

Pride History Group Oral History Interview with Stuart Round

Interviewer: John Witte

Date: Tuesday, 1 September 2009

Location of interview: Luton, United Kingdom

Reason for interview: Record of gay activists in the 70s and 80s

Restrictions: None



0:30	Stuart Round ("SR") was born in a private hospital on Mowbray Road, Epping/Chatswood on 24 July 1950. His memories of childhood are scattered. He thinks he had a fairly happy childhood, although his relationship with his father became more fractured as he entered his teens. SR was not a good student. He liked English but didn't like Maths. He recalls a Mrs Glen from when his family moved to Box Hill, NSW. She had a large Reader's Digest collection, which helped with his reading. His childhood was "pretty ordinary" and recalls some memories from the late 50s/early 60s.	Mowbray Road, Epping/Chatswood, Box Hill
4:30	At school SR was a bit of a loner and hung out with what he thought were the more "interesting people". He recalls being friends with Michael Belshaw ("MB") at Riverston Primary and high school. Both were "pariahs": the area psychologist was called in to speak to them at some point. MB was gay, although sexuality did not come into their relationship.	Micahel Belshaw, Riverston Primary School
6:15	SR is unclear when he became aware of his sexuality. His early sexual fantasies involved women. He found images of men attractive, but did not fantasise about them.	Church of England,
7:25	SR's parents were both practising Church of England and that had a "big influence" on him. His parents were very caring and would assist people who were suffering although they were isolated and not community oriented. His father grew up in Newcastle-Upon-Tyne and was in the merchant navy. He was POW at Fukushima, Japan, where he became a practising Christian. He was repatriated to Sydney after the war where he met the Wynn family and SR's mother. The Wynns were Christian and quite well off. They agreed to marry and return to England. SR's mother – at the last minute – decided that she did not want to go, but went anyway. They were married for 13 years before separating and divorcing.	World War 2, Fukushima, Newcastle-Upon-Tyne, Wynn, Sydney
11:15	SR finds it difficult to explain the nature of his relationship with his father. He has one sister and two other brothers. David, his younger brother, was always good with mechanical things but SR wasn't. His father could become violent and often directed that at SR. SR assumes that because his father could sense that SR was different. SR thinks he was violent due to a "confluence" of reasons: SR's father was illegitimate; the POW experience; the Church; "spare the rod and spoil the child"; poor background.	

13:50	SR says he was not “an educated person” and did not have a “strong mind”. At high school, he was told he’d be a suitable journalist, which he found flattering, but did not think it was realistic given his marks and family life. At 12 to 16 he was having a “breakdown” and “living in a fantasy” world due to the family falling apart and living in the country. He couldn’t focus on study. He left school at about 16 with some “very very average” passes. He and his mother left home when he was about 13.5 after a “particularly severe beating”. SR lived with his grandmother in East Lindfield and went to Normanhurst West High School, where he socialised with “social outcasts”.	Normanhurst West High School, East Lindfield
18:10	SR left his grandmother’s house and moved into a lean-to at Milsons Point for \$11 per week. SR became a copy boy at the Daily Telegraph. SR recalls purchasing cigars for Sir Frank Packer and other duties. Kenneth Slessor worked there. Bernie Nederfield was the political roundsman and really liked SR, which pleased SR. SR recalls being transferred to police rounds and visiting the morgue late at night to deliver papers and other people he worked with. SR recalls the technology used to prepare the papers. He recalls loving the smells and sounds of the press. SR was offered a cadetship on condition that he obtain a Higher School Certificate. SR attended Fort Street evening college and matriculated 2 years later and then went to the University of Sydney for only one or so years before dropping out.	Milson Point, Daily Telegraph, Sir Frank Packer, Kenneth Slessor, Bernie Nederfield, Higher School Certificate, Fort Street evening college
24:15	SR left the Telegraph and worked for the Grazier’s Association of NSW’s paper, “Muster”. SR recalls working with Stuart Howard and Bob Bell. At this time SR was living at Cremorne Point and recalls taking the ferry to work each day. They were happy days.	Grazier’s Association of NSW, Muster, Stuart Howard, Bob Bell
25:40	SR then started working for the Wellington Times at Dubbo. He was a “C grade” reporter. SR thinks he was a cadet for about two years. SR explains the different grades of reporter. He was not particularly ambitious.	Wellington Times, Dubbo
27:15	SR does not remember any political upheavals while he was at university. He thinks that the campus political activism came later. If there was any activism, he was not part of them, and does not recall a big scene at that time. He recalls going to Capricios, the Rex and Gigolos when he was 15 to 17 (while still living at his Grandmother’s). SR recalls looking for sex around Boomerang Street. SR wanted to hold someone: sex was merely a vehicle to holding someone, although he enjoyed the sex.	University of Sydney, Capricios, The Rex, Gigolo, Boomerang Street
31:20	Boomerang Street was mainly cruising in cars. SR recalls how the cruising happened. Encounters usually just happened in a	Boomerang Street

