



Welcome

PFLAG Brisbane has started the year filled with enthusiasm with several new committee members and the continuation of previous members. Our AGM was huge with the air conditioning working overtime and nearly not having enough chairs. We welcomed some new parents and young people and hopefully made them feel a part of the PFLAG family.

Thank you to Gail who has taken over from Grainne as our new Secretary and to Kieran who has taken over from Lynne as our new Vice President. Grainne and Lynne will continue to be on the Committee and attend the office and helpline. Maxine is happy to continue as our Treasurer. We have several new General Committee Members, which is great. I think there is plenty of enthusiasm in the group, so politicians "Beware".

- Shelley
(Convener, PFLAG Brisbane)

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on 24th of March, 2007.

Time: 1.30pm

Place: 30 Helen Street, Newstead

PFLAG Brisbane - 2006 in review

- Sexpo in February was a great opportunity to provide information. We were the only LGBT friendly group attending. Our stand is now quite professional with posters and information. Very different from the first stall which consisted of our banner and photocopied information from the internet.
- Help Line was initiated – a mobile phone contact to assist parents in crisis after hours.
- Website is still receiving several thousand hits per month.
- Advertising – Large advertisements in the Courier Mail every second Saturday and we plan to advertise in rural papers.
- Mardi Gras – A group from Brisbane marched in the Mardi Gras, which was great fun.
- Moved Offices with the Queensland AIDS Council in May. We now have a permanent home with our logo on the front door.
- Pride Fair in June was very successful. Many parents marched and our stall was popular for those seeking information and for others to just stop and say hello.
- Mail Outs - Letters and brochures were sent to all Queensland High Schools, Libraries and Brisbane Medical Centres.
- Speaking Engagements were conducted with the Police, University, Immigration Support Group, ABC Radio Brisbane and Regional, as well as a few TV interviews.
- Lobbying Federal Government on equality issues and State Government on equality, age of consent and safety issues for LGBT in the night club area.
- Newsletters are now being sent to Federal politicians.
- Constitution was completed in November.
- Car Parade marking the second anniversary of the words "man and woman" being made compulsory in wedding vows. In conjunction with Australian Marriage Equality group, we drove around Brisbane with placards and rainbow flags on our cars.
- David Graham of Big Brother fame made us his Charity of Choice when he became Australia's Brainiest Housemate on Channel 10.
- Warren Entsch's Private Members Bill created much discussion as did Rodney Croome and his Parents for Equality Campaign.
- A Submission to HREOC was made in September

and we were then asked to speak at the Hearing in Brisbane in October. We also submitted another petition on same sex families.

- "Long Reach for Out Reach" – November saw the culmination of our huge project which was written to assist workers and families to understand and accept those who are LGBT. Information Packs were sent to all School Nurses, LGBT Police Liaison Officers, a thousand Rural Doctors as well as a thousand packs being distributed to PFLAG Groups around Australia. The Police are now using the package as part of their training resource.

The Year Ahead

- Conference - This will be our main project for the year and it is our intention to have speakers who can relate to all present. We hope to have everyone involved and the main goal is to keep it friendly and simple.

The official dinner will be held at Ahmet's Turkish Restaurant at Southbank. We feel that probably after a big day of listening and hands on projects, an informal dinner will be most welcome. The food is always tasty, plentiful and reasonably priced.

For further details on the Conference, please see the information sheet.

If you have ideas on how to make the Conference more successful, or if you have a particular strength in organising a Conference, or would just like to assist in some way, please let us know.

- PFLAG, Kingaroy – Sandra Browne, Community Worker and mother of a gay son, is keen to promote PFLAG in her local area. The first meeting will be in Kingaroy on 10 March at 12:30pm. If you would like to make the trip to support Sandra, please give me a call on 0409 363 335.

Michael's Fruit & Nut Cake

For those present at the February meeting - here's the recipe for Michael's cake that many of you sampled and found to be delicious...

Ingredients

250 grams Brazil nuts (whole, shelled)
125 grams walnuts or almonds
2/3 cup chopped mixed glace fruit (or use seeded prunes, dessert figs and mixed peel)
1 cup stoned dates, cut in halves
1/2 cup raisins
1 cup glace cherries (or dried cranberries)
1/3 cup chopped glace ginger
3/4 cup plain flour
1/2 teaspoon baking powder
3 heaped tablespoons cocoa powder
1/4 cup castor sugar or dark brown sugar
3 eggs
1 teaspoon pure vanilla essence

Method

1. Line a loaf pan (approx 22cm x 14cm) with non stick baking paper. Put the fruits and nuts in a bowl (reserve some for the top).
2. Sift flour, baking powder, cocoa and sugar. Add to the fruit mixture and mix well.
3. Add beaten eggs and vanilla. Pack mixture into loaf tin, pressing down firmly with back of wooden spoon.
4. Top with reserved nuts.
5. Bake at 120 C or 250 F for 2 to 2 1/2 hours.
6. Cool 1/2 hour in the tin. Remove paper.

To store (when cold) wrap in greaseproof/baking paper, then plastic wrap and keep in the refrigerator. Use a sharp bread knife to cut into thin slices to serve.

Notes

In lieu of some of the sugar, marmalade can be used to vary the taste. Also cinnamon or mixed spice can be added to the mixture.

Replacing the glace fruits with prunes, figs, dried cranberries, dried apricots etc cuts down the sugar content and is a healthier option. The cake keeps well in the fridge. Enjoy!

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pflag

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Please support us.

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information, please contact Shelley Argent.

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PFLAG Brisbane Annual Membership Form

Please complete the form below and return to PFLAG. You can also pay online, via www.pflagbrisbane.org.au. Larger donations are always welcome. Thanks for your support!

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Mailing address:

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Membership type:

- Family (\$25 annually - I have included a cheque or Australia Post Money Order)
- Corporate (\$100 annually [incl. website & news letter advertising]; I have included a cheque or Australia Post money Order)

Mail to: PO Box 3142 South Brisbane 4101, or...

Bring to: 30 Helen Street, Newstead 4006, or...

Pay online at: www.pflagbrisbane.org.au

Thank you!

2007 PFLAG Brisbane Conference

Register your interest

This form is not binding but we are interested in knowing how many people are considering attending.

Name: _____

Which PFLAG group do you belong to? _____

Any special requirements if you do attend: _____

Or, generally from your group, how many are interested at this moment? _____

Please return this completed form to

Shelley Argent

Email pflagbris@hotmail.com

Ph. 0409-363-335 anytime

Ph. 30171739 Mon – Wed 9 am/noon