

PFLAG+ Brisbane Newsletter



January 2022

Happy New Year to all our community members! The newly elected 2022 PFLAG+ Brisbane committee hopes that you and your LGBTIQ+ loved ones enjoyed a healthy and safe holiday season. May the new year bring your families good health (mentally and physically) during this difficult time of COVID-19.

*Please remember that PFLAG+ Brisbane is a group of people meeting to support each other and learn from our shared experiences in hope of helping each of other on our respective journeys as **Parents and Friends of LGBTIQ+ Individuals**.*

Next Community Meeting

Date: Saturday the 5th of February

Time: Committee meeting – 12:30 until 1:25 pm (all are welcome to attend)

Community meeting – 1:30 – 3:30 pm

Zoom link: To be posted on our Facebook site (PFLAG+ Brisbane)

Future 2022 Community Meeting Dates – Mark your diaries...

Our goal at PFLAG+ Brisbane is to create a safe environment for parents and close friends of LGBTIQ+ people to connect and share our similarities and differences. We have set aside several dates to meet and discuss our journey with one another.

2 April
4 June
6 Aug

1 Oct
3 Dec

Until further notice, the meetings will be held on Zoom online until we have clearance to meet face-to-face at the Chermside Library meeting rooms. As in the past, the meetings are bi-monthly on the first Saturday of the month. The committee business meeting will take place from 12:30 – 1:30 and the community meeting will be held from 1:30 – 3:30. Community members are always welcome to attend our business meetings.

2021 AGM Meeting News

The 2021 Committee met for our annual general business meeting on 4th December, which was followed by our community meeting. We set our new meeting dates (see above) and elected a new 2022 Committee. Welcome to our new members:

President	Jane Hopkins (returning)
Vice-President	position vacant
Treasurer	Irene Baker-Jackson (new)
Secretary	Jo Gilbert (new)
Events Coordinator	Paul Hopkins (new)
Education Liaison/Librarian	Beth Delbridge (returning)
Newsletter	Sandra Janssen (returning)
Social Media (Facebook/Instagram)	position vacant

Out-going Committee Members

Without saying, everyone who volunteers for PFLAG+ Brisbane is appreciated immensely. Margaret Parkhill (former treasurer 2021), Toni Galli-Wood (former vice-president and social media coordinator 2021), and Kym Mapleston (former secretary 2021) will be moving on to other new and exciting ventures.

Thank you, beautiful ladies, for your dedication and commitment to our goal of **helping parents support other parents of LGBTIQA+ loved ones**. It is people like you that make a huge difference to our community, committee, and our ultimate goal. You will be missed, and we wish you all the best in your upcoming ventures. Be well and stay well...

Margaret Parkhill's Farewell Message

"It was 21yrs back I reached out to Biala to find someone to speak with about my son coming out. Although I knew, I still needed to speak with someone and that someone was Shelley Argent – given phone contact from Biala.

I found Pflag and this community has been so supportive over the years. It is more than just having a child recognizing who he/she is, it is friendship and a sense of caring knowing a common bond is shared.

Much information is now on the internet and very different to 20yrs back but there is still something about sitting around a table sharing your story. There will always be someone who relates and often a 'buddy' is found for those moments when you feel like reaching out.

I embraced many roles in Pflag and for a few years manned the Helen Street office space taking phone calls usually from distressed Mums. I took on the President role for one year giving Shelley a break. I embraced working bees, workshops, and educational sessions. A little secretarial duty along the way and then the Treasurer role. I have now handed the reigns over to Irene Jackson and welcome her aboard.

Recently had my 21y/o nephew come out and now have 2 gay nephews and a gay son - blest I am. My turn for time out and attend to other areas of my life.
I shall hold my friendship dear and wish you all a peaceful, healthy and happy Christmas – an inspiring 2022.”

Written by Margaret Parkhill.



Editor's note: Thank you, Marg for your dedication and devotion to our beautiful PFLAG+ Brisbane community for the last twenty plus years. Without people like you, we would not exist, nor be able to help new families with children and young adults coming out. Your efforts have been appreciated and are precious to new families and friends of LGBTIQ+ people.

