

First Mardi Gras Inc. Annual Report 2022

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Front cover photo: Anne Morphett.

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 our members electing the First Mardi Gras Inc. Management Committee and the election of the SGLMG 78ers Committee by Mardi Gras 78er Lifetime Members.

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 Adrian Burns (top and bottom photos) and Anne Morphet (middle photo) of 78ers float participants in the 2022 Mardi Gras Parade assembly area.

Highlights

WorldPride Copenhagen –14-21 August 2021

WorldPride 2021 in Copenhagen went ahead with some COVID restrictions. Key events like the Human Rights Conference were available to watch as recordings.



Photo: InterPride.

Campaigning against anti-LGBTIQ Bills

We attended Community Action for Rainbow Rights and other online and in-person rallies against anti-LGBTIQ Bills – 14 August, 16 October, 31 October and 5 December 2021; 12 February and 25 June 2022.

Christmas at the Colombian – 12 December 2021

This was our first opportunity in 21 months to get together as a larger group and we enjoyed the revamped first floor bar of the Colombian Hotel.



From left: Rebell Barnes, Garry Case.
Photo: Rebell Barnes,

Salon78: Gay Lib Comes Out 1972! – 19 February 2022

Our forum examined the rise of more radical, alternative politics in Australia – with the formation of Gay Liberation, CAMP Women's Association and Radicalesbians.

Fair Day – 20 February 2022

The 78ers Tent was a bit out of the way this year but we still had a steady stream of visitors and we sold 78er and CAMP badges.



From left: Wanda Kluge, a visitor to the 78ers tent, Maree Marsh. Photo: Toby Zoates.

LGBTQ History Walks – 26 and 27 February 2022

Robert French led two history walks – the ACON SPARK Youth Walk and the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence (SPI) History Walk, both from King's Cross to Oxford Street.



SPI History Walk Photo: Robert French.

Pre-Mardi Gras Drinks – 4 March 2022

The evening before the Parade, we held a 78ers gathering in the classy State Library of NSW Rooftop Bar.



Photo: Garry Case.

Daytime Rally – 5 March 2022

A number of 78ers attended the large rally and protest and most backed up for the evening Mardi Gas Parade.

Parade – 5 March 2022

A contingent of 78ers led the Parade into the Sydney Cricket Ground, following the First Nations float. We carried placards celebrating key events and activists from 1972.



Photo: Neil Richards.

Social Lunches

We held Social Lunches for 78ers on the first Sundays of November 2021, May and June 2022; and a post-Mardi Gras lunch on 13 March 2022.



Social lunch 1.5.22. Photo: Garry Case.

Launch of Rise: The Bondi Memorial – 4 June 2022

A crowd of around 500 assembled on the cliff tops at Marks Park, Tamarama for the dedication of the memorial to the murders of gay men and anti-gay violence in the 70s, 80 and 90s.

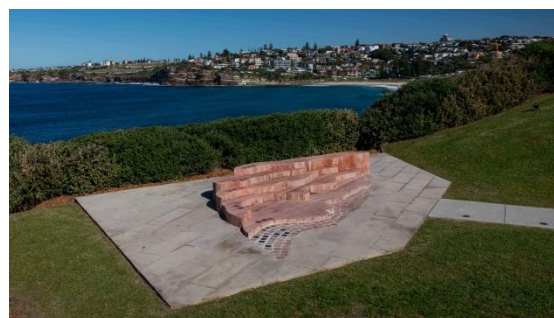


Photo: ACON.

Human Progress Flag – 24 June 2022

A number of 78ers took part in the 1,111-strong human Progress Flag to launch Sydney WorldPride 2023.

Salon78: Celebrating Rainbow History – 25 June 2022

In an invigorating discussion, our speakers covered the different ways of telling our story using traditional print methods and current social media.

78ers Drinks – 26 June 2022

Around 40 78ers, partners and friends gathered at Kinselas to celebrate the 44th anniversary of the first Mardi Gras.

Report from Co-Chairs



As with all community associations, our activities were still constrained by the Covid-19 pandemic, particularly through the first half of the 2021-22 financial year. Our meetings and Salon78 forums were online, but that enabled participation by people who live in other parts of Australia and overseas. After November we were able to resume our social events.

78ers were able to be a real presence at the 45th Mardi Gras parade, held for the second time in the Sydney Cricket Ground, the protest march that day, Fair Day, several rallies for LGBTIQ rights and Pride events in regional centres.

We continued to campaign for freedom and equality internationally, and worked with other community groups on local advocacy issues. Our engagement as members of InterPride and Oceania Pride deepened, as did our capacity to send speakers to community, education and business organisations to explain the heritage of the first Mardi Gras in 1978. Our speaking engagements and other media events this year

were one and a half times more than those in the previous year. We thank the 32 78ers who carried the history, views and images of 78ers in media, student interviews, speaking engagements, videos and photo shoots.

Members of FMG Inc. have diverse opinions, as we did in 1978, but we enjoy working together to defend the human rights gains we have made over the decades, and we value the solidarity we have, not just in campaigning, but also supporting each other socially.

We are gathering our memories and energies for World Pride in 2023, which coincides with the 50th anniversary of the first national Gay

Pride Week; the historic Builders' Labourers Federation industrial action to defend gay and lesbian students at Macquarie University and the 45th anniversary of the first Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras.

Thank you to the six 78ers elected to the SGLMG 78ers Committee and 78ers collaborating with InterPride, Oceania Pride, World Pride Copenhagen, WorldPride Sydney, Australian Queer Archives, Pride

History Group, ACON, Community Action for Rainbow Rights, Rainbow History Class and various university student groups.

And big thanks to all our members and volunteers, and to Committee members: Bill Ashton, Rebell Barnes, Robyn Kennedy, Maree Marsh, Richard Thode and Karl Zlotkowski and Membership Coordinator Barry Charles.

