



## Salon78: Out and Loud - The Gay Liberation Quire 1981-87

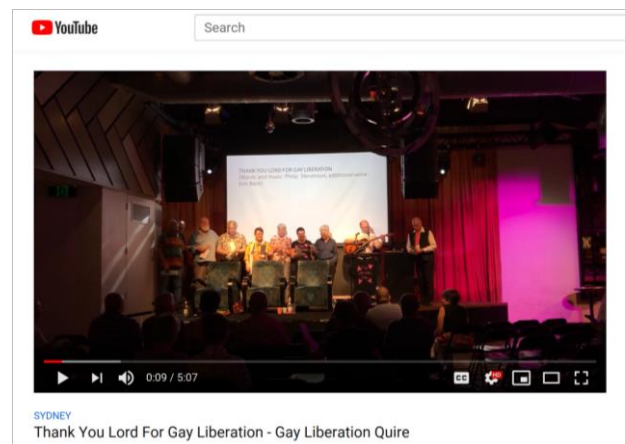
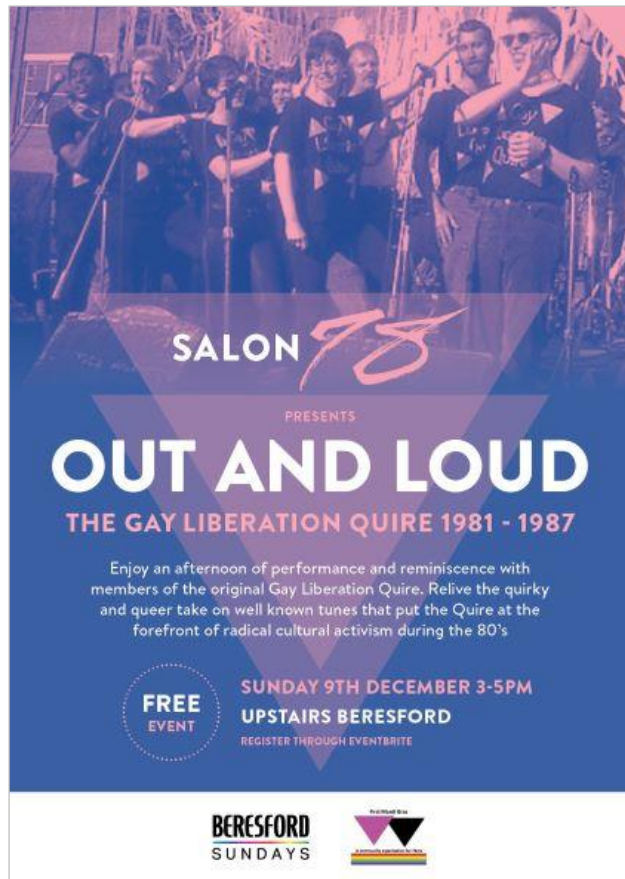
There was an enthusiastic audience for our forum, *Salon78: Out and Loud - The Gay Liberation Quire 1981-87*, on Sunday 9 December 2018 at the Beresford Hotel. Three members of the Quire spoke and joined with other Quire members in the audience for an impromptu performance.

David Abello discussed the history of the Quire, illustrated with a number of photos by David Urquhart. Maree Marsh and Paul Van Reyk then shared their personal stories about activism and singing.

This forum was the first in our *Salon78* series, celebrating the upsurge of activism following the first Mardi Gras - both political and cultural activism.

After the forum, Kerry Bashford shared this lovely post on Facebook:

*This afternoon I attended a reunion of the Gay Liberation Quire in Sydney. It was a remarkable opportunity to revisit what was a key aspect of my coming out into the queer community. I arrived in Sydney shockingly shy and awkward, unfashionably political and unable to fit into any scene I encountered. The Quire not only gave me a chance to find my voice but to share it in unison with an inclusive, inspiring group of lesbians and gays who served as not only musical companions but mentors as well. I got to perform not only at rallies of every left wing cause imaginable; I was left with a songbook of solidarity that I've never forgotten.*



See William Brougham's videos on YouTube:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?feature=share&v=OKLVPkQnckQ> [Whole forum]

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=VJgn34nbs6c&feature=share> [Last song: Thank you Lord for Gay Liberation]



## 2019 Parade and Fair Day

The elected SGLMG 78ers Committee is the key forum for liaison between 78ers and Mardi Gras. First Mardi Gras Inc. members of the committee are Betty Hounslow, Diane Minnis, Kate Rowe, Helen Gollan and Lance Mumby. Lance recently replaced Ross Duffin who resigned after moving interstate. Prior to this year's AGM, 78ers Committee members assisted Mardi Gras to check whether applicants for 78er Life Membership were 78ers.

78ers will soon be sent a survey regarding joining the 78ers contingent in the 2019 Parade (2 March) and whether you and your partner or friend need seats on the bus. The survey will also ask for volunteers to help staff the 78ers tent at Fair Day on Sunday 17 February.

## Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Life Membership for 78ers

At this year AGM on 27 October, a further 68 78ers were admitted as Life Members. There was spirited and healthy debate on a range of motions, including Police participation in the Mardi Gras Parade. It was good to see the availability of the Mardi Gras workshop increased for community groups and some younger Directors elected or re-elected.

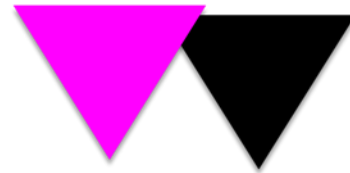
## NSW Police Apology

On 9 August, NSW Police Commissioner Mick Fuller gave an official apology to 78ers on behalf of the Police Force for the actions of Police 40 years ago. On 24 June 1978, Police violently attacked participants at the first Mardi Gras Parade and subsequent protests.

Five 78ers - Peter Murphy, First Mardi Gras Inc. member Sandra Banks, Sue Fletcher, Gay Egg and Mark Gillespie - gave powerful speeches that brought tears to the eyes of audience members. In addition to an unreserved apology, Commissioner Fuller committed the Police Force to never repeating the abuse suffered by 78ers. He later took up Sue Fletcher's challenge to improve LGBTIQ education programs in schools following the demise of Safe Schools. Sue Fletcher, Peter Murphy, Diane Minnis and Wanda Kluge are now working with NSW Police on this project.



From left: Sandi Banks, Sue Fletcher and Police Commissioner Mick Fuller speaking at the event. Photos Diane Minnis.



## First Mardi Gras Inc. Members Speak, Win Grants and Prizes!



Clockwise from above: Sandra Gobbo, David Abello, Kate Rowe and Robert French with Macquarie University Queer Collective members Lydia Jupp and Lucas Rodrigues; Diane Minnis at the Dunmore Lang College LGBTIQ+ dinner; Robert French with LGBTIQ radio tapes; Karl Zlotkowski at the Let's Educate Equality Rally; Garry Wotherspoon at the OutStanding LGBTIQ Short Story Competition.

On 14 September, Robert French was one of 18 recipients of the inaugural ANZ *Australia and Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras LGBTIQ Community Grants*. Robert's grant is for the digitisation of LGBTIQ radio programs from 1968-96.

On 1 October, Garry Wotherspoon was announced as this year's winner of the *OutStanding LGBTIQ Short Story Competition*.

On 9 October, Sandra Gobbo, David Abello, Kate Rowe and Robert French spoke to the Macquarie University Queer Collective as part of LGBTQIA+ history month. The 78ers had a great time engaging with young activists.

On the evening of 9 October, Diane Minnis and Karl Zlotkowski spoke at Macquarie University's Dunmore Lang College which has held an LGBTIQ+ dinner for three years.

On 10 November, Karl Zlotkowski addressed the *Let's Educate Equality* rally protesting discrimination against LGBTQIA students and staff in private schools.

Robert French gave a paper at the *Queer Legacies, New Solidarities' Conference*, held in Melbourne from 22-24 November.



Photo Anthony Burns [homepix.com.au](http://homepix.com.au)



Photo Inner West Courier







## ACON's Honour Awards 2018



Photo ACON

On 3 October, First Mardi Gras Inc. member Robyn Kennedy won the LGBTI Community Hero Award for her commitment to the LGBTI community spanning over four decades.

Over the years, Robyn has advocated for LGBTI rights through various roles with groups such as CAMP, Gay Solidarity and Gay Task Force. As a 78er, Robyn has been a vital force in the development of First Mardi Gras Inc., a community not-for-profit association established to support the 78ers.

The President's Award went to CAMP Inc. and was accepted by 78ers Peter de Waal and Robyn Plaister; joined by Ian Black, who chaired the first public CAMP Inc. meeting. Shirleene Robinson of the Marriage Equality Campaign and Pride History Group President took out the Media Award.

## Rainbow Bus Seats - 78ers and Activists Honoured

On 8 November, the Inner West Council honoured a number of prominent inner west 78ers and LGBTIQ activists. Seven rainbow bus seats with dedication plaques are spread through the municipality.

Clockwise from top right: 78er Robyn Plaister; plaque for key activist the late Lex Watson; 78er Peter De Waal with the certificate for the seat dedicated to him and his late partner Peter Bonsall-Boone, Gail Hewison (centre) and partner Liz Rickman, with certificates for the seat dedicated to the Feminist Bookshop, run by Gail and her sisters.



Photo Robert French

# FIRST MARDI GRAS INC.

Newsletter no. 5

December 2018

[www.78ers.org.au](http://www.78ers.org.au)

email: [info@78ers.org.au](mailto:info@78ers.org.au)

First Mardi Gras



A community organisation for 78ers



## Salon78: Rainbow Immigration and Refugees - Sunday 10 February

Join us on Sunday 10 February at 3pm for the next *Salon 78* forum from First Mardi Gras Inc.

The Gay and Lesbian Immigration Task Force, in which some 78ers were key movers in the 1980s, assists overseas partners of LGBTIQ Australians to migrate here. Hear about other services and campaigns to support LGBTIQ refugees and asylum seekers. Upstairs Beresford, 354 Bourke St, Surry Hills. Free entry.



