

FIRST MARDI GRAS INC.

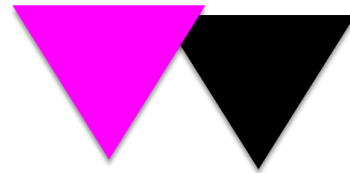
Newsletter no. 4

1st September 2018

www.78ers.org.au

email: info@78ers.org.au

First Mardi Gras



A community organisation for 78ers



First Mardi Gras Annual General Meeting

At our well-attended AGM on 11th August, elections were conducted for the First Mardi Gras Management Committee. The elected Committee for 2018/19 is:

Diane Minnis	Co-Chair
Karl Zlotkowski	Co-Chair
Robyn Kennedy	Secretary/Treasurer
Ken Davis	Committee member
Sandra Gobbo	Committee member
Betty Hounslow	Committee member
Garry Wotherspoon	Committee member

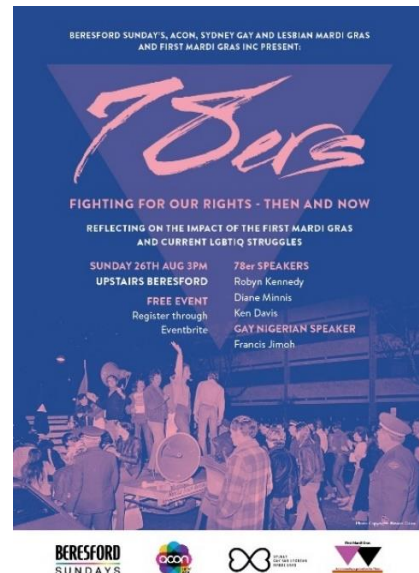


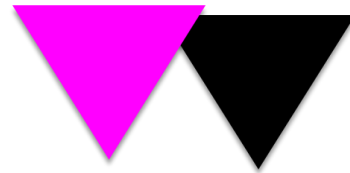
The Management Committee extends its thanks to outgoing Committee members Ross Duffin and Cat Gander. The First Mardi Gras 2017/18 Annual Report can be found on the *Publications and Resources* page of our website: www.78ers.org.au

78ers Fighting for our Rights

There was a great turn up at our event, *78ers Fighting for Our Rights - Then and Now* held at the Beresford Hotel in Surry Hills on Sunday 26th August. Three members of the First Mardi Gras Management Committee, together with a young, gay Nigerian man spoke at the event which focused on:

- The social and political context of the gay and lesbian rights movement in the years before the first Mardi Gras
- The impact of the first Mardi Gras and Drop the Charges campaign
- Issues affecting LGBTIQ communities globally and their political context
- Current experiences of LGBTIQ refugees and asylum seekers





Reaching out to rural and regional 78ers

Around 22% of First Mardi Gras members live in regional NSW and 16% live interstate or overseas. First Mardi Gras member Helen Gollan, who is also a member of the SGLMG 78ers Committee, wants to hear from 78ers living in rural and regional locations. As a resident of a small rural town in Victoria, Helen understands some of the issues facing LGBTIQ individuals living in rural and regional locations.

As well as hearing about your experiences, Helen is interested in your thoughts on how issues confronting 78ers and the broader LGBTIQ community in rural and regional locations can be addressed. This input will assist both First Mardi Gras and SGLMG in formulating strategies to better connect with more isolated 78ers. Helen can be contacted at hcg78er@yahoo.com.

Helping to stop the deportation of Pakistani gay man

Pakistani gay couple Talhia and Zain need our help. The couple married in Australia earlier this year. When Talhia's family heard that he had married a man, they disowned him and warned that relatives would kill him if he returned to Pakistan.

The Pakistani penal code imposes a life sentence for homosexuality. Since 1997, when Islamic reforms were instituted, punishment can also include up to 100 lashes and stoning to death.

Photo right: Talhia and Zain's wedding



The application fee for permanent residency is \$7000. This is an impossible sum for the couple. They have reached out to 78ers and we are right behind them - as 78ers we know what persecution feels like.