Ken Davis and Diane Minnis

Co-Chairs
First Mardi Gras Inc.

Special Thanks

First Mardi Gras Inc. would like to thank these people for generous financial and raffle prize contributions during the year: Rebell Barnes, Garry Wotherspoon, Bill Ashton, Wanda Kluge, Sandra Gobbo, Mazz Image, Robyn Kennedy, Gary Case, Lee Andresen, Meredith Burgmann, Kath Burns, Kate Harrison, Betty Hounslow, Virginia Iloff, Diana King, Kath Mclean, Ross Mcmurtrie, Diane Minnis, Peter Ohlson, Elaine Spicer and Dave Urquhart.

We continue to appreciate Sandra Gobbo's work on our social media presence and Em Cunningham's IT support and website updates.

Many thanks to the following photographers and videographers who allowed us to use their work this year: Anne Morphett, Garry Case, Adrian Burns, Rebell Barnes, Robert French, Toby Zoates, Donald McPherson, Neil Richards, Steve McLaren, John Storey, Peter McEwan, Liz Carter, Kevin Beaulieu, William Brougham, William Yang and Serena Gahagan.

Fifty Years of Visibility

CAMP Inc. was formed in 1970 and became the main homosexual and activist organisation in Australia. During 1971 and 1972, CAMP groups quickly formed in all other states and on a number of campuses.

Fifty years ago, in January 1972, a Gay Liberation sub-group that had formed within CAMP in 1971 broke away to form Sydney Gay Liberation. Similar Gay Liberation groups soon formed in other capitals and campuses.

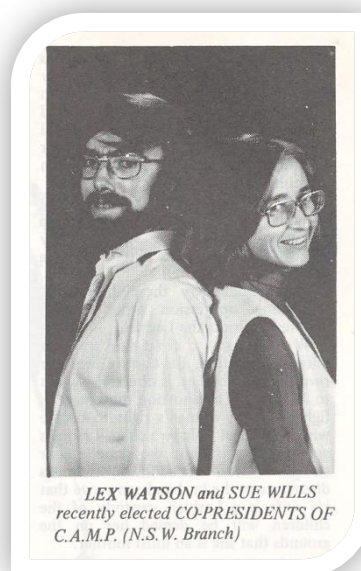


Sex Lib Forum at Sydney University 19 January 1972. Speakers from left: Germaine Greer, Liz Fell, Gillian Leahy, Dennis Altman. Photo CAMP INK.

Sydney Gay Liberation 'came out' at the Sex Lib Forum at Sydney University 19 January 1972. Dennis Altman, whose trailblazing *Homosexual Oppression & Liberation* was published in 1971, announced the group's formation when he spoke.

Later that month, CAMP SA organised the first gay and lesbian dance ever held in Adelaide.

Also in early 1972, Sue Wills and Lex Watson became the inaugural CAMP NSW Co-Presidents, and the first elected officials of a gay organisation. There was no election at the first CAMP AGM in 1971 as John Ware and Christabel Pol were referred to as 'the founders'.



On 10 May 1972 Dr George Duncan was murdered in the Torrens River, Adelaide near a gay beat. It is alleged that police officers were responsible but no

charges were ever laid. This galvanised activists in South Australia and Homosexual law reform was achieved in SA on 9 November 1972.

On 1 July 1972, Gay Lib demonstrated outside ABC Headquarters in Sydney, after their refusal to show a segment on Gay Liberation. A few days later, on 3 July, Dennis Altman appeared on ABC TV *Monday Conference*.

On 15 July 1972, sometime after 1.30 am, an arsonist attempted to burn down the Society Five (CAMP) Melbourne premises.



UNSW Gay Lib Anti-Psychiatry street theatre, 8 August 1972. Photo: John Storey.

At UNSW, a forum on aversion therapy was held on 22 July 1972 and a Gay Lib Anti-Psychiatry street theatre took place on 8 August.

On 27 July, CAMP WA hosted its second seminar, *Homosexuals are people too!* at the Perth Town Hall.

The ground-breaking ABC TV *Chequerboard* program on 31 October 1972 featured two CAMP couples: Sue Wills and Gabrielle Antolovich with Peter Bonsall-Boone and Peter de Waal.

Bonsall-Boone's appearance on the program led to his sacking from



St Clement's Mosman, 12 November 1972, after Peter Bonsall-Boone's sacking. Photo: John Storey.

his job as a church secretary at St Clements, Mosman. A colourful protest was held outside the church on 12 November 1972.

In November 1972, David Widdup ran as a CAMP candidate against PM Billy McMahon in the seat of Lowe. David's cheeky campaign slogans included *I've got my eye on Billy's seat!*



Melbourne Gay Lib Demo, 1 Dec 1972, City Square. Photo: Peter McEwan.

On 1 December 1972, Melbourne Gay Liberation held a lively, and first for Melbourne, demonstration in the City Square.

In the 2022 Mardi Gras Parade, the 78ers contingent celebrated Fifty Years of LGBTIQ+ Visibility by carrying placards commemorating key events and activists from 1972.

Salon78 Forums

This year we conducted two Salon78 forums, both online via Zoom. This was part of our ongoing Salon78 series – celebrating the upsurge of activism, both political and cultural, that followed the first Mardi Gras.



Gay Lib demo outside the ABC, 11 July 1972. Photo: John Storey.

Gay Lib Comes Out 1972!

On 19 February 2022, we held *Gay Lib Comes Out 1972!* Our forum examined the rise of more radical, alternative politics in Australia – with the formation of Sydney Gay Liberation, Melbourne Gay Liberation Front, CAMP Women's Association, campus groups and Radicalesbians.

