

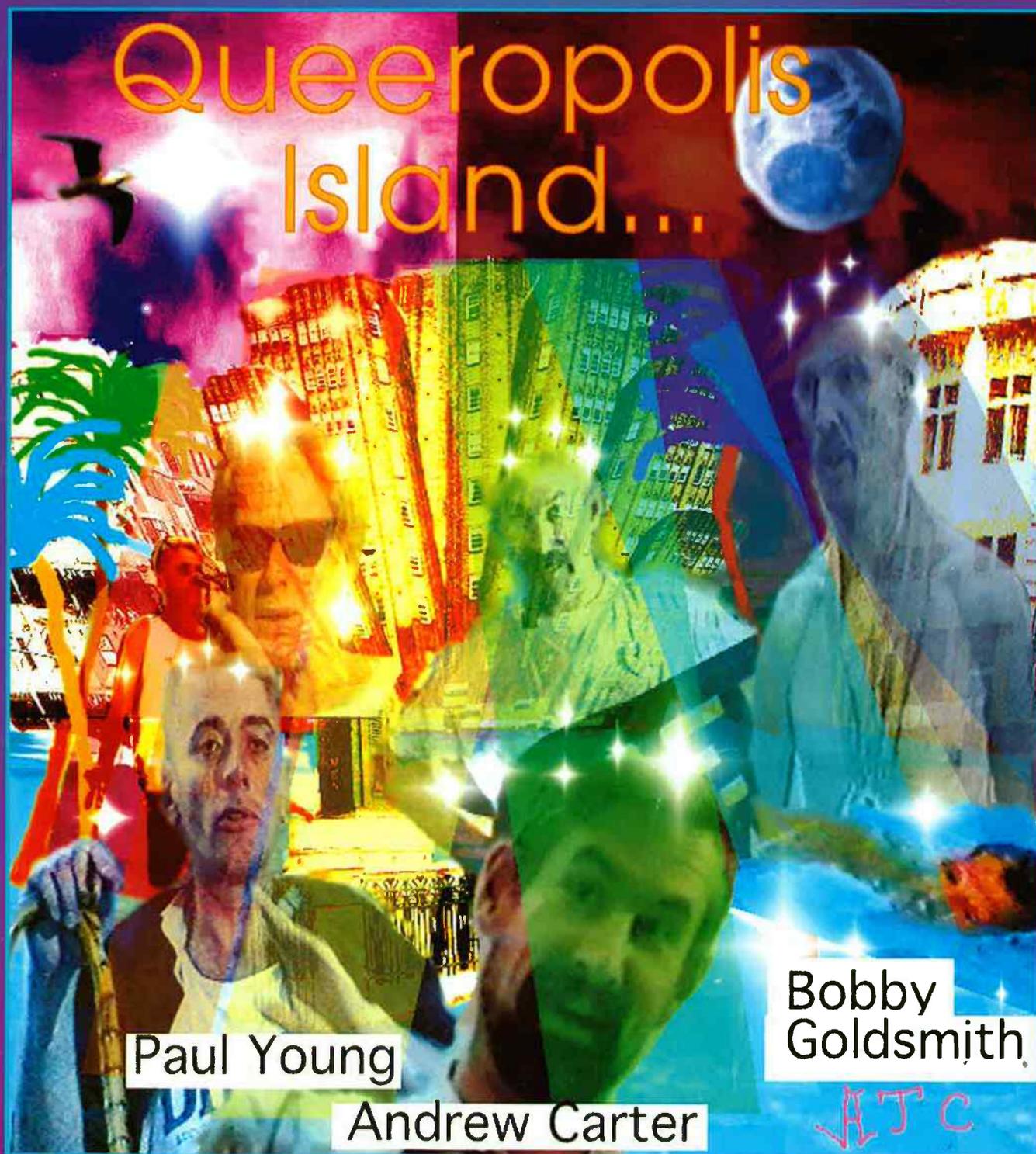
No. 40 February 1994

Talkabout

The Newsletter of People Living With HIV/AIDS Inc NSW

◆ Where We Speak for Ourselves ◆

Queeropolis Island...



Paul Young

Bobby
Goldsmith

Andrew Carter

AJC



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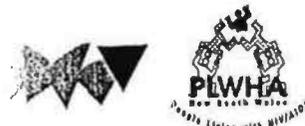
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Requests for sponsored tickets must be received by PLWHA by 6.00pm, Friday February 18. The number of tickets available is limited by the number sponsored.

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This Month's Cover

by Andrew Clark (see page 23). Paul Young, Andrew Carter and Bobby Goldsmith are just three of the many people the gay community has lost to AIDS. They represent the diversity of our community, and its responses to the AIDS epidemic.

On page 14, we begin a tribute to other gay men who have been particularly significant in the history of *Talkabout* and PLWHA.

Enjoy the colour cover while you can — we won't be making a habit of it, but with a graphic this vibrant, who could resist?

Many thanks to the following organisations, and individuals in those organisations, for making it possible: The Sydney Star Observer, ACON (HSSU), the AIDS Trust of Australia, Marsden's Solicitors, the Sydney Opera Company, and Dr Mark Bloch.

Japan Conference

ANOTHER CONFERENCE, ANOTHER conflict. Japanese government sources announced last year that the government will bend Japanese immigration law to allow foreigners with HIV or AIDS to attend the International AIDS Conference in Yokohama, in August this year. (Japanese immigration law allows the government to refuse entry to people with the virus).

There is a catch to this apparent lenience: anyone who admits to being a sex worker will be denied entry. Ironically, considering the prevalence of HIV in the sex industry in several Asian countries, one of the reasons for holding the conference in Japan was to attract a greater Asian input.

As *Talkabout* goes to press, a Japanese lesbian and gay group, OCCUR, have been appealing to HIV/AIDS, sex worker and PLWHA groups around the world to engage in a fax campaign to persuade the government to change its stand. An official statement from the government was expected in January. *Talkabout* will keep you posted on this one.

Salk vaccine hype

THE PRINCE OF WALES HOSPITAL, under Professor John Dwyer, will conduct a clinical trial combining two interesting approaches to HIV treatment: vaccination and autologous transfer.

Here's some background: in autologous transfer, CD8 cells are taken out of an asymptomatic HIV positive person. These cells are stored and cloned (i.e. made to multiply) in the test tube. Then when the person becomes sicker, these cloned cells are reinfused into the body. Hopefully these additional cells will allow the person to live longer and healthier.

What if the CD8 cells in the body are stimulated with a vaccine before the cells are taken out? Theoretically, a vaccine will 'activate' the cells, making them more efficient at recognising and eliminating HIV. When these cells are taken from the body and cloned, they have a better chance of fighting off disease.

The autologous transfer program (also called CD8 rescue therapy) is already operational at Prince of Wales Hospital in Randwick, Sydney. The vaccine to be used is produced by Immune Response Corporation, a company founded by polio vaccine inventor Jonas Salk. Nicknamed 'the Salk vaccine', this killed whole virus vaccine has thus far been shown to be safe and cause antibody production. Trials of the vaccine (used by itself) are still in progress, looking at whether the vaccine will delay disease progression.

The combination vaccination/autologous transfer program will start in Sydney by April.

— Lyle Chan

(For more on autologous transfer, see *Talkabout* December 1993).

Donations

AT A RECENT FUNCTION, PLWHA (NSW) and the National Quilt Project were proud recipients of significant donations from Sydney based advertising agency BAM SSB and the Commonwealth Department of Health.

The National HIV/AIDS Anti-Discrimination Campaign, which ran in early 1993, and was developed by BAM SSB, was winner of the prestigious Max Lewis Memorial Challenge Award for public service advertising at the recent AdAsia 93 Congress in Tokyo. The award carried US\$10,000 in prize money.

At a cocktail party hosted by BAM SSB, the agency donated its half share of the prize money to PLWHA to assist with costs in establishing and operating the

Positive Speakers Bureau. Robert van Maanen, PLWHA Secretary, praised the campaign. He said that its aims of community education, awareness and understanding of people with HIV and AIDS would be furthered by the Positive Speakers Bureau which would enable positive people to visit schools, workplaces and other community forums to speak about their experiences of living with HIV/AIDS.

Ainsley Yardley of the National Quilt Project accepted the donation from Marilyn Chalkley of the Commonwealth Department of Health, Housing, Local Government and Community Services. The money will be used towards a national tour of the Quilt in 1994, for improving storage facilities to protect the Quilt and to assist with the development of further panels.

Camp Goodtime

THE PAEDIATRIC AIDS UNIT (PAU) at the Prince of Wales Children's Hospital organises a regular national camp for families affected by HIV/AIDS. The camp aims to provide a space where adults and children affected by the virus can come together for friendship and support.

About 40 volunteers help run the camp, each one of them being responsible for the care of one of the families. They help organise activities, games and outings for the children. This allows parents and guardians the time to be involved in a number of workshops which are relevant to issues in their lives.

This year's camp will be taking place on the Anzac day long weekend (April 22 - 25) and we need volunteers. You will need to attend a special two day training program. If you're interested, please call Lisa Clement at the PAU, 399 2772.

Asian PWHA's meet

THE FIRST SOUTH EAST ASIA Regional Health Care Workshop for positive Asians is to take place in Kuala Lumpur from February 2 - 4. The workshop has been organised by Positive Living and Pink Triangle of Malaysia.

The workshop aims to share local information and resources and establish a network of Asian people with HIV/AIDS.

Australia is sending three delegates. Van Yuong (of Vietnamese background), Darren Au Young (of Filipino/Aboriginal descent), and Michael Camit, Project Officer at ACON's Positive Asian Men's Project.

For further information call Darren on 560 8396 or Michael on 2062036.

Rights wrong

DUE TO LAST MINUTE CHANGES, the Declaration of Rights published in *Talkabout* (and several other publications) last December was incorrect. The changes made were mostly grammatical, to improve the reader-friendliness of the document.

The almost final version was read out by PLWHAs at a World AIDS Day function in Sydney, which was organised jointly by a number of HIV/AIDS organisations. At that event, an objection was raised that the Declaration did not include the right to have sex. This was hastily incorporated and the really truly final document is now available. Call PLWHA on 361 6023, or drop by the office for a copy.

— Jill Sergeant

Pets

PETS ARE SOMETIMES BLAMED FOR passing on diseases to people with HIV, but recent research from the USA suggests that the psychological benefits of keeping pets outweigh the risks, particularly if



Guess who put out the most candles? Robert Ariss, *Talkabout* Dogfather, and Jill Sergeant, *Talkabout* Co-ordinator, blow out candles on *Talkabout's* fifth birthday cake at the *Talkabout* party last December. Gracious entertainers Amelia and Wanda, and assorted guests, look on. Thanks to the Lizard Lounge for donating the venue & snacks — a fun party was had by all.

PHOTO: DAVID URQUHART

you follow certain safety guidelines.

Researchers from Washington State University recommend that you:

- Avoid animals diagnosed with damaged immune systems, as well as exotic, wild or sick animals — particularly those with diarrhoea.

- Wash hands after handling a pet, a litter box or an aquarium.

- Change litter daily (consider wearing a mask to do it). Plastic liners or dust free litter would prevent contaminants spreading in the air.

- Disinfect litter boxes by dousing with boiling water for five minutes.

- Keep litter boxes away from kitchen and dining areas.

- Minimise contact with pet urine, blood or faeces. Rubber gloves should be worn if contact is necessary, and wash your hands afterwards.

- Keep aquariums clean — wear rubber gloves to clean them.

- Never feed pets raw meat or unpasteurised milk, or allow them

to drink from the toilet bowl. Keeping cats indoors and dogs leashed reduces the likelihood of hunting or scavenging.

- Keep animals' nails trimmed. Bites should be examined promptly by a doctor.

- Keep vaccinations up to date and take sick animals to the vet promptly.

Recent research has also indicated that you are more likely to get toxoplasmosis from undercooked meat than from cat faeces.

From: *Australian Doctor*, November 12, 1993.

Telling the kids

IF YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT HOW TO tell some significant small others in your life that you, or one of their relatives or friends has HIV/AIDS, look out for a new booklet produced by the Transfusion Related AIDS Unit (TRAIDS), *Talking to My Child About AIDS*.

Talkabout

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DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE

February 18

Send contributions to PO Box 1359 Darlinghurst, NSW, 2010. Call Jill Sergeant on 361 6750 for the date and time of the next Newsletter Working Group meeting.

How to contact People Living With HIV/AIDS Inc. (NSW)

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Darlinghurst.
Postal address: PO Box 1359
Darlinghurst NSW 2010.
Fax: 360 3504

6 February 1994

The booklet has been written chiefly for the parents of primary school aged children although it may also be useful for teenagers. It offers advice on when and what to tell the child, how to answer their questions, and support them through the illness and death of someone they love. Although not directed to children with HIV/AIDS, it may also be useful in that situation.

The booklet was written by staff of TRAIDS and the Paediatric AIDS Unit at the Prince of Wales Hospital, in consultation with some women living with AIDS. For copies, contact TRAIDS on 843 3111 or the Paediatric AIDS Unit, 399 2772.

New at NUAA

JAMES URBAN HAS REPLACED Sandra de Marchi as the HIV support worker at the NSW Users and AIDS Association. James will be convening the HAS group (HIV Awareness and Support) for positive users and their friends. The job also includes monitoring and promoting the rights of injecting drug users (IDU) with HIV/AIDS in NSW and assisting in identifying the needs of positive IDUs and developing appropriate programs and services for them.

James can be contacted at NUAA on 369 3455.

Sweating dollars

ANYONE WHO SWEATED IT OUT AT the Aussie Boys Summer Party for World AIDS Day last November will be pleased to hear that you danced up a cheque of \$38,384 which was presented to the AIDS Trust. This raises the total of donations from Aussie Boys summer parties to over \$100,000. Congratulations!

The 1993 party was dedicated to the memory of Peter Macdonnell, who died from AIDS

in October. Peter, with then partner Les McDonald, was the brains behind the original Summer Party in 1991, and also co-ordinated the '92 Party.

Party tickets

MARDI GRAS, ACON AND PLWHA are raising money to sponsor free tickets to the Mardi gras party for people with HIV/AIDS who are current pension card holders.

If you would like to sponsor a ticket, or would like to receive a sponsored ticket, call PLWHA on 361 6023 before 6pm, February 18.

Dear Holiday maker,

TAPITALLEE LIFE SANCTUARY, A Retreat and Education Centre, has been established for eleven years in the Shoalhaven city. Tapitallee is now open to people with HIV/AIDS and their friends and carers.

Tapitallee is open Monday to Friday for PLWHAs just to have some time out and relax. Accommodation is by donation, and you will need to organise your own food.

