

## Gay times are here again continued...

Images and items from the pioneering 1973 Adelaide Gay Pride Week have been drawn together for the exhibition from the collections of the State Library of South Australia, the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives, the SA Gay & Lesbian Archive, the National Archives of Australia **and private collections**.

The exhibition will bring back many memories for those who participated in 1973 or who supported the week-long efforts to influence community thinking.

Director of the State Library, Alan Smith, says, "It is important for the State Library to be hosting this commemorative exhibition of the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the first Gay Pride march in Adelaide, with this event being a significant milestone in South Australia's proud history of social reform."

"We are the custodians of a wealth of items that were so visible and provocative at the time and which are now part of South Australia's history and memories," he said.

The exhibition, presented by the State Library in conjunction with the Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives, has been curated by Ian Purcell AM, Jenny Scott, and Nick Henderson.

Mr Purcell, who was made a member of the Order of Australia in 2005 for services to the gay and lesbian communities, says the 1973 Pride March was the first and only Gay Pride March in Adelaide until its 30th anniversary in 2003 and is of historical importance.

"The march, which was organised by the Adelaide radical gay liberation group, Gay Activist's Alliance (GAA) was part of the 1973 National Gay Pride Week, with events held also in Melbourne, Sydney and Brisbane)," Mr Purcell said. "In retrospect, this is seen as the high point of the first wave of gay liberation in Australia."

Central to the exhibition at the State Library are a series of framed photographs of the Adelaide 1973 Pride March. They are high resolution reproductions of photographs now held by the National Australian Archives, mostly from the collection of Jill Matthews, one of the organisers of the Adelaide March.

Mr Purcell says this is the first time the photographs have been displayed collectively. "They capture an important moment in our local gay and lesbian history that few today remember or even knew took place, a moment in time when male homosexuality in South Australia was still illegal and two years before SA became the first state in Australia to enact gay law reform in 1975 under the Dunstan Labor Government.

Visitors to the exhibition - the first to be hosted in the Institute Room since the State Library's Bradman Collection display was relocated to the Adelaide Oval - will be greeted with images of the banner the marchers so proudly carried down King William Street 40 years ago. They will also view images selected from the archives, which tell the story and the impact the gay liberation movement had at the beginning of the long haul to change society's attitude towards homosexuality.

Powerful and evocative messages created on placards and banners will be on show for the first time since they were carefully collected, archived or stored by those who had the vision to appreciate the significance of the 1973 march and the week-long activities.

For more detailed information about Adelaide's gay history see our [SA Memory page](#) on Gay Rights.