



First Mardi Gras Inc. Annual Report 2020

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Front cover photo Jeffrey Feng

About First Mardi Gras Inc.

First Mardi Gras Inc. is a not for profit community association for 78ers formed in April 2017. We enabled participation by a broad range of 78ers in the 40th Anniversary of the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras (SGLMG). Since then, we have focused on staging events of interest to 78ers and the broader LGBTIQ community. We aim to ensure democratic representation of 78ers, including election of our own Management Committee by First Mardi Gras Inc. members, and election of the SGLMG 78ers Committee by 78er Lifetime members of SGLMG.

The operations of the association are governed by our Constitution and the Associations Incorporation Act, 2009. Our objectives 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 42 years of LGBTIQ history that followed the first Mardi Gras.



Inspire our community

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

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.



Photos by Steve McLaren of a range of participants in the 78ers float in the 2020 Mardi Gras Parade

Highlights

Qantas letter – 17 July 2019

We signed a letter to Qantas, along with other organisations, to demand they stop flying deported refugees.

78ers at other Prides – July-October 2019 and February-March 2020

78ers in their 78er t-shirts have attended regional Pride events in Newcastle, Sunshine Coast, Broken Hill, Tamworth, Central Coast, Daylesford and Wagga Wagga as well as Melbourne's Midsumma and London Pride.

Anti-bullying film – July 2019

78ers working with Police on anti-bullying initiatives in schools, started work on a short film *Standing Together*.

Social Dinners – July-December 2019

We held Social Dinners for 78ers at reasonably priced, accessible venues. The last event was a Social Lunch on 7 December 2019.



Protest Religious Exemptions Bill – 3 August 2019

78ers marched with the banner in the Protest the Religious Freedom Bill demonstration. The law, if passed, would allow discrimination against

the LGBTIQ community with "statement of belief" exemptions.



Participation Grants – October 2019

We announced that FMG Inc. members can apply for small grants to assist with projects reflecting our objectives. Grants can help with travel, conference, postage, copying, materials and resources costs.

Census Inclusion Campaign – November 2019

We signed a joint statement with the LGBTIQ Health Alliance and other organisations to demand to have our community counted in the Census.

Rally against the Religious Exemptions Bill – 8 February 2020

Organisers of the rain-soaked rally against the Religious Exemptions Bill asked 78ers to lead the march with our PVC banner as theirs wouldn't stand up to the rain.



Photo William Brougham

Salon78: A Lavender Menace – 15 February 2020

Robyn Plaister, Sophie Robinson and Sue Wills (pictured L-R below) spoke on the pivotal role of lesbians in the early lesbian and gay movements to a large, enthusiastic audience.



Photo Robert French

Fair Day – 16 February 2020

There was a great rollup to the 78ers tent at Fair Day. People were keen to talk to us about our history and to buy raffle tickets.

History Walks – 22-23 February 2020

Robert French led two history walks this season: the 10th Anniversary ACON Spark Youth Group Walk on 22 February and on 23 February, the 30th Anniversary Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence Walk.

Reunion42 – 28 February 2020

First Mardi Gras Inc. again hosted a relaxed pre-Parade social gathering for 78ers, partners and friends at the Colombian Hotel.



Photo William Brougham

Parade – 2 March 2019

An excited group of 78ers, partners and friends gathered to march this year and got a rousing reception from the 300,000 or so people lining the Parade route.



Photo William Brougham

First Mardi Gras Inc. newsletters – March 2020

With the upsurge in the COVID-19 virus, we suspended face to face meetings and issued our newsletter more often and with more articles.

Joined EPOA – April 2020

We joined the European Pride Organisers Association (EOPA) – a key player in InterPride, which we joined last year.

Black Lives Matter Statement – 24 June 2020

First Mardi Gras Inc. and First Nations Rainbow issued a Joint Statement deploring Police violence after the 6 June 2020 Black Lives Matter demonstration.

Global Pride – 27 June 2020

COVID-19 had a devastating impact on Pride celebrations worldwide, with hundreds of events cancelled. Global Pride 2020 was a 24-hour live stream of music, speeches performances and messages of support with a Black Lives Matter focus.

Report from Co-Chairs



First Mardi Gras Inc. has completed a strong year as a group even though since February, like everyone, we have been adapting to the terrible constraints of the pandemic. We are thankful that the 43rd Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Festival and Parade were able to go on successfully, before the virus and closedowns changed our lives. We were proud to participate as 78ers and First Mardi Gras Inc. members. This is our third year since incorporating as a membership organisation, and it is gratifying that so many have decided to stay financial members and take part in our activities and democratic processes.

Our existence harks back to the activists who gathered in 1997 to organise celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the first Mardi Gras. In particular, we acknowledge those who created and published “It was a Riot” in 1998 as the “78ers Festival Events Group”: David Abello, Ron Austin, Sally Colechin, Paul Lester, Margaret Lyons, Gavin Harris, Robyn Kennedy, Ian MacNeill, David Urquhart, John Witte, and Karl Zlotkowski.

