

**PRIDE HISTORY GROUP ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW
 EARLY VENUES & SOCIAL GROUPS
 INTERVIEWEE: IAN MCLEAN (ALSO HEARD IS
 DENNIS FISHER)
 INTERVIEWER: ROBERT COLMAN
 DATE: 10/02/06**



File no. & time elapsed	Log	Places Names
<p>CD 1 track 1 00:00:10</p> <p>00:00:42</p> <p>00:01:46</p> <p>00:03:10</p> <p>00:04:27</p>	<p>Robert commences interview</p> <p>grandparents</p> <p>parents, siblings</p> <p>intro to interview subject, how gay life was 'back then'</p> <p>Groups formed out of universities</p>	<p>Knights of the Chameleons</p> <p>Gay Business Association UNSW</p>
<p>CD 1 track 2 00:00:00</p> <p>00:01:40</p> <p>00:02:19</p> <p>00:02:36</p> <p>00:02:55</p> <p>00:03:58</p> <p>00:05:15</p> <p>00:06:02</p>	<p>Camp Inc 'A primitive place where the dances were'</p> <p>Djing and putting music on reel to reel tape</p> <p>A great venue</p> <p>the heart of the gay community</p> <p>promoting the gay community, keeping business separate</p> <p>the right personality to provide music to the gay community</p> <p>primitive drag shows described; reel to reel backing tapes</p> <p>drag performers of the day; Dennis won 1st 2nd</p>	<p>Balmain CAMP INC Sydney University</p> <p>Chameleons 432 Parramatta Rd Petersham Dawn O'Donnell Donnie Smith Bill Bland</p> <p>Chameleons 432 Parramatta Rd Johnny Farnham The Zoot</p> <p>Isadora's</p>

	& 3 rd prize as Andrews Sisters	Shirley Bassey Judy Nina Simone
00:08:20	Backing tracks were on records	
00:08:57	Ian discusses start of Chameleons	Chameleons
00:09:48	How Chameleons petered out and Mandor took it over; an obnoxious man fleeced that organisation and it ended	Joan and Betty Mandor Mandy Smith Doris Dowling
00:11:02	New club started, run for profit, Chameleons always did it for charity Ian discusses nature of charities at the time; also that the donations were publicly announced as from the gay community, to raise its profile	Aquarius Club Macobean? Hall Darlinghurst Bill Robinson
00:12:54	Ian discusses music formats – records or reel to reel	
00:13:18	Live acts	Johnny O’Keefe Little Pattie Paddington Town Hall
00:13:29	Aquarius moved to Paddington Town Hall which nearly killed it	
00:13:57	Gay social groups started to thrive Drag became more professional Social clubs had to be run like small businesses; Ian mentions alcohol licenses which were issued weekly – you couldn’t get a blanket licence for a public hall	Kuringal Social Club Pollys Social Club Regent Social Club Yvonne Oakey Boomerangs Social Club

00:15:47	'movers and shakers' – strong willed people who had been patrons of the Chameleons	
00:16:51	Each social club had a reason for existence; no events clashed so lan djed for all of them Pollys are the only survivors and lan still djs for them – 2006 is their 42nd anniversary	Pollys
00:17:04	Regents' reason for existence was 'stunning frocks'	Regents Debbie Brown
00:17:50	Kuringals pioneered the Olympic Games, handbag tossing and other sports originated here; when Kuringals self-destructed Pollys took it over lan mentions politics and loss of interest as causes of groups self destructing	Kuringals
00:19:28	lan mentions lack of young people to keep social groups alive	Cronulla social group
00:19:49	Pollys put out a help call and were saved by new blood on the committee Functions getting bigger and bigger	Pollys Marrickville Town Hall Arq
00:21:05	lan discusses need for social groups as alternative to commercial venues; work of volunteers, money given to charities	St Vincents Hospital AIDS Ward ACON
00:22:40	lan discussed starting djing for Chameleons, his beginnings as a dj in the late 50's	
00:23:33	lan discusses how he started out in the sound industry; mobile discos	Perth Bob

00:25:05	Started doing gay functions in community halls	Penrith Bankstown North Rocks Mulgoa Hall Liverpool
00:26:00	North Rocks group the Chabascos which splintered from Pollys	Chabascos
00:26:41	Ian mentions people not prepared to travel to Sydney centre so they started their own groups, including the Blue Mountains group Ilan only djs for Pollys and the Blue Mountains group They've been close to folding after running the annual Queens weekend ball for over 20 years	Blue Mountains Lawson Community Hall
00:27:00	Ill feeling over name change to 'Garden & Gourmet Society', it has since been relaunched as Three Sisters	Three Sisters Social Club Garden & Gourmet Society
00:28:00	Ilan mentions balls started at Kieron wedding reception place Ran 4 times a year until Don Smith died of AIDS Grand gay balls that got too big for Kieron at one stage; they would hire the Hilton	Don Smith Bill Bland Kieron
00:28:40	Ilan describes traffic-stopping antics of drag queens arriving in limos to the 'debutantes ball'	Hilton
00:29:54	Well heeled people in the chameleons started the Emperor and Empress	Chameleons Emperor and Empress of Sydney
00:30:20	An annual presentation where the Emperor and Empress of Sydney would be announced –	Molly Fuller Barry Geary

