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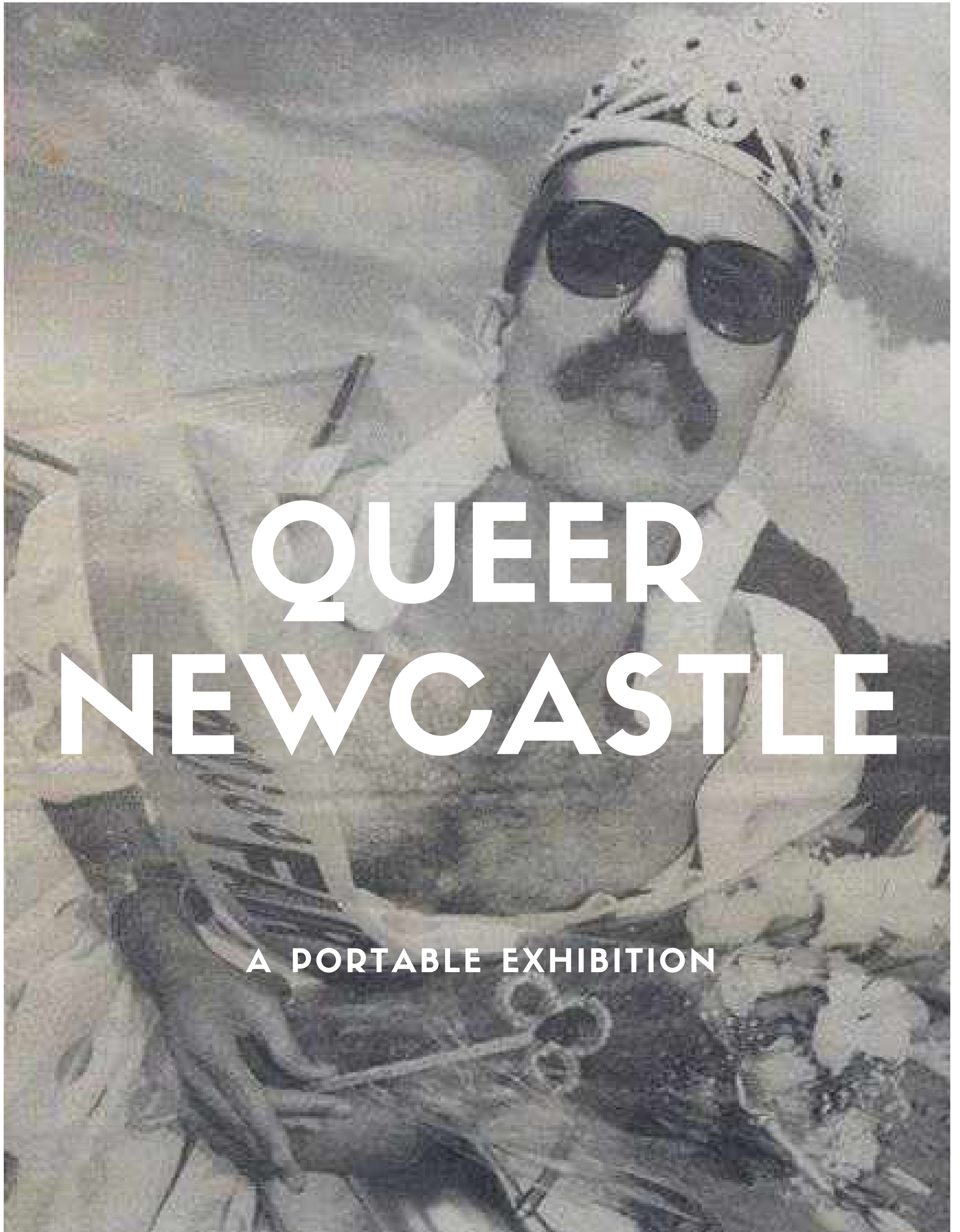


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To those who have built the spaces for me to live as I am and to the unending strength and dedication of the LGBTQIA+ community.

Thank you to John Witte and Richard Riley for their amazing support during the creation of this project.

I would like to acknowledge the Traditional Owners of the land in which I live and of which I record this history. I acknowledge that this land was never ceded and a treaty was never signed. I would also like to acknowledge the intersectional oppression faced by Indigenous queer peoples and the work that needs to be done in order to address this both within and outside the queer community.

WHO AM I?

I grew up on the lands of the Awabakal and Worimi peoples in the area now known as Newcastle NSW. I moved to Sydney in 2016 to pursue a degree at the University of Sydney in history and gender studies. I identify as non-binary and bisexual; it is from this identity that I write this history of Newcastle. As a student of history, I am committed to queering spaces which have been claimed by colonial, heterosexual and cis bodies. I aim to illuminate how these spaces have continuously been reworked as queer by the ongoing, and often invisible, presence of queer people and their experiences. I hope, in all my academic pursuits, to give back to the communities who have given so much to me by bringing attention to their forgotten and marginalised histories.

WHAT IS THIS ZINE?

The aim of this zine is to create a portable, mini exhibition of the LGBTQIA+ history of Newcastle through the collection of the Hunter Rainbow History Group (HRH). This zine is by no means a complete history of Newcastle's LGBTQIA+ community, nor is it a showcase of the complete HRH collection. However, the objects chosen act as important entry-points into key events in Newcastle's queer history. There is much more amazing material and history to discover in the rest of the HRH collection. My hope is that this zine (even in its limited scope) is able to bridge the gap between the past and the present and allow us to acknowledge and thank those who have come before us.

Please visit the Hunter Rainbow History Collection at the UON Living Histories site, to explore more of Newcastle's queer past:

www.livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/pages/hunterrainbow

WHAT IS HUNTER RAINBOW HISTORY?


Hunter Rainbow History group is a Newcastle queer history group created to record and collect the stories and experiences of LGBTQIA+ people in Newcastle and the Hunter. The group came together in 2016 concerned with documenting and safeguarding the life stories of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgendered, intersex and queer people in the Hunter region before they are lost or forgotten.

HRH has partnered with Newcastle University (UON) and Recollect to create a digital archive of photographs, oral histories, publications and timelines.

