

Pride History Group Oral History Interview with Terry Batterham

Interviewer: John Witte

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Restrictions: None



Log	Summary	Key words
0000	Terry was born in 1952 at St Margarets Hospital in Surry Hills and grew up in Kensington and he was the only child. His father worked for Sunbeam most of his life and was a foreman there, working first at Mascot and then Campsie. His mum was trained as a tailoress and did piece work and later worked in the cafeteria at University of NSW (UNSW).	Surry Hills Campsie University of NSW
0200	He first went to school at Our Lady of the Rosary at Kensington. He thinks he had difficulty adjusting to discipline and structure as an only child.	Our Lady of the Rosary, Kensington
0257	He was interested in socialising with other school kids and enjoyed maths, geography but the rest was boring.	
0340	After the nuns he joined the brothers in 4 th class. He hung out with other boys who later grew up to be homosexual. They were persecuted to some extent by the other boys and Brothers, but they stuck together.	
0430	He doesn't think they knew the term 'homosexual'. They had female names for themselves and used female pronouns. And as a term of abuse, the other boys would call them 'girls', 'shielas'. They accepted it.	
0600	Terry didn't want to work and so went to university. He had to repeat the final year at Randwick Tech to get the grade for Social Work at UNSW. He went to uni for 6 years and commenced his career when he was 30.	Randwick Tech UNSW
0650	He found uni very exciting and met people from different backgrounds.	
0745	During his last couple of years at school he got involved with the anti-war Moratorium.	Moratorium
0830	Terry went in marches after school and for a large March, the Brothers let them leave school to attend.	
0930	At university he went to a meeting of gay liberation in 1972. He remembers Steve Harrison and Dennis McManus. Dennis was lecturing or tutoring. He remembers them kissing and this was the first time he has seen men kissing. Lindy Nolan (active in student politics) and Heather Grey and Richard Bigg (both completing their Dip Ed). John Bridges, Terry Bell.	Gay Liberation Steve Harrison Dennis McManus Lindy Nolan Heather Grey, Richard Bigg, John Bridges, Terry Bell.
1125	In summer they would go out after for drinks and swim at Nielsen Park at night.	Nielsen Park
1200	They took part in zaps. At Warrane College Heather Grey plastered an oil painting with stickers "homosexuals demand equality" while Richard and Terry distracted the attendant when they went hand in hand to the toilets.	Zaps, Warrane College Heather Grey Richard Bigg
1320	David Kenney was a prime mover in forming the gay liberation group. He would go around writing with chalk "wear blue jeans if you are gay today".	David Kenney
1345	In the city they would chant as they went up escalators in Department Stores.	
1352	Anti-psychiatry actions by people concerned about psycho-surgery and Neil McConaughy's aversion therapy at the Prince of Wales Hospital.	Anti-psychiatry Neil McConaughy
1448	Zap in psychiatrists waiting room. A group threw blood and animal brains 'which we thought was truly radical'. Wouldn't have done much for the patients waiting.	Anti-psychiatry Zap