Simple accommodation is available in a natural setting, overlooking sub-tropical rain-forest. Bush walking trails weave through the hundred acre property.

On weekends there are regular seminars on a variety of topics such as meditation, spiritual health and well being, alternative technology and bush tucker. Visitors are welcome to attend these but will have to pay the usual fee.

Inquiries, call (044)46 0452.

Daintree Loft

THE DAINTREE LOFT, WHICH ADVERTISED in *Talkabout* last year, is no longer open.

PLWHA News



HAPPY NEW YEAR! I HAVE TO confess to having a lot of trouble writing this month's news, as it involves remembering what we were doing before I wiped my memory banks clean during a week in the surf. Hope I don't leave anyone out.

World AIDS Week saw us pop up at a number of locations about town — in Pitt St Mall, at the WAD function in Darling Harbour and even the shores of Botany Bay. I was asked to address the CounterAID opening ceremony for two minutes on living with HIV in 1993. Instead I chose to talk about the lack of recognition in the media of the enormous contribution of people with HIV and of the gay community in fighting this epidemic. Oddly enough, the media picked this up, with both the ABC and Channel 9 covering it on the evening news. The gay press, however, didn't seem to notice...

The Nutritional Supplement Service was launched in late November and is running well, with both clients and turnover steadily increasing. Thanks to all those who've given their time to staffing the counter to date (and thanks to all those of you who are going to).

We've recently appointed new representatives to a number of positions — Warwick Witt will take our place on the Central Sydney Area Health Service HIV/AIDS Advisory Committee, Andrew Darling and Grahame Blair are sharing the job of representing us to the HIV/AIDS Legal Centre and Glen Goldsmith is the NSW rep on the NAPWA committee. We're also trying to

find out what happened to the community consultation process which was to take place in the planning of the new Barker St. Supercentre. Stay tuned.

Long-serving committee member Kosta Matsoukas resigned in December. Kosta has been a committee member for the last two years and we'll miss his wise counsel and sense of style. Andrew Darling joined the committee in December and is already actively involved.

This being the time of year for resolutions, we're having a resolution day of sorts on February 12, to set goals and timelines for the coming year before we get caught up in the tornado of Mardi Gras activities — we'll be at Fair Day, in the parade and also running the Time Out room at the party. Anyone who'd like to be involved in a

PLWHA parade entry should call Claude at the office right now. Otherwise, we'll see you there.

Alan Brotherton
Convenor

Current Committee

Alan Brotherton, Convenor
Robert van Maanen, Secretary
Graeme Gibb, Treasurer.

Mark Bagley, Grahame Blair,
Chris Connole, Andrew Darling,
Ross Duffin, Glen Goldsmith,
David Martin, Warwick Witt.

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Talkback



Helping hands

RECENTLY I HAD THE PRIVILEGE TO care for a person living with AIDS in my home. I say privilege because I had the rare opportunity to make that person's life a little bit brighter, even if for only one day.

Not only did I make a new friend but I had the pleasure of seeing colour return to his cheeks, put a smile on his face and best of all, to help him forget just for a little while, all the problems these people live with every day. I would urge all those who have a little time to spare to do something no matter how small to help someone in this position. It may not always be convenient for those of us more fortunate but usually we can re-arrange our commitments to find some time. All too often we rely on organisations like ACON to look after the needs of our sick friends and complain when we don't think they are getting the help they need. Although ACON definitely has an important role to play, it is us, the members of the community, straight and gay, who can make all the difference.

So do yourself a favor and do something to help someone in need and make yourself feel good.

If you would like to help someone contact Hands and Hearts through Corey Harvey on (066) 52 1112 or at ACON on (066) 51 4056.

John Newton

(Hands and Hearts is a new volunteer group providing CSN type assistance for PLWHAs in the Coffs Harbour area.)

Open letter

(To the Minister for Health, Sen. Grahame Richardson)

I AM WRITING ON BEHALF OF HIV Positive People in the Australian community to express dismay and disappointment at the pitifully low level of funding provided to HIV/AIDS medical research by your Government.

Australia can do much more in the area of basic science and virology, but adequate federal government expenditure is required.

You have been quoted in the press as saying that you appreciate the cooperation of the gay community in attempting to slow the spread of HIV. Well, that cooperation is most certainly a two-way street. We expect to see a serious commitment to funding research into a cure as your part of the bargain.

As you are aware, the only hope people who are already infected have is that a cure will be found. If resources are not spent to find a solution then many will be condemned to premature death.

You should understand how frustrating our apparent abandonment feels. You should also perceive the consequences of that marginalisation.

We will not allow you to ignore our needs.

I have enclosed an article that appears in the December/January edition of *Talkabout* which expands on the views expressed in this letter.

I should be most appreciative of your views in reply on this fundamental and vital issue.

AC Kirk

Discrimination

THE FOLLOWING SHORT PARAGRAPH appeared in the International News section of the *Guardian Weekly* of 12 December 1993. It seems to me that it needs to be publicised as much as possible to show how the Australian government discriminates, both in regards to racial and HIV matters:

"Denmark has agreed to accept a Somali refugee family in Egypt, whose application to emigrate to Australia was refused when the mother tested positive for the HIV virus."

Mannie De Saxe
Lesbian and Gay Solidarity

For a brother

AS I WRITE THIS AT CHRISTMAS, IT is nine months since my brother ended his fight against AIDS.

For those of us closest to him, the last twelve months of his life were often harrowing as we helplessly watched his painful struggle, but at times they were also very enriching.

Although thirteen months apart in age, as children we were a similar height and many people took us for twins, so inseparable were we. Almost all of my early memories include times spent with my brother, and shortly before he died, I wrote down for him some of those memories that he and I alone shared.

As so often in families, we drifted apart and went our own separate ways as adults, not from dislike or disloyalty, but from the different tangents our lives took and also, many times, because of distance.

It was for me a very fulfilling

experience to find again in a real sense, this brother who had meant so much to me. In the close of his days we were able to share many personal issues in our lives and achieve a closeness as strong, but of a different quality to that of our childhood.

We became attuned to each other again and I was very certain it was time to say our final goodbyes. Very shortly after he gave up all medication and spent the final weeks in the strange otherworld of morphia-induced sleep and wanderings where we weren't able to really communicate again.

There have been several times since then, that I have had occasion to travel to Sydney, and my journey into the city on the airport bus takes me past my brother's old house.

Recently after returning from yet another trip to Sydney, some of the thoughts that ran through my mind as I passed by the house each time, came together and wrote themselves into the following poem.

It was written not from sadness, but with a sense of wanting to know that there was some purpose to his being, to his suffering, for all our lives, for mine.

He is no longer here, but the space he filled in this world was a very real one to those who loved him.

*Leonie Harrison
in memory of my brother John*

My Brother's House

The airport bus takes me past my brother's house but he is no longer there

He is gone, the playmate of my childhood

*Who grew into the man
I only really learned to know again*

in the last year of his life

The house is distinguishable

from its neighbours only by its colours and the number on the door

Others dwell now within and breathe a different life into it

As the ebb and flow of the street goes on

Do those who pass by his front door

Realise it has closed on him for the last time

The beat of life here is not altered and somehow seems unnatural and out of place

*Surely there should be some sign
A gap somewhere*

Where people must pause and observe that there is now someone missing

But no

The love and laughter

The joy and heartache that was my brother

Is now only a memory to those who loved him

We have skipped a few painful beats

But our lives too go on without him

And in time there will be no-one

Who sits on the airport bus and remembers that this was my brother's house

A caring poem

I AM A CARER WITH CSN AND recently I was very impressed by a young man who died. This inspired me to write a poem which I thought you may like to include in *Talkabout*.

I always make a point of picking up *Talkabout*. The humour and recipes are tops.

Richard

My heart is touched by his sweetness

A spindly frame

A skeleton smile

A warm brown-hand reaches out to me

Young refinement so rare

Vestiges of an elegant beauty

Bravely accepting of bitter change

Articulate to the end

Able to accept his fate

I stumble with words for I

know I won't see him again

— Sally Gibbs

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We welcome your letters. Please include your name and ph. no. or address and send them to:
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Darlinghurst 2010.**

Februáry 1994 9

The **Sydney Star Observer**

Sydney's gay and lesbian community owned newspaper is proud to be a sponsor of

Talkabout's SPECIAL GAY EDITION

THE SYDNEY STAR OBSERVER

- **Congratulates gay men for their magnificent contribution to the fight against AIDS**
- **Supports the rights of people with HIV/AIDS**
- **Supports safe sex for gay men — protecting each other and our community**



Tribute



Queer Hero R.I.P. Bruce Brown is dead

I MET BRUCE WHEN HE FIRST arrived in Sydney from San Francisco with his lover in the mid 1980s. His powerful, some might have said arrogant, personality struck me immediately and we did not become close friends, but I admired his high intelligence and determination to overcome all obstacles that appeared in his path.

He appeared to me self-willed, obstinate and loud. These character traits that I found difficult, however, turned out to be most helpful in raising public awareness of the marginalisation of positive people in the HIV/AIDS bureaucracy.

He fought hard for health and for a future free from the ravages of AIDS. Bruce fought for the right to survive, not only for himself, but for all those living with HIV/AIDS.

His premature loss is very great indeed for AIDS activism in this country. His death at 35 is also a sad indictment of the Australian AIDS bureaucracy. Its continuing failure to find a solution through the maze is mainly due to its chronic inertia, endless committee meetings and appalling lack of focus.

Essentially it boils down to a lack of leadership. Bruce Brown provided that leadership as spokesperson for ACTUP, a band of merry men and women who pricked the consciences of the self-satisfied in the AIDS business and



Bruce Brown (right) with friend Cy Vas. PHOTO: JAMIE DUNBAR

gave much needed hope to those dying.

The fact that Bruce was ostracised by the AIDS bureaucracy is no surprise. The last thing they wanted to hear about were the immediate needs of the sick and dying. Their efforts were and are being primarily directed at keeping the uninfected healthy. As the old saying goes: "Prevention is better than cure."

Despite the setbacks, Bruce forged ahead at every opportunity, knocking down barriers and finding ways to make lives better and longer. He travelled extensively, spoke at every meeting he could attend and kept up the pace until he was too weak to do any more. It was a superhuman effort. I would say a heroic effort.

Not only did he work tirelessly at AIDS activism but he spent his quality time with music. I always enjoyed hearing him play the

organ at Christ Church and his skills as a harpsichordist were renowned. He was a perfectionist in this as in many things. His music, at least, was greatly appreciated by all who heard it.

Some in the AIDS business thought that Bruce's approach was naive. How could he expect anything to happen "now", as he was often demanding? Well, of course, Bruce was not naive, he understood only too clearly that time was of the essence and that the people he was dealing with had no personal conception of the urgency of his demands.

Bruce's death brings all of this into very sharp focus. He is no longer with us to fight for our rights. He is no longer screaming at the Health Minister for lack of action. He is no longer raising public awareness of AIDS in the media. He is no longer playing his music. Bruce Brown is dead.

— Andrew Kirk

Acapulco Conference

Someone had to go

In November 1993, 200 people with HIV and AIDS converged on sunny, poverty stricken Acapulco for the VIth International Conference for People with HIV/AIDS. Just what are these conferences about, and who benefits from them? Robert Ariss pins down the ever-frantic Andrew Morgan, who was there.

WITH 500 COPIES OF *TALKABOUT* and a box of hot and sexy slides at the ready, Andrew was set to take the international HIV community by storm. It didn't happen. A long and disruptive demonstration held by some delegates against WHO's Michael Merson over the question of funding led to the cancellation of Andrew's scheduled session. As protesters raged on and on, and conference organisers huddled like Presidential bodyguards around the AIDS Caesar, Andrew stood by and got pissed off.

But all was not lost. When the *Talkabouts* finally came out, "people went ape for them", says Andrew. Some were scandalised by the "Sex" issue, particularly the Latin Americans who felt the images lacked safe sex messages. To others, like the Africans, the issue was "too far out of their terms of reference" to be meaningful at all. "It was culturally difficult for a lot of people to talk about sex", Andrew notes. The Germans were closest to Australia in their interest in sexuality, and Andrew notes their "extraordinary work on the visual representation of PWAs", including very sex-positive ones.

These were the kinds of issues

and debates that emerged at the Acapulco conference.

These conferences are organised, with the help of WHO, by a group of positive people now calling themselves the Global Network of People with HIV and AIDS (GNP+). Australians participated in such conferences for the first time in 1990, in Madrid, and again in London in 1991. There was strong sentiment at both of those conferences that more effort was needed to make the gatherings more truly representative of all people with HIV and AIDS across the globe. As it stood, the meetings were dominated by North Europeans and North Americans, with a smattering of Canadians, Southern Europeans, Africans, Latin Americans, and now Australians.

The participation at the conferences was clearly duplicating the global inequalities which shaped the AIDS pandemic — those from first world, well resourced countries were the first to benefit, everyone else came in second. A second issue was becoming clearer — it was individuals from these privileged countries who were in any position to publicly disclose their status. The vast majority of HIV infected people in the world either did not know their status, or were in no position to publicly declare it, and thus gain access to events such as international conferences.

The GNP+ has attempted to correct such imbalances through its own internal structuring. In 1990 the group decided to adopt, at the suggestion of an Australian, the UN global divisions as a step in seeking representational equality. Its executive now consists of three representatives

from each of these five regions: Europe, Africa, North America, Latin America, and Asia/Pacific. Karin Lee (Australia) Jack Jagit Singh (Malaysia) and Dishi Yoshimiro (Japan) were elected at the Acapulco conference to be the next Asia/Pacific representatives to GNP+. Karin Lee was appointed Financial Director on the GNP+ Board.

Andrew expresses doubts about the workability of the structure as it stands. "It's very unequally divided", he says. "Asia/Pacific starts up in Tibet and China, and works all its way down through northern and central Asia, all of those countries, and all of India and all of South East Asia and Australia and all of the Pacific Island groups. I think that's more than 65% of the world's total population. Of which we are allowed to have three people sit on the executive".

As for attendance from this region at the Acapulco conference, of the total 200, "There were no delegates from the Asia Pacific region except for the five Australians, Jack Singh and Dishi Yoshimiro. Profoundly isolated people from third world countries just weren't there".

The decision to hold the 1993 conference in Acapulco was driven by this effort to improve representation and broaden the agenda. Originally, the conference was planned to be staged in Mexico City, but problems were experienced with hotels reluctant to accommodate people, with HIV. Shifting the site to Acapulco solved this problem, but other difficulties and shortcomings were experienced. Medical services were inadequate, according to Andrew, and food and water of a poor

quality. Many delegates spent the conference in their hotel rooms, incapacitated by diarrhoea.