[Update from Shelley Argent](#)

For those new community members, Shelley Argent was an instrumental person in the development of PFLAG+ Brisbane over twenty years ago. Recently, there have been enquiries into Shelley's health status. Here is what Shelley has to say in her own words:

"I was told a few weeks ago that I am now in remission, which is great news. Of course, I don't know how long this will last, but I plan to make the most of this extra time. When initially diagnosed I was told I had 2/3 months to live. So, now I jokingly say I am well passed my 'used by date' which is fantastic for me.

I am just beginning to drive short distances, but I am back to making my favorite biscuits, pies, jams, and sausages. I am back to sewing and best of all I feel well enough to be lobbying the government about the proposed Religious Discrimination Bill. Additionally, I am looking to do some work with a group called the Bravery Box that supports children with cancer and their families

As many would be aware I have had some real challenges, thanks to the side effects of chemo. And I would like to thank my PFLAG friends for their messages of support, flowers, cards, and visits. If anyone would like to make contact, please feel free to do so smargent50@bigpond.com or 0409 363 335.

(I hope you had) a great Christmas, make sure your family and friends know you love them. And make the most of every day."

Written by Shelley Argent

Update on Religious Discrimination legislation

Just.Equal Australia and PFLAG Australia have called on supporters of LGBTIQ+ equality to join the campaign against the Religious Discrimination Bill by sending submissions to the two current inquiries into the Bill. These two organisations have partnered to establish the Equality not Discrimination website: <https://equalitynotdiscrimination.org/take-action-now/>

National PFLAG spokesperson, Shelley Argent, said, "Please send an email to these two inquiries right now because they close very soon and we need Canberra to hear us. We fought hard for the equal rights of our LGBTIQ+ children and we are not going to let anyone take that away under cover of 'religious freedom'." (Press Release, 15 December 2021)

For more information contact Rodney Croome on 0409 010 668 or Shelley Argent on 0409 363 335.

Transcend Australia Pride Party

This online event celebrates all amazing trans, gender diverse and non-binary young people. It will be on Sunday the 6th of February and starts at 2:00 pm. Friends, family and allies are also welcome. For more information about this free event, go to Facebook and search for Transcend Australia Pride Party.

LP Badges



20 years ago, Linsey and Paul's son turned 3 and asked for a pink bedroom and a pink dressing table. It was at that moment when they knew that they would be entering a wonderful rainbow world and were going to be "PROUD PARENTS AND ALLIES". Linsey joined PFLAG+ Brisbane 10 years ago when her son came out as gay. She also has a daughter who identifies as queer, and another son who is a proud ally. She has been an avid supporter of Brisbane Pride for the past few years, marching down Brunswick Street and helping with the PFLAG+ Brisbane stall, and more recently has been providing COVID-safe hugs at the "Free Mum Hugs" stall. Additionally, Linsey has marched in Sydney's Mardi Gras in the PFLAG Sydney group, and most recently, attended the COVID safe Mardi Gras, Sydney 2021 at the SCG.

Whilst at Brisbane Pride - Linsey noticed how people within the LGBTIQ+ community loved wearing badges with their flag or their pronouns on, or anything rainbow. She then had the idea to start handmaking them here in Brisbane and offering personalised badges. She also makes bulk orders for organisations and recently made hundreds of badges for various LGBT groups including the "78ers". LPBadges donates a percentage of their profits to local LGBT organisations.

PFLAG+ Brisbane would like to thank Linsey for her generous contributions to PFLAG and the LGBTIQ+ ally community. If you or your group are interested in any of Linsey's badges, please contact her on 0408 909 005 or DM on Instagram – [lp_badges](#)



Healing Beyond Discovery

PFLAG+ Brisbane supports all sorts of people and loved ones in the LGBTIQA+ community. Recently, we encountered a personal story from a woman whose husband of 18 years came out after years of marriage and raising three beautiful children.

“11 years ago, when I discovered totally by accident that my husband of 18 years was bisexual/gay, there was no support available to help me. It took 8 months to find a counsellor that was willing to try and help me. To this day, there are no services to support the trauma caused by this situation.”

Thankfully, **Healing Beyond Discovery** is a peer-to-peer support group on Facebook for Australian and New Zealand residents which is run by volunteers with lived experiences. It is a confidential and invite only space that promotes respectful, positive healing.

