



First Mardi Gras Inc. Annual Report 2018-2019

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Front cover top photo Jeffrey Feng

Front cover middle left photo <https://www.facebook.com/waggamardigras>

Front cover middle right photo taken by a kind volunteer with phone of Diane Minnis

Front cover lower photo Matt Akersten

About First Mardi Gras Inc.

First Mardi Gras Inc. is a not for profit community organisation for 78ers.

First Mardi Gras was formed in April 2017 to initially support participation by and engagement with a broad range of 78ers in the lead up to the 40th Anniversary of Mardi Gras in 2018. Since the anniversary, First Mardi Gras has focused on staging events of interest to 78ers as well as the broader community. Our organisation aims to ensure representation of 78ers through democratic processes including election of the Management Committee by members.

The operations of the organisation are governed by our Constitution and the Associations Incorporation Act, 2009. The objectives of First Mardi Gras Inc. are to:

Celebrate our history

- Raise awareness of the role of 78ers as the foundation generation of Mardi Gras.
- Educate the broader community on the many years of LGBTIQ history that followed the first Mardi Gras.

Inspire our community

- Inspire younger LGBTIQ Australians to take collective action about the issues they care about.
- Showcase the progress on LGBTIQ rights made in NSW and across Australia in a way that can be replicated across our global community.



Photo Anne Morphett

Fight for the future

- Increase understanding of human rights issues currently affecting LGBTIQ communities within Australia and internationally.
- As an ageing community, advocate for appropriate support and services.

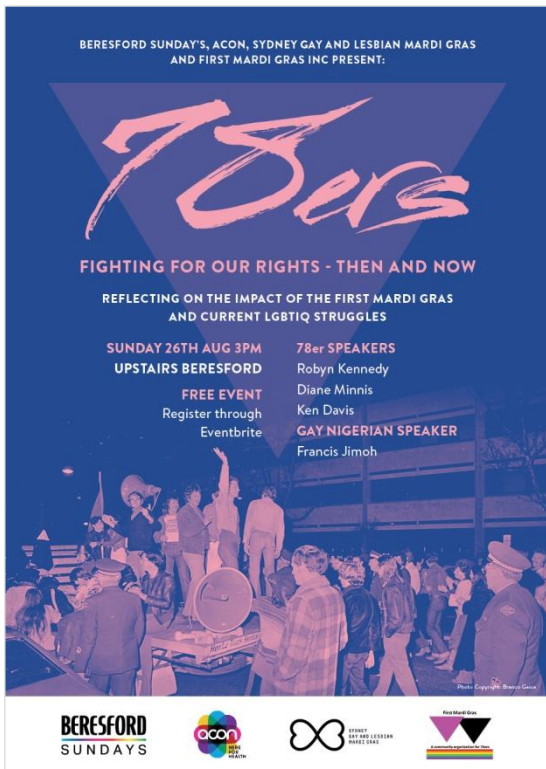
Highlights

Police Apology – 9 August 2018

NSW Police Commissioner Michael Fuller gave an official apology of behalf of the Police Force for the actions of police during the events of 1978. "As the New South Wales Police Force Commissioner, I am truly sorry for the way that you, the LGBTIQ community, was treated back in '78.

Salon78: Fighting for Our Rights - Then and Now – 26 August 2018

This was the first in our Salon78 series. The forum contrasted the social and political context of the early gay and lesbian movements and first Mardi Gras with current issues affecting LGBTIQ communities globally. Special thanks to Francis Jimoh for sharing his experiences as a gay man in Nigeria.



Salon78: Out and Loud - The Gay Liberation Quire 1981-87 – 9 December 2018

Three members of the Gay Liberation Quire spoke and joined with other Quire members in the audience for an impromptu performance of the Quire's most performed song: *Thank you Lord for Gay Liberation*.



L to R: Paul Van Reyk, David Abello, Maree Marsh, MC Diane Minnis. Photo William Brougham

Salon78: Rainbow Immigration and Refugees – 10 February 2019

Speakers discussed lessons from past campaigns and how we can help LGBTIQ people with an Asylum Seeker or Refugee background. Particular thanks to Mitchell Skipsey and Tina Dixson for speaking about their work in this area.



L-R: Mitchell Skipsey, Tina Dixson. Photo Diane Minnis

Fair Day – 17 February 2019

Sydney turned on the sunshine for Fair Day and Mardi Gras provided a large tent so people could talk to us about our history and 78ers could collect our great t-shirts.