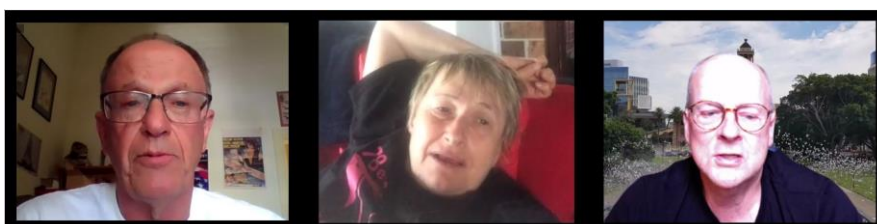
The forum was chaired by Ken Davis, Co-Chair of First Mardi Gras Inc. Speakers at the forum were:

- Dennis Altman – author of the ground breaking *Homosexual: Oppression & Liberation*

- Penny Gulliver – who was involved in UNSW Gay Liberation and Radicalesbians
- John Witte – member of Sydney University Gay Liberation, Gay Liberation, Sydney and later secretary of the Gay Trade Unionists Group.

Each reflected on their personal experiences and the history of the early lesbian and gay movement.

With some 43 people in virtual attendance, it was a fitting forum at which to mark 50 years of visibility and achievement.



Salon78 speakers, from left: Dennis Altman, Penny Gulliver, John Witte.

Celebrating Rainbow History

One of First Mardi Gras Inc's contributions to Pride Month was *Celebrating Rainbow History* on 25 June.

The forum was chaired by Ken Davis, Co-Chair of First Mardi Gras Inc. and the speakers were:

- Garry Wotherspoon – author and historian
- Rebecca Jennings – author and academic
- Hannah McElhinney – broadcaster and influencer.

In an invigorating and exciting discussion, speakers covered the history of the queer community and different ways of telling our story.

Hannah McElhinney has, with young collaborators around the world, created Rainbow History Class which goes out as short, fun TikTok videos. They take a brief

incident or colloquial phrase from the past, and in less than 4 minutes, describe it's meaning and significance. Engaging and inciting further exploration.

Rebecca, speaking from the UK after spending time in Australia, said it was important to get out to different audiences, as she is doing with a school talks project. She stated that this work is political as well as historical and we need to redouble our efforts given the upsurge of right-wing governments.

Garry commented that the media RainbowHistoryClass.com uses gets to a very wide audience (9 million likes on their website) and they tap in well to how a non-academic audience 'takes in' history. He said the old guard (academics) does the groundwork, and the new guard spreads the word.



Salon78 speakers, above from left: Garry Wotherspoon, Hannah McElhinney, Rebecca Jennings.

Below: from left: Hannah McElhinney, Rainbow History Class; 78ers Bob Harvey, Robyn Kennedy, Robert French, Diane Minnis, Lance Day, Ken Davis, Benjamin Caycho; Rudy Jean Rigg, Rainbow History Class. Photo: Steve McLaren.



78ers and Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras

The elected SGLMG 78ers Committee is the forum for liaison between Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras and all 78ers. The committee is responsible for coordinating 78ers involvement in Fair Day and Parade, distributing 78ers t-shirts and recommending 78ers for nomination as Life Members of SGLMG.

In December 2020, Karl Zlotkowski, Penny Gulliver and Richard Riley were elected for two year terms. In late 2021, Diane Minnis, Sallie Colechin and Helen Gollan stood were re-elected. When Sally Colechin subsequently resigned, Sue Fletcher was appointed to the committee.

Fair Day – Sunday 20 February 2022

The 78ers Tent was a bit out of the way this year but we still had a steady stream of visitors to chat about the history of Mardi Gras as well as 78ers chilling out.

We had permission from SGLMG to sell our 78er and CAMP badges. So Rebell Barnes and Gay Case set

up a payment square, provided by a Mardi Gras sponsor. And Reb stayed all day as his phone was linked to the square.

Thanks to all 78ers who volunteered to staff the stall in the warm conditions and to Karl Zlotkowski also got there early to set up.



Karl Zlotkowski at the 78ers tent. Photo: Liz Carter.



The 78ers tent morning shift. From left: Rae Giffen, Diane Minnis, Bill Ashton, Robyn Kennedy, Karl Zlotkowski, Rebell Barnes. Photo: Garry Case.

Parade – Saturday 5 March 2021

For the second year in a row, due to Covid 19, the Mardi Gas Parade was held at the Sydney Cricket Ground. Each year, we have that exciting build up to the parade and for many of us the parade is the highlight of the Mardi Gras season.

The SCG was different, but there were elements that were fantastic. The marshalling area was spread over Moore Park and the absence of the large 'truck' floats, the inclusion of a stage with music and dancing area, food vendors, toilet facilities, water stations and lawn to



78ers lining up in the marshalling area. From left: Pete Ohlson (on buggy), Richard Thode, Bob Harvey, Karl Zlotkowski, Diane Minnis, Helen Gollan, Robyn Kennedy, Wanda Kluge, Rebell Barnes. Photo: Anne Morphett.

sit on and catch up with friends, made the marshalling area a more inclusive and community space.

The 78ers were in a separate area and had shelter/shade, water and seating – providing this for our aging community was appreciated.

We gathered together holding placards and banners acknowledging political actions from 1972 and we could hear the roar from the Dykes on Bikes...and so that thrill begins!

And just like Oxford Street, we followed the First Nations in the

parade. Coming out of the tunnel and into the stadium was awesome and exhilarating. The crowd was our community, our friends, our lovers and our mates and they were acknowledging 78ers and the work we did.

We were lucky the weather held. The SCG was fun, but see you on the streets for WorldPride in 2023!

However, the ejection of Barbara Karpinski, and others, by NSW Police from the SCG stands during the Parade has cast a pall over the occasion.



Above: 78ers and partners in the marshalling area.. Photos: Anne Morphett.