GNP+ had employed a crack fundraiser in London to raise money to bring people from underdeveloped countries to the conference. "That never happened", Andrew reports. "A very small percentage of that money was actually raised. A lot of countries who were depending on this to send delegates were unable to access funds to send people there".

Even individuals in countries like Australia had difficulty. "One Australian delegate was on the executive, so GNP+ paid for her fare and rooms. One was self funded, and two were funded through the National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA).

Even then, funds were underestimated and we had to ferret around amongst our local PLWA groups to get extra funding so we could eat and pay for our rooms". Small additional donations were made by Burroughs Wellcome and the Haemophilia Foundation of Western Australia.

The round air fares for five individuals to Acapulco is at least \$10,000. Given our organisations are partly footing the bill for attendance at these and similar conferences, we need to ask whether it is worth it, and who is benefiting. Andrew has mixed feelings about the benefit of such events. "We could be buying drugs for the African nations with the money we spend on sending people to international conferences", he muses. On the other hand, he acknowledges there were many good sessions at the conference, and the informal



Andrew in a photo taken for the *Talkabout Sex* issue, which he took to Acapulco. PHOTO: JAMIE DUNBAR.

meetings "in between sessions" were valuable.

In particular, Andrew claims listening to the stories of people with HIV from different countries was instructive. The opening session, for example, heard stories from individuals from Japan, the Ukraine, Mexico, the US, Kenya and Trinidad. Dr. Robert Darga, the Executive Director of the US NAPWA gave an excellent account of the state of conventional treatments for HIV infection. Aldyn McKean of the US and Australia's Bev Greet discussed long term survival issues. McKean tabled a detailed 21 page report on behalf of ACT UP New York on the issue.

Global and regional disparities became evident in this issue of health care. Surprisingly, the question of the unavailability of conventional treatments throughout most of the developing world was not a topic of discussion.

Andrew reports that the strategies developed by white, middle class north American gay men has lengthened their life expectancy significantly. Characteristics of long term survivors include: a fighting spirit, being diet conscious, integrating complementary with conventional therapies, and maintaining strong sexual identities and practice.

The philosophy of 'empowerment', however, comes under question in the context of an international meeting. This strategy cannot always meaningfully apply to other groups in very different, and less privileged situations. Says Andrew, "people in ghettos, for example, can't afford to spend so much time on their own health care. It's a very elitist model. Many of the regions are at different stages of HIV community development. For example, the finer points of sexual practice and identity as presented

by the Germans meant very little to perhaps the Kenyans who just don't have the time or money or resources to deal with that. Or the therapeutic drug sessions — a lot of the underdeveloped countries just don't have access to those drugs, it was irrelevant”.

Andrew believes the concept of self-empowerment *can* translate across different cultures. “Empowerment from the Bolivian point of view might mean just the informal establishment of a peer support group. It does work but it comes back to economics. Two hours a week to attend this kind of group might be too much if they're used to eight hours in the corn fields and cooking the dinner at night”.

This is a dilemma activists have always faced. “Do you stop and change the world”, Andrew asks, “so there's no inequalities, so that every one gets a fair share? Or do you press ahead with those that have the means and motivation?”

One response by WHO in recognition of these different agendas has been to hold cheaper and more focused regional conferences. Perhaps this is an appropriate direction for PLWA conferences also.

The next international conference for people with HIV is scheduled for 1995 in Cape Town, South Africa. Andrew is sceptical: “If they didn't kill us off by poor medical services and really bad food and water in Acapulco”, he quips, tongue in cheek, “they're going to try and catch us in the cross fire in Cape Town. While I appreciate and agree with the idea of taking it to less resourced regions, I would be more in favour of holding them in more central regions that are easier and cheaper to get to: North America or Europe I guess”.

The staging of these international events remains controversial, embroiled as they are in questions of representation, economics, cross-cultural communication and relevance. The



Larry Stillson

(September 1989)

I FIRST MET LARRY AT A BODY POSITIVE meeting which was being held at the Paddington Green Hotel. He was about to leave for the States. On the two occasions I met him before his departure, he made a big impact on me. Larry was full of ideas about how he, as a psychologist, could contribute to the development of services for others living with HIV.

About 18 months later I walked into ACON and there he was, tanned and healthy and looking for work. I immediately grabbed him to work on the Wollongong AIDS Research Project. In this project he worked with many gay men who were living with HIV and also provided a great deal of support to people who were in a caring role.

Larry was an active member and chair of the Maitraya Day Centre Committee and was also very active in PLWA (NSW). He

liaised with the Day Centre for PLWA, wrote for *Talkabout* in some of its early editions and was one of the organisers of Living Well II in 1989, a conference for people with HIV/AIDS staged by PLWA (NSW).

Larry was able to contribute on a number of levels from his own experience as a person living with HIV and as a person who had experienced discrimination. To Australia he brought a wealth of experience from the States, his time as a psychologist in the army, and from time spent in Africa.

Then he was diagnosed with lymphoma. It was a shock to everyone. This was 1989 and in all honesty little if any of the interventions that were tried proved of benefit. But throughout the months of treatment Larry never lost his spirit.

When Larry died the gay community, community groups and all those who knew him experienced a great loss. He is still well remembered and revered. Just last week a friend of his, who I had met briefly, said he was such a beautiful man. And he was. But his memory lives on.

— *Levinia*

GNP+ has taken on for itself a mighty agenda—as its draft policy document states, “to act as a voice for the countless numbers of people in the world currently living with HIV/AIDS”. Theoretically that gives it a membership base of anything up to 15 million people in just about every country of the world.

Our Asia/Pacific representatives have a particularly demanding task. WHO records nearly 30,000 known individuals with HIV in the Western Pacific region alone, including over 17,000 in Australia, over 900 in China, nearly 3,000 in Japan, and

nearly 6,000 in Malaysia. Some Pacific Islands, like French Polynesia and Papua New Guinea are set for new and large epidemics, with over 100 cases identified in each country to date. How do we represent these people? How do we bring them into the international community of people with HIV and AIDS? How do we make the strategy of “self-empowerment” a reality for this enormous diversity of people? Clearly there is a great deal of work to be done, work which will require a degree of multi-cultural skills we have only just begun to develop.

Gay Talk

This special edition of Talkabout is dedicated to the gay community. In the following pages we asked a selection of HIV positive and negative gay men to comment on how HIV has affected their relationships with other gay men over the past decade.

We also pay tribute to the gay men who have made a special contribution to PLWHA or Talkabout since the organisation was formed in late 1988.

The difficulty we had in putting this small retrospective together confirmed for us the importance of what we were doing. Our history disappears so fast and needs to be preserved. Even a few years after someone has died, it can be difficult to track down anyone who knew them well enough to write about them. It's vital not to forget the people who have been so active in our community's response to AIDS.

We have focussed on people who had a strong involvement with PLWA (as it was known until 1992) or Talkabout. There are other PLWA committee members whose involvement was not so great — often due to illness — but who had an equally strong commitment to fighting AIDS: Andrew Carter (a founding member of PLWA), Peter Base, Neil Carmichael, Brian Hobday, Adam Marriot and Nicholaas van Schalkwyk.

Sorry if we've forgotten anyone.

Rodd Knowles

I'M 27 AND AM HIV POSITIVE. I was symptom free until the beginning of 1993, when I developed lymphoma.

HIV affected all of my relationships, straight away. Since the diagnosis I've made more gay friends and the relationships I have now seem to be stronger. I find, especially this past year, there's been no time for shit amongst my friends. There's been no game playing, they've all been very good and helped me through quite a lot.

I have a close circle of about ten people. It's about fifty-fifty positive/negative in my group of friends. But it doesn't mean the HIV people stick together or anything like that. We tend not to focus on HIV at all, as a group of



PHOTO: CARL AMBROSE

friends. We don't usually talk too much about how it's personally affecting us, because it's affecting us all, in different ways.

I think that my being sick was quite frightening, for my friends,

and when I was in hospital at first they thought I wasn't going to make it. So all my friends had to reassess where they were with the friendship.

My relationships with them have been up and down. When I was just out of hospital I had to move in with two of my friends — a married couple who lived close to the hospital. My relationship with them grew through that. Later in my illness my moods were changing all the time, and at that stage I felt my gay friends were more honest with me, more likely to say "oh stop whingeing, just get over it, or do something about it...".

With most of my gay friends it took them a long time to let me know how they felt about me getting sick. But after individual talks to them it was fine, it just

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made our friendships stronger.

I met my lover Graham in London four years ago. He is not HIV positive. When I got sick last year, he was living in London. About four months into the sickness I was handling it okay, so I asked him to come out, which he did. He's been wonderful. But at the same time it's been quite a hard period. Because I was so sick it brought us both to the reality that I could get sick and I may pass away before he does. I get really pissed off about being sick and he deals with it really well. He's able to talk me around to stop wallowing in it.

I really don't think that HIV affects friendships a lot, on a day to day basis, until something goes wrong with the person who's HIV. I think that's when my friends, especially, did their most learning about it. A negative is that some people don't want to face it. That's really difficult when I need to talk about it. You have to say, well, who of my friends are cool about it? *Really* cool about it?

Peter Cooper

I'M 35, I'VE BEEN OPENLY GAY NOW for thirteen years. I have a lot of friends who are HIV positive. I've lost an awful lot of friends through AIDS. The effect on my life is basically a great deal of loss. At the end of 1992 I lost three friends in three days. It was basically overload of grief. I don't think I've ever got over this. I'm not sure I'm going to ever get over it.

HIV hasn't changed my friendships in that I haven't pushed anyone away because of it. It's actually brought us closer. There have been times I've found that very good friends have tended to block me out sometimes. I have had to sit down with them and say "Don't block me out. You have to let me know what's happening in your life."

One of my friends told me that



PHOTO: CARL AMBROSE

there's so much sickness around him that he sees me as the person who brings happiness and joy into his life, so when he sees me he doesn't want to talk to me about being sick. I can understand that, but I don't want to be left out of the picture, and then in a month or so find out he's in hospital, due to an illness I didn't even know about.

HIV has made me appreciate the smaller things in life, more intimate details like a silly dinner with friends, going to the movies. Small things like a card or a photograph can become very precious. I want to hang onto those memories much more than I otherwise might have.

I've always had lots of friends and the friends who are sick at the moment have been friends almost as long as I've been out. I have so few friends who are HIV negative. Being closer to my positive friends now means talking about absolutely anything. There are no holds barred any more. If there's something I want to know, I don't have a fear of asking — five or six years ago I would have put my head in the sand, run away.

When AIDS came about, because we live in the 20th century, we thought, "it's not going to last, I'm not going to be affected by it". But we are. It's like the plague, it affects the whole world.

Unfortunately I lost a couple of friends before I became aware of that. I was living in Cairns and I wasn't here to see them go through it. It wasn't until I came back to Sydney and nursed my best friend, and watched him die, that I realised what this was all about. That was two years ago. In the past year, no-one close to me has died, but I'm a bit wary about the coming year — I have five friends who are not particularly well. But they keep bouncing back, which is a relief.

I get worried by the phone ringing sometimes, in case it's someone ringing to tell me someone's passed away.

The following stories are written by Ken Wong from interviews with two Asian men who live in Sydney's western suburbs. One of them was originally conducted in the man's own language, rather than English. For reasons of confidentiality, names and nationalities have been changed.*

Nick

"I DON'T THINK OF IT ANY MORE", sighed Nick on the chance of finding a partner. The only thing that really matters to him now is health. He was diagnosed HIV positive after a blood test suggested to him by his doctor, who did not tell him what the test was for.

Nick is 33. He came to Australia five years ago from China to join his family, who live in the Bankstown area. He does not feel easy communicating in English and spends most of his social time with people who can speak his first language, Cantonese. Over the years he has come to know some other gay Asians.

Most of Nick's gay friends have no idea that he is HIV positive and he does not want them to know anyway. "You have no idea how vicious people can be", he says. "I have seen and heard a lot and I don't want to be treated like

that. My friends keep telling me from time to time how horrible it is to die from AIDS, and to avoid any contact with people who have got it. Once I went to a sauna with a friend who told me to stay away from someone whom he knew had got 'it'. I don't want people to point at me and talk behind me."

Nick was uneasy when he talked about this. "I know what they do is wrong but I guess they don't mean to hurt me, they have no idea of my situation. I also need to be with friends. I tend to think too much when I am on my own."

He trusts a few of his close friends enough to share personal things and get worries off his chest. Counselling has helped him maintain a positive attitude, but there are still times when he needs to talk about his problems. Occasionally he gets accused by some of whingeing too much and that upsets him a lot. "I try my best to cope and look on the bright side but things are *not* really going that well", Nick says.

Vincent

VINCENT HAS BEEN IN AUSTRALIA for three years now. Coming from the Philippines, he spent the first two years concentrating on studying and tried not to think about his sexuality. Until last year, he did not know any gay people, but then he decided to do something about it for the sake of his sense of well being. He started going to workshops, support groups and, of course, night clubs for gay men.

"I know a lot about it through studying nursing", Vincent said on HIV transmission and safe sex. "But I'm still scared of getting infected. I am very careful most of the time and I don't like being fucked. But you never know. The best way to protect yourself is not to have sex with people who are infected. Once I had sex with a

* Ken Wong is the HIV Services Project Officer with South Western Sydney Area Health Service.

Paul Young (May 1990)

PAUL WAS THE ORIGINAL INSPIRATION and energy behind setting up PLWA(NSW) in late 1988. Paul was one of the first PWAs in Australia to come out publicly about his status.

Many folks from the Hunter region, for example, will remember Paul's "Alive and Thriving Tour" in the closing months of 1988, during which he addressed audiences of hundreds, and conducted numerous radio and newspaper interviews, including for the *Sydney Morning Herald's* Good Weekend. In addition to PLWA, Paul fought HIV issues through his work with DSS, Maitraya Day Centre, NUAA, SWOP, and many other groups. He is also remembered for his Easter Show prize winning silky bantams, cocks which hung out in his Mardi Gras Gardening Competition award winning backyard jungle.

Paul was quirky, eccentric, a

guy who I later accidentally found out was using a drug that's for opportunistic infections. He has never told me he's positive."

Vincent emphasises that he has no problems being friends with people living with HIV/AIDS; he just does not want to be sexually involved with them. "I still hug and kiss them socially", he said. Although he feels sorry for friends who are HIV positive, he does not think it is appropriate to do anything specific to comfort them. "They may be sensitive and if you say something or ask them something inadvertently they may get hurt. I sometimes also have trouble in following them when they use terms like T-cell and PCP. I'd rather hold back a bit. I don't ask them anything personal, but if they want to talk I'm always here."