L to R: T-shirt models: Richard Thode, Sandra Gobbo, Rebell Barnes. Photo William Brougham

Trivia Night – 20 February 2019

The fundraising Trivia Night was back by popular demand and this year was hosted by the fabulous Bonnie Bocamp (Paul Van Reyk) and Alisar Gazal.



Bonnie Bocamp and fans. Photo Diane Minnis

Reunion41 – 27 February 2019

We hosted a relaxed pre-Parade social gathering for 78ers, their partners and friends at the Colombian Hotel. Mother Inferior of the Order of Perpetual Indulgence (Fabian LoShiavo) and David Abello serenaded us.

Parade – 2 March 2019



Ken Davis being interviewed on the SBS coverage of the Parade

78ers had a great time in the Mardi Gras Parade! We had over 100 78ers, partners and friends in our walking contingent and on the bus. Thank you to Mardi Gras for our fabulous 78er t-shirts, which are intended to be worn each year, Mardi Gras also provided the banner below, which 78ers carried in the Parade, in Wagga Wagga and Hay Mardi Gras and in WorldPride New York!

Regional Mardi Gras – March 2019



78ers travelled to march in the Wagga Wagga Mardi Gras (9 March 2019) and the Hay Mardi Gras (30 March 2019). These events raised the visibility of LGBTIQ communities in regional areas.

WorldPride New York – June 2019

Robyn Kennedy spoke at the 28 June pre-march rally outside the Stonewall Inn. On 30 June, about twenty five 78ers, with partners, family and friends led the 200-strong Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras contingent in the WorldPride march.

Report from Co-Chairs



L: Diane Minnis speaking at the Dunmore Lang College LGBTQ+ dinner on 9 October 2018, Photo Anthony Burns homepix.com.au, R: Karl Zlotkowski speaking at the Let's Educate Equality Rally on 10 November 2018

After commemorating the 40th Anniversary of the first Mardi Gras last year, our community organisation for 78ers has had a less hectic year in 2018-19. Even so, we have some significant milestones to celebrate over the last 12 months.

On 9 August 2018 NSW Police Commissioner Michael Fuller gave an official apology of behalf of the Police Force for the actions of police during the events of 1978.

Our major new initiative this year, our *Salon78* forums, to celebrate the upsurge of activism – both political and cultural – that followed the first Mardi Gras and reflect on current LGBTIQ struggles. We thank Beresford Sundays for their support in hosting these events: *Fighting for Our Rights - Then and Now; Out and Loud - The Gay Liberation Quire 1981-87* and *Rainbow Immigration and Refugees*.

78ers staffed the large Fair Day tent on 17 February 2019 and distributed 78ers t-shirts provided by Mardi Gras. A number of people, particularly young folk, came to talk to us about our history.

Our fundraising Trivia Night returned on 20 February 2019 and this year we thank the fabulous Bonnie Bocamp (Paul Van Reyk) and Alisar Gazal for hosting with wit and style.

A few days before the Parade, on 27 February 2019, we hosted *Reunion41* at the Columbian. This was a relaxed social gathering for 78ers, their partners and friends with music and humour from Mother Inferior of the Order of Perpetual Indulgence (Fabian LoShiavo) and David Abello.

Then on 2 March 2019, the big one – 78ers marched in the Mardi Gras Parade! We had over a hundred 78ers, partners and friends in our walking contingent and on the bus. Ken Davis was interviewed during the SBS coverage of the Parade.

78ers really appreciated our fabulous t-shirts provided by Mardi Gras. And thanks also to the SGLMG 78ers Committee for their organisation of the 78ers Parade contingent.

Following straight on from the Mardi Gras season were two regional Mardi Gras in March 2019. 78ers travelled to march in the Wagga Wagga Mardi Gras (9 March 2019) and the Hay Mardi Gras (30 March 2019). Kudos to Helen Gollan for

encouraging participation in these events, which raise the visibility of regional LGBTIQ communities.

In late March we started a series of Social Dinners at pubs and clubs so 78ers could socialise over a meal at a reasonable price. Thanks to Rebell Barnes and Gary Case for organising these events.

Then in late June 2019, a number of 78ers travelled to New York to join in WorldPride celebrations which marked 50 years since the Stonewall uprising.

This year again we had quite a number of requests for interviews from students and the media as well as invitations to speak at events.

We appreciate the support of a wide range of 78ers, their partners and friends as members and at our events over the year.

We acknowledge our wonderful Committee members: Betty Hounslow, Ken Davis, Sandra Gobbo and Garry Wotherspoon who were elected at last year's AGM. Robyn Kennedy was re-elected as Secretary/Treasurer at the AGM but resigned in September given the demands of her role on the Mardi Gras Board. Robyn's tireless work on our 40th Anniversary events and her contribution to the establishment of First Mardi Gras Inc. are to be applauded.

