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Greg Weir oral history

Accession number 28214

Date 2010-2011

Author / Creator
Weir, Greg, 1951-
Fitzgerald, Neal, 1956-

Scope and content An oral history with Greg Weir. He discusses his path to activism and his role in the Labor party, gay and lesbian politics, homosexual law reform, the origin and development of the Palm Sunday rallies, the AIDS epidemic and civil liberties, particularly with respect to the gay and lesbian communities in Queensland. Collection includes audio files and interview logs.

System of arrangement Arranged into 1 series

Description 16 digital audio files :

Administrative / Biographical history Greg Weir .. graduated as a trainee school teacher from Kelvin Grove College of Advanced Education in 1976 .. [and] was .. refused employment by the Queensland government because he was a spokesperson for a gay student support group. Minister for Education Val Bird said in Parliament that "student teachers who participated in homosexual and lesbian groups should not assume they would be employed by the Education Department on graduation". With his future as a teacher destroyed, Greg became one of Queensland's best-known political activists. His cause was taken up by the Australian Union of Students and he became a catalyst in developing awareness of gay and lesbian issues all over Australia. Greg was then employed as a staff member in the office of Senator George Georges and later Senator Bryant Burns, and became a Labor Party activist, influential in the peace, anti-nuclear, education and civil liberties movements in the 1970s and 1980s. He also helped set up HIV/AIDS awareness groups in the 1980s, and went on to become one of the central organisers of the campaign for gay law reform in 1989-90, which culminated in the decriminalisation of male homosexuality in 1990. In 1991 Greg was involved in campaigns to include homosexuality as a category in new antidiscrimination legislation. (from Moore, Clive. Greg Weir [online]. Queensland Review, Vol. 14, No. 2, 2007: 56.)

Access restrictions Unrestricted access.

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Series 1: Greg Weir oral history (2010-2011)

Series number 1

Series title Greg Weir oral history

Date 2010-2011

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Items in this series:

Family history and early life (27 November 2010)

Unit ID 28214/1

Date 27 November 2010

Scope and content
Greg talks about his family and early life, his early influences, schooling, his becoming aware of his gay sexuality and his involvement with the church and the peace movement on the Sunshine Coast. Includes interview log.

Description

Description 1 MP3 file (1hr. 3 min. 51 sec.)

Access

Other guides Transcript available

View the items

Listen to the audio
View the interview log

1973-1976 Kelvin Grove College of Advanced Education (27 November 2010)

Unit ID 28214/2

Date 27 November 2010

Scope and content
Greg talks about his student activities at Kelvin Grove. Issues included censorship and sex education. He also talks about starting the gay group at Kelvin Grove College of Advanced Education in early 1976 and the aftermath. Includes interview log.

Description

Description 1 MP3 file (29 min. 8 sec)

Access

Other guides Transcript available

View the items

Listen to the audio
View the interview log

1976-77 Greg Weir campaign (27 November 2010)

Unit ID 28214/3

Date 27 November 2010

Scope and content
Greg talks about being denied employment because of his gay political activities on Kelvin Grove campus. He describes the start of the nationwide campaign against the Queensland education department decision, his association with AUS and the 1976 National Homosexual Conference.

Description

Description 1 MP3 file (22 min. 11 sec.)

Access

Other guides Transcript available

View the items

Listen to the audio
View the interview log

1977 Greg Weir campaign continued (27 November 2010)

Unit ID 28214/4

Date 27 November 2010

Scope and content
Greg describes his tour of AUS affiliated campuses around Australia and his involvement in the emerging civil liberties campaign and right to march movement. Greg helps start the Unemployed Workers Union and describes his growing links with the union movement.

Description

Description 1 MP3 file (http://hdl.handle.net/10462/mp3/84)

Access

Other guides Transcript available

View the items

Listen to the audio
View the interview log

1978 Unemployed Workers Union, Mardi Gras, Right to march (27 November 2010)

Unit ID 28214/5

Date 27 November 2010

Scope and content
Greg talks about AUS council and the ongoing 'Greg Weir campaign' and his role in fostering new gay campus groups. He talks about meeting Senator Georges and the senators role in the events leading to the federal intervention into the state ALP. He talks about his involvement and Senator Georges' involvement in the right to march campaign. Greg talks about the first Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras rally and arrests.

Description

Description 1 MP3 file (26 min. 34 sec.)

Access

Other guides Transcript available

View the items

Listen to the audio
View the interview log

1979 AUS, Greg Weir campaign (27 November 2010)

Unit ID 28214/6

Date 27 November 2010

Scope and content
Greg describes the rise of the conservatives Abbot and Costello at the 1978 AUS council that ultimately led to the unions demise in 1982. He describes the last throws of the Greg Weir campaign. Greg also discusses the deteriorating situation in Queensland for teachers with the National party government setting up selection panels for teachers to monitor suitability, to make sure teachers were able to inculcate into students respect for the laws and values of Queensland.

Description

Description 1 MP3 file (26 min. 40 sec.)

Access

Other guides Transcript available

View the items

Listen to the audio
View the interview log

1980-1981 AUS, Senator George Georges, the first peace rally (28 November 2010)

Unit ID 28214/7

Date 28 November 2010

Scope and content
Greg talks about AUS in crisis. He gets the job as Senator Georges' staffer and describes the first peace rally and his growing involvement in the ALP left.

