



PFLAG Newsletr

November 2014

[HTTP://WWW.PFLAGBRISBANE.ORG.AU/](http://www.pflagbrisbane.org.au)

Welcome

At our last meeting it was great to welcome new parents seeking personal support and ways to be supportive of their loved ones who have recently "come out". We also met a young man who had a brother suicide who is looking for ways to prevent others from feeling so desperate and ways to get the message out to families on how to recognise if their loved ones have similar thoughts and feelings.

Guest Speaker

Those who were unable to attend the meeting missed a very interesting presentation. It was a large meeting with everyone keen to hear **Heather Corkhill** discuss how to make complaints to the **Anti-Discrimination Commission in QLD** and the ongoing process. Heather also explained the variety of positive outcomes due to mediation. Most of the discussion surrounded homophobia in the workplace.

It was most interesting to note that the second most common sexual harassment complaint was from gay males being sexually harassed by straight males with homophobic overtones. To me this blows the myth of gay men being predators.

Courier Mail & Poor Journalism

The PFLAG Committee feel it necessary to make a comment about Mayang the Trans* woman who was recently murdered at Newstead. First, we condemn the way the Courier Mail sensationalised this very tragic event.

Not only was Mayang, her gender and story maligned, but her partner as well. He obviously was suffering a mental health problem. However, in Mental Health Week the Courier Mail could not have been less sensitive or, worse with their journalism directed at both of these people. I cannot imagine the unnecessary pain the Courier Mail caused their friends and family during their grieving. Both people had family who loved them.

Mardi Gras 2015

There is a group of PFLAG parents going to Mardi Gras again in 2015. **If you would like to be part of the Brisbane group please let us know by 1st December.** This will give us time to book accommodation and if possible all stay in the same hotel.

We will also need to know numbers because numbers are limited to march with the PFLAG group.

If you would like to march but, don't need accommodation, we still need to know numbers of people wanting to march.

If you are interested in this event please contact **Deb Grading** via email on - **debkay2011@hotmail.com**

Resources

Thanks to Maryanne we have funding from the **Gambling Community Benefit Fund**. This has enabled us to update the resources. Many of these have now been completed and have been uploaded onto the website.

We also plan to do awareness mail outs next year to promote the PFLAG profile in Queensland. We will also be providing to PFLAG groups nationally and locally.



Next Meeting will be the AGM

If you would like to be a committee member, we would love to have you. Think about what you may like to do. What do you see as a priority? Or, an issue that needs to be addressed that either affects us or our children. Fresh ideas are always welcome.

The committee meets at 11.30am on the day of the general meeting.

If you think you may like to be part of the committee, but would like more information, please don't hesitate to call me, **Shelley on 0409 363 335** before the 20th November. I will be away from then and miss the AGM.

We would like to know...

➔ **What topics you would like addressed** at the general meetings. We aim to have speakers that help to provide more understanding of the LGBTIQQ community and support for you, the parents.

➔ **How we can improve meetings** to assist parents to get the most benefit from the group

Contact **Shelley – pflagbris@bigpond.com** if you have any ideas.



PFLAG BRISBANE MEETING DATES

2014

December 6th

2015

Saturday, February 7th

Saturday, March 28th

Saturday, May 30th

Saturday, July 18th

Saturday, September 26th

Saturday, November 28th

Venue: 30 Helen Street, Teneriffe

From around web...

Veteran gay activist Rodney Croome named 2015 Tasmanian Australian of the Year

It's always heartening to hear good news about people making a difference but, it is great news when that person's hard work and tireless determination as a gay rights advocate is recognised in such a big way as **Rodney Croome was recently by being named the 2015**



Australian of the Year in his home state of Tasmania.

Rodney is a veteran spokesperson for the Tasmanian Gay and Lesbian Rights Group and national convener of Australian Marriage Equality. This award and the recognition that comes with it is not only a significant landmark in Rodney's career as an activist but, also for his home state, were only 17 years ago admitting to being homosexual could mean spending up to 25 years in jail.