PHOTO: TAKEN BY PAUL YOUNG. "SELF DOCUMENTATION, SELF IMAGING: PEOPLE LIVING WITH HIV/AIDS 1988 —". COURTESY OF THE ARCHIVES.

scoundrel and charismat. He was loved by many. And drove a lot of others to distraction. Without his vision, the PLWA movement in Australia would never have happened.

— Robert Ariss

Mark

THANKS FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY to be interviewed. I've been gay for as long as I can remember but I came out when I was 17. I see myself, firstly as a person who happens to be a man, who happens to work as a social worker in HIV, who happens to be HIV+. I don't identify as a virus. I found out I was HIV+ when I was about 23, back in 1985.

I've always had quite strong emotional relationships with a whole range of people, I haven't just had friends in a particular group. I put a lot of work into friendships and I get a lot out of them.

There's a difference in the way people relate to one another now than say ten years ago, when I felt

that there was such a focus on sex and meeting people through a sexual encounter. Now, it might sound patronising, but I think the scene's grown up a lot. I think HIV has got people talking about their feelings, and the way that they relate to one another.

I've had a range of encounters where I've met people and told them that I'm positive and they've been wonderfully supportive, but not in a patronising way, just fairly okay about it, low key. I've had people who've been over-patronising and I think, slot me in as being someone that's really sick — when in fact I'm someone who's really well. Then I've had other people who've run screaming hysterically out of the room and gone into the shower and scrubbed themselves with the scrubbing brush.

Having HIV has made me a lot more clear about who I want to spend time with. I want people around who have a balance of being fun and bright, and having a good time, but also are quite sensitive, non-judgemental and open. Now I don't have as many friends, but I see them a lot. They're a lot more switched on to where I'm at. So when I want to have fun, they're having fun with me — but there's also a real bonding process that's happened.

I've come out to friends about having HIV, but I've had friends come out to me about a whole range of other things, like alcoholism, or bulimia — I guess it's just that each of us has different things happening in our lives and we respect that. So it's all based on mutual respect, and that's made relationships really open and honest and really well cemented.

Graeme Flavel

I'M 46. I'VE BEEN OUT SINCE I WAS 17. It's three and a half years that I've known definitely I have HIV. I suspect that it's probably about seven years down the track.



PHOTO: CARL AMBROSE

I've been fairly open with the fact that I'm HIV, to my friends. Had no great problems with friends.

Where I did notice the problems was actually six years ago, when my lover was dying. A lot of gay friends couldn't cope with that. We never saw them — they never came to the house, and haven't come back since. But that's six years ago, I think people's attitudes and knowledge on that area have changed a lot. These days, I think there's not many gay people who have not had to face the fact of having a friend who's sick or died, I think their attitudes have changed, they've become more supportive of other gay people around them in that position.

I shared it with my ex-friend and his new boyfriend — I suppose the only problems it's caused are just that he's worried. He's 72 and he's a bit concerned as to what is going to happen, because he's not very well himself, due to age. So he tends to mother me, or smother me a bit too much and is quite happy to make me a patient which I dread, and I fight against, because I'm certainly not a patient at this stage of the game. I've been very lucky, I haven't had any problems whatsoever. I've

been on AZT for nearly three years.

With my friends, they've all known of my involvement within HIV/AIDS over the years, it was just a sort of progressive step I suppose, that I became HIV myself and it hasn't altered a great deal. I suppose, because you are involved in the field and you're HIV yourself, you tend to become a father confessor, or the expert on AIDS. I get a lot of friends talking to me, who are concerned about their health situation.

A lot of my close friends became perhaps a little closer, but a lot of acquaintances have developed into a closer friendship. They tend to be inquisitive about my situation — a lot of them are negative, so I suppose they're inquisitive about how you feel, what happens.

I suppose I've been lucky, I haven't had any friends that have turned away.

John

I'M 25 YEARS OLD, I WORK PART TIME FOR THE AIDS COUNCIL AND I ALSO WORK IN A YOUTH REFUGE. I'VE BEEN OUT AS A GAY MALE SINCE I WAS ABOUT 21.

Almost half of my friends would be HIV positive. Only about four or five of them have become positive in the past two or three years, the rest were positive before I met them. In one or two cases it brought us closer together, but in some of the others it pushed us further apart.

One of my friends just walked away because he came to the conclusion that people who weren't positive couldn't understand, so it would be better if his closest friends were all positive. It was his choice, and that's okay. I don't know if it was the best idea. I was upset, and I feel like he used the fact that I didn't have the disease against me. It was strange how it all happened. Maybe he might change his mind.

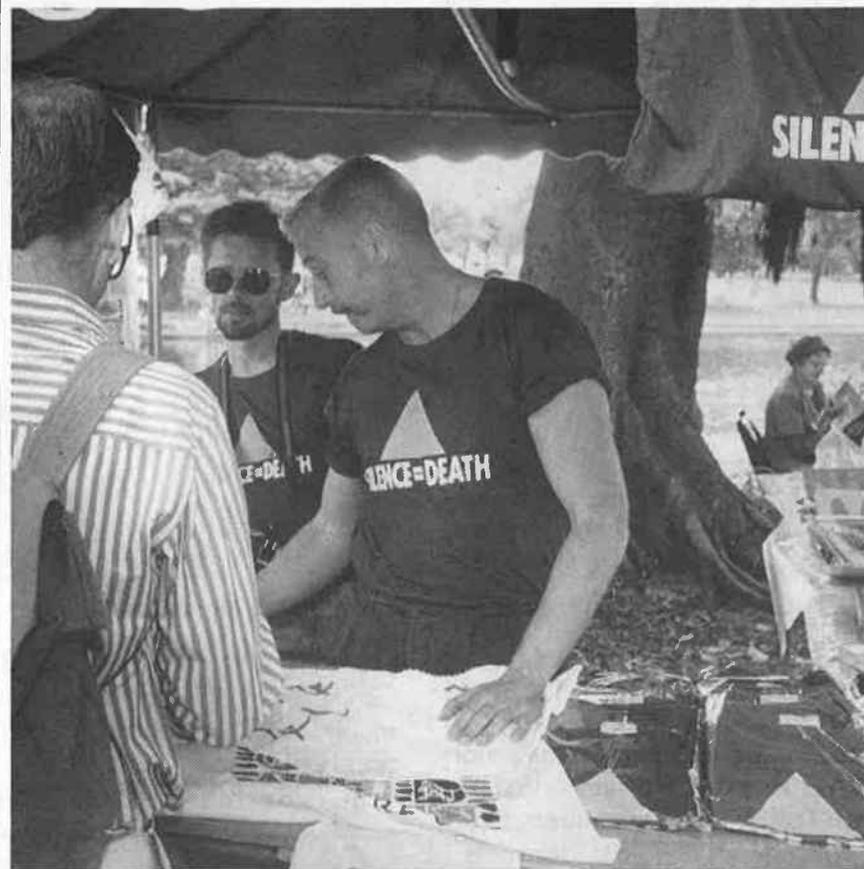
Sometimes it makes me feel a bit awkward, when I talk to my

friends. When they're really upset and really down, I always want to say I understand, and I know how it feels, but I don't. Sometimes I become paranoid about what I say. You just can't make jokes about certain things. A lot of that's me, I must admit. It's because I know they're positive that it makes me all concerned and fumbly — but I've got a lot better with that. I don't think I should treat them any different but sometimes my positive friends deserve to be treated better, or maybe given a bit more concession when they're feeling down, and really shitty.

I entered a relationship with a guy who was HIV positive, and that was really scary for me. I felt a lot of fear about what if he turns out to be 'the one', he's going to be someone that I'm going to have to bury. It made it hard sometimes, but in other ways I learned a hell of a lot of what it's like to be positive, and how it affects a person more than just their health. Sometimes he was just so frustrated. He felt like he didn't have any control over the people he had to deal with and he was fighting something he couldn't see. But he had an amazing ability to get up and fight it.

One of my friends at the moment is starting to dement — I find that really hard. I had a friend who died last Christmas, and the last time I saw him in hospital, he didn't know who I was. I think one of the worst things about this disease, for me, is watching a friend deteriorate mentally in that way.

It's hard being 25, and this is the time when I'm supposed to be starting to form all of my long term friendships and I'm losing people. Some of my close friends now may not be around in ten or twelve years. It shouldn't happen when you're young, but it's happening to me and most people in the gay community, I think.



Terry Bell, (centre), with Gary Pye. PHOTO: JAMIE DUNBAR

Terry Bell (15 December 1989)

TERRY WAS A STUDENT OF PHILOSOPHY, a gay rights activist, a community journalist, and in the closing years of his life, a vehement and formidable campaigner for HIV treatment development.

Through his home based computer links to overseas community projects and activists, Terry brought the latest in information and activist styles to Australia, raising the issue of treatments to its current priority. Terry, with his close friend Gary Pye, imported the first ACT UP T-shirts into Australia.

Terry's ideas and activities laid the foundations for the establishment of ACT UP in this country — only several months after his death.

Terry was both an avid contributor to PLWA (NSW) and *Talkabout*, and one of our most trenchant critics. His impatience with the delayed establishment of *Talkabout* led him to set up his own newsletter, the *AIDS Advocate*, which he wrote, printed and distributed from his home.

At a time in the late 80s, when few had the courage to do it, Terry appeared on television and radio on behalf of PLWA (NSW), arguing such issues as anti-discrimination, health care and clinical trial development. He took on the likes of Bruce Shepherd and the American Medical Association's Lorraine Day with terrifying conviction, showing these bigots for what they really are.

The memory of Terry Bell continues to be an inspiration to many at PLWHA (NSW).



Terry Giblett (seated) with sister Deborah and friend, Mardi Gras 1991.

Peter Cornwall (1991)

AN ORIGINAL PLWA (NSW) committee member, Peter's story, "AZT and Beyond" in the first issue of *Talkabout* (December 1988), was one of the first accounts in Australia of the challenges and tribulations of anti-viral therapy from a personal perspective.

In this way, Peter made an important and groundbreaking contribution to treatment debate and activism long before our community based treatment information programs were set up. Peter was an enthusiastic contributor to PLWA (NSW) activities. He weathered a long and difficult illness with courage and creativity.

— Robert Ariss

Terry Giblett

(1961 - 1991)

THE PEOPLE LIVING WITH AIDS Coalition, a precursor to PLWA Inc., resulted from a community initiative. My Brother Terry was among those closely associated with its formation.

During 1988, Terry's involvement in the epidemic became full time. He co-ordinated the first World AIDS Day in 1988, worked

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tirelessly with the then fledgling Quilt Project and participated in a multitude of workshops, activities and conferences.

In 1989 Terry was one of the

Matt Bradshaw

23.7.93

MATT BRADSHAW FIRST CAME INTO *Talkabout's* life in 1991 when he was the National PLWA Coalition's needs assessor. He'd send us long & chatty NPLWAC updates which presaged an avalanche of Matt Bradshaw bylines in the newsletter.

When he moved to Sydney in early '92, Matt became *Talkabout's* most enthusiastic contributor. Writing at a pace that had us struggling to keep up, Matt contributed book reviews, poems and political commentaries for publication. He was also active in our editorial working group and frequently dropped by the office to gossip, tell us what issue was making him mad at the time, or invite us on outings to art galleries.

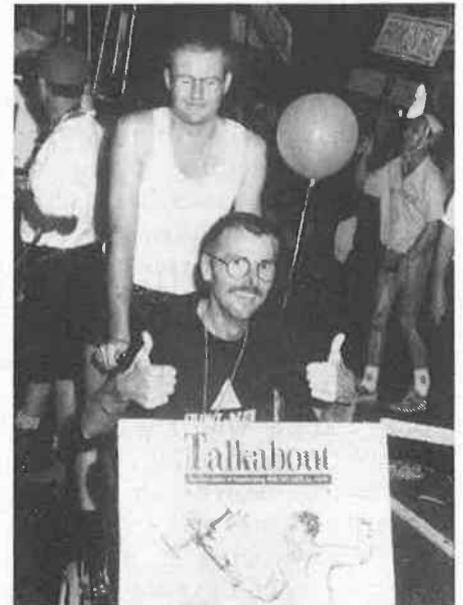
In the '93 Mardi Gras Parade, Matt carried a *Talkabout* placard which showed the cover of our anti-discrimination edition; the headline was "Bigots Beware". We

organisers of Living Well II, at which a set of objectives and rules was adopted for PLWA as a preliminary to becoming incorporated. My memories of this conference are vivid — energy levels were high and everyone was excited at the prospect of forming a group to wrest back control, if not of the 'debate', certainly of their lives.

The first object of PLWA is to empower people affected by AIDS with information and advice. As the first HIV Support Officer at ACON, Terry ensured that information was and is readily available to the community.

Terry was only 30 when he died in 1991. PLWHA was only three years old — much had been achieved and hopefully the passion of those who created PLWHA will continue to inspire.

— Deborah Giblett



Thumbs up from Matt at the '92 Mardi Gras parade. Pictured with Alan Brotherton. PHOTO: JAMIE DUNBAR

saved it specially for Matt, knowing how important that issue was to him. It seemed an appropriate slogan for him to carry — bigots (of any political persuasion) were well advised to beware Matt Bradshaw.

— Robert Ariss & Jill Sergeant

Happy Mardi Gras!

TIME TO SLITHER INTO THE SEQUINS, fan out the feathers and lubricate the leathers again — it's Mardi Gras! Top of most people's list of course is the Parade. This year it will be held a bit later than usual, on the first weekend in March. PLWHA, SOPY and ACON will be having floats and if you'd like to be involved in any of these productions just call Claude at PLWHA (361 6023), Glen at SOPY (318 2023), or Brent at ACON (206 2014.)

If you can't face the crowds or the roving homophobes which sometimes litter Oxford Street after the Parade has passed, you can watch highlights the following night on an ABC TV special. Screening at 8.30pm and broadcast nationally, this is a first for Mardi Gras.

PLWHA will once again be staffing the Time Out room for PLWHAs at the party. This time the room is upstairs in Dome, look out for sign posts. PLWHA have made a few changes to the room in response to a users' survey after Sleaze, so this Time Out Room should be better than ever. It will be staffed from 10.30pm - 6.30am and if you'd like to volunteer to staff the room for a couple of hours on the big night, call Claude (361 6023). Some free tickets will be available to pension card holders, call Claude by Feb 18 to request a ticket. (See also p6).

If something smaller and more intimate is more your scene, look out for the next Antibody Party for positive people & friends. Antibody is hosted by the HIV Support Project of ACON, on

February 20 at the Midnight Shift.