We commend Sandra Gobbo for stepping into the Secretary's role, driving usability improvements to our email system and website and for her frequent social media contributions.

We also thank Fiona Hulme, who was co-opted as Treasurer in October 2018 and Richard Thode who was appointed to that role after Fiona's resignation in March 2019.

We look forward to more fun, celebrations and activities for 78ers and First Mardi Gras Inc. in the coming years.

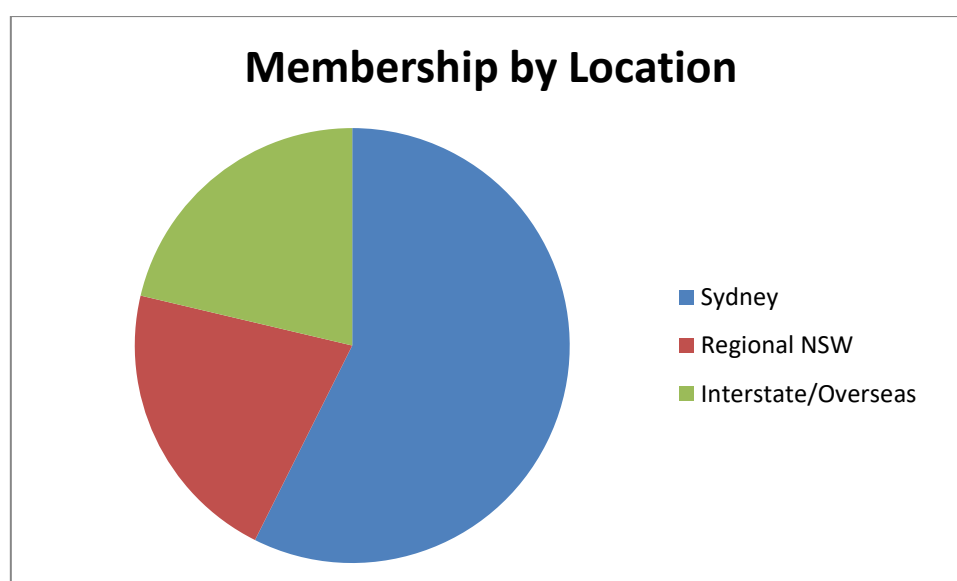
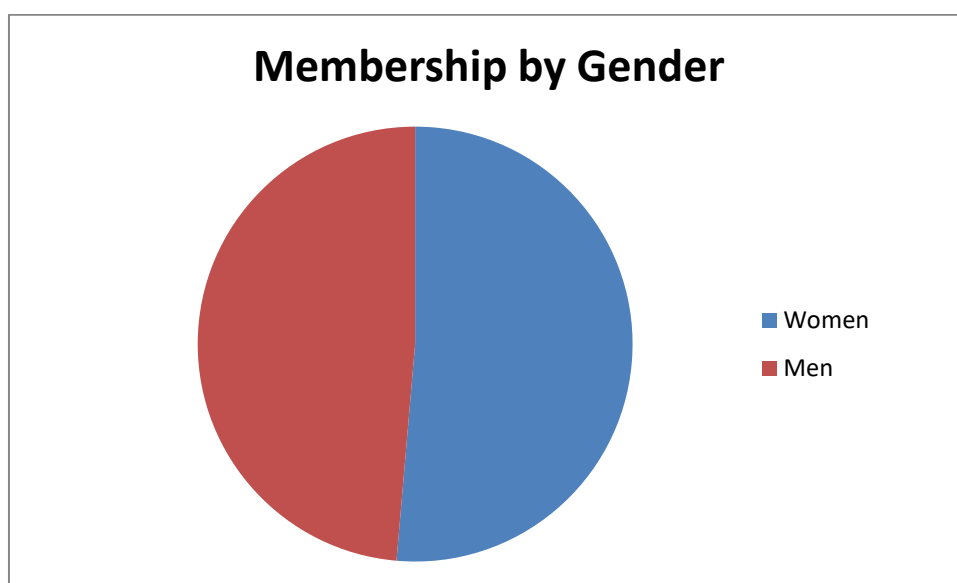
Diane Minnis and Karl Zlotkowski

Co-Chairs, First Mardi Gras Inc.

First Mardi Gras Inc. Membership

By the end of June 2019, 183 people had joined First Mardi Gras Inc. One hundred and sixty seven joined as 78er Members and 17 are Associate Members who are not 78ers.