1543	Thinks there was a group that met at Sydney university and there was Sydney Gay Liberation and there was a common membership across all of them.	Sydney University Sydney Gay Liberation
1648	Terry remembers going to Newcastle to a dance to support them and boost the numbers.	Newcastle
1710	Terry Bell and Lindy Nolan would have done a lot of organising for the Gay Pride Week (GPW) 1973. It was the first nationally planned gay demonstration. Front page of Tharunka promoted it. There would have been zaps, street theatre on campus.	Terry Bell, Lindy Nolan, Gay Pride Week
1816	'The march in the city got out of control. Not many police turned up because I don't think they thought (a) that there wouldn't be that many people or (b) that we would cause much trouble, but we would do what we were told. We'd all been marching in Vietnam Moratoriums and other things and so we were used to that game that used to happen between the police and the demonstrators. And we just took off and took to the streets and started going up one way streets the wrong way so police couldn't get to us by cars and it was all a bit of mess. And it was meant to culminate at the Cenotaph at Martin Place and we ordered a wreath from DJ's which we were going to lay on the Cenotaph for all the homosexuals who had died or persecuted. And we got there and it was all cordoned off. And of course in our state of paranoia, which was extremely high in those days, we presumed that they had done this because they didn't want us laying a wreath at their Cenotaph. Later we discovered that it was also the anniversary of the Coral Sea Battle, there was something planned for that day ... the world was just pink for us. There was nothing else happening. A lot of people got arrested. And I think we just marched around the city until we were absolutely exhausted and didn't know what to do and saw a 433 going to Glebe so thought that might be the easiest way to exit which we did.'	Gay Pride Week Cenotaph, Martin Place Coral Sea Battle
2010	He went to the demo from 33A. He remembers the wreath there.	33a
2120	The event in the Domain was more of a community event. People were meant to dress up and have fun. Remembers seeing Zoula (a barmaid at Ivys and she owned a bric a brac shop the Wild Oscar in Crown Street. She claimed that she was just walking her dog. Remembers Quentin with him in perhaps Jeff Hayler's van going to the Domain having a knife. He was expecting there was going to be trouble. People had clown like make up. They didn't know what to do. It was very unstructured.	Domain event Zoula Wild Oscar Quentin Jeff Hayler
2305	He doubts if anyone applied for permission to march on the Saturday.	
2350	Back at 33A after the demo, people were on a high. The first time he had met Di Minnis. She got locked up. Remembers going by a building site and they believed (the workmen) were throwing things at them. Met John Gould for the first time on the bus. John Pearce from Newcastle would have been there.	33a John Gould John Pearce
2515	Did the event politicise these people? Terry believes they were politicised already.	
2540	John Pearce and others formed the Doreens Society in the 70s which organised dress up parties, lots of fun and sex. Remembers some being held at Syd's a big first floor in a building off Oxford Street, one block down Crown Street. They had the Grot Awards. They were also held in a building where King Steam is now.	John Pearce Doreens Syd's Grot Awards
2655	Music was probably recorded. There are videos of the parties which Robert Lake has. The patrons were mainly homosexual men and lesbians and also straight people.	Robert Lake
2750	Movement dances were not as wild. They had simple lighting effects and were mixed.	Dances
2855	You could also go to Pollys Dances on a Saturday Night. Commercial venues like Caps on Oxford Street. There was a downstairs bar where you could chat or go upstairs to see a show. These were quite high quality.	Pollynesians Caps

