



## PFLAG+ Brisbane's President's Note

Issue #104

At this time of year, I know we often comment on how quickly the year has come to an end. On a personal level, this one has been no different. As 2022 draws to a close, I am reflecting on an enormous year. After downsizing and becoming "empty nesters" Paul and I yet again, felt the loss, inconvenience and heartbreak that comes with being flooded. We dealt with all of the usual ups and downs of family and work life and as we moved further away from Covid restrictions, I certainly felt the pace of life pick up.

We are hopeful and determined to deliver on our strategic plan for 2022/23 in which Pflag+ will continue to grow and become accessible to families across the country. Events like Brisbane Pride, Melt, Big Gay Day and the LGBTIQ+ Domestic Violence fundraising event at City Hall were some of the highlights. We happily supported another Queer and Here event, took a stall to a Distance Education information day and continued to host bi-monthly meetings with various guest speakers. We created a new space for regular social gatherings for members and their families, one of which was dinner at the Pineapple Hotel to celebrate IDAHOBIT Day. We have plans to further develop this concept next year with a variety of activities and locations in mind. Jo and I travelled to Gladstone to participate in the weekend of the Pride on the Reef Festival and I experienced the joy of marching once again, in the Sydney Mardi Gras. In



the lead up to the federal election, we were invited to attend political forums relating to the proposed Religious Discrimination Legislation and participated in discussions at a parliamentary level, to amend legislation of the Births Deaths and Marriages Act.

It has been encouraging to see an increase in the number of schools that are truly invested in creating safe spaces for students with a focus on inclusion and diversity. They are recognising the importance of a multidimensional approach by providing resources to parents, staff and students. Although I'm grateful for having had the opportunity to speak at numerous school based events this year which ranged from parent information nights at Indooroopilly SHS in Brisbane, to Miami SHS at the Gold Coast, the greatest highlight for me was having my sons join me in sharing stories of their lived experiences as well. These definitely rate as some of my most proud parent moments. During Pride month, I was invited to speak at Queensland Rail, Sparke Helmore Lawyers, AON Insurance, Aldi's Qld Head Office, the Queensland Ambulance Service, The Qld Police Force, a local Ref-Net group, Pride in Law, Pride Squared, Bay FM radio. Whilst visiting the newly opened Victorian Pride Centre in May this year, I was lucky to meet some wonderful folk who have become great allies and I've enjoyed networking with the many different Pflag+ groups around Australia. We also had the chance to connect with Washington based, Brian Bond, who heads up Pflag USA. At our recent AGM, we welcomed an incredible group of incoming committee members whilst creating some new positions that will invigorate our Brisbane space. I am so grateful for their enthusiasm and I am really looking forward to working together in 2023. We would love to see new and old members at meetings and social gatherings as well as community events next year. Please let your friends know they are welcome to come join the Pflag+ Family. Despite the heavy workload, it has been another extremely rewarding year. I am looking forward to having a break and hope everyone in our Pflag+ community enjoys a restful, safe and happy Xmas.

Take Care and Much Love

# PFLAG+ Brisbane in December

PFLAG+ Brisbane represents a group of dedicated parents, friends and members of the LGBTQIA2S+ community focused on supporting each other. PFLAG+ Brisbane recognises that every journey whether it is a parent or ally or LGBTQIA2S+ person is unique but not one you must undertake alone. We are here to offer each other support on our respective journeys whether you are at the very beginning or well on your way.



## WORLD AIDS DAY ... Boldly Positive

On December 1<sup>st</sup> PFLAG+ Brisbane commemorated World Aids Day a day for education, remembrance, support and more to those living with HIV & those living AIDS. It is important to understand that AIDS and HIV are not interchangeable terms and education is important to ensure the stigma around AIDS and HIV is faced and fought.

The LGBTQIA2S+ community are at a higher percentage of the diagnosed HIV Cases in 2020. In many cases in when discussing the risks of heterosexual relationships, the warning of pregnancy is used and in LGBTQIA2S+ relationships and education a warning of HIV and AIDS is spoken. It is important that we learn, change and

communicate to ensure that this stigma and fear isn't perpetuated and that the fear associated with HIV and AIDS is turned in to an honest, open and factual conversation about protection.

Currently 29,090 people are estimated to be currently living with HIV in Australia with approximately 2,060 people estimated to be unaware of their status. Reducing the stigma is an important part of support people to get tested and receive support. Treatment and prevention have come a long way and the below link has important facts to learn who HIV affects, how we can help prevent it but most importantly make sure that the LGBTQIA2S+ community remains prejudice free and welcoming.

<http://www.worldaidsday.org.au/internet/wad/Publishing.nsf/content/home>

## REMBER THAT ...?

LGBTQIA2S+ History month is behind us but let us always remember the amazing advocacy and support from the individuals we highlighted and learned about during the month.