Our membership is still almost half and half women and men, with 94 (51.4%) women and 89 men (48.6%). Overall, 105 (57.4%) First Mardi Gras Inc. members live in Sydney, 39 members (21.3%) live in regional NSW and 39 (21.3%) live interstate or overseas.



NSW Police Apology

On 9 August 2018 NSW Police Commissioner Michael Fuller gave an official apology of behalf of the Police Force for the actions of police during the events of 1978.

In addition to an unreserved apology, Commissioner Fuller committed the Police Force to never repeating the abuse suffered by 78ers. "As the New South Wales Police Force Commissioner, I am truly sorry for the way that you, the LGBTQI community, was treated back in '78. The actions of police – and society – and the laws behind them at the time were wrong."



Commissioner Michael Fuller. Photo Robyn Kennedy

In 2016 a public apology was made by the NSW Parliament and also by the Sydney Morning Herald. In early 2018 the NSW Police Spokesman for Sexuality and Gender Diversity delivered an apology, but 78ers were keen to have it directly from the NSW Police Commissioner. Peter Murphy pursued this.



Sandi Banks. Photo Diane Minnis

Five 78ers – Peter Murphy, Sandi Banks, Sue Fletcher, Gay Egg and

Mark Gillespie – gave powerful speeches.

Sue Fletcher said: "In terms of the events of 1978... and what an apology could mean to me, maybe the police and our community could work together to implement a safe schools program."



Sue Fletcher. Photo Diane Minnis

78ers working with NSW Police

Commissioner Fuller later took up Sue Fletcher's challenge to improve LGBTIQ education programs in schools. A small group of 78ers – Sue Fletcher, Peter Murphy, Diane Minnis and Wanda Kluge – are now working with Police on a review of sessions delivered in schools by Police Youth Officers and a short film.

Salon78 Forums

During the 2018 Mardi Gras season we held a successful forum *Was the pain worth the gain?* on the impact of the first Mardi Gras. This inspired us to start our *Salon78* forums, celebrating the upsurge of activism – both political and cultural – following the first Mardi Gras and reflecting on current LGBTIQ struggles. This year, we ran three *Salon78* forums.



L-R: Robyn Kennedy, Diane Minnis, Ken Davis, Francis Jimoh, MC John Hannaford. Photo William Brougham

Fighting for Our Rights - Then and Now

78ers Fighting for Our Rights – Then and Now was held at the Beresford Hotel on 26 August 2018 and was MCd by SGLMG Director John Hannaford. The speakers were:

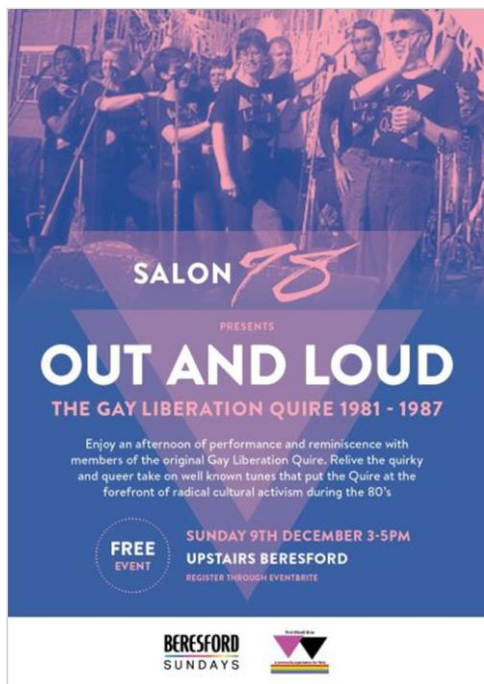
- Robyn Kennedy, on the social and political context of the early gay and lesbian movements.
- Diane Minnis, on the impact of the first Mardi Gras and Drop the Charges campaign.
- Ken Davis, on issues affecting LGBTIQ communities globally and their political context.
- Francis Jimoh, on the dire situation for gay men in Nigeria.

Out and Loud - The Gay Liberation Quire 1981-87

Our forum, *Salon78: Out and Loud - The Gay Liberation Quire 1981-87*, was on 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 of the Quire's most performed song: *Thank you Lord for Gay Liberation*. Photo William Brougham



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



Mitchell Skipsey covered the questions LGBTIQ people with an Asylum Seeker or Refugee background are asked and their rights under the law.

Tina Dixon explained the factors impacting LGBTIQ people with an Asylum Seeker or Refugee background in Australia.



L-R: Betty Hounslow, Ken Davis, Mitchell Skipsey, Tina Dixon, MC Garry Wotherspoon. Photo Diane Minnis

Rainbow Immigration and Refugees

Rainbow Immigration and Refugees was held at the Beresford Hotel on 10 February 2019 and was MCd by Garry Wotherspoon.