You can visit HRH's collection at the UON Living Histories website:
www.livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/pages/hunterrainbow

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A black and white photograph of Bar Beach in Newcastle, Australia. The image shows a wide sandy beach with many people scattered across it. In the background, there is a large, light-colored building with a flat roof, identified as the Bar Beach Pavillion. The beach is bordered by a line of trees and a hillside with more buildings in the distance. The sky is filled with large, fluffy clouds.

BEATS

PUBLIC SEX IN THE 20TH CENTURY

Photograph of Bar Beach Pavillion a well-known beat in the 1950s. Photo: Unknown Photographer [1960s]. Newcastle Living Histories Collection

BEATS

Beats are public spaces where men meet other men for sex.

Throughout the early 20th century beats were frequented by men cruising and creating sexual networks. There are many locations which can be used as beats including: parks, cafes, hotels, sections of streets, landmarks, public toilets, beaches or changing rooms.

Many of the beats in Newcastle have now been built over, or knocked down. Most of the knowledge of their locations comes from oral histories and interviews with gay men who have shared their experiences of beats. By the 1960s there were a number of well-known beats ranging from Newcastle beach, and up towards what is now Newcastle mall. Other beats included, empty railway carriages, Bar Beach Pavillion, Birdwood Park, Islington Park, Pacific Park, King Edward Park and the Denison Street toilets at Broadmeadow.

Beats were sometimes also known by names which could hide their use and location. A toilet block outside Scott's Department store on Hunter Street was known as Buckingham Palace for its elaborate exterior.



Photograph of Newcastle Beach, an area well-known in the gay community for its beats, in the 1950s. Photo: Douglas Brown, [1950s]. Newcastle Living Histories Collection

**He started telling me about beats...
Toilets... I didn't have a car, I used to
ride dad's bike around - I rode my
bike from Adamstown to Newcastle
Beach which was supposed to be a
beat. That night I met Keith.**

Kevin Coleman on discovering beats in the early 1950s and meeting his long-term partner Keith Robinson. Oral History: Interview - John Witte, 15 May 2017. Hunter Rainbow History Collection



THE YELLOW SOCKS AFFAIR

THE POLICE BLITZ OF 1952

THE YELLOW SOCKS AFFAIR

By the 1950s a strong gay subculture, known as camp culture, had been established in Newcastle. Dances were held at the Islington Ladies Bowling Club on regular occasions, and gay men had created substantial social networks through visiting beats. However, homosexual sex was still a criminal offence (and would remain so until 1984 in NSW) and the Cold War ushered in an era of increased paranoia about difference.

In 1952 the police began a witch hunt to expose what they believed were a gang of "sexual perverts" in Newcastle. By mid-1952 ten men appeared in Newcastle Court on charges of "abominable offences" and the names of 12 gay men were published in *The Newcastle Herald*. Among these men was Keith Robinson, a well-known businessman in Newcastle. It is alleged that it was the colour of the display in his menswear store on Hunter Street that gave the men their name - the Yellow Socks Gang. The arrests became a major media scandal and 8 men were convicted on various sentences - ranging from 3 years in jail to good behaviour bonds. Keith refused to be tried in Newcastle and was acquitted when his trial was taken to Sydney.

The arrests left a permanent mark on the Newcastle gay community, with many men moving to Sydney to escape the scrutiny of the hostile Newcastle community. Distrust for the police and for Newcastle media, particularly *The Newcastle Herald*, continued well into the 21st Century.



Photograph of Keith Robinson (left) and his partner Kevin Coleman (right). Photo: McRae Studios, 1950s. Hunter Rainbow History Collection

You wouldn't know how the police were working. They were after Keith... because they wanted someone who was well-known in Newcastle to justify what they were doing... it was a witch hunt.

Kevin Coleman (Keith Robinson's partner) on the importance of Keith Robinson to the police arrests. Oral History: Interview - John Witte, 15 May 2017. Hunter Rainbow History Collection

This I'll take to the grave with me.... They [the Police Vice Squad] interview me... they're firing all sorts of questions at me, and I'm keeping my cool. They say, 'if you say you've had sex with Keith Robinson... we won't publish your name but we will publish his name'... I'm thinking to myself how can they charge him without mentioning my name?... This is going through my mind while they're questioning me. I'm denying everything obviously. They were more persistent and I'm holding myself together... They knew they weren't going to get anywhere with me... They took me back to my work's management office. As soon as they walked out the door, all this emotion and tension that was building up in me just came out. I broke down. I was crying, I was a mess, and the manager put his arm around me and said "don't go back to the workshops you go home"... As I got home, my mum said, "You're home early? What's wrong with you?"... and I said "oh nothing Mum".

Kevin Coleman (Keith Robinson's partner) on being interviewed by the Police Vice Squad. Oral History: Interview - John Witte, 15 May 2017. Hunter Rainbow History Collection

Sex Perversion "Rife In City"

A society of perverts, membership of which was "quite large," existed in Newcastle, Judge Brereton was told at Newcastle Sessions yesterday.

Four young men were given suspended sentences for having committed abominable offences.

Judge Brereton said the offences should serve as an awakening that homosexuality was rife in the city and district to a degree which he had never dreamed of, and he was sure other people had never thought of.

There was no doubt that the men were active and willing collaborators in the offences, he continued. It seemed to him that they were, in a sense, victims, and had been led to commit the offences as novices by men who had practised the vice assiduously and had nourished and cherished it over a long period.

There seemed to be a great deal of hope that the four men charged might avoid the scars of the association they had had, he added. Such offences had to be eradicated.

"Off The Beam"

Albert William Jones, 20, apprentice typewriter mechanic, pleaded "Guilty" to having indecently assaulted William Hepplewhite at Newcastle on March 27, and on April 13 and 26 committed abominable offences with Kenneth Scotman and Melville John Davoren.

Sergeant J. Kempton said Jones lived at Georgetown, and would finish his apprenticeship in September. He came from an excellent family. He had two younger brothers and a sister. He was very shy, and of quiet disposition.

Sergeant Kempton told Mr. H. L. O'Neill (for Jones) that Jones had been very helpful to the police. He did not suggest that Jones had been an instigator in the offences. Leslie Notley, bricklaying contractor, said he had known Jones all his life. He believed that Jones had eliminated the offence since his arrest.

