Pride History Group Oral History Interview with Rae Morris Interviewer: Sandra Mackey Focus of interview: Life of Rae Morris and Lesbian social life from the 1960s onwards Date of interview: 04/12/2008 Place of interview: Marrickville, NSW Conditions: N/A



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Log	Summary	Keywords
00:45	1962 started going out on the lesbian scene in Sydney when she was	
	18 years old, lived in country from 8 years old to 18 years old	
01:10	Sussex Hotel in Sussex Street, female dominated, Friday night was girls	Sussex Hotel;
	night	
01:40	Twin sister also lesbian, told her about the social events, hard to find	
	out about gay events otherwise, had not dated women at that point	
	but knew she was a lesbian. Go back to someone's flat after pubs	
	closed. Women from suburbs stayed over night.	
03:00	Stella publican much later	
03:48	Queers not tolerated	
03:30	Pfahlerts Hotel in Margaret Street, hat and gloves, classy went in work	Pfahlerts Hotel;
	clothes, couldn't show affection or signs of being lesbian	
05:00	Worked for importing company, director now, worked in Kings Cross	
	and Kent Street	
05:45	Still has friends from those times, had to look after yourselves in those	
	days so friendships very important, especially being honest and open	
	with friends about sexuality	
06:33	Parties, relax, be yourself, go to beach or national park with same party	
	friends.	
06:58	Chameleons (?) social group formed by group of men. Did activities	Chameleons;
	with them. Chequers.	Chequers;
07:30	Gay men and Lesbian women going to events as a couple and	
	sometimes marrying to avoid suspicion. Old maid stereotype. Marriage	
	as a front in society. Married tony and had two daughters. When 40	
	met woman and split up with Tony.	
09:50	Purple Onion went on a Sunday night, the 'in crowd', Dawn opened	Purple Onion; Dawn
	Trolley Car in City Road, Dawn did a lot for the Gay community, Trolley	O'Donnell; Trolley
	Car opened after hours, opened mid to late 60s, Sussex, Onion, Trot	Car;
	(sp?) Inn	
11:22	[Inaudible – Tape damaged for part of the audio] Camellias, Diggers	Chameleons;
	(?) Glebe, Dancers and shows, Ray Charlton, Petersham on Parramatta	Diggers Hall; Ray
	Road, Bikies, People would rent a house for a night	Charlton;
13:50	Relationships	
14:00	Roller Derby in the 1960s, Roller Derby girls came back and had a party	Roller Derby;
	at her house at Elizabeth street, her sister went to the US with one of	Hockey;
	the girls. Lots of lesbians in Roller Derby and Hockey were lesbians.	
17:00	Hockey, carnivals	Hockey;
17:55	Discrimination, Coogee Bay Hotel avoided, self-preservation, the forest	Coogee Bay Hotel;
	was mixed and could go, central Surry Hills. Tolerant. Rocks was not	
	tolerant, wharfies pubs or young people. Each year like peeling an	

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	onion there would be a new place. Avoided nasty places because wanted to be yourself. Incident where a friend committed suicide due to sexuality issues.	
20:30	Trolley Car, City Road, Small venue, didn't have to worry about police coming in, laws about women's clothing, had to wear a bra, three pieces of women's apparel, police used it to arrest women.	Trolley Car;
22:15	Purple Onion, Kandi, Paddington, Woollahra, horse shoe	Purple Onion; Kandy's Park Inn Hotel; Woollahra;
23:10	Dawn, Peg committed suicide, Julia Farmer and Dawn partners.	Dawn O'Donnell; Julia Farmer;
24:20	1972 had a child, RM's nightlife wound down and had people over for dinners etc.	
25:00	Polly's, Gay Olympics at Erskineville Park, Cammeray first sporting event, Donnie Smith, high heel throwing competition, cricket match, girls and guys, fun.	Pollynesians; Erskineville Park; Cammeray; Donnie Smith;
26:24	CAMP, not involved. In the 1980s did fundraising for HIV/AIDS. Not interested in political side. Not involved with lesbian feminist side. Found them too "black and white"	HIV/AIDS; Lesbian feminism;
27:30	Went to Europe, Austria, Vienna at a gay pub, women's bar nearby, went for a drink, thrown out because a male was with them. Did not like the lack of mixing of the genders and gay men in particular.	Vienna;
30:00	Having discreet relationships with women during marriage.	
30:25	Ruby's, Oxford Street	Ruby's;
32:00	Drugs, Vietnam, contemporary drug and alcohol issues	Drugs; Vietnam;
32:45	Coming out to the family, mother accepting and allowed the twins to bring girls home, brothers accepting, father died, children accepting	-
36:58	Together with Jo, her partner, for 18 years.	
37:29	On the Board of Hockey NSW, tournaments on weekends, Mardi Gras each year, disappointed when the Newtown Hotel closed, meet friends at the Bank, don't like the Sly Fox, Enmore – girls pub. Poly's events.	Hockey NSW; Mardi Gras; Newtown Hotel; Sly Fox;
40:00	Lesbian parenting, children	
41:29	Spent 12 years as the secretary of the Newtown police community committee, representative for the lesbian community, Terry for gay men, meet 4 times a year, attitudes of police, Gay and Lesbian liaison officers participating in Mardi Gras.	Newtown Police Community Committee; Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officers;
42:25	No behaviour modification due to sexuality, Butch Femme	Butch; Femme;
43:55	Cricketers Arm, Drag shows, Women's shows, lesbian idol singing concert, Diggers show that Stella organised, Carmen (Drag) North Shore performance	Cricketer's Arms; Carmen; Stella; Diggers Hall;