We remain a very diverse group in terms of genders, location, politics,

backgrounds, employment, health and social life.

We generally stay focussed on issues where we can represent the generation of 78ers and to some extent those of us who were active in lesbian and gay groups after 1970.

However, on a broader range of legislative, international and human rights issues, we have agreed to voice our opinions, as you can see in articles in this Annual Report. Following on from our February 2019 Salon78 forum, *Rainbow Immigration and Refugees*, we

have continued to express our concerns at the treatment of refugees. We joined with other LGBTIQ groups to campaign for Census Inclusion and with First Nations Rainbow; we protested Police tactics at Black Lives Matter demonstrations.

This year, some of our members have spread the word about Mardi Gras history at seven regional Prides as well as events in Melbourne and London.

Thanks to Committee members Rebell Barnes, Barry Charles, Robert French and Karl Zlotkowski as well as Treasurer Richard Thode and Secretary Diane Minnis.

We appreciate the volunteers who worked on Fair Day and Parade, on media, social media, newsletters, membership, finances, events and fundraising.

Despite the constraints of COVID-19, in the coming year, we will continue to make supportive collective contributions to the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, those elected to the 78ers Committee, Oceania Interpride, and Sydney World Pride 2023.

Betty Hounslow and Ken Davis

Co-Chairs

First Mardi Gras Inc.

78ers at other Prides

During the year 78er t-shirts have been seen at Pride events far and wide – from regional Prides in NSW and Victoria to Melbourne and London.

This continues the impetus from earlier in 2019, where 78ers marched in Wagga Wagga, Hay and New York. Credit is due to Helen Gollan for advocating for 78ers attending regional events. At many of these events, 78ers carried the Fearless banner provided by Mardi Gras for the 2019 Parade.

London Pride 6 July 2019

A small, enthusiastic group, organised by Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras, marched in London Pride. Marchers included 78er Kate Rowe, Board members and London-based Aussies.

Newcastle Pride 24 August 2019



Clockwise from left: Diane Minnis, Jo Eccleston, Britt Kissun, Richard Riley, Helen Gollan, Richard's partner Greg Milan and Barry Charles

Newcastle-based 78ers Richard Riley, Jo Eccleston and Steve O'Brien were joined by visiting 78ers Britt Kissun, Barry Charles, Helen Gollan, Diane Minnis, Peter Mitchell, Sue Fletcher, Karen Askew and Wolf. Fair Day organisers kindly supplied chairs and a tent where we hung the banner.

Most of the contingent enjoyed a catch-up later for a dinner and drinks at an inner suburban hotel.

Sunshine Coast Pride 31 August 2019



Kathy Hansen in front of the Sunshine Coast Pride stall

Sunshine Coast resident Kathy Hansen proudly wore her 78ers t-shirt to Sunshine Coast Pride Fair Day.

Broken Hill 14 September 2019



From left: Karrie Lannstrom and Helen Gollan

Broken Hill local Karrie Lannstrom was joined by Helen Gollan carrying the 78ers banner in the Broken Hill Festival Parade. The *Barrier Daily Truth* carried a front-page photo of the 78ers contingent in the Parade.

Tamworth Pride 6 October 2019



From left: Helen Gollan, Barry Charles and Bob Harvey with one of the Tamworth pride organisers

Tamworth-based 78er Bob Harvey was joined by Barry Charles and Helen Gollan at the inaugural Tamworth Pride Fair Day. They were interviewed by NBN News in front of the 78ers banner.

Central Coast Twist 6 October 2019



Britt Kissun (second from left) with Twist organisers

Central Coast 78ers Britt Kissun, Sue Fletcher and Karen Askew visited Central Coast Twist on the October long weekend. Britt handed out 78er information leaflets.

Midsumma 2 February 2020



From right: 78ers Robyn Kennedy and Helen Gollan with Virginia Mansell Lees on left

Local 78ers and visiting 78ers Robyn Kennedy and Helen Gollan took part in Melbourne's Midsumma Pride March. This year's march started at 11am rather than 2pm, to avoid the extreme heat of previous years.

Daylesford ChillOut 7 March 2020



Helen Gollan (front) with Virginia Mansell Lees (in hat) and Trentham Youth Group. Photo Kelly Anderson

Trentham Youth Group members were thrilled to help Helen Gollan and her partner Virginia Mansell Lees carry the 78ers banner, which led the Parade at the Daylesford Chillout Festival.

Wagga Wagga Mardi Gras 14 March 2020

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Wagga Wagga Mardi Gras Parade was cancelled at short notice. Karl Zlotkowski, Helen Gollan, Barry Charles and Steve Warren still travelled to Wagga Wagga to attend smaller events, with the banner. They were joined by Narrandera-based 78er Ian Sutherland and his partner.



Salon78 Forum

On Saturday 15 February 2020, First Mardi Inc. and the Pride History Group held a very well attended forum entitled: *A Lavender Menace? Australia's Early Lesbian Movement*. The forum was held at Benledi House in Glebe.