Judge Brereton: Why do men of this type have to be caught before they mend their ways?

Mr. O'Neill: It seems from what medical men say that these tendencies are born in people. They are, in other words, "off the beam." There was no "catching" of the offenders in the ordinary sense of the word. If there had been no confessions there would have been no charges.

Dr. Idris Morgan said that Jones, from the time he was eight, had assisted in rearing the family because of his mother's severe illness. To overcome his tendencies, it would be necessary to re-educate him. He would have to be taken from his home environment and introduced to manly sports such as could be obtained at clubs like the Police Boys' Club.

On the first major charge, Jones was sentenced to two years' gaol, but the sentence was suspended on his entering into a £20 bond for two years. On each of the other charges he was bound over in £10 to be of good behaviour for two years.

Soldier Charged

Kenneth William Scotman, 23, soldier, pleaded "Guilty" to having committed abominable offences with Robert Arthur Jordan and Albert William Jones at Newcastle between November 1, last year, and April, this year. Mr. H. L. O'Neill appeared for him.

Detective R. W. Ladkin, of the Sydney C.I.B., said Scotman was a native of Newcastle. Before enlisting in the Australian Army he was employed as a printer at Newcastle.

When arrested at Holdsworth camp, Ladkin said, Scotman told him he had tried to influence his brother to keep away from perverts, but had finally succumbed himself.

Ladkin said he believed that if Scotman kept away from Newcastle, he would be all right.

His Honor: Do you suggest that this type of offence is peculiar to Newcastle?

Ladkin: No, but there seems to have been a group of them here.

His Honor: I hope, by the number of offences that have been brought before the Court, that there are not many left.

Harry Mordcael Cohen, master printer, said Scotman had been of excellent character.

Following a submission by Mr. O'Neill, Judge Brereton said: "It is obvious that this pernicious practice must be eliminated, but how can it be done? I do not want it to be done by dispersal from here to be followed by offences in other places. The mere exposure of this chain of offences here might have made some good effect."

Mr. O'Neill: As is usual with other offences, the arch offenders have not appeared.

Judge Brereton said he had noticed other names mentioned in the charges.

Scotman was sentenced to two years' gaol on the first

charge, sentence being suspended on his entering into a £20 bond for two years. On the other charge, he was bound over in £10 for two years.

Judge Brereton said he strongly recommended that Scotman leave the Army.

Assisted Police

Melville John Davoren, 25, telephone mechanic, pleaded "Guilty" to having committed abominable offences with Robert Arthur Jordan and Albert William Jones between March 18 and April 30. Mr. H. L. O'Neill appeared for him.

Sergeant Kempton said Davoren lived with his widowed mother at Waratah. Before joining the R.A.A.F., he had been employed in two mercantile shops. For the past three years, he had been employed as a mechanic at Waratah postal exchange. He had been highly regarded by his employers. His father had died about five years ago. His mother was very ill.

To Mr. O'Neill, Sergeant Kempton said Davoren had been very cooperative with the police in their inquiries.

Kempton added that he felt that a group of individuals who came to Newcastle were "reasonable" for the outbreak of the offences. Some had left the district since. He did not think Davoren was responsible for all that happened.

Davoren was sentenced to two years' gaol on the first charge, suspended on his entering into a £20 bond for two years. On the other charge, he was bound over in £10 for two years.

"Large Group"

Dudley Frederick Stevens, 27, storeman-packer, pleaded "Guilty" to having committed abominable offences with Robert Lott and William Robert Hepplewhite at Newcastle on March 16 and April 12.

Detective Ladkin said Stevens was a native of Sydney and lived at Redfern. Several months ago, he was invited to perform a theatrical act at a hall in Newcastle where a function was run by sex perverts. As a result of his association with these people, he committed the offence. He made subsequent visits to Newcastle and met the men referred to in the charges.

Ladkin said he was convinced that Hepplewhite was a confirmed pervert.

Judge Brereton: This is beginning to read like the stories we read of Germany after the first war.

Ladkin said that the membership of the group of perverts was quite large. They met in halls in Newcastle and in homes.

Some of the men before the Court were not members of the group, but had been corrupted by other men, he added.

Judge Brereton: Are members coming before the Court?

Ladkin: I think quite a few of them will come before the Court. Quite a number of them have left the district, but we will endeavour to find them.

Stevens was sentenced to two years' gaol on the first charge, suspended on a £20 bond for two years. On the other charge he was bound over in £10 for two years.

For Sentence

Michael Robbins, 23, soldier, pleaded "Guilty" to having committed an abominable offence with Oral Charles Parker Hollings at Newcastle, on May 1.

Detective Ladkin said Robbins was a native of London. He arrived in Australia on September 4 last and had been in the corrective establishment at Holdsworth camp.

Ladkin said Robbins told him he met a man on Manly ferry and was invited to Newcastle. He attended a function at Newcastle where all were effeminate men or perverts. The offence resulted from association with those men.

Robbins was also charged with two similar offences in Sydney, Ladkin added.

Judge Brereton remanded Robbins till Friday for sentence.

Libel Claim At

Cessnock

Neville Thomas, of Cessnock, sued William Booth, retired police sergeant, of Cessnock, for libel, in the Cessnock District Court yesterday. He claimed £500.

The action arose out of a display of placards by Booth on his car. The car had been duced by Thomas, and the placards directed attention to the fact.

In an action at the last sittings of the District Court, Booth was awarded £33 damages against Thomas for breach of contract in regard to the ducing of the car.

The hearing was adjourned till to-day.

Mr. W. Hutton, instructed by Mr. S. Woodgate, for Thomas; Mr. R. Hudson, instructed by Mr. D. Bivens, for Booth.

Sex Perversion "Rife in City."

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Four young men were given suspended sentences for having committed abominable offences.

Judge Brereton said the offences should serve as an awakening that homosexuality was rife in the city to a degree which he had never dreamed of, and he was sure other people had never thought of. There was no doubt that the men were active and willing collaborators in the offences, he continued. It seemed to him that they were, in a sense, victims, and had been led to commit the offences as novices by men who had practised the vice assiduously and had nourished and cherished it over a long period. There seemed to be a great deal of hope that the four men charged might avoid the scars of the association they had had, he added. Such offences had to be eradicated....