Speakers discussed lessons from past campaigns and how we can help LGBTIQ people with an Asylum Seeker or Refugee background.

Betty Hounslow spoke on the recognition of gay/lesbian relationships in our immigration laws in the 1980s-90s.

Ken Davis gave us a global overview on the factors affecting LGBTIQ Refugees overseas.



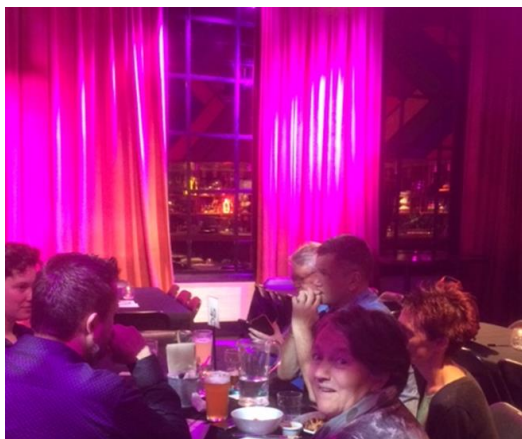
Trivia Night



L to R: Bonnie Bocamp (Paul Van Reyk) and Alisar Gazal. Photos above and below Diane Minnis

The Trivia Night was back by popular demand on 20 February 2019, this year hosted by the fabulous Bonnie Bocamp (Paul Van Reyk) and Alisar Gazal. Teams had a lot of fun and competed for prizes including a Young Henry's brewery tour. We again had generous raffle prize donations from the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, Sydney Symphony Orchestra, Australian Museum, Dendy Cinema and Art Gallery of NSW.

Thanks to our Associate Members Cherie Brindley and Anne Morphett who again organised the Trivia Night and secured prizes from sponsors.



Reunion 41

On Wednesday 27 February 2019 we hosted *Reunion 41*, a pre-Parade social gathering for 78ers, their partners and friends. Like our June 2018 event to toast the actual 40th anniversary of the first Mardi Gras Parade, we were hosted by the Colombian Hotel.



We provided complimentary finger food, retro music and sold raffle tickets for great prizes. 78ers, partners and friends bought their own drinks and enjoyed a relaxed catch-up before the hurly burly of the Mardi Gras Parade. Several winners were surprised by the outstanding lucky door prizes!

Gay Liberation Quire, with song sheets circulated to encourage audience participation!



Members of the SGLMG 78ers Committee distributed more of the 78er t-shirts provided by Mardi Gras to those who had ordered them.



Mother Inferior of the Order of Perpetual Indulgence (Fabian LoShiavo) and David Abello serenaded us with songs from the

Photos Rebell Barnes and William Brougham



78ers and Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras

The elected SGLMG 78ers Committee is the key forum for liaison between 78ers and Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras. First Mardi Gras Inc. members of the committee are Betty Hounslow, Diane Minnis, Helen Gollan, Kate Rowe and Lance Mumby. Lance replaced Ross Duffin who resigned after moving interstate in early 2019. Shane Brown is also a member and the Committee which has worked together collegially and cohesively.

The 78ers Committee is responsible for:

- Coordinating the 78ers tent at Fair Day and the 78ers Parade contingent
- Recommending 78ers for nomination as Life Members of SGLMG
- Contributing to the history of Mardi Gras
- Recommending strategies to ensure the needs of 78ers and older members of the LGBTIQ community are met in the organisation and in delivery of SGLMG events.



Above: 78ers collecting t-shirts L to R: Meredith Burgmann, Garry Wotherspoon, Robert French, Peter De Waal, Sandra Gobbo, Kate Rowe, Richard Thode, Rebell Barnes. Below L to R: Sandra Gobbo, Lance Day, Diane Minnis

Fair Day

Sydney turned on the sunshine for Fair Day on Sunday 17 February 2019. 78ers spent the day meeting and talking with friends – both new and old.

Mardi Gras provided a large tent for 78ers – for people to come and speak with us about our history and as a chill-out space for 78ers.





Visitors to the 78ers Fair Day tent

The 78ers Committee organised to distribute the great 78ers t-shirts provided by Mardi Gras at the Fair Day stall. Thanks to Sandra Gobbo and Rae Giffen for assisting with t-shirt distribution when 78ers Committee members were not available.



Toby Zoates with the Tribute Banner



Kate Rowe speaking at Fair Day

Each year 78ers are interviewed or speak on the main stage of Fair Day and this year, Kate Rowe spoke on behalf of 78ers.

