSO 817
May 2006		The Daily Telegraph 'exposes' the Tillman Park Children's Centre in Tempe for using anti-homophobia teaching materials and calls for its funding to be cut.	SSO 818



2006

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
May 2006		Qld Liberal politician Warren Entsch writes to all federal MPs calling for the reform of all legislation that discriminates against gay men and lesbians.	SSO 818
May 2006		The Department of Immigration decides to grant a temporary business visa to an HIV positive applicant setting a precedent for other HIV-positive applicants.	SSO 818
May 2006		Qantas bows to pressure from former Family Court Chief Justice Alastair Nicholson and recognises an employee's Canadian same-sex marriage.	SSO 819
May 2006		A conference on homophobia in schools titled <i>That's So Gay</i> is held and attracts 200 people, mostly teachers. The NSW Anti-Homophobia Interagency recommends the Department of Education implement new strategies to tackle the problem.	SSO 836
2 May 2006		ACON is invited to join the NSW Farmers Association's Rural Mental Health Network.	SSO 814
3 May 2006		<i>The Prodigal Son</i> , a gay themed documentary, screens on SBS TV.	SSO 813
10 May 2006		Blacktown Lesbian Information and Social Support holds regular fortnightly meetings during school terms.	SSO 816
11 May 2006	ACT	Members of the ACT parliament pass an amended bill, making the territory the first Australian jurisdiction to approve civil unions laws.	SSO 816
13 May 2006		Sydney Leather Pride Week begins and runs until the 21 May.	SSO 814
16 May 2006		SBS TV screens a same-sex partnerships, civil unions and marriage episode of <i>Insight</i> .	SSO 813
17 May 2006		The second annual International Day Against Homophobia (IDAHO) is held.	SSO 815
17 May 2006	Turkey	Sydney lawyer and gay activist John Marsden dies.	SSO 817
22 May 2006	Dublin	At an address at University College, Prime Minister Howard describes the campaign for gay marriage as "minority fundamentalism" and said it was not discrimination to deny same-sex couples the right to marry to students.	SSO 817
27 May 2006	Moscow	Homophobic protestors set upon pro-gay activists who attempted to hold Moscow's first gay pride march.	SSO 818
28 May 2006		Sydney DJ Kim Hunter aka Clem Ferris dies.	SSO 818



2006

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
June 2006		Gail Hewison and her sister Libby Silva of the Feminist Bookshop are awarded the Order of Australia in recognition of their support for women and emerging authors.	SSO 820
June 2006		A spokesperson for the federal attorney-general confirms government ministers had agreed to instruct their departments not to make submissions to the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission's national inquiry into gay law reform.	SSO 822
June 2006		The gay group GLYSSN, launches a report looking at the experiences of young queer people in the St George and Sutherland area and calls for more support for young gay men and lesbians from diverse cultural backgrounds.	SSO 822
June 2006		The first diagnoses of confirmed NSW cases of lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV) are notified to NSW Health.	SSO 827
3 June 2006	Romania	500 Romanian gay activists face a jeering violent crowd of protestors at the Bucharest Gay Parade.	SSO 819
10 June 2006	Warsaw	1,500 join the Warsaw Gay Pride Parade after Poland's Constitutional Court ruled that the parade should be allowed. They brave crowds of skinhead hecklers throwing eggs and insults.	SSO 819 SSO 820
13 June 2006	Canberra	The federal government advises the governor-general Michael Jeffery to veto the ACT's civil union legislation.	SSO 820
19 June 2006		15 activists march along Oxford Street in protest against the federal government's cancellation of the ACT civil unions legislation.	SSO 21
25 June 2006	National	The 60 minutes television show airs a story of Peter Furness and partner Theo Phillip's marriage in Canada on April 3.	YYY p30 SMH
July 2006		The City of Sydney identifies gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender as a group with 'priority needs' and joins seven other target groups that are mandatory for all local government areas to have in their social plan.	SSO 825
July 2006	Riga	The Riga city council bans the official gay parade due to safety concerns.	SSO 826
3 – 7 July 2006		Queer Collaborations is held in Sydney.	SSO 822



