

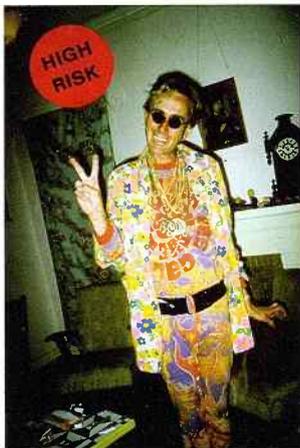
# talkabout

Where we speak for ourselves

people living with  
hiv/aids (nsw) is

15

1988 - 2003

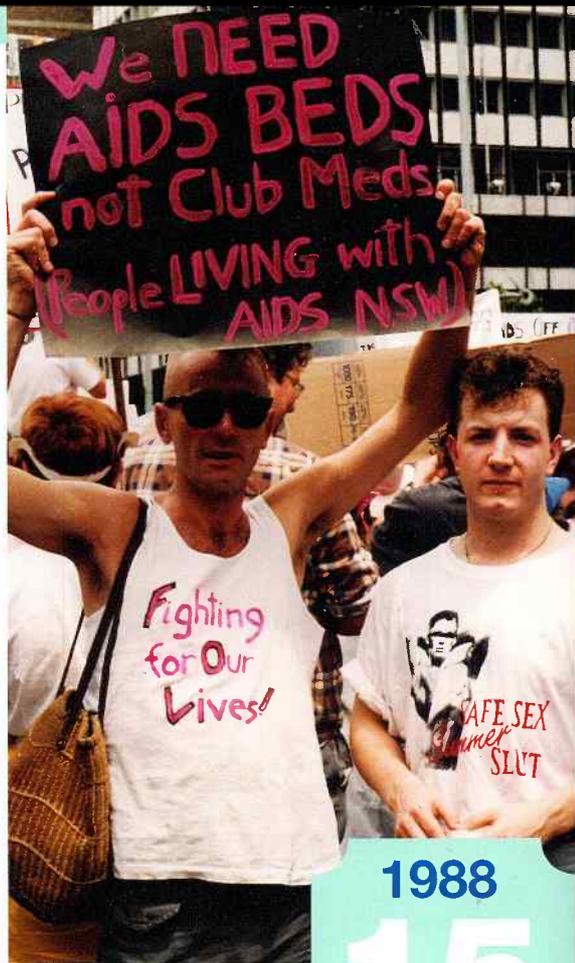


(Clockwise from top left)  
Paul Young, Convener of PLWA (NSW) 1988-89 Dulwich Hill 1990 'AIDS Living Legend' (see page 8)  
Photo: Courtesy of David Urquhart

Robert Ariss  
'Talkabout Dogfather' (see page 11)  
Photo: Yair Metargem

Paul Young at PLWA demonstration outside Sydney Hospital 1989  
Photo: Paul Young archives

Robert Ariss, Convener PLWA (NSW) left of banner. June 1990  
In United States for "Act Now" Activists' Conference



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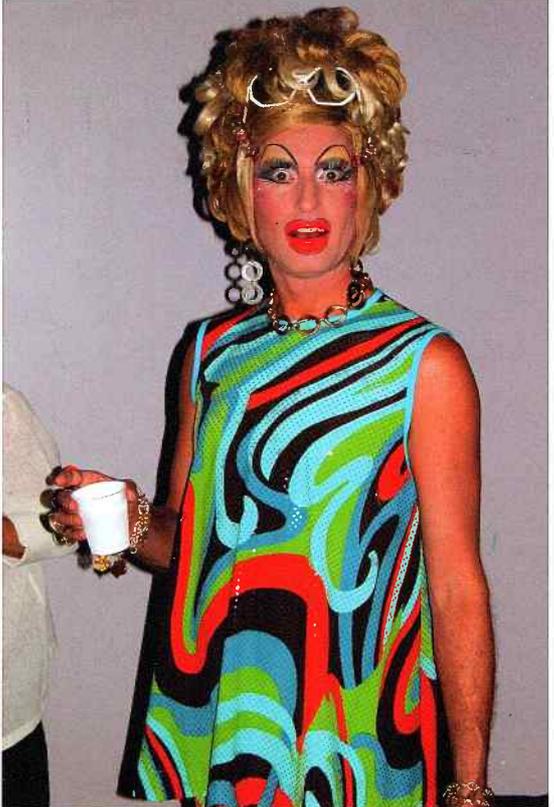
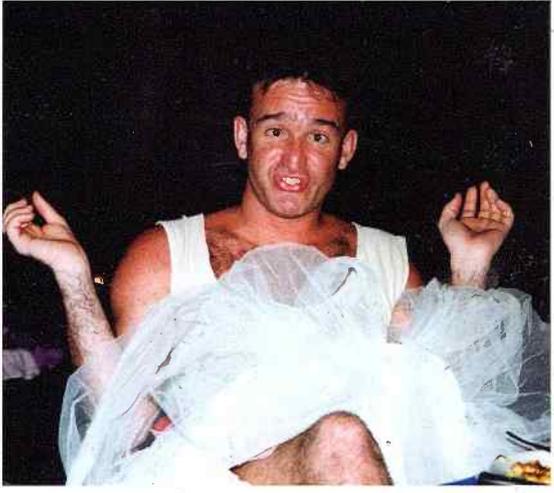
(Clockwise from top left)  
Cut the red tape on treatments. PLWH/A (NSW) float in the 1996 Mardi Gras Parade. Photo: C. Moore Hardy

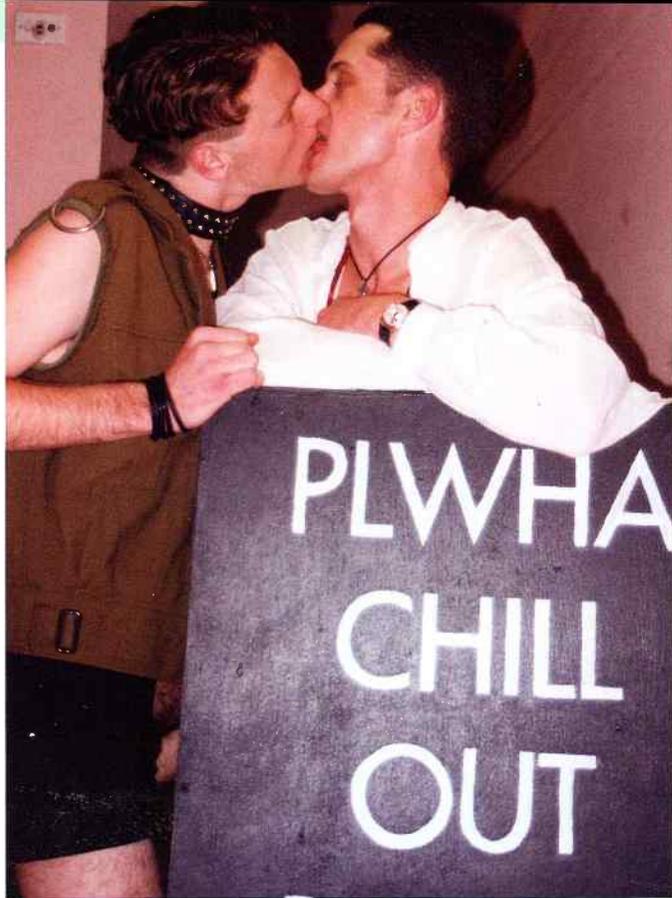
Relaxing with *Talkabout* in the PLWH/A Time Out Room at Mardi Gras 1996. Photo: Paige Slan

'Princess Saquinariv?' Scott giving sound advice in *Talkabout* in 1997

The glamorous Vanessa Wagner, host of the PLWH/A (NSW) Barebacking and Nailbiting Hypothetical 2003. Photo: Antony Nicholas

Red hot! PLWH/A (NSW) float in the 1999 Mardi Gras Parade (see page 4) Photo: Peter Thomas





(Clockwise from top left)  
Snogging in the PLWH/A Chill Out Room at Mardi Gras 1996. Photo: Paige Slan



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Treatments booklet's proud parents: Phillip Medcalf (PLWH/A convenor), Jo Watson (Research Officer) and Sandy Thompson (Designer) at the launch of *Getting the most out of your HIV treatments* in August 1997. Photo: Mazz Images



Legendary events manager Ray Hansen with Maria Venutti at the Wockpool Fundraiser 1997

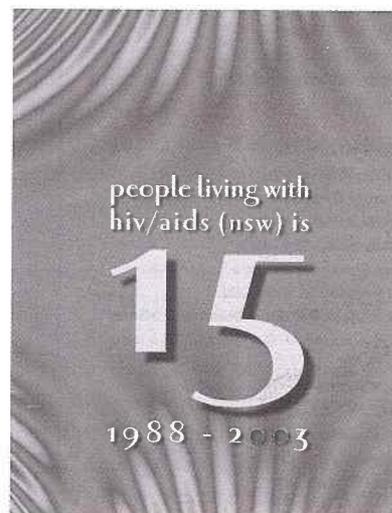
Positive Speakers' Bureau Co-ordinator Paul Maudlin speaks to students about hiv at Endeavour Sports High School in 1997. Photo: Gary Spencer



# talkabout

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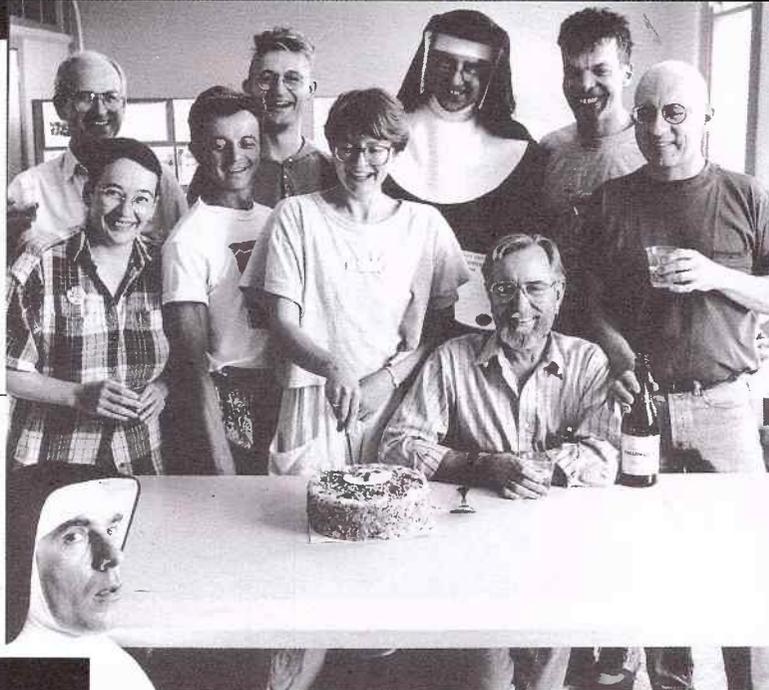
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PLWA planning day and *Talkabout's* 3rd Birthday, November 1991. Clockwise from bottom left: Mother Abyss, Titi Chartay (Co-ordinator), Guenter Plum, Robert Ariss, Lloyd Grosse (PLWA Convenor), Jill Sergeant, Mother Mary Armageddon To Be a Habit With You, Frank Maietta (facilitator), Peter Hornby and James Skelton.  
Photo: Jamie Dunbar



# 15 years on ...

On September 28 1988 a group of determined people met at the Trade Union Club in Surry Hills for the first public meeting of, what was then called, People Living with AIDS (NSW). This special edition of *Talkabout* is a series of snapshots from our first fifteen years. It's partial and personal, and the passion, energy and sometimes even disillusion shine through. Reading through this issue one thing is particularly clear. Our determination as hiv positive people

to represent ourselves, to speak for ourselves rather than be spoken about, and to set our own agendas has remained a constant strength over those fifteen years. Gathering these articles and photographs, I've felt grateful for the many people, some of them here, some of them not, who all have their place in our story. I hope you find reading this *Talkabout* as inspiring as I have found in putting it together.

Glenn Flanagan

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#### TALKABOUT

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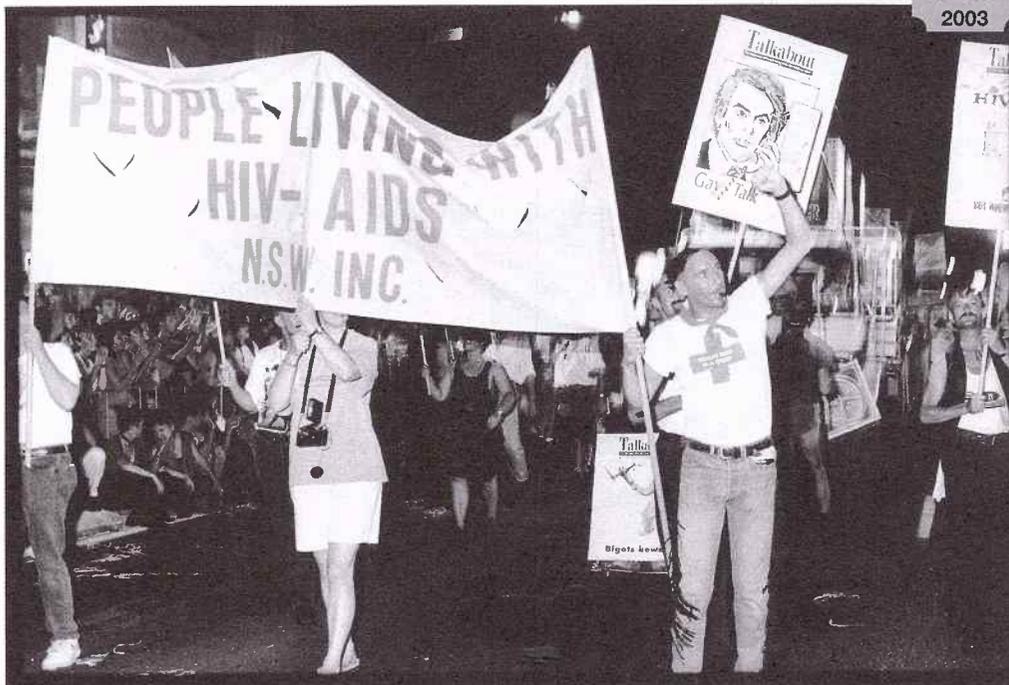
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Images of people included in *Talkabout* do not indicate hiv status either positive or negative.

If a person discloses their hiv status in *Talkabout*, either in a submitted article or in an interview for publication, that personal information is in the public arena on publication. Future use of information about such a person's status by readers of *Talkabout* cannot be controlled by PLWH/A (NSW) Inc.

PLWH/A (NSW) at Mardi Gras Parade 1993. Andrew Morgan (right of banner). Photo: Jamie Dunbar

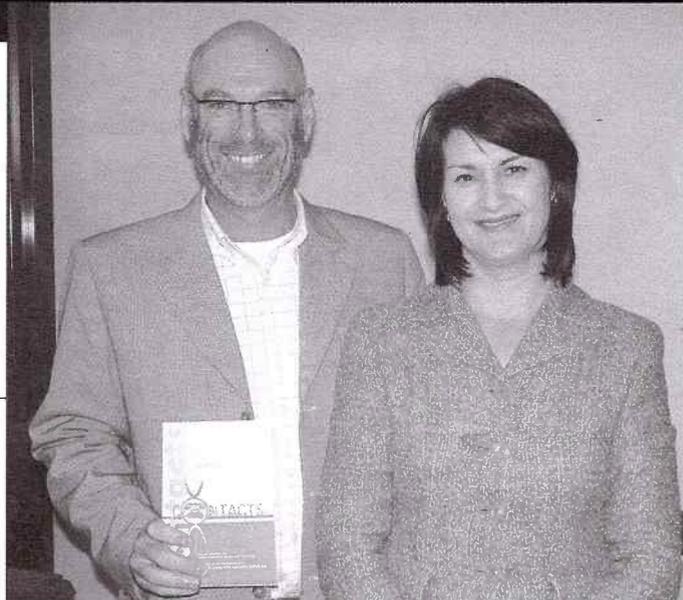


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# One of the most satisfying things I've done in my life



John Robinson and Carmel Tebbitt (Minister for Community Services) at the launch of Contacts 2003  
photo: Antony Nicholas

**People Living with HIV/AIDS (NSW) is an organisation run for positive people by positive people. It is a small organisation, but makes a significant difference.**

My first experience of the PLWH/A Committee was about 10 years ago. The Convenor was Lloyd Grosse and I approached him at Redleaf Pool about becoming involved. I attended a meeting and at the next meeting became the secretary. In 1998, when I retired, I felt that volunteering at PLWH/A was the right fit for me.

The Research Officer, Jo Watson, approached me to join the Legal Working Group. Vincent Dobbin was the Convenor and, after his death, was replaced by Douglas Barry. Vincent and Douglas were unique and PLWH/A was well served by their intellectual rigour.

In October 1999, I rejoined the Committee, Phillip Medcalf was the President, and I admired Phillip very much for his dedication and skills. Paul Cornefert and I joined at the same time. Paul was a very thorough person with a good accounting knowledge, the perfect Treasurer. In May 2000 Amelia McLoughlin became President and I was elected Vice-President. It was during this

period that the Governance Working Group, convened by Douglas Barry, made the decision to change from being a Management Committee to a Board, among other constitutional changes.

I was elected President in 2001, and as the epidemic has changed, the organisation needed to find its place. The strategic planning process we have undertaken over this last year has been so important. I also believe we have identified, through this process, a real need to find better and more effective ways to engage with our regional and rural constituency. The trips by the Strategic Planning Committee (to Western Sydney, the Northern Rivers, the Hunter and the Illawarra) were an important beginning in this process.

One of the major successes of this organisation in recent years has been our Health Promotion project, seeing people realise that, as people living with hiv, we have an important role to play in our own health promotion. Other things I'm proud of include our two versions of the Travel Brochure for positive people. It was also wonderful to be involved with the Integrative Treatments

Forum we organised at the Powerhouse Museum in October 2002. This forum was very much due to the vision of Robert Green (the Convenor of the Integrative Therapies Working Group), demonstrating his commitment to alternative therapies. Another very happy memory of my time as President was being in the PLWH/A (NSW) contingent at Mardi Gras in 2001. I always wanted to participate in the Mardi Gras Parade, and it was an invigorating and energising experience.

I don't think the organisation would be strong, vital and viable today if it wasn't for the work of our Executive Officer, Antony Nicholas, and the staff. Their commitment to bettering the lives of positive people is outstanding. When I enter our office I feel the energy, and it recharges me.

And finally, I recommend being a volunteer. Being one myself, I know it's a great way to contribute. In fact, I've found volunteering at People Living with HIV/AIDS (NSW) one of the most satisfying things I've done in my life. I've received a great deal more in return than I've given.

*John Robinson  
President of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NSW)*



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Graphic: Phillip McGrath

**Mother Helen Highwater OPI (rs!\*)**

Blessings & a Perpetual Indulgence to PLWH/A and *Talkabout* where we may indeed speak for ourselves. It warms the cockle of my crabby little heart that I am given the opportunity to babble on and on about issues that are deemed politically incorrect in a non-restrictive way. Our community has seen many changes since this scourge first emerged. The 'powers that be' may seem to lose sight of the humanity of this disease but thank the Holy Dingo that PLWH/A has striven consistently to listen and act on our behalf, never assuming it knows best. Consultation with the hiv community has always seemed to be a priority of this dedicated team. The high standard of *Talkabout*, thanks in no small part to my invaluable, occasional Epistle-ette whose inspiration comes from you, is now marvelled at internationally and gives us all a voice for which we are greatly indebted. Once again, congratulations to PLWH/A and *Talkabout*. I think I'll be raiding the larders for a celebratory altar wine.

**Dingo Vobiscum**

\* retired sisters lounge.

**Paul Cornefert**

Following a three months stay in Sicily not long ago, close to the foot of Mount Etna during its daily eruptions, I was introduced to *découpage* assisting Susan, a friend from Westmead Hospital, now living in Sicily. Little did I know that such skills would come to the aid of PLWH/A so soon!