Above: The 78ers contingent assembling at the SCG. Photo of three men in front of large first Mardi Gras wall banner: Garry Case. All other photos: Anne Morphett.



Above: The 78ers contingent in the SCG. Photo: Kevin Beaulieu.



78ers contingent in the SCG. Lower right photo: Kevin Beaulieu. All other photos: Anne Morphet.

March – Saturday 5 March 2021

A number of 78ers attended the large Daytime Rally protest at Taylor Square. 78er and First Mardi Gras Inc. member David Abello co-chaired the rally.

Reflecting the reality that members of our wider LGBTIQ community face right wing threats to turn back many of the gains in the last 50 years, the rally included protesters and speakers from many groups.

As the crowd was gathering in Taylor Square, we were interrupted by two Christian preachers with a very loud PA system. First Mardi Gras members held our banner up to

block them and the crowd joined in to chant 'go home bigots! Eventually, police intervened and got the Christians to pack up.

After hearing from speakers on the various issues represented at the rally, we marched down Oxford Street to Hyde Park. The 78ers were honoured to be asked to lead the march.

There was a very large police presence and police helicopters flew overhead.

Most of the 78er participants then backed up for the evening Mardi Gas Parade.

Pride Month Events

As part of Sydney Pride Festival commemorations in June, First Mardi Gras Inc. presented two events: Salon78 forum – Celebrating Rainbow History (see page 11) and our 78ers Mardi Gras 44th Anniversary Drinks.

Sydney WorldPride also celebrated the 44th anniversary of the first Mardi Gras with a Human Progress Flag on the steps of the Opera House.



78ers, partners and guests at Kinselas. Photos: Anne Morphet.

78ers Drinks – Sunday 26 June 2022

Around 40 78ers, partners and guests gathered at Kinselas to celebrate the 44th anniversary of the first Mardi Gras. Kinselas played 70s and 80s music, heard above the chatter and clinking of glasses in their art deco Chapel Bar.

First Mardi Gras Inc. arranged for canapés and sold raffle tickets. After the drawing the raffle, Co-Chair Ken Davis spoke about the importance of the anniversary and

thanked all who attended and the event organisers. Committee Member Robyn Kennedy then spoke on the shootings in a LGBTQIA+ nightclub in Oslo – deliberately timed to coincide with Pride celebrations.

It was great to get together in person on this important anniversary and to try out a new, accessible venue with good catering and service.



Gathering at Kinselas and listening to speeches. From left, photo 1: Rebell Barnes. Photos 2 & 3: Anne Morphet.

Human Progress Flag – Friday 24 June 2022

On a cold and windy day 1,111 people joined together in the flag to welcome the world to Sydney for WorldPride 2023.

We lined up on the Opera House

steps in the 11 colours of the Progress Pride Flag.

A number of 78ers and other people travelled from regional areas and interstate to attend.



Photo: William Brougham.

InterPride and Oceania Pride

InterPride is the world's largest association of Pride organisers with 400 members from over 70 countries. InterPride licenses WorldPride celebrations – including New York in June 2019, which a group of 78ers attended, Copenhagen in August 2021 and Sydney in February and March 2023.

WorldPride 2021 in Copenhagen went ahead with modified events to make them Covid-safe. Key events like the Human Rights Conference were made available as recordings.

InterPride's 2021 Annual General Meeting and World Conference was held online in November. A joint networking meeting was held with members in Oceania and Asia.

Robyn Kennedy presented the InterPride Strategic Plan at the AGM and it was formally adopted by the Board in April 2022.

In the plan: boundaries of regions are to be self-defined in place of the USA having six regions and all of Asia being one region; the role of Board is to transition to governance; Regional Pride Platforms will become the members of InterPride in place of individual Prides in those regions.

The 2022 InterPride Annual General Meeting and World Conference will go ahead in person in late October in Guadalajara, Mexico.

Oceania Pride



Sydney Queer Irish prepare to march in the Mardi Gras Parade. Photo: Sydney Queer Irish.

Oceania Pride is an informal gathering of Pride organisers that has been meeting most months since July 2020. Many, but not all, are members of InterPride and include Prides from Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific.



From left: Bec Johnson, President of Brisbane Pride, with other Indigenous elders. Photo: Brisbane Pride.

Sydney WorldPride 2023

During the week leading up to the Mardi Gras Parade, Sydney WorldPride (SWP) hosted two InterPride guests from North America, Kevin Beaulieu and Jessie DeStefano. The visit was to ensure that preparations for Sydney WorldPride were on track, including assessing the suitability of venues.

Kevin and Jessie toured SWP venues and Mardi Gras events with 78er and InterPride Vice President Robyn Kennedy and members of the SWP Board and staff.

Oceania Pride meetings have updates on InterPride and presentations by member organisations. This year we had talks by Brisbane Pride, Sydney Queer Irish, Sydney WorldPride and on the InterPride Strategic Plan.



Brisbane Pride Festival 2022.

In June, financial members of InterPride in the region met to start the process of incorporation as a Pride Platform and a Constitution Working Group was formed.



Kevin Beaulieu, Robyn Kennedy and Jessie DeStefano at the Mardi Gras Parade. Photo: Anne Morphett.

SWP is gearing up for their events – including an Opening Concert, Human Rights Conference, Bondi Beach Party and Pride March.

Campaigning against Anti-LGBTIQ Bills

Again this year, First Mardi Gras Inc. members campaigned against anti-LGBTIQ Bills in both the NSW and Federal parliaments. We got out on the streets with the 78ers banner at rallies called by Community Action for Rainbow Rights (CARR) and attended online rallies when Covid forced us inside.



78ers with the banner at the 5.12.21 rally against the Religious Discrimination Bill. From left: Karl Zlotkowski, Stephen Hughes, Maree Marsh, Brian Coates, Fiona Hulme, Diane Minnis. Photo: Serena Gahagan.

