



**“YOU ARE HERE NOW”**  
**Celebrating GLBTIQ Lives at The University of Newcastle**  
(Cultural Collections, Auchmuty Library, 10 October to 10 November 2009)

**EXHIBITION CATALOGUE**

**RETROSPECTIVE ROOM**

**Cabinet 1: Emeritus Professor Godfrey Tanner\***

**Shelf 1:**

- *More About the Fairies' Tree* by Ola Cohn (Melbourne, 1933). From the estate of Godfrey's mother, and now part of the Tanner Library. {Situated in the Fitzroy Gardens, Ola Cohn's Fairies' Tree comprises a series of carvings on the stump of one of the site's original Red Gums}.
- 79 Wolfe Street, Newcastle was Godfrey's home address. Nicknamed 'The Bestiary' after Godfrey's own nickname for himself – 'The Beast' – a student-friend made him his own sign; unfortunately, the number read "81 – The Bestiary" instead of #79! The photograph shows the sign *in situ*.
- A piano book (1925) from Godfrey's childhood with his name inscribed on the cover.

**Shelf 2:**

- Godfrey rarely spoke of his immediate family; indeed, one could not be blamed for thinking that, like a hero from Greek mythology, he was spawned from some mystical being. He did, however, come from earthly parents, as this photograph album attests. The photographs, dating from 1904-1905, feature his mother.
- Godfrey took up the post of Senior Classical Master at The King's School, Parramatta, in 1957 and remained there until his appointment to The University of Newcastle in 1960. Here we see a teaching notebook on the Greek author, Xenophon. The notebook, fashioned by Godfrey, has a preface in Latin, followed by the text in Greek.
- During his time at The University of Newcastle, Godfrey was the recipient of numerous awards. Here we see his Convocation Award (March 15, 1996) in recognition and appreciation of his outstanding contribution to Convocation and enrichment of university life.
- After graduating from Melbourne University in 1949 with First Class Honours in Classics, Godfrey went to Clare College, Cambridge, graduating with a Masters Degree on 16 November, 1957.

**Shelf 3:**

- Godfrey was outspoken on numerous human rights issues, some of which were highly controversial for their time, including the championing of same-sex marriage – which he raised in Anglican Synod during the 1970s – as well as his vocal opposition to the Vietnam War. In this article for *The Young Anglican*, Newcastle Edition, December 1966, Godfrey discusses the war and conscription.
- Following Godfrey's death in 2002, Peter Lewis, cartoonist for *The Newcastle Herald*, was inspired to capture 'The Beast' – the result being an immortal image of the man himself,

complete with Doctoral robes, Sports Union jacket, red wine and trusty bicycle. Godfrey devotees used the cartoon for a series of 'fan' t-shirts.

- A commemorative booklet with Godfrey in full academic regalia.
- Photograph of Godfrey at the Women's Regatta (Raymond Terrace) in 1968.

#### **Shelf 4:**

- Godfrey was a voracious scholar and a prolific author on a variety of Classical themes. Here is a selection of some of Godfrey's 'off prints.'
- Godfrey began seriously collecting books during his Cambridge years in the 1950s and Cultural Collections is now home to the Tanner Library, a collection of *some* 6000 books owned by 'The Beast' and previously housed in 'The Bestiary.' Of the rare and antiquated books in this collection are texts and commentaries on Greek and Latin authors; these are complemented by obscure works, such as a book on hot air ballooning (1873), as well as other pieces reflecting his widespread and eclectic interests such as this copy of *Beginning Hittite*.
- In October 2002, there was a special issue of *Opus* dedicated to Godfrey. Aptly entitled *The Godfrey Tanner Opus*, it was edited and designed by Matthew Ward and featured articles, anecdotes and images honouring the man himself.
- Godfrey's life was a source of celebration after he left this earthly realm in 2002. There were tributes from individuals, various university publications and the general media. These items are but a few examples of the works honouring the life and times of Tanner: *UniNews* with the Lewis cartoon on the cover and *Cetus*, aka 'Convocation News,' with a photographic portrait.

\*All items are courtesy of Cultural Collections.

