

*SPECIAL THANKS TO THE FOLLOWING  
FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTION TO THE MATERIAL  
IN THIS MEMORIAL BOOKLET.*

**Dr. Reece Plunkett**

'Making Things Otherwise: An Ethnogenealogy  
of Lesbian and Gay Social Change in Western Australia' 2005.

**Robyn Kennedy**

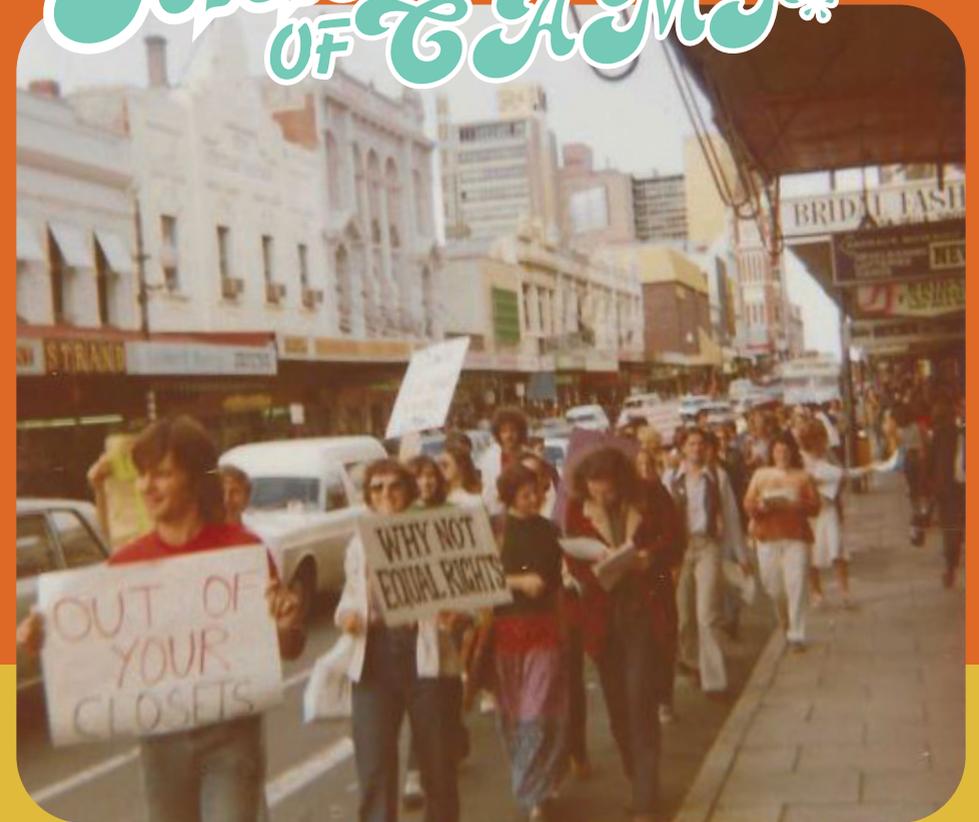
Pioneers of Protest and Change. CAMP in Australia  
commemorative book. To be published end 2021.

**Colin Longworth**

**Jeff Hughes**

**Steve Rand**

# 50th Anniversary OF CAMP\*



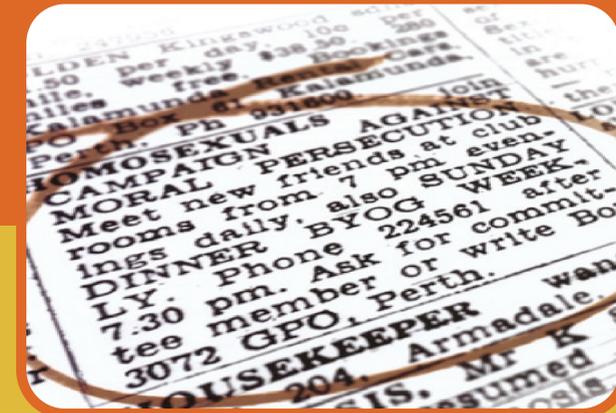
Gay Liberation March through Perth, 22 March, 1980

***IN MAY 1990 CAMP WA WAS DISSOLVED,  
THE LONGEST LASTING OF THE AUSTRALIAN  
C.A.M.P ORGANISATIONS.***

The following CAMP members are recognized  
for their outstanding contributions.

**Honorary Life Members of CAMP**

Kevin Pearce. Graham Douglas. David Myers. Viv Cass.  
Jeff Hayler. Tony Whelan and Geoff Davis.



## **SOCIAL EVENTS**

The Spartan Club (1971-74) was open each night from 8pm and from 6pm on Sundays. The Club offered coffee, games (ping-pong, chess, billiards, snooker and cards) jazz ballet classes, film nights, fashion parades and record evenings. The Club also offered off-site activities; car rallies, train trips and dances. By 1974, the Club suffered from a lack of active members whilst in C.A.M.P of their 353 members, only 19 were active on the roster. This may be attributed to more 'gay friendly' venues opening in Perth from 1973.

## **WOMEN ONLY EVENTS**

In 1973, Tracey Anderson was elected Vice-President of C.A.M.P and formed C.A.M.P's first women's only group, Gay Women's Group. The group was to provide a weekly informal get-together for female homosexuals. A lesbian "wedding service" was held in the club rooms in May 1973, which caused a public uproar.

