



PFLAG+ Brisbane Newsletter

[February 2021](#)

Welcome to our PFLAG+ Brisbane Community Newsletter for February 2021. Our Committee hopes that all of our existing and new members feel welcome, willing and accepting of their LGBTIQ+ friends and family. We are a community of people hoping to learn from and support each other in order to help each other on our respective journeys.

*If you are new to PFLAG+ and are struggling with LGBTIQ+ related issues, we hope to provide you with a forum to **safely** share your concerns or questions about your loved ones. Our goal is to provide non-judgemental, confidential support and resources to parents and friends of our LGBTIQ+ loved ones...*

Next Community Meeting

Date Saturday, 10 April 2021

Guest Speaker TBA

Time 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm

Location Face-to-face (depending upon current Covid-19 restrictions)

Chermside Library Meeting Room

375 Hamilton Rd, Chermside, Qld 4032

Phone: 07-3403 7200

Attendees are asked to register in advance of our meeting on our Facebook page

Open our FB page @facebook.com/pflagbrisbane and press the blue 'send message' rectangle to register your attendance. Include your name and preferred attendance location (Chermside Library or Zoom attendance). Zoom attendees will receive Zoom meeting access details once registered.

Face to face Community Meeting changes due to COVID-19 restrictions

In case of any last-minute government restrictions due to COVID, those of you who plan to attend the meeting at Chermside Library, please check for current announcements on our Facebook page, which can be found by clicking this link: @facebook.com/pflagbrisbane

Community Meeting Notes from 13 February

Our first Community meeting was a hybrid meeting, meaning we met face-to-face at the Chermside Library while simultaneously hosting a Zoom meeting. Thank you to our Zoom participants for your patience and understanding regarding our technical issues. We aim to improve our Zoom link and sound issues.

Thank you, again to our guest speaker this month, Chris Pye, who provided us with a very informative, open talk regarding his personal experiences as a gay child, man and now married father of two boys. Chris spoke eloquently about the issues regarding coming out as an LGBTIQ+ person and provided the audience of parents with many tools about finding a "community" to connect with for themselves as well as for their LGBTIQ+ loved ones.

We also discussed participating in the "scene" versus finding a true "community", which can be a clarifying moment for parents, friends and LGBTIQ+ people. We addressed the lateral/collateral stressors that family of LGBTIQ+ loved ones can face. There are many emotions for us to process, such as grief, regret, relief and scepticism, to mention a few.

Chris shared with us a handout which summarised his amazing personal and professional journey towards acceptance, including the **9 Rs of Relationship Conflict First Aid**. Should you require Chris' highly regarded services, please contact him directly on:

A Single Step Relationship Coaching at www.asinglestep.com.au or on 0403811497.

Sydney's Lesbian and Gay Mardi Gras 2021

The "Parade"

The Covid-19 pandemic has affected all face-to-face gatherings, and Sydney's annual Mardi Gras 2021 is no exception. This year the "Parade" will take place at the Sydney Cricket Grounds on Saturday 6 March. There will be pre-booked, seated attendance with performers on the green. It will be different from the usual parade, but who are we to dismiss what "different" is!?! Bookings are essential - all the details are here 📌

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1124575384610140/>

Mardi Gras 2021 panel discussions – 27 February

Queer Thinking: *Dating when you are different*

As part of Sydney's Mardi Gras, broadcaster and journalist, **Julie McCrossin**, will host a panel discussion entitled Dating when you're different? Tips & Tricks with Julie McCrossin & Friends. For more information regarding this ticketed face-to-face or Zoom event, click on:

<https://www.mardigras.org.au/events/queer-thinking-dating-when-youre-different>

Queer Thinking: *The Fights Ahead*

Queensland writer **Benjamin Law** will gather with activists, parents and policymakers to identify where the new anti-queer culture wars are located – and what needs to be done to defend the most vulnerable in our communities?