## **Cabinet 2: Dr Ken Woodgate, Mr Brian Tomson\* and Justice Michael Kirby**

#### **Shelf 1: Brian Tomson**

- "Obituary – Brian Tomson" from *University News* (1986). Written by his colleagues from the (then) Department of English, Professors Denis Biggins and John Burrows; courtesy of Cultural Collections.
- "A student reminisces on a beloved tutor ..." by Marguerite Johnson, written (June 2009) for the exhibition.
- Bob Meadley, a chess player, friend and correspondent of Brian, visited Cultural Collections to view the Tomson Collection. After his visit, Bob wrote to Archivist, Gionni Di Gravio:  
"After his death I came into ownership of a lot of letters that were written to others and found what a genuine all-round correspondent he was. For example with someone named Terence he composed this poem ... I thought for a time that the last word in the fourth line should be "skiffs". "Schiffs" is a very well known chess problem term used by the top composers to discuss the Schiffman theme."

#### **Shelf 1: Michael Kirby**

- Photograph of Justice Michael Kirby from *University News* (1987). The article recorded the awarding of the degree of DLitt *honoris causa* to Justice Kirby; courtesy of Cultural Collections.
- Michael Kirby has been an advocate for gay, lesbian, transgender and intersex rights for several decades; here are merely two excerpts from his numerous speeches on same-sex issues.

#### **Shelf 2: Brian Tomson**

- *A Picture History of Chess* edited by Fred Wilson (New York, 1981).
- *Good Companion (Bonus socius) – XIIIth Century Manuscript Collection of Chess Problems* edited by James F. Magee Jr. (Florence, 1910). {Illustrated with coloured frontispiece, and thirty-eight full page reproductions from the original manuscript}.

#### **Shelf 2: Michael Kirby**

- *The Lionel Murphy Memorial Lecture: "Lionel Murphy Ten Years On,"* by The Hon Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG. Senate Chamber Old Parliament House, Canberra (1996).
- *The Fourth Sir Ninian Stephen Lecture: "Constitutional Centenary & the Counting of Blessings,"* by The Hon Justice Michael Kirby AC CMG. The University of Newcastle (1997).

### Shelf 3: *Brian Tomson*

- *Fifty Chess Problems* by Brian Tomson. One of seven copies produced by Brian in 1983 as Christmas presents for his friends.
- *A Guide to Fairy Chess* by Anthony Dickins (New York, 1969) and *Five Classics of Fairy Chess* by J. R. Dawson (New York, 1973). {Fairy Chess is not chess played by fairies but a term used to denote chess problems that differ from orthodox ones}.

### Shelf 3: *Ken Woodgate*

- *Das Phantastische bei E. T. A. Hoffmann* by Ken Woodgate. Frankfurt: P. Lang, 1999.
- Ken was an active scholar in the areas of gender and queer studies as evidenced from his involvement in this Special Issue of *Inter-cultural Studies: "Queer Studies – Out from the Centre"* published by The University of Newcastle (2004). Ken and Alistair Rolls co-wrote a contributing article, "Mercutio's Dance: Aspects of Inversion in Luhrmann's Film *William Shakespeare's Romeo + Juliet*."

\*All books belonging to Brian are from The Tomson Collection, Cultural Collections.

## Cabinet 3: Associate Professor Kevin Markwell and Dr Stephen Kerry

### Shelves 1 & 2: *Kevin Markwell*

- *Gay Tourism: Culture and Context* by Kevin Markwell and Gordon Waitt (London, 2006).
- The undergraduate Kevin wearing his 'SNUGS' (Society of Newcastle University Geography Students) sloppy-joe; courtesy of Kevin Markwell.
- A model of Ploddy, the huge yellow dinosaur that adorns the entrance to the Australian Reptile Park, Somersby. This little model is in honour of Kevin's special bond with the park. As Kevin writes:  
"Ever since he was spellbound by a blue tongue lizard that would slide out from underneath the veranda of his grandparents' house, Kevin has been fascinated by all things reptilian. Indeed the only reason he ended up as a first year student at UofN was because his attempts at securing a job at every major zoo in Australia came to nothing. More recently, together with colleague Dr Nancy Cushing from the Ourimbah campus, Kevin has been working on a history of the Australian Reptile Park, Gosford."
- Excerpt from "I CAN'T GIVE BLOOD" – article by Kevin from *Opus*, April 1986 (published anonymously).
- Kevin's 'Gayland' shirt, with his Gayland name 'Ike' embroidered on it and his Gayland rainbow belt; courtesy of Kevin Markwell.
- Photograph of Kevin at the Canoe Challenge (1990) from his time at the Wetlands' Centre, Shortland; courtesy of Kevin Markwell.