Fair Day photos William Brougham, Steve McLaren, Rebell Barnes, Sandra Gobbo. Right: Shayne Brown with a photo banner of the first Mardi Gras



Parade



Photo William Brougham

78ers had a great time in the Mardi Gras Parade on Saturday 2 March 2019! We had over 100 78ers, partners and friends in our walking contingent and on the bus.

Last year there were problems getting Parade entry wrist bands and 78er sashes distributed. These issues were raised at the SGLMG 78ers Committee, and assembly and wrist band distribution went more smoothly this year.



Photos above and right William Brougham

This year we re-used the placards that a number of 78ers helped paint at the Mardi Gras Workshop last year. At the Workshop this year we

were able to make a couple of new placards about Safe Schools.

Thank you to Mardi Gras for our fabulous 78er t-shirts which are intended to be worn each year. Mardi Gras did another print run in June and will do a further printing before next year's Parade.





Photo William Brougham



Photo William Brougham



Photo Jeffrey Feng



Photo William Brougham



Photo Jeffrey Feng

Regional Mardi Gras



L to R: Helen Gollan, Ian Sutherland, Ian's partner, Helen's partner Virginia Mansel Lees, Karl Zlotkowski march in Wagga Wagga. Not shown: Steve Warren. Photo above and at bottom <https://www.facebook.com/waggamardigras>

Wagga Wagga – 9 March 2019

A contingent of 78ers travelled to Wagga Wagga to attend the inaugural Wagga Wagga Mardi Gras. The event aims to raise the visibility of the LGBTIQ communities in the Riverina.

It was great to see several hundred marchers in the Parade and large crowds on the streets. 78ers enjoyed mixing with locals and other visitors after the march.



Helen Gollan speaking in Wagga Wagga

Hay – 30 March 2019



Left: Helen Gollan, Centre: Virginia Mansell Lees, Right: Diane Minnis with helpers from Hay and 78er Denise McGrath from Leeton (in rainbow wig). Photo from phone of Diane Minnis

At the end of March a small group of 78ers headed to the Hay Mardi Gras, part of the Rainbow on the Plains Festival 29-31 March.

78ers were honoured to march right behind the Indigenous Elders who led the parade. There was a great rollup of around 200 colourful parade participants, both marching and on floats.

WorldPride 2019 New York

Marking 50 years since the Stonewall uprising, New York City hosted 2019 WorldPride in late June 2019. On Friday 28 June, Robyn Kennedy was one of two international speakers at the rally outside the Stonewall Inn.

On Sunday 30 June, twenty five 78ers, with partners, family and friends led the 200-strong Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras march contingent. It was huge and went for nearly 12 hours, with 100,000 marchers and 3.5 million spectators!



At banner L to R: Diane Minnis, Robert French, Betty Hounslow, Graham Chuck, Barry Charles (in light cap), Robyn Kennedy, Lesley Podesta (obscured in hat), Mary-Anne O'Loughlin, Kathy Hanson, Fiona Hulme, Kate Harrison. On scooters L to R: Virginia Mansel Lees, Helen Gollan. Photo Matt Akersten

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras sponsored Maurice Goldberg and Matthew Aberline's Live 4 Love installation at the Oculus building and blow-up sections were carried in the march.

There were many other events, including a Human Rights Conference, exhibitions, Governor's reception and star-studded opening and closing ceremonies.

Photo at right Diane Minnis. Live 4 Love at the Oculus building



Financial Report 2019

First Mardi Gras Inc. ABN 23 393 628 948

For the year ended 30 June 2019

Summary

Last year was the 40th Anniversary Year of the first Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras and therefore a year of great significance and activity for our membership. Unsurprisingly, the current year was a little quieter in regard to both income and expenditure.

A bit over half our revenue (\$2,280) came from membership renewals and donations. The rest was from events and includes income from the 40th Anniversary event on 24 June 2018 which was not banked until July (\$706.50).

Your Committee is delighted that during Financial Year 2018-2019 many First Mardi Gras Inc. members chose to renew for multiple years. This will of course mean reduced membership receipts in FY 2019-2020 and beyond unless we are able to increase the number of Associate and Organisational Members. Membership numbers are reported elsewhere in the Annual Report.

Expenditures were largely operational (accounting, advertising, printing, web-related) plus venue hire and catering.

Since the end of FY 2018-2019 the Committee has decided that the cost of accounting software is not justified by our current level of financial activity and we therefore cancelled our subscription for Xero Accounting Software. This will save First Mardi Gras Inc. around \$600 per year.