We attended CARR rallies – on 14 August (online), 16 October (online), 31 October and 5 December 2021 where Karl Zlotkowski addressed the rally linking the current campaign with the struggles of the 70's, 80's and 90's.

Karl also spoke at an online rally organised on 7 October 2021 by Macquarie University Socialist and Queer groups.

In the first half of 2022, we attended CARR rallies on 12 February and 25 June, where Diane Minnis spoke on the 44th anniversary on the first Mardi Gras and the need to work with unions, the Labor Party and other progressive MPs and groups.

The Federal Liberal Government's Religious Freedom Bill was introduced late in 2021. Some of the more contentious elements were removed but it remained a threat to

secular minorities. It would effectively give licence to bigots to discriminate, if their prejudice is grounded in "faith". It also threatened to over-ride State anti-discrimination legislation.

The Bill was referred to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee and they called for submissions in early 2022. First Mardi Gras Inc. endorsed a Pride in Protest and National Union of Students Queer Department submission to the committee.

The Morrison government withdrew the Bill after it became clear it would be subject to amendments in the Senate. After continually maintaining that the Bill's sole purpose was to outlaw discrimination against persons of religious faith; their true agenda of attacking trans kids was revealed.

Social Events

With Covid restricting social gatherings for the first half of the year, First Mardi Gras Inc. managed to hold seven events for 78ers, partners and friends during the rest of 2021-22. After pandemic imposed isolation, we believe it is important to bring people in our age group together.

Seventeen 78ers, partners and friends congregated at our Social Lunch on Sunday 7 November 2021 at Pyrmont's Terminus Hotel. We gathered on the light and airy upstairs balcony in our first in-person event since early June.



Social Lunch on 17.11.21. Photo: Rebell Barnes.

With its easy bus, light rail and parking access, The Terminus hosted our lunches on the first Sundays of February, May and June as well as a post-Mardi Gras lunch on 13 March 2022.



Post-Mardi Gras lunch, 13.3.22. Photo: Rebell Barnes.

On 12 December, we celebrated Christmas at the Colombian, in their revamped first floor bar.

We enjoyed drinks, finger food, catching up face to face and singing some of the early 1980s Gay Liberation Quire songs, led by David Abello on guitar.



Christmas at the Colombian, 12.12.21. Photo: Rebell Barnes.

On 4 March 2022 we held a 78ers Pre Mardi Gras Gathering in the Rooftop Bar, State Library of NSW. Despite its convoluted entry, from the rear of the building in Hospital Road and with security taking us up in the lift, it was a classy venue and a pleasant evening.

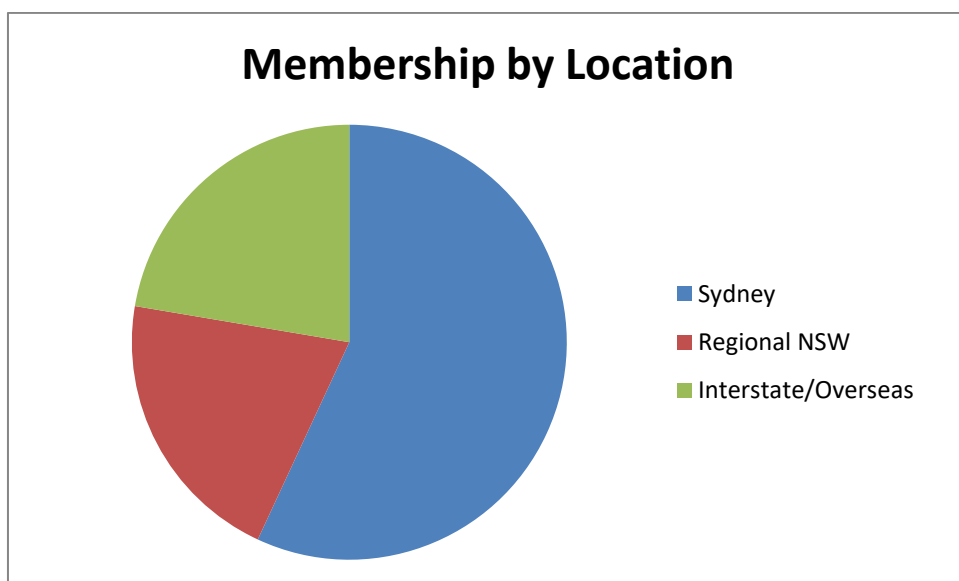
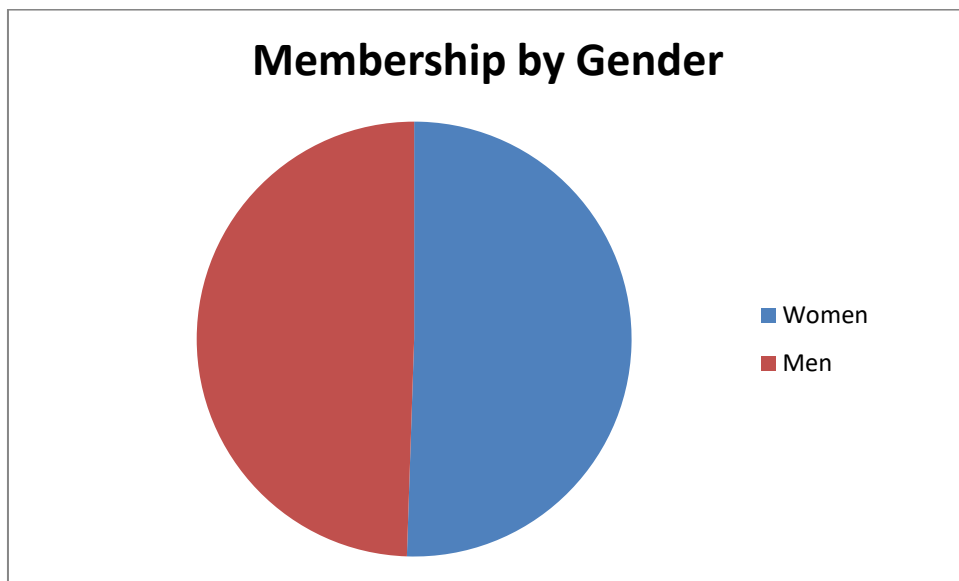


Christmas at the Colombian, 12.12.21. Photo: Rebell Barnes.

