



l-r Geraldine Kirby, Neil Paterson, Mac Ronan, Adam Pickvance, Jenny Mikakos MP, Jamie Gardner, The Hon. Haddon Storey

### **Celebrating 25 years of the Alternative Life Styles Organisation (ALSO)**

“Meeting No. 1 was convened on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> December 1980 at the Melbourne Zoo by ALSO to propose to the Melbourne gay community a CELEBRATION to mark decriminalisation of homosexuality, which seems imminent”, quote taken from the original hand written Minutes of this first ALSO meeting.

25 years later, on the 17<sup>th</sup> December 2005 a gathering of over 130 people, representing a wide variety of organisations came together in Queens Hall at the Victorian Parliament in CELEBRATION once again of the decriminalisation of sex between men by the Hamer Government in 1980. In addition to this landmark event, we were celebrating 25 years since the formation of ALSO and the work it has undertaken within the gay and lesbian community over the past 25 years.

This event was co-hosted by ALSO and Jenny Mikakos MP, Parliamentary Secretary for Justice. Speakers included (in speaking order); Neil Paterson (ALSO Vice-President), Jenny Mikakos MP, Dr Mac Ronan (ALSO Founder), The Hon Haddon Storey (Hamer Govt Attorney General), Jamie Gardiner (ALSO 1<sup>st</sup> Life Member), Geraldine Kirby (ALSO 1<sup>st</sup> female Life Member) and Adam Pickvance (ALSO CEO).

To mark 25 years since decriminalisation of sex between men in Victoria, the Victorian Parliament produced a booklet containing Hansard extracts from the 1980 parliamentary debate and other information relevant to the reforms. If you would like a copy of this publication, please contact the ALSO office.



## Victoria to get a Charter of Human Rights

In August 2005 the Victorian Government announced the formation of a Human Rights Consultation Committee. Over a 5-month period the Committee consulted widely with the Victorian community on whether the law should be changed to better protect human rights. Over 2,500 written submissions were received by the Committee, and 84% of these were in favour of establishing a legal charter of human rights in Victoria. You can read ALSO's submission to the Consultation in the Advocacy section of our website [www.also.org.au](http://www.also.org.au)

On the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2005, the Consultation Committee delivered its report to The Hon Rob Hulls MP (Attorney General) and recommended that the Parliament enact a Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities. This recommendation has been accepted by the Government. On the 20<sup>th</sup> December 2005 it was announced by Mr Hulls that the State Government would enact a Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities in 2006.

To view the full report including the 35 recommendations go to: [www.justice.vic.gov.au/humanrights](http://www.justice.vic.gov.au/humanrights) or for more information and a copy of the report call 1300 368 918.

You can play a part in achieving the best possible Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities in Victoria by writing to the Government and expressing your support for the enactment of the Charter. Send your letters to:

The Hon Rob Hulls MP  
Victorian Attorney General  
Level 17, 8 Nicholson St, East Melbourne 3002  
or email : [rob.hulls@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:rob.hulls@parliament.vic.gov.au)

## Changing times

Until 1980 in Victoria to be homosexual was to be "camp", the older term gradually giving way to the newer "gay" and to be so was illegal. The organisation now celebrating its silver anniversary carved out for itself a role in a fairly clandestine assortment of men and women marginalised as oddball, or worse — deviants.



Mac Ronan

They were mostly not OUT at all, though living and working in some kind of pretend status in the usual occupations and addresses but where the common family model suited them no better than a suit of armour. Betrothals, marriages, raising families — all these were the badges of the heterosexual world, and seen as central to the social order. HoHum...But for gay people, like other 'misfits'—like Shylock—do we not bleed, feed, breathe the same air and suffer the same pangs as the rest?

The 1970s decade was the watershed. The time for the baiting of misfits was past. A broader sharing of human rights seemed feasible. Laws could be changed? Removal of the criminal sanctions against homosexual acts was indeed a leap forward — though the name-calling did linger longer.

By 1980 a new gay and lesbian minority group triggered an opening out towards the mainstream. In this country law reform was led by Don Dunstan's South Australia. Victoria under Rupert Hamer was next, with a Homosexual Law Reform Coalition active through the 1970s, triumph for its efforts imminent by 1980.

Any minority group with a common bond seems to need — if it is to be a *community* — a set of institutions through which aspirations can be pursued, without guilt, without fear, without shame.

In retrospect ALSO seems to have been most effective in easing the path for such a growth, promising a more public face for gay people. For many gays and lesbians this led to their first alignment with a 'queer' organisation — perhaps their own sense of identity? The makers and shakers of such organisations over the years number many hundreds. Some — though not all — of their original goals have been met. Those persisting with the process deserve our gratitude and best wishes.

Malcolm Ronan - Founder of ALSO

## Seniors Brochure

ALSO has combined with the Council on the Aging (Victoria) and Seniors Information Victoria (SIV) to produce a joint brochure promoting and explaining the services offered through SIV.