The banners for the PLWH/A Mardi Gras float for 2003 required stencils to outline its message. It necessitated two attempts, not knowing the length of the sponsored truck. Having never been tempted by party drugs, the subsequent inhaling from the spray cans we used to produce the message on white material was indeed a new experience for me! One of the thrills of volunteering?

**The only thing we are interested in is staying alive, and if profits have to come a sorry last then that is too bad.**

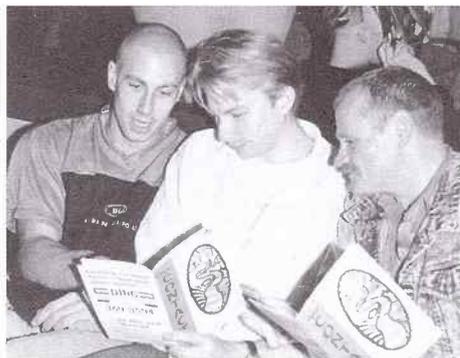
**Terry Bell,**

AIDS Advocate Newsletter  
October 1989

**Rob Lake**

Member PLWH/A, Convenor, Care and Support Portfolio NAPWA

*Happy Birthday Talkabout!* Talkabout is a great read, the covers always grab me, and it's a really high profile publication. You've always gone out of your way to make sure you reflect the voices and views of people living with hiv and aids around NSW and talk about the things we want to know. The working group, editors, current and past, and the Board and staff deserve heaps of thanks for keeping *Talkabout* appearing regularly for 15 years, and what years they have been. *Happy Birthday again, many more to come!*

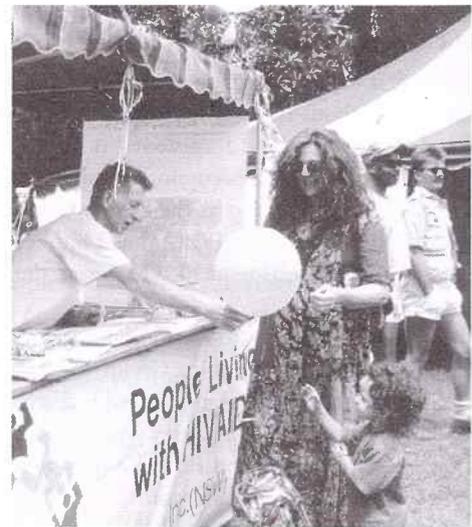


The launch of the first PLWH/A (NSW) Contacts Directory September 1996. Photo: C. Moore Hardy

**Kevin Plumb**

On my 26th birthday in 1987 I found out I was hiv positive at my work check-up and was told I would be dead in a couple of years. I also lost my job as a nurse. This was a very hard time for me and felt like there was no future and that I had very little time left.

In November last year I did the Positive Decisions Program. As a part of Positive Decisions, I studied the Fundraising for Professionals course and this gave me new skills which helped me organise the PLWH/A Volunteer Thank You party. I wanted to give more back to PLWH/A so I am now on the board of PLWH/A, and I also volunteer in the office. I also feel I have a new lease of life because of doing this.



Larry at Fair day, 1996. Photo: Paige Slan

**Peter Thomas**

**Red Hot Mardi Gras 1999.** For a short time in 1998-99 I was employed by PLWH/A to help with the summer events program. The most memorable moment of this time was helping haul the organisation's float through Taylor Square in the 99 Mardi Gras parade. While the vision on the television and the thousands of people watching was one of positive people having a 'hot', spectacular and fun time, the reality was that the wheels were coming off – literally! With one of our stars chronically ill (self inflicted), failing generators, tearing fabric and blown out speakers – our float slowly crumbled as the Old Showgrounds came into view. One of the two volcanoes came to an explosive end as it hit a gutter with a jarring thud. Despite the dramas the fabulous banners, images and memories have become part of the fabric of PLWH/A.

(see colour photos)



PLWH/A (NSW) Mardi Gras Parade 1997. Photo: C. Moore Hardy

**Derek Walker**

formerly PLWH/A Research Officer, now returned home

Back in old South Wales we have nothing to compare to PLWH/A (NSW). A political force for positive people is noticeable by its absence. A positive speakers' bureau, or even a gay speakers' service, could do valuable work. A magazine of *Talkabout's* quality could too. I learned a great deal working at PLWH/A (NSW) Inc, but my highlight has to be fundraising at the launch of Mardi Gras in 2001. It really felt like the lesbian and gay community was right behind our work.

**Douglas Barry**

It was 1997 when I first got involved with PLWH/A. I was finding that writing about my feelings and my experiences with hiv/aids was helping me. And *Talkabout* published my earnest scribbles. And what's more, it paid me! I hadn't been in the work force for some years and to receive that first cheque gave me more satisfaction than I can describe. I stuck that cheque up on my fridge and just looked at it for two weeks before banking it. Talk about lifting my self-respect and confidence! Money sure ain't everything, but just then that cheque came pretty close.

**Antonio Pangallo**

For the past two years, I have been actively involved in Health Promotion for ACON and in that time have had the good fortune of crossing paths with the folk at PLWH/A. I've always admired the grass roots approach to community health and I really believe that all of the staff should be commended for their commitment and belief in what they're doing. I have often flicked through *Talkabout* and glanced around at the anti-discrimination campaigns during my never-ending wait for public transport and think ... someone's getting it right. Happy Anniversary PLWH/A.



Jill Sergeant and Leggs Galore launching the monthly *Talkabout* 1992. Photo: Jamie Dunbar

**Positive people must be allowed self determination in this lifetime. Or how else are we to be part of the solution?**

**Vivienne Munro**

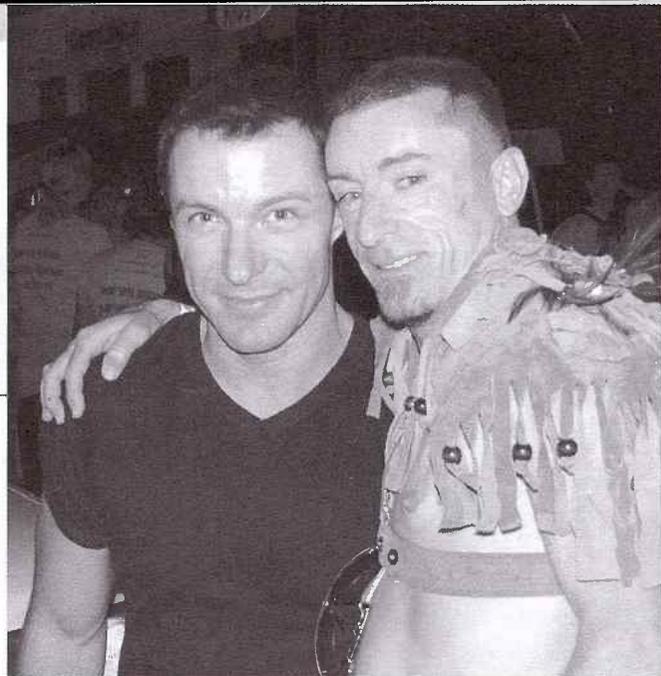
Convenor PLWH/A (NSW) 1995

**Douglas Knox**

coordinated the Australian Quilt Project for many years located upstairs from the PLWH/A (NSW) office (Room 5)

All the time I was upstairs at the Quilt, or thereabouts, I knew that there was good work being carried out in Room 5 and also that there was always a welcome there whenever we had a problem, needed some advice or just fancied a chat. I remember fondly some of those who are no longer with us, their tenacity and bravery. I raise a glass here in Perth to your continued success and hopefully by 2018 the need for the organisation will have been overcome.

# The visionaries, the passions, the bitching, the moments



Antony and Norman PLWH/A (NSW) Mardi Gras Parade 2003. Photo: David Kearney

**Antony Nicholas,** Executive Officer PLWH/A (NSW) looks back on the last five years at People Living with HIV/AIDS (NSW)

As we move on we realise times like that have passed, thank god, passion has become policies and ACT UP has become art exhibitions.

**Now if someone had asked me 'where do you see yourself going?' five years ago, I never would have guessed that I would be the Executive Officer of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NSW). One of my first tasks as Community Development Officer, back then, was to organise the tenth birthday and here we are at the fifteenth. The past five years have been exciting, exhausting, energising, emotional, exasperating, enlightening and aging. Reflecting back however, the important things that sing out from the back of my mind are not the days or months, or even the outcomes, but recollections of moments.**

Moments where your manager encouraged you to fly and test your limits, in a sector prone to try and tear them down. Work mates who took open bets on how long your boyfriend would last. The great nights out bonding as a team and the mornings after when we arrived like advocate shipwrecks. The personality quirks of arguably the most innovative *Talkabout* editor. The meetings, the meetings, the meetings. The infamous screaming matches between staff, Board, Board and staff, followed by the even more infamous screaming silence. When the Research Officer conducted meetings in the warm familiar glow of the Oxford. The dying committee members using their last energies to push through change and live on through their legacy. The people now. The Mardi Gras dancing with lovers, friends, ghosts and ash on your boots. The wins, the gains, the new projects. The people then. The changes, the losses, the funerals. When the Financial Officer joked about you being some fly-by Oxford Street type ... When staff

parties left some sitting in the Barracks, late at night, hallucinating they were back on a sub in the navy. Ridiculously glamorous shoe auctions to raise funds for a ridiculously poor ngo ... oh those shoes. The great stories you are privileged to hear every week. The people gone. The President who was willing to let you have a go even if he may not have agreed, but would defend you till the last.

The bureaucrats, the plwha aristocrats, the aidsocrats, the diplomats and the stab you in the backs. The people. The most gorgeous elfin princess down the hill. The meetings, the meetings, the meetings. The innovation and the dreams. The people. The bitching, the blaming, the dissolve you in a vat of acid if given half a chance sector personalities. The people. The visionaries.

It is not all fun and games though; it was and still is a time of much work, passion and hardship, ill health, good health, low resources and much need, which is why I think we all enjoy the fun, as a release: we knew sometimes people were doing life tough and needed a break. It's odd to think that only five years ago the epidemic was so different, just starting to blossom in treatments euphoria after that bleak period. The work is just as hard, perhaps even more complicated by the day. The team is just as dedicated and innovative. But as we move on we realise times like that have passed, thank god, passion has become policies and ACT UP has become art exhibitions.

Looking back on five years it is not the great resumé moments that flood in, but the faces, the smiles and laughter, the great personal moments and some tears.

# The way we were

In Robert Ariss's book 'Against Death: The Practice of Living with AIDS', he mentioned, without naming them, two 'uninfected women' on the first Committee of People Living with AIDS (NSW). A lot of women have been unacknowledged in our history. **Julie Bates** and **Kathy Triffitt** are now the only surviving members of that Committee. In a conversation with Glenn Flanagan, they describe the people and events from that time.



Julie and Kathy. Photo: Glenn Flanagan

**J:** I guess I've been around in hiv from the beginning. Initially from the perspective of sex workers and sex worker representative groups, particularly the very real and present danger of hiv being transmitted to sex workers.

My involvement with people of difference over the years brought me into contact with people who recognised the impact of hiv. And I guess Kathy and I being involved in sexual politics and student politics and the like, it was a natural progression. It just happened that we were there and we were concerned and we had positive friends and others who were affected as we were.

**K:** I suppose my interest was around issues of visibility and discrimination. I remember having an idea about presenting the human face of hiv/aids. The first person who got involved in the project was Paul Young. And it was through Paul that I started attending the first informal meetings of PLWA late 1987. We weren't incorporated at that point, but we were people living with aids determined to make a change.

**J:** And in those days there was no differentiation between you and I being so called negative women.

**K:** At the very beginning, no ... It was everybody in together to deal with some very difficult issues. And it was only when we became incorporated that those kinds of differences started to emerge ... around being positive and negative. Remember we were elected as 'affected members'? That was the language used then.

The first public meeting of PLWA (NSW) was upstairs in the Trade Union Club in Surry Hills. There were more than 120

people. There was a lot of energy and determination. Paul Young, Robert Ariss, Terry Giblett, and his sister Deborah Giblett were there. I remember John who lobbied for a place on the Committee to represent the views of negative people in relationships with positive people. That wasn't supported. It was decided that the majority of the Committee would be positive, and two positions for associate members (affected by hiv). The people standing for election got up and said their five minute piece and we voted.

**J:** And there was a bit of politicking going on even then – getting the numbers on committees as they say. Rowland Davidson was an early member of PLWA and elected to the first PLWA Committee. Rowland was also involved at the time with the New South Wales Users and AIDS Association (NUAA) and wanted to bring to PLWA issues facing positive injecting drug use and I guess from the perspective of a heterosexual man.

**K:** He was also involved with *Talkabout*. His concern was having prisoners' voices heard. He collected some interesting stories for the early issues of *Talkabout*.

What was that first Committee like? There was Terry Bell – absolutely amazing ... very dynamic. Every meeting was important. There was always something important in policy or funding to discuss.

**J:** Yes, because every day somebody you knew would die. People were being left outside hospital wards. Bodies being double bagged. Families not being able to see and pay their respects to their lost loved ones. There were many, many issues. I was on many Government Committees and one of the issues was how do we turn around the

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## Phillip McGrath

Several years ago (I won't say how many!) I was asked to do illustrations for a fledgling *Talkabout* magazine. To an illustrator the pay wasn't anything to write home about but it was fun and anyway there was a much greater reward: meeting lots of inspiring PEOPLE. After all these years that's what the organisation is still about, PEOPLE. Some are no longer here but many are, and I feel blessed.

**David Wallace**

*Remembering back to 1995 ... Amelia Menia, Tony Carden, Gerald Lawrence, Les Szaraz and I went to Kingsgrove High School, as speakers from the Positive Speakers Bureau, to talk to groups of students about our experiences of living with hiv. It was my first PSB 'gig' and although I was nervous beforehand and exhausted afterwards, I can remember the palpable and positive impact the five of us had on the school that morning; the feeling that we were part of something really ground breaking and important (the PSB was a very new PLWH/A project back then), and how great it was to be going out with my peers to educate and inform others about what it was like to be hiv positive.*

I've been a whore, a poofter, a junkie and I don't know how I got this bloody disease but it doesn't matter ... or words to that effect. For some people it was too full on.

funeral industry? The double bagging had to stop. Autopsies weren't being done, and so there was no way of studying the progression of aids related disease.

**K:** I remember being invited as a committee member to visit people in hospital ... they were dying. Staff put them in darkened rooms and bagged all their personal belongings. I remember one situation where they had even taken away someone's walking stick because they said he didn't need it. They had taken away his dignity.

**J:** I think Paul Young was quite instrumental in turning around the way hospital staff treated people.

Paul was loving and caring, and willing to share knowledge and experience – even his drugs (laughs). And it required somebody like that, who was a bit mad, a bit mad-cap, but who else would have been willing enough and game enough to be the first public face of aids. I don't know who gave him the title or if he gave it to himself, but he was known as the AIDS Living Legend. He forced change on the airlines to accept positive passengers and people working for them.

He was working at the Department of Social Security. He'd been out to lunch one day, and he rang me and said 'Julie, I've just come back, and they're fucking disinfecting my office, including my phone.'

**K:** I think when he got up on World AIDS Day 1988 and said ...

**J:** I've been a whore, a poofter, a junkie and I don't know how I got this bloody disease but it doesn't matter ... or words to that effect. For some people it was too full on. But without Paul, we would have been a lot slower in progressing towards eliminating many kinds of discrimination. He was a one man show in a way, and as this group was starting to grow you have to have channels of communication, and you have to settle down to a particular role as part of this organisation.

He was very direct and painfully honest.

**K:** He felt rejected by the PLWA Committee. Robert Ariss and Terry had decided because of his sometimes outrageous statements that someone needed to step in. I remember one meeting they started a discussion about Paul's behaviour. They talked

The first PLWA picnic at Prince Henry 1989: Don Carter (dodge traffic) top row (sixth from left), Paul Young, Kathy Triffitt (bottom row third and fourth from left). Photo: Jamie Dunbar



Terry Giblett, one of the dynamic people on the Committee. Photo: Jamie Dunbar





Paul Young and Julie Bates rejoice at 'Carols by Redlight' on the spectacular rise of PLWA in 1989.

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**David Barton**

Positive Heterosexuals

I was baptised into the positive community exactly 10 years ago when I took a deep breath and walked up some stairs into this *Talkabout* meeting. My routine of covering up, bunkering down, and staying silent about this virus was immediately shattered by a welcoming noisy group of positive men and positive women all talking about this same thing. They were all swivelling on office chairs, looking out from a big window onto busy Oxford Street, wanting to get rid of that stigma enigma. I learned very quickly with them that sometimes we, as pozpersons, must dish up the unappetising as well as the happy stories about our lives. Getting together and helping each other was one sure way of minimising all of our indigestions. Working this way makes this one of my favourite meeting places. Happy birthday *Talkabout* – you've always tried hard to write our wrongs.

about replacing him as convenor without him being present. I remember saying he should be part of the discussion. ... He arrived twenty minutes later ...

'*Talkabout* wasn't the glamorous publication it is now.'

I remember Robert Ariss calling me each issue: 'OK Kathy, *Talkabout* is here'. There you go – staple – top left hand corner.

*Talkabout* was Paul Young's idea.

**J:** And it was to break down this thing about people talking about you or at you, but never with you.

**K:** And that was Paul again: 'Talk with us, not about us.'

... There were a number of other dynamic people on the Committee – Terry Bell, Terry Giblett. The Carter twins (Don and Andrew) were also really important. There was also a lot of burnout, and the Committee changed ... a lot of people died or moved on.

**J:** Terry Giblett and Andrew Carter formed the Quilt Project here in Australia. Paul, once again the naughty boy, would call it the Doona of Death.

**K:** And there was Robert Ariss.

**J:** Robert was an academic. He didn't involve himself in any extra-curricular activities partying and the like. Robert was very serious and focused. And the early days required a whole range of people – solid, hard working people as well as those who were

more flamboyant. They were all necessary.

**K:** One of my memories of Robert Ariss was the May Day March. It had been discussed that we would carry the PLWA banner and we were to meet down at the park near Central Station. I turned up. Robert was there. And that was it. (laughs) I remember Robert turned to me and said, 'Come on Kathy. We're going to do this.' So there's Robert and me walking up George Street holding the banner, representing People Living with AIDS (NSW). As we walked up the street people joined us.

**J:** A little later there was Andrew Morgan. I remember Andrew at an hiv youth conference at Kinsela's Nightclub. Andrew was the main speaker, and he gave such a powerful talk reaching out to these kids, getting them to know that they didn't want what had happened to him to happen to them. This was before there was a formalised Positive Speakers' Bureau.

The big issue at that time wasn't so much treatments as more hospital beds – or treatment as in care and respect. And there was also the issue of self-delivery as in ending one's life but this too is another story for another time.

**K:** And at the time the organisation was formed there weren't any support groups. People were given a diagnosis and left to deal with the uncertainties alone.

**J:** My feelings about that time? Mixed. More sadness than happiness. But you took the sadness with the happiness. Every day was a new challenge. You didn't take time out to grieve too much. I think if we had we would have been overwhelmed by it.

**K:** Many issues are still here – stigma, discrimination. There was laughter and sadness. I think we were tighter as a group back then. They were very difficult times. Times when you thought you were losing it, but something would just come along and sweep you up and you'd find the energy to go on.

I think there's a feeling of pride.

**J:** And honour.

**K:** Yes, pride and honour.

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**Paul Van Reyk**

My favourite *Talkabout* moment? Every time I open it, the pleasure of immersing myself in lived lives and not rhetorical bullshit.

# Demonstrating a commitment to all positive people



Photo: Nicholas Walsh

## Amelia McLoughlin

recalls combining pregnancy with being President of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NSW)

When I joined the Board of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NSW) the guys were really supportive, but I found it an incredibly steep learning curve because I hadn't been involved in an organisation at Board level. I also thought I had a lot to bring to the Board, being a positive woman with a child. One of my favourite memories of my time as Vice President in 1999 was when I went to a conference in Poland, and formed strong bonds of friendships with people from our Board.