Should you or someone you know encounter a similar experience, please contact the following website to request support:

www.healingbeyonddiscovery.org/

Bowled Over: Untold Australia

SBS On Demand is showing a documentary featuring Taboo, a group of aging drag performers who perform monthly at the North Ipswich Bowls Club, saving the Club from imminent closure 10 years ago. Will 12-year-old Logan save the show? He may well be the youngest drag queen performing in Australia, and his stage name is Candy Featherbottom. Logan is a singer, dancer, aspiring actor and a black belt in Karate. Is there anything this kid can't do?!

This show expires on 22 January, so if you are interested in viewing it, be quick!

Angel Gets Her Wings on Netflix

If you wish to view a lovely coming out story about a trans woman seeking acceptance from her father, check this episode out. It is on Netflix (subscription required), Season 6, Episode 2, and it is titled “Angel Gets Her Wings”. Get out the tissues...

The Power of the Dog – Movie on Netflix

The Power of the Dog is a 2021 [Western psychological drama](#) film written and directed by [Jane Campion](#), based on the 1967 [novel of the same name](#) by [Thomas Savage](#). The film stars [Benedict Cumberbatch](#), [Kirsten Dunst](#), [Jesse Plemons](#), and [Kodi Smit-McPhee](#). Shot mostly across rural [Otago](#), the film is an [international co-production](#) among New Zealand, Australia, the United Kingdom, and Canada. The film deals with themes such as love, grief, resentment, jealousy, and sexuality.

Apparently, the film has been nominated for several awards and very subtly addresses homosexuality in the most gentle, nostalgic manner through the roughest, toughest character played by Benedict Cumberbatch. Worth a watch if you are a fan of Cumberbatch.

[Visit Gay Australia – Gay and Lesbian Tourism Australia](#)

These folks have their fingers on the pulse of Australian events for 2022. While we at PFLAG+ Brisbane cannot guarantee any special LGBTIQ+ events dates due to COVID-19, these folks are sharing some dates in the upcoming year to mark in your diary:

<https://mailchi.mp/galta/kf76ouysvg-679487?e=52492bbee1>

[Emergency Contacts for LGBTIQ+ people](#)

Without sounding like a broken record, the resources below are always pertinent to have at hand for families with LGBTIQ+ people, young and old! Everyone's mental health is important every day of the year...

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

<https://www.true.org.au/eshop#!/Gender-Sexuality-&-Diversity/c/31604019>

<https://www.opendoors.net.au>

<https://headspace.org.au>

<https://headspace.org.au/blog/blog/lgbtqa-0/>

<https://headspace.org.au/young-people/life-issues/sexuality-and-gender/>

<https://qlife.org.au/resources/qguides>

www.lifeline.org.au

(24/7) 13 11 14

www.suicidecallbackservice.org.au

(24/7) 0311 659 467

www.beyondblue.org.au

(24/7) 1300 224 636

SANE Australia 1800 18 SANE (7263)

ATAPS After-Hours Suicide Support Line 1800 859 585

[Donation Appreciation](#)

A big shout out to our families who have voluntarily donated throughout the year to our cause. You know who you are, PFLAG+ Brisbane appreciates your donations. We are a not-for-profit organisation, so please know that your donations will go directly back to the running costs of our cause. A HUGE 'Thank You' to those families and companies who have regularly donated! You know who you are...

[PFLAG+ Brisbane Membership](#)

PFLAG+ Brisbane is a not-for-profit organisation and is run by volunteers. One hundred percent of our funds, including your voluntary annual membership fees, go to improving our services to you, the parents and friends of LGBTIQ+ people. We encourage individuals, families, and corporations to pay a voluntary annual membership fee. We recommend \$25 per individual/family, \$100 for corporate membership, or whatever

amount you can afford. While it is not compulsory, membership fees received to PFLAG+ Brisbane do help improve our electronic and printed resources, update our website, and cover other administration costs. To pay your 2022 voluntary membership fees by Electronic Fund Transfer (EFT), PFLAG+ Brisbane's banking details are:

PFLAG+ Brisbane

BSB Number: 124 011

Account Number: 20238607

Reference: Your family name or corporation name

Welcome back to PFLAG+ Brisbane for 2022. We hope that you remain well and stay safe. All the best to you and your loved ones!

From the new 2022 Committee for PFLAG+ Brisbane