SIV is a great resource in assisting seniors on a broad range of topics; such as housing options, home based services, health issues, financial matters, pensions, entitlements and referrals to other support services.

The production of this brochure, funded by ALSO, is in response to feedback from some GLBT seniors during the research phase of our Seniors Project that they feel uncomfortable in approaching and utilising 'mainstream' seniors services. It is hoped that this brochure along with the training that ALSO has provided to SIV staff will encourage GLBT seniors to utilise and benefit from SIV services and expertise.

The brochure will be available from the end of January, please contact ALSO to receive a copy. Many thanks to Les Eastman, a student from Holmesglen TAFE for his work in compiling and designing the brochure and to the ALSO Seniors Project Advisory Committee for their insights.

## Mike Evans - ALSO Sales Manager

Mike joined ALSO in July 2005 as our 2006 Directory Sales Manager. Before coming to ALSO Mike worked in the community doing amongst other things, dj work and venue promotion. Mike did a great job for us this year with the Directory having one of it's best sales years ever.





## Invite to march at Pride March



Last year, The ALSO Foundation's message for Pride March was "2005, It's Time to Thrive." In 2006, ALSO celebrates a significant milestone - its 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and hence, the significant contribution it has made to the lives of GLBT people across Victoria.

ALSO recognises Pride as an important event that allows the GLBT community to celebrate its diversity and achievements, as well as recognising the struggles for equality that lay ahead. As the organisers of Pride have declared, Pride should "re energize and recommit to making our world a better place. For ourselves and for future generations."

In its historic 25<sup>th</sup> year, ALSO calls on its members and supporters to walk with us – show your support for ALSO and show your support for the GLBT community.

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Pride March travels down Fitzroy St, St Kilda from 5pm, Sunday 5 February, 2006, followed by a free concert in the Catani Gardens. Meet the ALSO contingent in the park on the corner of Fitzroy St and Lakeside Drive from 3pm. Look for the ALSO banners and our white and blue caps.

"Your Community, My Community, ALSO".

## SSAT Youth Transitional Housing Service

As reported in the previous newsletter, ALSO will open a transitional housing service in May 2006 that will provide accommodation and support services to same sex attracted and transgender (SSAT) youth. This will be the first specific service for SSAT youth of its kind in Victoria and is being fully funded by ALSOCare.

The countdown to the establishment of this service is proceeding very well and many people within the community are already providing donations and offering to contribute to the service.

ALSO is pleased to announce that the Family Access Network (FAN) has joined ALSO as the principle partner of this service. For a discounted fee from ALSOCare, FAN has undertaken to provide the client support services, protocols and procedures necessary to assist the young people in this service. It will also ensure that ALSO's service is linked in with other youth services across Victoria.

FAN was established in 1981 and is a non-religious youth service agency, for more information on FAN please go to their website at: [www.familyaccessnetwork.com.au](http://www.familyaccessnetwork.com.au)

## 'Go for your life' grant



ALSO has received a grant of \$30,000 from the Department of Victorian Communities 'Go for your life' physical activity grants. Tony Lupton MP, Member for Prahran announced the grant at the November 2005 meeting of the ALSO Seniors Project Advisory Committee.

I-r Adam Pickvance, Heather Birch and Tony Lupton MP

This grant will enable ALSO to undertake a new initiative to facilitate opportunities for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender seniors to be physically active. It is hoped that this project will improve the physical and mental health of GLBT seniors and establish ongoing activity clubs and events for GLBT seniors to participate in. The project is called 'Over the Rainbow' and will commence in February 2006 with the employment of a part-time activities officer.

## Visit us at Midsumma



The Midsumma Carnival will be held in the Treasury Gardens, Cnr Flinders St and Spring St, on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> February from 11am to 6pm, followed by the Midsumma T Dance.

This year ALSO will have our usual marquee plus an ALL SO Fabulous Opportunity Shop marquee.

Come and visit the ALSO Marquee - join or renew your membership, obtain a copy of the 2006 ALSO Directory, donate to ALSOCare, find out more about ALSO's Community Development Projects including the Youth Transitional Housing Project. The new Seniors Information brochure will also be available. Members who collect their Directory at Carnival will be entered into a draw for a prize.

## Claude joins ALSO Team



ALSO would like to welcome Claude Panozzo to our team. Claude started with ALSO in early December as the Manager of ALSO's opportunity shop ALL SO Fabulous.

