

**Pride History Group Oral History Interview with John Greenway**

Interviewer: John Witte

Date: 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008

Location of interview: Wentworth Falls

Reason for interview: Early Mardi Gras Parades

Restrictions: None

Call No.: OH080331JH



<b>Time</b>	<b>Summary TAPE 1</b>	<b>Keywords</b>
File 01 0000	JG talks about his early life in Holland. He was born in 1934. His father died when he was 13, and he had to go to work at 14. Interested in radio electronics, and did a night course as a radio technician.	Holland
0206	At 17 his mother and his siblings came to Australia, sponsored by his uncle. Lived in Orange, learned English. Worked in unskilled jobs because his English wasn't good. Worked in Condobolin as a Yardsman for about a year.	Orange Condobolin
0405	Joined the Catholic Youth Organisation and got to know the locals. Then he returned to Orange and worked in the local radio shops.	Catholic Youth Organisation
0448	Mother remarried and the family moved to Harboard where her husband worked. The marriage failed.	Harboard
0526	Worked for AWA for a couple of years. They serviced electronic equipment in aircraft.	AWA
0551	AWA asked him to go to Singapore in late '57 to service the outstation there. After a year he met a young man and started a relationship. He had lots of fun with his boyfriend and went to church and felt awful about it. After about three years he came back to Sydney.	Singapore
0741	By now J realized he was gay. Came back to Sydney and went to a part time evening HSC course and completed it in one year. Then decided to go to university of NSW to do Electrical Engineering with funds he saved in Singapore. He spent all his funds in one year. He was 26 and he got a mature aged student scholarship.	University of NSW
1040	He had read an article in the SMH whilst in Singapore about the back bar of the Rex Hotel and how it was a meeting place for gays. (1960/1) He went there and had a couple of short adventures with people and found himself a boyfriend.	Rex Hotel
1125	J describes the Rex as very crowded, all men, all in suits, everyone smoking. He tried to strike up a conversation but was not very successful. He caught up with some people and because he had a car he was able to take people to the parties after.	House Parties
1305	Everybody brought a pack of beer. The music was the popular music of the day, but not too loud, so people could talk. Some dancing, but generally it was too crowded. "People would pair off	

	and disappear into the back yard or what ever, but mostly people tried finding somebody to go home with them afterwards”	
1405	He met his boyfriend at a pub and they lived together. After a while his mother knew he was living with a man. Nothing was said about it. He used to come to family events. The relationship lasted 4 years, during the time he went to university. Not much time for socializing. After the last exam, his partner decided to go to England.	
1615	He then worked with Qantas as an electrical engineer. He got himself a place in Maroubra. Shared a flat with a straight man he went to uni with.	Qantas Maroubra
1709	Then latched on to man who was a solicitor with the Railways. He was very straight acting. He had a flat in the Cross and J went there a couple of nights a week. The relationship lasted 3 ½ years.	Railways
1845	By this time he had met Terry (Goulden). They first lived at T’s mothers in Loftus. Saved up and bought a place in Bexley.	Terry Goulden Loftus, Bexley
2025	They were saving and didn’t go out much.	
2049	In 1973 they heard about CAMP and decided to become members but at first didn’t go along. In late 1974, they were going to have meetings at the club house about submissions for the Royal Commission Report on Human Relationships and thought they could help with that.	CAMP Royal Commission on Human Relationships
2145	He remembers the people there at their first meeting. Mike Clohesy, Peter de Waal, Ron Austin, Bonsall, Peter Trebilco, Robyn Kennedy, Robyn Plaister, maybe Betty Hounslow.	Mike Clohesy Peter de Waal, Ron Austin, Peter Bonsall Boon, Peter Trebilco, Robyn Kennedy, Robyn Plaister, Betty Hounslow
2225	The submission went well. Got an insight into “what the gay movement was going to be about, to make things better for us”.	
2250	Got involved in running the place. The Phone Counselling. It was in a small room upstairs. Downstairs was where all the festivities took place, small kitchen, coffee shop, a broom cupboard which had an amplifier for music for dances. Tables and chairs set up so people could sit and chat. Some people performed whilst serving coffee. People talked about problems they had.	Phone Counselling Glebe Pt Road
2350	The purpose of the counselling service was to make people feel comfortable about coming out. The room upstairs had one telephone, and another which another could listen in for training purposes. After each call, they were given feedback. “very intensive, one on one”. He liked the idea of getting people comfortable with their sexuality or giving advice on things they were worried about – parent or boyfriend trouble.	Phone Counselling