00:33:35	this started in the Chameleons and carried on at Kieron events Ilan delaborates on the nature of the Chameleons – only ever about 30 members	Knights of the Chameleons
00:34:15	Ivy was one of the first on the commercial scene Other venues discussed, evolving of venues	Ivy Richter Ivy's Birdcage Purple Onion Kensington Ken 'Candy' Johnson Garden of Eden 432 Parramatta Rd Petersham
00:35:03	Ilan says there were never any police raids ; police only ever visited out of 'intrigue'; discusses problem of BYO, having to bring an esky of alcohol along with your outfit Cost of entering venue discussed	
00:37:29		Trocadero
00:37:50	Another major presentation at the Kieron by the Chameleons, voted by the audience which continues in Three Sisters	Gown of the Year Chameleons Kieron Three Sisters
00:39:03	Ilan relates hilarious details of an arrival by helicopter to the Olympic Games; drag queens arriving in pantechinons, Dennis with group as Empress of Russia and entourage; Ilan relates the time one queen opened the Games as Queen Elizabeth, en route in a Bentley being mistaken as the real Queen of England who was in Sydney at the time	Marcia North Rocks Olympic Games Macquarie University sports field

00:43:08	Claudia was notorious for wearing live animals on her head gear including a live crocodile on her head at the Trocadero	Claudia Trocadero
00:43:23	Dennis met Karen Chant at this time, a bit before Ian started going to functions Bondi Rex was the place to go on Saturday nights	Brian 'Karen' Chant Bondi Junction Bondi Rex
00:44:27	Discussion of pioneering drag queens and venues like the Garden of Eden which had an artificial oak tree in the middle of the floor Karen became well known at Capriccio's Ian sees Dawn at funerals, introduces him as 'my sound man'	Rose Jackson Candy Garden of Eden Enmore Rd Capriccio's Oxford St Nick L?
00:45:48	Ian retired in 2004 from the sound industry, details his career installing shopping centre sound systems etc. Djing was always on the side, not a money maker	
00:47:04	Discusses social scene, some couples and lots of singles, cruising and 'meat rack' behaviour Ian says he had a good time too	Molly Fuller Bill Donnie Smith Dawn O'Donnell
00:48:07	Ian discusses near misses, sexual conquests/coupling that might have been, and the nature of venues like Aquarius Club and 432 Parramatta Rd, to meet other gay people	432 Parramatta Rd Petersham Aquarius Club
00:48:36	Details on atmosphere of sexual pick ups. Djing	Chameleons

00:49:47	from the dressing room for Chameleons	
00:50:17	People coming off stage to get changed, groping etc, 'innocent times'	
00:50:51	No sign of drugs. Dennis relates one experience with purple hearts	432 Parramatta Rd Petersham
00:54:36	Another highly successful club was GaySoc at UNSW, Ian djed at their dances and employed cute students. Details about union owned halls, 2 to 300 people every six weeks. Licensed venue Philip C who started it was also founding member of GLBA	GaySoc UNSW Philip C? John Marsden Peter Schutz?
00:55:12	Followed through until the early 90s, social groups began to disappear	Gay and Lesbian Business Association
00:56:35	Commercial venues took over from early 80s to 90s	Boomerangs Regents Debbie Brown
00:56:58	Ian only djed at community events, never at commercial venues	Cronulla Taren Point
00:58:14	Discussion with Dennis about dances in Cronulla	
00:58:58	Ian also djed for Wollongong social group Unity and central coast group	Unity social group Wollongong
	Ian talks about restaurant he owned in North Sydney where he also ran dances, called Mosaic; which was half old time music	North Sydney Mosaic Yvonne Oakey Cahills Murray Fronds?
	Talk of barn dances and how Mosaic attracted a more mature crowd	Pollys Brent Phillips
	Ian called the restaurant Connections after a	Connections North Sydney

00:59:23	Perth venue, dances became a fortnightly affair, couldn't always dj at Pollys as well Ian also djed for Clover women-only dances	Clover Businesswomen Leichhardt Town Hall
01:00:26	Helen Reddy signed records, I Am Woman was Clover's anthem Ian mentions OUT FM, gay community radio	Helen Reddy OUT FM Campsey
01:00:59	Discusses their history and nature of djs available Ian djed at Clover's final event 2004?	Darling Harbour boat venue?
01:03:00	Talk about demand for old time dances	Connections North Sydney
01:03:27	Ian djed for central coast group	Coastal Connections Central Coast social group
01:03:42	People moved to the central coast due to high cost of living in Sydney; evolution of central coast group	
CD 2 track 1		
00:00:14	Ian talks about membership of Three Sisters, helping keep the events like the grand ball going	Three Sisters Blue Mountains Fairmont
00:01:15	One queen destroyed the records	
00:02:25	Details about men/women ratios of social groups	Clover Pollys Regents Boomerangs Kuringals Kieron
00:03:06	'reasons for existence'	

00:03:21	Pollys took over Olympics, numbers attending dropped, decided on final event	Polympics Erskineville Oval
00:04:10	Hard work / satisfaction in being involved in community events	Springwood Peppers
00:05:20	Talk of Blue Mountains ball dress ups	Hilton
00:07:14	Drag balls as public spectacle, more anecdotes & costume descriptions	Kieron Donnie Smith Molly Clover Regents Kuringals
00:07:54		
CD 2 Track 2		
00:00:04	Robert relates extra details – Mandor was closed down by police raid after Qantas employee tip off	Chameleons Mandor Wal ‘Doris’ Dowling Mandy Smith
00:01:36	Details of Royal Awards parties – guests dressed as international royalty	Don Smith Cammeray Royal Awards parties
00:02:51		