### Shelves 3 & 4:

- Stephen in his habit from *Preference* (1996); courtesy of Bill and Andrew Whitbread-Brown.
- Stephen wrote a good deal during his time at university – not just essays and honours research papers and, finally, a PhD – but also for queer student publications here in Newcastle and across the country. His contributions to *Opus* were often under the pseudonym "bentbastard." Here are two article excerpts: one by "bentbastard," on Stephen's passion for transgender and intersex issues, which were to be the topic of his doctoral thesis; the other under his own name as Queer Convenor.
- Stephen's PhD thesis: *Are you a boy or a girl? Contesting the uncontested: intersex and genders* (The University of Newcastle, 1995); courtesy of Cultural Collections.
- Copy of *Querelle* featuring an article by Stephen; courtesy of Stephen Kerry. {*Querelle*, a student publication of poetry, stories, politics, art and photography on queer issues, is launched annually at the Queer Collaborations conference}.
- *Queer-Friendly Staff Project* compiled by Stephen in 2002 and updated by Kerrie Jackson in 2004; courtesy of Gregg Heathcote.

## Cabinet 4: Bugsy Dawn and GALA

### Shelf 1:

- Buggy outside the Wickham Park Hotel (July, 1994); courtesy of Buggy Dawn. A protest was launched by members of the Newcastle queer community in response to plans to return the pub to its 'straight' heritage. As a result of the protest, the managers of the Wickham Park Hotel reneged and business resumed as usual.
- Award presented to Buggy during the Hunter Pride Festival, 1995; courtesy of Buggy Dawn.
- Excerpt from Buggy's acceptance speech.
- Official Program of Events: Hunter Pride Festival 1995; courtesy of Buggy Dawn.
- Mardi Gras t-shirt from 1995 (Hunter Lesbian and Gay Interagency); courtesy of Buggy Dawn.

**Shelf 2:**

- Artefact of African magical origin used by Jim Wafer to exorcise homophobia from the campus as part of a GALA event in 1994; courtesy of Jim Wafer.
- Photographs from the 1994 GALA event: "exorcising homophobia from campus" (right) / "Jim Wafer and Godfrey" (left); courtesy of Hedimo Santana.
- GALA t-shirt; courtesy of Buggy Dawn.
- GALA posters from the early 1990s; courtesy of Buggy Dawn.

**Shelf 3:**

- GALA brochure; courtesy of Stephen Kerry.
- GALA stickers; courtesy of Buggy Dawn.
- GALA t-shirt; courtesy of Buggy Dawn.
- GALA posters from the early 1990s; courtesy of Buggy Dawn.

To the right of the cabinet you'll see a banner made by the Hunter Gay and Lesbian Interagency; courtesy of Newcastle Regional Museum. Buggy Dawn was an active member of this group during the 1990s.

## ***NOW AND FUTURE ROOM***

### **Cabinet 1: The Queer Collective and Laura Seabrook**

**Shelf 1:**

- 2009 Callaghan Queer Collective members; courtesy of the Queer Collective.
- 2009 Central Coast Queer Collective members; courtesy of Ashleigh Meikle.
- Badges made by members of the Queer Collective; courtesy of the Queer Collective.

**Shelf 2:**

- *F→,M and M→F Transsexuals: An Artist's Book About Human Gender* by Laura Seabrook; courtesy of Laura Seabrook.

**Shelf 3:**

- Photograph of Laura Seabrook at the 2009 Queer Collaborations Conference (Canberra); courtesy of Laura Seabrook.
- "University Queer Stuff" – comic by Laura in *Opus* 2009.
- New zines by Laura (2009); courtesy of Laura Seabrook.