2944	There was the Rex, Ivys, Enzos. After those bars closed the word would go around someone would people back to their place for drinks and more partying.	Rex, Ivys, Enzos
3100	Steam baths had started. Kens started in 1973. 253 in Oxford Street. King Steam perhaps.	Kens Steam Bath 253, King Steam
3130	The perception of the commercial scene by the gay movement was mixed. It was seen as capitalist. Some people believed you had to be political and not frivolous. Attending the commercial scene you would be oppressed and not understand the oppression you were under. Then you would be seen as part of the problem because you were not standing up and coming out.	Commercial scene
3225	Bars were leafleted for demos. You would ask the owner if you could hand out the leaflets and they would ask what it was about. Can't remember being denied. Some patrons were dismissive. Some that they trouble makers rocking the boat. Others were pleasant. And "we were pretty in those days".	
3357	There were Marxist, feminist, effeminist, Faery analyses. Publications like Body Politic, Christopher Street had often critiques.	Body Politic Christopher Street
3430	Terry was involved with the publication of Gay Liberation Press. It was created by Teapot press by Paul Foss, Terry Bell, Graham Taubenauer. They offered critiques of sexuality and identity. It was roneoed off. Had artwork and poetry. Reviews of music. It ran for a couple of years and was circulated in academic circles. Elizabeth Reid, advisor to the Prime Minister on women's issues started a subscription to the Australian Parliament. Elizabeth later became involved in HIV issues with Terry with WHO. They thought that it was significant that GLP was being ordered and held on the Parliament of Australia library.	Gay Liberation Press Teapot Press Paul Foss Terry Bell, Graham Taubenauer Elizabeth Reid
3912	Schisms developed in gay liberation. There was the men/women issue. Left/right – Martin Smith was a member of the Liberal Party and Paul Foss and others who lived at 33a who were perceived to have a greater influence.	Martin Smith Paul Foss 33a
4055	He remembers a consciousness raising group at 33a where you had to go around the group and say who you had sex with and if not why not and when you would.	33a
4120	"We were young people, who had all the energy of youth. We thought we knew it all and we had an analysis about it all. We knew we were different, because we were I suppose, breaking new ground in coming out and doing things as homosexuals and lesbians in ways that were never historically, never in Australia happened before."	
4155	Perception of CAMP. He had no direct knowledge of CAMP. He believed they were a more conservative organisation who weren't going to win the revolution. Terry believed there would be a revolution and things would change dramatically.	CAMP
4411	If you enjoyed someone's company you had sex with them. There were some love affairs. People were open about their open relationships.	
4520	After the break-up of Gay Liberation people kept in contact with the same people through sharing houses, meetings, socialised with them and there was constant round of rallies and demos.	Gay Liberation
4550	There was an involvement in a broad range of left issues. He recalls being in a gay contingent at an anti-US rally. John Gould kissed him in the middle of the street, but they survived.	John Gould
4645	Remembers the first National Homosexual Conference (NHC) and he went with Gary Schliemann and Terry Rolfe. They travelled by car. Met people from around the country. There were discussions, resolutions and a dance.	National Homosexual Conference Gary Schliemann, Terry Rolfe
4742	Adelaide conference. He met Chris Pearson. He found Chris funny. At the Canberra conference he went with Jon Ruwolt. Jon operated a mail order book service. He	Chris Pearson Jon Ruwolt

	went with Jon to sell books. Jon had started with Dr Duncan's Bookshop and when he came to Sydney he and his partner formed Bookazine. The partner now runs the Bookshop in Darlinghurst.	Dr Duncan's Bookshop Bookazine The Bookshop
4940	The big conference was in 1978 in Sydney. Terry had left university and helped organise it. It was significant for being held outside the universities. They tried to promote it. They had black flags with pink triangles from the tower of Paddington Town Hall. They hired <i>Rose Tattoo</i> to perform.	NHC 1978 Paddington Town Hall <i>Rose Tattoo</i>
5052	End of day one there was a resolution to not use <i>Rose Tattoo</i> because they were seen to be sexist and chauvinist. Terry's job was to tell the band that they could not play. It was upsetting for them and they couldn't make sense of it.	<i>Rose Tattoo</i>
5135	Had arranged for Mike Willesee to interview people. They recorded the interview in case the interview was edited.	Mike Willesee
5200	They wanted to manage the look of the Conference and they got Sally Colechin and Joyce to pose as the lesbian couple.	Sally Colechin Joyce
5219	It incorporated art for the first time and there was a controversy about this.	
5250	The people involved had left uni courses and began their careers. They brought in their skills, knowledge and experience.	
5300	Frank Walker (NSW Attorney General) addressed the conference and this was a first.	Frank Walker
5315	A rally was held from the Paddington Town Hall to Hyde Park where a Festival of Light Rally was being held. Terry, Brian McGahen and others knew there was going to be a clash with the police. This would jeopardise the potential of the conference. There were mass arrests. The rest of the conference was spent arranging bail.	Festival of Light Brian McGahen
5518	Terry was involved in the organising of the Conference.	
5610	It was called <i>Homosexuals at Work</i> to look like a Department of Main Roads sign in yellow and black.	<i>Homosexuals at Work</i>
5720	There was a street march in the morning. Terry, John Pearce and others put skates on and there was a sense of play. At night, the parade was for people who felt too self conscious to march in the day, to be in a familiar environment.	John Pearce
5820	The NHC was seen as more long term, collaborative and meant to produce something like legislative change for the long run.	
5850	Terry went to the Mardi Gras from Roslyn Gardens, where he lived with Will Sargent. They walked up to Taylor Square. He wore a Cash Palace bomber jacket.	Will Sargent
010018	The parade was a motley bunch, walking down the street having a bit of fun. It was meant to end up in Hyde Park. The police intervened near IG/Duffy Brothers.	Hyde Park
010108	There was no conscious plan to go to the Cross.	
010201	Marched to Fitzroy Gardens. It was unorganised. Some people were suggesting to go down Macleay Street to Cowper Wharf Road. There was a general feeling to disperse and break up.	Fitzroy Gardens Macleay Street Cowper Wharf Road
010302	Coppers came and "put it on". "I recall Kings Cross people like the bouncers and the sailors and other people who work in the cross that underground sort of trade who have never like the coppers either ... it gave them an opportunity to get caught into a blue with the coppers and it was just on for young and old".	Kings Cross
010344	Shop owners tried to shut up their shops. Lids were removed from public waste bins and thrown like frisbies.	
010411	Terry spoke to a senior policeman. "Is there a sound system. This is getting out of control". Then someone punched him in the back of the head and his hat hit Terry in the face.	
010439	He was thinking of using the sound system to get people to step back and quell a very violent situation.	

