

AUGUST 2014

# PFLAG Brisbane

Supporting families with lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and queer loved ones

## Daniel Witthaus is coming to Brisbane



Daniel Witthaus is a gay rights advocate and education activist. He is an extraordinary man with an extraordinary mission to eliminate homophobia in Australia. You are welcome to come and listen to him talking about his work involving schools. He will have copies of his latest book with him - if you would like a signed copy come a little earlier!

**Daniel Witthaus**  
**3pm Monday 1 September**  
**Queensland Teachers Union, 21 Graham St, Milton, QLD 4064**



Wear It Purple is a youth-led organisation that exists to support and empower rainbow (i.e. sexuality and gender diverse) young people. Young people working for young people - and believing that every young person is unique, important and worthy of love.

Wear it Purple Day was 29 August . . . yes, missed it for this year!! But you can still show your support for Wear it Purple. To find out more click [here](#).



## Volunteers needed for Brisbane Pride Fair Day

PFLAG Brisbane is having a stall at Brisbane Pride Fair Day to promote PFLAG and share our support, leaflets and brochures. If you can spare a couple of hours to come along and help on the stall please contact Deb on [debkay2011@hotmail.com](mailto:debkay2011@hotmail.com)

**When:** Saturday, 20 September 2014

**Time:** 10:30am – 5:30pm

**Where:** New Farm Park, Corner of Brunswick Street and Sydney Streets, New Farm

## Grant for PFLAG resources

PFLAG is grateful to the Gambling Community Benefit Fund which has awarded us a substantial grant to reprint PFLAG brochures, leaflets and business cards as well as purchasing USB sticks to provide information to those who seek our help and support.

## Vote for marriage equality

It is possible that the Coalition may allow a conscience vote on marriage equality early in the New Year. Australian Marriage Equality and PFLAG are spending three days in Canberra lobbying MPs about marriage equality. Have you written, emailed or spoken to your MP. They need to know you care.



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## Brisbane Marriage Equality Forum



On 12 August at the Uniting Church in New Farm, Shelley Argent chaired a Marriage Equality Forum. On the panel were interstate guests including the PM's sister and City of Sydney Councillor Christine Forster, Human Rights Commissioner Tim Wilson and Australian Marriage Equality national director Rodney Croome.

They were joined by psychologist Paul Martin, researcher Dr Sharon Dane, PFLAG secretary Dr Janet Berry, the Very Reverend Dr Peter Catt, Dean of St John's Anglican Cathedral, and Federal Labor MP Graham Perrett.

Topics discussed included the role of conservative politicians in bringing about marriage equality, as well as the importance of winning people of faith to the marriage equality cause. The whole evening was recorded on video and we hope to see it available on the internet soon.

## Coffee and chat



During July another friendly get together for PFLAG members was held at Newmarket MacDonalds.

## Thanks to the Sportsman Hotel



A fun day was had by all at the Great Bake Off held at the Sportsman Hotel. As usual everyone was friendly and generous. Thank you to those who cooked, sewed and applied their talents to arts and crafts.

## Police LGBTIQ liaison officers

The Queensland Police Service is committed to inclusion and providing a service to every member of the community, regardless of sexual orientation, race or religion and every Police Officer swears an oath to this effect on induction.

Fortitude Valley Station has several LGBTIQ Liaison Officers, who are also Police Officers and who are available to speak to people who might not feel comfortable speaking to other Officers. Members of the public who wish to speak to an LGBTIQ Officer can enquire at the Fortitude Valley Police Station at the corner of Brookes Street and Wickham Street or alternatively the Police Beat in the Brunswick Street Mall.



Constable Amanda Joy and Police Liaison Officer Shelton Murphy

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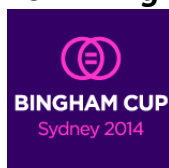
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## PFLAG says NO to homo/transphobia

### 2014 Bingham cup



Also known as the Gay Rugby World Cup, the Bingham Cup is a non-professional biennial tournament, which recognises rugby as all-inclusive, regardless of sexuality. The tournament will be played from Friday 29 to Sunday 31 August 2014 in Sydney.