2006

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
6 July 2006	New York	The New York Court of Appeals rules that banning same-sex couples from marrying does not contravene the state's constitution. Georgia's Supreme Court had previously ruled that a state ban on gay marriage was legal.	SSO 824
13 July 2006		<i>Tan Lines</i> , a new Australian feature film, written, directed, and produced by Ed Aldridge about a young surfer coming to terms with his homosexuality premiers at a private screening in Sydney.	SSO 823
15 July 2006	Chicago	Gay Games VII begin.	SSO 825
16 July 2006		Ken Buckley one of a group of Civil Libertarians who assisted in the formation and early days of Camp Inc dies.	SSO 826
18 July 2006	US	An attempt to amend the US constitution to ban gay marriage fails in a vote by the House of Representatives for the second time in two years.	SSO 825
21 July 2006		The Mortgage Industry Association of Australia expels gay financial company and Mardi Gras sponsor GAL home loans for misconduct.	SSO 826
29 July 2006	Canada	The Outgames in Montreal opens. 10,250 athletes attend.	SSO 826 SSO 828
29 July 2006		Volunteers are trained for the group, <i>LemonAids and GaytoAids</i> , an initiative which will help care for aged gays and lesbians living in the Blue Mountains.	SSO 827
August 2006	Israel	Organisers of the World Pride parade in Jerusalem, cancels the parade due to the lack of soldiers to protect marchers.	SSO 826
August 2006	WA	The state branch of the National Party votes in support of same-sex civil unions.	SSO 828
August 2006		Transsexual murderer Maddison Hall sues the NSW women's prison Mulawa for discrimination.	SSO 829
August 2006	UK	The archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams in an effort to prevent a split in the church on homosexual rights, says he backs a resolution stating homosexual practice is incompatible with the Bible.	SSO 831
8 August 2006		The NSW GLRL co-convenor David Scannell urges gay and lesbian couples to tick the same-sex de facto household box in the upcoming national census.	SSO 826



2006

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
12 August 2006		Lord Mayor Clover Moore, joins ACON president Adrian Lovney and volunteers from the Community Support Network at a tree planting ceremony in Green Park, to remember the hundreds of volunteers who have cared for Sydney people living with HIV/AIDS for over 21 years.	SSO 829
13 August 2006		1,500 protestors march along Oxford Street to Hyde Park as part of the National Day of Action. The day marks the second anniversary of the 2004 ban on same-sex marriage in federal parliament.	SSO 826
18 August 2006		High Court judge, Justice Michael Kirby speaks at the first IRIS Fund lecture.	SSO 828
18-20 August 2006	Mudgee	First held in 1981, the Dolphin Motorcycle Club holds its annual Gourmet Run at Tabrabucca Lodge, near Mudgee.	SSO 827
22 August 2006		Australian Marriage Equality co-convenor and his husband stage a sit in at the Australian Bureau of Statistics, Sydney office to express their anger over the national census's exclusion of marriage for same-sex couples.	SSO 830
25 August 2006		The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Support Group's second <i>Black Pearls</i> party and cabaret event is held at the Flinders Hotel.	SSO 830
28 August 2006		800 attend the 16 th annual DIVA awards at Star City Showroom.	SSO 831
September 2006	US	Martina Navratilova retires from professional tennis with a win in the mixed doubles competition of the US Open. Navratilova has won over 300 singles and doubles since turning professional in 1975.	SSO 833
September 2006	US	A study by the University of California finds that starting treatment within two weeks of HIV infection and stopping 12 weeks later presented 'trends toward a long term benefit'.	SSO 833
September 2006		The Administrative Appeals Tribunal finds that when a same-sex couple separate, and their assets are divided, capital gains tax is payable. Under tax law a spouse must be defined as a male and female couple.	SSO 833
September 2006		The use of drugs crystal meth and GHB in the gay and lesbian party scene is the focus of state government's new 'club drug' education campaign.	SSO 834



2006

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
September 2006		ACON publishes and distributes <i>Sticks and Stones</i> , a magazine targeting young gay people in Western Sydney.	SSO 834
September 2006		<i>Camp Nites</i> , a booklet by the Pride History Group based on its oral history interviews, documents Sydney's camp and gay and lesbian night spots in the 1960 and 1970s.	SSO 835
September 2006		<i>The Beat</i> , a new book by IJ Fenn about the bashings, robberies and murders at Sydney beats in the late 1980s and subject of a 2003 coronial inquiry, goes on sale.	SSO 835
September 2006		Queer Community Media Inc applies to the Australian Communications and Media Authority for the broadcasting frequency 100.5FM	SSO 835
September 2006		The NSW government announces that a clinic to treat crystal meth users will be opened at St Vincents Hospital.	SSO 836
1 September 2006		Rebellion holds its 7 th anniversary dinner at the Erskineville Hotel.	SSO 831
16 September 2006	Melbourne	The third Rainbow Families Conference is held.	SSO 832
28 September 2006		The NSW GLRL launches a new information campaign <i>The Pink Ceiling is Getting Lower</i> , highlighting the loss of employee rights of GLBT people under the federal Liberal government's new industrial relations laws.	SSO 834
29 September 2006		Salaam Namaste, a social group for GLBT people of Indian sub-continent origin meets.	SSO 835
30 September 2006		7,600 people, including more young people attend the 25 th annual 'Ghetto' themed Sleaze Ball.	SSO 836
October 2006	Canberra	Liberal MP Warren Entsch reveals details of his private members bill to remove discrimination against same sex couples in federal legislation.	SSO 837
October 2006		The national HIV/AIDS 2006 Annual Surveillance Report reveals that in 2005 NSW records a seven percent increase on 2004 HIV diagnoses.	SSO 837
October 2006		<i>Gay Life and Culture</i> , a history of 2,000 years of same sex culture by Robert Aldrich, is published.	SSO 837
October 2006	Perth	High Court judge Michael Kirby calls for same-sex marriage equality at a national family law conference.	SSO 839