PFLAG+ Brisbane would like to hear about more icons that our community have found. We want you to post in the comments of our Facebook the LGBTQIA2S+ advocates that have helped raise visibility of the community and the issues it faces that we didn't highlight during history month.



PFLAG+ Brisbane tried to represent as many letters of the community as possible:

- L - Magda Szubanski
- G - Casey Conway
- B - Nico Tortorella
- T - Georgie Stone
- I - Morgan Carpenter
- A - Mary Griffith

# December's Must Watch List

## Tales of The City

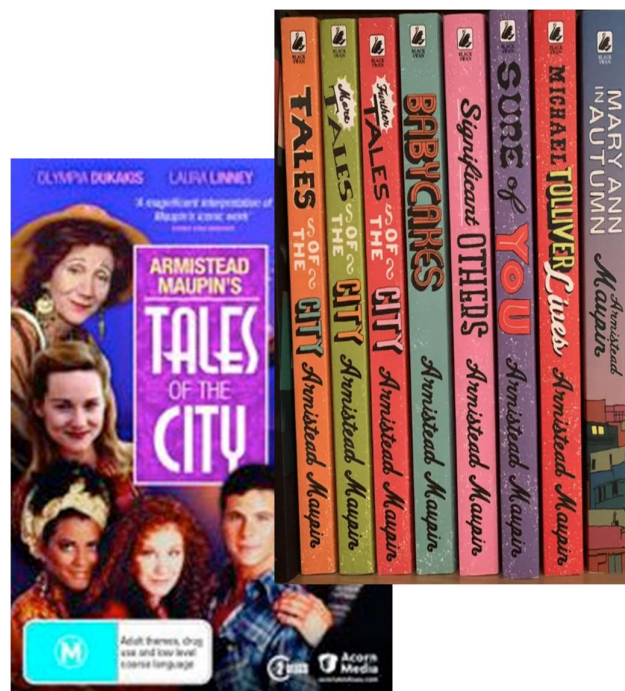
This is another representation that comes with an age warning and may not be for everyone and may feature some graphic or upsetting content, however it was GROUNDBREAKING when it was first released.

"You're one of us ... Welcome to 28 Barbary Lane" - Anna Madrigal

The stories are powerful and amazing chronicling life during pivotal moments for the LGBTQIA2S+ community with representation in a time when it wasn't widely spoken of, a time when the community faced increased prejudice and judgement as well as the aids epidemic. It shows the journey of Mary-Anne Singleton toward understanding and ally, Mona "Babycakes" Ramsay towards acceptance and facing her mental health and Michael "Mouse" Tolliver's journey through the AIDS pandemic all while building their own family with Anna Madrigal the transgender matriarch of 28 Barbary Lane.

The characters take us on a journey with them through the 9 novels, original tv adaptation of the first 3 books in 1993 (Unfortunately not available on streaming services at time of posting) and a reimagining in 2019 (On Netflix) with a new generation of queer actors and actresses taking up the characters.

There is something special about these stories, the characters and 28 Barbary Lane. are searching for their place and in Tales of the City Armistead Maupin creates such a strong a sense of belonging in each of their stories.



## The Umbrella Academy

We definitely recommend reading the rating and the description before sitting down for a show!

This post is to celebrate the representation of gender fluidity and pansexuality as well as that of the Transgender community.

**Klaus Hargreeves** is seen in many non-traditional gender fluid moments in the Umbrella Academy and it becomes accepted and welcomed without the usual sarcasm or passive negativity we might see in the media. In watching the way a character navigates (even a make believe world far removed from our own) their environment and family just as they are, without question, shows gender fluid and non-binary members of our community acceptance that is not often represented.

**Viktor Hargreeves** is played by Elliot Page and was introduced following his transition and discussing his truth as a transgender man. In media sometimes characters are changed for diversity and characters traditionally

shown as cis-gendered heterosexual may come out, which can see the fandom question this and outcry. Viktor signals an important message which is that just because we have known someone in one way does not mean they have felt comfortable to live their truth. It shows that it is never too late show people who you really are and to receive the support that you deserve.

It is because the Umbrella Academy has not focused solely on these two characters LGBTQIA2S+ community affiliations and chosen to make it a part of who they are that truly shows representation.

# What To Look Out For in January



## Family Social Event:

**Date & Time:** 7<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 3:30pm  
**Details:** Please make sure to register at [Insert Link]  
**Located:** [Insert Location]  
**Guest Speaker:** [Insert Guest Speaker]

## Dancing Queer:

**Date & Time:** 15<sup>th</sup> January 2023 at 5:30pm to 7:30pm  
**Details:** Please make sure to register at [https://www.meetup.com/en-AU/brisbanequeerdance/?\\_check=EtDJIAPAHy9zKt7q](https://www.meetup.com/en-AU/brisbanequeerdance/?_check=EtDJIAPAHy9zKt7q)  
**Located:** Hamilton Town Hall



## PFLAG + Events 2023

PFLAG+ has already scheduled our next year, don't forget to book the below dates out on your calendar! We would love to see you at the below events, don't worry you will also get reminders before the dates again.