This was a continuation of the *Salon78* forum series, celebrating the upsurge of activism – both political and cultural – that followed the first Mardi Gras.



Speakers L-R: Robyn Plaister, Sophie Robinson, Sue Wills. Photo William Brougham

At the forum Dr Sophie Robinson, Dr Sue Wills and Robyn Plaister spoke on the pivotal role of lesbians in early lesbian and gay movements.

Sophie focussed on the formation of the Australasian Lesbian Movement (ALM) in Melbourne in 1970 and other early lesbian activism.

Sue and Robyn talked about their experiences in the Campaign Against Moral Persecution (CAMP Inc.) and the Women's and Gay Liberation movements.

The 70 women and a number of men who attended enjoyed the forum and the lively discussion in the Q&A that followed.

The forum was to be the first in a series marking the 50th anniversary of the birth of the lesbian and gay movements. Now COVID-19 has prevented this type of forum, but we will find other ways to mark these important milestones.



Forum audience. Photo Robert French

78ers and Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras

The elected SGLMG 78ers Committee liaises between 78ers and Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras and coordinates the 78ers Fair Day tent and Parade contingent. The Committee also recommends 78ers for Lifetime Membership of SGLMG and advises on the needs of 78ers and older LGBTIQ members.

Members of the 78ers Committee served until the election in November 2019 and then farewelled Shane Brown and Betty Hounslow who did not re-stand. Sallie Colechin, Helen Gollan and Diane Minnis were elected for a two-year term and Rae Giffen, Lance Mumby and Kate Rowe were elected for one year. In December 2020, three 78ers will be elected for two years and the Committee will have an overlap of experienced and new members.

As the COVID-19 restrictions came in, the 78ers Committee arranged a Zoom meeting to be held in July for older regional and rural 78ers to talk about support services available to them.



78ers staffing the tent L to R: Bob Harvey, Robyn Kennedy, Maree Marsh, Helen Gollan, Kate Rowe, Diane Minnis, Richard Thode. Photo Matt Akerston

Fair Day – Sunday 16 February 2020

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. This year, the 78ers tent was one of the

breeziest places to visit. We had a very touching visit from Jett, a young person who came along with a card and snacks to thanks 78ers for fighting for LGBTIQ rights.



Front row from left: Anne Rauch, Diane Minnis, Jett. Back row from left: Bob Harvey, Rae Giffen, Jeff's relative, Bill Ashton, Krystina Torpor. Photo Lance Day

The raffle was popular and raised funds for the pre-Parade social gathering for all 78ers held at the Colombian Hotel.

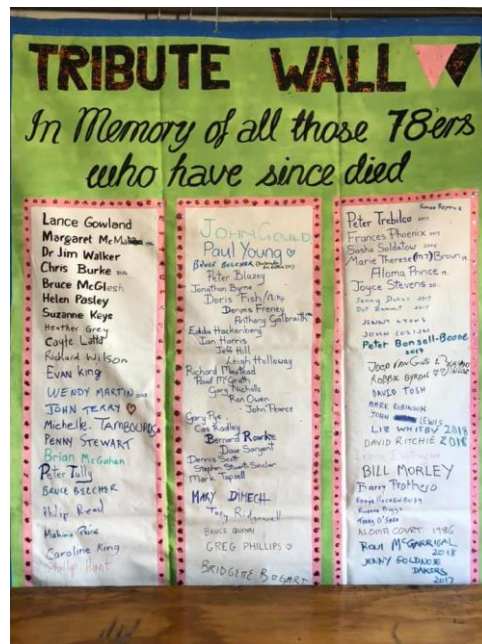


Above L-R: Robyn Kennedy, Wanda Kluge, Gary Case, Rebell Barnes, Diane Minnis, Virginia Ilive, Toby Zoates. Below: Barry Charles. Photos Steve McLaren



Lance Mumby (left) and Rae Giffen (right) speaking at Fair Day. Photo Diane Minnis

SGLMG 78ers Committee members Rae Giffen and Lance Mumby spoke from the main stage about the importance of keeping up the fight for LGBTIQ rights. 78er Peter de Waal also spoke on the 50th anniversary of the formation of CAMP Inc. – the Campaign Against Moral Persecution.



78ers Tribute Banner. Photo Gary Case

As we do each year, we displayed the 78ers Tribute Banner which records the names of 78ers who have passed away. Visitors paused to pay their respects and some new names were added this time.

Parade – Saturday 29 February 2020



Photo Steve McLaren

An excited group of 78ers, partners and friends gathered in front of the 78ers bus and were thrilled to have a much less cramped assembly area than in previous years. We were able to unfurl the new banner, provided by Mardi Gras, and distribute the very visible *What Matters* placards amongst 78ers.



Above: Jean Lidgerwood (standing) and the late Sandi Banks (seated). Photo Steve McLaren

The 78ers float got a rousing reception from the 300,000 or so people lining the Parade route.

The new 78ers Viewing Area was an improvement and many of us stayed, to watch the rest of the Parade.