	car. SR did not get to know anyone there. The street was quite deserted at all hours. SR has no recollection of police.	
33:50	SR thinks that Gordon Ted, a friend in theatre, introduced him to bars. SR recalls the Carlton. SR recalls that Bottom's Up bar being full of sailors, gay men, no women. SR found it all exciting, but he was not very good at "communicating". He recalls that rum and coke was the drink of the day. SR recalls "the Pet Shop" on Parramatta Road which he visited after the bars closed.	Gordon Ted, Carlton, Bottoms Up, The Pet Shop (Paramatta Road)
38:20	SR only gradually got involved in activism. He thought the arguments were important, but was not aware of the political philosophies. He started to attend CAMP at Balmain. SR recalls going to a few dances; he liked the social side and frequently picked up at the dances. SR used to keep cuttings of gay related issues in the papers, but was not involved in politics. He attended meetings and made contributions, but otherwise kept in the background. SR recalls doing things "unilaterally" rather than as part of CAMP. SR thinks that he was seen as a bit of a nuisance. He recalls organising Alderman Nanette Rudge to have the fire services to investigate the fire standards of Oxford Street bars, which resulted in a few of them being closed on the night of a candlelight vigil. CAMP voted on excluding him.	Gay rights, CAMP, Balmain, Glebe Point Road, Nanette Rudge, Patches
49:20	SR recalls attending all the national conferences and a lot of marches. SR recalls one in particular that seemed to stretch down George Street, which was full of many interesting likeable people. They probably didn't make much of a difference, except it empowered the people who took part.	
52:50	SR has no specific memories of the first morning march for Mardi Gras, but knows that he went on all marches that he could. He recalls being involved on the night. SR was not in "fancy dress". He watched what was happening: he felt that as a journalist that he needed to observe and not "throw garbage cans". SR recalls seeing Lance Gowland, Jeff Stanton, Ron and Kim and all the people organising the Mardi Gras.	Mardi Gras, Lance Gowland, Jeff Stanton, Ron and Kim
55:50	SR went to all the meetings that led up to Mardi Gras. He thinks that he went into bars and handed out leaflets and put up posters to promote it.	Mardi Gras
56:25	SR recalls following the truck from Whitlam Square. He recalls Jeff Stanton leading everyone down College Street to the Cross. "It was a wonderful night – the ending was rather extraordinary and it radicalised many of us. I had never seen such overt physical violence." SR thinks he had such a strong gut reaction as it recalled his violent father. To SR's mind, the role of Jeff Stanton was particularly significant leader, as was Lance. SR recalls the police barricading Darlinghurst Road,	Mardi Gras, Jeff Stanton, Kings Cross, Lance Gowland, William Street, Darlinghurst Road