Income

Total income of \$4,126.50

Expenditure

Total expenditure of \$4,807.10

Closing balance

Down from \$4,560 (30 June 2018) to \$3,879 (30 June 2019)

Balance Sheet

First Mardi Gras Inc. as at 30 June 2019

Assets	30 June 2019	30 June 2018
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	3,879	4,560
Total Assets	3,879	4,560
Liabilities	NIL	NIL
Equity		
Retained earnings	4,560	509
Result for year Profit/(Loss)	(681)	4,051
Total Equity	3,879	4,560

Profit and Loss

First Mardi Gras Inc. for the period 01 July 2018 to 30 June 2019

Income	2019	2018
Crowd Funding	-	5,115
Events (previously called Fundraising) #	1,846	6,668
Grant	-	11,151
Donations	-	19,789
Members Fees		1,801
Membership and donations *	2,280	
Speaker Fee	-	700
Other Revenue		445
Total Income	4,126	45,669

In 2018, Fundraising was the available option in the Xero Accounting Software to describe income from our events. As Fundraising refers to specific charitable fundraising under the Charitable Fundraising Act 1991, we have this year labelled this income as Events.

* In the 2018 report, Membership Fees and Donations were listed as separate items as First Mardi Gras Inc. had some substantial donations that assisted with the 40th Anniversary celebrations.

Expenses	2019	2018
Accounting Software (Xero)	980	-
Advertising	1,110	890
AV Hire	-	2,579
Catering	698	18,077
Cleaning	-	726
Contractors	-	1,597
Domain Fees (IP Aust)	250	285
Email Hosting (Vodien)	138	99
Exhibition Materials	-	436
Facebook and Google	153	-
Fundraising Merchandise	-	494
Insurance	-	619
Miscellaneous	10	512
Postage	6	233
Printing & Stationery	391	2,041
Registration Fees (Fair Trading)	46	50
Security	-	572
Software Subscriptions (MS Office)	99	90
Travel Assistance	-	5,798
Venue Hire	588	6,210
Web Hosting (Squarespace)	338	311
Total Expenses	4,807	41,618

Media and Speaking Engagements

This year again, First Mardi Gras Inc. had a number of requests for interviews from students and the media as well as invitations to speak at events. Detailed below are the 30 interviews and speaking engagements by First Mardi Gras Inc. members and other 78ers. The Committee intends to invite members to join a Speakers Panel so we have a wider range of people, including those in regional areas, responding to interview invitations.



Speakers at launch of SGLMG Live 4 Love installation. Front L to R: Diane Minnis, Lord Mayor Clover Moore, SGLMG CEO Terese Casu. Back L to R: artists Matthew Aberline and Maurice Goldberg, SGLMG Creative Director Greg Clarke, Aunty Millie Ingram. Photo William Brougham

Event/Media	Topic	78er/s	When
Launch of SGLMG Live 4 Love installation in Taylor Square	Origins of Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras	Diane Minnis	01-Jul-18
EMI Music, Junkee Media	Filmed interview with Troye Sivan	Diane Minnis, Karl Zlotkowski	10-Jul-18
Wollongong Library	Speakers for Pride event	Mystery Carnage, Ken Davis	18-Jul-18
Transtopia	History of 78ers and cross over issues for trans	Robyn Kennedy	08-Aug-18
FBI Community Radio	78ers and the Police apology	Robyn Kennedy	09-Aug-18
Short doco on MG history and community's relationship with police	Seeking diverse 78ers to interview about community's relationship with the police	Peter De Waal	09-Aug-18

Event/Media	Topic	78er/s	When
Salon78 Forum	78ers Fighting for Our Rights: Then and Now	Ken Davis, Robyn Kennedy, Diane Minnis	26-Aug-18
Junkee Media	Follow up on Troye Sivan interview	Robyn Kennedy	27-Aug-18
Socialism Conference	Follow up on 78ers Fighting for Our Rights	Robyn Kennedy	01-Sep-18
LGBTIQ+ Dinner Dunmore Lang College, Macquarie University	The first Mardi Gras, what it means to be a 78er, and how this affected Australia	Diane Minnis, Karl Zlotkowski	09-Oct-18
Macquarie University Queer Collective	78er panel on LGBTIQ history month	David Abello, Robert French, Sandra Gobbo, Kate Rowe	09-Oct-18
Let's Educate Equality rally	History of 78ers and standing up to homophobia	Karl Zlotkowski	10-Nov-18
Queer Legacies, New Solidarities' Conference, Melbourne	A Life of Extraordinary Achievement: a profile of Alexander 'Lex' Watson AM through his records	Robert French	22-Nov-18
History Walk for New York University's Sydney campus students	The Birth and Decline of an Urban gay sub-culture	Robert French	25-Nov-18
Salon78 Forum	Out and Loud - The Gay Liberation Quire 1981-87	David Abello, Maree Marsh, Paul Van Reyk, Diane Minnis (MC)	09-Dec-18
ARTE Paris	Short documentary on the film 'Priscilla: Queen of the Desert' and its origins in the Mardi Gras parade	Robert French	Filmed 9-Feb-19 Broadcast on ARTE Ap-19
Salon78 Forum	Rainbow Immigration and Refugees	Ken Davis, Betty Hounslow, Garry Wotherspoon (MC)	10-Feb-19
ACON Spark Youth Theatre History Walk	Colonial and early 20th Century Sydney	Robert French	16-Feb-19
Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence History Walk	Gay and Lesbian Newtown	Robert French	17-Feb-19
Junkee TV live broadcast	78ers history	Robyn Kennedy	25-Feb-19
JOY 94.9 Melbourne	Chat to 78er on radio prior to Mardi Gras weekend	Kate Rowe	28-Feb-19
BBC Studios Australia	BBC Studios Pride Group internal forum	Kate Rowe	01-Mar-19

