



**Parents & Friends of Lesbians and Gays NSW Inc.
(Incorporating Western Sydney)**

July 2011 Newsletter VOLUME 14-ISSUE 6

The next Family meeting of PFLAG NSW Inc. (Incorporating Western Sydney) will be on Wednesday, July 27 at 7.30pm in the Conference Room, Wesley Lodge Motel. The Wesley Lodge is situated on the Cnr. Hawkesbury & Queens Roads, Westmead and is very close to Westmead Hospital and Train station. **Car entry is only from Hawkesbury Rd via a boom gate.**

For Information contact: Judy on (02) 9869 1454 Postal Address: PO Box 3751, Marsfield NSW 2122.
Email: jr_brown@bigpond.net.au

President's Report

“Love and accept your children as they are!” – Wu Youjian, President of PFLAG Guangzhou, China. This is often a difficult task in China, where homosexuality is rarely accepted and many choose to hide a part of their lives rather than face the social consequences of coming out. Wu Youjian goes on to say: ***“ What upsets me the most is when parents say that they think their children should sacrifice and change their sexual orientation to save the ‘face’ of the family.”***

Needless to say, suicide is high among Chinese homosexuals with 30% of gay youths attempting to take their own lives. Recently this situation in China has been inflamed by the homophobic comments of well-known Chinese actress, Lu Liping, posted on her social networking sites. After the legalisation of same-sex marriage by the New York State Senate, Lu Liping called on her 125,000 followers to mount an anti-gay campaign to ‘fight against sin’. I was alerted to this by Mu Yang, a senior lecturer in gender and culture at the UNSW, who asked if I could raise awareness of this campaign with local LGBT contacts, as Lu Liping was scheduled to perform in Peer Gynt in Sydney on July 9 & 10. With limited time, the Sydney Star Observer was attempting to get the story on to their website and SX magazine printed an article for us in their July 4 edition, where I commented that the inflammatory comments would only add to the discrimination faced by the LGBT community and make life tougher for sexual minorities in China.

I would like to congratulate Michelle Lancey, co-ordinator of the newly formed Newcastle/Hunter Region PFLAG group, who, as a delegate to the NSW Labor Conference on July 9-10, spoke out in favour of Marriage Equality. We managed to catch a snippet of her speech on ABC News 24. Thanks also to Shelley Argent, our

Meeting dates in 2011 are 27 July: 24 Aug: 28 Sept: 26 Oct: 23 Nov

Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month except Dec.

Website www.pflagaustralia.org.au Email info@pflagaustralia.org.au

National Spokesperson, who prepared “Marriage Equality” kits and sent them down for Michelle to distribute at the conference. Debate on the issue has been referred to December’s National Conference.

Thanks to Jackie Braw for inviting PFLAG to be a part of the panel at the training of the Gay & Lesbian Liaison Officers at Parramatta Police Headquarters on July 7. Pam and I spoke to 25 GLLOs and I don’t think that there was a dry eye in the house when Pam had finished telling her story. Personal stories can be a very powerful tool in the fight against homophobia.

Congratulations to Vicky & Adolfo, who became grandparents again, when their daughter, Laura, gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Miah, a couple of days prior to Vicky’s birthday at the end of June – a very special birthday present I believe Miah’s dad, Jay, brother Emmanuel and sisters, Veronica & Monique are also “over the moon”.

A very big “thank you” to Shelagh Zincke, who has co-ordinated PFLAG Newcastle at Morisset over a number of years. Due to changing circumstances, Shelagh is unable to continue in her role. Her expertise and dedication will be sadly missed.

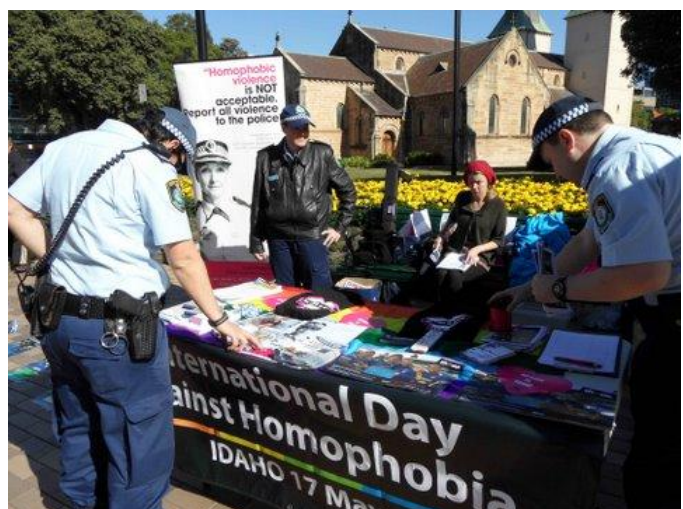
Congratulations to Pastor Robert Clarke and the Metropolitan Community Church Good Shepherd at Granville on their 25th Anniversary. A number of us from the committee attended their celebratory function at the Sebel Hotel last Saturday, which was most enjoyable. The Guest Speaker, Dr Wendall Rosevear from Brisbane, was most impressive. He spoke about the power of honesty and love and related anecdotes from his experience of counselling both the victims and perpetrators of crime. He also provided us with a handout titled “Caring”, which was also thought-provoking.

