

JANUARY 2014

# PFLAG Brisbane

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

## From the President

It's a new year and we have a new committee, keen to work hard to make things better for our LGBTIQ loved ones. Of course we rely on you, the members of PFLAG Brisbane to support and join us at events during the year.

Every two months we will hold a PFLAG support meeting with an interesting visiting speaker for every meeting. So turn up with your questions, stories and ideas.

I am now the national PFLAG spokesperson and this will take me on regular trips to Canberra. I made my first visit in November together with Ivan Hinton, (PFLAG ACT) and Rodney Croome (Australian Marriage Equality) and we met with politicians to persuade them to support marriage equality. As a result of those visits we saw the announcement of a cross party working group the following week. This is a great step forward!

I was also honoured to be asked to speak on behalf of PFLAG Australia at the NICHE (National Institute Challenging Homophobia Education) "How I Found my Niche!" event along with my daughter Tayla. We spoke together about our stories and how PFLAG has helped us. It will be released to YouTube in the coming weeks and we will share it on Facebook.

During 2014 we will continue to work with other organisations to stop the homo/transphobia that still occurs in Queensland schools. We will continue to provide a PFLAG presence at Open Doors Youth Service in order to reach out to and support the parents of the young people accessing the services there. We will also work alongside the many other LGBTIQ groups and organisations in Brisbane to change the culture and improve the social acceptance of our loved ones so that they can confidently be themselves in all aspects of their lives.

Donna Goddard, President



Donna Goddard receives words of advice from Shelley Argent on taking over as national PFLAG spokesperson

## First PFLAG meeting for 2014 – Saturday 1 February

The meeting starts at 1.30pm and will be held at Queensland Association of Healthy Communities, 30 Helen Street, Teneriffe

The visiting speaker is Paul Martin, a psychologist from the Centre for Human Potential based in Brisbane. He will explain the major impact that shame can have on children, parents and the family unit, how to recognise shame and overcome it.

You are very welcome to come and join us.

## Future PFLAG Brisbane meetings –

Saturday 5 April 2014  
Saturday 14 June 2014  
Saturday 2 August 2014  
Saturday 11 October 2014  
Saturday 6 December 2014



## My story

I am so proud of my youngest son - he was awarded the Australia Day Youth Award in Longreach, he has a degree in biotechnology from Queensland University of Technology, loves swimming, cycling and climbing mountains. . . and he is gay.

When he was 19, about three years ago, he plucked up the courage to tell us although he was terrified we would reject him and stop supporting him through university. We, his mum, dad, brothers and sister told him emphatically we love him just the way he is. Since then he has grown into a confident, witty and wise young man. During 2013 he travelled around Europe with his partner.

Please share your story, it may help others with LGBTIQ loved ones. . . .send me a paragraph or two and a photo:  
secretary@pflagbrisbane.org.au



My story:

My son and his partner travelled around Europe during 2013 and found rose tinted spectacles at Aarhus in Denmark

## Letter from Open Doors

Dear PFLAG,

All of the youth at Open Doors would like to thank you for your generous donations to help fund our Christmas party. An awesome gift that helped give the Open Doors family a fun, safe and amazing day that many of us will certainly remember in the future. Also, thank you for being amazing supporters and people.

The actions of PFLAG and the people involved show a lot of us that people are always there to help and support us, a fact that should never go under appreciated and we are grateful for. Also by just being a part of the organization, you have given hope to many kids that there are always people there for them and we would like to thank you for your hard work and just your continuing existence and support for LGBT youth. Your generosity and support is amazing and we are very thankful for everything you do.

From Rocky, Co-ordinator at Open Doors Youth Service, <http://www.opendoors.net.au>

## Dates for your diary –

Sunshine Coast Pride Festival –  
21 to 23 February

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade –  
Saturday, 1 March

Big Gay Day – Sunday 9 March at The Wickham  
Hotel, Brisbane



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JANUARY 2014

## Cross party working group for marriage equality

LNP Queensland Senator, Sue Boyce, has joined Labor Senator Louise Pratt and Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young to establish a cross-party working group on marriage equality.

The three senators have pledged to continue working co-operatively to make marriage equality a reality for all Australians.

"I'm delighted that we now have this all-party group that can continue working towards that objective and keep the conversation about same-sex marriage happening within all political parties," Senator Boyce said.



Liberal senator Sue Boyce, the Greens' Sarah Hanson-Young and Labor's Louise Pratt join forces to fight for marriage equality.

## beyondblue support for LGBTIQ

*beyondblue*, in collaboration with LGBTI communities has produced a new national campaign aimed at improving the Australian community's understanding of discriminatory behaviour and the impact it can have on the mental health of LGBTI communities. Check out their campaign at: [www.beyondblue.org.au](http://www.beyondblue.org.au)

**Sunshine Coast Pride Festival's 'Lifetime Pride Award' for valued services to the gay (GLBTIQ) community, is to be awarded to Shelley Argent OAM at Pride Festival 2014.**

*"I am amazed and feel extremely honoured to receive this award and humbled when I read the multiple reasons why you have chosen me for this honour. Many thanks to the Sunshine Coast Pride Festival."*

– Shelley Argent

The book cover for 'BEYOND PRISCILLA' by Daniel Witthaus. The title is in large white letters on a blue background. Below the title is the subtitle 'one gay man, one gay truck, one big idea ...' and the author's name 'DANIEL WITTHAUS'. The central image is a yellow diamond-shaped road sign with a black high-heeled shoe on it. The background of the cover shows a road and trees under a blue sky.

**BEYOND PRISCILLA**  
one gay man, one gay truck, one big idea ...  
**DANIEL WITTHAUS**

On a 38 week roadtrip around Australia Daniel Witthaus found out what contemporary life is like for LGBT people.  
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JANUARY 2014



## Join in, support and educate

During 2014 PFLAG Brisbane will hold support meetings, have stalls at rallies, work towards supporting LGBTIQ kids in schools and at Open Doors, lobby politicians for marriage equality and lots more.

Please come and join in – it's great fun!

“A lot of mothers will do anything for their children, except let them be themselves.”

— Banksy, *Wall and Piece*, 2006

### PFLAG Brisbane

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