Many thanks to Karen Askew and Lance Mumby for painting placards at the Mardi Gras Workshop.



Above: Lee Andresen and Craig Bell (front). Photo Steve McLaren

Thanks also to the SGLMG 78ers Committee for organising the float and communicating with 78ers.



Above from left: 78ers Lance Day and Michael Purdie with Chris Barrett and Graham White. Below: Sandra Gobbo surveying the crowd from the 78ers bus. Photos Steve McLaren



Above: First Nations float members meeting 78ers. Below: Peter De Waal (in rainbow waistcoat), at left Adam Carr, front Maree Marsh. Photos Steve McLaren



Photo William Brougham

Reunion42

On Friday 28 February 2020 we held *Reunion42*, a pre-Parade social gathering for 78ers, their partners and friends. Again this year, we were hosted by the Colombian Hotel.



Photo William Brougham

All who attended enjoyed a relaxed catch-up the night before the Mardi Gras Parade. We provided complimentary finger food, sold raffle tickets and had a surprise lucky door prize.



Above L to R: Andrew Madden, Wanda Kluge, Helen Gollan, Robyn Kennedy. Below L to R: Jamie Gardiner, Robert French, Garry Wotherspoon, Jamie's husband Greg Chenhall. Photos Anne Morphet



L to R: Susan Ardill, Rob Hayward, Greg Reading, Dave Urquhart. Photo Anne Morphet

Lance Mumby and Peter Clare distributed 78er t-shirts to those who had ordered them from Mardi Gras.



Black Lives Matter Protests

On 24 June 2020, the anniversary of the first Mardi Gras, First Mardi Gras Inc. and First Nations Rainbow issued the Joint Statement below. We deplored the Police violence after the 6 June 2020 Black Lives Matter demonstration.

First Mardi Gras Inc. and First Nations Rainbow intend to continue working together on First Nations issues.



Photos by 78er Susan Ardill of the main Black Lives Matter demonstration on 6 June 2020

Statement on Black Lives Matter Protests

First Nations people and 78ers looked on with disgust at the police behaviour following the first Black Lives Matter rally in Sydney, earlier this month.

After a legal, approved rally proceeded without incident, police forced a crowd at Central Station into the narrow suburban concourse on Eddy Avenue and surrounded them. The crowd was not allowed (or even ordered) to disperse.

Instead these people were forced in upon themselves with no regard for the social distancing that the police claimed to be upholding. The result was panic and outraged resistance – exactly the response that the police had intended to provoke.

Police then used violence and pepper spray on innocent people

and some officers even laughed.

This long standing NSW police tactic is one 78ers remember well – when protesters were trapped, bashed and arrested in Kings Cross by police on 24 June 1978. It wasn't right then, and it isn't right now.

78ers have now received an apology from the Police Commissioner for the behaviour of NSW Police in 1978. But the NSW Police have demonstrated that they have not changed.

First Nations people were there rallying in protest, as we have many times before, calling for justice, calling for freedom, demanding that the police and justice systems stop killing us.

First Nations people experience individual and systemic racism, discrimination and injustice

throughout our lands. We endure over-policing of our communities and suffer from the disproportionate incarceration rates of our people. We witness the ongoing destruction of our sacred and cultural sites. We grieve the more than 400 deaths in custody since the Royal Commission. We have not seen justice for these crimes against our people.

Despite so many of our people at the rally being personally impacted by these injustices, the Black Lives Matter protest in Sydney proceeded without incident. People committed to social distancing and other infection control measures.

Our communities were passionate but peaceful. The police were not. The NSW Police Force's actions added trauma and further injustice to a day where our communities were exercising their right to protest against the lethal racism we face.

First Nations Rainbow

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who identify as brotherboys, sistergirls or as part of the LGBTQI community.

admin@firstnationsrainbow.org.au



As LGBTQI First Nations people, we know the compounding of discrimination puts us at further risk from police. The fear for our communities, our loved ones and us in relation to the police and justice system's discrimination and violence is real, ongoing and current.

Those protesters at Central Station deserve an apology. First Nations people deserve apologies and need urgent systemic change to stop the targeting of their communities by police and the justice system and to stop deaths in custody.

First Nations Rainbow and First Mardi Gras Inc. stand together to say that Black Lives Matter!

The slogan of the 78ers – STOP POLICE ATTACKS! ON GAYS, WOMEN AND BLACKS! – is still relevant today and just as urgent.

First Mardi Gras Inc.

A community association for 78ers, who were involved in the first Mardi Gras and subsequent related protests.

info@78ers.org.au



Global Pride



Global Pride 2020 Secretariat online meeting

In the face of COVID-19, InterPride, in association with the European Pride Organisers Association, produced an online Global Pride, held on 27th June 2020.

This celebration was a 24-hour live stream of music, performances, speeches and messages of support with Black Lives Matter as a central focus. The event attracted over 1,500 content submissions from Pride organisations around the world and was viewed by over 57 million people from 86 countries.