The time to show off your best daywear is Fair Day on Sunday, February 13 (except if it rains, in which case it'll be on Sunday, February 20). PLWHA will have a stall there, selling our fabulous new T-shirts, so look out for us. This stall is another volunteer opportunity, so call Annella on 361 6011 if you can help out.

If T-shirts aren't really your style, famous drag queens will be selling off some of their costumes. This great sacrifice is to raise money to sponsor the Mardi Gras Party tickets for PLWHAs.

If those wallets are still feeling fat after Fair Day, the Australian Opera is presenting a benefit night for the AIDS Trust on February 20. Featuring 22 of the company's leading and younger stars, this should be a wonderful night for opera fans. Tickets are available from the Opera Centre (319 1088) or the Sydney Opera House (250 7777).

The Trust's other major fundraiser this month is a screening of *Philadelphia* on February 28.

Positive playwright David Paul Jobling's *Mortal Coils* will be performed at the Stables theatre from February 8 - 12. This double billing includes *Grown Up's Playroom*, a one act comedy about an HIV+ queer artist and media representation. Mardi Gras presents a special free performance for positive people on Tuesday, February 10 at 2pm. To book, call Annella at PLWHA on 361 6011.

If you like your fundraising activities to be a little more active, the Annual Bobby Goldsmith Red

Ribbon Bike Ride could be what you're looking for. This 25 km ride from Moore Park to Botany Bay and back is on Sunday February 13. Last year the ride raised \$40,000 for BGF. If you'd like to ride, or volunteer to be a marshall, call the Red Ribbon Rideline on 360 9793.

BGF will also be staging its regular shopathon — this year called "Shop Yourself Even More Stupid", in businesses around Oxford Street on Saturday February 26.

Queerscreen kicks off its regular festival with *And the Band Played On*, the film version of Randy Shilts' famous book about the AIDS epidemic. Twenty percent of the opening night proceeds will be donated to Positive Women. Another film of interest is *Zero Patience*, a musical about the ghost of "patient Zero", the gay flight steward said to have brought AIDS to the US. Director John Greyson gives us a new view of Zero as the "heroic slut who inspired safe sex". Sounds like fun.

Also screening is *In Bed With Your Neighbours*, described as a "juicy safe sex liberation movie which confronts with brutal honesty issues often conveniently omitted from the safe sex debate". This movie by Doerthe Jansen stars American Porn star Nina Hartley.

And finally, a forum — there don't seem to be all that many this year, but dykes can discuss HIV and its meaning for their community at "HIV: A Lesbian Forum", on Friday February 11. A small entry fee will be donated to Positive Women. Call 699 8950.

HIV living

HIV information forums

**HIV free
information
forums 1994**
*february & march
collection*

life after work

2 feb--8:30 to 8:00pm

- what support is available for me?
- is early retirement what it's cracked up to be?

hiv & the immune system

9 feb--8:30 to 8:30pm

- how does HIV work in the body
- what is likely to happen?

**HIV information forums
collection 1994**

the collection will soon be available in kit form to HIV support groups wishing to present these topics in their own community.

monitoring your health and prophylaxis

18 feb--8:30 to 8:30pm

- why monitor health
- preventing illness with prophylactic drugs

hiv complementary therapies

17 feb--8:30 to 8:30pm

- trials, politics & some unusual recommendations as presented by radical travelling health educator, jim arachne
- progress of recent research for opportunistic infections

drug treatments

**23 february
8:30 to 8:30pm**

- what's around
- what's new
- how they work

acon services

24 feb--8:30 to 8:30pm

- what can acon do for me in 1994?
- who to see
- where to go

off your face & on your back

2 mar--8:30 to 8:30pm

- drugs for pleasure
- getting the best from your drugs
- HIV sexuality & sex after diagnosis

All information forums

**are held at the
AIDS Council of NSW**

188 Goulburn Street, Darlinghurst NSW 2010

**For further information or support, contact the
HIV Strategy & Support Unit**

Fax (02) 208 2089 TTY (02) 283 2088

Telephone (02) 208 2000



Positive art

The Illustrated Story of a Queer Boy is Andrew Clark's performance, exhibition and book about his life from as far back as he can remember. Andrew is HIV+ and so his status is part of his story. David Urquhart talked with him about these connections.

Who are you talking to with *The Illustrated Story of a Queer Boy*?

Anyone who will read it. The art crowd and gay men with HIV will probably be the people who will be most interested in this work. I'm taking the story to the Adelaide Fringe Festival as an audio-visual piece. This way I hope to reach a wider audience.

Your work is very colourful.

I'm reacting against black and white images. Too many images

of people with HIV are in black and white which strikes me as unrealistically pessimistic. I've saturated the colour to portray my intensified HIV world.

What led you to use your art to talk about HIV and about your own status as a positive person?

As an undergraduate art student I was closeted about being HIV+ and dealt with HIV issues by making a documentary as an outsider. I became ill and was hospitalised. While I was away my lecturer showed my work to the other students and told them that I felt strongly about the issue because I had AIDS and didn't have long to live!

I left that college and came to Sydney to finish my degree. Because I was homeless I was allocated a flat in the Waterloo high rise. Richard Johnson had been murdered. The young

murderers had gone to gaol and their friends, who were my neighbours wanted revenge. There were a number of gay men, many of them HIV+, living on the estate. We were harassed, threatened and one man's flat was fire bombed, a friend had suicided. It was a crisis.

While all this was happening I made my first video called *I Can Fade Away*. It was very doom and gloom. It was about the choice between suicide and the path to decay. I was very depressed and just wanted to get the fuck out of Waterloo. It took the Housing Department two years to get me out of there. All this was what my first HIV artwork was about.

It seems that you've been able to turn these negative experiences to your advantage.

Yes, I was empowered. Once I had been outed I decided that I

would be an artist who was open about being HIV+. It has made my work a lot stronger. After a break of a few years I've now gone back to do post graduate study. The doom and gloom has lifted now that I'm going back through my life. All of this is an adventure, a journey. We learn from these experiences. That's what *The Illustrated Story* is about. I'm going back to the start, plotting my life, making some sense of the experiences.

Where is the start?

As far back as I can remember to when I was a little boy, remembering the freakiness of people seeing me as an effeminate young boy. Those young boy times are in the book. Then I move on to school days, going overseas as an exchange student, going to university and then the life of a gay activist. I see that there are patterns, repetitions. We can learn from those patterns and work out ways to empower ourselves as individuals. I think a lot of artists go back into their lives through their art.

You've incorporated HIV issues into the Queer Boy story.

That's right. About half way through the story I go through the sero-conversion. It's almost like an initiation. It's as though before I was HIV I was a child, then the baptism came and I was an adult. I was diagnosed when I was twenty so I've spent my entire adult life being HIV.

Where did you end the story?

In the scene where sugar cane is burning. This is about the necessity of fire and how people are comforted by fire. As with fire, I think there are people who are comforted by the destruction of HIV and AIDS to the extent that they don't want a cure. These people see the crisis as cleansing humanity of the weeds. Just as in burning the weeds so as to harvest the sugar cane there are those whose only interest in HIV and AIDS is harvesting and money

making, not in finding a cure.

You think there will be no cure?

The cure will come from genetic engineering. Scientists, doctors, everyone knows that we will not come to the end of this crisis until genetic engineering alters the DNA of the cell.

Are you one of the weeds?

The media tells me I am. People's attitudes to me as a gay man tell me I am. I respond to that through my art. You can see in the picture here that I have antennas on my head and HIV stamped on my forehead. I'm an alien in my own country, in my own culture where I am not the boy next door, I am not a person within a family. I'm from somewhere else, out of space. We don't belong anywhere; nobody will claim us.

You have a right to a space in society. How do you claim that space?

With difficulty. I claim my birthright through the diversity of humankind and through this diversity being a strength, not a weakness. Even in our own community and amongst activists there's talk of there being people *out there* with AIDS. Well, we're not *out there*, we're right *here*. It's part of the desire to contain the disease within a section of society rather than cure it. It's the cleansing fire that helps the harvest.

Of course, the drug companies that are reaping the harvest are not going to end the crisis because they can't work together. They all work in secret, not knowing what each other is doing. The private sector can do nothing collectively to end it. It's only governments that can possibly end the crisis.

You can see The Illustrated Story of A Queer Boy at the Adelaide Fringe Festival. It will be exhibited in 30 classical frames at Swerve Salon from Feb 11 onwards, and presented as a narrated slide performance at Boltz Cafe with an AIDS benefit opening Feb 16, then Feb 27, March 1 - 4.



Geoffrey Birch

GEOFF WAS ONE OF THE FIRST teenagers I met who was living with HIV. He was 17, open as a young gay man and open with his HIV. Geoff became involved in the public meetings from which PLWHA evolved, and the Fun and Esteem Project groups at ACON. Loud, confident and always needing to examine and argue issues, he was a natural at activism.

Having taken the vows of the Order of Perpetual Indulgence, he also outreached to our community as Sister Mary Rides a Harley. I knew him as a fellow 'aspect revolutionary' [some would call us 'gay punks'] and I recall the mutual wisecracks when separately we would hit Oxford Street to party and both have purple hair!! That's a bit like being caught at the ball in the same gown as the princess. So instinctively we'd both argue that this was our natural colour.

Geoff represented youth issues on the PLWHA committee, but the formal committee processes were too slow and tedious for a young man adept at spontaneous debate and cheeky confrontation. He was a hedonist and lived and fought for 'now'. By the year he died he'd returned to High School, acquired independent housing and seen youth representation and opinion become a vital part of PLWHA's consultative process.

There are no words that adequately celebrate the deeds, bravery or the fresh impudence of this great man.

— *dodge traffic*

Let them eat smarties!

Video: AIDS — Alternative Therapies and the struggle for legalisation. Reviewed by David Engelbrecht. Screening in March or April. Keep an eye on the gay press for details.*

"WHERE ARE THE HERBS?" I ASKED despairingly. "Sweetie, darling," my friend replied. "If herbs were put into a pill with a Burroughs Welcome logo on it they'd be popping them like smarties."

This video is not about alternative therapies (ie. complementary, traditional and non-invasive approaches) so much as it is about non-approved drugs; the process by which non-approved drugs become approved in the USA, and the labyrinthine politics of money and AIDS. If you want a video of how far we haven't come in the past decade, then this video is for you. These are the chronicles of our very own Pythonesque Quest for the Holy Grail of HIV — the 'cure'! Never mind that the 'cure' is already in our midst, if only we would let go of the warfare and fear, and just get on with living full and enjoyable lives (just for starters!).

Much of the first half of the video is the story of how AZT, ddI and ddC managed to gain approval from the Federal Drug Authority in the USA. Truly scary! What comes through loud and clear is how baffled the doctors are by HIV/AIDS; how the agenda for a medical response is set by big business; how research is driven by commercial forces, and how through all this we poor human beings end up being treated like so many bedazed and



bedraggled battery hens. One placard at an ACT UP demo caught my eyes — "AZT? Thanks, but where are the drugs that don't kill us?" Indeed!

Ed McCabe, of Ozone Therapy fame is wheeled out to demonstrate how ozone can be infused rectally. I think it used to be called breathing through your arse — or talking through same, I'm not quite sure which, but in any case he does a pretty good job of demonstrating how to do it. We get to meet our old friend AL 721 (rotten egg vegemite) again, as well as Aloe Vera (there's no money in it for drug companies, surprise, surprise), Bitter Melon, Compound Q, Dextran Sulphate,

D4T, and Peptide T.

Towards the end of the video someone enthuses that, now that Bill Clinton is in the White House, we'll get an "AIDS Czar" to get things moving (these Queens with royal fantasies!). What we need, apparently, is "another Manhattan Project", just like when we awoke to our first Hiroshima nightmares. Yeah, let's nuke it!

Hang on a sec! I'll tell you a secret about all these dreary so called first generation drugs with their horrendous side effects (such as death, sweetie!) The multinational companies won't give us the second generation drugs (the ones, hopefully, that are effective and without side effects) until we, the consumers, stop *buying* the first generation, ie. until there is no money to be made from them. These guys aren't the least interested in our health darlings — they're only interested in how much money they can make, and how long they can drag it out to maximise their profits. We need to tell them and their dreary drugs, ever so politely, to go to hell! Better still. Get right up their noses — walk away altogether — go complementary! Smarties indeed!

ACON Housing Project

206 2039/ 206 2029

We offer help & advice about public housing, in particular: accessing priority housing, transfer, and the special rental subsidy, as well as housing discrimination, harassment and homelessness. Call Fred, the Housing Officer on 206 2039 for an appointment

The Housing Project also has a number of houses & units available to clients who are waiting for public housing. You must be eligible for priority housing and in the process of applying. To be placed on the waiting list, call the Kim, the Tenancy Co-ordination officer on 2062029.

* David Engelbrecht produces the newsletter of the Complementary Therapies Collective, *With Complements*.

Progression

Recently I was diagnosed with KS (Kaposi Sarcoma), my first AIDS defining illness. This is the story of my reactions but more particularly, how those around me reacted: my chosen family, my best friend Gary, my mother and my doctor. All of us thought this it was a good idea doing this article, but all of us left it till the last minute and found it almost impossible to put pen to paper.

Gerald Lawrence

I'M LUCKY WITH MY TRADITIONAL family, my chosen family and my friends. They are knowledgeable about HIV/AIDS and very supportive but there are times when you still feel isolated and alone and it doesn't matter how much support you have. Getting an AIDS diagnosis has brought this home to me.

My health had been up and down over the previous 12 months. I had started to get peripheral neuropathy which made me very moody and restricted me doing things because of the regular pain and/or pins and needles. Now I noticed that I had a lump on my side that looked awfully suspicious.

I've seen lots of KS and I was confident that my lump was Kaposi. I knew what it was, but wouldn't do anything about it, except check it every day in the shower. Eventually I saw my doctor and we agreed to remove it to for two reasons: to stop me analysing it and to get it diagnosed.

My suspicions were correct, but we expected that I wouldn't get any more for a while.

Gary and I had agreed to travel to Melbourne (one of my favourite cities) and we shopped and drank cocktails at the Regent while our friends went to a conference.

I had organised a dinner to introduce my Melbourne and Sydney friends (cross socialisation is essential if you want the wake

to be the social event of the year and no fights over your CDs). But that night as I showered to get ready, feeling frothy and jubilant after a couple of French 75's (a cocktail), I noticed them, all five of them — on my legs, on my shoulder and in my mouth. Yes, more KS just a couple of months after the first.