Thank you to ACON, who has invited us to the official opening of their new premises at 414 Elizabeth St. Surry Hills on Tuesday, July 19.

I hope to see many of you at our July 27 Family Meeting, for as Rudy says: “When you don’t need PFLAG anymore, that’s when PFLAG needs YOU!”

Judy

“We had a great IDAHO (International Day against Homophobia)” event in Parramatta on Tuesday, May 17. Special thanks to Gavin (from ACON), who organised it, to the NSW police for their strong supportive presence, to Pam & Arthur from PFLAG, to the Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby for their “Hearts” and to everyone who helped.” Ian Werner (Convenor – Parramatta Queer Forum).



Meeting dates in 2011 are 27 July: 24 Aug: 28 Sept: 26 Oct: 23 Nov
Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month except Dec.

Website www.pflagaustralia.org.au Email info@pflagaustralia.org.au

What would you tell Julia Gillard across the dinner table?

Come and meet Sandy and Louise, one of the couples, who thanks to GetUP and AME, will soon have dinner with Julia Gillard to discuss marriage equality.

Sandy and Louise will be the special guests at a forum on Saturday July 23rd at the Bank Hotel in Newtown. They will outline what they intend to tell the Ms Gillard, and hear what you would tell the PM.

Other speakers will provide an update on the marriage equality campaign, including Alex Greenwich from Australian marriage Equality and Shelley Argent from Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays.

Details:

Date: 3-5pm, Saturday July 23rd

Venue: Upstairs at The Bank Hotel, 324 King Street, Newtown

Catering: the bar will be open

Speakers: Sandy and Louise, Shelley Argent, Alex Greenwich

MEDIA RELEASE

Monday 11 July 2011

ACE WELCOMES “AUSTRALIA’S FIRST” PARLIAMENTARY FRIENDSHIP GROUP FOR LGBTI* AUSTRALIANS

The Australian Coalition for Equality (ACE) today welcomed an announcement of the establishment of Australia’s first Parliamentary Friendship Group for LGBTI Australian’s (PFLGBTIA).

An initiative of Coalition MP Warren Entsch, with Australian Labor Party MP Graham Perrett and Australian Greens Senator Sarah Hanson-Young; this tri-partisan approach will provide a forum for the wide range of issues affecting the diversity of LGBTI Australians.

Australian Coalition for Equality spokesperson Corey Irlam said that many “meat and three veg” issues affecting the diverse LGBTI community often went unnoticed by Parliamentarians and policy makers.

“This is a first in Australia. It’s a wonderful initiative that will ensure the diversity of the LGBTI community has a regular opportunity to discuss issues with our elected officials and for them to discuss issues amongst themselves.” said Mr Irlam.

“We’re particularly pleased to see that all parties in the Parliament are represented solidly in the friendship group.”

ACE spokesperson Martine Delaney noted that there had been enormous strides in same-sex law reform during the last parliament, but very little reforms affecting transgender and intersex Australians.

“This forum will ensure that Parliamentarians are very much aware of issues facing sex and/or gender diverse Australians. It provides another way of getting issues on the table.” said Ms Delaney

Meeting dates in 2011 are 27 July: 24 Aug: 28 Sept: 26 Oct: 23 Nov

Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month except Dec.

Website www.pflagaaustralia.org.au Email info@pflagaaustralia.org.au

There are a range of LGBTI issues that don't receive widespread attention. These include Federal Anti-Discrimination laws; issues faced by older LGBTI Australians; issues faced by sex and gender diverse people in Government systems and when accessing Medicare benefits; or even discussing the need for Government to collect sexual orientation and gender identity indicators in research to better inform public policy.

"The Australian Coalition for Equality looks forward to working with MP's and Senators, alongside others within the LGBTI community as we discuss important but often forgotten issues." said Mr Irlam

"We particularly thank and congratulate Warren Entsch MP, Graham Perrett MP and Senator Sarah Hanson-Young for working together to create this opportunity." said Ms Delaney

For further information please contact Corey Irlam on 0401 738 996

Nothing is inevitable without a fight! CAAH protest for marriage equality

Press Release 20/06/11

Community Action Against Homophobia (CAAH) respond to the new poll indicating that 75% of Australians believe marriage equality is inevitable by saying that nothing is inevitable without a fight.