It seems from what medical men say that these tendencies are born in people. They are in other words, "off the beam." There was no "catching" of the offenders in the ordinary sense of the word. If there had been no confessions there would have been no charges. Dr. Idris Morgan said that Jones, from the time he was eight, had assisted in rearing the family because of his mother's severe illness. To overcome his tendencies, it would be necessary to re-educate him. He would have to be taken from his home environment and introduced to manly sports such as could be obtained at clubs like the Police Boys' Club. On the first major charge, Jones was sentenced to two years' gaol, but the sentence was suspended on his entering into a 20 bond for two years. On each of the other charges he was bound over in 10 to be of good behaviour for two years....

REFRESHING PALATABLE WINES ON TAP.
EXCELENT BOTTLED VINTAGE TABLE SERVICE

CAMP
CULTURE IN
THE 1970S

THE STAR HOTEL AND BERNIE'S BAR

IC BREAD AND PIZZAS SERVED DURING THE NIGHT

BERNIE'S BAR

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The Newcas

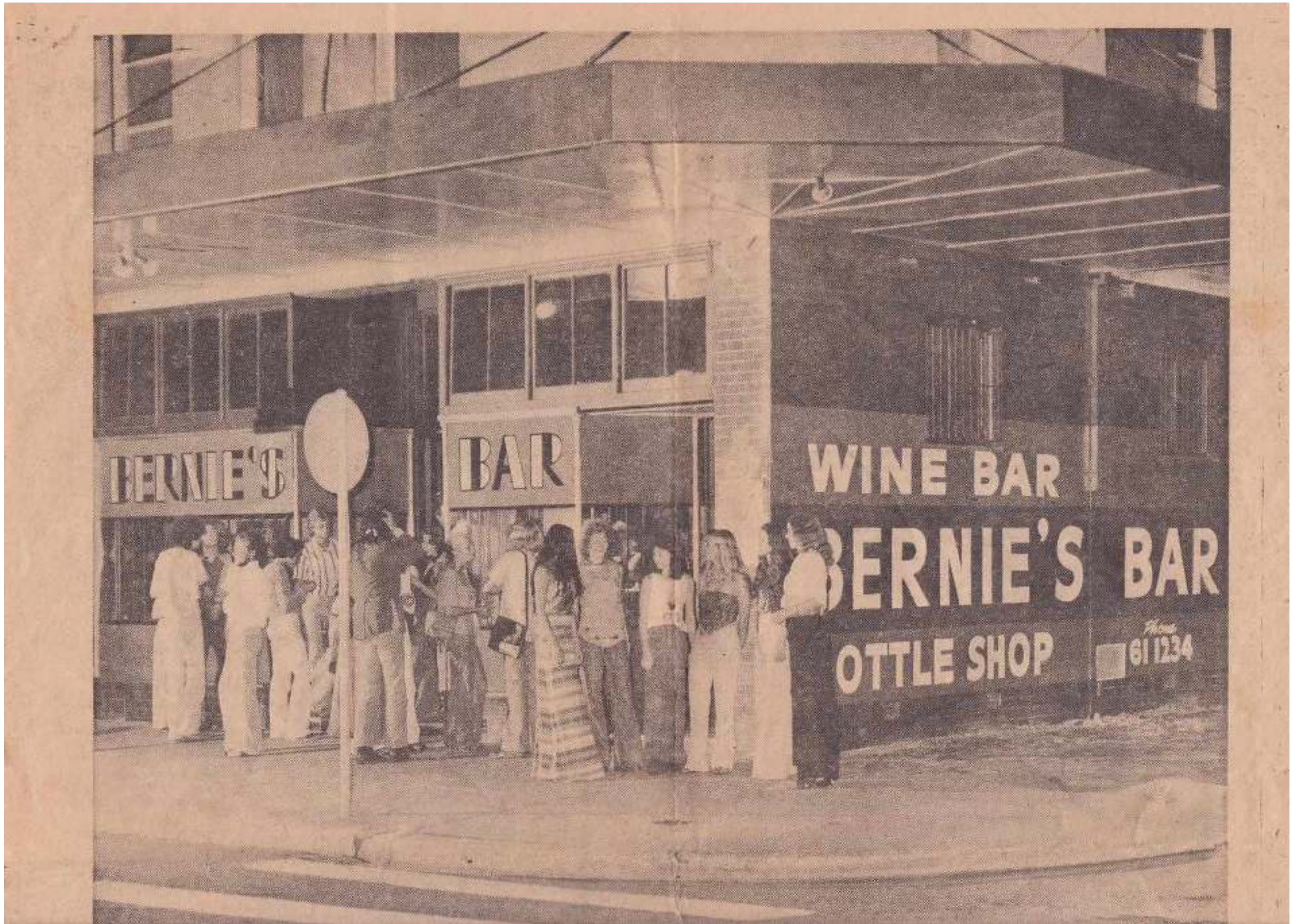
A NIGHT OUT IN NEWCASTLE

After the Yellow Socks Affair, Newcastle's gay social scene became fragmented and camp culture retreated into invisibility once again. However, throughout the 1960s there were still a number of venues known among the gay community, and a thriving drag scene began at the The Oriental Hotel. Drag shows and nights out became an important way the gay community could come together.

In 1969, The Star Hotel came to replace The Oriental as the city's leading drag venue. The Star Hotel was well-known as a meeting place for a variety of subcultures in Newcastle. While the front bar was known as The Sailors Bar, the back bar hosted live bands 7 days a week and was known for its more rowdy crowd. But, it was the middle bar that became well-known for hosting the growing LGBTIQ+ community. The Hotel was well-loved, and became the site of the infamous Star Hotel riot on September 19, 1979 when between 3000-8000 people rioted on the night the bar was due to close.

Due to the Star Hotel's early closing time of 10pm, queer Novocastrians would often head to kick-ons at house parties, or other gay-friendly venues. One of which was Bernie's Bar on Beaumont St, Hamilton. Bernie's Bar, while not specifically a gay venue, was another venue known for hosting many different crowds and which, importantly, stayed open until midnight. Managed by Jackie and Keith Ansell, the bar opened in 1974 and after closing in 1975 was transformed into a variety of gay bars in the 1980s.