So far, over half of the cost of the application has been raised. If you can donate even a small amount this will get Talhia and Zain closer to their target. Talhia and Zain's situation is genuine and urgent. Donations can be made at:

<https://www.gofundme.com/i-need-to-apply-for-my-partner-visa>

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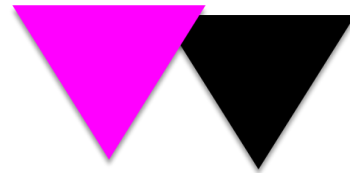
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Life and Death in Queer Sydney

Sydney Pride History Group is hosting a panel for History Week. The panel will explore questions such as:

- How have communities in the past mourned and commemorated their friends, lovers and partners in a climate of prejudice on the basis of sexuality and gender identity?
- What unique rituals exist to celebrate our lives and diversity?
- What memorials have been created to honour landmark moments, places and people in Sydney's LGBTIQ history?
- Does more need to be done to memorialise our history for future generations?

Date: Tuesday 4th September
Time: 6:30PM - 8:30PM (Arrive at 6:15pm for a 6:45pm start)
Location: Benledi House (ground floor) 186 Glebe Point Road Glebe
Facebook event: <https://www.facebook.com/events/543445799406341/>

First Mardi Gras Working Groups

Our new Working Groups are looking for more members. Please contact us at info@78ers.org.au if you are interested in joining any of the following Working Groups:

- Social events
- Issues confronting ageing LGBTIQ
- LGBTIQ refugees and asylum seekers
- Regional outreach and connecting with isolated members of the LGBTIQ community
- Communications
- Membership
- Better Together Conference (see next page)

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Life Membership for 78ers

78ers are entitled to Life Membership of SGLMG. If you are not already a Life Member, you can apply at <https://goo.gl/forms/TkqFYCYSvcycjS2d2>. In order to have your Life Membership approved at the SGLMG Annual General Meeting in October, please submit your application by 30th September.

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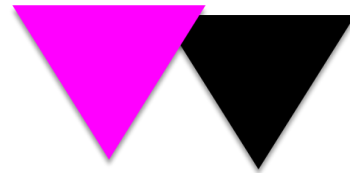
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78ers invited to Bisexual Day of Visibility

The organisers of Bi Day of Visibility have contacted First Mardi Gras to invite one or more 78er to be panel members for a discussion of the importance of visibility of sexual diversity. The event will be held on 23rd September in a Sydney inner West location. The panel will be followed by light catering and opportunities for participants to chat with one another. Please contact us at info@78ers.org.au if you are interested in attending.

Better Together

Better Together is a national conference that aims to explore current issues facing LGBTIQ+ communities. The goal of Better Together is to create intersectional discussion about achieving meaningful social change to create a fairer, more equal and more just Australia.



The inaugural *Better Together* conference was held in Melbourne on 13-14 January 2018. It was attended by over 650 delegates from every state as well as a number from the US, UK and the Philippines.

The second *Better Together* conference will be held in Sydney on 11-12 January 2019 at the University of Technology. The conference organisers are calling for proposals to run a session or workshop at the conference. Applications are now open and close on 30 September 2018. First Mardi Gras has formed a working Group to develop a proposal for the Conference. Contact us at info@78ers.org.au if you are interested in being involved. For more information about the conference:

<https://www.theequalityproject.org.au/better-together-conference>

Calling 78ers for short documentary

A film crew has been in touch regarding their short documentary on the history of Mardi Gras particularly the first parade in 1978 and the most recent in 2018. The film will also include a focus on the community's relationship with the police and the violence that occurred in 1978.