In 1994 Rodney became known to the Australian public by walking into a Hobart police station with his partner and confessing to being homosexual, bringing to the forefront that Tasmania was the only Australian state to yet decriminalise homosexuality in Australia. This was the start of a long campaign but his perseverance paid off and on May 1st 1997, thanks to the Tasmanian Gay and Lesbian Rights Group and through a United Nations Human Rights Committee challenge by Tasmanian activist Nicholas Toonen, Homosexuality was decriminalised in Tasmania. Today, Tasmania can boast it is one of the most gay friendly and equal states for LGBTI people in Australia.

Rodney reiterated this in his acceptance speech stating, "Across Australia, hatred and bigotry against LGBTI people have gone from being tolerated to having no legitimate place. Few things speak more eloquently of this transformation than the fact that a man once arrested for defending LGBTI human rights is now honored for it".

Yet, as indicated in this small excerpt from his speech, Australia still has a long way to go before it can truly regard itself as an, 'LGBTI first world nation' especially in light of this government's fall back on Marriage Equality. Nevertheless, Rodney is hopeful as he knows he is not alone, "Most of all, wherever I go around Australia I meet people who want the growing social acceptance of LGBTI folk to be reflected in marriage laws that celebrate love rather than entrench outdated attitudes".

STARBUCKS MAKES LGBTI COMMERCIAL

The Starbucks coffee chain has been an ally to the LGBTI community for years and last week Starbucks released its first LGBTI-themed commercial.

Starbucks commitment to the LGBTI community isn't just about selling more coffees, the CEO of the company famously once told an anti-gay shareholder that he was free to, "sell [his] shares of Starbucks and buy shares in another company" if he had a problem with the company's pro-gay values.

To see the new commercial follow this link http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2014/10/30/drag-race-starbucks_n_6076330.html

Also, while on the subject of **LGBT friendly companies and products** please see below the list compiled by the Huffington Post's Gay Voices section of 25 US LGBTI friendly products and companies.

It would be great to hear from any of our readers of LGBTI friendly companies in Queensland and Australia. If you know of any, please drop me a line on secretary@pflagbrisbane.org.au

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|-------------------|--------------|---------------------------|
| ☆Cheerios | ☆Starbucks | ☆Levi's |
| ☆American Apparel | ☆Green Giant | ☆Walt Disney World Resort |
| ☆Wheaties | ☆Tide | ☆Betty Crocker |
| ☆Microsoft | ☆Old Navy | ☆Home Depot |
| ☆Pampers | ☆Pepsi | ☆Safeway |
| ☆Crest | ☆Girl Scouts | ☆Walgreens |
| ☆Ford | ☆Macys | ☆GAP Clothing |
| ☆Target | ☆JCP | ☆Pillsbury |
| ☆Oreo | | |

60% of Americans will soon live in states with equal marriage

The United States is inching its way towards national marriage equality with the US Supreme Court making history on October 6th this year when it rejected appeals to hear from five states that were challenging the lower court rulings legalising same-sex marriage. Soon three in five Americans will be able to say they live in states that believe in equal marriage for all. Furthermore, this ruling has also laid the ground work for legalisation in six other states.

As a consequence of this decision a little over 60% of the US population now resides in a state where same-sex marriage is legal, or could soon be legal. Prior to the Supreme Court's decision, the total was around 44%.



PFLAG Brisbane Website has been updated!

Our website has a fresh new look and all our new and updated resources have also been up-loaded onto the site. We will also continue to upload more resources as they are updated.

Many thanks to our web designer Andy Pudmensity for doing such a terrific job!

Follow this link to check it out -

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



"I consider being gay among the greatest gifts God has given me"

This is what Tim Cook, CEO of Apple said last week in post published in Bloomberg Businessweek.



Tim's announcement is a leap forward in not only the high stakes corporate world but, also in ordinary life. Why? Because in this day and age it is still rare that someone like Cook should feel the need to make this type of announcement. So why did he make it? There are probably several reasons that could be cited but, at the very heart of it I suspect it is coming from an altruistic base.

Undeniably, this declaration will alienate him from certain sectors of society but then again, in other sectors it will gain admiration for his bravery in making this statement in a world which is still largely homophobic. Yet, there is another reaction which may have been overlooked but also just as important, though not as obvious - it will be met with indifference and this 'indifference' is a good thing.

