



Welcome

This has been a busy but very exciting personal time for me. On the morning of Wednesday 10th May my family and only a couple of friends (due to limited numbers) went along to Government House with me to receive the Order of Australia Medal for my work in the gay community.

The previous evening my son James organised a dinner and drinks with friends (his and mine) from the gay community which was great fun and a wonderful surprise regarding who he invited. His policing skills certainly came to the fore. Then to add to this lovely night he presented me with a huge box of 50 beautiful salmon coloured tulips after a very touching speech.

Then on the Wednesday afternoon, I then had to board a plane for Cairns with the tulips, which wasn't easy. Later it was announced over the intercom that I had received the OAM award in the morning which then brought applause from the passengers and champagne from the steward. So all in all it was a lovely day.

So thank you to those who nominated me it was both humbling and unexpected, but a great honour at the same time.

- Shelley

(Convener, PFLAG Brisbane)

Next Meeting

Our next meeting will be held on Saturday 8th July, at 1:30pm. Remember - we are in our new premises at **30 Helen Street, Newstead.**

If you have a problem finding the new building please call Shelley on 0409 363 335. Our guest speaker at the meeting will be Craig Lewis - an Educational Officer from QUAC, who will talk to us about HIV. We look forward to seeing you there!

We have moved offices!

PFLAG and QUAC have now moved. Our new home is located at 30 Helen Street, in Newstead.

Most would know where the "Wool Stores" are, and we are relatively close to them. Keep an eye out for our building - it has a metallic front and parking should be easy on weekends.

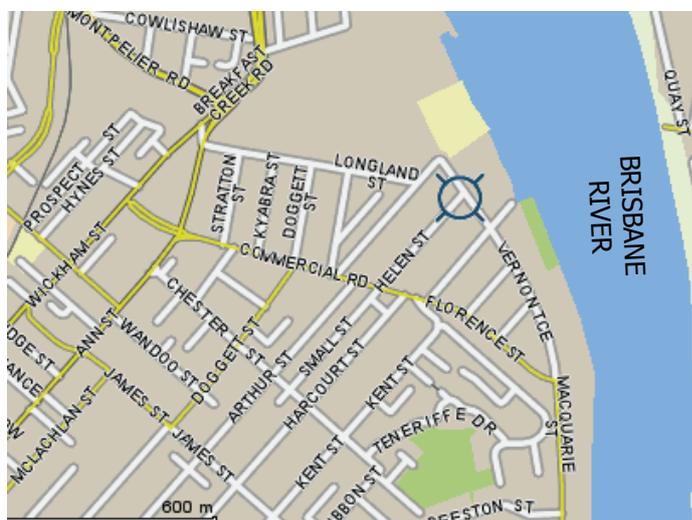
For the newcomers there will be no wandering around looking for the kitchen and hot water anymore, the meeting room and kitchen are now open plan. So let's hope it's successful for everyone because QUAC is going to be there for a very long time.

Another piece of news is that the Queensland AIDS Council (QUAC) is also changing its' name to Queensland Allied Health Council (QAHC).

So remember, our next meeting will be held at our new premises, which again, is:

30 Helen Street, Newstead

See you there!



Map: Helen Street, Newstead

Saturday 17th June is **Brisbane Pride Day!**

One of the biggest events on Brisbane's social calendar is Pride Day. Now in its 17th year, the Brisbane Pride festival brings together LGBTI (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex) members of our community - including their families, parents, friends - even their pets!



Photo: A German Shepard marching at Pride 2005.



Photo: Rally at King George Square (2005).

overleaf), and has its premier day on Saturday 17th June, when there is a rally (10am, King George Square), a march through the city streets (complete with Dykes on Bikes - departing King George Square from approximately 10:30am), which snakes its way through the city and across the river, heading towards Musgrave Park.

This is followed by a huge day ("Fair Day") of fun, food, stands & stalls, rides, drinks and entertainment at Musgrave Park from around 11:00am, when the marchers begin to pull in from their walk through the city. Kieran and Lynne are again organising our stand at Fair Day.

If you would like to join the PFLAG team and march with us through the city in the morning, please meet us at **King George Square** on Saturday 17th June at around 10:00am. As there are likely to be many people floating around, if you can't find the PFLAG banner, please give Shelley a call on 0409 363 335. The march is noisy and lots of fun, so we look forward to seeing you there!

In his message, Queensland Premier Peter Beattie reflected on previous festivals, and said "The Brisbane Pride Festival has recognised the richness of our diversity, the rights of the individual and the shared values of different people in the 16 years it was established".

Mr Beattie goes on to say that the "...theme of this year's celebration 'Show your true colours', is as fitting as the expression behind it - to highlight the individual styles of



Parade Route: From the rally-site in King George Square, the parade wanders down Adelaide Street, across the Victoria Bridge, past the Cultural Centre Busway station, down Grey Street, into Glenelg Street, and up to Musgrave Park for Fair Day.

The festival kicks off with a launch at Brisbane's Powerhouse on June 2nd (see separate article

our diverse community as well as asking us as a community to come together”.



Photo: PFLAG stall at Fair Day (2005).

Brisbane Pride Rally, March and Fair Day is an easy date to remember this year, as it's Pride's 17th Year on the 17th June.

So please, tell your partners, friends, kids and families; as all your favourites are back plus a whole lot more! It really is an inclusive day for everyone, so help us celebrate Queensland's biggest single LGBTI event and don't forget to bring your dog and enter into the Pride Pet Parade!