Bernie's was a staple of gay night life in Newcastle, and was symbolic of an era in which gay and straight folk mixed in the same venues.



Photograph of Bernie's Bar. Photo: Newcastle Sun, 1974. Hunter Rainbow History Collection

It wasn't set-up in anyway with any kind of clientele in mind. Just anyone who liked that sort of atmosphere. It was gay friendly, but it was friendly to everyone. There were a lot of singles groups... it was a good venue to go to, there was no other venue like it.

Jackie Ansell, manager of Bernie's Bar on the clientele of Bernie's. Oral History: Interview - John Witte, 14 February 2017. Hunter Rainbow History Collection

BERNIE'S WINE BAR



Relax and enjoy the friendly atmosphere at Hamilton

★ Jackie and Keith Thorn, left, relax at the bar while "wine watch" Sue Henderson, right, prepares a specially barbecued steak for a customer.



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Good food, music and wine and the friendly at-

Advertisement for Bernie's Bar in the Newcastle Sun. Pictured top left - Jackie Ansell (manager) and Keith Thorn (manager). Bottom right - Sue Henderson ("wine wench"). Photo: Newcastle Sun, 1974. Hunter Rainbow History Collection

Even though it wasn't a gay wine bar it set the scene for what was to follow, it showed that everybody had a right to entertainment in Newcastle. We started the ball rolling with venues to go to. Gay people could then go to the Wicko or the Gateway... instead of separating people out it was all part of the entertainment field. Bernie's Bar played its role in that way... it later became the Centurion in the 80s... it opened up the idea that you don't exclude people when you have a business....

Jackie Ansell, manager of Bernie's Bar, on gay social life in the 1970s. Oral History: Interview - John Witte, 14 February 2017. Hunter Rainbow History Collection



HIV/AIDS TREATMENT

THE 1980S AND THE AIDS EPIDEMIC

Simone Dagg (left) and unknown RN (right) at the AIDS unit, Royal Newcastle Hospital, 1991. Image: Unknown Photographer, 1991. Hunter Rainbow History Collection

HIV/AIDS IN NEWCASTLE

The 1980s were a tumultuous decade for the gay community in Newcastle. The first case of AIDs in Australia appeared in the media in 1982, and by the end of the decade an estimated 2,500 people in the Hunter Region were said to be HIV positive.

A number of organisations were created throughout the decade to support those who were diagnosed, including the AIDS Council of NSW (A.C.O.N) - which opened a Hunter branch in 1988 - and Community Support Network Hunter. These organisations along with the work of Infectious Disease Nurse, Sandy Berenger, and Doctor of Immunology, David Sutherland, were instrumental in managing treatment in Newcastle.

The first AIDs unit, known as the Annexe, was opened in June 1986 at the Royal Newcastle Hospital. The hospital was the only NSW hospital in the 1980s (outside Sydney) which treated AIDs patients. It was because of this, that MacKillop House - a respite centre for those diagnosed with AIDs and their families - was opened in 1989. MacKillop House was run by Sisters and Brothers of a number of religious orders, including Sisters of St Joseph Lochinvar, Brothers of Son of God and Sisters of Mercy. MacKillop acted as a safe space for those travelling from rural areas to access treatment in Newcastle, or for those evicted from their rental properties or family homes after a diagnosis.

After the John Hunter Hospital was built in 1991, there was a struggle to find a place for a new AIDs ward, as the hospital hadn't planned for such a ward to be built. It was much needed as more and more wards were moved out of Royal Newcastle Hospital and patients were sometimes placed in taxis to receive CAT scans at the John Hunter. Eventually, a new ward was found at the John Hunter next to the respiratory ward.

Newcastle was incredibly important to the development of treatment for AIDs for the whole of Australia. However, there was still much stigma surrounding those diagnosed, and it was only due to the extraordinary commitment of people such as Sandy Berenger and David Sutherland that treatment for AIDs became available in Newcastle.



Dr David Sutherland, AIDS unit, Royal Newcastle Hospital, 1989. Image: Unknown Photographer, 1989. Hunter Rainbow History Collection



Pauline Dobson CNC (left) and Dr Yadu Singh (right) in the the Annexe, Royal Newcastle Hospital. Image: Unknown Photographer, 1991. Hunter Rainbow History Collection

When the unit first opened it was just three beds at the end of a male medical ward. That's why it was called the Annexe, because it was annexed at the end. It was made out of a bit of balcony that used to be part of the medical ward... it had its own shower and toilet that was taken away from the Medical Ward, Ward 1. There was a charge nurse of Ward 1 and originally they were in charge of us. [Later on] a lot of the decisions that were made were made by David Sutherland and Sandy Berenger mainly, with senior nursing. Then they decided after a while that they would have a nurse senior manager.

Pauline Dobson CNC Nurse at the Royal Newcastle Hospital on the creation of the Annexe. Oral History: Interview - John Witte, 27 July 2018. Hunter Rainbow History Collection



Michelle Smith NUM (left); Sandy Berenger, Infection Control Nurse Consultant (middle); and Peter Lewis. Hunter Rainbow History Collection

Everything was a trial drug in the beginning, because they didn't know what work[ed]. So everything was being tested. People wanted to get on trials because they had nothing, and something was better than nothing... AZT was the first. Originally you were treating the opportunistic infections people got, because we didn't have anything to treat HIV... the management of it was very crude... normal people had about 1500 T cells, these patients had less than 200, sometimes 20 or 30.

Pauline Dobson CNC Nurse at the Royal Newcastle Hospital on the medical treatment of AIDs patients. Oral History: Interview - John Witte, 27 July 2018. Hunter Rainbow History Collection

If there was a patient in Gunnadah who was being sent down to us, then the social worker might organise for the relatives to stay in MacKillop for a little while. That was the liaison between social work, medical staff and MacKillop House from that point of view.

Pauline Dobson CNC Nurse at the Royal Newcastle Hospital on the role of MacKillop House. Oral History: Interview - John Witte, 27 July 2018. Hunter Rainbow History Collection

MacKillop was such a fantastic place. It was quiet when it need to be quiet. But there was always a bit of fun in the air. There was always music... the nuns learnt and [also] taught people... everybody that walked into MacKillop was healed. It was like you were coming home. Whether you were a volunteer or someone who was living there.