Photo Jeffrey Feng

## Trivia Night - Wednesday 20 February



Photo Robyn Kennedy

The First Mardi Gras Inc. *Trivia Night* is back by popular demand. Paul Van Reyk will MC. Tables sit 6, or 8 at a squeeze! Doors open at 6.30pm for 7pm start. Food available at the Beresford.

TICKETS: \$15 | \$5 students/pensioners via Event Brite:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/salon78-presents-first-mardi-grasinc-trivia-night-tickets-52947947737> or search First Mardi Gras Trivia Night

## Reunion 41 - Wednesday 27 February

On Wednesday 27 February, from 5-8pm, First Mardi Gras Inc. will host *Reunion 41*, a pre-Parade social gathering for 78ers, their partners and friends.

Like our June event to toast the actual 40th anniversary of the first Mardi Gras Parade, we will again be hosted by the Colombian Hotel. Let us know if you are coming along at [info@78ers.org.au](mailto:info@78ers.org.au).

- 5-8pm, Wednesday 27 February
- Colombian Hotel, corner Oxford and Crown Streets, Darlinghurst



Photo Anne Morphet

- Complimentary finger food
- Buy your own drinks
- Raffle and retro music.

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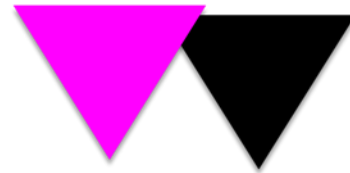
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## Better Together - 11-12 January 2019

*Better Together* is a national conference that aims to explore current issues facing LGBTIQ+ communities. 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. Register at:

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

## Wagga Wagga Mardi Gras - 8-9 March 2019



This inaugural event aims to raise the visibility of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex communities in the Riverina.

On Friday 8 March, there will be speakers from 6-8:30pm. Then on Saturday 9 March,

the parade will start at 5pm in Baylis Street, with a free after party at the Union Hotel.

The XPT to Wagga leaves Sydney at 7:30am and gets in around midday, then leaves Wagga around midday for the trip back. Everything in Wagga will be walking distance from the station; including cheap motels (book quickly).

If you are interested in attending and marching with other 78ers, contact us at [info@78ers.org.au](mailto:info@78ers.org.au).

## Hay Mardi Gras - 29-31 March 2019

This year the NSW regional town of Hay celebrated its first Mardi Gras Festival. The three-day *Rainbow on the Plains Festival* will be on again in 2019 between Friday 29 March and Sunday 31 March.

First Mardi Gras Inc. has been in contact with Hay Mardi Gras about 78er participation in the Hay Festival, an educational forum on our community history and a 78er contingent in the Hay Parade. If you are interested in attending, contact us at [info@78ers.org.au](mailto:info@78ers.org.au).





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## World Pride 2019/Stonewall 50



World Pride and the 50th Anniversary of the Stonewall uprising is being held in New York in June 2018. First Mardi Gras Inc. member Robyn Kennedy has been in contact with organisers and has registered a 78ers contingent in the World Pride March on June 30.

78ers have also been invited to the Stonewall commemoration on 28 June. Robyn has applied to run a workshop on our early history, what's changed and what hasn't at the Human Rights Conference. Ideas welcome for all events. For further info, or to join our contingent in the march, contact Robyn at [rk.am@bigpond.com](mailto:rk.am@bigpond.com).

## Helping Pakistani gay man

Pakistani gay couple Talhia and Zain married in Australia earlier this year. Zain is an Australian citizen, but Tahlia needs to apply for permanent residency. The application fee is \$7000, an impossible sum for the couple - one a student and one in a low-paid job. They reached out to 78ers to help via *gofundme* and \$6,645 was raised. Tahlia and Zain thank 78ers and other donors who supported them.

## Next General Meeting

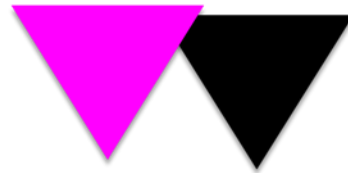
The next First Mardi Gras Inc. General Meeting is on Saturday 19 January 2019 at 2pm at the East Sydney Community and Arts Centre, 34 Burton St, Darlinghurst. We will discuss arrangements for the 2019 Fair Day and Parade as well as the *Salon78: Rainbow Immigration and Refugees* forum, *Trivia Night* and *Reunion 41* social event. All welcome!

## Resources and Services for Older Members of the LGBTQI Communities

Garry Wotherspoon has compiled a guide *Resources and Services for Older Members of the LGBTQI Communities*. The document is available under 'Publications and Resources' on our website [www.78ers.org.au](http://www.78ers.org.au).

## Membership

Join First Mardi Gras Inc. 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](http://www.78ers.org.au) under 'Membership'.



## Salon78: Out and Loud - The Gay Liberation Quire 1981-87



Diane Minnis introducing speakers



David Abello speaking with a photo by David Urquhart on screen



Maree Marsh speaking with a photo featuring Quire women



Paul Van Reyk speaking, with an image of himself performing



Members of the Gay Liberation Quire singing *Thank you Lord for Gay Liberation*

All photos by William Brougham