

This incident, together with the increasing number of applications made a change of department policy imperative. On April 26, 1984, Betty Hounslow and Gays Counselling Service Director, Terry Goulden, wrote to West on behalf of 11 gay groups seeking a meeting and including a submission calling for a change of policy. After detailed argument, the submission suggested that the Department's Migrant Entry Handbook be altered so that the item which deals with de facto spouses "clearly states that homosexual relationships fall within this definition."

West did not reply to this or any subsequent letter from gay organisations. Nor did he agree to a meeting. He did, however, reply to a letter on the same issue from Labor Party colleague Franca Arena on October 3. (Franca Arena is Secretary of the NSW ALP Immigration and Ethnic Affairs Policy Committee.) In it he noted that her original letter could not be located and stated "In view of the representations I have received from a number of quarters on the subject of homosexual (lesbian) relationships for family migration purposes, I have asked that a review of the issue be conducted." (My emphasis.)

It is not known whether the review was completed before West left the portfolio. Nor is it known whether West sought this new review as a way of avoiding making a decision on the issue. Toward the end of last year there were reports that he was privately sympathetic to a policy change and was prepared to make it after the elections. Whether he would have we will never know.

THE GAY COMMUNITY ORGANISES

Following the April 26 submission, Betty Hounslow called a meeting of gay community organisations and interested people to pass on all the information that had been accumulated over the past 12 months. That meeting, on May 26 last year, was attended by representatives of most gay organisations in Sydney, along with some interested individuals and a few people who had applications with the Department.

It was the first gathering of what was to become the Gay Immigration Task Force. As the months passed and the number of applicants grew, participation in the Task Force changed as well. Some activists dropped out, and the proportion of applicants and their partners increased. The group has now reached the stage where those directly affected by the Immigration issue are controlling the direction of the Task Force.

"I'm just delighted with that," Betty Hounslow observed recently. "We talk all the time in community work about forming self-help groups, about clients taking power and

so on. I think this is one of the few times in my whole history as a community worker over 12 years that I've seen this happen. I think it's terrific.

"Increasingly what's happening now is that when we get inquiries, I'm not the one who does the interviewing. There are so many couples in the group now who know as much about it as I do, they even know more because they're directly involved and they have volunteered to provide the information, the assistance with the counselling. It is much more effective that way."

The group is not relying on the Minister to make the necessary policy change. Earlier this year it instructed a solicitor to seek a legal opinion on various aspects of the Migration Act and the Human Rights Commission Act as they may affect homosexual relationships. Lambda Legal Defence Fund provided the money required.

The group is also holding its own fundraiser on Sunday June 30 at the Graphic Arts Club, Chippendale.

THE FUTURE

The current Minister, Chris Hurford, is also believed to be sympathetic to a change of policy, "but not right now, because it wouldn't be politically wise, particularly with AIDS." It is also uncertain whether he would be willing to approve all the applications currently before the Department.

One factor that may influence his decision is the Report of the Human Rights Commission's Inquiry into the Migration Act, due for publication at the beginning of June. Initially, the Inquiry decided against examining the question of homosexual relationships and the Migration Act, even though it had received a number of submissions from gay groups and individuals on the issue. Yet it was prepared to treat seriously a submission from a woman arguing that "companion-ship" should be recognised for purposes of the Migration Act.

In 1984 the Inquiry apparently had a change of mind and accepted a submission from the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board on the question of homosexual relationships. That submission argued that the policy should be changed on the grounds that it was clearly discriminatory.

The Report has now been completed and presented to the Attorney-General. A late draft of the Report stated the Commission could see no reason why homosexual relationships should not be recognised - which still falls short of saying "this is a violation of human rights and hence inconsistent with the Human Rights Commission Act," a comment the report has apparently made about other issues.

STOP PRESS: After the above story was completed, The Human Rights Commission issued a five-page statement outlining the conclusions and recommendations of its Migration Act Inquiry report.

Under the heading "Other Recommendations" brief reference was made to homosexual relationships in this manner:

"Other recommendations.
"Effecting family reunion or close personal relationships.

"1. Recognising for migration or reunion de facto couples who have lived together on a genuine de facto basis for not less than a year (at present no time is set.)

"2. Providing opportunities for persons to join their companions in Australia where genuine and enduring friendship or companionship, including permanent homosexual relationships, can be established."

It is uncertain whether "de facto couples" includes homosexual couples. It is also uncertain whether the implementation of the second recommendation will assist in any way the people who are seeking change of status from temporary to permanent residence on the basis of their homosexual relationship.

Further information will be provided as it becomes available.

SPORT

SYDNEY: Winter is well known for its fun runs, and with the City to Surf scheduled for early August, the Sydney Gay Sports Association (SGSPA) will be holding two training runs over the next few months. The runs are open to men and women.

Their first run during the Mardi Gras Festival was very successful and they are expecting even more runners for these two. The first run will be held in Centennial Park on June 2, 1985. It will be a run of approximately 14km completely within the park. Runners are advised that some training should be done before attempting a run of this length, though it is not necessary to complete the course. It is for the runners to get to meet each other and hopefully organize their own training sessions.

The second run will be on the training circuit between Bondi Beach and Bronte Beach. It has several hills and sets of steps which should be more representative of the

City to Surf course. If the runners wish this run can be conducted as a teams event. This means the runners will be running in teams of four and the teams will be timed as well as the individual runners. This run will be held on July 7, 1985.