	rather than at College and William. SR recalls “the action” happening near the Fishbowl Bar. SR saw police cars, paddy wagons, garbage bins being thrown. SR recalls being outside the police station after the event, chanting and raising money.	
1:04:50	SR had left the Telegraph by the time of the Mardi Gras. He had since worked for the Sydney Morning Herald and Campaign. SR replaced “Frank” as editor for one issue after Frank left, but he encountered a lot of “passive resistance” from the staff and left. SR had been writing articles and done some editing for Campaign before Mardi Gras.	Sydney Morning Herald, Campaign
1:08:25	SR has vague recollections of the conference held at Paddington Town Hall after Mardi Gras and the march to Hyde Park afterwards and the Festival of Light Rally.	Paddington Town Hall, Hyde Park, Festival of Light
1:12:10	SR recalls being out of the country from 1971-74. His first job was a street sweeper, which he loved. He travelled with a woman he was “sort of in love with”. They went to Scotland. SR ran out of money and got a job as a steward on an oil rig in various roles for 3.5 years. SR recalls being trapped on a rig during a wild storm and he was made to sleep in a cabin separate to the other, which he suspects was because they suspected he was gay.	Scotland, Aberdeen
1:17:10	SR’s recollection was that Ron was the mover of Mardi Gras. He recalls a meeting near St Peter’s station in a shopfront, where Ron suggested a fancy dress affair. SR and John Witte discuss the locations of meetings that took place concerning Mardi Gras: SR is hazy on when the meeting happened.	Ron, Mardi Gras
1:21:00	SR speaks of his relationship with Bryce Horley at around 1980; it grew over time. They were together over 8 years in the 1980s with some breaks.	Bryce Horley
1:23:12	SR cannot recall when he first heard about AIDS, but he has a newspaper clipping on developments in San Fransisco and Time magazine. AIDS changed everything. SR recalls holding his breath at the Albury: no one knew how it was spread. “You did what you thought was the best thing at the time.” SR became involved with the Albion Street Clinic and describes Neville Yeomans and the practice of NLP. SR became involved in the Community Support Network (CSN). SR describes the person who set it up and his involvement. SR describes the nursing tasks he did with CSN. SR recalls the people he knew who died from AIDS – not so many people who were close to him.	AIDS, Albion Street Clinic, Neville Yeomans, NLP, Community Support Network (CSN)
1:32:28	SR recalls that during the 1980s he was at university for a while, and somehow got by. He rented a place in Denison Street. SR recalls living opposite David Meagher and keeping bees. SR recalls Bryce having a relationship simultaneously with Mervin Horton, which cause SR “a lot of pain”. SR then	Denison Street, Bryce Horley, Mervin Horton, Australian Caption Centre, Channel 7

	recalls the circle of friends and people he met and how he and Mervin became good friends. SR recalls meeting James Fairfax through Mervin. SR recalls working at the Australian Caption Centre and then going onto Channel 7 – which he thinks he was doing at this time.	
1:38:50	SR was also involved in the Army Reserve and recalls his involvement.	Army Reserve
1:41:25	After Mardi Gras was up and running and AIDS became an issue, SR went to Cairns and became a news editor of a radio station, where he was involved in some gay activities with Ted Kelp. He then drove through Australia and went to Adelaide, then onto Melbourne. SR worked for Truth, ABC Radio (3LO) and RRR in Melbourne and contributed to Outrage. He then travelled for a year around the world before returning to RRR. He then became PR officer for Broadmeadows College TAFE. He then returned to Sydney for about a year before moving to Britain.	Cairns, Ted Kelp, Adelaide, Melbourne, Truth, 3LO, Outrage, RRR, Broadmeadow College, Britain, Reuters
1:46:00	In Britain, SR worked for Reuters, a media monitoring company, GNER, and then Virgin trains until he was made redundant. He is now a semi-retiree.	Britain, Reuters, GNER, Virgin Trains
1:48:00	SR's final comments: he sees himself as a better record keeper than one who can convey information face to face. He has many diaries. He thinks that Mardi Gras "radicalised" him from the sheer violence he saw. He reflects on why he has never really been subject to violence for being gay and his attraction to women as well as men; "attracted to personalities". He sees himself as a bit of a loner – not so much part of the gay ghetto – who acted on the periphery and of his own motion. SR reflects on the people he met, including unwitting contact with a paedophile group. Reflects on a teacher of his that attempted paedophilic contact and the NSW commission into paedophilia.	Mardi Gras