Cat Rose, CAAH Co-convenor commented "We want to take up the idea that marriage equality is inevitable. It's great that people see homophobia as an endangered animal, but the question is *when* will we see marriage equality? The idea that equality is inevitable shouldn't allow us to rest on our laurels, we have a lot of work to do to make sure that the Labor Party introduce marriage equality into their platform at their conference in December. If we don't fight, we'll lose - and that means not waiting until December. There is a national day of action to mark the anniversary of Howard's homophobic amendment to the marriage act on August 13. We want to make sure that everyone comes out to continue the fight. We don't want Gillard to have a day of rest from equality advocates."

Ben Cooper "As we approach, the NSW ALP and National ALP conferences, we need to make sure that we continue to fight for our rights. This is the most important year of the campaign so far and if we want to win equality, then is the time to really set up your involvement in the campaign."

CAAH will also hold a stunt at the NSW ALP state conference from 12-2 Saturday 9 July at Town Hall. A dinosaur will be there saying they supports marriage equality, what about Labor?

Equality advocates are urged to gather at Town Hall at 1pm on Saturday 13 August for Sydney part of the national day of action for marriage equality.

Cat Rose 0405 770 302 and Ben Cooper 0434 082 229 Co-conveners,
Community Action Against Homophobia www.caah.org.au

Meeting dates in 2011 are 27 July: 24 Aug: 28 Sept: 26 Oct: 23 Nov

Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month except Dec.

Website www.pflagaustralia.org.au Email info@pflagaustralia.org.au

Parramatta Pride Picnic

Sunday 18th September 11am to 4pm
Parramatta Park Site 23 Pavilion Flat, Entrance via O'Connell St, Parramatta

This is a family friendly GLBTI community picnic day. Come and enjoy a fun day out in the park with friends and family. Bring a packed lunch and picnic blanket or purchase from the BBQ supplied by the Western Suburbs Haven.

DJ- FACE PAINTING -AIR BRUSH TATTOOING - STORY TELLING- GAMES AND ACTIVITIES

There will be stall holders on the day from local services for the GLBTI community, including, MCC Good Shepherd, PFLAG, Police NSW, Cumberland Women's Health Centre, Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service, Twenty 10, Sydney Star Observer, Team Sydney, Come Out Australia, ACON and the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby.

**For more information contact Judy from PFLAG on 02 9869 1454 or
info@pflagaustralia.org.au**

The Parramatta Pride Picnic is organised by the Parramatta Queer Forum, a group of individuals and community organisations from the Parramatta and surrounding areas.

Upcoming Events

- Parramatta Pride Picnic - September 18
-

Civil Marriage Celebrant - Rev Robert Clark from MCC Good Shepherd, Granville, is a **Civil Marriage Celebrant**. You can check out his website: www.weddingswithflair.net

Renewal Notice Reminder Please do not forget to renew your membership for 10/11! Thanks to all the members who have renewed already. If you joined after 30 June, 2010, you are deemed to be financial until end of 2011.

EMAIL ADDRESSES

If you are on email, please help us reduce our costs by sending us an email with your details (which will remain confidential) and all future information will be emailed to you.

Meeting dates in 2011 are 27 July: 24 Aug: 28 Sept: 26 Oct: 23 Nov
Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month except Dec.

Website www.pflagaustralia.org.au Email info@pflagaustralia.org.au

NSW Inc. PFLAG (Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians of Gays) is a group of people who share common experiences and provide support for each other. We listen and love. We help families have open, positive and loving relationships with their GLBT children and we work for their civil and human rights.

PFLAG NSW: Next Family Meeting - Wednesday July 27 @ 7.30pm.

PFLAG Penrith: Vicki on 02 4730 4660 or Carol 02 47354680

PFLAG Northside: Maree Ph. 02 99397706

PFLAG Central Coast: Helen 0431 863 799 pflag.nsw.centralcoast@gmail.com

PFLAG Northwest: Val Harris 02 6769 7552 or Fay Heywood 02 6785 7325

PFLAG Bathurst: Tony Sutton 02 6331 7267 nottus2@bigpond.com

PFLAG Great Lakes/Manning: Greg & Lauranne Byrne 0427 918 568
gregbyrne3@bigpond.com

PFLAG Newcastle/Hunter: Contact Michelle Lancey 0403 730 257
or email michellelancey@optusnet.com.au



Meeting dates in 2011 are 27 July: 24 Aug: 28 Sept: 26 Oct: 23 Nov
Meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday of each month except Dec.

Website www.pflagaustralia.org.au Email info@pflagaustralia.org.au