I felt privileged to become President in 2000 because there had only been one or two other women presidents in the organisation's history. I think this sent a strong message to the community that PLWH/A (NSW) has a commitment to all positive people. Not long after this, I became pregnant with my second child. This was also good for the organisation because a lot of people hadn't been through a pregnancy with a positive woman. I remember chairing Board meetings until about four weeks before my child was born, and then she came to her first Board meeting when she was about five weeks old.

It has been a fantastic experience being part of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NSW). I've met some people I would never have otherwise met, and who have enriched my life so much. It is such an important organisation and *Talkabout* is the most wonderful vehicle for positive people to share their lives. This magazine has really reduced our sense of isolation. I also know that people think so highly of *Talkabout* and PLWH/A (NSW) because they volunteer so many hours to the organisation. That's a significant reflection on the staff and people involved.

PLWH/A (NSW) at Mardi Gras Parade 2000. Photo: Jamie Dunbar



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## Tim Alderman

I came to the PLWH/A offices in 1997 as a volunteer. I was at the tail end of a recovery from a close encounter with AIDS, and the volunteer work was to ease myself back into the workforce. They initially asked me to work one day a week, but I was so over sitting at home watching *Rikki and Oprah*, and I spent so much time in the office (I even had the title of 'Information Officer') that they pretty well had to lever me out the door with a crowbar every other day. Jo Watson was the Research Officer at the time, and her partner Sandy worked in the *Talkabout* Office. If ever there were two people who were totally supportive of people in my position, it was these two, and it was only a matter of time before Jo asked me to come on-board as her assistant. This was basically the launching pad for where I am now – the owner of my own business, with a university degree and a Hospitality II Certificate under my belt. As a result of Jo's support, I went on to do volunteer work for the Publications Working Group, am a regular contributor to *Talkabout*, became a speaker for the Positive Speakers' Bureau, and on the PSB Steering Committee. These have all been very rewarding experiences, and even though I don't see so much of Jo these days, I know that the support is still there.

# When *Talkabout* was a photocopied and stapled newsletter with attitude

David Urquhart worked on those very first issues of *Talkabout*

Remember the Bicentennial, that offensive and tacky reminder of the arrival of us Whities in this country? That was 1988, also the year PLWH/A and *Talkabout* were born. The first issue of *Talkabout* was put together by a collective and it showed – ten double sided A4 pages photocopied and stapled together. The articles were banged out on a typewriter then cut and pasted (yes, with glue). There was no staff then. It was done by a collective of committed activists, which shows in the content of that first issue. There were articles by Paul Young and Irwin Diefenthaler (the first elected co-convenors of People Living with AIDS, as it was then called), Robert Ariss, Terry Giblett, Andrew Carter and Paul Johnson, Peter, Malcolm Jones and Lin Broadfield. They wrote about issues of great concern to people living with hiv/aids: the second Living Well Conference, World AIDS Day, 'AZT and Beyond', safe sex, treatments, and housing.

In the first paragraph of that first edition we said, 'The aim of the newsletter is to provide a voice for the people most often unheard in the hiv/aids crisis – the people infected and affected by hiv. *Talkabout* is your voice; a means of getting in touch with others, expressing your opinions, concerns and demands; asking questions; sharing your experiences and knowledge; and hearing news relevant to us – people living with aids.' Some of the language and some of the acronyms in *Talkabout* may have changed since then but the vision is still there and the fire has never dwindled. *Talkabout* is still a dynamic voice for people living with hiv and aids. That is a tribute to all positive people, carers, hiv/aids activists, PLWH/A members and Committee Members, subscribers, readers, contributors, staff and volunteers.



*Talkabout's* 5th Birthday. Robert Ariss and Jill Sergeant blow out the candles, while Amella Airhead and Wanda Airless Lee look on. Lizard Lounge 1993. Photo: David Urquhart

## Each time we dug a little deeper

Jill Sergeant was *Talkabout* editor from 1990 to 1998, and spoke to Glenn Flanagan about those years and some of the amazing people around her.

I'd been working for the Communist Party doing layout and reviews for their newspaper called the *Tribune*, and I saw this job advertised. I got it after their first choice worked for two months, and then had a better offer. It was a steep learning curve for me because I didn't know much about hiv, but when I haven't known something I've always just shut up and listened.

It was two days a week to start with, and was based in the AIDS Council. The person who was working there was Don Carter (who was later known as Dodge Traffic because of a little encounter with a car in Oxford Street). He was a fantastic support and I learned a lot from him. He was quite inspiring, so dedicated, and a really cluey and down to earth man. PLWA (NSW), as it was then called, was very grassroots and that was one of the things I liked about it.

One of the key people who supported

me was Robert Ariss. When the magazine went monthly in 1992 the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence bestowed the title of 'Talkabout Dogfather' on Robert. It was a title we joked about, but it did reflect his closeness. He was so committed to it, and in a totally voluntary capacity. Even though he was obviously busy at the time with his study and his book, and he was less well than he let on.

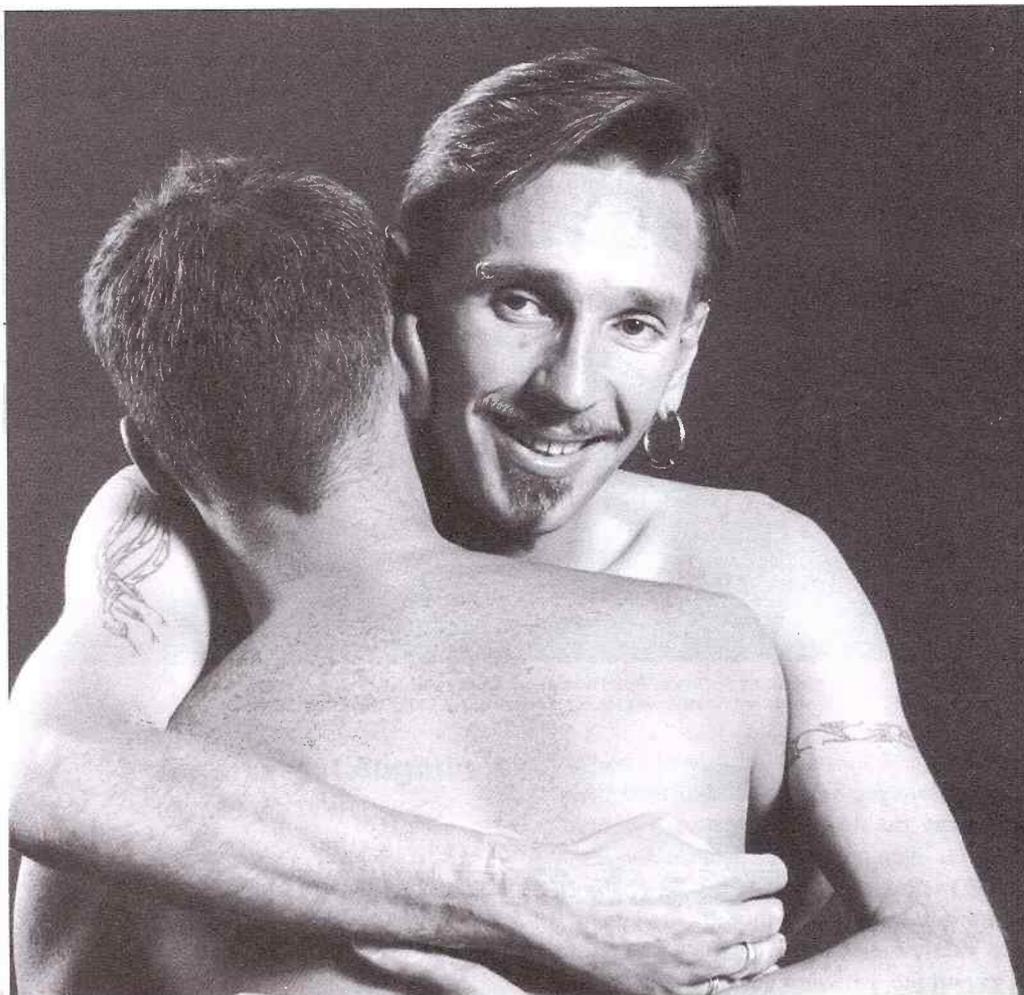
Andrew Morgan was also right behind the publication. Andrew was a volunteer from the beginning of PLWH/A (NSW), but he also worked at the AIDS Council in hiv support. He always had an interest in *Talkabout*. He was just so funny, and so out there and so full of life. Robert was a much quieter, more reserved person, but with a sense of fun. Andrew was quite flamboyant in comparison, especially as he got more tattoos and piercings every time you saw him. Andrew was passionate about what he

(cont'd p13)

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### Victor Shepherd

*Where did the years go? I actually thought PLWA, later PLWH/A, was formed more than 15 years ago. Although with reflection, and considering my own state of mind at testing hiv positive, I could have just been attending meetings where an organisation was being talked about. Times have brought many changes.*

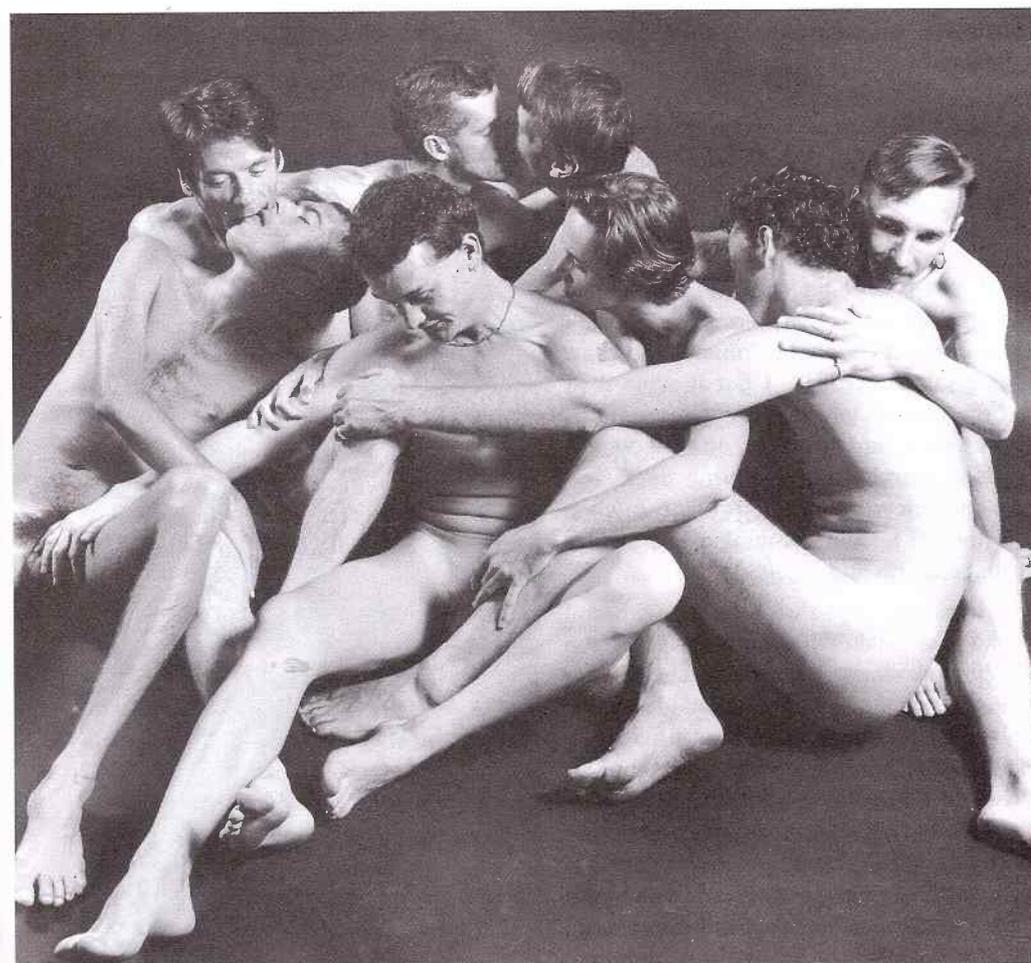
*The virus itself has changed, aids organisations have changed, and the needs of positive people now, are nothing like what was needed in the mid eighties. Thank goodness.*

*However, one thing that hasn't changed is that PLWH/A is still the voice of all hiv positive people. So Happy Birthday PLWH/A and keep up the good work.*

### Stuart Loveday

Executive Officer, Hepatitis C Council of NSW

**Congratulations – 15 years? Wow! A long time – with so much good work done and gains achieved. The communities in NSW affected by hepatitis C have learnt a lot from PLWH/A (NSW) and *Talkabout* itself. Our very best wishes to you for your celebration – we are pleased to continue to work alongside PLWH/A (NSW) – and we thank you for your support and friendship over the years. Congratulations, and kind regards.**



Andrew Morgan. 'So funny, so out there and so full of life.' Photo from *Talkabout's* second sex issue 1993. Photo: Jamie Dunbar

From the second *Talkabout* sex issue 1993. Photo: Jamie Dunbar

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**'..without planned resistance, irrational and fear driven arguments shape the way AIDS is talked about and understood in this society.'**

**Robert Ariss 1989**

Convenor of PLWA (NSW) 1989-91

**Will Klaasen**

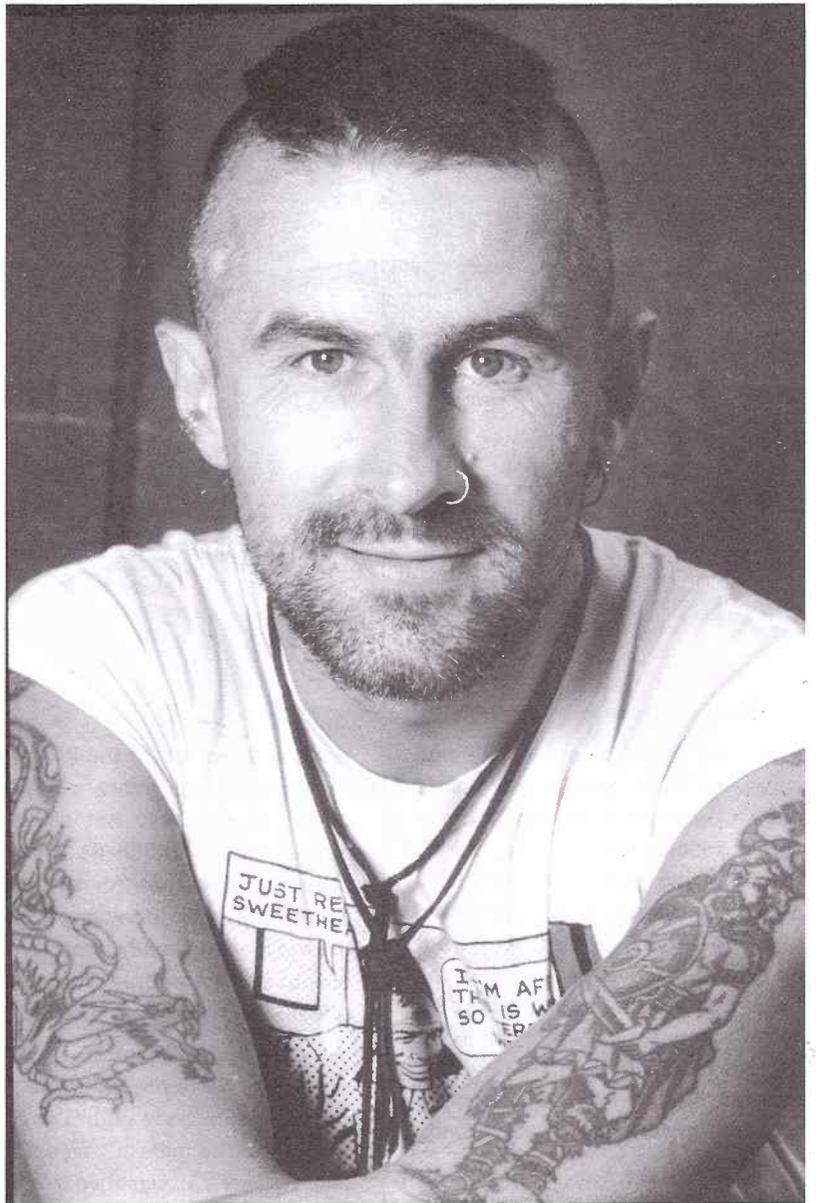
I have spent three and a half out of the four years I've been positive working at PLWH/A. The relationship I was in at the time I became positive finished, and I spent a year – single and positive for the first time. My colleagues watched me start my current relationship. Board and staff changes happened, wonderful people passed away, and there's still the challenge for PLWH/A (NSW) to maintain its relevance in the 21st century. I have had many roles here and I continue to admire, get frustrated by, and even hate the organisation, but as I sat down to write this piece I realised in those three and a half years PLWH/A has helped me to become the strong person I am today.

wanted to achieve. I remember he would call me Jill the Hun for harassing people about deadlines.

Alan Brotherton was fantastic when he was PLWH/A Convenor. He was very focused on building the organisation, and the Committee, and I think he achieved that. From then on it was pretty much on track. He was also very committed to the magazine. Robert and Alan were both people who supported the publication, and it was really important to have Convenors who were behind it. When I mention names I'm worried I'll leave someone out, because I had fantastic support from so many people.

In 1991 a group of us went to a skills building exercise in Adelaide. Andrew, Amelia Tyler, and Tim Conigrave were there. All the positive people started talking about sex and the impact that hiv had on their sex lives. It was a revelation for me. At that time it wasn't much acknowledged that posi-

Don Carter (aka  
dodge traffic)  
First PLWA (NSW)  
co-ordinator  
- 'quite inspiring,  
so dedicated and  
a really cluey and  
down to earth  
man.' Photo:  
Elisabeth Ohlson



tive people still had and wanted a sex life. As a result of that, we did the first Positive Sex issue of *Talkabout* in 1991. Andrew and Amelia were two driving forces behind it. I think we ended up doing three issues on sex while I was Editor. That first issue just used drawings (there were no photos), but it was an important contribution to people being able to talk openly about it. This led to Andrew pushing for the ACON campaign during the nineties on sex using some of the same photos that Jamie Dunbar took for the second sex issue in 1993. That was the one with Andrew Morgan on the cover. It was good revisiting themes over the years and each time we'd be able to dig a little deeper and get a little bolder.

I think *Talkabout's* been important because, as it says, it's where we speak for ourselves. That's been crucial both for the readers and for the contributors. I figured out early on that I wasn't going to get a rep-

resentative enough selection of people writing for it. My tried and true technique was to interview people, edit the transcript and get them to check it out. The people who'd been interviewed said it had made a big difference to sit down and talk for an hour and a half. It gave them an opportunity to sort through and process feelings. Often people would say 'Oh I never really thought about that issue until you asked me to talk about it.' I loved interviewing such a wide range of people. I really felt privileged to do it.

We did themes for *Talkabout*, on disclosure, grief and loss, or on work, and we wouldn't just say to people 'talk about your life as a positive person'. They'd get to talk about one issue for a long time. The feedback we got from readers was important too. They didn't feel so isolated because they were able to find out how other people were dealing with things.

# A special edition of *Talkabout*

**John Cumming**  
was Acting Editor  
of *Talkabout* May to  
September 1997

I retired from a public service career in 1996 with a mere 60 t cells. Combination therapies came to my rescue just in time, so by the following year I was relatively healthy and keen to do some kind of work. When Jill Sergeant went on extended leave for a few months I was recruited as acting editor. I'd volunteered for a few community organisations editing their newsletters but editing *Talkabout* was my first real experience of community publishing.

Those were different times; people got sick more, so absenteeism was higher, but we still aimed to publish *Talkabout* monthly, rather than the current bimonthly publishing schedule. Colour covers were a rare luxury. Community engagement was reflected in letters to the editor, which flowed thick and fast. I particularly remember an artist marching in unannounced and taking issue with me about a review of their work which had appeared in a previous *Talkabout* that I hadn't even edited. Also vivid in my memory is the time an issue came back from the printers with the pages out of sequence. I am particularly proud of the July 97 issue, which focused on positive women. The cover, which featured portraits of positive women, was tricky to pull together and was only possible with the help of *Talkabout* desktop publisher/advertising representative Sandy Thompson and photographer C. Moore Hardy.