Executive Producer for Global Pride, Michelle Meow, said: *"Fifty years ago, grassroots organizations came together to plan the first Gay Liberation Day that changed the world.... The production of Global Pride has been planned in the same grassroots manner, but with a 21st century technological twist. LGBTQIA+ people from around the world will come together virtually during this crisis of racial injustice and a pandemic."*

Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands were well represented in Global Pride.

Robyn Kennedy was a member of the organising Global Pride Secretariat and the Producer for East Asia, South East Asia and Western Australia. The Asian components of Global Pride showcased previously unheard voices from Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Vietnam and Indonesia.

From an Australian perspective on Black Lives Matter, there were contributions from First Nations Rainbow and Aboriginal deaf gay artist Daniel McDonald.

The Global Pride Secretariat is preparing for another online Global Pride in the lead up to Sydney 2023. Australian organisers are planning to include content in that event

highlighting the upsurge of LGBTIQ activism inspired by our first Mardi Gras.

To build on the momentum of Global Pride, Robyn has established an informal network of InterPride member organisations from Oceania (Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Islands).

WorldPride 2023 and InterPride

First Mardi Gras Inc. was among the Pride organisations from Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific to join InterPride to support Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras' bid to host WorldPride 2023.

InterPride is the world's largest association of Pride organisations with 370 members from 66 countries. SGLMG won the bid against competition from Montreal and Houston.

78er Robyn Kennedy led the successful Sydney bid team. In promotional travel for Sydney's bid, Robyn took the opportunity to present the story of the 78ers at events including Copenhagen Pride, the EPOA (European Pride Organisers Association) AGM in Bilbao and the InterPride AGM in Athens.

First Mardi Gras Inc. has maintained its membership of InterPride and has also joined EPOA as an Associate Member.



Robyn Kennedy addressing the InterPride AGM in Athens October 2019. Photo Matt Akersten

78ers Advising on Schools Anti-Bullying Program

At the Police apology to 78ers in August 2018, 78er Sue Fletcher suggested that the Police and our community could work together to implement a safe schools type program. Commissioner Fuller took up Sue's challenge to improve LGBTIQ education in schools. A small group of 78ers – Sue Fletcher, Peter Murphy, Wanda Kluge and Diane Minnis – have worked on this with Police.

Over the last 18 months, we have had some input to Anti-Bullying sessions delivered in schools by Police Youth Officers and helped develop a short film.

Now entitled *Standing Together*, the film includes interviews with 78ers about Police actions in 1978. Police officers are interviewed about the apology and tackling homophobia in the NSW Police Force and LGBTIQ youth support organisations, including Twenty10 and Wear it Purple, speak about their work with young people.

Standing Together will be used in school sessions delivered by Police Youth Officers, in the training of Gay and Lesbian Liaison Officers and shown to all new Police recruits.

NSW Police aim to launch *Standing Together* on Wear it Purple day, Friday 28 August 2020.

78ers working with NSW Police on LGBTIQ schools programs have now been included in meetings of the Central Metropolitan Region LGBTIQ Stakeholder Forum.

Following our Joint Statement on the Black Lives Matter demo, 78ers working on anti-bullying initiatives with Police and First Nations Rainbow representatives agreed to meet with NSW Police. The meeting is scheduled for late July 2020 and both First Nations Rainbow reps and 78ers plan to convey their anger at Police tactics used at the Black Lives Matter protests.