2521	The trainer had been trained by the person before them. The person who set it up person was perhaps John Ware who also set up CAMP. He had heard that they had tried to ring Lifeline about being gay. The person had advised gardening as the solution.	John Ware CAMP
2640	There was a person from Sweden who gave the name "Phone a friend", which was an English translation of a similar Swedish service.	Phone a Friend
2710	Mentions counselors who met up with callers after - "Phone a fuck" – and this practice was stamped on.	
2725	Stayed as one telephone in Glebe. Had to move to Wellington Street, near Central. They went in with the Fitness Group to defray the rent. They again had to move and this time to Holt Street, with the fitness Group. It was a good place, but an old wooden building above a spray painting place.	Glebe Pt Road; Wellington Street; Holt Street; Fitness Exchange;
2910	There was a coffee shop. Acceptance was also there. They had services on a Friday night and then stayed on in the coffee shop where Counselling Service served wine. Dances as well. A separate room, with 2 telephones, staffed from 6pm to 10pm. When the phone started ringing it didn't stop. There was another office for Terry G who worked there to gather statistics on the number of calls so they could argue for a Government Grant. He became the administrator and was on the dole and did it for 18 mo and gathered the figures.	Acceptance; Gay Counselling Service Terry Goulden;
3120	An active member died and left the CS a large amount of money. So it bought a place in Surry Hills. There they had 2 phones and still staffed by volunteers. One night it was run by women.	Gay Counselling Service
3210	When women rang, they were referred to the women's night.	
3240	When they got funding Terry G was the CS first paid employee. He was the administrator.	Terry Goulden
3255	No dances or coffee shop because it was too small. So income was reduced. Previously they survived on money from the coffee shop.\$90/week. Renting was not so expensive. And membership fees. They were also supported by other gay organisations such Pollys.	Pollys.
3620	CS referred people on to social groups.	GCS.
3700	J talks about a group of straight transvestites and how CS helped with a social outing for them – at CAMP and at the Boomerangs. And they came and brought their wives. It was very successful.	CAMP Boomerangs
3825	PFLAG came out of Holt Street. CS was contacted by a couple with a lesbian daughter and they felt that parents need more help than gay people. They were US Quakers and they started up PFLAG at the Quakers Hall. J went there a couple of times with his mother and later she was available for referrals.	Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays Quakers

4055	He was Secretary of CS in Glebe and then Holt Street. Somebody just had to have the position.	GCS
4220	CAMP when he first got involved had no factions. Everybody worked at everything – the board served coffee on certain nights. Women had their own night. 3 or 4 women on the board as well. “They made sure that when we organised things, we didn’t forget the women side of it ... They kept us on our toes”.	CAMP
4425	Originally, there was no women’s night. There was a roster, so that if a woman rang, they could refer them to the night when there was a woman on.	
4500	“We knew about the other groups, but we really didn’t interact that much. We knew there was gays on campus, there was a gay solidarity group, who were socialists” People at CAMP were socialists, but a different type of socialist. They knew about the social groups and there was a cross over in membership.	CAMP Gay Solidarity Group
4620	J talks about a split in CAMP. There was a group who wanted CAMP to become a political group and there were others who didn’t want to have anything to do with politics. They were interested in the counselling/coffee shop side.	CAMP
4700	The political group wanted the law changed but wanted more radical action. That meant demonstrating, writing to politicians, and the others wanted to keep away from that.	
4730	A meeting was held and it was overwhelmingly in favour of the counselling/coffee shop side. The other group walked out and formed Gay Activists Alliance.	Gay activists alliance
4900	The idea of the mardi gras was decided somewhere else. Someone came to CAMP to talk about commemorating Stonewall and CAMP supported it. Not sure if the Mardi Gras was discussed.	CAMP Stonewall Mardi Gras
4950	J went on the first Mg. Everybody knew about it. Gathered at Taylor Square and police were there in “very heavy numbers”. J can’t remember people in fancy dress. Walked down Oxford Street yelling out of the “bars into the street.” The truck was being hurried by the police. It was a short route and when they reached Hyde Park they were nowhere near finished. The cops confiscated the lead truck. No one could control the parade. He believes the plan was to go to the park and disperse.	Taylor Square Hyde Park
5145	The crowd headed off to the Cross. KX was the place to go for gays before Oxford Street started. “A group of cops tried to stop us there (cnr College and William) about 6 or 7 stood across the road. People walked straight through. There was no way of stopping us. So we walked up Macleay Street, and then we got to the fountain. We are at the cross, now what. If we had a microphone ... the cops refused to give (Lance G) the microphone or anything. Then somebody shouted ... Darlinghurst Police station. Cause that was where gay people	Kings Cross Oxford Street College Street William Street Macleay Street Lance Gowland Darlinghurst Police Station