That night I didn't say anything to any of my friends, because I was trying hard to deal with the shock and devastation and I was determined this was going to be a party night. At dinner it clearly wasn't working, the restaurant was packed, service was slow, I was still dealing with tiredness from the day's diarrhoea. As I was trying to forget the evening's 'find' in the shower, three of my friends, all nurses were telling their worst chemo stories. That was it. I gravitated increasingly into my shell and no one knew what they had said or done and I wasn't together enough to tell them. Besides, they were good yarns and they weren't to know the impact.

I returned to Sydney early because I wanted my doctor to confirm my own diagnosis of KS. My doctor then had to fill out a government form which changes my diagnosis from HIV to AIDS — therefore giving the state government more money for hospital and community services (over \$30,000 a year).

Even though I knew the practicalities of what it meant to be diagnosed with AIDS, it came

as quite an emotional shock to me. I felt more fragile, as if I had less time to do everything I wanted. I started analysing every facet of my life (one of my popular pastimes that lately I had managed to reserve for the New Year and Birthdays), and I felt as angry as hell in an unfocused way.

While sorting through this I have just been told of a lover who died, quickly, three months ago with a brain tumour. I didn't even know for sure he was positive. It brings it home to you that nothing is guaranteed, and your life seems that much more finite.

It took me the best part of a week to tell the friends what was happening. Gary and Ian and I had been spending time in Melbourne to party and recover as we were all tired and had had several recent deaths. I felt that although Gary was my closest friend, my next of kin and sometimes liked to play the role of mother, he had been through enough. My other friends in Sydney and Melbourne are all surrounded by HIV/AIDS and/or grief and loss and this makes it all the more difficult to tell them that I'm progressing more quickly than any of us would hope.

In most cases when I talked about it I got a stunned, sad reaction with an inability to talk about it. It seemed like denial, in the sense that most have lost a lot of people and I could see it in their faces or hear it in their tone — "Gerald is going to start getting sick". I could see them experiencing that loss prematurely and feeling powerless to do anything about it.

In the last weeks I have been looking for new ways of calming myself and finding some peace in those quiet times when I'm at home by myself. For a long time

and while the money lasted my coping mechanisms have been centred around going out to socialise at pubs, sex venues and parties. This doesn't seem to be working any more for me.

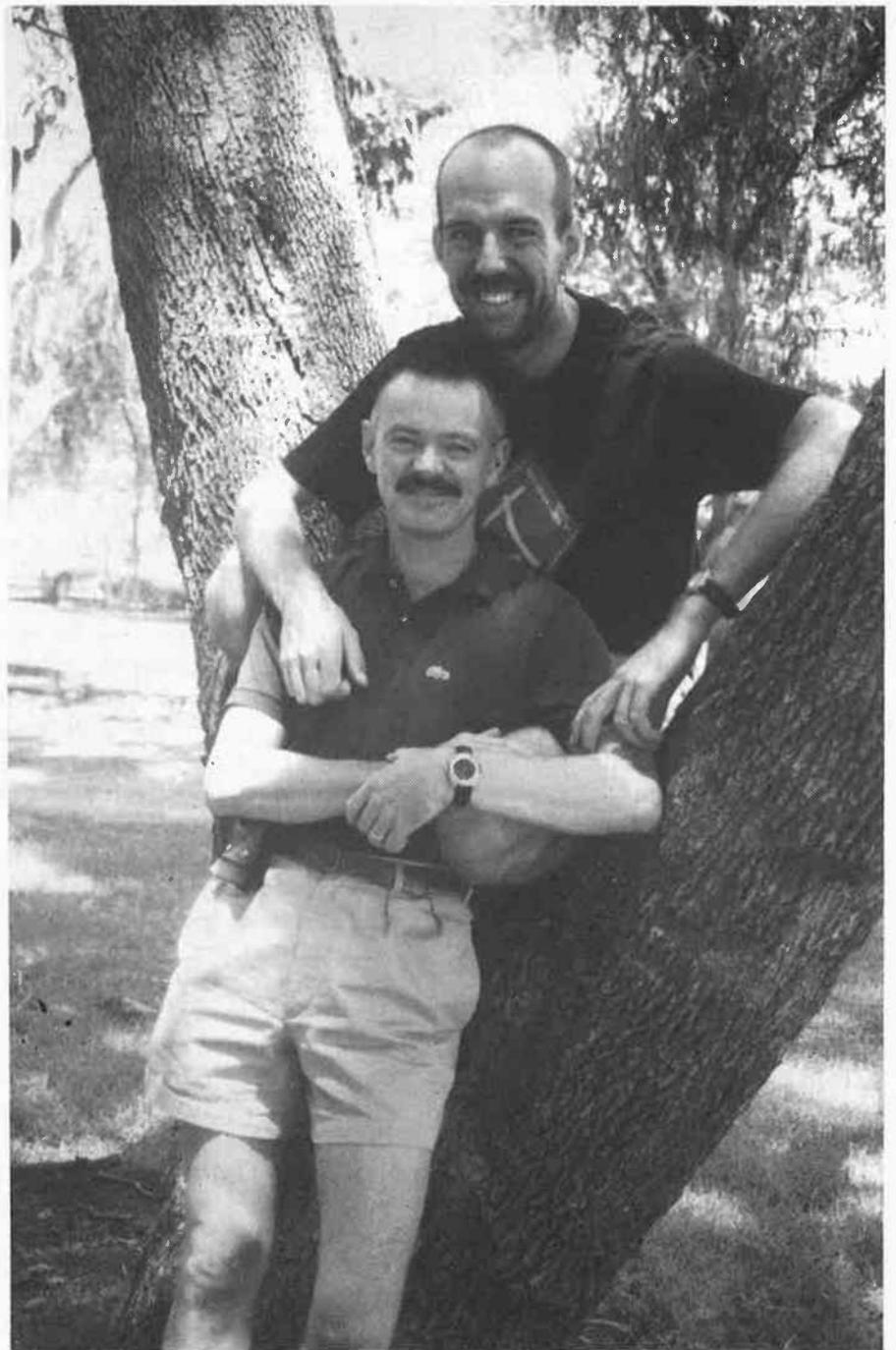
My progression to AIDS has taken about four years from infection and although I go through periods of dissatisfaction with that being so quick, I don't want to change anything in my life. Some would have me work less, others would have me get out of Sydney, give up drinking and other recreational drugs. I would just like to not go through the periods of the pain of being scared. As a lot of us know, it is scary every time you get a bad result, or hear a media report or hear that another friend is unwell or dead.

Gary and I have talked extensively about my will and my wishes and that has led to a very black sense of humour and lots of jokes, like when someone commented on him looking after my parents at Candlelight, he turned, jokingly smiled over his beer and said he only wanted the funeral to go well. It took me a few moments, open jawed, before I could smile, then I roared with laughter.

When a critical incident happens like the KS or the AIDS diagnosis we seem to lose that 'sickness', those black comic thoughts that we rely on, and revert to a more traditional stiffness of manner — the way we were taught to cope.

Gary Smith

WHEN GERALD FIRST TOLD ME THAT he had KS and had therefore advanced to Category 4, it was quite a shock for me. At the time I had to put it away in my mind as I was looking after another friend who was dying at the time and this was taking up a lot of my time and emotional energy. I felt like everything was falling apart and that I wasn't the friend to Gerald that I should have been in his time of need. I felt Guilt.



Gerald (behind) and Gary. PHOTO: CARL AMBROSE

It was several weeks or more before Gerald and I could talk about it as I was still grieving for my other friend.

We went to Melbourne to shop and spend some time together as my partner was at the ASHM conference at the time.

For me the few days together were great and I feel that we both came to terms with his new status as much as anybody can. However, Gerald had found some

more lesions and retreated emotionally from all his friends there and we left Melbourne feeling more concerned. Gerald's fears were confirmed and after many hours on the phone I think we have come to terms' with it again.

I have known Gerald for over four years now. At the time of his sero-conversion I was also having a HIV test. He came back positive and I came back negative. Then, I

felt all sorts of things but now I feel cheated. My friend who died recently also sero-converted four years ago. I hear about long term survivors and the 'average' for progression to AIDS being ten years. Where is our ten years? I guess I'm still in a lot of denial and feel like I'm running out of time.

For all the work and experience I have had in our community, when it comes to my best friend I'm the first to go into denial and cry and fall apart. Maybe we have ten years, maybe we have two. Whatever. The time I have with my best friend is time well spent.

I've been crook myself with a bug lately and my doctor, Marilyn, did a full blood count and found one of the highest CD4 counts she had seen (2300). All I could think of was why the hell couldn't I give them to Gerald. I guess a lot of people feel this way.

Rosemary (Gerald's Mum)

THREE YEARS AGO, WHEN GERALD told us he had been diagnosed as HIV Positive, we absorbed and accepted the news. Family, who gradually learned of it, were very upset, but supportive. As time went by, Gerald's health seemed stable enough. We came to accept a life of uncertainty, of not knowing what to expect, and a lot of sorrow and helplessness.

We kept this information to ourselves as I felt, apart from a few friends who had known Gerald from babyhood, I couldn't confide in any of our newer friends. There are no support groups here. Luckily, we can talk to our family doctor, who is very supportive. Soon I will be talking to another mother with an HIV positive son.

One big concern is our non-understanding of the progression of this disease. In Gerald's case, symptoms have appeared sooner

than *we* anticipated. I think he feels that, too.

We try to be as supportive as distance allows — when a weekly phone call, maybe more — is our means of communication. He is not anxious (and has city commitments) to travel this distance to see us, and we are not lovers of the big city. However we realise it is important for him to remain in the city environment, where he feels more comfortable, and functions more efficiently — with doctor, friends and good support groups around. Fortunately he has some really close friends, known to us, who give us reassurance and support. This support, we realise, can do more than we can because they know, at first hand, how things are going.

Gerald has a very positive attitude to life — keeps very busy, active and involved, which we feel is a healthy attitude to adopt.

We read the information which comes our way — Gerald keeps us, as far as possible, supplied with reports, etc. We try to watch all relevant TV programmes, dealing with HIV/AIDS both from here and overseas, and stories of other people living with HIV/AIDS. It helps us to understand the worldwide problem.

We don't know what the future holds, but I pray we will be given the strength and courage to cope with whatever comes, and to support Gerald in any way necessary. One tries not to dwell on things too much — life is so uncertain for us all, and I hope we won't be found wanting.

Gerald's doctor

RATHER THAN WRITE ABOUT MY response to the diagnosis of AIDS in a particular person I want to give a more general picture of how it can be for doctors when they tell someone they have AIDS.

Most of the time while doctoring you don't think about how you are feeling because the focus is on the other person. After

all, part of medical training is about suppressing ordinary human responses to illness, injury and death. So it's easy not to look at your own discomfort arising from sadness, powerlessness, anger or other powerful emotions.

Ideally doctors should be able to empathise, that is, understand as fully as possible the other person's situation, but not let their own feelings get in the way. That doesn't mean that it's a bad thing for a doctor to have feelings about what is happening to a patient, but that doctors have to be careful that their wishes or beliefs do not affect their clinical judgement.

Specifically, at the time of giving an AIDS diagnosis, it behoves a doctor to follow the patient's lead; people respond differently to the news and doctors have to be careful not to project their feelings or expectations onto the patient.

It can be difficult telling a person recently given an AIDS diagnosis that you are required to notify the Health Department. I have known people to get angry at what they see as a bureaucracy concerned only with number crunching and not with the people these figures represent. The Health Department wants to know the number of people living with AIDS so that future health services can be planned.

An AIDS diagnosis, particularly in a patient you have come to know, can have you thinking of how it may be in the future. If a doctor is fearful of his/her own illness or death, it may mean it is difficult for that doctor to function optimally as a medical companion on their journey through life with the patient.

The doctor-patient relationship during a life threatening illness, especially at a crisis point such as disease progression, can be intense. Caring for a person in this phase of life teaches us the power of human relationships and gives us a healthy appreciation of living.

— An Eastern suburbs GP

On Trial



Peptide T

Treatment of HIV-related peripheral neuropathy
Open label compassionate use
All participants will receive 8.5 mg Peptide T daily

Duration: 6 weeks

Inclusion: HIV-related painful peripheral neuropathy
Exclusion: drug-related peripheral neuropathy, pregnancy

St Vincent's Hospital: Dr Bruce Brew 332 4648

Other: you will be taught to self-administer the intramuscular injection

UBI vaccine (prevention vaccine)

To investigate the vaccine's immunogenicity
Phase I pilot study

Arm 1: vaccine injection (18 people)
Arm 2: placebo injection (4 people)

Duration: 9 months

Inclusion: HIV-negative person in 'high risk' situation
Exclusion: any intention of unsafe behaviour

St Vincent's Hospital: Dr Sean Emery 332 4648

Other: This vaccine is only a prototype and *cannot* protect a person from HIV infection. Hence anyone who expresses intention to participate in unsafe behaviour while on the trial will not be allowed in. The trial will only evaluate whether the vaccine causes immune system changes.

p24-VLP (therapeutic vaccine)

Asymptomatic HIV Infection

CHATN005

Phase II safety and efficacy study

Arm 1: AZT (600mg daily) +p24-VLP
Arm 2: AZT alone (600mg daily)
Arm 3: p24-VLP alone

Duration: 1 year

Inclusion: CD4 > 500

Exclusion: p24 antigen positive

For a list of general practitioners and hospitals call CHATN 332 2485.

All trials listed in the November Talkabout are still enrolling. The Famciclovir trial described in the November Talkabout is also being conducted at Kirketon Road Centre. (Famciclovir is for treatment of herpes). Contact Carol Martin or Dr Paul Hill on 360 2766.

If you are trialling any treatment, including complementary and alternative therapies and would like to advertise it here, call Jill on 361 6750.

A useful booklet "A Guide to Participating in Clinical Trials", is available from the PLWHA office or the National Treatments Project based at ACON.

POSITION VACANT

Co-ordinator — Positive Women (Vic)

Two half time or one full time position is currently available to provide support to the organisation Positive Women. The position will involve administrative support, assistance with outreach and volunteer peer support for HIV positive women, and some community education.

Applicants should have highly developed interpersonal skills, an understanding of HIV issues, particularly as they relate to women, and office management skills. Experience in counselling and the training and support of volunteers would be an advantage. A current driver's licence is required. Job share will be considered. Women who are HIV positive are encouraged to apply.

Salary in accordance with Community Development award, Class B.

Phone: (03) 280 2473 for further information and position description. Send applications with names of three referees to Positive Women, PO Box 1546, Collingwood 3066.

Fax: (03) 280 2878.

What's Goin' On



St Vincent's Hospital Pharmacy

will be closed on the following days and as a result outpatient prescriptions cannot be dispensed on these days.

Friday February 11
Friday March 18
Friday April 1
Monday April 4

The pharmacy is also closed on Saturdays and Sundays.