010514	It was usual for people in demos to push the barrier as far as they could. He thinks the police were annoyed with the marchers getting away with what they did, they would have had their own personal views on homosexuals and the marchers being on their turf. "it was the interface between the criminal world and their world and it was a buffer zone where they exchanged information, money and favours."	
010643	It settled down and people rallied and go to Darlinghurst Police Station.	Darlinghurst Police Station
010722	In the march back a guy in a car was abusing them. Terry gave him lip back. He got out of his car and ran towards Terry. His car started to roll forward (near Caritas building). He ran back and a queen kicked the door shut. When he came toward Terry another queen tripped him. Then the car crashed. Terry ran and hid.	
010857	Then they hung around the Darlo Police Station. Some people got released. They heard Trixie and Theresa Green were letting people know at Patches about what had happened and gather money for bail.	Trixie, Theresa Green Patches
010927	At Liverpool Street Court next day Trixie and Theresa Grren appeared at the court. Terry thought it was significant that drag queens were at a rally for the first time. John Terry, a gay solicitor who was giving his time. John had spoken to the Magistrate and the Courts were open and people were free to attend. But the cops didn't allow people into the Court.	Liverpool Street Court John Terry
011047	"Drop the Charges" demos after that. Straight friends and civil libertarians attended. The first was a recreation of the original route. There were meetings in Darlinghurst attended by Virginia Bell.	"Drop the Charges" Virginia Bell
011330	Terry was involved after the first summer Mardi Gras which was postponed. The meetings were held in the old Marist Brothers School buildings in Liverpool Street.	Summer Mardi Gras Marist Brothers Building
011420	He was on the periphery of the Mardi Gras when it was in Boundary Street.	Boundary Street
011555	Terry supported the summer event. Brian McGahen agrees with him. The old left saw it as a sell out and thought the commercial venues were driving it and any and any political wins would be diminished by this. But Terry thought June was cold, more people come out in summer and people could dress up more.	Brian McGahen
011700	Debates about this were held in a club in Foveaux Street. When it moved to summer it got a new lease of life.	Foveaux Street
011800	Doesn't think politics changed too much. Commercial venues put in large floats when they could see they could make a dollar out of it, but the base of Mardi Gras grew. More people were coming to Sydney and living an out lifestyle. The Beresford started to trade and didn't have a hint of corruption and bribery. Sense of community in the area, a macho dress code, sex on venues. The scene grew and took Mardi Gras along for the ride.	Beresford Hotel
012020	With the increase in the base, these people wanted a say in where Mardi Gras was going and you got a broader range of views. There was a progressive left membership but it was more diverse.	Mardi Gras
012200	AIDS. Terry remembers reading about GRID in the mainstream media. He was concerned about it. And people were being tested but no one knew what they were being tested for or what it meant. Terry had a friend who was diagnosed with it around 1983. He was working for Social Security at the Darlinghurst office. They began getting cases. He had been involved in ways to stream line those cases. All cases were treated at St Vincents and "we were the Post Office for that site"	GRID Social Security St Vincents
012345	At Darlinghurst they were very supportive, as was the Department of Social Security. In the early days they got approval for Pam Blacker. She was a nurse who had	Department of Social Security