For more information regarding this ticketed face-to-face or Zoom event, click on:

<https://www.mardigras.org.au/events/queer-thinking-the-fights-ahead>

Queer Thinking: *Rising Up for Gayrabia*

This session is curated and hosted by **Patrick Abboud**, an award-winning broadcaster & documentary maker. Rising up for Gayrabia includes a panel of queer Arabs, both in Australia and in exile, sharing their stories of resistance and resilience, pride and partying (did I hear you say Vogue-ing!?!).

For more information regarding this ticketed face-to-face or Zoom event, click on:

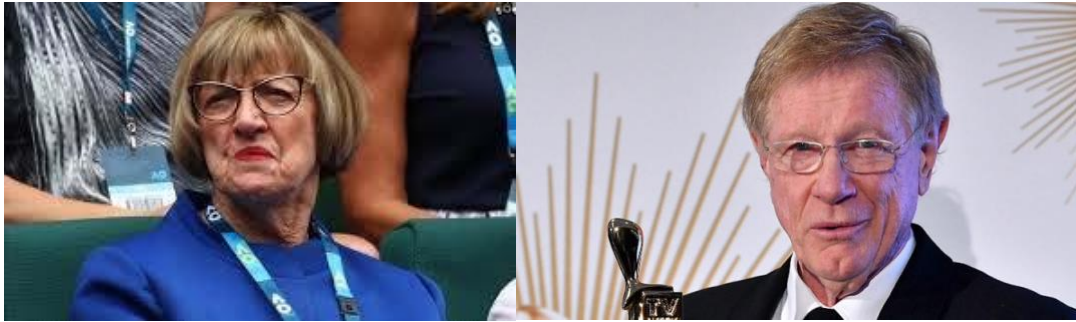
<https://www.mardigras.org.au/events/queer-thinking-rising-up-for-gayrabia>

Recent News

Order of Australia award returned

According to SBS News, journalist Kerry O'Brien has refused his Order of Australia award in protest of controversial former tennis great Margaret Court receiving the highest honour. Court is an outspoken opponent of same-sex marriage and LGBTQ rights, using the Bible to justify her stance. For recent news regarding this issue, please click on:

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/kerry-o-brien-has-rejected-his-order-of-australia-award-in-protest-against-margaret-court-s-honour?cid=newsapp:socialshare:email>



Male/Female/Non-binary?

The Australian Bureau of Statistics has released new guidelines on sex, gender and sexual orientation seeking to improve data collection on diverse gender identities. Not only will each individual have the right to tick either male or female, but now non-binary is an option. Read more about this topic on:

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/australian-census-to-include-a-gender-non-binary-option-for-the-first-time?cid=newsapp:socialshare:other>

Watch

BBC Reel

View a surprising and moving collection of photography which portrays romantic love between men over the course of a century, despite the risks involved:

<https://www.bbc.com/reel/playlist/through-the-lens?vpid=p08z30tt&ocid=ww.social.link.email>