## **THE AIDS COUNCIL BEGINNINGS**

In 1982, The West Campaigner (CAMP newsletter) first reported on the Gay Cancer, GRID (Gay Related Immune Deficiency), later called HIV/AIDS.

In November 1982, CAMP formed the Health Subcommittee, which later became the WA AIDS Council.

## **COUNSELLING AND INFORMATION SERVICE**

1972 DIAL A FRIEND started in the CAMP office.

On 22nd April 1974, a Counselling Subcommittee was formed at C.A.M.P called the Homosexual Counselling and Information Service (HCIS), led by Viv Cass.

1984, HCIS became the Gay Counseling Service and broke away from C.A.M.P.

## **GAY OLYMPICS**

The first Gay Olympics was held in October 1979 and was held annually until 1988. Teams representing local gay businesses and social clubs took part and the money raised was donated to the Counselling Service.

# **Camp, the early years**

On 30th May 1971 a small ad in the personal column of the Sunday Times stated:

People who would like information regarding homosexuality and thereby assist in the development of a proper social understanding write to  
David Widdup Campaign Against Moral Prejudice (sic)  
Box 3072 GPO Perth

David Widdup was the Treasurer of the Sydney group Campaign against Moral Persecution or C.A.M.P Inc. David met with Perth locals, paid for the Post Box, placed the ad and returned to NSW.

The ad received 71 responses, and each was replied to by members of the newly formed Perth C.A.M.P.

By the end of 1971, 500 WA people had joined C.A.M.P, Graham Douglas was the inaugural president and C.A.M.P had its own clubrooms at 79 Outram Street West Perth.

## **PUBLIC FORUMS**

The first public forum organized by C.A.M.P in August 1971 was promoted as THE HOMOSEXUAL AND SOCIETY. The purpose was educational, to gain publicity and to support lobbying for law reform. The forum was advertised in the West Australian (circulation of 200,000) and approximately 160 people attended.

The speakers were Father Hickey, Catholic Priest, Dr Csillag, Psychiatrist and Mr. Betres, lawyer. ( Dr Csillag.. was an "expert on deviants and social outcasts").

C.A.M.P's Second Forum in July 1972 was called "Homosexuals are people too". The meeting was advertised in the West Australian and invitations were sent out widely: over 400 people attend at the Perth Town Hall.

### **CAMP OFFICES AND MEETING ROOMS. 1971-1989**

In December 1971, the first office opened at 79 Outram Street, West Perth, in May 1975 CAMP moved to 1111 Hay Street, West Perth, remaining there for nearly 4 years before a move to 47 Fairway, Nedlands, in March 1979.

Three years later in August 1982 CAMP moved back to 329 Pier Street, Perth, and remained there for another four years then a very brief move to Mt Lawley in 1986 before returning to 102 Edward Street, East Perth from October 1986-July 1989.

## **Camp Activities**

### **CONFERENCES 1975-1987**

Seven conferences were held by hardworking CAMP members over a 12-year period.

The first was a one-day event at Caves House in Yallingup on 25th January 1975, and the following six conferences were two-day weekend events held in a UWA venue in Nedlands. Conferences were held each year between 1975 - 79. Then there was gap of six years with conferences being held again in 1986 and 1987.

### **PUBLIC EDUCATION**

CAMP promoted its work through public forums and meetings and provided speakers to hundreds of other organisations including health, community, legal, universities and high schools, unions and service clubs.

*Sue Wills, "we (CAMP speakers) were cheap after dinner entertainment for Rotary, Lions and Apex Clubs"*

*Viv Cass (interview GALAWA) reports, "they (the speakers) ensured their dress and general affectation was 'gender appropriate', only to 'reveal' their sexuality in the course of the presentation.*

### **CAMPAIGN ON POLICE ENTRAPMENT AND HARASSMENT AT PERTH " BEATS"**

In August 1979, WA Police began a campaign of harassment at Perth beats. The Police Minister in response to a letter from CAMP in 1980 said "the moral welfare and protection of every person is of paramount concern to the police department ..."

#### **THE WEST CAMPAIGNER, SEPTEMBER 1979**

Since our last newsletter, arrests have continued at a steady pace at South Perth and Hackett. More than thirty people have been arrested, mainly on loitering charges, and whilst the situation remains very dangerous, we have been led to believe that things will cool down over the coming weeks.

The ongoing harassment up to 1981 was well documented in the West Campaigner along with "weather reports" about particular "hot" beats. CAMP also produced and distributed a brochure for men using beats on their legal rights and how to respond to police harassment.

### **LAW REFORM**

Work commenced on law reform in June 1971, with C.A.M.P lobbying the State Executive of the Australian Labor party, who were at first unwilling to act. However, the following attempts were made:

- 1974 Failed Law Reform Bill
- 1977 Failed law Reform Bill
- 1984 Failed Law Reform Bill

Finally in 1989, the State Parliament passed the *Law Reform (Decriminalization of Sodomy) Act*.

The Act came in force in March 1990 and decriminalized private sexual acts between two people of the same sex, if they were both 21 years or older.