Wez Saunders, volunteer with the Community Support Network. Oral History: Interview - John Witte, 14 November 2018. Hunter Rainbow History Collection

preference

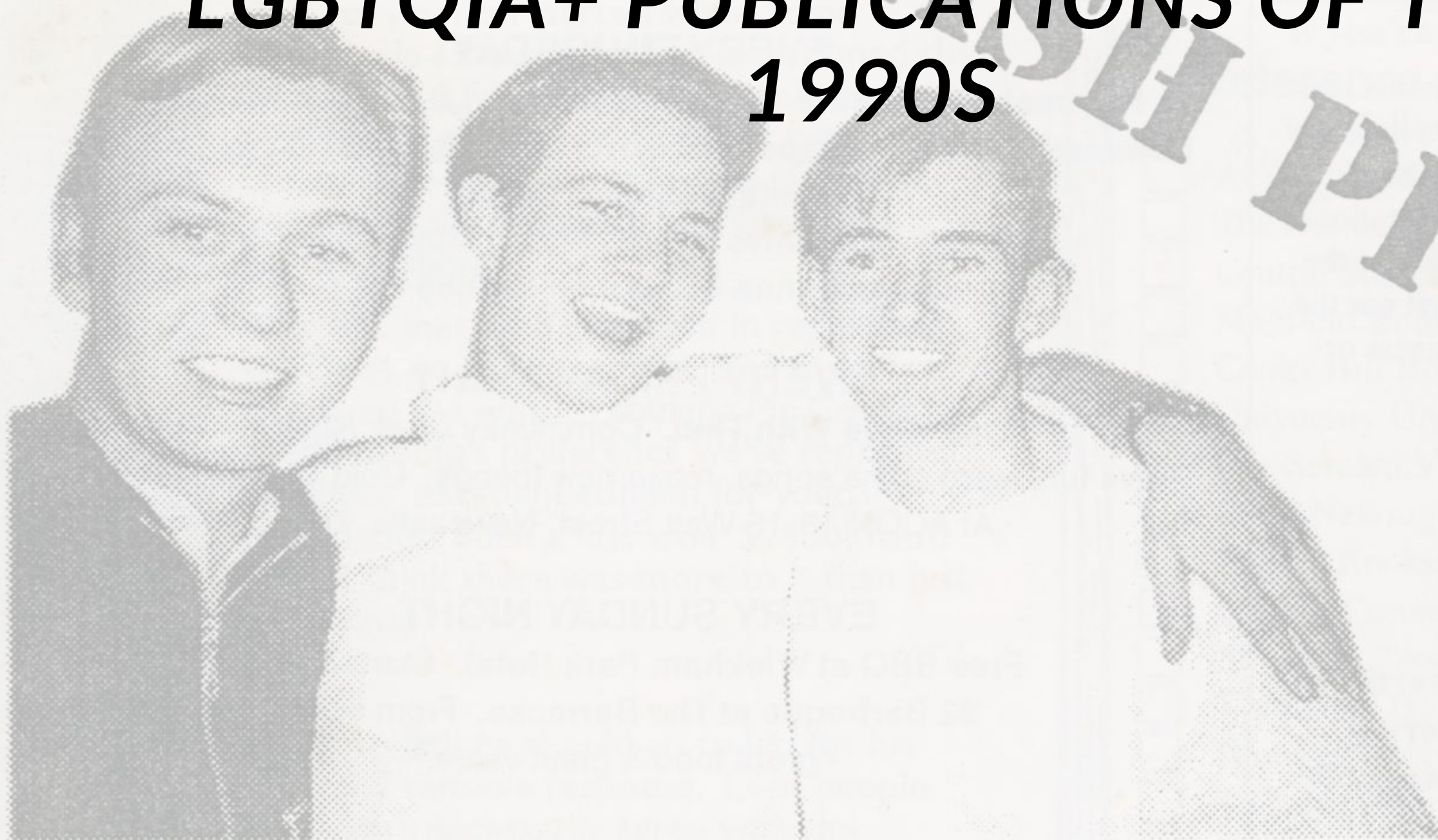
Magazine

A magazine for people with an interest in Gay & Lesbian issues in The Hunter

Confessions

PREFERENCE MAGAZINE

**LGBTQIA+ PUBLICATIONS OF THE
1990S**



Plus all the usual
gorgeous stuff

IT'S
FREE

PREFERENCE MAGAZINE

The spread of AIDs throughout the 1980s and 90s made homosexuality more visible than it ever had been before. This visibility led to a number of law reforms regarding homosexuality including the *Anti-Discrimination Act* of 1978 - which provided protection against discrimination based on sexuality - and the decriminalisation of consensual sex between homosexual men over the age of 18 in May, 1984. These laws as well as the increasing number of education campaigns, activism and LGBTQIA+ organisations led to a new era in Newcastle's LGBTQIA+ history. This era was one in which camp culture, and activism were far more organised and open than any previous decade. The need to stop the spread of HIV among the gay community, the increasing visibility of LGBTQIA+ folk and the unintentional outing of gay men after they were diagnosed with AIDs, led to the creation of a vibrant LGBTQIA+ press used to communicate among the community. Among these was the magazine *Preference*, created in April 1990.

Preference was a monthly magazine used to cover LGBTQIA+ news, event listings, gossip, and sex education. It was distributed at a number of well-known gay and lesbian meeting places and continued until March/April 1997. It was founded by Glenn Currie and its content was sourced from the community through volunteers. Philip Hodgetts and Greg Clarke joined as editors from April 1993, and Andrew Whitbread-Brown became a contributing editor.

The articles below demonstrate how *Preference* was used as a form of self-care and information dissemination for the community. They also demonstrate the legacy of the Yellow Socks Affair and the AIDs epidemic in their well-publicised distrust of government institutions.

MY FIRST NIGHT WITH A DENTAL DAM

by Gail Sauusser

After being married for many years, I found myself single in the age of AIDS. I confess, I did not embrace safe sex with open arms. I was still married when someone first asked me if I practiced safe sex and I replied, "Honey, I don't even know where I'd put a condom". That was before I knew that there were such things as dental dams and finger cots. That was before I knew women used condoms on their sex toys. That was before I was single.