Membership

By the end of June 2021, 196 people had joined First Mardi Gras Inc. One hundred and sixty four of those members are 78ers and we have 24 Associate Members, who are not 78ers. Five 78er members have passed away and three members declined to renew.

Our membership is still close to half women and men, with 95 (50.5%) women and 93 men (49.5%). Overall, 107 (56.9%) First Mardi Gras Inc. members live in Sydney, 39 members (20.7%) live in regional NSW and 42 (22.3%) live interstate or overseas.



Financial Report 2022

First Mardi Gras Inc. ABN 23 393 628 948

For the year ended 30 June 2022

Summary

Our total revenue (\$10,809.44) came largely as a result of speaking engagements and other events in conjunction with Mardi Gras 2022 – associated with corporate interest in learning about the events of 1978. Membership renewals amounted to \$1,365.00, of which about \$550 is memberships paid in advance, and we received \$700 in donations. Our social activities broke roughly even (raffles, badge sales etc. vs. costs).

Expenditures were operational (printing, software, web and a Zoom subscription) plus membership of InterPride and Associate Membership of EPOA, the European Pride Organisers Association.

Because of COVID-19 restrictions, there were no face-to-face General Meetings of FMG Inc. and hence no venue hire during the Financial Year.

Income

Total income of \$10,809.44

Expenditure

Total expenditure of \$2,185.71

Closing Balance

Substantial increase from \$4,047.65 (30 June 2021) to \$12,671.38 (30 June 2022)

Balance Sheet

Assets	30 June 2022	30 June 2021
Current Assets		
Cash at Bank	12,671	4,047
Adjustment		5
Total Assets	12,671	4,047
Liabilities	550	NIL
(Membership in Advance)		
Retained earnings	4,047	4,082
Result for year Profit/(Loss)	8,074.	(35)
Total Equity	12,671	4047

Profit and Loss

Income	2022	2021
Membership	1,365	687
Donations	700	585
Speaking Engagements	7,272	-
Events	-	-
Fundraising	1,309	130
Grant	-	-
Other Revenue	163	-
Total Income	10,809	1,402
Expenses	2022	2021
Advertising	179	-
Catering	360	-
Domain Name Fees (Vodien)	33	-
Email Hosting (Vodien)	114	105
Additional Domain Names (78ers.sydney and 78ers.au)	393	-
EPOA Associate Membership	-	89
Exhibition Materials	-	-
Facebook and Google	-	89
Fundraising	275	-
Insurance	-	-
InterPride Membership	52	134
Miscellaneous	128	-
Postage	-	-
Printing & Stationery	-	363
Reporting (Fair Trading)	48	84
Software (Adobe Acrobat)	65	-
Venue Hire	-	-
Web Hosting (Squarespace)	307	342
Zoom Subscription	231	231
Total Expenses	2,185	1,436

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. InterPride and EPOA memberships are paid in foreign currencies and therefore subject to exchange rate variation.

Vale

We remember two 78ers who sadly passed away during the year: **Kaye Shumack** and **Peter Binning**. If you know of any other 78ers who have passed away, please let us know at info@78ers.org.au.



Dr Kaye Shumack passed away on 15.08.21, aged 67, after finding out in mid-2020 that she had advanced cancer.

We remember Kaye as an activist for women's and lesbian and gay causes and a fighter for social justice. She was quiet and serious and also funny and down to earth.

After working at Elsie Women's Refuge, Kaye went on to a distinguished academic career. With a background in visual communication design, photography and media production, Kaye's research explored relationships between people, space and place.

Kaye became a Professor and Director of Learning and Teaching, and the Director of International in the School of Humanities and Communication Arts, at Western Sydney University. Kaye regularly exhibited her artwork.

Kaye came along to a couple of 78ers meetings in 2016 and 2017 and joined the exuberant 78er contingent in the 40th Anniversary Parade. Afterwards she sent a message: "Congrats on such a successful night for the organisers! Saw people there haven't seen for many years." Kaye was not able to join the 2019 Parade but was happy to receive her 78ers t-shirt.



Peter Binning passed away on 20.11.21 aged 76, only eight weeks after being diagnosed with advanced pancreatic cancer.

Peter had a very colourful life travelling the world as an opera singer and in recent years sang in opera dinner cruises on Sydney Harbour.

Peter was a warm and generous friend. He had a presence about him and put on the best parties! He loved a good time and was a fun person to know.

Media and Speaking Engagements

First Mardi Gras Inc. has received even more interview and speaker requests this year and 78ers have written several articles. Listed are 91 contributions by First Mardi Gras Inc. members and other 78ers. Also, Dennis Altman won the 2021 LGBTQA IAS Caucus Eminent Scholar Award and the Shivananda Khan Award for Extraordinary Achievement at APCOM HERO Awards 2021.