HIV Community Strategy Working Group

A working group of ACON Committee of Council Meets second Tuesday of the month, 6.30pm
ACON Oxford Street

Inquiries: Call Gerald Lawrence
331 6360

ACON MEDITATION GROUP

The meditation group meets first and third Mondays of every month at 6pm, ACON Oxford Street.

**INQUIRIES: CALL DAVID
ON 358 1318**

Western AIDS Fundraiser dance

First Saturday of every month at
Golfview Hotel,
Rawson Road, Guildford

Positive Space Illawarra

Are you HIV positive or living with AIDS?
Would you like to meet other positive people?
Positive space offers a confidential meeting place to chat, listen and share with other positive people in the Illawarra area
Don't hesitate to call
(042) 26 1238
to chat with or meet others
Wednesdays and Fridays
12.00pm - 5.00pm

JUST COUNTRY!

A social get together for rural gays and lesbians during Mardi Gras
Sponsored by the Rural Project (ACON)

Thursday 3 March from 7pm
Lizard Lounge above the Exchange Hotel
(34 Oxford Street)

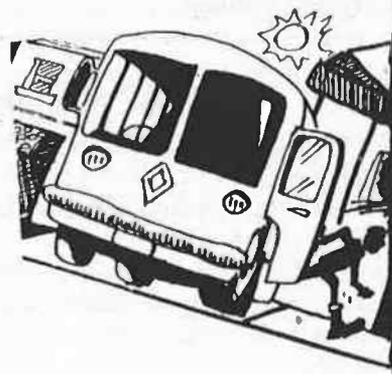
Come for drinks, snacks, and a good chin wag! Meet up with those other long lost PET boys, find out what each other has been up to! If you're in Sydney for Mardi Gras feel free to invite your rural friends and meet up with a few old (and some new) faces. Nick and Nigel will be practising their party tricks for the night!

Tiffany's Transport pick up line

206 2040

Tiffany's provides transport for PLWHA to hospital or clinic appointments. The service operates 7.00am to early evening, Monday to Friday.

For more info or to make a booking, please call us on 2062040.



Carer's group

For parents, partners, friends and relatives
of PLWHAs

19 Audley St. Petersham
(just near Eversleigh Hospital)
every second Tuesday 2.00 - 3.30pm.
(catch 428 bus)

Call Danielle Chedel on 560 3866.

Drop in support group

For PLWHAs who would like to meet others
in the same situation and gain support.

Every Tuesday, 3.00 - 4.00pm at
Glebe Town Hall (catch 470 bus).

Entry through the back door
in Mt Vernon St.

Call Pedro on 660 5455 or
Claire on 516 6111 page 6437

with **Complements**

This Issue:

- AZT, a cure for dandruff?
- proposed community based trials for herbal treatments
- Louhan Qui Gong classes for positive people
- Mind set article: "Meeting the King of Doctors"

With *Complements* is free to *Talkabout* subscribers, or call 358 1318.

Western Sydney AIDS Prevention & Outreach Service

Open 7 days. Free and confidential

- Needle Exchange • Condoms
- HIV & Hep B testing • Education
- Counselling • Outreach
- Support services

Parramatta: 26 Kendall St, Harris Park 2150
Ph: 893 9522 Mobile 018 25 1888 Fax 891 2087

Blacktown: Unit 7, Marcel Cr. Blacktown 2148
Ph: 831 4037 Mobile 018 25 6034

"HIS PLACE"

"HIS PLACE" was established by Chappy Rayson — a Catholic priest — as an open house that welcomes people with HIV, their families, carers and friends.
Spiritual, emotional and social support, trust and respect, a quiet relaxed space to be yourself, a safe place to pray, cry or chat.
Call us on 552 3518 or drop in after 9.00am to 163 Bridge Road, Glebe

INVITATION FREE LUNCH

for people living with and
affected by HIV/AIDS

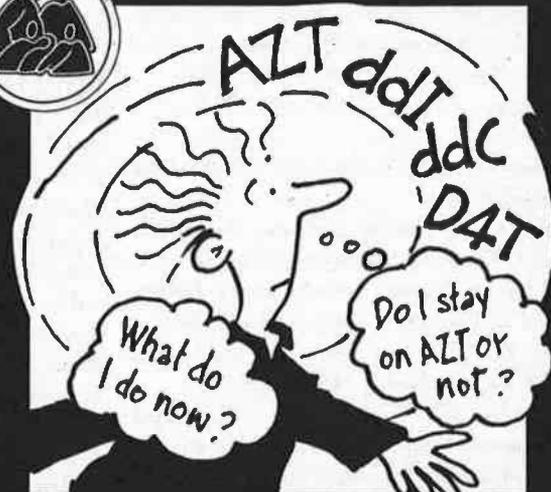
Every Monday

Doors open at noon

Lunch served at 12.30

Bar service at reasonable prices

**THE LIZARD LOUNGE
EXCHANGE HOTEL**



**For clear, up-to-date
HIV treatment
information contact:
The South Western
Sydney HIV
Outpatients Clinic on
02 600 3584**

Contacts



GENERAL

AIDS Council of NSW (ACON) Services in education, welfare, support and advocacy to the gay and general community. AIDS Resource Centre, 188 Goulburn St, Darlinghurst. 206 2000, fax: 206 2069.

(For Branches, see Outside Sydney).

ACON's Rural Project Provides info on HIV health services, gay networks/advocacy and encourages the adoption & maintenance of safe sex practices in the country.

Call Nik or Nigel 008 80 2612 (free call). PO Box 350 Darlinghurst 2010.

ACON Western Sydney 21 Kildor Rd. Blacktown. 831 1899.

ACT PLWHA GPO Box 229, Canberra ACT 2601.

Call Phil or David on (06)257 4985.

AIDS Trust of Australia A non-government national fundraising body which raises money for research, care and education related to HIV/AIDS.

PO Box 1272, Darlinghurst 2010. 211 2044.

Albion Street Centre Information Line 332 4000.

Asians & Friends Sydney A social, cultural and support group for gay Asians and their friends, meets every Friday from 7.30pm to 10pm. Call Gus or Jim (02) 558 0061 a/h or write to PO Box 238, Darlinghurst, NSW, 2010.

Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO) Umbrella organisation for Australian state and territory AIDS Councils. (02) 231 2111.

Civil Rehabilitation Committee Family Support Centre. HIV education and support to families of ex-prisoners and ex-offenders.

Call Pam Simpson 289 2670.

Fun and Esteem Workshops and drop-in groups for gay or bisexual men under the age of 26. Meets in Darlinghurst and Parramatta. Social and fun. For more information call Aldo or Brent 206 2077.

Kids With AIDS (KWAIDS) and Parents of KWAIDS. Inquiries c/- Paediatric AIDS

Unit, 39 2772. Donations c/- AIDS Trust, 211 2044.

Hands On Project Community based HIV/AIDS training program for youth workers. Call 267 6387.

Injecting Drug Use Gay & lesbian Injecting Drug Use Project (GLID UP) is based at ACON. Outreach, information & referral. We are sensitive to the issues faced by lesbians & gay men who inject drugs. Call 206 2096.

Innerskill Needle & syringe exchange, information & referral, also a range of free services for unemployed people. 754 Darling St Rozelle. Call 810 1122.

Latin AIDS Project Support, counselling and information for the Spanish speaking community. PO Box 120, Kings Cross, 2010. 315 7589.

Mark Fitzpatrick Trust Financial assistance for people with medically acquired HIV. Also administers the NSW Medically Acquired HIV Trust. PO Box 3299 Weston ACT 2611.

(06) 287 1215 or (008)802 511.

Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) International gay church. 638 3298.

Multicultural HIV/AIDS Education and Support Project Workers in 15 languages who provide HIV/AIDS information and pre & post test counselling and emotional support. Also provides cultural information, training & consultancy.

Call Peter Todaro 516 6395

National AIDS/HIV Counsellors Association Support and Communication for HIV/AIDS counsellors. NSW contact Mark Cashman 206 2000.

National Audio Visual Archive of PLWA NAVA (PLWA). People telling their stories on video. Call Royce 319 1887 (after 1 pm).

National Centre in HIV Epidemiology & Clinical Research Federal research centre conducting trials for AIDS treatments and other AIDS related research. 332 4648.

National Centre for HIV Social Research (Macquarie Unit). 805 8046.

National Association of People Living With AIDS (NAPWA) GPO Box 8440, Perth, 6849.

Call Mark Boyd on (09) 221 3002.

NSW Anti-Discrimination Board Takes complaints of AIDS related discrimination. Sydney 318 5400. Newcastle (049) 26 4300. Wollongong (042) 26 8190.

NSW Users and AIDS Association (NUAA) Community/peer based organisation providing support, referral and advocacy for injecting drug users and their friends. Needle exchange services. 369 3455.

Positive Asian Mens Project at ACON. Looks at the needs of all HIV positive Asian men and those who care for them. Call Michael Camit 206 2036 or 206 2090.

Quilt Project Memorial project for those who have died of AIDS, consisting of fabric panels completed by friends, lovers & family of those to be remembered. 360 9422.

Sex Workers' Outreach Project (SWOP) 391 Riley St, Surry Hills. 212 2600.

Silk Road Social and support group for Asian gay and bisexual men. Meets every Friday. Workshops, discussions, social activities. Call Arnel on 206 2000.

Social Workers in AIDS (SWAIDS) A special interest group for social workers working with people with HIV/AIDS. Also acts as a lobby group for people affected by HIV/AIDS. Call Anthony Shembri or Pina Commarano on 661 0111.

Sydney PWA Day Centre Daytime recreation/relaxation centre for people with AIDS. Lunches on some days (free or donation). Massage also available. Some group meetings. 20 William Lane Woolloomooloo. Inquiries 357 3011.

Sydney South West Needle Exchange For access and locations call 601 2333 or Mobile 018 25 1920.

Voluntary Euthanasia Society of NSW Inc. PO Box 25 Broadway, 2007. Call 212 4782.

CLINICS & HOSPITALS

Albion Street AIDS Centre (Prince of Wales Hospital AIDS Centre). Main Sydney clinic providing ambulatory care, HIV testing and counselling. Also conducts experimental AIDS treatment trials. No medicare card required. 332 1090.

Brighton Street Clinic Western Suburbs Sexual Health Clinic. Open Monday, Wednesday, Thursday. For appointment call 744 7043. 8 Brighton St Croydon. No medicare card is required.

Eversleigh Hospital A palliative care inpatient facility and community service. 180 - 272 Addison Rd, Petersham. 560 3866.

Greenwich Hospital Palliative care inpatient unit, day hospital and community outreach. 97 River Rd, Greenwich. 439 7588.

Haemophilia Unit Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, 516 8902.

Kirketon Road Centre Community based primary health care facility of Sydney Hospital. Nursing, medical services, counselling, 9am - 8pm, Mon - Fri. Social welfare service, needle & syringe exchange 2pm - 6pm, Sat - Sun. Outreach bus 8pm - midnight, 7 days. Darlinghurst Fire Station, Victoria Rd, Kings Cross. 360 2766.

Liverpool Sexual Health Clinic/HIV Outpatient Clinic 52 Goulburn St Liverpool. Free, confidential HIV/STD services, counselling, HIV support groups, practical support. Call 600 3584.

Neringah Hospital A palliative care inpatient facility and domiciliary service. 4 - 12 Neringah Ave. South, Wahroongah. 487 1000.

Prince Henry (Special Care Unit) Anzac Parade, Little Bay. 694 5237 or 661 0111

Prince of Wales Children's Hospital (Paediatric AIDS Unit) High St Randwick. 399 2772/2774.

Royal North Shore HIV outpatient, day treatment, medical consultations, inpatient services, counselling, support groups, sexual health clinic, testing - 438 7414/7415. Needle & syringe exchange 906 7083. Pacific Highway, St Leonards (adjacent to railway station).

Royal Prince Alfred (AIDS Ward) Missenden Rd, Camperdown. 516 6437.

Sacred Heart Hospice A palliative care

facility. 170 Darlinghurst Rd, Darlinghurst. 361 9444.

St George Hospital HIV/AIDS Services Inpatient, Outpatient and Day Treatment Centre: South St, Kogarah. 350 2960
Sexual Health Clinic: Belgrave St, Kogarah. Call 350 2742.

St Vincents (17th Floor South AIDS Ward) Victoria St, Darlinghurst. 361 2337.

Sydney Sexual Health Centre Sydney Hospital, Macquarie St, Sydney. Appointments 223 7066.

Taylor Square Private Clinic Management of STDs and HIV medicine, participation in drug trials, counselling and social welfare services, home visits. Health care card holders and financially disadvantaged are bulk billed. Call 331 6151.

Transfusion Related AIDS (TRAIDS) Unit: For people with medically acquired HIV/AIDS. Crisis/long term counselling & welfare support to clients and their families throughout NSW. TRAIDS is based at Parramatta Hospital. Contact Pam 843 3111 ext. 343. **Red Cross** BTS: Contact Jenny 262 1764.

Westmead Centre (Westmead and Parramatta Hospitals). Westmead 633 6333. Parramatta 843 3111.

EMOTIONAL SUPPORT

Ankali Emotional support to PLWAs, their partners, family and friends. Trained Volunteers provide one-to-one non-judgemental and confidential support. 332 1090.

CLASH Confidential group for HIV+ heterosexuals. Meets fourth Friday every month. Call (1 800) 81 2404. PO Box 497 Alexandria 2015.

Family Support (city) A support group for family members of people with AIDS. Regular short term groups. Call Helen Golding on 361 2213.

Family Support Group for relatives of people with HIV/AIDS. Meets evenings on a regular basis in the outer Western suburbs. Call Claire Black or Kevin Goode at Wentworth Sexual Health and HIV Services on (047) 24 2598.

HIV Awareness and Support (HAS) is an open group for HIV+ users, their friends, partners etc. Meets every Wednesday 7pm at 15 Ice St, Darlinghurst. Contact via HIV support worker at NUAA, 369 3455.

HIV Living Support Groups For HIV+ people. Call 206 2000.

HIV+ Support Group South Western Sydney. Meets in Liverpool Wednesdays 6.30pm. Call Julie 600 3584. Transport can be arranged.

Parent's FLAG Parents and friends of lesbians and gays. Meets 2nd Monday of the month. For info write to PO Box 1152, Castle Hill 2154 or call Heather, 899 1101, or Mollie 630 5681.

Por La Vida Un servicio de información y apoyo para personas afectadas por el VIH El SIDA. Support & information for Spanish speaking people affected by HIV/AIDS. 206 2016.

Positive Women Individual or group support for and by HIV/AIDS positive woman. Non-judgemental and completely confidential. Contact via Women and AIDS Project Officer or Women's HIV Support Officer at ACON, 206 2000, TTY for the Deaf 283 2088. PO Box 350 Darlinghurst 2010.