At first, I pictured safe sex as something that was fine for rubber freaks and people who use toys, but the sex I have always known has been a high contact sport. I have never used a dental dam in any other setting than a dental chair and I found upon investigation that none of my friends had either. In fact, the only women I know who practised safe sex were part of the S&M community. And so, true to my blunt nature, I walked into a women's S&M bar, sauntered up to some women I knew in passing and said, "By the way, how the hell do you use a dental dam?" They just stared and I kept talking. "You see I'm single now", I tried to explain, "and it's something I think I should know ... because frankly, after looking at

the thing, I'd just as soon use it to open stuck jar lids". The women sighed. I guess they get tired of questions like, "What do you do in bed?" and "Do you really hurt each other?" I'd like to think they get asked about dental dams a little less frequently.

One of those ladies was kind enough to put her arm around me and with a sort of leather Dr. Ruth look in her eyes, suggested I just play with one for awhile and see what I could do with it. "Gee, thanks", I said and decided not to try her patience any further. What worried me the most was where to get one. Should I walk up to my straight male dentist and say, "Hey Bud, got a spare dental dam?" This would violate a basic rule I have about never coming out to someone holding a drill in my mouth. It's really frustrating. I live in a community where condoms sit on bar tables in dishes like candy for the patrons ... but where does a girl get a dental dam?

At our Lesbian Resource Centre I did find an article on how to practise safe sex. It also explained how to obtain a dental dam. "Call a medical supply store". OK. I looked in the yellow pages. Medical supply stores

thrive in industrial parks far outside our city. They have clinical names like Scientific Healthatronic Labs. No. I did not have the courage to call and say, "This is Dr. Sauusser, could you deliver a case of dental dams to my home? They only come in cases of 500? ... that's fine". I grumped about it and luckily someone at the Centre heard me. I found out they do sell safe sex kits for women. Not only was I able to obtain dental dams, but I discovered something new inside the kit: finger cots, which are like finger condoms. Amazing. I immediately took some home for my gay male room-mate. "Look," I said, "itty bitty little condoms." He was impressed.

Dental dams aren't just grey. They come in designer colours. They are also fruit flavoured and dusted with fine, scented powder. I prefer pink and lavender ones and have made a personal effort to get to know and understand the uses of my dental dam.

From: MORE LESBIAN ETIQUETTE

by Gail Sauusser

Cartoons by Alice Muhlback

The Crossing Press,

Freedom, California.



"Hey Bud, got a spare dental dam?"

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Disclaimer: This guide has been prepared with due care and consideration and is accurate to the best of our knowledge. However no responsibility is taken. If you have any doubts about a particular legal matter ask the police or a solicitor.

LEGALITY

Homosexuality in NSW is legal, but, any sort of sex in a public place, or behaviour that would '...cause serious alarm and affront to a reasonable person' is an offence. However, there is nothing illegal about being in a public park, car park or other area to try and meet another person.

Please remember that even this activity is frowned upon by mainstream society and be a bit discreet!! Police often patrol such areas for a number of reasons from maintaining the peace, protecting you from bashers, to drug related searches. Police resources in Newcastle are not being directed against 'beat' activity.

If you are approached by a police officer you are required to give your name and address. You may volunteer other information if requested, but are not obliged to. The police will not disclose this information. You should be treated with respect by the police officer, and should treat the officer with respect. (What's the point in causing drama!) If questioned as to "what you are doing there?" the truth, i.e. "hoping to meet someone", is perfectly acceptable.

BEING DETAINED

Police have no power to detain a person unless he/she has been lawfully arrested. However, police do have power to stop, search and detain any person reasonable suspected of having anything in his/her possession which is stolen, un-lawfully obtained, or intended for use in committing an indictable offence (and remember possessing drugs is an offence).

GOING TO THE POLICE STATION

Police can ask a person to go to a police station for questioning provided it is made clear they need go only if they so wish. Police can require a person to accompany them to the police station if they are under arrest.

ARREST

You can be arrested without a warrant if: you are caught committing an offence; you are caught immediately after committing an offence; or you are suspected with reasonable cause of having committed an offence. The police can use reasonable force to arrest and detain you so it's best to co-operate. If you are arrested you should ask: "Am I under arrest?" and "What am I being charged with?"

To be lawfully arrested, you: should be informed that you are under arrest; may be touched/physically restrained by the police officer; may indicate your submission to arrest by going with the police officer; may indicate your submission to arrest by staying where you are told to by the police; and should be informed of the reason for arrest if you do not know why you are being arrested.

If arrested, do not resist. It is best to co-operate with the police where there is nothing to be lost by co-operation. Failure to co-operate may result in further charges being laid. If arrested, do not say or write anything about the offence (i.e. make any admissions without the presence of a lawyer). Do not withhold your name or address from the police if asked. You are not required to volunteer any other information.

SEARCH AND SEIZURE

Police have the power to search a person, premises or vehicle for the purpose of investigating a crime if the person or occupier consents to the search. If police have a search warrant, they cannot be refused entry - although the owner/occupier is entitled to see it.

Without a warrant, police can enter a premises/vehicle to arrest a person reasonably suspected of having committed a crime, or if the police reasonably suspect that a breach of the peace or other offence is likely to take place.

A person may be searched immediately upon arrest. A person may be searched once they are in lawful custody and have been charged with an offence.

COMPLAINTS ABOUT THE POLICE

In order to create a better relationship between the police and gay community a number of Police/Gay & Lesbian Community Liaison groups exist. These groups are there so disputes between police and the gay community can be handled without drama.

Should you feel that a police officer has acted un-reasonably then should note the officer's name & contact a member of the Police/Gay & Lesbian Community Liaison Group, Constable Bob Oliver (049 29 0767) or the Anti-discrimination Board. Keep a record of the officer's name, badge number, vehicle registration, time and place.

----- Tear off & keep in your wallet -----

SUMMARY

Homosexuality in NSW is legal. Being in a public place in order to meet another person is legal. Having sex in a public place is **ILLEGAL** and, if caught, you can be arrested.

You MUST give your name and address. You may answer other questions but are not obliged to. Answer unless there is an important reason not to - nothing is to be gained by causing drama.

Police may search a person who is being arrested, or is suspected of having committed a crime, or suspected of going to commit a crime. (Including possession of drugs.)