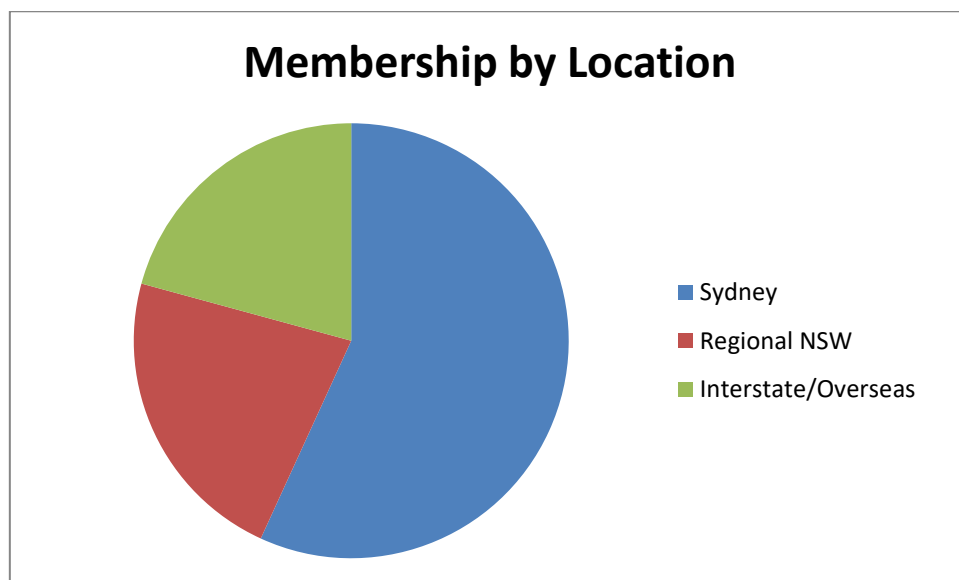
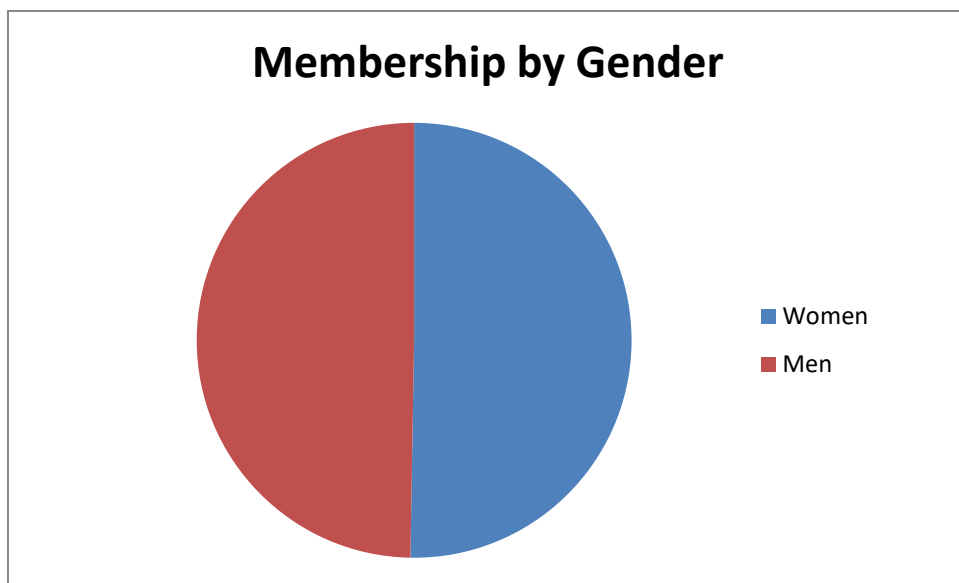


Twenty10 is Sydney based and provides a range of specialised services for young LGBTIQ+ people, aged 12-25, including housing, mental health, counselling and social support. Photo Jodie Barker, Twenty10

Membership

By the end of June 2020, 183 people had joined First Mardi Gras Inc. One hundred and sixty two current members are 78ers. Three 78er members have passed away and two members declined to renew their membership. We also have 21 Associate Members, who are not 78ers.

Our membership is still almost half and half women and men, with 92 (50.8%) women and 91 men (49.2%). Overall, 104 (56.8%) First Mardi Gras Inc. members live in Sydney, 41 members (22.4%) live in regional NSW and 38 (20.8%) live interstate or overseas.



Financial Report 2020

First Mardi Gras Inc. ABN 23 393 628 948 For the year ended 30 June 2020

Summary

More than half our revenue (\$1,281) came from membership renewals and donations. The rest was from social activities prior to the arrival of COVID-19, in particular from Fair Day.

During Financial Year 2019-2020 there was however a reduced income from membership as many First Mardi Gras Inc. members chose to renew for multiple years in FY 2018-2019. Membership numbers are reported elsewhere in the Annual Report.

Expenditures were largely operational (accounting, printing, web-related) plus venue hire and catering. We discontinued our subscription to the Xero accounting package early in the year and obtained a small refund of fees paid (reported as "Other Revenue" of \$100).

Income

Total income of \$2,292

Expenditure

Total expenditure of \$2,094

Closing balance

Up slightly from \$3,879 (30 June 2019) to \$4,077.39 (30 June 2020)

Balance Sheet

First Mardi Gras Inc. ABN 23 393 628 948

As at 30 June 2020

Assets	30 June 2020	30 June 2019
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	4,077	3,879
Total Assets	4,077	3,879
Liabilities	NIL	NIL
Equity		
Retained earnings	3,879	4,560
Result for year Profit/(Loss)	198	(681)
Total Equity	4,077	3,879

Profit and Loss

First Mardi Gras Inc. ABN 23 393 628 948 For the period 01 July 2019 to 30 June 2020

Income	2020	2019
Membership and donations	1,281	2,280
Events	911	1,846
Fundraising	-	-
Grant	-	-
Other Revenue	100	-
Total Income	2,292	4,126

Expenses	2020	2019
Accounting Software (Xero)	190	980
Advertising	-	1,110
Catering	500	698
Domain Fees (IP Aust)	-	250
Email Hosting (Vodien)	105	138
EPOA Associate Membership	96	-
Exhibition Materials	-	-
Facebook and Google	104	153
Fundraising Merchandise	-	-
Insurance	-	-
InterPride Membership	172	-
Miscellaneous	50	10
Postage	-	6
Printing & Stationery	165	391
Registration Fees (Fair Trading)	-	46
Software Subscriptions (MS Office)	-	99
Travel Assistance	-	-
Venue Hire	351	588
Web Hosting (Squarespace)	361	338
Total Expenses	2,094	4,807

Notes

1) Certain income and expense items have been retained despite no activity since 2018, in consideration of possible events during World Pride 2023 in Sydney.