# My favourite moment

**feona studdert**  
reflects on being  
Editor of *Talkabout*  
from 1999 to 2001

Hallo and thanks for the invitation to celebrate 15 years of *Talkabout*. I'm probably not alone in saying that as much as I recognise this milestone for the magazine, which is looking great by the way, what I really want to celebrate are the people whose stories fill the pages.

I think for the short time I was editor my favourite moment was each time somebody said: 'I've got a story I want to publish.' This stands out because it signalled another person who was willing to lay it on the line – to share the range of responses and emotions that arose from the many complex and simple issues of their lives.

Guided always by an editorial committee of hiv positive people, our challenge was to create a public forum where people could safely come together to recognise and explore common needs and interests. The success is there in black and white – over the last 15 years each issue of *Talkabout* has uncovered and documented a very personal perspective of the broader social and political issues that impact on people's daily lives.

It's a remarkable achievement and I wish everyone then and now the very best for the future.

Happy 15<sup>th</sup>.

*feona studdert was editor of Talkabout from 1999 to 2001*

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The *Talkabout* team in 1994: Jill Sergeant and Paul Canning



Before ACT UP: PLWA (NSW) demonstrates outside the Australian Medical and Scientific Conference on AIDS, August 1989. Photo: Kathy Triffitt

1988  
15  
2003

**John Cumming**

Over the years the Integrative Therapies Working Group has continued to meet while other working groups has waxed and waned. This group of volunteers with no budget have achieved significant things. Sometimes the organisation has managed to find funds for some of the group's objectives, but mostly the group has had to work hard to source its own funds. One of our major achievements has been a poster we presented at the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine's national conference in 2000. The poster, co-authored by Robert Green and me, was titled 'The Benefits of Vitamin Supplementation For People with hiv' and was only made possible because PLWH/A (NSW) found funds to pay for the design and printing of the poster and for my conference accommodation.

# A refusal to let silence equal death

Glenn asked me to look through the 'self-documentation; self-imaging...' archive with the idea of putting together an autobiographical photo-essay on Paul Young (see next page).

Looking back, we can all doubtless remember different stages in the history of the epidemic, relating mainly to particular people we knew who have died, the availability of effective treatments, and the changing political climate.

I easily recall the nights when I danced with too many friends who are no longer alive, and our determination and hope. And,

yes, we were sometimes 'noisy, angry and obnoxious.'

The archive, sometimes solemn, is also a celebration of achievement, of joy, of the stories told by people living with hiv/aids, by friends, families and lovers. A refusal, after all, to let silence equal death.

I hope the photographs and stories survive, not just for personal reasons but because they show something of who we were, and what we made happen against all the odds.

*Kathy Triffitt, (founding member of PLWA (1987-1989) and currently Senior Project Officer, Health Promotion, PLWH/A (NSW).*

# P Paul Young

was a founding member of People Living With AIDS (NSW). He is remembered for his political activism, his sometimes outrageous comments and as 'the charming man in the red shoes.'

The prophetic words written by Paul in those early days now have resonance.

**my name is paul young** and as a means of introduction, i have been a self and public identified person living with aids for five years following my first major h-i-v related illness.

For too long in these little monologues i have used aids when i have arc (aids related complex), hence the label of 'victim', 'sufferer', 'carrier', terms that i often find myself using when describing the enormous change in my life over the last four years; not so much in terms of lifestyle, but in mental attitude. i have certainly grown more confident and grown with the difficulties and traumas during this time. by describing myself as a person with aids, although not



strictly true - perhaps i am trying to reinforce that fact it is not contagious by casual contact and to dispel the discreet nature of someone infected with h-i-v.

## february 1988

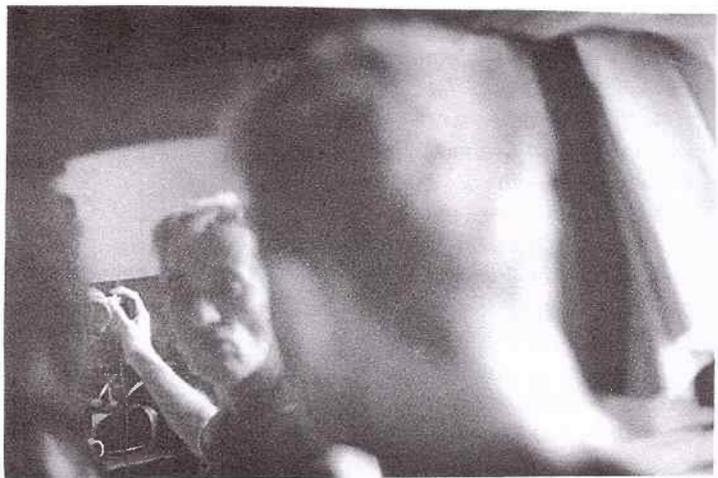
From the media through to general social levels of gossip, rumour or jokes, the perception of a person living with h-i-v is framed against a background of innuendos and distaste. in fact, the vast majority of people infected with h-i-v have a life expectancy which is unknown and spend their lives indistinguishable from the rest of the population - rather than the popular stigmata of the depraved/depravity.



Remember the before and after pictures of rock hudson, liberace and yet more will come and leave? the fact is we cannot hide ourselves from reality as hard as we may try. at the same time i wonder why we cannot view aids in a celebratory fashion. 'herald' the revival of safer and newer, rediscovered erotic sex practices, rather than emphasise prophylactics as our only weapon, and safe sex means no sex.

## april 1988

**dear diary** or should i write hello Kathy-yes I've been doing exposures and lots of thinking and trying to organise other people to get involved in our photo/essay project.



Now perhaps we cannot call it 'This Kamikaze Life' and I cannot call you Kathy-my official biographer.

So after a day when I became infatuated with a stunning street boy, more than a decade younger, my ego has been boosted, and now deflated, just like a helium balloon, as I sit here back home at the Disco listening to Mister Heartbreak by Laurie Anderson, having stopped at my fave shop in Sydney, the Portuguese Liquor Store [...]

## Are you thinking about getting a job and returning to work again?

For many people living with HIV, success with their anti-retroviral treatments has had a significant effect on their health and well-being.

Instead of focusing on failing treatments, recurrent opportunistic infections and a never-ending schedule of visits to doctors and specialists, they are now able to concentrate their energies on maintaining good health and looking ahead to new opportunities and possibilities. A return to work is one of many possibilities they can now seriously consider.

The reasons people give for wanting to get work vary from one person to the next. As one would expect, the ability to earn more money is important to a lot of people. But it isn't just about money.

This factsheet explores some of the issues facing people considering a return to work and aims to provide some clear practical information and advice.

Contact details for all the organisations referred to in this factsheet are listed on the last page.



### Work is a lot of things to a lot of people:

“It's a reason to get up and get out of the house  
It provides contact with other people  
I've made new friends at work  
It breaks the routine of doing nothing and allows me to use my brain again  
I have more money to spend on going out with friends  
I am doing something meaningful and worthwhile with my time”

A good starting point in considering a return to work is to ask one question:

#### ‘Why do I want to get a job?’

- ❖ Do you want to do something that you have done before or something new and different?
- ❖ Do you need more money to pay the bills and have more financial independence?
- ❖ Do you want a job that is meaningful and adds purpose to your life?
- ❖ Do you want a job that will allow you to develop new skills?
- ❖ Do you want a job or a career?

If you have been out of the workforce for a number of years, your ideas about work may have totally changed. Take time to really think about why you want to go back to work and as part of that process talk to as many people as you can to get information, advice and ideas.

#### Consider

- ❖ What are the pros and cons of getting a job?
- ❖ What sort of work would you like to get? What really interests you?
- ❖ What skills and experience do you already have?
- ❖ What new skills and experience will you need to get a job you want?

It may be useful to write down your answers to the questions above. It can help you focus and order your thoughts. When doing this, some other questions to consider are:

i want to return to  
**WORK**

... volunteer work can provide just as much meaning and purpose as 'paid work' as well as the opportunity to gain some new skills and experience

### How will going back to work affect your health and will your health enable you to go back to work?

You should talk this through in detail with your doctor, other health care professionals, friends and family.

#### Consider

- ❖ How many days/hours per week can you work?
- ❖ How many days/hours per week do you want to work?

### Are you going to look for paid work straight away? Are you going to consider unpaid or voluntary work?

If earning more money is not your top priority, getting some unpaid or voluntary work is a great way of testing your energy levels as well as boosting your self-confidence and self-esteem. Equally, volunteer work can provide just as much meaning and purpose as 'paid work' as well as the opportunity to gain some new skills and experience. If you want to consider the option of paid work down the track, volunteer work can help you decide what sort of work you want to do.

### Where do you want to work? What type of environment will suit you?

Do you want to work in a fast paced, busy office or are you looking for a more 'laid-back' informal environment? It is really important to take time to consider what sort of environment you want to work in and what sort of environment is best going to support and maintain your health.

#### Consider

- ❖ If you haven't worked for some time, it may take a while to adjust to being 'back at work' and how work environments may have changed. It is therefore really important to consider how this may impact on you. So again, talk to as many people you know who are currently working to find out how it may be for you.

### Are you going to look for casual part time or full time work?

Getting casual or part time work to start with is a great way of testing your energy levels as well as building your self-confidence and self-esteem.

### What do you want your working week to look like?

Do you want to work:

- ❖ mornings?
- ❖ afternoons?
- ❖ evenings?
- ❖ weekends?
- ❖ 9-5?

Are there any other restrictions on your time such as:

- ❖ caring for your partner?
- ❖ other family members?

Your answers to these questions will certainly influence what work you look for. And remember that the working week can be more flexible than it used to be. Some workplaces encourage their employees to negotiate their preferred working hours.

A 9-5 job suits some people down to the ground. It enables them to develop routine both at work and at home that are both helpful and healthful.

But some people are just not good at getting up in the morning. For others, combination drug regimes mean that mornings are not their best time of day and they would therefore choose jobs that offered afternoon or evening work.

#### Consider

- ❖ Working will change your lifestyle. When you get a job, even if it's just for two or three days a week, you will have to think about how and when you are going to fit in activities that you were previously able to do at times that suited you – such as shopping, going to the gym, seeing friends and other appointments. Almost everybody who works feels they are juggling lots of different activities – and sometimes they just get used to living in a less tidy flat in the process!

## Will you need to acquire any new skills and experience to get a job?

If you have worked before, the skills and knowledge you gained could still be relevant. You may just need up-dating. There may be courses you can consider that will bring your existing knowledge and skills up-to-date.

Computers are now a big part of our lives, whether we like it or not.

How do you rate your computer skills?

What computer skills will you need to get the job you want?

Will you need to do a computer course before you start applying for jobs?

Whatever subject you decide to study, take your time to find the most appropriate course for your needs. Look on the Internet, the phone book, at your local library and talk to people you know who have done a course recently to find out whether it was good.

## What if I want to study first and consider a return to work at a later date?

Undertaking and completing a course of study can be just as fulfilling and challenging as going back to work. In fact studying is often compared to having a part-time job – it certainly can be as time-consuming! Take your time to choose the right course. There are many different courses available.

### Consider

If you are studying, you may be eligible for a Pensioner Education Supplement and an Education Entry Payment from Centrelink. Contact your local Centrelink Disability Officer for more information.

TAFE NSW offers a wide variety of courses and support services and allows people receiving income support to enroll in one course a year at no charge.

- ❖ TAFE also offers distance education through the Open Training and Education Network (OTEN) to allow you to study from home. Contact the TAFE NSW Information Centre for more information about their courses and support services.
- ❖ Local Community Colleges also offer a wide range of short courses at reasonable prices and some colleges offer reduced course rates to people receiving income support.

## What if I want to be self-employed?

There are many issues to consider around self-employment. Working for yourself can give you the freedom and opportunity to do what you want to do. But it takes time, commitment, energy, a lot of planning and usually a bit of money too. Remember there are some important benefits of working for someone else, such as paid holiday and sick leave entitlements as well as superannuation, which should not be overlooked.

You need to get good advice before you start. Talk to people you know who are successfully self-employed.

Other sources of information or advice on setting up your own business are your local Business Enterprise Centre and the Department of Fair Trading. You can also get information from Centrelink about the New Enterprise Incentive Scheme (NEIS), a self-employment programme that helps eligible people on income support become self-supporting by establishing their own commercially viable business.

Undertaking and completing a course of study can be just as fulfilling and challenging as going back to work.

... one of the best ways of finding out about jobs is to let people know you are looking for work.

### Where is the best place to look for work and who can help with that process?

There are many ways of looking for work. The type of work you are looking for often determines the best way. Do you want paid or unpaid work? Are you looking for part time or full time work? Do you live in Sydney or in regional or rural NSW?

- ❖ Check the job ads in newspapers – local and community press – as well as *The Sydney Morning Herald* and *The Daily Telegraph*.
- ❖ Check the large number of employment websites on the Internet. Free Internet access is available at ACON branches, the Positive Living Centre, NorthAIDS and some other local community organisations.
- ❖ Phone or write to organisations that you are interested in working for to see if they have any suitable vacancies.

#### Consider

- ❖ A large proportion of job vacancies never get advertised – especially for part time or casual work. They are filled by people who have heard about the job through 'word of mouth'. So one of the best ways of finding out about jobs is to let people know you are looking for work. Talk to people you know who work or have their own business where there may be vacancies.
- ❖ There are a number of organisations that can also support and assist you in looking for work:
  - **Positive Employment Support (PES).** Contact either BGF or ACON West to find out how PES can help
  - **Positive Decisions Programme.** Contact PLWH/A (NSW) to find out more out how Positive Decisions can assist and support you through providing work experience and training

- **Job Network.** Contact Centrelink or your local Job Network provider to see if you are eligible to access their service. Options Employment Service has a specialist contract to assist people living with HIV and/or hepatitis look for work

- **Disability Employment Services** There are a number of other employment services that can also assist people living with HIV look for work. Contact Positive Employment Support for more information.

### Will I need a resumé?

Most employers ask to see a resumé as part of the job application process. It is not always necessary for volunteer or unpaid work but it is always useful to consider writing one or up-dating an old resumé.

- ❖ What does a resumé look like these days?
- ❖ What do I put in or leave out?
- ❖ How do I explain long gaps between jobs?

You can have a resumé regardless of how long it has been since you last worked and how little work experience you think you may have

Even if you haven't had any paid work for a number of years, it is always important to list all the things you have done since then however irrelevant they may seem to you. If you have been a carer, a volunteer, or doing things that you consider to be 'just a hobby' or 'just something that I am good at', you may have used or acquired skills that will be relevant to the sort of work you are now considering.

#### Consider

- ❖ Don't write yourself off because you think you are 'too old'. With age comes life experience and your 'life experience' should never be ignored. In fact make the most of it. Some employers would definitely prefer to employ someone who has 'seen a bit of life' because they have maturity, common sense and an outlook on life that can't be acquired by doing a course.

There are many ways you can get free advice on writing or up-dating your resumé.

- ❖ Contact the PES Project at BGF or ACON West.
- ❖ Approach people you know who would be likely to have a resumé you could use as a template for your own resumé.
- ❖ If you are eligible to access the Job Network, your Job Network provider will also be able to help with writing a resumé.
- ❖ Check out the many employment websites on the Internet (e.g., *mycareer.com.au* and *monster.com.au*). They may have a 'Resumé Builder' as part of their website. Some search engines (e.g., *Yahoo.com*) also have Resumé Builders.

Having completed your resumé you may also have to write a letter addressing essential and desirable 'selection criteria' – particularly if it is for a job in the public service. You should address each one, describing how the skills, knowledge and experience you have matches each criteria. For example if the job requires 'good computer skills' you should write at least two or three lines describing what skills you have and how you have used them.

It is always best to get advice on how to address selection criteria as it is a big part of the application for more and more jobs these days. Talk to any of the organisations already mentioned in this factsheet or people you know who have had to do this.

### What about interviews?

No one likes interviews but with the right preparation they can become less stressful.

- ❖ Always think through some possible questions and appropriate answers before facing a real interview.
- ❖ Prepare for the interview by finding out as much as you can about the company or organisation. Get a copy of their annual report, visit their website if they have one, visit the organisation/company if you can and if there is a contact person named as part of the recruitment process, contact them too.

- ❖ Ask people you know or use one of the organisations listed above to give you help in preparing for your interview.

Two of the hardest interview questions to answer may be 'Why did you leave your last job?' and 'What have you done since then?' Your answers to these should emphasise the most positive aspects of your time out of the workforce (e.g., taking a break to study, travel, care for a partner, do some volunteer work or consider new career choices).

Always focus on your ability and willingness to do the job. You have to convince the interviewer that you are the best person for the job.

Don't feel pressured into accepting the first job that is offered to you just because you think you won't get offered another. Chances are if you have been offered one job there are likely to be others out there too.

On the other hand, the first job you are offered doesn't have to be 'for life' – it is often useful to regard it as a stepping stone. It may not be the 'perfect job' but it may provide you with useful experience, increase your self-confidence and self-esteem at the same time and enable you to move into another job.

### Consider

- ❖ Whilst the purpose of any interview is for the employer to establish whether you have the skills, knowledge and experience to do the job for which you have applied, it is equally your chance to 'interview' the employer. Find out more about what the job involves and what sort of workplace it is to help you determine whether you really want the job.

It may not be the 'perfect job' but it may provide you with useful experience, increase your self-confidence and self-esteem at the same time and enable you then to move into another job.

You can continue to work casually or part time and receive a full or part pension and still be eligible for all the benefits associated with keeping your Pensioner Concession Card.

### **Do I disclose my HIV status in an interview?**

The decision to disclose your HIV status belongs to you but you do not need to disclose at an interview. The exception to this would be if you were applying for a job that involved 'exposure prone procedures' (e.g., invasive medical procedures such as some types of nursing, surgery, dentistry and midwifery).

If you are concerned about your legal rights or responsibilities, at any stage, contact the HIV/AIDS Legal Centre (HALC) or talk to the PES service at BGF or ACON West.

The issues around disclosure and discrimination will be covered in more detail in our factsheet 'Being positive at work'.

### **Will returning to paid or unpaid work affect my Centrelink benefits?**

If you receive a DSP and get some paid casual or part time work, the amount you earn may affect your fortnightly pension payment. It is wise to find out exactly how much you can earn before it affects your pension.

You can continue to work casually or part time and receive a full or part pension and still be eligible for all the benefits associated with keeping your Pensioner Concession Card.

However once you earn over a certain amount or are working 30 hours a week or more, your DSP payment is suspended.

You are able to retain your health care card and all the benefits associated with the card for 12 months after your pension is suspended. If you have to stop work altogether or reduce your hours for health reasons, within two years of your pension being suspended, you are automatically eligible for a DSP without having to go through the application and assessment process again.

If you decide to do at least eight hours per week of voluntary work, paid work, training or a combination of paid work and training and cannot use public transport without extra help because of your disability/injury or illness you may be eligible for a Mobility Allowance from Centrelink. Contact your local Centrelink Disability Officer for more information. You do not have to be receiving a Centrelink income support payment to qualify for this payment.

However be aware that the eligibility criteria for income support can change. Make sure that you have the most up-to-date information and if you have any concerns or questions about your Centrelink benefits, contact your local Centrelink Disability Officer or Positive Employment Support Officer for more information. The NSW Welfare Rights Centre is also a good source of information and advice regarding questions or issues you have regarding your Centrelink benefits.

If you are in receipt of any form of income support from Centrelink, you must inform Centrelink of any change to your circumstances within 14 days. If you return to work, you may also be eligible for an Employment Entry Payment from Centrelink. So ask about it when you speak to Centrelink.

### **What if I received a Total & Permanent Disablement payout from my last job?**

It will not have to be repaid if you get another job. However if you have any concerns or questions about this in relation to your considering a return to paid or unpaid work contact the HALC or talk to the PES service at BGF or ACON West.

### What are some of the other financial implications of returning to paid or unpaid work?

Whilst you may be earning more money, there are some hidden – and some not so hidden – expenses that you will need to take into account. You may have to buy new clothes for work, pay more each week in fares to and from work, and lunch. Once you are earning over a certain amount or working full time you will probably have to pay more in rent as you will no longer be eligible for SASS (the special rental subsidy). After 12 months you will probably have to pay more for medication and travel as you will no longer be eligible for a Pensioner Concession Card.

