

## Pride History Group Oral History Interview with Greg Reading

Interviewer: John Witte

Date: 10 November 2012

Location of interview: Marrickville

Reason for interview: Early life, Gaywaves, 1978 National Homosexual Conference

Restrictions: None



Time	Summary	Keywords
	<b>PART 1</b>	
00035	Born May 1942, parents built house in West Ryde (on edge of suburbia); horse next door, Star. Discusses early life with rudimentary ablutions and pranks with local boys.	
00325	Sexual awakening when quite tiny, before school.	
00415	1980, International Gay Association Conference in Barcelona, Spain. The pedophiles were there conducting their workshops. Came back and reported on this. Issues around age of consent were topics that were starting to be addressed. Talked about it on Gaywaves: they were doing a fundraiser. Party in the Green room at UTS. A guy who was interested in younger people wrote his 'cri de coeur' about his sexuality, and asked Greg to read it. So he read it on air and that closed down the party. General horror, naivete on his part to have done this. Consensus was that this was off the agenda. But still wanted to discuss the topic.	Age of consent Pedophilia Gaywaves
00915	Decided to hold a workshop where participants recorded confessions about their early sexual experiences/awakenings. The tapes have never been edited or published.	
01030	He was an only child until sister came along when he was 9yrs old; his father was cranky, ran a clothing business. Tensions at home around budgeting. Politics: Liberal household.	
01430	School: moved around a lot. Lived at Harbord for a few years. Had a corgi, had lots of friends there. Happiest at this time (9yrs old).	
01600	Moved to Huntley's Point; enrolled in Fort Street (10-11yrs old) in the city; then high school at Fort Street in Petersham. Everyone else went to Sydney Grammar, so didn't have close local friends. Rubbish at sports. But did do swimming, tennis. Was turned on by boys in the changing rooms.	Schooling
02135	Went to Youth Camp in 6 <sup>th</sup> class. Mixed dormitories, high jinx, again turned on by boys in the showers.	
02310	'Doomed to be homosexual long before I knew anything about sex' – saw himself as 'normal'; but suggests society is primed towards homosexuality through single sex bathrooms. Learned to control urges.	
02610	Didn't have sex until aged 30.	
02630	Accepted into NIDA but didn't take it up.	Sydney University

	At Sydney University did Japanese (1yr), English, psychology. Left with 2 <sup>nd</sup> class honours in Psychology.	
02930	Sydney Push: Germaine Greer, Bob Ellis, Bruce Beresford were around at Sydney Uni when he was there.	Sydney Push
03030	Did some drama in 4 <sup>th</sup> year.	
03120	Did go to political meetings, attend lectures, but not actively involved.	
03200	Had a religious upbringing (but parents never went to church). His church provided social life – Young People’s Fellowship. But by the time he went to uni, he was questioning his faith. Esp, when started studying psychology. Discusses wanking. His atheism was politely ignored by the church. Went to various Sunday Schools.	Religion
03850	Billy Graham, 1958: Bible studies, readings, connected with church groups; stirring songs. Helped to cement beliefs of choice between everlasting life or death.	Billy Graham
04045	Used coupons to take girls out to the movies or to dinner or to a dance. Took an old friend to his sister’s wedding. But not sexually attracted to any of the girls. Same with women from Uni and work.	Social life
04250	After uni, interested in writing plays; stemmed from previous experiences when wrote a play at high school that was performed at uni; had a play broadcast on radio 2UE on the program ‘Child’s Play’. Describes various jobs during high school and uni. Looked into working in the film industry, post uni. Became an assistant initially. In dispatch office for the first two years.	
04800	Discusses the film industry through late 40s to 1960s. E.g. the film Jedda. Worked in documentary films (Commonwealth Films). First film was ‘Australia makes ammunition’ around the time of the Vietnam War. Did recruiting films for the army. Did a film about Aboriginal kids reading and writing in their own languages in schools in the NT - ‘Not to Lose You, My Language’ – probably the best of that time. Did films about the railways; ATSIC; directing and writing.	Early career in film
05310	Didn’t feel close to people who were camp at work. Greg was still in his 20s and waiting to meet a woman and have a ‘normal life’. Saw his sexuality as a ‘phase’.	Beats
05510	was conscious of ‘beats’ (from childhood experiences) and then while on a driving holiday to QLD came across a beat and felt attracted to a man there – wanted to have sex. Now aged 29. Back in Sydney, Crows Nest beat, picked someone up and wanked together. Did this for a while – picking up men at beats.	Beats
10150	Why he came out: in early 30s and never had sex with a woman, but wanted to have a child. Ruled by fear and anxiety. Rang up CAMP and through them worked with a sex therapist. Came out	

	to family as he was depressed and they were concerned. Accepted him.	
10540	Arrest at the National Homosexual Conference, 1978. Participated in counter Protest against Anti-abortion rally in Hyde Park. Police were waiting in the lane to arrest them. Taken to Darlington cells. Bailed out. Needed cash to get other people out of jail, so went to his dad to get cash, and he helped. (This is written up in Campaign.)	National Homosexual Conference