Event/Media	Title	78er/s	When
Scribe	Discussion of <i>God Save the Queen: The strange persistence of monarchies</i>	Dennis Altman	01-Jul-21
Australian Securities Exchange LGBTIQ+ Network	Resilience	Robert French	08-Jul-21
Octagon APAC	International panel on <i>Pride issues of global concern</i>	Robyn Kennedy	14-Jul-21
Jed Coppa, <i>Stories from Sydney</i> Podcast	Sydney's gay dance parties through the 20th century from <i>Gay Sydney</i>	Garry Wotherspoon	20-Aug-21
ANZ Pride Group	The First Mardi Gras with the 78ers	Frank Howarth	25-Aug-21
University of Sydney Union Pride Festival	The First Mardi Gras with the 78ers	Ken Davis, Fiona Hulme	31-Aug-21
Audio interview, Inner West Council website	History and activism to mark History week September 4-12	Robyn Plaister	01-Sep-21
Scribe	Discussion of <i>God Save the Queen: The strange persistence of monarchies</i>	Dennis Altman	30-Sep-21
Star Observer	<i>Coming out in the 70s for National Coming Out Day</i>	Robyn Kennedy	01-Oct-21
Rainbow History Class	Experiences of the first Mardi Gras	Garry Wotherspoon, Penny Gulliver	5-Oct-21
Online forum by Macquarie Socialists and Queer groups	Why the Religious Discriminations Bill is so dangerous	Karl Zlotkowski	07-Oct-21
Harriet Tatham, ABC TV News	Gay murders at the Bondi Beat	Garry Wotherspoon	22-Oct-21
Jason Om, ABC TV News	Murders at gay beats in the last decades of last century	Garry Wotherspoon	23-Oct-21
APCOM HERO Awards 2021	Award acceptance speech	Dennis Altman	19-Nov-21

Event/Media	Title	78er/s	When
Aural Fixation	<i>Tracks of Our Queers</i>	Sandra Gobbo, David Abello	25-Nov-21
Discussion panel for Police GLLO training	Experience of the first Mardi Gras, police involvement then and now	Meredith Knight	1-Dec-21
CARR rally	Comparing the current campaign with struggles of the 70's, 80's and 90's	Karl Zlotkowski	05-Dec-21
Sydney Bookmen Reading Group	Discussion of <i>Through the Gay Looking Glass: the many lives of Clive Madigan</i>	Garry Wotherspoon	19-Dec-21
Kind is Cool	78ers clothing collection photo shoot	Jude Munro, Peter McEwan	Jan-22
Jamie McKinnell, ABC TV News	Outcome of the Scott Johnson case	Garry Wotherspoon	14-Jan-22
Merivale/Absolut	Photo shoot for <i>We Are All Heroes</i> campaign	Robyn Kennedy	28-Jan-22
Maddocks Lawyers	Maddocks March for Inclusion video	Ken Davis, Robyn Kennedy	28-Jan-22
Dannii Minogue's podcast - <i>The 90s</i>	Historical context around the origins of Mardi Gras	Robyn Kennedy	28-Jan-22
Apple 78ers doco	Recorded introduction for staff screening	Robyn Kennedy	5-Feb-22
Gary Nunn, BBC News	1950s homophobia, NSW law changes, Cooma Gaol section for prisoners with homosexual crimes	Garry Wotherspoon	11-Feb-22
Star Observer	<i>Gay Liberation Turns 50</i>	Robyn Kennedy	13-Feb-22
Dulcie's Bar History Talk	Personal views of first Mardi Gras	Kell Boston	13-Feb-22
Inner West Council	Commemorate start of CAMP Inc. 50 years ago in Balmain	Peter De Waal, Robyn Plaister	16-Feb-22
Salon78 Forum	<i>Gay Lib Comes Out 1972!</i>	Dennis Altman, Penny Gulliver, John Witte, Ken Davis (MC)	19-Feb-22
Student interview	The first Mardi Gras with the 78ers	Maree Marsh	20-Feb-22
Fair Day	78er speaking from Main Stage	Penny Gulliver	20-Feb-22
ABC RN live interview at Fair Day	Significance of the first Mardi Gras and what's changed since 1978	Diane Minnis	20-Feb-22

Event/Media	Title	78er/s	When
Vertex Pharmaceuticals	History and origins of Mardi Gras	Diane Minnis, Ken Davis	21-Feb-22
Ten News Digital	How Mardi Gras came about, what happened and what it means now	David Abello, Diane Minnis	23-Feb-22
Intuit Pride Network	The first Mardi Gras, what happened and why	Robert French	24-Feb-22
Sydney Morning Herald	Mardi Gras sponsorship	Ken Davis	24-Feb-22
ABC Online	78er participating in the Sydney Mardi Gras	Fiona Hulme	25-Feb-22
Dexus TRIBE LGBTIQ+ Network	History and origins of Mardi Gras	Ken Davis	25-Feb-22
ACON SPARK Youth Walk	LGBTIQ life in Kings Cross and Oxford Street	Robert French	26-Feb-22
Randwick City Council	MC of Mardi Gras Celebration – Coogee Beach Rainbow	Julie McCrossin	26-Feb-22
Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence History Walk	LGBTIQ life in Kings Cross and Oxford Street	Robert French	27-Feb-22
Sun Herald	Debate on business and Mardi Gras	Ken Davis	27-Feb-22
Future Super	Experience of Mardi Gras	Ken Davis	28-Feb-22
Maddocks March for Inclusion	History and origins of Mardi Gras	Robyn Kennedy, Ken Davis	28-Feb-22
We, The City podcast	78er artist sharing their stories	Toby Zoates	Mar-22
Chillout Festival	Interview on <i>God Save the Queen: The strange persistence of monarchies</i>	Dennis Altman	01-Mar-22
GLG Group	How Mardi Gras evolved, personal involvement, future for queer rights in Australia	Diane Minnis, Ken Davis, Robert French	2-Mar-22
<i>God Forbid</i> , ABC Radio National	Episode to coincide with Mardi Gras on spiritual practices	Meredith Knight	2-Mar-22
NRMA Shine LGBTIQ employee network	78ers role in the history of Mardi Gras	Penny Gulliver, David Abello	3-Mar-22
TikTok interview for Unions NSW	Unions and gay/lesbian rights from 1973 onwards	Ken Davis	3-Mar-22
Ampol Rainbow Alliance	History and origins of Mardi Gras	Sue Fletcher, Karl Zlotkowski	3-Mar-22