The film crew are interested in interviewing racially/culturally/sexually diverse 78ers. Filming will be done in the Sydney area within the next 2-4 weeks. If you are interested in being interviewed, please contact us at info@78ers.org.au

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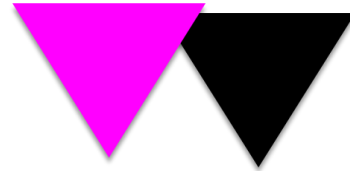
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Invitation to 78ers living in Adelaide

The Adelaide Queer Amnesty International Action Group have invited 78ers to the screening of the ABC drama RIOT (about the first Mardi Gras) at this year's Feast Festival.

They have invited 78ers to share stories from their own perspective during a Question and Answer session following the screening.

The event will be held on 21st November at 7.00pm. If you live in Adelaide and are interested in attending, please contact info@78ers.org.au



Stonewall 50

Next year is the 50th Anniversary of the New York Stonewall Riots, a turning point in the Gay and Lesbian Rights Movement in the USA and more broadly. First Mardi Gras has been in contact with the organisers of Stonewall 50 to be held in New York in June 2019. Stonewall 50 will be held in conjunction with World Pride.

We are exploring the possibility of hosting an event about the first Mardi Gras at the Stonewall Anniversary. We are also looking at forming a 78ers contingent in the Stonewall 50 march. If you are interested in being involved in organising our participation, please contact info@78ers.org.au

Queer Stories

On March 16th this year, Mauve Marsden hosted several 78ers at Queer Stories. Presentations by 78ers were filmed live and can be viewed as podcasts through the Queer Stories podcasts link <https://giantdwarf.tv/podcasts/?prog=fdc40dcd-2ff7-4830-a609-a72e004aaabf&ep=e758d59c-9185-4b2b-b4f6-a90e007293a5>

Podcasts of 78ers include:

- Peter Mitchell **Nonsense in the City of Desires**
- David Abello **Paul Young**
- Kate Rowe **Same Sex Marriage 90s Style**
- Robyn Kennedy **The Pursuit of Particular Friendships**
- Garry Wotherspoon **Max's Party**

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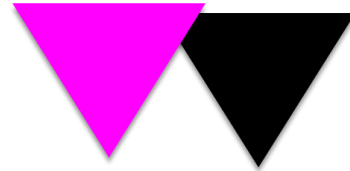
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78ers Cavalcade to Hay

This year the NSW regional town of Hay celebrated its first Mardi Gras Festival. The three-day Festival will be on again next year between Friday 29th March and Sunday 31st March.

First Mardi Gras has been in contact with Hay Mardi Gras about 78er participation in the Hay Festival such as a stall at their Fair Day, an educational forum on our community history and a 78er contingent in the Hay Parade.

Depending on interest from 78ers, we will organise a cavalcade of cars to travel to Hay. If you are interested in being involved contact us at info@78ers.org.au



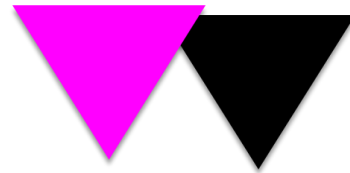
Next General Meeting

The next First Mardi Gras General Meeting will be held on Saturday 29th September at 2.00pm at the East Sydney Community and Arts Centre, 34 Burton St, Darlinghurst. The meeting will include reports from our Working Groups and a brain storm about a 78ers presence at Stonewall 50 and the 78ers Cavalcade to Hay. Come along and share your thoughts. All welcome.

Membership

If you're a member of First Mardi Gras, have you renewed your membership? Discounts and concessions are available. If you're not a member of First Mardi Gras, now is the time to join! Our low membership fees provide a source of income to fund our activities. A *Membership Application/Renewal* form is available on our website www.78ers.org.au under "Membership".

Next page: Photos from *78ers Fighting for Our Rights: Then and Now*
All photos by Anne Morphet



Photos from 78ers Fighting for our Rights: Then and Now



John Hannaford, SGLMG (at podium) introducing speakers



Ken Davis on international issues



Robyn Kennedy leading the audience in a rendition of the Stonewall song



Diane Minnis on the events of 1978



Francis Jimoh on LGBTIQ refugees and asylum seekers



Audience members asking questions