

Your map and guide

Welcome to **Queer Histories/Queer Futures**, an audio journey into the stories of our **LGBTQIA+** communities in Merri-bek, past, present and future.

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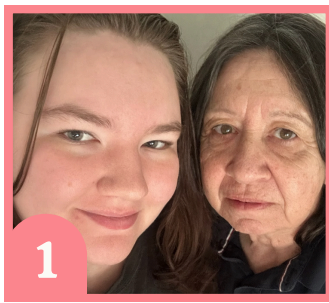
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Annette Xiberras & Julia Adams-Xiberras

Michelle Guglielmo Park. 260 Sydney Rd, Brunswick

Wurundjeri Elder Annette Xiberras reflects on coming out as a gay Aboriginal woman in the 1960s and 70s, and in conversation with her daughter Julia Adams-Xiberras about their experiences as a rainbow family.



Barricade Books and queer zines

115 Sydney Rd, Brunswick

Barricade Books was an anarchist infoshop, formerly located first on Sydney Road from 1995 to 2003, and then at Irene Warehouse, on Pitt Street until 2006.

It was a space where radical queers could meet, share information, hold events, and organise—and it stocked a range of books, comics, CDs, pamphlets, patches, posters, stickers, t-shirts, and zines.



Barb Wire and Brunswick drag

133 Sydney Rd, Brunswick

Barry Solomon aka Barb Wire performed working-class drag in Brunswick from about 2000 to 2020 with performances at local pubs and the Sydney Rd Festival. Barb also hosted Drag Bingo at The Retreat.



Out Cast Theatre

Brunswick Mechanics Institute. 270 Sydney Rd, Brunswick

Director and playwright Steven Dawson discusses the production and performances of Out Cast Theatre's plays at the Mechanics Institute, including Love In A Cubicle and Big Dicks On Stage. Out Cast Theatre continues to stage performances in Melbourne and overseas.



Orlando Queer night

Victoria Hotel. 380 Victoria St, Brunswick

Orlando's Sam Elkin discusses the queer indy disco at the Victoria and Edinburgh Castle hotels and its organising collective's activism after queerphobic violence in the Victoria Street area after one of their events.



Street violence, beats and resistance

Clifton Park. 427 Victoria St, Brunswick

Activist Richard Watts discusses the local activism of Queer Nation after the murder of a gay man at the Clifton Park beat in Brunswick.



Radical queer organising in the 2000s

11 Hope St, Brunswick

In the mid 2000s, the share-houses, squats, studio warehouses and strip clubs of Brunswick were home to a flourishing of radical queer activism emerging out of the student left and so-called anti-globalisation movements, the 2000 Melbourne SII protests, anti-war and Woomera/Baxter protests



Solidarity Salon

580 Sydney Rd, Brunswick

Alison Thorne from Radical Women and the Freedom Socialist Party discusses activism based at their queer, socialist, feminist shopfront Solidarity Salon during its many years in Merri-bek. Includes anecdotes about organising against the Far-Right.



Queer connies and the Brunswick tram depot

807 Sydney Rd, Brunswick

Tram conductor, driver and ticket inspector Stratos Filis discusses the community, friendships and activism at the Brunswick Tram Depot, including during and after the battle against the Kennett Government's privatisation of Melbourne's trams.



Pentridge Prison and LGBTQIA+ criminalisation

Pentridge Prison. 1 Champ St, Coburg

Queer communities have long been targeted, criminalised and imprisoned. This persecution has also led to a proud history of resistance. We examine Pentridge Prison as a site of queer trauma and resistance around which these issues can be centred.



YGLAM

Oxygen Youth Space. 4/8 Gaffney St, Coburg

Project Officer Russ Pirie discusses queer youth theatre group YGLAM, including its performance in a spooky space upstairs at the old Brunswick Town Hall and its evolution at Oxygen Youth Services. YGLAM was founded by Jemma Mead and Vicky Guglielmo at Merri Health.



Reimagining queer death care

Fawknor Memorial Park. 1187 Sydney Rd, Hadfield

Reimagining more inclusive funeral practices and deathcare by putting it back into the hands of communities and their loved ones.



Queers against fascism

Tyson St, Fawknor

Merri-bek has a proud history of opposing fascism. In 1997 a series of monthly protests were organised outside a neo-Nazi bookstore in Fawknor. The final and most successful rally was organised by a coalition of queer anti-fascist groups including the Jewish Lesbian Group of Victoria, Gays and Lesbians Against Racism and Queer Action.



Queer futures

Brunswick Library. Cnr Dawson St and Sydney Rd, Brunswick

Many of the guests featured in our series share their thoughts about what a queer utopia and the queer future might look like. We hear from Hinde Ena Burstin, Angela Bailey, Annette Xiberras, Sam Elkin, Leigh Millwood, Alison Thorne, Stass Jones, Alex Antunes, Steven Dawson, Mark Pendelton, Barry Solomon and Richard Watts.



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Please note that this map is not drawn to scale.

Merri-bek City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-wurrung people as the Traditional Custodians of the lands and waterways in the area now known as Merri-bek.

We pay respect to their Elders past, present, and emerging, as well as to all First Nations communities who significantly contribute to the life of the area.



- Train Line
- Bike Path
- Tram Line