Agent Mac & Rowhide Entertainment Present

THE ALSO FOUNDATION'S

# red raw

a gay & lesbian dance party

Sat 28 Jan 06 10pm - 7am

ALEX TAYLOR (SYD) GREG BOLADIAN (SYD) KATE MONROE (SYD)  
 MURRAY HOOD (SYD) JAKE KILBY (SYD) SCRUFFY (MEL)  
 KDJ (MEL) MANDY ROLLINS (MEL)  
**SPECIAL GUEST DJ WAYNE G (LONDON)**

metro nightclub 20-30 BOURKE STREET MELBOURNE

OFFICIAL RED RAW RECOVERY @ THE MOTEL 8AM - 5PM FEATURING ANTHONY JAMES, MURRAY HOOD & MIKE EVANS

Tickets \$70+bf, available from: BANG 5th Yarra, Central Station City, Commercial Rd Pharmacy 5th Yarra, Eagle Leather Abbotsford, Hares & Hyenas 5th Yarra, Lucratic & DeLode Fitzroy, Sex Sydney, Ticketmaster 7 outlets, www.ticketmaster7.com.au or phonecharge 134 100

ALSO is pleased to present RED RAW 2006. Saturday January 28th 10pm - 8am at the Metro Nightclub 20-30 Bourke Street. DJ's include Alex Taylor, Greg Boladian, Kate Monroe, Murray Hood, Jake Kilby, Scruffy, KDJ and Mandy Rollins with special guest DJ Wayne G from London. Tickets are \$70 plus BF and available from the usual outlets. ALSO members and concession card holder tickets are \$60 and are only available from Hares & Hyenas bookstore 135 Commercial Rd Prahran. These tickets are limited.



The ALSO Foundation and Melbourne Queer Film Festival are pleased to present 2 screenings of Brokeback Mountain. 24th of Jan and 31st of Jan at the Nova Cinema. Both screenings have sold out and have raised over \$2,000. The film stars Heath Ledger, Jake Gyllenhaal, Michelle Williams and Anne Hathaway. It is the story of a long, passionate and secret love between two cowboys set in the 1960's, directed by Ang Lee. See <http://www.cinemanova.com.au/filmsoon.html#brok2> for more details of the film.

Take in the best of queer cinema from Australia and around the world at the Australian Centre for the Moving Image from March 2 - 12. For tickets, schedule and all information visit [www.melbournequeerfilm.com.au](http://www.melbournequeerfilm.com.au) or acmi from Feb 10.



Come along and visit ALSO's new Opportunity Shop, All So Fabulous. Located at 259 Smith Street, Fitzroy, the shop is open Monday - Saturday 10am - 5.30pm. Shop manager Claude and his happy band of volunteers will gladly accept donations of clothing, books, kitchen ware, nick naks, records/cd's, kids toys and anything else you might be willing to donate. Unfortunately we are unable to take electrical items and furniture. Donations can also be made at the ALSO office, 6 Claremont St, South Yarra or at the Carlton Clinic, 88 Rathdowne St, Carlton. Anyone who would like to volunteer their time to help out at the shop can call Claude on 9419 2696 or email [shopvolllies@also.org.au](mailto:shopvolllies@also.org.au)

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## EVENTS CALENDAR

GLOBE BizEXPO  
 Zinc@Federation Square  
 19th January 2006  
[www.galybusiness.com.au/globe](http://www.galybusiness.com.au/globe)  
[globe@gaybusiness.com.au](mailto:globe@gaybusiness.com.au)

ALSO Presents RED RAW 06  
 Metro Night Club  
 28th January 2006  
[www.also.org.au](http://www.also.org.au)  
[also@also.org.au](mailto:also@also.org.au)

Pride March  
 Fitzroy Street, St Kilda  
 5th February 2006  
[www.pridemarch.org.au](http://www.pridemarch.org.au)  
[info@pridemarch.com.au](mailto:info@pridemarch.com.au)

Midsumma Carnival Day  
 Treasury Gardens  
 12th February 2006  
[www.midsumma.org.au](http://www.midsumma.org.au)  
[admin@midsumma.org.au](mailto:admin@midsumma.org.au)

GLOBE Fruits in Suits  
 Royal Melbourne Yacht Squadron,  
 St Kilda  
 16th February 2006  
[www.galybusiness.com.au/globe](http://www.galybusiness.com.au/globe)  
[globe@gaybusiness.com.au](mailto:globe@gaybusiness.com.au)

GLOBE Lemons with a Twist  
 Fenix Restaurant, Richmond  
 23rd February 2006  
[www.gaybusiness.com.au/globe](http://www.gaybusiness.com.au/globe)  
[globe@gaybusiness.com.au](mailto:globe@gaybusiness.com.au)

Satin & Silk Ball  
 San Remo Ballroom Nth Carlton  
 25th February 2006

Melbourne Queer Film Festival  
 Australian Centre for the Moving Image  
 Federation Square  
 2nd - 12th March 2006  
[www.melbournequeerfilm.com.au](http://www.melbournequeerfilm.com.au)  
[info@melbournequeerfilm.com.au](mailto:info@melbournequeerfilm.com.au)

Chill Out Festival  
 Daylesford  
 10th - 13th March 2006  
[www.chilloutfestival.com.au](http://www.chilloutfestival.com.au)  
[info@chilloutfestival.com](mailto:info@chilloutfestival.com)

Commonwealth Games  
 15th - 26th March 2006  
[www.melbourne2006.com.au](http://www.melbourne2006.com.au)

For an up to date listing of upcoming community events, check out the Gay and Lesbian Community Events Calendar  
[www.glcec.20m.com](http://www.glcec.20m.com)