Event/Media	Title	78er/s	When
Metcash	Share the 78ers story	Frank Howarth	3-Mar-22
THRIVE PR	What the MG was like, what it meant, how far we have come, how much further we need to go	Gail Hewison, Fiona Hulme	4-Mar-22
ABC TV	Pre parade story	Robyn Kennedy	4-Mar-22
Vogue magazine	<i>From then to now: A Mardi Gras '78er and a first-time attendee, in conversation</i>	Robyn Kennedy	4-Mar-22
Charter Hall CH Proud Group	Experience of Mardi Gras and why it's still important	Richard Riley	4-Mar-22
AMEX	History walk and bus tour - early LGBTIQ Sydney and the first Mardi Gras	Robert French, Diane Minnis	4-Mar-22
Nestle Diversity and Inclusion Network	History and origins of Mardi Gras	Robyn Kenendy, Frank Howarth	4-Mar-22
ABC TV	Fiftieth anniversary of CAMP	Peter De Waal	4-Mar-22
Daytime Rally	Co-Chair	David Abello	5-Mar-22
Daytime Rally	Radio interview	Barry Charles, Wanda Kluge	5-Mar-22
ABC TV	Co-host Live Broadcast <i>Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Kick Off Hour</i>	Julie McCrossin	5-Mar-22
Student interview	The first Mardi Gras	Fiona Hulme	7-Mar-22
Star Observer	<i>NSW Police Eject Mardi Gras '78er from Sydney Cricket Ground Over Anti-Putin Poster</i>	Wendy Bacon; Barbara Karpinski (interviewee)	07-Mar-22
Star Observer	<i>Sydney Mardi Gras CEO Calls For NSW Police Probe into 78er's Ejection from SCG</i>	Wendy Bacon; Barbara Karpinski, Peter Murphy (interviewees)	09-Mar-22
National Gallery of Victoria	Launch of <i>Queer: stories from the NGV Melbourne</i>	Dennis Altman	09-Mar-22
Sydney Water Confluence Program	History of Mardi Gras and importance of an inclusive environment at work	Sue Fletcher, David Abello	10-Mar-22
Star Observer	<i>NSW Police Apologise to 78er Barbara Karpinski for Ejecting Her from SCG</i>	Wendy Bacon; Barbara Karpinski, Peter Murphy (interviewees)	12-Mar-22
NSW Health	Speaker at launch of NSW LGBTIQ+ Health Strategy	Robyn Kennedy	16-Mar-22

Event/Media	Title	78er/s	When
JOY 94.9 FM	Mardi Gras history and corporatisation	Ken Davis	16-Mar-22
Honi Soit	Mardi Gras history and corporatisation	Ken Davis	16-Mar-22
Kendall Lovett's Melbourne Memorial	Tributes to Kendall Lovett	Ken Davis, Fabian LoSchiavo	20-Mar-22
The Bookshop on March 29th	Launch by Michael Kirby of <i>God Save the Queen: The strange persistence of monarchies</i>	Dennis Altman	29-Mar-22
JOY FM	My first Mardi Gras	Sallie Colechin	Mar-22
Omar Dehen, SBSTV News	State Government announcement of a Commission of Enquiry into gay hate crimes from the 1970s to 2010	Garry Wotherspoon	18-Apr-22
Holly Zwalf Podcast	Queer history	Garry Wotherspoon	24-Apr-22
Thorne Harbour Health	Down an' Dirty interview	Barry Charles	12-May-22
Sydney Memorial for Kendall Lovett	Tributes to Kendall Lovett	Ken Davis, Fabian LoSchiavo	15-May-22
SGLMG	IDAHOBIT video	Gail Hewison	17-May-22
Sydney Area Health	Aging and health care	Shane Brown, Meredith Knight, Peter Murphy	31-May-22
Stonewall Hotel	Sydney Pride Festival Launch	Meredith Knight, Steve Warren	2-Jun-22
Vice TV, US	Anti -gay violence in 1980s-90s	Barry Charles	10-Jun-22
TVNZ	Outing of Rebell Wilson	Diane Minnis	13-Jun-22
Post-graduate student, UNSW	Gay beats in Sydney over the past two centuries	Garry Wotherspoon	13-Jun-22
Queer Sydney: Powerhouse Late x Vivid Ideas	Panel: <i>From Camp to Gay to Queer a Continuum or a Disconnection?</i>	Dennis Altman	16-Jun-22
Queer Sydney: Powerhouse Late x Vivid Ideas	Performer in the Fashion Show	Fabian LoSchiavo	17-Jun-22
Human Progress Flag	The meaning of the Mardi Gras anniversary	Diane Minnis	24-Jun-22
CARR Rally	The meaning of the Mardi Gras anniversary	Diane Minnis	25-Jun-22

Event/Media	Title	78er/s	When
Salon78 Forum	<i>Celebrating Rainbow History</i>	Garry Wotherspoon, Ken Davis (MC)	25-Jun-22
Queer Liberation conference, UTS	International solidarity from 1978 Mardi Gras to 2023	Ken Davis	26-Jun-22
78ers Mardi Gras 44th Anniversary Drinks	Importance of the Mardi Gras 44th Anniversary, attack on LGBTIQ bar in Oslo	Ken Davis, Robyn Kennedy	26-Jun-22



Above: Participants in the AMEX history walk and bus tour including Minus 18 members, and their parents and friends, and AMEX staff. Front row: Diane Minnis and Robert French in 78ers t-shirts. 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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