Description

Description 1 MP3 file (47 min. 04 sec.)

Access

Other guides Transcript available

View the items

Listen to the audio
View the interview log

1982-1983 AUS, ALP, Peace rallies (28 November 2010)

Unit ID 28214/8

Date 28 November 2010

Scope and content
Greg talks about the success of the peace rallies and how the links with the churches forged in this work laid the foundations for the churches support in the 1990 gay law reform campaigns. The work load of this and his ongoing AUS / Greg Weir campaigns takes a toll on his health.

Description

Description 1 MP3 file (30 min. 49 sec.)

Access

Other guides Transcript available

View the items

Listen to the audio
View the interview log

1983-1984 – 10th National Homosexual Conference in Brisbane (28 November 2010)

Unit ID 28214/9

Date 28 November 2010

Scope and content
Greg talks about the lead up to the 1984 National Homosexual Conference in Brisbane and

the controversy about paedophilia. Greg describes the campaign get unions to adopt gay supportive policies.

Description

Description 1 MP3 file (29 min. 1 sec)

Access

Other guides Transcript available

View the items

Listen to the audio
View the interview log

1984-1985 Keith Wright, ALP, AIDS, SEQEB dispute, Sturgess Inquiry (28 November 2010)

Unit ID 28214/10

Date 28 November 2010

Scope and content
Greg describes the later discredited fundamentalist ALP leader Keith Wright. Greg made a complaint to new ALP party secretary Peter Beattie about Wrights anti-gay stance attacking recognition of defacto gay relationships by the ABC in August 1984. Greg talks about the impact of the appearance of AIDS. Greg got involved in the National AIDS education campaign with the newly formed Australian Federation of AIDS Organisations (AFAO). Greg also discusses the Sturgess Inquiry and his work with Senator Georges in the SEQEB dispute.

Description

Description 1 MP3 file (57 min. 28 sec.)

Access

Other guides Transcript available

View the items

Listen to the audio
View the interview log

1985-1987 AIDS, Fitzgerald Inquiry (28 November 2010)

Unit ID 28214/11

Date 28 November 2010

Scope and content
Greg talks about Senator Georges crossing the floor and becoming independent. He discusses the tide turning against the National Party government, the deposing of Joh Bjelke-Petersen, the rise of Mike Ahern and the beginning of the Fitzgerald Inquiry. Greg talks about his AIDS paper clipping service that he did while reviewing the papers and hansard for Senator Georges. These clipping became part of his archive that is held by the National Library.

Description

Description 1 MP3 file (34 min. 41 sec.)

Access

Other guides Transcript available

View the items

Listen to the audio
View the interview log

1988-1989 ALP election victory, Gay law reform campaign (23 June 2011)

Unit ID 28214/12

Date 23 June 2011

Scope and content
Greg describes the founding and development of the Queensland Association for Gay Law reform (QAGLR). Greg discusses the rise of Wayne Goss and the lead up to the election of Labor government. He describes the Criminal Justice Commission (CJC) and the role of Peter Beattie as the head of the parliamentary Criminal Justice Committee. Greg describes the gay law reform campaign plan that developed once Beattie announced that there would be law

reform by the end of 1990.

Description

Description 1 MP3 file (48 min. 12 sec.)

Access

Other guides Transcript available

View the items

Listen to the audio
View the interview log

1990 QAGLR and Gay law reform (23 June 2011)

Unit ID 28214/13

Date 23 June 2011

Scope and content
Greg describes the various stages and aspects of the law reform campaign and some of the people involved. He describes a letter writing campaign, the community round table meetings, and how the press was managed. He talks about the Criminal Justice Committee hearings, and lobbying around the potentially damaging preamble to the legislation.

Description

Description 1 MP3 file (44 min. 19 sec.)

Access

Other guides Transcript available

View the items

Listen to the audio
View the interview log

1990 Gay law reform - Criminal Justice Parliamentary Committee hearings (23 June 2011)

Unit ID 28214/14

Date 23 June 2011

Scope and content
Greg talks about the first PRIDE march, and tensions between the PRIDE and QAGLR collectives. He discusses the importance of lobbying the churches in the build up to the Criminal Justice Parliamentary Committee hearings. He talks Fred Nile's rally the Saturday before the hearings and how this was countered by a press conference on Sunday that he organised with progressive speakers from the churches. He discussed the hearings and lobbying of ALP parliamentarians while the committee considered the submissions.

Description

Description 1 MP3 file (37min. 34 sec.)

Access

Other guides Transcript available

View the items

Listen to the audio
View the interview log

1990 Gay law reform continued (23 June 2011)

Unit ID 28214/15

Date 23 June 2011

Scope and content
Greg continues discussing gay law reform.

Description

Description 1 MP3 file (55 min. 4 sec)

Access

Other guides Transcript available

View the items

Listen to the audio
View the interview log

1991 Anti-discrimination law reform (23 June 2011)

Unit ID 28214/16

Date 23 June 2011

Scope and content
Greg discusses about campaigning to include homosexuality in the anti-discrimination legislation.

Description

Description 1 MP3 file (21 min. 15 sec.)

Access

Other guides Transcript available

View the items

Listen to the audio
View the interview log

(32 digital)