



Welcome

While it's a very busy time of year for us, sometimes it's interesting to reflect back on what has been achieved. I find sometimes we get so busy working to make a difference or changes to attitudes, that we forget how far we have come.

I have been invited to speak in Cairns in June about PFLAG over the last 10 years. When I started to think about what I would say, I quickly realised how far we have come and how we are now achieving the long term goals that I had always hoped for. One of these goals being 'getting the word out into rural areas' - not only with information packs like Longreach for Outreach but to actually be advertising in the local papers.

However, nationally (thanks to the many activists who have not given up over the years) there is the possibility of some rights being acknowledged with the Relationship Register being introduced nationally, especially if the opposition should win at the next election. This is a start, but where is the equality and where is the choice for out LGBT sons and daughters that their heterosexual siblings take for granted?

I am not normally a politically minded person (except when it comes to gay rights) but I really believe it's time we as parents broke the silence and let the major parties know that we are tired of our sons and daughters being treated as second class.

Politicians from both major parties are of the opinion that there aren't "that many" out there and so they can sit on their hands and do nothing with minimal consequences. It's time their beliefs were challenged so ring your sitting politicians and would-be candidates and let them know your thoughts.

- Shelley
(Convener, PFLAG Brisbane)

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be on **7th of July, 2007**. Father John (a catholic priest) will be our guest speaker. He came along a couple of years ago and was very helpful and supportive to those with religious issues. So if you have never been to a meeting before but would be interested in what John has to say, please don't be shy.

Time: 1.30pm

Place: 30 Helen Street, Newstead

PFLAG Brisbane Conference 3rd National Conference

9th & 10th June, 2007 - Brisbane Convention Centre

Plans are coming together very well for this big event on the PFLAG calendar. Topics covered include: families and same sex parenting, relationships, legal matters, rural issues, youth risky behaviours, human rights and ageing. It will also be a good opportunity to hear Rodney Croome speak about lobbying and how far they have come in the last few years.

We will also have lots of extra educational information on community groups and topics relevant to PFLAG to take away.

Remember that the dinner will be at Ahmets - a popular Turkish restaurant at South Bank (close to Rydges). There has been some confusion about when to pay for the dinner but we would appreciate payment beforehand otherwise there will be too much to organise on the night. Drinks are pay as you go.

Registration for the conference closes on **20th May**, so be sure to register before it's too late! You can register & pay securely, online at www.pflagbrisbane.org.au.

Pride Fair - 16th June 2007

The rally will be held at Queens Park (at the top of George Street near the Casino) this year, due to the major construction occurring around King George Square and the Roma Street Forum.

As per usual, a march will follow the rally - taking us to Musgrave Park. PFLAG supporters will be there "with bells on" with an information stall, so please come and say hello. This is a great day with delicious food and fun entertainment. More importantly it's a day we can show our physical support to our LGBT sons and daughters by sharing this day with them.



Pride 2006: Marching across Victoria Bridge in Brisbane's CBD. See more photos at www.pridedvd.tv

Advertising in Rural Papers

Now that we have several parents happy to be rural contacts, we are trialling advertising in rural papers. The adverts are going in once a month into each paper so we'll see how this goes. It's our intention to advertise for 3 months and then consider another 3 months of advertising depending on the response. We'll keep you informed about the outcome.

GLWA

Shelley have been invited to speak to the Gay and Lesbian Welfare Association (GLWA) recruits for this year. This is an anonymous telephoning counselling service and everyone has to undergo a lengthy training process to be accepted as a counsellor.

Sexuality is not a choice

We are in the process of doing another reprint of

"Sexuality is not a Choice". We have now had 4 print-runs made, amounting to 10,000 copies printed in the last four years! The eBook version has also been downloaded from our website almost as many times.

