

Pride History Group Oral History Interview with Bruce Pollack**Interviewer:** Larry Galbraith**Date:** 1st & 13th December 1995**Location of interview:** Newtown**Reason for interview:** Research for book on the Mardi Gras**Restrictions:** None

Time	Summary: Tape TWO A	Keywords
0.00.01	Bill resigned; no-one contested the position. Murray became President.	
1.20	Murray was a very different President – spent vast amount of time consulting, gauging opinions; Bill listened, but Murray consulted more.	Murray McLachlan
3.15	Very difficult to be the head of Mardi Gras without any knowledge of how the organization works.	
3.57	Working as the paid publicist, Bruce observes that the head of Mardi Gras is seen by the wider community as the preeminent spokesperson on behalf of the gay and lesbian community across the whole country.	
5.15	When Bruce told Murray he was going on the Today Show, Murray had to come out to his parents.	Today Show, 1988
6.55	Murray served more time on the board than anyone else. Vast number of things happened under his presidency – the move to Woolloomooloo; changing of the name; increase in size of festival, financing, staffing, more women, more community involvement.	Murray McLachlan
8.15	Impressions of Murray are tainted by the take over the next year. Controversy around the inclusion of women and fear of outcomes of a 'women vote'	
13.10	The 'closed shop' view was not true; did actively encourage involvement in the organization. The minute books of Mardi Gras were available for perusal.	
15.55	the organization was protected; in a cash sense the organization was growing substantially.	
16.45	The two-year rule: as secretary, BP proposed it – came out of a concern for continuity of membership of the board. Came out of concern for getting people with appropriate skills.	
20.30	Cath first became involved due to need to get more lesbians involved.	Cath Phillips
21.10	Attitude from the board on more lesbian involvement:	
22.50	Resistance from some board members over the name change. Misogynist impulse among gay males.	
26.35	Robyn Tyler – said that name had to change at ever opportunity she could.	
27.25	13 December 1995: Second Interview	
28.15	All meetings happened at the workshop;	
28.50	The meeting where discussed Cath going onto the board: expecting an election tussle at the end of the meeting – suggested to bring a couple of women onto Murray's ticket.	Cath Phillips

	<p>Met at BP's house, Murray, Cath and another board member. Proposed putting three women on Murray's ticket, if agreed not to go against them at the election. Cath accepted.</p> <p>BP didn't stand for the next election, behind the scenes, but did broker a deal – act as 'power broker'.</p> <p>Early evening, week night, Murray and BP there first to prep, very open about how they wanted to play it with Cath.</p>	
34.20	Others on the board would've known what was happening	
35.00	<p>Fear of an election battle – wanted to win. Wanted to cooperate and win.</p> <p>Why Cath? Cath was the power broker of the women. Vocal, good speaker, clear-headed. Highly committed to Mardi Gras.</p>	Cath Phillips
38.30	<p>Cath arrived at the meeting – Murray led the conversation.</p> <p>Cath agreed. Didn't take long to decide.</p>	Cath Phillips