	Month	Date	Event	Time	Location
🌳	January	Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	Family Social	3:00pm	Picnic Mowbray Park, East Bris
☕	February	Sat 4 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Group	1:30pm	Qld Council for LGBTI Health
🍍	March	Fri 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Family Social	6:00pm	Pineapple Hotel, Kangaroo Point
☕		Sat 25 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Group	1:30pm	Qld Council for LGBTI Health
🌳	May	Sun 7 <sup>th</sup>	Family Social	2:00pm	Picnic/bushwalk at Mt Cootha
☕	June	Sat 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Parent Group	1:30pm	Qld Council for LGBTI Health
🍍	July	Fri 7 <sup>th</sup>	Family Social	6:00pm	Pineapple Hotel, Kangaroo Point
☕	August	Sat 5 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Group	1:30pm	Qld Council for LGBTI Health
🌳	September	Sun 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Family Social	2:30pm	Picnic Capt. Burke Park, K. Point
☕	October	Sat 7 <sup>th</sup>	Parent Group	1:30pm	Qld Council for LGBTI Health
🍍	November	Sat 4 <sup>th</sup>	Family Social	6:00pm	Pineapple Hotel, Kangaroo Point
☕	December	Sat 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Parent Group	1:30pm	Qld Council for LGBTI Health



# You Are Not Alone



PFLAG+ Brisbane wants to make sure all our members have the support that they need. We have included some of the groups in Brisbane that have strong agency to help you alongside PFLAG+ Brisbane. You are seen, you are heard, and you matter. If you or someone you know is experiencing difficulty or requires assistance, please do not hesitate to reach out to us or one of the below groups for support.



**About:** PFLAG+ Brisbane is here to provide anonymous support, referrals for extra support and assistance, volunteers to individually meet with parents in crisis, regular group meetings with guest speakers, written resources to promote understanding, regular newsletter.

**Website:** <https://www.pflagbrisbane.org.au>

**About:** We are proud to be a community led and community owned health and wellbeing service, representing the diversity of our communities. QC also has a specific 2 Spirit program and support available.

**Located at** 22 Helen St, Teneriffe, QLD, Australia, Queensland

**Ph:** (07) 3017 1777

**Website:** <https://www.qc.org.au>



**About:** Diverse Voices Works alongside QLife who provides Australia-wide anonymous, LGBTI peer support and referral for people wanting to talk about a range of issues including sexuality, identity, gender, bodies, feelings or relationships

**Ph:** 1800 184 527

**Website:** <https://www.diversevoices.org.au>

**About:** Supporting young people who identify as Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, Asexual, Pansexual, Sistergirl or Brotherboy (LGBTIQAP+ Sistergirl & Brotherboy) aged 12-24 across South East Queensland.

**Located at** 5 Green Square Close, Fortitude Valley 4006 QLD

**Ph:** (07) 3257 7660

**Website:** <https://www.opendoors.net.au/about-open-doors-youth-service/>



# PFLAG+ Family & Memberships

PFLAG+ Brisbane is a not-for-profit organization run by volunteers and is dependent on the donations and memberships of our PFLAG+ family. One hundred percent of our funds go towards improving our services to parents and friends of LGBTIQ+ people.

Your voluntary annual membership fee of \$25 per individual/family, \$100 for corporate membership helps PFLAG+ Brisbane support the parents and members of the LGBTQIA2S+ community. It is not compulsory to donate or become a member in order to be a part of this amazing PFLAG+ Family but every donation and membership helps. In donating and becoming a member you will contribute to generating materials, advocacy support and awareness for the community.

Head over to our page to become a member or donate now at:

<https://www.pflagbrisbane.org.au/membership>

Volunteers and Committee Members are also always welcome, if you think that you have time to provide your expertise and skill to supporting this amazing organisation don't forget to mention this on your Membership Form.

## Don't Forget to Follow Us...



PFLAG+ is on social media and we would love it if you could go and hit like on our Facebook page and Follow on our Instagram.

Every Friday we do LGBTQIA2S+ Representation in Media and keep up to date with celebrations within the community.

Come and join the conversation.

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/pflagbrisbane/>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/pflagbrisbane/>

### Have YOUR Say...

PFLAG+ Brisbane needs the help of our members to shape the look and function of our website. We need to make sure that you can get the support, education and resources you need (at the end of the day this is ALL for you).

Visit our webpage, read some of our resources and click through the links. Post below in the comments what you think will help make the page better for our PFLAG+ Family and the LGBTQIA2S+ community.

<https://www.pflagbrisbane.org.au>