Whilst many hope that Tim's declaration will pave the way for other LGBTI executives who have feared that just being themselves will have a detrimental effect on their careers, initial responses to his announcement have been positive. At the very least he now has 'outed' himself as a powerful role model to LGBTI youth who can take inspiration from him – **a person's sexuality is not and should not be an impediment to reaching for the highest career aspirations.** Of course Tim's announcement will not magically overnight wash away the bigotry and intolerance that many of our loved ones undoubtedly face in the work force today or, will in the near future for that matter but, it does begin to chip away at the rock face of it. Tim's announcement and those who will follow his lead and make their own similar declarations in the future, whether they be prominent business executives, successful athletes or just regular people, have a way of subtly

desensitising the wider community to the fact that being LGBTI is actually not a big deal - in so much as it's not a big deal to be heterosexual today. Imagine this scenario - if you stood up in the middle of your office today and made an announcement that you were heterosexual you would be met with general indifference and this is why indifference can be a good thing.

I for one, as the mother of a young gay man hope that my son will live this future, of casual 'indifference' to his sexuality.

This article was inspired by the Huffington Post Article written in the Gay Voices section which can be read here http://www.huffingtonpost.com/chriswood/why-tim-cooks-coming-out-matters_b_6076014.html

AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT....

Edinburgh (UK) Zoo has reported that their same- sex paired flamingos are happily rearing a baby chick.

When a rare Chilean chick egg fell from its nest before hatching, natural borne instinct forced its heterosexual parents to abandon the egg but, the fate of this chick changed for the better when the pair of gay males took it upon themselves to adopt the chick as their own.

Apparently same-sex animal pairings raising abandoned babies frequently occurs both in zoos and in the wild.

This good news story comes after earlier this year a zoo in Kent (UK) reported that they had a couple of male gay penguins raising an abandoned penguin chick and were actually doing a better job than their straight peers.



PFLAG Brisbane

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Membership Fees - the easiest way to pay is to transfer money to our account:

Pflag Brisbane Inc

BSB: 124 011

Account: 2023 8607

Reference: Your name in full

And please send an email giving your full name, email address and whether you are an existing or new member to: treasurer@pflagbrisbane.org.au



Everybody's journey is individual. If you fall in love with a boy, you fall in love with a boy. The fact that many Americans consider it a disease says more about them than it does about homosexuality.

James Baldwin

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Sydney's newest erection is raising awareness of safe sex in the fight against HIV

The people of Sydney woke up on Friday, 7th November to quite a sight – A giant pink condom had been lowered onto the obelisk in Hyde Park as part of the awareness campaign in the fight against HIV.



The idea for this unique advertisement is Yves Calmette's from Acon and the installation has been inscribed with the slogan, "Test more + treat early + stay safe = ending HIV", the condom will remain in place for a week.

The Aids Council of NSW (Acon) hopes the 18m "love glove" will help raise awareness among gay men about how they can help end HIV transmission in NSW by 2020.

WORLD AIDS DAY is DECEMBER 1ST 2014

A candlelight vigil will be held **Monday, December 1st at the New Farm Park Rotunda from 7pm.**

Contact Gary Williams on 0448 900 034

gwilliams@quac.org.au

Or, find the event on 'World Aids Day Candlelight Vigil'



Why Support for Trans* Youth Matters

Based on a 2012 study of 433 individuals

Trans* Youth with Supportive Parents	Trans* Youth with Unsupportive Parents
Reported Life Satisfaction: 72% (Supportive) vs 33% (Unsupportive)	Reported High Self-Esteem: 64% (Supportive) vs 13% (Unsupportive)
Described Mental Health As "Very Good" or "Excellent": 70% (Supportive) vs 15% (Unsupportive)	Faced Housing Problems: 0% (Supportive) vs 55% (Unsupportive)
Suffered Depression: 23% (Supportive) vs 75% (Unsupportive)	Attempted Suicide: 4% (Supportive) vs 57% (Unsupportive)

Travers R, Bauer G, Paine J, Bradley K, for the Trans PULSE Project; Gale L, Papadimitriou M. Impacts of Strong Parental Support for Trans Youth: A Report Prepared for Children's Aid Society of Toronto and Delisle Youth Services. 2 October, 2012.

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For more information, go to transstudent.org/graphics

TSER
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