

CAMP National Camp

Australia's first national conference on homosexuality is being planned for sometime in May, 1973. This was decided at an informal meeting in Sydney on January 2.

All branches of CAMP have at one time or another expressed a need for some sort of national get-together where each branch could find out what the others are on about. The holiday season found a number of heavies from Victoria, South Australia and New South Wales together in Sydney so Peter Bonsall-Boone (secretary NSW) took the opportunity to call a meeting to get things rolling.

South Australia was planning a convention for 13 to 18 May and it was decided that this could be the National convention. John Ware suggested that the convention should be used to tackle the question of why women are not involved in the homosexual movement to the extent men are. This he claimed was the greatest problem facing the homosexual movement throughout the world and one that has to be solved before the movement can advance.

The suggestion was enthusiastically supported by Liz, the only woman present, and also by Peter de Waal.

Some thought that a five day conference biased towards lesbians would be boring while others thought that women would be incapable of organising the conference.

It was finally agreed that there will be a National conference on CAMP as a radical feminist movement. The conference will be organised by women and will probably take place in Adelaide, if the women and branches not represented agree.

On the following Thursday evening some CAMP members went along to a Sydney Gay Lib meeting to try to get them interested in the proposed conference. Little enthusiasm was forthcoming from the forty odd men and three women present. During the discussion they displayed a lack of awareness of the need for the movement to involve more women. Dennis Altman said that he could not see that the homosexual movement should be part of the feminist movement.

Looking at the homosexual movement in isolation and concentrating only on the interests of the existing members would tend to strengthen individual organisations and branches. Problems affecting the movement as a whole might be better tackled by a wider view and involve talent not previously tapped. A national conference run by women would attract more women and may provide answers to the problems confronting us. David Widdup