If arrested co-operate and ask what you are being charged with. Again you are only obliged to give your name and address. Do not write or say anything about the offense.

If you think a police officer has acted un-reasonably contact a member of the Police/Gay & Lesbian Community Liaison Group, Constable Bob Oliver (049 29 0767) or the Anti-discrimination Board. Keep a record of the officer's name, badge number, vehicle registration, time and place.



CONCLUSION

The Hunter Rainbow History Collection provides an insight into key moments in Newcastle's LGBTQIA+ history. Queer histories in regional centres are often forgotten, hidden or made invisible. This zine has been made in the hope that these histories will not be lost, but remain an important part of our historical consciousness.

If you are interested in finding out more about any of the information in this zine please visit: www.livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/pages/hunterrainbow

WHERE CAN I FIND THESE OBJECTS?

Front Cover:

Bill Whitbread-Brown as Miss Fair Day, Sydney Star Observer, 1995. Image: Mazz Images, 1995. Hunter Rainbow Histories Collection

<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/66922>

Beats:

Photograph of Bar Beach Pavillion a well-known beat in the 1950s. Photo: Unknown Photographer [1960s]. Newcastle Living Histories Collection

<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/18605>

Photograph of Newcastle Beach, an area well-known in the gay community for its beats, in the 1950s. Photo: Douglas Brown, [1950s]. Newcastle Living Histories Collection

<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/1969>

Kevin Coleman on discovering beats in the early 1950s and meeting his long-term partner Keith Robinson. Oral History: Interview - John Witte, 15 May 2017. Hunter Rainbow History Collection

<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/66939>

The Yellow Socks Affair:

Photograph of Keith Robinson (left) and his partner Kevin Coleman (right). Photo: Unknown Photographer, 1950s. Hunter Rainbow History Collection

<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/66946>

Photograph of Keith Robinson (left) and his partner Kevin Coleman (right). Photo: McRae Studios, 1950s. Hunter Rainbow History Collection

<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/66957>

Kevin Coleman (Keith Robinson's partner at the time) on the importance of Keith Robinson to the police arrests. Oral History: Interview - John Witte, 15 May 2017. Hunter Rainbow History Collection

<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/66939>

Kevin Coleman (Keith Robinson's partner at the time) on being interviewed by the Police Vice Squad. Oral History: Interview - John Witte, 15 May 2017. Hunter Rainbow History Collection

<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/66939>

Extracts from Sex Perversion "Rife in City." article appearing in The Newcastle Herald on 9 July 1952 regarding the arrests of 12 men convicted of "abominable offences". Image: The Newcastle Herald, 9 July 1952. Hunter Rainbow History Collection

<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/67720>

Camp Culture in the 1970s:

Advertisement for Bernie's Bar in the Newcastle Sun. Photo: Newcastle Sun, 1974. Hunter Rainbow History Collection
<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/65248>

Photograph of Bernie's Bar. Photo: Newcastle Sun, 1974. Hunter Rainbow History Collection
<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/65247>

Jackie Ansell, manager of Bernie's Bar on the clientele of Bernie's. Oral History: Interview - John Witte, 14 February 2017. Hunter Rainbow History Collection
<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/65245>

Advertisement for Bernie's Bar in the Newcastle Sun. Pictured top left - Jackie Ansell (manager) and Keith Thorn (manager). Bottom right - Sue Henderson ("wine wench"). Photo: Newcastle Sun, 1974. Hunter Rainbow History Collection
<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/65256>

Jackie Ansell, manager of Bernie's Bar, on the gay social life in the 1970s. Oral History: Interview - John Witte, 14 February 2017. Hunter Rainbow History Collection
<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/65245>

HIV/AIDs Treatment:

Simone Dagg (left) and unknown RN (right) at the AIDs unit, Royal Newcastle Hospital, 1991. Image: Unknown Photographer, 1991. Hunter Rainbow History Collection
<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/92725>

Dr David Sutherland, AIDs unit, Royal Newcastle Hospital, 1989. Image: Unknown Photographer, 1989. Hunter Rainbow History Collection
<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/92721>

Pauline Dobson CNC (left) and Dr Yadu Singh (right) in the the Annexe, Royal Newcastle Hospital. Image: Unknown Photographer, 1991. Hunter Rainbow History Collection
<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/92610>

Pauline Dobson CNC Nurse at the Royal Newcastle Hospital on the creation of the Annexe. Oral History: Interview - John Witte, 27 July 2018. Hunter Rainbow History Collection
<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/81052>

Michelle Smith NUM (left); Sandy Berenger, Infection Control Nurse Consultant (middle); and Peter Lewis. Hunter Rainbow History Collection
<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/98396>

Pauline Dobson CNC Nurse at the Royal Newcastle Hospital on the medical treatment of AIDs patients. Oral History: Interview - John Witte, 27 July 2018. Hunter Rainbow History Collection
<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/81052>

Pauline Dobson CNC Nurse at the Royal Newcastle Hospital on the role of MacKillop House. Oral History: Interview - John Witte, 27 July 2018. Hunter Rainbow History Collection
<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/81052>

Wez Saunders, volunteer with the Community Support Network. Oral History: Interview - John Witte, 14 November 2018. Hunter Rainbow History Collection
<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/86618>

Preference Magazine

Preference Magazine cover, August 1996, published by Philip Hodgetts. Image: Preference, 1996. Hunter Rainbow History Collection
<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/89121>

Article in Preference, Issue 13, May 1991. An article describing how to use a dental dam - also known as a femdom. Image: Wez Saunders. Hunter Rainbow History Collection
<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/79215>

Article in Preference, Issue 04, August 1990. The article outlines the legal rights after arrest, articles like these demonstrate the ongoing distrust of police after the Yellow Socks Affair in 1952. Image: Wez Saunders. Hunter Rainbow History Collection
<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/79206>

Back Cover Image

Keith Robinson in front of Holden van at Catherine Hill Bay. Image: Unknown Photographer, 1950s. Hunter Rainbow History Collection
<https://livinghistories.newcastle.edu.au/nodes/view/66951>

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Wafer, J., Southgate, E., & Coan, L. (2000). Out in the Valley : Hunter gay and lesbian histories . Newcastle, N.S.W: Newcastle Region Library.





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