

Pride History Group Oral History Interview with Bruce Pollack

Interviewer: Larry Galbraith

Date: 13th December 1995

Location of interview: Newtown

Reason for interview: Research for book on the Mardi Gras

Restrictions: None



| Time | Summary: Tape THREE | Keywords |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 0.30 | Ralph McAllister did not get on with Kevin (Treasurer), and Kevin was also calling for Ralph to go. | Ralph McAllister coup |
| 2.05 | Kevin treated Ralph as a 'servant to the board' – to take direction rather than being an initiator of activities. | |
| 3.05 | Kevin and the artists' faction wanted Ralph to go. | |
| 3.25 | Murray behaved as Chair in this matter, listening to both sides. | |
| 4.10 | Bruce called a special meeting so that everyone could be there. Felt there were no grounds for the termination of a contract. | |
| 5.10 | Kevin advanced the notions that Ralph was not good at dealing with people; wrong decision making. Bruce voted against dismissing him as no grounds for summarily dismissing an employee. | |
| 8.10 | Ralph survived; Kevin resigned; Tully resigned; Colin (?) appointed as Treasurer | |
| 9.45 | Ralph offered the option to resign, but stayed on and made the position work. Resigned after the next Mardi Gras (as did any other ED) | |
| 11.45 | Ralph McAllister was responsible for Robyn Tyler's involvement in the 1988 Mardi Gras. | Robyn Tyler 1988 Mardi Gras |
| 14.34 | BP had always done the publicity for Mardi Gras on a volunteer basis. Then in 1989 was informed that they had employed Alison Dunn. No selection process. | Alison Dunn |
| 16.30 | Had a meeting with Cath Phillips, made his feeling known to her, in the carpark outside the workshop. The Board apologized for the way they treated him. | Cath Phillips |
| 17.45 | Led the parade as Lead Marshall in 1990. | |
| 19.00 | The greatest hurt ever felt from the organization/community; Cath expressed huge regret for the way they treated him. | |
| 21.14 | Got huge support from various sectors of the community over his treatment. | |
| 22.30 | Tender process the following year and Bruce applied. Concerned about whether it would be a fair process. Got the job. | |
| 26.20 | Believes he has done for pushing a gay and lesbian culture in a straight Australia than any other person; | |
| 26.50 | Front cover of Metro – wanted a drag queen on the front cover – but Bruce got a naked man, a dyke in a funny costume and Gary Stuart in a non-costume (performance piece) to show three aspects of the community. The sensibility of knowing is so important. | Metro front cover |