	worked for Albion Street (Clinic) to have space in (Darlinghurst Social Security) office. She approached people in the waiting rooms taking a history and blood samples from them which was used to get a better knowledge of it. The Department allowed Terry to attend a group that was being organised through Pallister House. It was a group of officers from a number of key Departments and Authorities across Sydney that could be involved if there was an epidemic to try to work out what was happening and what role each department would play.	Pam Blacker Albion Street Pallister House
012509	Pallister House was part of the NSW Health that was involved with education campaigns and research and was seen to be liberal.	Pallister House
012531	The meetings were for a couple of days and then they would go back to their workplaces and then would feed things back up through OH&S committees.	OH&S Committees
012550	Remembers David Cooper explaining the scientific basis. Only a small group of 20 public servants. Ken Davis represented the Commonwealth Employment Service. He remembers them asking Cooper if condoms were the answer and he said no, because the holes of a condom were too large.	David Cooper Ken Davis Commonwealth Employment Service
012650	They asked doctors what the risks were for different modes of sex and there was embarrassment and refusal to answer questions apart from "normal sex". A small interface happened between the scientific and gay community.	
012756	Formation of ACON. An early Committee had formed and John Pearce was the first employee. Then late in 1985 ACON was formed. They employed Bill Whittaker as Executive Director. He had a lot of experience in NSW Parliament and was skilled. He guided ACON to a more effective direction. In the Board of Management were people from gay lib days who were professionals working in their fields.	John Pearce ACON Bill Whittaker
012929	ACON's first job was education. To educate male gay community about this risks of HIV.	ACON
013000	Terry got a job heading the Welfare Section when consultants recommended ACON's functions include welfare. Community Support Network (CSN) had been brought in and with them policies were developed. Government departments relied on ACON to tell them what to do, in NSW and nationally.	ACON Community Support Network
013046	ACON educated the welfare and health sector about the issues and got them to expand services.	ACON
013100	People would need appropriate health care, community and clinical, health aids in the home (raised toilet seats), oxygen tanks, sheepskin to minimise pressure sores, transport home care, nutritional programs and specific programs to alleviate symptoms, funeral arrangements, prisons, child welfare, the blood rule in Rugby League etc.	Rugby League
013356	It was non-stop. HIV affected every policy and Bill Whittaker worked with Elizabeth Reid to develop a green paper. At the same time Neil Blewitt had come to an agreement with the NSW Liberals with Peter Bowen that there would be bi-partisan support. "They would not see things that would upset the applecart and let people get on and distribute syringes etc ..."	Bill Whittaker Elizabeth Reid NSW Liberal Party Peter Bowen
013500	Terry saw more and more of his friends and associates falling ill. From diagnosis to death was 9 months. People were wasting away. The advice was that 10% who were anti-body positive would die, then 20% and it grew. He remembers 2 funerals on the same day.	
013730	People with a name were treated in a secret ward at Royal North Shore. Some people in hospitals were not getting their meals brought into their rooms.	Royal North Shore
013800	Treatments were the breakthrough. The combination treatment and the reduction in toxicity of treatments and now they manipulate them to individual needs. It is working.	Combination Treatments

013915	By the mid 80s AIDS had taken off and by the mid 90s the obituaries began falling.	AIDS
014000	Terry briefly talks about his career in Social Security.	