2) FMG Inc. joined InterPride in FY 2019, with the membership donated by a member. In FY 2020, we became an Associate Member of European Pride Organisers Association (EPOA).

Media and Speaking Engagements

First Mardi Gras Inc. had a range of requests for interviews and speakers at events. Our members have also written articles and published books. Listed below are 35 contributions by First Mardi Gras Inc. members and other 78ers.

Event/Media	Title	78er/s	When
SBS News	Influence of Stonewall on Mardi Gras	Ken Davis, Garry Wotherspoon	1-Jul-19
NSW Police/Playhead Productions film	Standing Together	Sue Fletcher, Ken Davis, Diane Minnis, Peter Murphy	Filmed Jul-19
Telecomstaff Japanese TV	ABBA's Dancing Queen & the LGBTIQ community	Lance Day	Aug-19
Copenhagen Pride Human Rights Conf.	Inclusive activism in Pride	Robyn Kennedy	15-Aug-19
Copenhagen Pride Rally	Australian LGBTIQ activism	Robyn Kennedy	17-Aug-19
Junkee Media	Experience growing up for Wear if Purple Day	Penny Gulliver	20-Aug-19
ILGA Conference Seoul	Driving LGBTIQ rights through Pride	Robyn Kennedy	20-Aug-19
Ella, secondary school student	Wellbeing of LGBTIQ community	Britt Kissun	4-Sept-19
Annaliese Shaw, UTS Journalism student, Podcast	Queer elders in retirement	Spider Redgold, Penny Gulliver, Harry Fransen	5-8-Sept-19
Barrier Daily Truth	78ers marching in Broken Heel Parade	Karrie Lannstrom, Helen Gollan	14-Sept-19
UTS Pride Week	Experiences of the first Mardi Gras	Fiona Hulme, Frank Howarth	19-Sept-19
Sydney Bi+ Visibility	Experience as a bi+ person	Barbara Karpinski	22-Sept-19
NBN News	78ers at Tamworth Pride	Bob Harvey, Helen Gollan, Barry Charles	6-10-19
InterPride AGM, Athens	Keeping Pride alive in oppressive regimes	Robyn Kennedy	19-Oct-19
ACON Staff Training	Advocacy v activism	Robyn Kennedy, Ken Davis	1-Nov-19
Ageing Futures Institute, UNSW	The Razz Panel: Ageing on the margins	Robyn Kennedy	9-Nov-19
Queer Union of Tertiary Educators	Participating in WorldPride 2023	Robyn Kennedy	1-Feb-20
Disability Royal Commission	What matters for LGBTIQ people	David Abello	14-Feb-20

Event/Media	Title	78er/s	When
Salon78 Forum	A Lavender Menace? Australia's Early Lesbian Movement	Sue Wills, Robyn Plaister, Diane Minnis (MC)	15-Feb-20
National Art School	Queer Words that Changed my Life	Susan Ardill	21-Feb-20
ACON Spark Youth Group History Walk	Kings Cross and Oxford Street	Robert French	22-Feb-20
SPI History Walk	The Colony of Sydney and its Gay History	Robert French	23 -Feb-20
MTV article and program	Meet the 78ers: The True Story Behind Sydney's First Mardi Gras	Penny Gulliver, Robert French, David Abello, Sandra Gobbo	25-Feb-20
10 Daily Digital	How far the LGBTIQ community has come	Frank Howarth	27-Feb-20
ABC Radio Breakfast	History of 78ers	Robyn Kennedy	27-Feb-20
PWC LGBTIQ+ Network	Spilling the tea: Personal reflections on Mardi Gras	Robyn Kennedy	28-Feb-20
SBS World News	Mardi Gras Parade	Robyn Kennedy	29-Feb-20
Star Observer	150 Prides cancelled	Robyn Kennedy	25-Mar-20
Star Observer	Court overturns bans on Pride events in Turkey	Robyn Kennedy	29-Mar-20
Book published by Paperback	Through the Gay Looking Glass: The Many Lives of Clive Madigan	Garry Wotherspoon	1-Apr-20
Star Observer	Pride goes digital	Robyn Kennedy	17-Apr-20
Rainbow Rokt Group	The first Mardi Gras	Ken Davis	7-May-20
Joy FM	78ers and early activism	Robyn Kennedy	19-Jun-20
Interview by SGLMG CEO	Reflections on what Mardi Gras has become	Diane Minnis, Lance Mumby	23-Jun-20
Throw Back Thursday, TuneFM, UNE Armidale	The first Mardi Gras	Sallie Colechin, Helen Gollan	25-Jun-20



L-R: Penny Gulliver, Robert French, David Abello, Sandra Gobbo. MTV - Meet the 78ers: The True Story Behind Sydney's First Mardi Gras. Article and program: <http://www.mtv.com.au/mtv-pride/news/sydneys-first-ever-mardi-gras-four-lgbtqia-activists-tell-the-story-of-the-night-that-changed-everything>

Vale

We remember two 78ers who passed away during the year: Warren Harrison and First Mardi Gras Inc. founding member Sandi Banks. If you know of any other 78ers who have passed away, please let us know at info@78ers.org.au.