**Shelf 4:**

- 1996 NUSA Pride Week poster; courtesy of Stephen Kerry.
- 2004 Pride Week protest against discriminatory marriage laws: members of the Queer Collective staged a same-sex wedding; courtesy of the Queer Collective. The event was featured in *Opus*.

To the left of the cabinet you'll see a banner made by current student members of the Queer Collective; to the right and atop Cultural Collections' doorway is the 'Anti-homophobia Security Device' that usually lives in the Queer Space in the NUSA Building on campus.

## **Cabinet 2: Staff Publications; ALLY Network; Rainbow Visions; Community Strength: Andrew and Bill Whitbread-Brown**

### **Shelf 1:**

- Publications by Erica Southgate (School of Education) and Marguerite Johnson (School of Humanities and Social Science). Of special interest is the work co-edited by Erica Southgate, Jim Wafer and Lyndall Coan: *Out in the Valley: Hunter Gay and Lesbian Histories* (Newcastle, 2000). The book is available for purchase during this exhibition for \$5.
- The ALLY Network: history of the network at The University of Newcastle and ALLY logos.

### **Shelf 2:**

- Publications by Rebecca Beirne (School of Humanities and Social Science).
- Rainbow Visions: history of Rainbow Visions and memo cards. The photographs here are of this year's co-convenors: Ivan Skaines and Jennifer Thurgate.

### **Shelf 3:**

- Tribute to Andrew and Bill Whitbread-Brown. Photo from their Canadian wedding in 2007; courtesy of Andrew and Bill Whitbread-Brown.
- Barracks benefit night poster to help Andrew and Bill raise money for their court case against NIB (June, 1996); courtesy of Andrew and Bill Whitbread-Brown. For more on Andrew and Bill, please see the poster next to Bill's Mardi Gras costume in this room.
- Geoff MacFarlane's interest in same-sex behaviour in the animal kingdom is reflected in this online version of his ABC Radio interview with Heather Catchpole.

## **Cabinet 3: HIV/AIDS; The Dessaix Collection; Vivienne Munro**

### **Shelf 1:**

- A tribute to a local angel: please take the time to read this story of a regular Novocastrian bloke and his personal account of the early AIDS crisis in Newcastle and its effect on one of his neighbours.
- Protesting through art: examples of the art featured in the exhibition entitled "*Don't Leave Me This Way: Art in the Age of AIDS*" (National Gallery of Australia, 1994). {The Auchmuty and Central Coast libraries have copies of the catalogue}.
- Examples of ribbons from the collection of Vivienne Munro.

### **Shelf 2:**

- Following a visit to Cultural Collections in 2000, Robert Dessaix donated some 80 books on Australian gay and lesbian writing. Here are two examples from the collection, including the adolescent novel, *Peter* (New South Wales, 1991) by Novocastrian author, Kate Walker. Widely acclaimed and honoured (Australian Children's Book of the Year and Highly Commended Australian Human Rights Awards), *Peter* tells the story of a young man coming to terms with his homosexuality.
- Profile of Vivienne Munro.
- Collection of ribbons; courtesy of Vivienne Munro.

### **Shelf 3:**

- AIDS Activism: a collage of Australian campaigns (framed), a women's poster (courtesy of Leni Johnson); protest badges (courtesy of Vivienne Munro).
- *Uncle Paul Has AIDS* written by Phil Nott and illustrated by Sally Heinrich (Nightcliff, 1994); courtesy of The Dessaix Collection.

## **Mannequins**

1. Stephen Kerry's habit from his time in the Newcastle chapter of The Order of Perpetual Indulgence; courtesy of Stephen Kerry.

2. Erica Southgate's costume from The Three Sisters Blue Mountains Gay Ball in 2008; courtesy of Erica Southgate.
3. Bill Whitbread-Brown's costume from the 1996 Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras parade; courtesy of Newcastle Regional Museum (donated by Bill Whitbread-Brown).

### ***Yellow Posters***

The three yellow posters that adorn the walls in the "Now and Future Room" were from an exhibition entitled "Hunter Pride" displayed at the Newcastle Regional Museum's (then) Community Access Space in 1997. This exhibition was Australia's first community-sponsored and locally-based exhibition of GLBTIQ history; courtesy of Newcastle Regional Museum.