	had always been arrested and all that. And the cop at that time realized that things were going wrong for them and they called in black marias and people got thrown into (them) and it became a full scale riot. I remember staying on the side of the road. I threw a garbage can, and missed.”	
5400	People who had been arrested were taken to Darlinghurst Police Station and duly booked in. People were milling around. Someone found out what the bail was going to be. Luckily J had a fair amount of money at home after a CAMP dance and brought it back. He told Lance Gowland he had some money for bail “and he threw his arms around me and kissed me”. Lance may not have like J personally, but when he arrived with the money all was forgiven. Other people brought money. The \$300-\$400 he brought was given back.	Darlinghurst Police Station CAMP Lance Gowland
5545	He couldn’t demonstrate due to working on the following Monday.	
5610	J recalls that Clohesy had been fired when the submission to the Royal Commission was made. There was a demonstration outside St Marys. That was J’s first demonstration.	Mike Clohesy St Marys Cathedral
5708	J took place in the National Conference in 1978. He said that he had heard that it had been seeded by cops. The plan was to walk down Oxford Street and go down to Hyde Park, where Fred Nile was having a rally. They were going to walk around Hyde Park shouting and walk back again to the Paddington Town Hall. The cops intercepted them on Oxford Street. The hoed into people and started arresting them. J had one cop on one side and 3 lesbians on the other, and he realized he couldn’t get J so he went over to someone who was walking alone.	4 <sup>th</sup> National Homosexual Conference Oxford Street Hyde Park Paddington T. H.
5910	Reactions from the social groups to the mardi gras arrests. He heard no feedback. People were upset about the cops had broken up a peaceful demonstration and started throwing people in gaol. The unprovoked actions by the police was what upset people. He “did not hear anyone say that we should not demonstrate, you shouldn’t go out on the street.”	Social Groups
10035	Terry and he did not go to a couple and then went to the summer ones. He had become a member of other groups like Ankali, PFLAG, the Counselling Service,	Ankali PFLAG GCS
10100	Council of Gay Groups. He went to meetings representing CAMP. Some groups were very conservative. The meetings were seldom very peaceful because they wanted different things. There was a woman who organised it. He remembers that he had heard that it was going to be set up and I was not sure why or how. And we decided that we should take part in this. And I used to go to the meetings on behalf of CAMP. Acceptance was in it.”	Council of Gay Groups CAMP