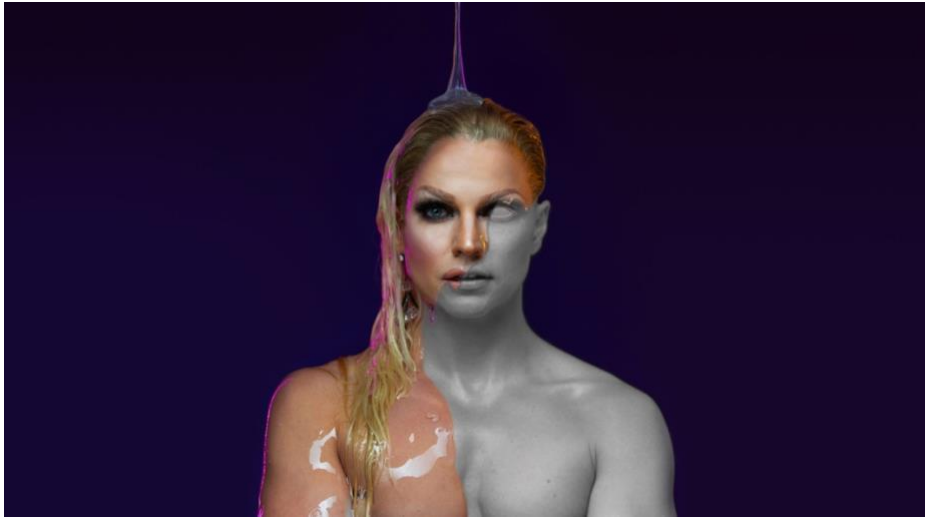
ABC TV Documentary

Award-winning journalist Louis Theroux travels to San Francisco where medical professionals are helping kids who say they were born in the wrong body to transition from boy to girl or girl to boy at younger ages.

<https://iview.abc.net.au/show/louis-theroux-transgender-kids>

FLUID with Courtney Act at the Brisbane Powerhouse Theatre

Join famed drag artist and cultural provocateur Courtney Act as she explores and pours her creative juices into her latest pop-cabaret, *FLUID*. The show runs from Thursday 18 - Saturday 20 March 2021. For details, click on: <https://brisbanepowerhouse.org/whats-on/event/fluid/>



Resources

The Pinnacle Foundation

Founded in 2007, The Pinnacle Foundation is a national charity which provides educational scholarships, mentoring and opportunities for young LGBTI+ Australians to reclaim their path and overcome challenges arising from their identity.

The Foundation awards multi-year scholarships nationally to students aged between 18 and 26 for fulltime study at public higher education institutions in Australia to achieve educational or vocational qualifications in any profession, trade or the arts. See more about their work on: <https://thepinnaclefoundation.org/about-us/>

The Pinnacle Foundation website also contains a wealth of resources for parents, family and friends to share with their LGBTI+ loved ones. Please find the resources page on: <https://thepinnaclefoundation.org/resources/mental-wellbeing/>

The Queensland Children's Gender Service (QCGS)

The Queensland Children's Gender Service (QCGS) sits within the integrated Child & Youth Mental Health Service providing specialist outpatient care at Queensland Children's Hospital and state-wide through telehealth and local partnerships. The aim of the QCGS is to improve the health, wellbeing and function of Queensland children diverse in gender identity through affirmative, family focused, interdisciplinary assessment and specialist care. Being trans or gender diverse is viewed as part of the natural spectrum of human diversity by Children's Health Queensland and the Australian Standards of Care and Treatment Guidelines that inform our practice. For more information, please click on:

<https://www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/service-gender-clinic/>

QCGS Fact sheet – Gender Identity and Diversity

<https://www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/fact-sheet-gender-identity/>

QCGS Fact Sheet – Information for parents of gender diverse or transgender children:

<https://www.childrens.health.qld.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/PDF/CHQ-Gender-clinic-Information-for-parents.pdf>

e-Mental Health in Practice

Digital mental health programs and tools are continuing to find a key place in the delivery of mental health and wellbeing support for many Australians. These services can provide an easily accessible method of help and there is good evidence of positive outcomes.

These online mental health resources are completely free. Anyone who is interested in broadening their knowledge of mental health has the opportunity to do so with our library of digital mental health resources. For more information, see the link below:

<https://www.google.com/search?client=safari&rls=en&q=www.emhprac.org.au&ie=UTF-8&oe=UTF-8>

PFLAG+ Brisbane Membership

PFLAG+ Brisbane is a not-for-profit organisation that is run by volunteers. One hundred percent of our funds, including your voluntary membership fees, go to improving our services to you, 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, among other expenses.

To pay your 2021 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

There are many ways to contact PFLAG+ Brisbane



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



[@facebook.com/pflagbrisbane](https://facebook.com/pflagbrisbane)



<https://www.pflagbrisbane.org.au/contact-us>



0400 767 832 for general information and support

Be well and stay safe!

With many thanks from the
PFLAG+ Brisbane Committee 2021