We are also in the process of getting another 5000 brochures printed. This now brings the tally to about 20,000 brochures in the last 6 years. When the first batch of brochures was printed, it took about 18 months to distribute all of them, yet last year we distributed 5,000 in less than 12 months. The word is getting out there!

Living Book

Due to her story as a mother of a gay son and her involvement in PFLAG, the Brisbane City Council has asked Shelley to become part of the "Living Book" festival. This is a program where one is asked to tell their story to others by answering a range of questions from those who might be interested. We'll let you know how it goes!

Sydney Mardi Gras - 1st March 2008

While it's still a while off, Mardi Gras 2008 should be huge! It's the 30th anniversary and we're sure you will all agree that we have come a long way since then. Make sure you book your hotel room in the next few weeks!

Shelley (*Editor: and !!*) have marched a couple of times along with other parents from Brisbane and it is always great fun and a huge adrenalin boost. It doesn't matter how sore or aching your feet, legs or backs may be, you always forget about them and just have a great time. Also if you really can't march but want to be part of the fun, there's always a truck you can ride on!

Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) Submission

We will soon be hearing what the HREOC report recommends about lesbian and gay rights, and more interestingly, what the present government and opposition's response will be in regards to these recommendations. We hope that the findings from this report will encourage debate which will see positive outcomes for our LGBT sons and daughters.

Our sponsors

Please support our sponsors, so they can continue to support us!

Toowoomba Homestay

Fully self contained house in a garden setting.
Three double bedrooms are available for short stays.
Centrally located and pet friendly,
stay from \$40 per person, per night.

Cheaper rates for groups and longer stays.
Yoga classes are available on request.

Phone 07 46358066

Harrison Plumbing and Gas Services

Alan (Northside) - 0418 739 859
Dean (Southside) - 0408 707 411

harrisonplumbing@internode.on.net
www.harrisonplumbing.com.au

Stonewall Medical Centre

52 Newmarket Road, Newmarket
Telephone 3857 1222

Flynn Walker & Co.

Certified Practising Account
17 Arlene Street, Sunnybank 4109
Ph. 07 3344 3003



Big Budda Boom
connecting your senses

The PFLAG Brisbane newsletter is designed
& compiled by Andy Pudmenzky of Big Budda Boom

www.bigbuddaboom.com.au or info@bigbuddaboom.com.au
Video to DVD // Corporate events & Staging // Artwork & Design
Web design & hosting // Audio engineering

pflag

PFLAG Brisbane (Shelley Argent)

Mail: PO Box 3142 South Brisbane 4101

Office: 30 Helen Street, Newstead 4006

Phone: 3017 1739 or the helpline on 0400 767 832

Email: info@pflagbrisbane.org.au

Internet: www.pflagbrisbane.org.au

PFLAG is totally voluntary & organised by parents.
Please support us. You can assist by advertising here.
For more information, please contact Shelley Argent.

Pink

Pink Financial Services

Colin Paull & Associates

phone 02 9599 9206

email info@123taxonline.com.au

internet www.123taxonline.com.au

The Gay & Lesbian Business Association Inc.

PO Box 67, Spring Hill QLD 4004

info@brisbaneglbn.org www.brisbaneglbn.org

Gladstone Road Medical Centre

38 Gladstone Road, Highgate Hill
Telephone 3844 9899



GEORGE HARTNETT
FUNERALS

42 Gaza Road, Holland Park QLD 4121

Phone: 07 3849 8411 **Fax:** 07 3849 1903

www.georgehartnettfunerals.com.au

RYDGES

SOUTH BANK • BRISBANE

Glenelg Street, South Bank - Brisbane QLD 4101

Phone: 07 3364 0800

Fax: 07 3364 0801

Internet: www.rydges.com



BRISBANE
convention
& exhibition
CENTRE

Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre

Cnr. Merivale & Glenelg Streets, South Brisbane

1800 063 308

www.bcec.com.au

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:

Email: _____

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 1372 Eagle Farm BC, QLD 4009 , 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