Shelley Argent has written an article for the official tournament guide titled "It's time for all sporting clubs to step up and combat homophobia".

You can find Shelley's article by clicking [here](#) and turning the pages. . .

### Grant application

PFLAG Brisbane have submitted an application for a Safer Queensland Community Grant, supported by Queensland Police and Suncorp Insurance. The application is for printing 13,000 postcards condemning homophobia and transphobia for distribution to businesses and public venues across Queensland.

### Soccer and rugby

On 20 August Shelley Argent met with representatives of the Reds, Broncos and Roar at Suncorp stadium to discuss the elimination of homophobia from their sports. The meeting went well with those present committed to change and promising to look into what they could do to hasten that change. AFL will be next!!

## Chris Pye from Relationships Australia spoke at the August meeting of PFLAG Brisbane



Chris Pye is the Rainbow Program leader at Relationships Australia. There are three aspects to his work:

- The Rainbow Service provides face to face counselling for LGBTI people, their family and allies.
- A social and emotional support group for transgender and gender diverse individuals called 'Transcendence' that meets monthly.
- Training that is delivered internally for the staff at Relationships Australia and for other groups.

Chris talked about the overwhelming issue of 'coming out' and the Cass Identity Model that defines the different stages of gay and lesbian development:

The Questioning Stage when repression and internalized homophobia can take over.

The Pride Stage when the feeling is 'I am going to be who I am' and the gay culture appears the only source of support. The Normalising stage when the euphoria of coming out is over and it is accepted that being gay or lesbian is only one aspect of life and that family and friends are very necessary.

To find out more about Relationships Australia and the Rainbow Service click [here](#).

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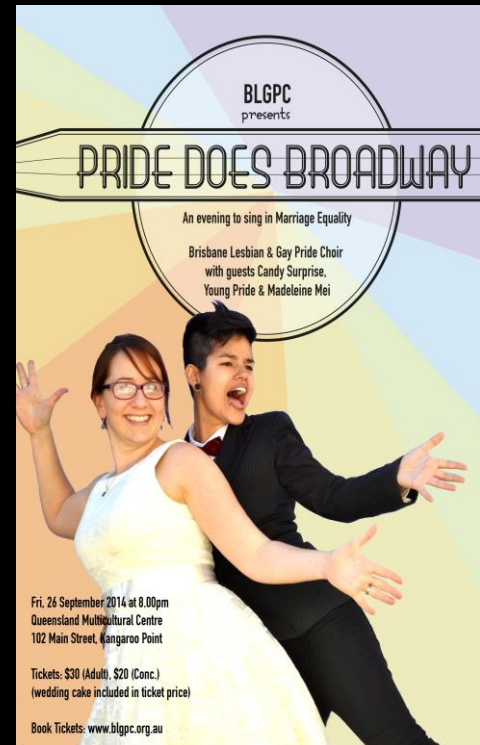
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## The Brisbane Lesbian and Gay Pride Choir

The Brisbane Lesbian and Gay Pride Choir are presenting 'Pride does Broadway' at the Queensland Multicultural Centre on 26 September.

Marriage Equality will be centre stage, with the ticket price including a piece of wedding cake. 'For each performance this year we have been singing up the right to marry the one you love,' said David Hardy the choir president.

'Pride does Broadway' is at 8pm on Friday, 26 September 2014 at the Queensland Multicultural Centre, 102 Main Street, Kangaroo Point. Tickets are priced at \$30 (adult) and \$20 (conc.) and can be purchased on-line through [www.blgpc.org.au](http://www.blgpc.org.au).



"It's no joke to be caught in the crossfire of prejudice and it's no joke to live with the fear of being rejected or vilified or persecuted because of who you are."

Penny Wong

## PFLAG Brisbane

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