10243	Their aim was “that if there was any activities happening that it would, people would co-ordinate and cooperate in order to make it happen. Rather than lots of each going off in a different direction all by themselves.”	
10312	J thinks GSG came along and thought it was far too conservative and didn’t come back. They talked about raising money through having dances and having social events, getting people together. The Gay Business Association was also part of it.	GCS Gay Business Association
	<b>TAPE 2</b>	
File 02 0000	They were concerned with talking with legislators. Not demonstrations.	
00012	CAMP wanted to be a charity so they would get tax deductibility on donations. They had a problem with “Gay” as a word in the name “Gay Counselling Service”. They accepted “Gay’s” as in someone’s surname. It was a long battle. Terry G had the time to research and lobby.	CAMP
00256	AIDS. Terry had been working in Sydney Hospital in the STD Clinic. Had got to know Bobby Goldsmith when he got sick. With other friends, set up a group to look after him. Raised money and bought a video recorder etc. His friends did stints of one hour. “He didn’t want to talk just hold my hand.” Bobby had come back from the Gay Games in San Francisco with medals. He was well known in the community and they got a good response.	AIDS Bobby Goldsmith Gay Games San Francisco
0749	This was an informal group. When Bobby died, they had the things they had bought him and they thought they should be used for someone else.	
0850	GCS got involved to the extent of its phone counselors getting a thorough training in AIDS and what it involved. Not a lot of AIDS counselling as such. Those people would ring Ankali or CSN.	GCS AIDS Ankali
1028	GCS survived the 80s. Gay lives became so more open, and there lots of bars etc. People rang to ask where they were and how to behave when they got there. It was a function that the Glebe Coffee Shop did well. People were introduced into gay life and gay awareness and this space disappeared in Surry Hills. People then had to go to venues. J believes it is better for those coming out to go into the commercial scene gently.	Glebe Coffee shop Surry Hills
1340	John was working in Qantas and got promotions which took him away from engineering and he was bored. He couldn’t afford to get out.	Qantas
1520	Sydney Tech used to run courses for engineers to give them electrician licenses. He got an electrician license which entitled him to work for someone else. Booze Allen consultants came through Qantas and 2,000 jobs were lost. J got the nickel plated hand shake and left. He began working as an electrician and had a contractor’s license in 5 years.	Sydney Tech Booze Allen Qantas

1850	John worked for Dawn. "She was one of the roughest toughest people in Sydney, she really had a good heart. ... You did the right thing by her, she did the right thing by you."	Dawn O'Donnell
1925	J's first job was at the Toolshed in Oxford Street. Then she called him for more jobs. "She said the first people you pay are the people who work for you because you rely on them. Then everyone else would come later."	Toolshed
2036	She bailed out one of the Mardi Gras ... she guaranteed the money. She donated to a number of gay donations with no fanfare. She made a decision quickly.	Mardi Gras
2138	Worked on the Toolsheds Oxford Street and Newtown. She also ran a gym close to the railway station in Newtown. Worked at the Newtown often, and the Imperial. Lots of work in upstairs dining room, every time she changed it about. Lots of old wiring in steel tubing.	Toolshed Newtown Hotel Imperial Hotel
2310	Worked for Roger Claude at King Steam. "He was a funny guy Roger ... he was always so jolly and good to get on with. He always had a joke and everything was fine." He was inherited by the Cousens. Did a lot of work for them at King Steam and at their house in Erskineville.	Roger Claude Tessydre Cousens Erskineville
2439	Worked in the Roman Bath. David and Nick were the owners. He worked there when it was not running, in the morning. Nick bought Kens Karate Klub. He also worked at KKK. Also worked at 253, Bodyline.	Roman Bath Kens Karate Klub 253 Bodyline
2720	J got John, an 3 <sup>rd</sup> year apprentice who was straight from Westinghouse. It was an arrangement whereby Westinghouse would pick up apprentices who had lost their jobs because of failed businesses and keep them on so they would not loose their qualifications and then farm them out.	Westinghouse
2925	John was quite happy to work for a gay boss and they got on well. They did a lot of jobs for gay clients, but didn't blink an eyelid, or ask any questions. He was with J for 9 years until J retired and then took on the business with the gay clientele.	
3200	After he retired Terry and he decided to go to the Blue Mountains. He is now semi retired doing work through "Independent Retirees".	Blue Mountains
3325	J talked about being a member of Ankali. Provides emotional support for gay people and their partners. CSN provides support for bodily needs. Jim Dykes, Jenny Potts and Terry Goulden set up Ankali. J was trained and was a volunteer and did it for 4/5 years. Didn't do much with the counselling service.	Ankali Jim Dykes Jenny Potts Terry Goulden
3508	The amount of time you spend depends on the person assigned to you. From 3 – 4 hours a week sometimes a couple of hours a day. They will ring if they feel down or J would visit. Sometimes 3-4 hours a couple times a week. And traveling to their place. J	GCN

	had 7 “clients” and after the last died, he then left and went back to the GCN.	
3615	Helped set up PFLAG in Holt Street. After the founders left, he helped take it on and they met at the Heffron Hall. It was important to have a gay man there to present things from that point of view.	PFLAG Heffron Hall