Event/Media	Topic	78er/s	When
History Walk for New York University's Sydney campus students	The Birth and Decline of an Urban gay sub-culture	Robert French	28-Mar-19
University Student Project	Australia's LGBTIQ+ History Podcast Interview request	Robert French, Garry Wotherspoon	22-Apr-19
University Student Project	The use of law as a tool to improve the lives of LGBTQ people	Peter De Waal	26-Apr-19
High School Project	To what extent do factors which led to the Stonewall Riots in 1969 still impact the LGBTIQ+ rights movement today?	Broader group survey responses	17-May-19
SBS News	50th anniversary of the Stonewall riots	Ken Davis, Garry Wotherspoon	24-Jun-19
WorldPride New York, Human Rights Conference	Mardi Gras, Australia's Stonewall	Robyn Kennedy	24-Jun-19
ABC Radio Breakfast Show, Wendy Harmer	Stonewall 50, 78ers and WorldPride 2023 bid	Robyn Kennedy	26-Jun-19
WorldPride New York, Stonewall Rally	Mardi Gras, Australia's Stonewall	Robyn Kennedy	28-Jun-19



Robyn Kennedy speaking at the rally outside the Stonewall Inn in New York. Photo Giovanni Campolo-Arcidiaco

Sponsors and Donors

First Mardi Gras Inc. would like to thank the following organisations for their generous contributions to our events this year. We would also like to acknowledge individual donations including raffle prize contributions from Sandra Gobbo, Anne Morphett, Garry Wotherspoon, Karl Zlotkovski and Mazz.



Special Thanks

Special thanks to our primary volunteers: Anne Morphett, Cherie Brindley and Em Cunningham for their ongoing hard work for First Mardi Gras Inc.

Anne and Cherie again organised the Trivia Night, sourcing great trivia and raffle prizes. Em revamped all things IT – making our email system and website admin much more user friendly – and worked with Sandra Gobbo to overhaul our membership records.

Our appreciation to Bonnie Bocamp (Paul Van Reyk) and Alisar Gazal, who hosted this year's Trivia Night with wit and style. We acknowledge Mikey Nichol at the Colombian, who looked after us, and Mother Inferior (Fabian LoShiavo) and David Abello, who serenaded us, at our *Reunion41* event.

Again thanks to William Brougham for videoing our *Salon78* forums and putting them on his YouTube channel, as well as photographing 78ers at other events.

Vale

We remember two 78ers who passed away during the year: Ron Austin and Peter Madden.

Ron Austin passed away on the morning of 13 April 2019, only a month after his 90th birthday. He was an early member of CAMP Inc., especially of the Political Action Committee and a supportive counsellor on the Phone a Friend service. Ron recognised the need to involve non-political LGBTIQ people in the campaign for equality – so he suggested the evening street party which became the first Mardi Gras. Ron was later an active and wise voice in the Pride History Group.

Peter Madden, or Maddo from Paddo, passed away on 30 June 2019 – a few months before his 80th birthday. Maddo was a community pharmacist on Oxford Street from 1967 to 2005. He promoted safe sex, supported the early transitions of transgender people, made home visits when the HIV epidemic was at its peak and prepared small doses and skin creams to assist LGBTIQ people in palliative care. Maddo also participated with his family in the protests after the first Mardi Gras.



1979 Mardi Gras. Photo Robert French

A list of 78ers, including those who have passed away can be found at **Who was there in 1978?** <https://www.78ers.org.au/the-78ers/>.

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