#### Consider

- ❖ The Bobby Goldsmith Foundation can help with some of the costs involved in returning to work such as helping with the cost of clothes for work. If you need any extra help with your budgeting and coping with changes to your financial situation, talk to the Financial Counsellors at BGF. Contact BGF for more information.

Sometimes there is no immediate financial gain to returning to work, especially if it is a full time job. However you should reflect on the real reasons for going back to work and consider the longer term benefits of returning to work.

Whilst everyone would agree that having more money is a good thing, especially when you have been living on a fixed and low income for some time, it is hard to put a price on the other reasons for going back to work – the social contact, doing something new and interesting, learning new skills, gaining valuable experience and feeling healthier both mentally and physically.

People often talk about how returning to work was the best thing they ever did. Yes, they probably mean that it was good to be earning more money, but keep talking to them and you will probably find that the best part about their return to work usually ends up being the fact that they feel better about themselves and are much more optimistic about the future.

The information contained in this factsheet is intended to be a guide to assist and support you in the process of considering a return to work. It may not fully answer every question or address every issue you may have. It is a complex subject not least because ideas about work and people's reasons for wanting to work vary greatly depending on who you talk to. Whatever you decide to do in the future, take time to consider what is important to you, take time to talk to those who can offer the relevant advice, information and help, so that whatever course of action you decide to take it is the best one for you.

**Future factsheets will provide information and advice for HIV positive people who are currently working (covering disclosure, discrimination, superannuation, reducing working hours, managing health at work, the rights of employees and responsibilities of employers) and explore the alternatives and choices available for those for whom work is not an option but who nevertheless still would like to make some changes in their lives.**

Whilst everyone would agree that having more money is a good thing, especially when you have been living on a fixed and low income for some time, it is hard to put a price on the other reasons for going back to work ...

## Contacts

- **Bobby Goldsmith Foundation** for Positive Employment Support, Financial Assistance and Financial Counselling. Phone: (02) 9283 8666; Freecall: 1800 651 011; Email: bgf@bgf.org.au; www.bgf.org.au
- **ACON West** for Positive Employment Support. Phone: (02) 9204 2400; Freecall: 1800 063 060; Email: aconwest@acon.org.au; www.acon.org.au
- **PLWH/A (NSW) Inc.** for information about the Positive Decisions Programme. Phone: (02) 9361 6011; Freecall: 1800 245 677; Email: admin@plwha.org.au; www.plwha.org.au
- **HALC** for free legal advice. Phone: (02) 9206 2060; Freecall: 1800 063 060; Email: halc@halc.org.au; www.halc.org.au
- **Positive Central** for a range of services, including an Occupational Therapist able to assist people in the Central Sydney Area, as part of the return to work process. Phone: (02) 9395 0444
- **Options Employment Services** for information on their specialist employment services for people living with HIV and/or hepatitis. Freecall: 1800 784 667; Email: employment@options.com.au; www.options.com.au
- **Job Network** for information on all Job Network providers. Phone: 13 62 68; www.workplace.gov.au
- **Centrelink** for general enquiries or appointments. Phone: 13 10 21; Looking for work: 13 28 50; Pensioner Education Supplement enquiries: 13 24 90; Austudy payments: 13 24 90; New Enterprise Incentive Scheme: 13 28 50; Disability, Sickness and Carers 132717; Freecall: 1800 050 004; www.centrelink.gov.au
- **Welfare Rights Centre** for information and representation on all social security matters. Phone: 9211 5300; Freecall: 1800 226 028; www.welfarerights.org.au
- **Business Enterprise Centres** for information and advice on being self-employed. Look in the *White Pages* under Business Enterprise Centre for your local office. www.bec.com.au/old
- **Department of Fair Trading** for information and advice on being self-employed. Phone: 13 32 20; www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au

## Volunteering Organisations

- **Volunteering NSW** Phone: (02) 9261 3600; www.volunteering.com.au
- **GoVolunteer** an initiative of Volunteering Australia. www.govolunteer.com.au
- **Fido** an Internet based volunteer agency. www.fido.com.au
- **Check for any specific gay and lesbian volunteer services in your area (e.g., NSW Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service).**

## Training and Education

- **TAFE NSW** Phone: 13 16 01; www.tafensw.edu.au
- **TAFE - OTEN** Phone: (02) 9715 8333
- **Board of Adult and Community Education** for information on community colleges in NSW www.bace.nsw.gov.au
- **WEA Adult Education and Computer Training Centre** Phone: (02) 9264 2781; www.weasydney.com.au
- **Sydney Community College** Phone: (02) 9555 7411 www.scc.nsw.edu.au
- **Eastern Suburbs Evening College** Phone: (02) 9387 7400; www.esec.nsw.edu.au

## Employment Websites

- **www.workplace.gov.au** for all jobs listed through the Job Network
- **www.ncoss.org.au** for community sector jobs
- **www.nsw.gov.au** for NSW Government jobs
- **www.mycareer.com.au**
- **www.seek.com.au**
- **www.monster.com.au**

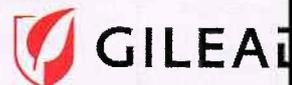
Produced by the Health Promotion Unit of

## People Living With HIV/AIDS (NSW) Inc

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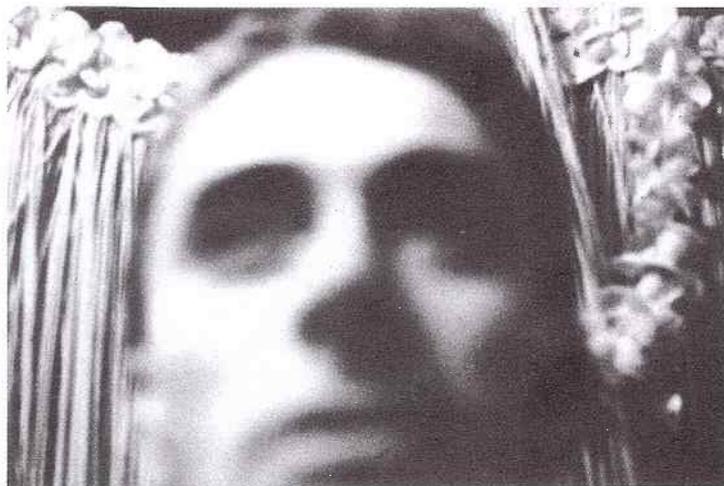
ANOTHER CASUALTY OF A ONE NIGHT STAND. SOMETIMES, I SAY, IF ONLY, COMPROMISE! DO IT. LET 'HIM' STAY! SHARE A LITTLE OF YOURSELF. BUT THEN WHO WANTS THIS POXY BODY WHICH EVEN I DONT KNOW WOT ITZ DOING HALF THE TIME?

Without going into the politics of a one-night stand; how do you reconcile what was a prolonged and passionate sex session with a confused young boy, very handsome, beautiful penis, tender + sensual + and the best fuck I've had for years + and the first for months. Did we mention AIDS? No. Both of us carefully avoided the topic, and WENT FOR IT. So much for the household shopping. I wanted to have another fuck and hold this lovely person close and not let go. If only I was rich enough, I could be his sugar daddy. (Sic) This leads to so many other issues. Who wants my poxy body. At least we have love handles in common (alcohol belts). But as I said, he was a street boy (i didn't pay) and I guess this only serves to reinforce the removal of sexuality out of homosexuality.

Sure safe sex is V.I.P., but one first (if not all) has to conquer the denial of one's ability to attract a partner, as fascinating + interesting, as people may term me. Is it the impression which emanates as being aloof, some sort of 'untouchable', almost a low-caste Hindu by comparison, as if one walks into a crowded bar with AIDS tattooed on one's forehead-an outcast amongst the gay community (not to mention the rest of society ughh) for whom one has spent a lifetime promoting +developing the consciousness of all who came in contact with me. So a very rare fuck, will he ring me? Huh-the head + gut feeling says no- In a week I won't give a fuck but just spend 5 days in intense depression.

Denial of my sexuality because of AIDS is difficult to explain-so difficult-I will put on my thinking cap and write more on this topic-but why not go to the WALL and buy a boy? Probably straight, a junkie to boot, who wants \$60 to have his cock sucked in the back of a car!! A Poly-Waffle as the last one called 'it' cos it was black and massive, but couldn't keep it up cos of the dope.

A conclusion?? is my sexual interest/appetite devastated/deflated? Yes and no. For some one who has always been highly 'sexed', once up to a dozen different partners a night was not unusual. Off my tits on barbs and/or booze, it is easy to see why I can hold Tennessee Williams (choked to death on a Seconal bottle cap) at 77 y.o or Truman Capote or Joe Orton as heroic figures to have led the types of lifestyles we will only get to read about in this era of the new celibacy in the gay community. Not that is true necessarily of gays and especially the heterosexual community. After all the Grim Reaper is now but a sick joke for those not affected either physically or socially. But then Paul, you are not allowed to feel bitter and twisted, especially [towards] friends for whom you have the deepest affection [...]



### BLACK FUNKKKK AT THE DISCO!

A WREATH OF GLOOM & DOOM OR A HALO OF QUESTIONS??

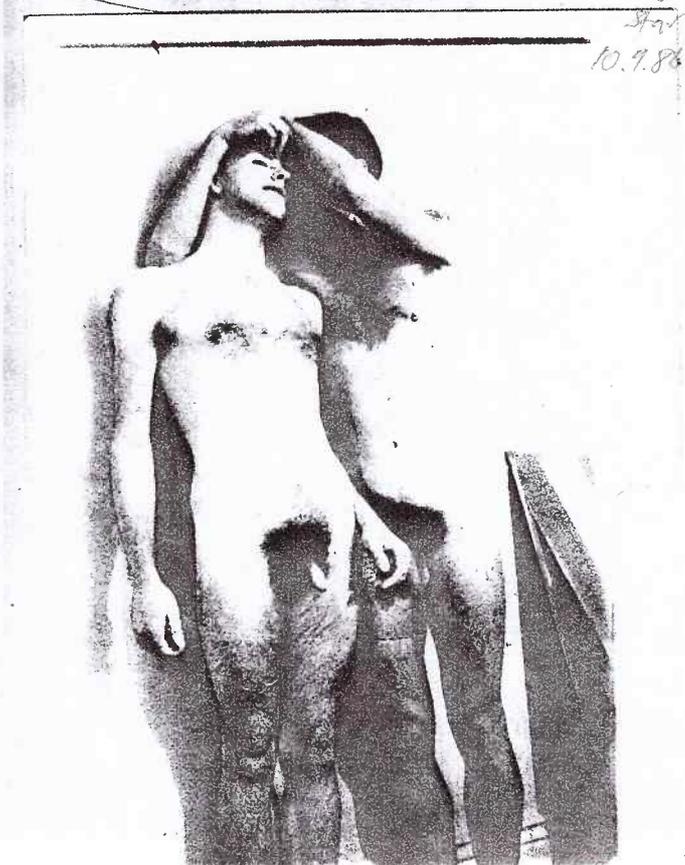
EYES ALMOST HIDDEN BY VEILS OF STIGMA AND OPPRESSION AND ALIENATION.

*Photography & diary extracts were created by Paul from 1988-90 for 'self-documentation, self-imaging: people living with hiv/aids 1988 +.*

*Handing the camera and tape recorder over in 1988, I began workshops to provide a space for people to actively record their experiences of living with hiv/aids. If you want to know more about this project visit [www.chickenfish.cclamilor](http://www.chickenfish.cclamilor) or contact Kathy at PLWH/A (NSW) 02 9361 6011.*

*With fond love to my biographer + motivator  
Ave + Thrive 88 Simon de Krome AIDS Major*

*Paul  
10.9.88*



# Growing through difficult times

**Alan Brotherton** was Convenor of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NSW) from 1992 to 1995. In an interview with Glenn Flanagan, he remembers the years of disillusion when a lot was achieved.

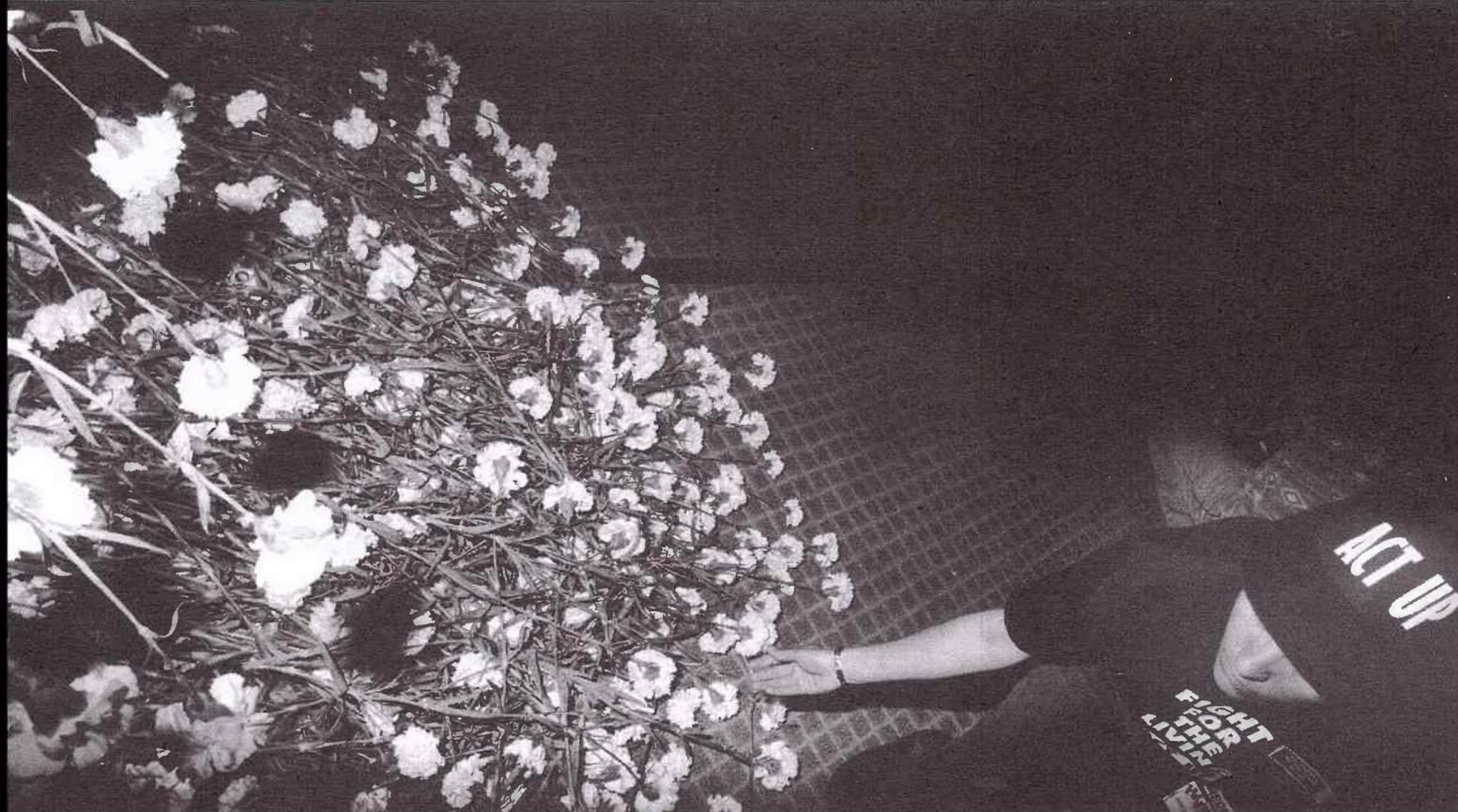
**When I was first diagnosed in 1986 I went along to an informal group called Body Positive which met in the downstairs bar in the Shift. I was more interested in politics however, and after returning to Australia from overseas, I got involved in ACT UP. It was using in your face activism as a way of drawing attention to issues and getting people to sit up and take notice. But for some people it started to lose focus.**

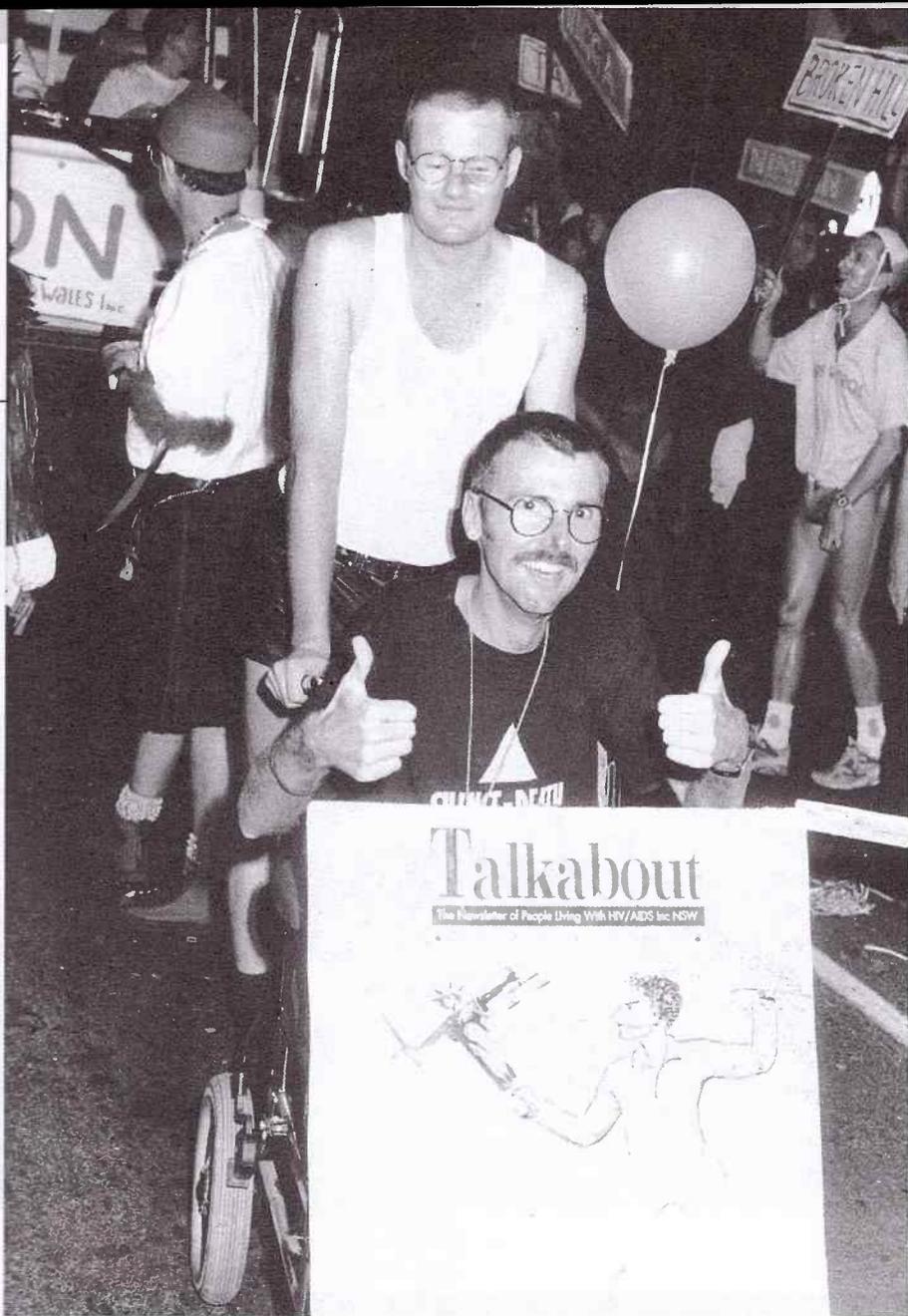
I recall, for example, the 1992 National AIDS Conference when ACT UP organised a stunning intervention at the opening ceremony. Federal Minister, Jeanette McHugh, was speaking, and they carried out a carnation for each death since the previous conference. It was incredibly powerful. She was

moved. Everybody was moved. Then people got up and denounced her for daring to be moved. At one point, someone called for all hiv negative people to leave the room and make it a positive space. I felt profoundly ambivalent about that. There's a time to stand up and be positive and a time to understand who your allies are. I know it was a difficult time, but it relied on anger.