Photo: Marching down Adelaide Street (2005).

This is always an important event on the gay community calendar with an opportunity for us to support and talk to youth who have “come out” or may be considering it.

Some parents just come along to show support for their LGBT kids and just have a great time in friendly accepting surroundings.

So please do come along - the more the merrier!

Pride 2006 DVD

Big Budda Boom is creating a professional DVD video of this year's parade & some of fair day to showcase the smiles, the memories, the fun & the faces of Pride in 2006.

If you would like to order a copy, please contact Andy on 0412 630064, email andy@bigbuddaboom.com.au, visit www.bigbuddaboom.com.au or just come and say g'day on the day. Thank you.

Pride Festival Launch

Shelley recently officially launched this year's Pride Festival at the Brisbane Powerhouse for the Arts at New Farm on June the 2nd, after being approached by the Brisbane Pride Festival Committee!

Website Update

The PFLAG Brisbane website received 11,645 & 11,786 hits in April & May 2006 respectively, taking our total hits to just over 87,700 since the website launched in September 2005. This is made up of 411 unique computers (visitors) in February & 386 in March.

6pm was the most popular hour of the day to visit our website in April, and 11am in May. For the same period, 275 people read our May newsletter directly from the website.

Once again, the most popular document on the site is Shelley's booklet, “Sexuality is not a choice”, which has been downloaded & viewed more than 1500 times since it was posted in September last year! Well done Shelley!

Our website address is www.pflagbrisbane.org.au.

Please note that our website statistics software does not collect or contain any personal or identifiable information about site users.

Turtle Cove Family Weekend

Meryl and Shelley were welcomed once again at Turtle Cove for the Mothers Day Weekend. It's a place that you should all visit if you're in the north, even if it's only for lunch. Unfortunately, since cyclone Larry struck the international travelers think North Queensland has been blown away and there have been many cancellations, not only at Turtle Cove but Port Douglas as well.

Regardless of this it was still successful as far as Mothers Day went. Additionally, we did some great networking which will hopefully take us north again to spread the PFLAG word in other areas!

PFLAG Conference in 2007

We are considering holding a conference next year in Brisbane, on the Queens Birthday weekend. Costs and premises are still to be sought, but we thought that we should check and see how many people would be interested in attending and/or being part of the committee to make it happen, before doing any further in-depth planning.

We understand that June 2007 is a long way off, but there is no point if people aren't interested. It would be our intention to have guest speakers and workshops mainly on the Saturday and Sunday with a welcome dinner on the Saturday evening.

Furthermore, it would depend on if we are successful in gaining enough funding to make it happen. For further information or to register your interest, please contact us (details are provided on the back page).

Gay bashings

A meeting concerning an increase in the number of bashings was held at New Farm on April 6th between police and the gay community. The police did try to be helpful in most areas, but presently things seem to have gone a little quiet. Naturally, if people don't report bashings, the police can't respond.

With the Police force's blessing, the "Walksafe" project has widely advertised for people to come forward and

tell their story, even anonymously if they choose, by email but presently the numbers reporting aren't significant enough for major changes. The good thing about this is if problems arise again police are already alert. But, we will continue to ask questions and keep members updated.

Justice Michael Kirby

...will be speaking at the June Owen Wordsworth Room at QUT Gardens Point's *S Block* at 5:30pm, on June 20th.

Dr. Ingrid Tall will chair this event. Shelley has been invited to speak about "Fear and Homophobia vs Education and Understanding". The other guest speaker is David Bradford who will speak about "Gay Medicine Past, Present and Future". All are welcome to attend.

Helpline

Just a reminder that you can reach the PFLAG Brisbane helpline on 0400 767 832.

Many thanks to Grainne, Lynne, Maggie and Meryl who have volunteered to take on this very important role for PFLAG.

If you wish to volunteer to help us out, please contact Shelley Argent (please see the back of this newsletter, or www.pflagbrisbane.org.au for contact details).

Information Pack for Rural & Regional QLD

This project is still moving towards completion. We are still waiting for funding which we should hear about by the end of June but we want to be ready.

Basically, now all that needs to be done is the poster designed, completion of the booklet for rural families and proof reading of the hand book for the professionals. For those who may have missed the last newsletter we plan to print 5000 packs that contain information for families to gain understanding, assist LGBT with the "coming out" process.

Additionally, provide information for professionals who

work or come into contact with those in the LGBT community, plus a CD of parents' stories. Finally, a rainbow sticker and poster will be included so they can be displayed in the office or workplace to show acceptance.

It is our intention these packs will be sent to every high school, health centre and practice, library and police station in Queensland.

PFLAG Annual Membership

Thank you to those that have paid their annual PFLAG membership, and to those that have made online payments through our website. Remember, it's never too late to become a member or to make a donation - all of which can be done by contacting PFLAG using the contact details in the box below, or by visiting www.pflagbrisbane.org.au and paying online using your credit card.

Thanks again for your support!

Our sponsors

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

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The Gay & Lesbian Business Association Inc.

PO Box 67, Spring Hill QLD 4004
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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.



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

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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: _____

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Mailing address: _____

Email: _____

Membership type: **Family** (\$25 annually - I have included a cheque or Australia Post Money Order)

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

Pay online at: www.pflagbrisbane.org.au