### ***Other Points of Interest***

**Opus Wall** ("Now and Future Room"): a mere glimpse of the rich history of GLBTIQ life at The University of Newcastle as chronicled in the student magazine, *Opus*.

**Opus Letters** (next to the entrance to Cultural Collections): a very small sample of letters to *Opus*; note the letters from the 1980s reflect strong homophobia – partly in response to the AIDS pandemic.

**Wall of Fame** ("Now and Future Room"): thank you to the current staff and students at The University of Newcastle who agreed to share their stories.

**Laura Seabrook's "A Trans Tarot Deck"** ("Retrospective Room"); Laura's Honours project in Fine Arts (School of Drama, Fine Art and Music, The University of Newcastle) in 2005.

### ***Photographic Exhibition***

Please take the time to view the "You Are Here Now" photographic exhibition in the Information Common.

**Please feel free to photograph the exhibition, sit on the throne and feel like a queen, take a flyer and sign our guest book.**

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### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

The success of this exhibition – and its beautifully camp surrounds – is largely the work of Leni Johnson. Leni is responsible for the 'queering' of the Auchmuty Collection as well as designing and printing all of the cabinet captions. Not only is Leni's eye for aesthetics all around us, her skill at taking photographs, liaising with participants, hanging curtains and posters – in addition to making mannequin stands – has ensured that the exhibition came together magnificently and will last until its close on November 10.

Thank you also to Erica Southgate for her amazing contribution to many facets of this exhibition. Erica's tireless work on the organisational details of the project as well as her contribution to the exhibition design – including the "Wall of Fame" – have played a major part in the success of "You Are Here Now."

The humour and support of Ivan Skaines also lightened the load (thank you for coming, Ivan).

Danylo Motyka's designs of the posters and wall images ensured our vision was perfectly realised. His dedication to the project – going above and beyond the call (including repainting the throne) – is a testimony to his professionalism (and patience!).

Foveaux Kirby's down-to-earth practicality with decoration and the donation of his time transformed the exhibition space into something magical, working wonders with Gionni Di Gravio's visions of a liminal zone. Thank you also to James Christian for his electrical wizardry in installing the glittering mirror-ball.

To all those who have contributed autobiographies, biographies and artefacts, thank you: Talia Barrett, Rebecca Beirne, Julie Craig, Buggy Dawn, Luke Griffiths, Cindy, Adam and Nick Hornby-Howell and Judy Clark, Stephen Kerry, Michael Kirby, Kevin Markwell, Geoff McFarlane, Vivienne Munro, Alistair Rolls, Hedimo Santana, Laura Seabrook, Ivan Skaines, Jim Wafer, Bill and Andrew Whitbread-Brown.

Peter Longworth's enthusiastic research and assistance on the project is also duly noted.

For organisation of the photographic exhibition, thank you to Gillean Shaw (Art Curator, The University of Newcastle), and to the judges, Brett Alexander (Lecturer, School of Drama, Fine Art and Music) and Toni Shuker (Technical Officer, Photomedia, School of Drama, Fine Art and Music).

For her help in providing additional material, curatorial advice and time, thank you Julie Baird (Curator, Newcastle Regional Museum).

Thank you also to Adam Hornby-Howell for volunteering his time at the opening (and for neighbourly ear-bashing).

We would also like to acknowledge the support and assistance of Professor Kevin McConkey (Deputy Vice-Chancellor, Academic and Global Relations), Ms Belinda Munn (Manager, Equity and Diversity Unit), Associate Professor John Germov (Head of School, School of Humanities and Social Science), Mr Greg Anderson (University Librarian) and Mr Trevor Gerdson (Director, Facilities Management, Services Division).

This project would not have been possible without the assistance of an Equity Initiatives Grant (2009) and additional funding from The School of Humanities and Social Science, Rainbow Visions and the University Library.

And ... last but not least ... thank you Kevin Markwell for your commitment to the project and for accepting the invitation to be our special guest and host at the opening of "You Are Here Now."

- Marguerite Johnson, on behalf of the "You Are Here Now" project team

Project Co-ordinators: Marguerite Johnson & Gregg Heathcote  
Project Team Members: Gionni Di Gravio & Lyn Keily