A lot of things needed to be changed around discrimination and social attitudes, and I still wanted to be involved. At the time I read *Talkabout*, and was inspired by the kinds of things Robert Ariss was writing. Robert was an anthropologist, and was interested in political representation, but also the politics of representation. A lot of what *Talkabout* became was due to the combined

A carnation for every death. ACT UP's moving statement at the National AIDS Conference November 1992. Photo: Jamie Dunbar





Alan (standing) with Matthew Bradshaw, *Talkabout* contributor at the 1993 Mardi Gras Parade. Photo: Jamie Dunbar  
 ACT UP demonstrating for treatments access in Sydney 1990. Robert Ariss (convener of PLWA) to the right of banner. Photo: Ed Aspinall



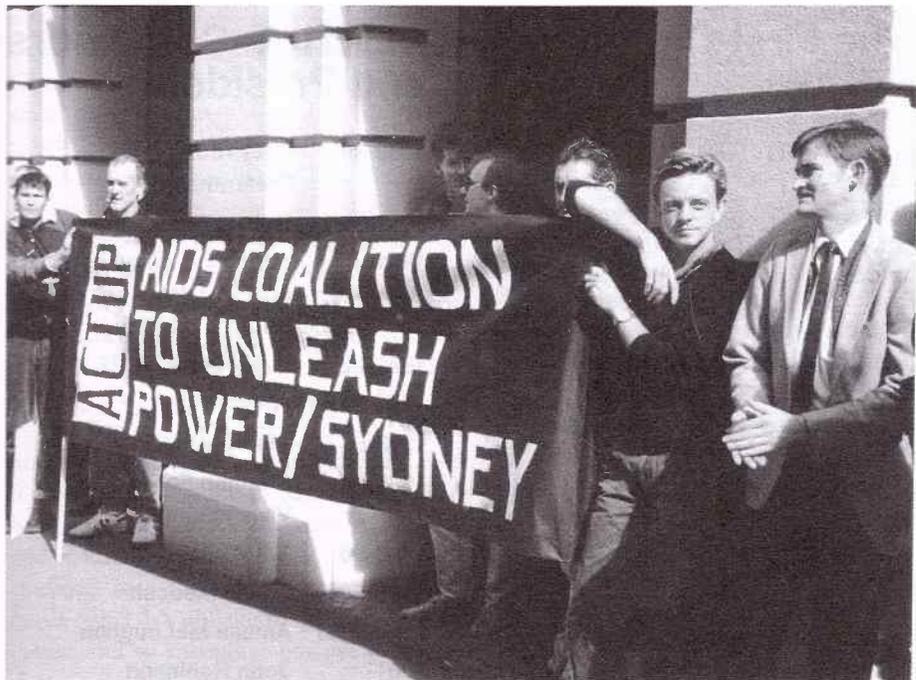
Robert Van Maanen (working quietly behind the scenes)

talents of Jill and Robert and giving people ownership of the publication in a way that was strategic but kept its integrity. Robert had become disillusioned with the organisation and had resigned from the PLWA (NSW) Committee. We had conversations about it and I thought while maybe he wasn't in a space to be on that Committee, other people could change things. That was in 1992 when they were desperately short of people. There was a huge amount of disillusionment that the early promise of treatments wasn't materialising. The number of deaths was beginning to bite, and nobody was quite clear about the role of PLWHA.

During this time there were quiet but important people in the organisation, including Robert Van Maanen, Wayne Gardiner, and Wayne Holt, who did a lot of work on policies and procedures. It was unglamorous, thankless work, but it created a legacy of a soundly structured organisation.

In the middle of 1993, as a volunteer committee of eleven, and a staff of two and a half with a huge range of issues to solve, we were in danger of getting nowhere, and people becoming disillusioned. We made the hard decisions about where to concentrate our efforts, and we achieved just about everything we set out to do.

We made a decision to move out to our own premises. Previously we were squeezed into a part of the ACON building. This marked us out as a distinct organisation. We had very limited resources but we raised our visibility, designed a new logo and slapped it on anything that would stand still long enough. We went in the Mardi Gras Parade, which the organisation hadn't done for a while. Mardi Gras also approached us in 1993 to run the Time Out Room and we turned it into a social space, rather than a respite space. The Speakers' Bureau was set up in 1994, and this was an important step in increasing the visibility of people with hiv. It also gave people an accessible, constructive role, building different levels of involvement within the organisation. We did manage to build the Committee back up again. And of course, *Talkabout* was still steaming along. Whatever went on politically, *Talkabout* still came out.





1988

15

2003

## My three months on the wall ... at Town Hall station

### Danny Crowe

Advertising Representative

'HIV doesn't discriminate ... do you?' campaign involved our swimming team in the lead up to the Gay Games. The poster with our picture on it was originally going to be displayed for six weeks while the Games were on, but State Rail decided to support PLWH/A (NSW) by extending the display for a further six weeks for free.

Contributing toward the promotion was empowering personally and for the swim club. It made many people question their own preconceptions about hiv. Exercise and interpersonal development and an effective social message ... what a great experience.

## The First Committee

At the AGM in 1989 the following people were elected as Committee members. Office Bearers were voted for at a subsequent Committee meeting.

**Robert Ariss (Convenor), Terry Bell, Geoffrey Birch (Secretary), Neil Carmichael, Gary Daley, Roland Davidson, Irwin Diefenthaler, Barry Fitzgerald (Deputy Convenor) and Associate members Julie Bates and Kathy Triffitt.**

Terry and Irwin resigned in April and Peter Base, runner-up in the election, was co-opted by the committee, followed by Larry Stillson.

## PLWH/A Convenors and Presidents

1988-89	Paul Young, Irwin Diefenthaler
1989-91	Robert Ariss
1991	Acting Co-convenors Amelia Tyler, Ross Duffin, Stuart Linnett
1991-92	Lloyd Grosse
1992-93	Wayne Holt
1992-95	Alan Brotherton
1995	Stephen Ford, Vivienne Munro
1995-96	Bill Whittaker
1996-2000	Phillip Medcalf
2000-2001	Amelia McLoughlin
2001-	John Robinson

# So you thought it would be over in five years?

**Claude Fabian** was on the Committee of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NSW) during the 1990s, and has been a staff member at times as well. He has been there during some of the difficult times in the history of our organisation. In these extracts from an interview with Glenn Flanagan he recalls his experience.

**When I became involved in ACT UP and PLWH/A (NSW) in the early 90s, lots of people were getting sick and dying, and it was not unusual to read whole pages or more of obituaries in the Sydney Star Observer. Due to the large number of deaths there was a lot of action and energy directed at holding the rate of infection, getting access to treatments, making services available and challenging discrimination. Many people hoped it might all be over in 5 years. That was wishful thinking.**

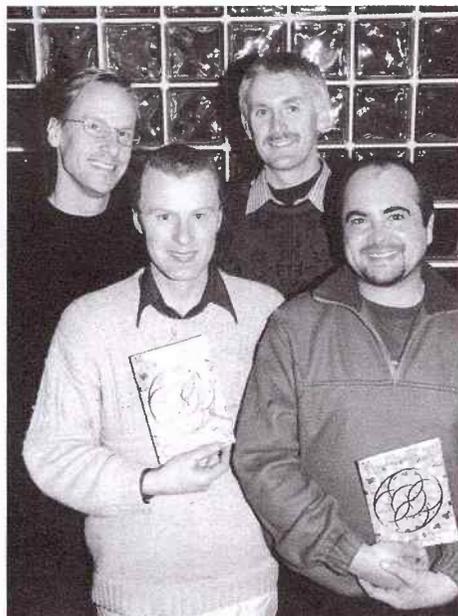
Two of the activities of PLWH/A I've been most proud of over the years include the Positive Retreats and the groundbreaking and award winning Anti-Discrimination Media Campaign in 1993 and 1994. Probably the single greatest achievement of this organisation has been *Talkabout*. At the times we had our worst problems, it may have been late, but it still came out.

It's been a great learning curve for me – the people I've met, the things I've done, from writing funding submissions to carrying couches for the Time Out Room at dance parties. There have been some difficult and sad times, but I'm still here to talk about it.

It's also important that we don't forget how we got here. It didn't just happen. And it won't just continue to happen. PLWH/A has played an important role in building and maintaining the services we have. The challenge is to continue doing the work that needs doing. It's difficult to quantify the successes, and to encourage positive people to

get involved in the organisation, but having our voice heard continues to be crucial. People Living with HIV/AIDS (NSW) is the only organisation run by positive people for positive people. Doctors, sociologists and social commentators often cannot accurately describe the lived experience of people. We have, as positive people, our unique perspective. The ability to have our voices heard has been fought for with much blood, sweat and tears over the years.

The launch of the PLWH/A (NSW) Complementary Therapies Directory in August 1998. (L-R) David Wallace, Andrew James, Peter de Ruyter and Claude Fabian. Photo: Mazz Images



1988  
**15**  
2003

## **Rik Gebalski**

*Re-reading the February 1998 issue of Talkabout where the then editor, Jill Sargent, interviewed me and published a story titled 'The man with the pink ball', tears came to my eyes at how lucky we are to have an organisation like People Living with HIV/AIDS (NSW) and the power of a publication like Talkabout. We can, indeed, speak for ourselves and rely on PLWH/A to continue to advocate for all people living with hiv/aids. So much has changed attitudinally, financially and in service provision. A lot of good changes have been directly influenced by the proactive attitude of PLWH/A and Talkabout. I lift my champagne flute and toast this wonderful organisation and magazine for their continued uphill battle for all people affected by this horrible scourge and hope to see, through their continuing dedication, a better quality of life for us all. I also hope our current editor, Susan Hawkwood, is inundated with more contributions and I personally thank and congratulate PLWH/A and Talkabout for 15 years of hard work which has benefited us all.*

**'Some people think that people with AIDS/HIV don't have sex, or even that we shouldn't BUT We want to We do and SEX IS OUR RIGHT'**

**Talkabout** May/June 1991

# W

## e played a pivotal role in treatment access

**Bill Whittaker** recalls when he was Convenor of PLWH/A (NSW) from 1995 to 1996

**My first involvement with People Living with HIV/AIDS (NSW) was when I was Executive Director of the AIDS Council of New South Wales. I was very supportive of PLWA, as it was called, being set up. In those days the PLWA office was run by dodge traffic. Its office was just outside my door, and I always enjoyed that presence there when I worked at ACON. I was also a founding member of the organisation.**

I joined the Committee later on in 1994, and was elected Convenor shortly afterwards.

I got involved along with a couple of other colleagues, like Rolf Petherbridge, because we saw the need for activism on treatments. In the mid nineties a raft of new drugs were becoming available and many of us were concerned there would be quite a delay in getting these drugs to people. Large numbers of people were dying from AIDS at that time. We saw that PLWH/A was well placed to do that advocacy work.

We set up a Treatments Working Group, which led to the AIDS Treatments Project Australia. PLWH/A (NSW) played a pivotal role in improving treatment access in the mid 90s.

I've always seen PLWH/A (NSW) as an advocacy organisation. I don't think PLWH/A groups, in general, should get into large amounts of service delivery because I think it detracts from the focus on advocacy. This includes advocacy on the best standards of health for people living with hiv, around discrimination, and to make sure that other organisations like the AIDS Council, Health Department, and Area Health Services are performing optimally in delivering the best care.

These challenges don't go away, even after 20 years into the epidemic – questions of service needs, housing, poverty, and changes to social security.

In the mid nineties a raft of new drugs were becoming available and many of us were concerned there would be quite a delay in getting these drugs to people.

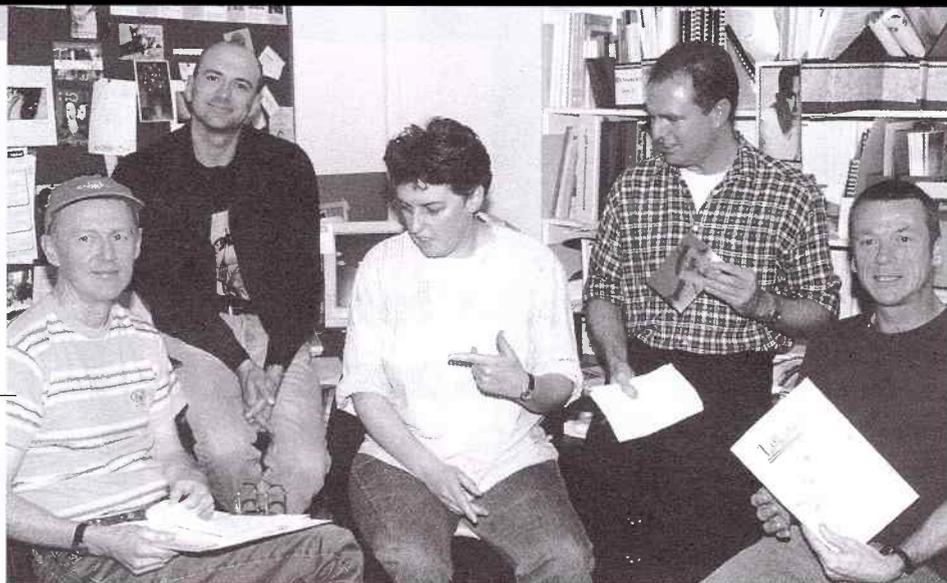
PLWH/A (NSW) Committee members in 1996 (L-R) Bill Whittaker (Convenor), Claude Fabian, Rolf Petherbridge, Stuart McEachern, Larry Wellings, Chris Hordern, David Nicholas. Photo: Jamie Dunbar



# F riends & activists

**Jo Watson** recalls the treatments advocacy and information work as well as the friendships formed through PLWH/A (NSW)

It has been a huge influence on my life, and many of the people I first met there have developed into my personal friends and extended family.



'A working group like no other' – The PLWH/A (NSW) Treatments Working Group in 1997. (L-R) Bill Whittaker, Andrew Kirk, Jo Watson, Les Szarasz, Peter Canavan. Photo: C. Moore Hardy

**When I think back over the years since I became involved with PLWH/A (NSW), from when I was on staff, over the times I have been a member of working groups, a volunteer, and still today, part of the membership, the thing that sticks out for me is this sea of faces.**

I was employed in 1996 in the newly created position of fulltime Research Officer, primarily reporting to the PLWH/A (NSW) Treatments Working Group (TWG). This was a working group like no other. There was a mixture of both hiv prescribers, as well as hiv activists, all of whom were some of the significant treatments advocacy leaders of that time.

The AIDS Treatment Project Australia (ATPA) was created through the work of PLWH/A's Treatments Working Group in 1998. The success of the ATPA program and the call for more national outreach of its activities led to its move to the national plwha body – NAPWA.

I think it is of great significance that the ATPA grew out of the efforts of so many based at PLWH/A (NSW), and that it has gone on to be such a success in the national

arena. It marks its own 5 year anniversary this year, and everyone connected to both organisations should be proud.

PLWH/A (NSW) has been an organisation that over all its years has seen such a colourful and mixed bag of people come together, both hiv positive and negative, and it has been a place where people really came together to meet, work, play, and share the moments.

For me, especially when I was working there on a daily basis, it was like a big family of networks and connections. Of course there have been, and will continue to be, times of highs and lows, and yes, the usual times of dysfunction or madness, but the organisation has always remained – it is bigger than any snapshot of time or any particular individuals. It has been a huge influence on my life, and many of the people I first met there have developed into my personal friendships and extended family.

I believe PLWH/A needs to be around to represent all that has been put into it over the years, by literally thousands of people, and all those it needs to be able to represent in the future.

**In the fight against stigmatisation and isolation faced by PLWAs, our sexuality must not divide us.**

**Paul Young and Irwin Diefenthaler**

Co-convenors of PLWA (NSW) 1988–89  
December 1989

**Ross Duffin**

*The epidemic of aids conferences had taken off – and I went to this gabfest on hiv treatments in Glasgow. Suffering aids overload I decided I needed aids free time ... and went wandering around bits of northern Scotland with a 'guide'. We came across this old and quite beautiful building. We had to go inside. It turned out to be an hiv organisation ... we almost fled – but there sitting in the literature display, in the middle of this building with no purpose, in the snow, in the middle of nowhere, was the Talkabout special issue on Positive Sex.*

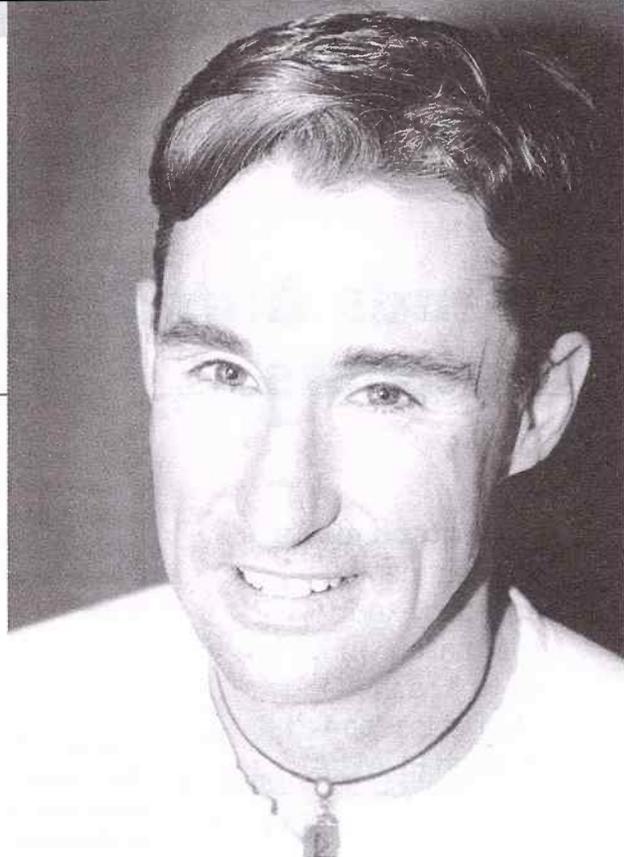
1988

15

2003

# New challenges need new responses

**Ryan McGloughlin** was Coordinator and Manager of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NSW) from 1995 to 2000. This was a time of enormous change, in both the epidemic and the organisation.



Ryan in 1995 when he became coordinator of PLWH/A (NSW).

When I attended an hiv/aids conference in Warsaw in 1999, I was struck by the international reputation of *Talkabout*, when a Polish resident recognised me from my photo in the magazine. The reputation it had achieved was primarily through its uniqueness in involving hiv+ people and their own stories. This was largely due to the work of Jill Sergeant, still the longest serving staff member at PLWH/A (NSW).

**768 people are diagnosed with hiv, 818 are diagnosed with aids and 670 die. That was 1995 when I became Coordinator of PLWH/A (NSW). The euthanasia debate was high on the community agenda after PLWH/A held a forum on the topic and ACON launched their Voluntary Euthanasia Bill. There was mudslinging in the community regarding the treatment debate initiated by Heal Foundation's problematic document 'Making Friends With Iris'. PLWH/A and ACON were mounting a campaign against Abbott Pharmaceuticals for failing to provide special access to Ritonavir.**

In 1995, Scott Berry (HIV Support Worker at ACON) wrote a letter to the *Sydney Star Observer* in response to an earlier letter from myself: 'So much of the history of aids has been filled with anger, struggle and hostility. This has and will continue to be necessity until we finally have a cure and I say 'Bravo' to those who have fought this way. Yet sometimes, when fury becomes the singular device we use to make the greatest impact, we lose the more gentle and unsensational responses to the epidemic. Ryan's letter is an example of this more subtle communication which is most important for those of us living with hiv.' Scott goes on to say 'He (Ryan) places his anger and frustration at the feet of the virus rather than projecting it on to others in our community ...'

Large numbers of people were dying, a

lot was yet to be discovered about hiv. But a different era was arriving. Over the next five years the landscape in the epidemic changed significantly with the arrival of combination therapies in 1996 and (for the first time since the onset of hiv/aids), a change in the Federal Government. Our responses necessarily became more complex.