Quest for Life Foundation Emotional support and education for people with life threatening diseases, their families, loved ones and health professionals.

Support groups, meditation/relaxation classes, one-to-one counselling.

37 Atchison St, Crows Nest. 906 3112.
Support of Positive Youth (SOPY) Drop in groups for young people with HIV/AIDS meet every Thursday. Girls and guys welcome. Call 318 2023

Support group for parents of HIV+ adults every 3rd Friday in the month 7- 9pm at Ankali House 335 Crown St. Confidentiality assured.

Call Julie Fuad, 569 2579.

Sydney West Group A Parramatta based support group.

Call Pip Bowden 635 4595.

PRACTICAL HELP

ACON Housing Project Offers help with accessing priority public housing, special rental subsidy, transfer advice, homelessness, housing discrimination and harassment. Call the Housing Project Officer, 206 2000.

Bobby Goldsmith Foundation A community based, registered charity providing some financial assistance to approved clients. 4th floor, 376 Victoria St, Darlinghurst, 360 9755.

Community Support Network (CSN) Trained volunteers providing practical home/personal care for people with AIDS. 206 2031.

CSN Western Sydney (incl. Blue Mountains & Hawkesbury) 9 Charles St. Parramatta.

Call Pat Kennedy, 204 2040.

Dog grooming 1 at reduced rate for PWAs Call Ben on 550 6553 (w) or 319 1829 (h).

Dog grooming 2 Free to PWAs on limited incomes. Call Judy on 808 1238.

Funeral celebrant Free in cases of financial hardship. Call Patrick Foley on (018) 61 1255.

Hands On Massage and Reiki for PLWHAs. Training of volunteer masseurs. Call Richard 660 6392

HIV/AIDS Legal Centre Legal advice and advocacy on HIV/AIDS related problems. Call 206 2060.

Pets The Animal Welfare League will help with Vet. care, food & advice. Also take animals you can no longer care for or provide pets.

Referrals through BGF, 360 9755.

Tiffany's Transport Service For PLWAs (in the Sydney area.) 206 2040.

OUTSIDE SYDNEY

General

AIDS Council of NSW (ACON). See regional listings for branches.

Albion Street Centre Information Line (008) 45 1600.

Community Support Network (CSN) See regional listings for branches.

Rural Gay Men HIV Peer Education Training Workshop held in Sydney every four months. Call Nik or Nigel at ACON's Rural Project. (008) 80 2612 (free call). PO Box 350 Darlinghurst 2010. TTY (02)283 2088 (Deaf only).

Hawkesbury & Blue Mountains

Blue Mountains PLWA Support Centre Wednesdays 11am - 3pm (lunch). Fridays 6.30-10.30pm (dinner). Call the Centre on (047) 82 2119 or Dennis (047)88 1110.

Blue Mountains HIV/AIDS Clinic A range of HIV/AIDS services including testing, treatment, monitoring and counselling/support. Call (047) 82 0360 between 9am - 12 noon Mon, Wed, Fri. **CSN Blue Mountains** Hands on practical help for people with HIV/AIDS. Call Pat Kennedy, (02)204 2040.

Hawkesbury Outreach Clinic An outreach service of Wentworth Sexual Health and HIV Services. Free and confidential service open Tuesdays 4pm to 8pm. STD and HIV/AIDS testing, treatment & counselling/support services. Call (047) 24 2507.

Karuna Blue Mountains Emotional support for people with HIV/AIDS, their

partners, family and friends.

Call Ann (047)82 2120.

Southern Highlands HIV/AIDS Volunteer Supporter Group Emotional and practical support for PLWHAs, their family and friends living in the Bowral district. Call Marion Flood (048) 61 2744 or David Willis (018)48 3345. **Wentworth Sexual Health and HIV Services** STD and HIV/AIDS testing, treatment, counselling/support and education. Free and confidential. (047) 24 2507.

Central Coast / Hunter Region **ACON Hunter branch** PO Box 1081, Newcastle 2300. (049) 29 3464.

Karumah Day Centre Inc., Newcastle First floor, 101 Scott St, opposite Newcastle Railway Station. Open Tuesdays 2.30- 9.30 (light dinner served), Thursdays for lunch & activities from 11.00am to 3.00pm, Sundays 2.00 - 6.00 for Jazz & coffee. (049) 29 6367.

Konnexions Day Centre 11 am-3.30pm Mondays for lunch & social. Info: Lesley. (043) 67 7326.

Central Coast Sexual Health Service offering HIV clinic for testing, monitoring, treatments, support. Call Patrick (043) 20 2241.

Club 2430 (Taree) Manning Area Gay and Lesbian Support Group. Social functions, newsletter, monthly meetings. Contact Bill or Barry (065) 537502 or Liz (065) 511315.

PO Box 934, Taree 2430. **CSN Newcastle** Call Rosemary Bristow, ACON Hunter Branch. (049) 29 3464. **Hunter Area HIV Support/Action group** 6.30pm, 4th Wednesday every month at ACON, level 1, Bolton St Newcastle. Inquiries call (049)29 3464.

John Hunter Hospital (Clinical Immunology Ward) Lookout Rd, New Lambton, Newcastle. (049) 21 4766.

Newcastle Gay Friendship Network Peer support, workshops and activities for gay men under 26. Call ACON Hunter branch, (049) 29 3464.

Positive Support Network Emotional/hands on support for PLWHAs on the Central Coast. (043) 20 2247.

Taree Sexual Health Service 93 High St Taree, Tuesdays 2 - 6pm, Thursdays by appointment. 51 1315.

Tuncurry — The Lakes Clinic A sexual Health Service. Bridgepoint Building 2nd flr. Manning St. Thursdays 10 -2pm. Free and confidential. 55 6822.

North Coast

ACON Mid-North Coast PO Box 990,

Coffs Harbour 2450. (066) 514 056.

ACON Northern Rivers PO Box 63, Sth Lismore 2480. (066)22 1555.

Chaps Out Back Coffs Harbour. Assistance & advice for PLWHAs. Also CSN type help from "Hands & Hearts". Drop in centre/coffee shop each Thursday 10.00 - 4.00, support group every second Saturday 2.00 - 4.00. Behind ACON, 93 High St. Coffs Harbour, (066)51 4056.

Lismore Sexual Health/AIDS Service A free, confidential service for all STD and HIV testing and treatment. Call (066) 20 2980.

North Coast Positive Time Group A support and social group for PLWHAs in the North Coast region. Contact ACON North coast (066) 22 1555.

North Coast — Wollumbin CARES Community AIDS Resources, Education and Support. Call Gerry or Keven, (066) 79 5191.

South Coast

ACON Illawarra PO Box 1073, Wollongong 2500. (042) 26 1163.

Bega Valley HIV/AIDS Volunteer Supporter Group Emotional and practical support to PLWHA, their family & friends living in the Bega Valley area. Call Greg Ussher or Ann Young (064) 92 9120

CSN Wollongong Call Daniel Maddedu, (042)26 1163.

Cooma/Snowy Mountains HIV/AIDS Volunteer Supporter Group Emotional and practical support for plwhas, their family and friends living in the Cooma/Snowy Mountains area.

Call Victor on (018) 48 6804 or Pam Davis on (064) 52 1324.

Eurobodalla HIV/AIDS Volunteer Supporter Group. Emotional and practical support to PLWHA, their family and friends in the Narooma to Batemans Bay area. Call Greg Ussher or Liz Follan on (044) 76 2344.

Illawarra Positive Space Wednesdays & Fridays, 12.00 - 5.00pm. Call (042)26 1238.

Nowra Sexual Health Clinic Confidential and free support for PLWHAs. Nowra Hospital, (044) 23 9353.

Port Kembla Sexual Health Clinic Confidential and free support for PLWHAs. Fairfax Rd, Warrawong. (042) 76 2399.

Shoalhaven HIV Support Group Meets first and third Tuesdays, in the month from 6pm to 7pm. Peer support group facilitated by an HIV+ volunteer.

Completely confidential.

Call (044) 23 9353.

South East Region HIV/AIDS Unit HIV/AIDS support, needle and syringe exchange and HIV education. For more information contact (048) 21 8111.

West

Albury Needle & Syringe Exchange, call Judy David, (060) 23 0206.

Albury/Wodonga HIV/AIDS Border Support group (060)23 0340. HIV & Sexual Health Service (060) 56 1589. Needle & syringe exchange — for outlets call (060) 23 0340.

Deniliquin HIV Support Services. (058) 81 2222.

Dubbo (Orana and Far West region) HIV & sexual health service. Free and confidential. Testing, advice, monitoring, treatment and support. Call Robert (068) 85 8999.

Griffith HIV Support Services (069) 62 3900.

HIV/AIDS Project, Central Western Dept. of Health.

Call Martha, (063) 32 8500.

New England Needle Exchange Program For locations of outlets and outreach services call (067)66 2626 message, (018) 66 8382 mobile.

Tamworth Bligh Street Sexual Health Clinic. Free & confidential STD/HIV testing & management. (067) 66 3095.

Yass HIV/AIDS Volunteer Supporter Group Emotional and practical support for plwhas, their family and friends living in the Yass area.

Call Victor, (018)48 6804.

Young HIV/AIDS Volunteer Supporter Group Emotional and practical support for plwhas, their family and friends living in the Young area.

Call Victor, (01 8) 48 6804 or Valerie, (063) 82 1522.

Wagga Wagga HIV & sexual health services, call Paula Denham, (069) 38 6411. AIDS Task Force (069) 25 3055 or (069) 38 6411.

Please let us know if you want to update your listing or add a new one.

JOIN US IN THE FIGHT AGAINST AIDS. SUBSCRIBE NOW.

PLWHA Inc. (NSW) is part of a world-wide movement to empower people with HIV infection, their friends, supporters, family and lovers to live full, creative and meaningful lives free from fear, ignorance and prejudice.

Help yourself and others affected by HIV to create a positive, friendly and supportive environment in which we can all live with HIV & AIDS — join PLWHA.

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

POSTAL ADDRESS

POSTCODE

PHONE (W)

(H)

I wish to apply for membership of PLWHA Inc. (NSW)

I wish to subscribe to *Talkabout*

I wish to renew my subscription

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I enclose a cheque/money order for \$ _____

In the interests of your confidentiality

I agree to have other members know my name and address Yes No

I am publicly open about my membership Yes No

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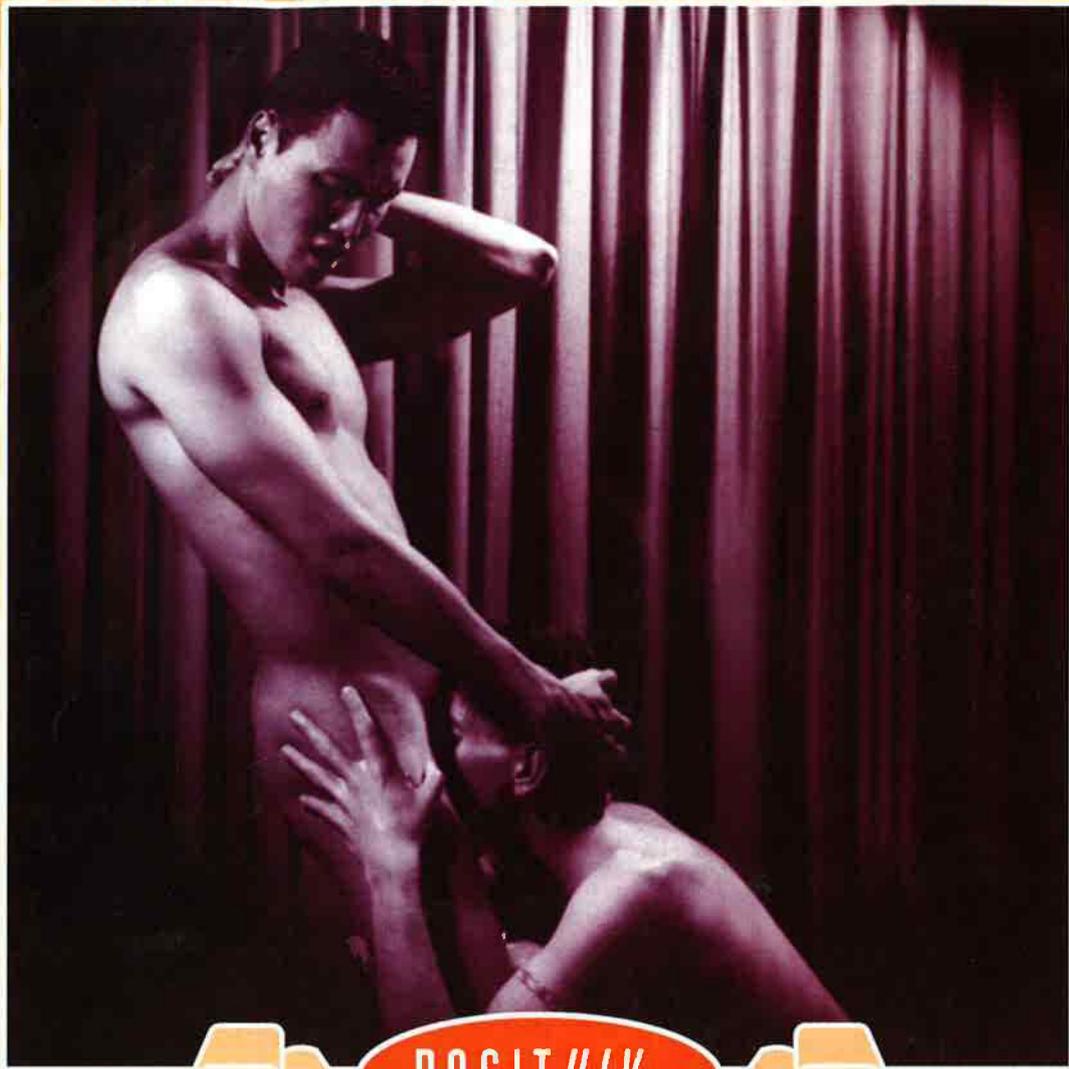
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SIGNATURE

DATE

HOLD HIM THERE, LET HIM UP FOR AIR THEN GET

PUT IT IN YOUR MOUTH, LICK, SUCK, SLOW AND EASY, FAST AND HARD.



BACK TO IT PUT IT IN YOUR MOUTH, LICK, SUCK, SLOW AND EASY, FAST

POSITH//V
SEXUALITY

POSITH//V SEX: LETS FACE IT TOGETHER



AND HARD. HOLD HIM THERE, LET HIM UP FOR AIR