2006

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
October 2006		Democrats senator and gay rights supporter, Natasha Stott-Despoya announces her retirement from politics in June 2008.	SSO 839
October 2006		Chris Master's Alan Jones biography, <i>Jonestown</i> is released and is criticised by conservative media commentators that the biography was 'homophobic' for outing Jones.	SSO 839
9 October 2006		A new inquest into the 1990 murder of gay Sydney millionaire Ludwig Gertsch opens following a new investigation set up by police in 2003.	SSO 837
14 October 2006		The federal Young Nationals vote in support of civil unions for same sex couples at their annual conference. David Graham is elected Young Nationals federal membership officer.	SSO 838
21 October 2006		Sydney Pride Centre announces a loss of \$35,000 for the 2004/2005 financial year at its delayed AGM.	SSO 839
November 2006	Newcastle	<i>Rouse</i> a fundraiser 2007 calendar for Hunter group Rainbow Visions, featuring profiles of local GLBT people goes on sale.	SSO 842
November 2006	Jerusalem	The Gay Pride Week street parade is abandoned after fears of violence from religious extremists and is held instead in a stadium.	SSO 842
November 2006		Community Action Against Homophobia – Blue Mountains, successfully campaigns for the rejection of a US ex-gay conversion DVD donated by the Christian Democratic Party by the Penrith City Council Library.	SSO 843
November 2006		The Powerhouse Museum offers to give the AIDS quilt a permanent home – curating, preserving and storing it at Castle Hill.	SSO 844
November 2006		Jan Burnswoods, MLC, an active supporter of GLBT rights, announces her retirement at the next election in March 2007.	SSO 844
November 2006		Former Satellite boss, Greg Fisher is sentenced to seven years four months after he pleads guilty to drug importation offences.	SSO 844
November 2006		Gay and lesbian 2SERFM radio programme, <i>Queernoise</i> wins a national community radio award for its weekly play <i>Gay Super Guy</i> .	SSO 844
November 2006		GenerationQ Media, a new GLBT media company is established following the merger of websites queerplanet and MyQueerSpace.	SSO 844



2006

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
11 November 2006		<i>Holding the Man</i> the theatrical adaption of Timothy Conigrave's novel, opens at the Griffin Theatre to rave reviews.	SSO 842
12 November 2006		A new four part documentary <i>The Age of AIDS</i> begins on SBS.	SSO 841
13 November 2006	Sth Africa	The national assembly passes the Civil Union bill, making South Africa the fifth country to allow same sex marriage.	SSO 842
19 November 2006		Marrickville Council holds a gay- and lesbian-friendly family day – <i>Kidz Day Out</i> – in association with Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby.	SSO 841
20 November 2006		The <i>Transgender Day of Remembrance</i> , commemorating the lives of murdered transgender people is held at Parliament House.	SSO 840
21 November 2006		The <i>Emerging Researchers in Aging</i> conference features a segment on the particular issues faced by gay men over 60.	SSO 843
22 November 2006		The Australian Association of Gerontology conference <i>Diversity in Aging</i> looks at issues including living with HIV/AIDS in aged care facilities, identity needs and fear of disclosing sexuality.	SSO 843
30 November 2006		A list of gay male beats attached to a story on the Sydney Morning Herald website is removed after ACON warns the paper this could lead to anti-gay attacks.	SSO 840
December 2006		Jonathan Stambolis joins the ACON board and long term members David Buchanan and Michael Phillips step down.	SSO 846
December 2006		The City of Sydney will use a State Library grant to set up a gay public library collection across Kings Cross, Newtown and Surry Hills.	SSO 846
1 December 2006		The annual candlelight memorial is held in Hyde Park North.	SSO 844
6 December 2006		The TV series <i>The Closet Tales of Australian Fashion</i> begins with an episode on Peter Morrissey.	SSO 844
7 December 2006	SA	The Domestic Partners Bill passes the upper house. The Bill recognises same-sex couples as domestic partners in 90 pieces of legislation including inheritance and property laws.	SSO 846



2006

Date	Location (if not Sydney)	Event	Reference
10 December 2006		Lesbian surfing and social group <i>Chicks on Sticks</i> holds its regular surf day trip at Norah head/Soldiers Beach.	SSO 845
14 December 2006	US	The New Jersey State Legislature passes a Civil Unions bill.	SSO 847

Sources:

SSO = Sydney Star Observer

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

SMH = The Sydney Morning Herald, [LINK](#)