During this time, PLWH/A went through a rapid period of growth in funding and staff projects, and the complete divestment of the organisation from ACON. A loss of significant government funding and the changing nature of the epidemic meant that the organisation required restructuring. At times there was criticism from elements of the community on how the organisation was being managed. However, this was to the backdrop of significant success for what was, and still is, a small community organisation. Each year PLWH/A continued building on the lessons learnt and its successes. PLWH/A was constantly at the forefront of major issues through lobbying and community consultation and collaboration in its innovative project work. Some of the major achievements during 1995-2000 included the launch of the *Contacts* Directory, gaining compassionate access to protease inhibitors, securing Commonwealth funding for viral load testing, development of the Needs Assessment to identify the extent of poverty, running the Changing Needs Forum, the creation of the AIDS Treatment Project

**Tony Creighton**

*It was 1996 and I was about to travel to Sydney for my first ever Aids Conference. I had never been to anything like this since my diagnosis and I was shit scarred. When I arrived I found other people who were open about their status and this was a very, very good thing. The journalist wanted to interview me and another indigenous person about our stories. This was amazing as I had never really discussed my story with anyone, and when it got into print I was blown away. Even though my story was a success compared to some others, there it was in print-amazing really. This event changed my life completely and for the better, and I now live a fulfilling existence.*

Australia, production of the PSB rural video and International Travel and hiv brochure, running advocacy and campaign courses, starting the HIV/AIDS Complementary Therapies Information Service, producing the HIV/AIDS Sentencing Kit, and the development of the Positive Decisions work experience program.

The epidemic has passed through the initial crisis and turmoil years, and there are now new challenges, and new responses must be developed. A recent study of Australian charitable giving patterns, published in November 2001, named hiv/aids the most unpopular cause. We also need to confront our own communities' fatigue in responding to the epidemic, both in sexual practices and in providing support to positive people.

Would it be in the best interest of positive people that PLWHA services are streamlined? Can organisations such as BGF and PLWH/A work more closely together? What do ACON's moves towards becoming a Gay and Lesbian Health Organisation mean for those with hiv and aids? Should the AIDS Trust present itself in its fundraising as primarily a provider to positive people when this is only a proportion of its disbursements? These are just a few of the challenges facing the sector.

Congratulations PLWH/A (NSW) on your 15th birthday. A responsible voice of positive people must always be heard.

## **I**ntegrity and giving people a voice

**Vivienne Munro** was the convenor of People Living with HIV/AIDS (NSW) in 1995 and had a long association with *Talkabout*

**I was volunteering at ACON and involved with a positive women's newsletter when Jill Sergeant asked me to write an article for *Talkabout* about telling my children, who were then six and ten, that their parents were positive. It wasn't until their father was dying that I eventually did talk about it. Although writing the article took almost as long as it took to get the courage to tell the children, I found the experience an empowering thing to do. When I started working for HIV Support at ACON I became a member of *Talkabout's* editorial working group and I also became more involved with PLWH/A (NSW).**

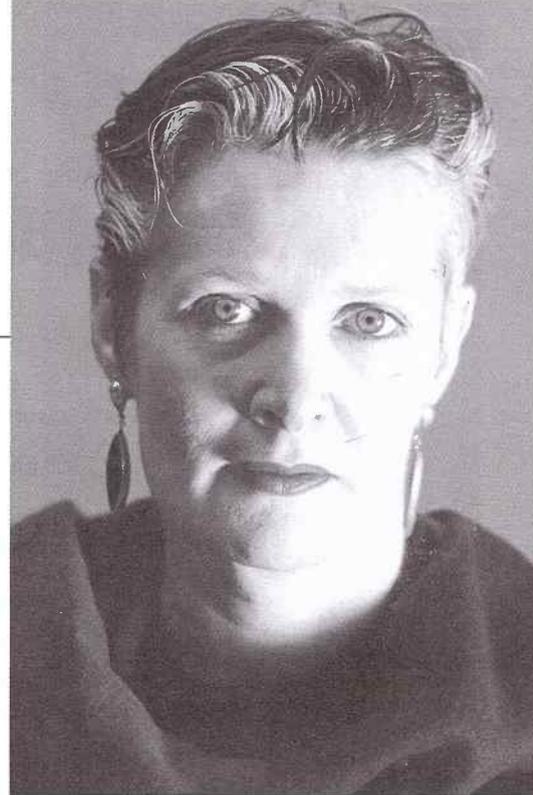
I believed *Talkabout* maintained its integrity in that it truly was a place where people with hiv could speak for themselves. It was difficult to get people to write at times though, and for a while the working group were the main contributors. I sometimes wrote under a pseudonym so people wouldn't get sick of seeing my name! Establishing the writing workshops and payment for contributions were, at the time, a great leap for the magazine.

It was exciting to be a part of a magazine that had started off as pages photocop-

ied and stapled together, and then to have it become internationally respected and a leader in confronting hiv taboos, in particular sexuality and hiv and unprotected sex in relationships. *Talkabout* changed a lot after Jill left. Some things were better and some not so. It's become more 'professional', focusing on services. More editorial control of it developed, whereas the working group had previously determined *Talkabout's* direction and content. I also think it lost some of its visibility when it went bimonthly, which was unfortunately due to lack of funding.

It's always been difficult for women to have a voice in the epidemic. This is largely because of the demographics in Australia. Women who have wanted to be political in hiv have needed to be involved in the gay community because that's where the services are configured. I think PLWH/A (NSW) has always had a willingness to facilitate women's voices, and mostly they have done this well. When *Talkabout* has produced an issue focused on a specific topic (and there has regularly been a women's issue), it's been an opportunity to get a wide range of views from the diverse groups within the community working together on common ground.

Vivienne Munro in a photo taken in 1997 for *Talkabout's* Positive Women's Issue. Photo: C. Moore Hardy



# Wish you were here

- 1989 Larry Stillson, Ralph Deacon, Jeffrey Jackson, Stephen Hill, Terry Bell
- 1990 Brian McGahen, Paul Young
- 1991 Adam Marriot, Keith Harbour, Terry Giblett, Andrew Carter, Magan Mkwanzani, Peter Steinheuer
- 1992 Richard Dixon, Brian Hobday, Nicholas van Schalkwyk, Graeme Clarke (Gretta Louise), Richard Liddy, Peter Base, Skye, Richard Johnson, Luke Coomey
- 1993 Tallulah Bright (John Nixon), Brett Collings, Bill Hathaway, Leggs Gallore (Kliphe Gillard), Ranui John Love (Tchok), Matt Bradshaw
- 1994 Rod Knowles, Bruce Brown, Peter Cornwell, Jen Websdale, Robert Ariss, Vaughan L. Edwards, John Gardiner, Stephen Cummins, Dr. Timothy Carrigan, Darren Reys-Au Young, dodge traffic aka Don Carter, Jacques Monroe, Warwick Witt, Chris Connele
- 1995 Christian Poulton aka 'Crystal', Robert van Maanen, James Skelton, Paul Monette, Terry Patterson aka Paddy, David Englebrecht ('Harbour Star'), Graeme Blair, Karl-Heinz Spiker, Andrew Morgan, Chris Hoye, Graeme John Bray, David McDiarmid, Neil Sanderson, Brenton Heath-Kerr, Mark Cashman, David Martin, Matthew Cook, Tony Carden, Amelia Menia (nee Tyler)
- 1996 Eric Sleight, Wayne Robert Holt, James Harrison, Michael Glynn, Glen William Eastwood, Chris Hordern
- 1997 Rodney John Jones, Diana Princess of Wales
- 1998 Romy Waterlow, Mark (Missy) Douglas, Jan Kneen-McDaid, Johnathon Mann
- 1999 Simon Nkoli, Mark Leon Silcock (Marcus-Craig), Vincent Dobbin
- 2000 Bill Phillips
- 2001 Paul Roberts, Gerald Lawrence
- 2003 Phillip Medcalf, Kath Vallentine

This is a list of people who have had a tribute published in *Talkabout* since 1988. It is not an exhaustive list and does not nearly reflect the losses we have felt.

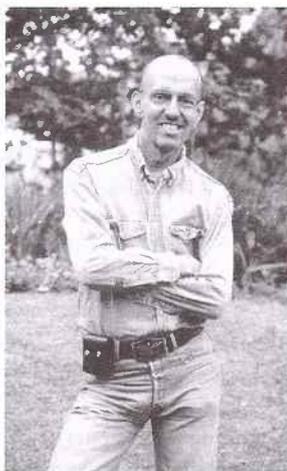
Photo: C. Moore Hardy



*Phillip*



*Vincent*



*Gerald*



*Kath*



*Paul*

1988

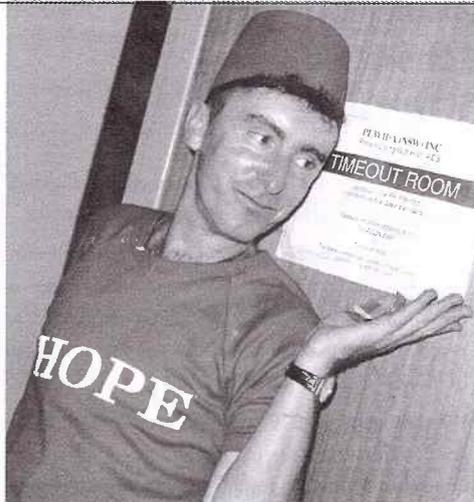
15

2003

Norman at the PLWH/A Time Out Room Mardi Gras 1997.  
Photo: Paige Slan

### Norman Last

I first heard about PLWH/A (NSW) through Larry Wellings from the Positive Speakers' Bureau, and the first PLWH/A event I ever went to was the launch of the very first *Contacts* Directory. Then I began volunteering. I've been a paid worker, volunteered in the office, fundraised at the Mardi Gras launches and helped run the Time Out rooms for parties, and been on the board of the organisation. I love our office which is small, intimate and friendly, and I love the personal aspect of the organisation.



### Paul Maudlin

September 1993 and newly diagnosed, I attended my first HIV Peer Support Group at ACON. Alan Brotherton was the Convenor of PLWH/A (NSW) and was facilitating the group. Alan introduced me to PLWH/A and *Talkabout* Newsletter as it was known.

It was also at this time that Alan mentioned the proposed new PLWH/A Project, the Positive Speakers' Bureau (PSB). I attended several planning meetings and later the first training and have been actively involved with the project and PLWH/A (NSW) ever since. Although I was newly diagnosed, it was not long before my health required that I commence antiretroviral treatment in 1995. *Talkabout* provided a range of information including the personal experiences of other people and it was also a great source of inspiration for me. I have collected every edition since seeing my first copy in September 1994.

After the Queens Birthday long weekend in June 1997 I joined the staff team taking over the reins of the PSB Project from Larry Wellings. There were three very memorable major events which I was involved with that gave PLWH/A (NSW) a lot of visibility. These were the 1998 Mardi Gras entry 'Dick Van Dykes On Bikes', the 1999 Celebrity Shoe Auction at Darling Harbour and the launch of *Contacts* Directory in August 1996.

### Ray Hansen

I first heard about PLWH/A back when it started and thought I'm glad I won't need them. Years later, coming back from an extended stay, illegally, in NYC about 1997 I started to hassle Larry Wellings about becoming a Positive Speaker. In the States I had been doing work which involved being very open and I found this to be healing.

Late '97 I was Acting Community Development Officer. I threw myself into it with 160% of my time, energy and contacts. I believe I was the first person to get volunteers by offering 'prizes'. We raised about \$10,000 at the Mardi Gras launch, and I was in a wheel chair because I had had an accident the day before! The Fair Day that year I donated a dunking machine and had a Celebrity Dunk. Jimmy Sommerville asked a friend of his to contact me as he WANTED to be dunked!! Surprisingly we didn't make any money although I had paid for the dunking machine!!

When I first started, Jo, Sandy, Luke and others though I was a wanker who talked through my arse! They ALL found out very quickly that I got what I wanted when I asked for it! The Celebrity Shoe Auction I produced in 1999 put PLWH/A (NSW) Inc in *Vogue*, the Sunday papers (including the sports sections), *Financial Times*, *Harpers Bazaar*, *Entertainment Tonight* and the *Good Morning Show* with our wonderful Bert Newton.

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Dr Dick QUAN

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HALC provides free legal advice and referral to people living in NSW with an HIV related legal problem.

To make an appointment please call us on

**02 9206 2060**

All information is kept strictly confidential.

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9 Commonwealth Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010  
Freecall 1800 063 060  
Fax (02) 9206 2053  
Email halc@halc.org.au  
10am to 6pm Mon to Fri

# Oiga's personals

**HIV+ gay male 42**, GSOH, caring, romantic, good health, enjoys travel, dining in/out, bushwalking. Looking for an intelligent, passionate, genuine active guy to 46 with a view to LTR. Not into drugs or the scene. Genuine replies only. **Reply: 010202**

**HIV+ guy, 53**, 5ft 7, brown eyes, OK looks and physique. Prudent, compassionate, monogamous, I have learned not to try and understand women but simply adore them. Gold Coast resident. Seeks similar female penpal with view to whatever. **Reply: 010402**

**Central Coast**. Cute, slim, Hiv+ (18yrs), 42yo, passive bumboy. Seeks slim hung Hiv+ dickman, 35-50, for fun, sex and compassion. **Reply: 010602**

**39yo, +ve**, fit, goodlooking, 5'11, honest genuine, live in Eastern Suburbs, dog owner, seek guy, late 30-50, sincere, intelligent, warm, articulate, fit. **Reply: 010801**

**Shy, sincere, loyal**, hardworking 35yo hiv+ divorcee. I'm a straight, honest male living in Sydney. Seeks friendship with hiv+ lady in similar situation who wants to meet a true loyal and down to earth true friend. ALA. **Reply: 020602**

**Hiv+, 36yo male**, ok looking and DTE. I have good friends and a GSOH but need that someone to share my life with to love and spoil, 18-40yrs. **Reply: 021002**

**South Sydney, 41yo**, black, gay, hiv hep C man. Hi, I've been hiv, hep C for 11 yrs. I'm 5'4' tall, tight body. Good health. OK looks, you similar 36-43yrs wanting same. **Reply: 030402**

**HIV+, 38yo**, good looing, GSOH, living Western Suburbs. Seeking fun and fair dinkum bloke for friendship and maybe more. Love horseriding, breed dogs and cats, love the bush and love a drink. My first advert. Genuine guys only please. **Reply: 031002**

**24yo, gay guy**, hiv+ for five years, DTE, GSOH, come from the country. I am currently in gaol and looking for penpals with other gay, hiv+ people with the same interest. ALA. **Reply: 040402**

**HIV+, gay man, early 50s**, still in good health and shape, enjoys home life, reading, theatre and travel, excellent cook, have my own business, looking for a companion, or more, with similar interests. **Reply: 041002**

**Guy, 50s**, Ryde area, active and in good health, hiv+, 6'1', 85kg, blonde, likes home, tv & videos, going

out, GSOH, no ties, seeks person for companionship, relationship. ALA, so please write. **Reply: 050402**

**Long Bay, 28yo**, hiv pos, goodlooking, intelligent, kindhearted, country lad, straight acting, like a drink, don't do gay scene, looking for good friends, penpals. A real man is hard to find. Are you my knight in shining armour. **Reply: 060402**

**HIV+, 45yo** gay guy, 16 yrs survivor, NS, SD, enjoying good health, would like to meet and see a guy younger or up to early 50s on a regular basis for drinks, dinner, coffee ... nationalities open. **Reply: 061002**

**Goodlooking, 30yo**, straight + male, recently diagnosed, good health, NS, SD. Seeking honest, straight, single female 22-32 yrs for serious relationship and love. Genuine responses only. Looking forward to hearing from you girls. You will not be disappointed. **Reply: 070402**

**Looking for boyfriend!** I enjoy good company, good conversation and good wine. Looks, physique ok. Interests: health, hiv+ & rebuilding immune system. Holistic wellness. WLTM interesting, personable guy, age open, social status unimportant if sincere. Seek monogamous friendship. **Reply: 071002**

**HIV+ gay male 30**, GSOH and responsible. With view to LTR for the best in life, love and happiness. Enjoys cosy nights in, seeking fun and healthy relationship without the use of drugs and alcohol. Only genuine replies. **Reply: 100000**

**Active, horny male seeks**: totally passive male, 18-40yrs, quiet, gentle, softspoken, caring, non-scene & likes lots of loving & TLC. Good looks not important. Prefer reasonably solid build guy who is unattached & wants a longterm relationship. **Reply: 100001**

**Very goodlooking** hiv +ve guy, good body, very healthy. Professional, NS, GSOH, 5'9', olive complexion, brown eyes, 32yo, seeking guy up to 40yo, for fun, sex, companionship. Preferably North Shore area. **Reply: 100002**

**Hiv+, 38 yo guy**, lives in the country. I'm 183cm, slim/average build, hairy chested and DTE. Seeking someone (18-50s) for fun and maybe more if compatible. I like country life, animals, art, food and a good time. **Reply: 100004**

**Surry Hills. Black**, gay guy. Late 30s, DTE, hiv+ with

a GSOH. Versatile. WLTM Mr TLC. View LTR. Welcome all nationalities. **Reply: 100005**

**Heterosexual male. 42yo**, hiv and positive that he will one day find a friend who is heterosexual, female, hiv and positive in complementing each other's life journey in love, health to becoming free. **Reply: 100006**

**HIV+ male, 31yo**, tall and muscular, motorcycle enthusiast, seeks female 28-40. I'm hardworking and searching for companionship/relationship, genuine replies. **Reply: 100008**

**Young country guys**, are you coming to Sydney? Goodlooking, 34yo, hiv+ guy from the bush ISO DTE country lad looking for LTR. NS but will do the odd party. R U non-attitude? Straight acting? Beach/bush walks, horseriding, cuddling. **Reply: 100009**

**Nthn NSW male. 27yo**, hetero pos, single Dad of 1, seeks female to write to, and/or meet. Any nationality, age. **Reply: 100010**

**WLTM young guys or students**, to 20yrs, reactivate new r/ship. Hiv+ ok. Join friends, similar age, interests, instructional material, sexuality, good health, bedroom fun. I'm girly, in beauty business. Your mail gets mine, discreetly. **Reply: 100011**

**Joe, 42yo**, poz guy. 6'3', tall, dark hair, blues, seeks 1-1, easygoing, honest, sincere, handsome for fun & better thinking. I'm attracted to stocky, solid guys into wrestling, massage, laughter & life. Will travel, let's chat. **Reply: 100012**

**Attractive, Sydney, 35yo +ve** male. Seeking attractive lady 20-45 yrs for f/ship, r/ship, love. I'm sincere, excellent health, athletic build, olive skinned, and a hopeless romantic. Enjoy theatre, music, fine dining, deserted beaches, GSOH, live bands. Discretion assured. ALA. **Reply: 100013**

**Attractive Asian (HIV+ but undetectable viral load)** seeks genuine, masculine, hairy-chested, active, well hung men for fun, friendship perhaps LTR. I am smooth, tan, petite and healthy with witty sense of humour. Photo and phone number ensures prompt reply. **Reply: 100015**

**This guy is in need of love.** 42yo +ve with good looks, very fit and financially secure. Looking for a high spirited man with me in a new beginning. **Reply 100016**

### When placing and answering personals

Be clear about who you are and what you are looking for. Too much detail can be boring, and too little may be too vague. Be honest to avoid disappointment for you and your correspondent.

Do not give out your work or home address, telephone number or email address until you think you can trust the person. Use a Hotmail or Yahoo address.

Like you, other people may be anonymous. You can't always believe everything you are told.

### When meeting someone

Have reasonable expectations. Don't let your fantasies run away with you – how somebody seems might not be who they are face-to-face.

Meet for the first time in a busy public place, like a bar or club, or with friends. You can go to a private place after you have met the person and think you can trust them. Don't rely on the other person for transport.

Let someone know who you are meeting and where. You can leave a note, keep a diary, email a friend, or ask someone to phone you on your mobile to make sure you are alright.

Apply commonsense and the basic rules of personal safety. Maintain a healthy degree of suspicion: if anything seems odd, be careful.