These two runs should be used for individuals and teams who wish to enter the City to Surf as training events. As in the City to Surf participation is the key factor.

The entry fee for each run is \$2. Entry forms should be sent to Sydney Gay Sports Association, C/- 51 Holt Street, Surry Hills 2010. If possible these should be sent in at least a week before the event to enable us to arrange numbers, time sheets etc. For further information please write to the above address or phone Colin Fawcett on 699 7692 in the evenings.

There is also to be a Fun Run conducted as part of AIDS Awareness Week - 11am at Centennial Park on June 23rd.

**SYDNEY GAY SPORTS ASSOCIATION
Fun Run Entry Form**

Name

Address

Phone

Age Group: Under 25... 25-40... Over 40

Bondi/Bronte Beach Run - 7/7/85

AIDS Awareness Week Fun Run - 23/6/85

I hereby absolve the SGSA and its members from liability for accidents or loss due to my participation in these events.

Signature Date

Please enclose the entry fee of \$2 per event.

OBITUARIES

CAMPAIGN publishes death notices as a community service free of charge. Items should be submitted by family, lovers or loved ones. Please include complete name (with nickname if he or she had one), age and other information to identify the subject to friends and acquaintances. Include a photograph of the deceased if you wish and also list a memorial service if one is to be held.

CHARLES DRUMMOND

THE sudden death of Charles Drummond will leave a gap in the lives of all those who knew him and loved him.

Charles will be remembered for his quiet, humorous and gentle way of life. Always around to help someone else, his generosity over the years was never ceasing.

We will greatly miss Charles and our loving thoughts and memories of the goods times together will always remain.

D. Ellis

WENDY WAYNE

ON Tuesday, April 30, Wayne Brennan, better known as Wendy Wayne, was found in her apartment brutally murdered, the shooting having occurred the previous Sunday evening or Monday morning. This senseless act of violence by person or persons unknown against a member of the community will go unsolved.

Ms Wayne will not be forgotten by those who knew her. Tiny Tina, Wendy's best friend and costar at Pete's Beat, a well-known Sydney night spot, found the best way to describe Wendy Wayne: "I am what I am and I'll help you be you if you need me."

Wendy, always busy with her own career be it business or entertainment, was never too busy to help a friend. Many mourn the loss of one of Sydney's best costume designers and truly colourful entertainers.

Also known for her charity work, Wendy

would throw open her home at Christmas for those who would otherwise have spent the holiday period alone.



On stage, as in real life, she gave all she had to offer: humor, color and an honest performance were her trademark. She took great pride in being a member of the gay community, an attitude which won her great respect and friendship from that community in general.

On May 12, at The Paddington Green Hotel, the cream of Sydney's female impersonators congregated to give Wendy Wayne a true entertainers send off. The money raised by the spectacular was given to Wendy's family in appreciation of Wendy's contribution to the entertainment industry and the gay community.

Wendy will not be forgotten. One of a kind and always precious. Loved in memory as much as in life.

Allan (Sam) Edwards

RUSSELL HANDLEY

COUNTDOWN Magazine associate editor, Russell Handley, died of AIDS on Saturday, April 6. Molly Meldrum, Countdown's on-air compere paid a glowing tribute to Handley for his promotion of local talent, on the Countdown Awards show.

A special Aid For AIDS concert is being staged at the Tivoli in Sydney on Wednesday, June 19, the entire proceeds of which will be donated to the AIDS Council of NSW.

Artists donating their time and talent include members of Hoodoo Gurus and Big Red Tractor plus Annalise Morrow, John Kennedy and James Griffin.

A raffle and auction will also be held at the Tivoli for autographed albums from The Smiths, Bronski Beat, The Triffids, and Mick Jagger - plus surprises.

Further information is available from Virginia Moncrieff or Clive Miller on (02) 332 2270.

RICHARD HAYDN

BRITISH character actor, Richard Haydn, 80, was found dead on April 25 at his home in Pacific Palisades in California.

London-born Haydn was known for his fussy screen characters and his nasal voice. Reclusive in his later years, his first show business job was in the box office of a London theatre. Years in the chorus of various shows followed until he was featured in Noel Coward's *This Year of Grace*.

He attempted an act in which he portrayed

a woman singer but it flopped and he sought refuge from the entertainment field as a Jamaica banana plantation overseer. That job was wiped out by a hurricane and once



again he found employment in the entertainment industry, this time making a success in 1936 in music hall and on radio with his character of Mr Carp, a stodgy South Londoner whose hobby is imitating fish.

Introducing the character to Broadway in Noel Coward's *Set To Music* he became just as successful in the United States and went on to make a number of American films including the drag classic, *Charlie's Aunt*.

During World War II he devoted his time to entertaining troops in Europe and North Africa and resumed his prissy roles on celluloid, as well as directing three movies, in such efforts as *The Emperor Waltz*, *The Merry Widow*, *Alice In Wonderland*, *Jupiter's Darling*, *Please Don't Eat The Daisies*, *Mutiny On The Bounty*, *The Sound Of Music*, and *Young Frankenstein*.

"Obituaries." Campaign Australia, no. 114, June 1985. Archives of Sexuality and Gender, link.gale.com/apps/doc/WRPXWG709549222/AHSI?u=slnsw_public&sid=bookmark-AHSI&xid=f716efed. Accessed 26 Sept. 2022.