Warren Harrison passed away on 2 August 2019 in Adelaide. He was a kind caring, compassionate and gentle man who worked very hard with LGBTBI community leaders over decades and particularly in the early years for legislative change.

Warren was involved in many of our early gay organisations also as a volunteer phone counsellor for many years. He was president of the Gay Catholic group Acceptance and active in MCC.

Warren was also a successful businessman in his own right, running Harrison Pharmacies. He was a good man!

Adrian Revell and Bruce Laidlaw



Sandi Banks passed away peacefully on 16 March 2020, after a long and brave battle with cancer. She was aged 69.

Sandi and then partner Jo Eccleston, Ken Davis and I were very active in the Gay Solidarity Group and the Drop the Charges Campaign.

Sandi was a committed activist and in recent years was a stalwart spokesperson for 78ers, calling for and responding to a Police apology for the events of 1978.

Only two weeks before she died, Sandi and her partner Jean travelled from the south coast to be on the 78ers bus in the 2020 Mardi Gras Parade.

On 27 March a small number of us were able to farewell Sandi in a lovely ceremony. Fabian LoSchiavo led us, by video, in a poignant rendition of *Thank you Lord for Gay Liberation*. Sandi wore her 78er t-shirt in her colourful farewell hand-woven willow casket.

Sandi will be sadly missed by her many friends – including partner Jean, former partner and long standing friend Jo, and me.

Diane Minnis



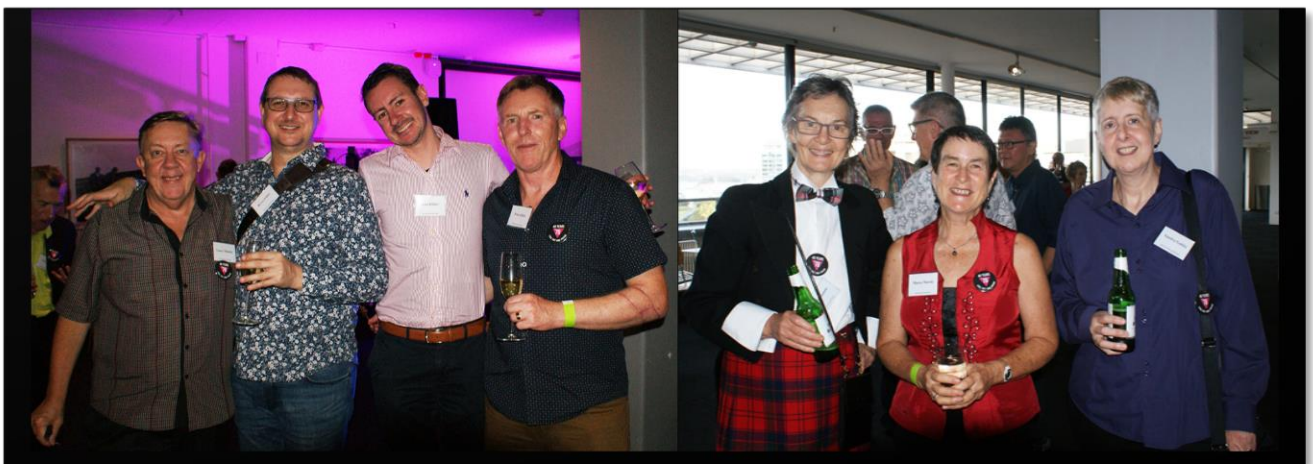
Special Thanks

First Mardi Gras Inc. would like to thank the following individuals for their generous financial and raffle prize contributions during the year: Chrissie Hayward, Tarika Rivers, Melanie Gleitzman, Digby Duncan, Andrew Newman, Loretta Vieceli, Wanda Kluge, Ross Duffin, Bob Harvey, Sandra Gobbo, Betty Hounslow, Robert French, Sue Fletcher, Rebell Barnes and Gary Case.

Special thanks to Em Cunningham for her updates to our website and support on all things IT, including our email newsletters. We appreciate Sandra Gobbo's ongoing hard work on our social media presence.

We would like to acknowledge Elaine at the Colombian Hotel, who looked after us so well at our *Reunion42* event the evening before the Mardi Gras Parade.

Again this year thanks to William Brougham for videoing our Salon78 forum and uploading it to YouTube, as well as photographing 78ers at various events. Thanks also to photographers Meagan Lawson, Jeffrey Feng, Anne Morphett, Matt Akersten and Steve McLaren who have also kindly allowed us to use their pictures of 78ers in the Parade and at other events.



78ers and friends at the 2018 Cocktail Party. Photos Anne Morphett



Participants in the 1980 Mardi Gras Parade. Photo Robert French

A list of 78ers can be found at **Who was there in 1978?** on the First Mardi Gras Inc. website at:
<https://www.78ers.org.au/the-78ers/>.

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