### How to respond to a personal

Write your response letter and seal it in an envelope with a 50c stamp on it – Write the reply number in pencil on the outside – Place this envelope in a separate envelope and send it to Olga's Personals, PO Box 31, Darlinghurst 1300.

### How to place a personal

Write an ad of up to 40 words – Claims that you are HIV negative cannot be made. However, claims that you are HIV positive are welcome and encouraged – Any personal that refers to illegal activity or is racist or sexist will not be published – Send the personal to Olga, including your name and address for replies. Personal details strictly confidential.

# community transport

Are you having difficulty getting around or stuck at home because you're not well enough to go out?

Community transport services may be able to help you. Services are available in most areas. You can find details in **Contacts**, from your local HIV service or by calling

**Commonwealth Carelink**  
**1800 052 222**

Community transport services include shopping and individual transport to appointments or other therapies.

There is a small charge, but the fee can be negotiated if you have trouble paying.

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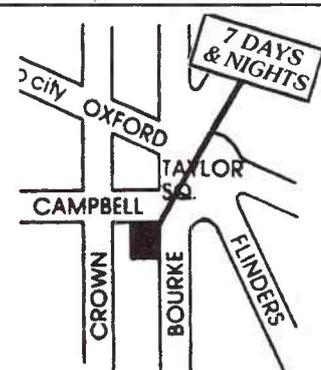
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**Yes, I want to be a member of  
People Living with HIV/AIDS (NSW) Inc**

### Please tick

- Full member (I am a NSW resident with hiv/aids)
- Associate member (I am a NSW resident)

**Disclosure** of positive hiv status entitles you to full membership of PLWH/A (NSW) with voting rights. Members' details are confidential.

**Membership** entitles you to *Contacts*, the Annual Report and a biannual newsletter.

If you want to receive *Talkabout*, you need to fill out the subscription section of this form (below).

Sign below



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**Yes I want to subscribe to *Talkabout* (annual subscription July 1 to June 30). Please select (tick the circle) the rate that applies to you or your organisation.**

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- I am a New South Wales resident receiving benefits – \$5  
(Please enclose a copy of your current health care card)
- I am a New South Wales resident living with hiv/aids who does not receive benefits – \$20
- I am an individual and live in Australia – \$33
- I am an individual and live overseas – \$77

### Organisations:

- Full** \$88 (includes all business, government, university, hospital, and schools either for-profit or government-funded)
- Concession** \$44 (includes plwha groups and self-funded community owned organisations)
- Overseas** \$132

Members of PLWH/A (NSW) Inc who want to subscribe to *Talkabout* but are experiencing hardship are urged to contact PLWH/A (NSW) Inc to discuss their circumstances.

## Personal Information Statement

We collect this information to add you to our database and to notify you of information and events relating to PLWH/A (NSW) Inc. We store this information either in hardcopy or electronically or both. Access to your information is strictly limited to staff members who need it to act effectively on your behalf. Your information will not be passed on to any other organisation. You can access and correct your personal information by contacting our Privacy Officer, phone 02 9361 6011 or freecall 1800 245 677, email [research@plwha.org.au](mailto:research@plwha.org.au)

I acknowledge the Personal Information Statement and consent to my information being collected and stored for the current financial year.

Signature

## How to contact People Living with HIV/AIDS (NSW) Inc

Office: Suite 5, Level 1, 94 Oxford Street, Darlinghurst  
Mailing address: PLWH/A (NSW), Reply Paid 831, Darlinghurst  
NSW 1300

**You do not need to put a stamp on the envelope.**

Phone: 02 9361 6750  
Freecall: 1800 245 677  
Fax: 02 9360 3504

**A membership form is available online at: [www.plwha.org.au](http://www.plwha.org.au).  
Please use the 'text only' version if you need to use a text reader.**

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Total payment \$

# It's time again to say Thank You

The World AIDS Day Awards will again acknowledge the efforts of those in the community who have given voluntarily above and beyond expectation in HIV/AIDS advocacy, care, education or support.



Nomination forms are available from most HIV/AIDS services and selected retail outlets in Darlinghurst and Newtown. For more information contact:  
NSW World AIDS Day Project 02-9382-7638  
or email [info@worldAIDSday.org.au](mailto:info@worldAIDSday.org.au)  
The NSW World AIDS Day Project is funded by NSW Health.



World AIDS Day - December 1, AIDS Awareness Week - November 24 - December 1

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of People Living With HIV/AIDS (NSW) Incorporated will be held on **Sunday 12th October 2003 at 5.30pm** at the **Cellblock Theatre, National Arts School, Forbes Street entrance** [near Taylor Square]. Followed by an early preview of the 15th Birthday exhibition.

Only financial, full or life members are entitled to vote and to stand for election as a Director to the Board of PLWHA (NSW). Membership renewals and new memberships, to be included in voting and/or Proxy forms must be lodged by close at 4pm on 10th October 2003 or can be obtained by telephoning (02) 9361 6011.

At the meeting Directors will present reports on PLWHA (NSW) for 2002/03 and the election of the Board will take place. Nominations for the Board will be taken from the floor of the meeting.

'hiv discrimination' 'disclosure'  
'returning to work' 'body image'  
'relationships'  
'nutrition' '+sex'  
'pos-neg relationships'

## are you interested?

The Health Promotion Unit of People Living With HIV/AIDS (NSW) is producing a series of factsheets and resources. We are inviting HIV + people to focus test them.

You will be asked to answer questions about the messages in these brochures. It will take one hour and you will be remunerated for your time and expenses.

**If you are interested please call Health Promotion on 9361 6011 or email: [healthpromotion@plwha.org.au](mailto:healthpromotion@plwha.org.au)**

# D iary

## Sydney

**Positive Living Centre**, 703 Bourke St, Surry Hills. The centre is a one-stop access point for a range of free hiv and community based services. Programs for pos people to help develop new skills, interests and work opportunities.

**Comp therapies at the PLC** - Acupuncture - Tu, 2-4pm. Massage - W, 10am - 2pm. Yoga - Sat, 4-6pm. Reiki - Th, 7.30 - 8.30pm, Fr, 10am - 4pm. Lomi Lomi (Hawaiian massage) - Tu, 6pm, Sat, 11am. Bookings essential for all therapies. Ph 02 9699 8756.

**Social lunch at the PLC** - Fri, 1-2pm, Soup, main meal, dessert. Breakfast Sat 11.30 - 12.30.

**Gone Shopping** - weekly shopping trip by bus from PLC to Marrickville Metro, Fri, 2.30 - 4.30pm. Bookings advisable. Ph 02 9699 8756.

**Basic Computer Skills at the PLC** - Tu, 6.30 - 8pm. Ph 02 9699 8756 to book.

**Fit X Gym** At the Community Pride Centre, Hutchinson St, Surry Hills. Positive Access Program (PAP) offers qualified instructors, free assessment, free nutritional advice, free individual programs and a free session to try out the gym. \$2.50 a session, or \$20 for a 10 visit pass. Contact Fit X Gym, 4-7pm, Mon - Fri or PAP, 9.30am - 12 noon, Mon, Wed, & Fri on 02 9361 3311.

**Luncheon Club** noon - 2pm, Mon, for people living with and affected by hiv/aids, Pride Centre, 26 Hutchinson St, Surry Hills. Ph 0416 040 074.

**Luncheon Club Larder** noon - 4pm, Mon and Wed, for plwha, Pride Centre, 26 Hutchinson St, Surry Hills. Ph 0416 040 074.

**The Breakfast Group** offers hiv positive gay men who are working a chance to network and support each other through a monthly breakfast meeting. Ph Men's HIV Support at ACON on 02 9206 2000 for more info.

**Yoga for plwha** Special weekly classes at Acharya's Yoga Centre Mon - Fri. Call 02 9264 3765 for more information.

**The Sanctuary** offers free massage, social work, social activities and shiatsu services. Call Robert for details and bookings on 02 9519 6142. Also holds cooking programs. For more info, ph Sydney Leung on 02 9395 0444.

**Gay Vietnamese Social Support Group** meets every last Sat at The Sanctuary in Newtown. Ph John on 02 9515 3138.

**Community Garden** - Learn how to grow your own vegies. Ph Street Jungle on 02 9206 2000. ACON Western Sydney: Ph 02 9891 2088.

**Newtown Neighbourhood Centre** runs a shopping service for Marrickville LGA residents Tu, Th, Fri to Marrickville Metro. They'll pick you up from home, give you two hours to shop, then drop you off again. Price is \$4. Ph Gavin on 02 9516 4755.

**'Outings'** from South Sydney Community Transport is always offering day trips and excursions. More info or bookings ph Jane on 02 9319 4439.

**Shopping service** for residents of South Sydney City Council area. Cost is \$4. Trips are to Marrickville Metro, Eastlakes and Eastgardens. Individual service for shopping available after assessment. Also medical transport available. Ph Jane on 02 9319 4439.

**Dementia support** for family, partners and friends. Telephone/group support for significant others of people with hiv associated dementia, cognitive impairment and/or mental illness. Ph Margaret 02 9698 3161.

**Silk Road**, social and support group for Asian men, meets the first Friday of each month. Ph Matthew on 02 9206 2080 for more info.

**Asia Plus** for hiv+ Asian men, meets the second Friday of each month. Ph Matthew on 02 9206 2080 for more info.

**Myrtle Place** at Milson's Point offers massage services for plwha. Also lunch M/W/F, 12.30pm. M/W: \$2.50 donation. F: \$3 donation. For appointments and info about other services call Dennis or Mark on 02 9929 4288.

## Western Sydney

**Community Garden** Learn how to grow your own vegies. ACON Western Sydney: Ph 02 9891 2088.

**Pozhetwest** offers peer support and education for men and women living heterosexually with hiv/aids in Western Sydney. Ph 1800 812 404.

**PozWest Women** Support group for women living with hiv in Western Sydney. Fun and friendship, social activities and newsletter. Ph Maxine or Pat on 02 9672 3600.

## Blue Mountains

Drop in to the **Blue Mountains PLWHA Centre** rear of 2 Station St, Katoomba for informal peer support. Ph/fax 02 4782 2119.

## Hunter

**Karumah** A meeting place for positive people and their friends in Newcastle and the Hunter. Activities held each week. Pos-only space and open group. Contact Karumah Inc, 47 Hudson St, Hamilton. 02 4940 8393.

## Illawarra

**ACON Illawarra** at 47 Kenny Street, Wollongong provides drop-in, care and support, advocacy, referrals for positive people. Contact Craig on 4226 1163.

## Central Coast

**HUGS** (HIV Understanding Group Support) A support and social group for hiv positive people on Central Coast. We meet at PSN (Positive Support Network) in Gosford every week on alternate Tu days and Thursdays 12.30-3pm for support, discussions, outings and lunches. Please call Sean @ ACON Hunter on 02 4927 6808 or Leslie @ PSN on 02 432905 for upcoming dates and further information.

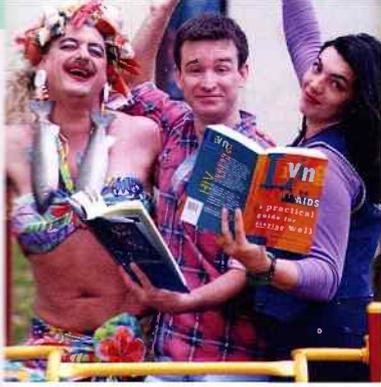
## Port Macquarie

**Port plwha** Support group for plwha. Lunches, social events, fundraising activities, peer support. Ph 02 207 939 or 1300 658 878, email portplwha@optusnet.com.au. Postal address: Port PLWHA, C/- PO Box 5648, Port Macquarie NSW 2444.

## Northern Rivers

**Peer support for plwha** Ph Sue on 02 6622 1555 1800 633 637.

**Health Bus Service** Nimbin to Lismore and return. W leaves 9am, returns 2pm, \$5 return. Ph Northern Rivers Community Transport on 02 6624 7070.



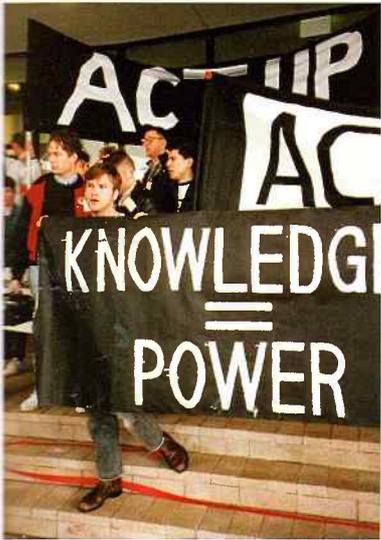
(Clockwise from top left)  
 Salmonella, Scott Berry and Eryka Fars. *Talkabout* cover stars in 1996. Photo: John Douglas

Amelia McLoughlin. PLWH/A (NSW) Mardi Gras float 1999. Photo: Peter Thomas

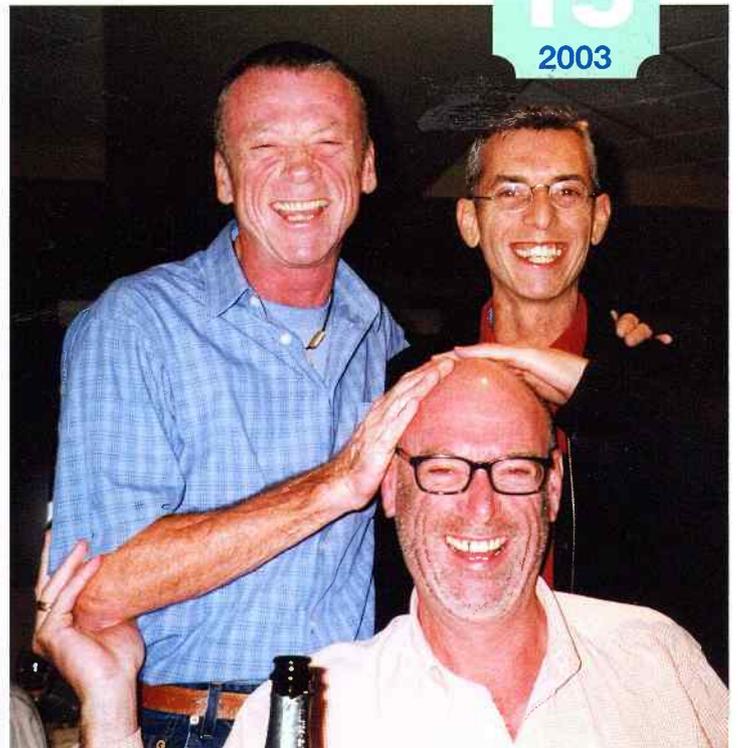
(L-R) Peter Canavan, John Robinson (President) and Philip Medcalf (our longest serving President) 2002

Two mysterious beauties at the first Planet Positive night at Annie's Bar in August 1998. Photo: Rodd Maude.

Rob ACT UP demo Canberra. Photo: Ed Aspinall



1988  
 15  
 2003





## POSITIVE CENTRAL

Positive Central warmly invites you to attend the launch of

# The Art of Living

An Exhibition of Works by Positive People for World AIDS  
Awareness Week 2003

**Opening Night:** 6pm Monday 1 December  
Pine Street Creative Arts Centre  
64 Pine Street  
Chippendale

**Exhibition Runs:** 1 – 8 December 2003

**Contact:** Kylie Tobler 9395 0444 for details

A project Supported by Positive Central in conjunction with  
City of Sydney Council and the Pine Street Creative Centre



Get in touch with your body and get into

# Yoga

**Where:** The Sanctuary  
6 Mary Street  
Newtown

**When:** 10 – 11am  
Mondays  
beginning 22 September 2003

**Who:** Positive People of ALL ages and fitness levels welcome

**Instructor:** Michael Glennon

**Contact:** Andrew 9395 0444 for details



the 10th anniversary  
living heterosexually with HIV/AIDS Workshop

# TOPTEN

for positive men, positive women, their partners and family members  
Saturday 15 November 2003  
9.45am – 4.30pm Surry Hills, Sydney

## Thin ice of decorum

Celebrity guest: Tug Dumbly  
Triple J and Edinburgh Festival Poetic Comedian

## Positive outlook

Can Treatments put you at risk of living longer?

## 10th Rock from the Sun

Positive Bingo- prizes  
Thai hand art workshop

## Dave Jensen & His Good Intentions Swing Jazz Band

## Lipstick on your collar

Top to toe makeovers!  
Guest: Mandy Blacklock  
Vogue, Cleo, Dolly make-up & hair stylist

## Small Talk

Say the right thing at the right moment  
to people you hardly know  
Guest: Dennis Keyes

## Shakuhachi

Japanese Flute Concert  
Guest performer: Bronwyn Kirkpatrick  
Recording artist: Deep Moon CD

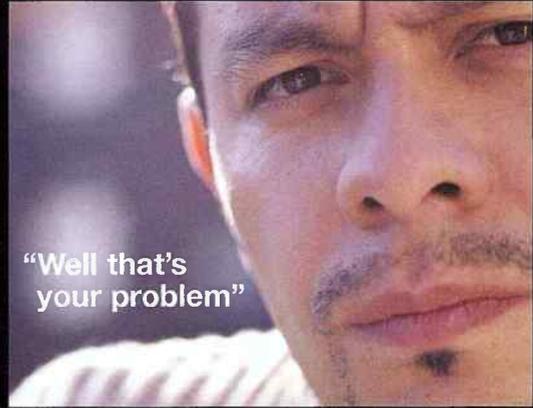
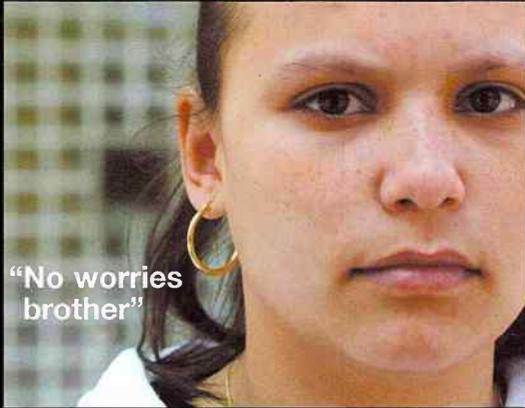
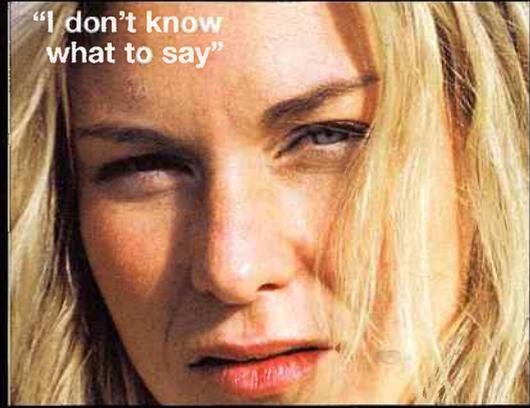
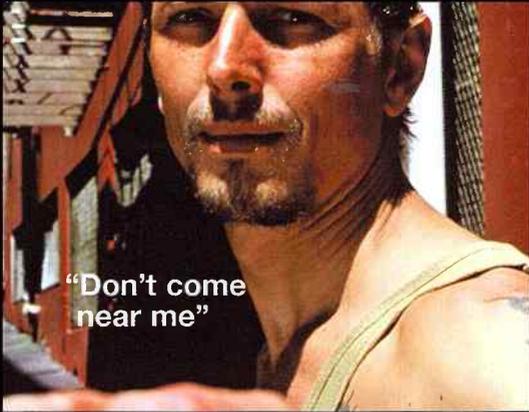
free one-day workshop! Exciting and fun event  
fabulous food. lots of fun-old and new friends. free car parking  
...lots of reasons to come along!

**Book now!**

**Ring freecall (Aust) 1 800 812 404**

**pozhet**

helping each other, helping ourselves



You have just experienced some of the most painful symptoms of HIV and AIDS



**Help stop fear, shame, ignorance and injustice.**

**World AIDS Day - December 1**

For more information contact your local Health Service, AIDS Council, or visit [www.worldAIDSday.org.au](http://www.worldAIDSday.org.au)