



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

January 2009 Newsletter

The next meeting of PFLAG NSW Inc.(Incorporating Western Sydney) will held be on Wednesday 28 January, 2009 at 7.30 pm in the Conference Room, Wesley Lodge Motel, Cnr. Hawkesbury & Queens Roads, Westmead. The Wesley Lodge is very close to Westmead Hospital and Train station. **Car entry is only from Hawkesbury Rd via a boom gate. Please use key entry number "1111".** This code is allocated only on PFLAG meeting nights

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

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President's Report

"I never doubted that equal rights was the right direction. Most reforms, most problems are complicated. But to me there is nothing complicated about ordinary equality." - Alice Paul.

On Monday night, November 24, 2008, the Same-Sex Relationships (Equal Treatment in Commonwealth Laws - General Law Reform) Bill 2008 was passed through the Senate. This historic legislation removes outdated discrimination against same-sex couples in scores of laws ranging from taxation, superannuation and Medicare to social security, health, aged care and employment. Credit and thanks must be given to the Federal Government, particularly Attorney-General Robert McClelland, who worked tirelessly over many months to implement the Human Rights Commission Report and to all the politicians who supported the legislation. Congratulations are due to the many organisations (of which PFLAG is one) and individuals who campaigned to bring about these historic reforms. There is a very poignant article in the January 3-4 weekend edition of the SMH which relates the story of gay war widower, Edward Young, whose same-sex partner of 38 years had served in the Australian Army in WW11. Due to the new laws, he will no longer be denied a war widower's pension. Edward is quoted as

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Meeting held 4th Wednesday of each month

saying "I don't mind waiting another six months. The laws have been changed; we've won now. I've been waiting 10 years."

More work needs to be done nationally to prohibit sexuality discrimination and to remove discrimination in marriage but for the present, these reforms are to be celebrated.

Thank you to MCC Good Shepherd and Acceptance Sydney, who invited us to take part in their World AIDS Day services in late November. Both were very moving and memorable ceremonies.

For those who were unable to be present at the AGM on November 26, the results of the elections were as follows:

President: Judy Brown

Vice-President: Mollie Smith

Secretary: Narelle Phipps

Treasurer: Ken Smith

Publicity Officer: Karen Brunton

Education Officer: Peter Kadwell

Committee members: Ray Brown, Pamela Garske, Vicki & Adolfo Gonzalez, Ruth & Ron Green.

I would like to thank the committee for agreeing to take on their roles for 2009 and I look forward to working with them on the many and varied activities during the year. Events coming up soon include the PFLAG benefit night for the play "Vincent River" on Wednesday, January 14, Fair Day at Victoria Park on Sunday, February 15 and the Mardi Gras Parade on Saturday, March 7 as well as other social and fundraising activities advertised later in the newsletter.

Our first Family Meeting for 2009 will be held on Wednesday, January 28, where your presence is required to help support the many new families who have made contact over the holiday break. Hope to see YOU there.

I would like to wish you all a Happy New Year.

Judy

FAIR DAY AND REQUEST FOR HELP

Fair Day is on Sunday, 15th February 2009 in Victoria Park, Camperdown. Fair Day is a family fun day full of entertainment, food, fashion and stalls. It is traditionally the Mardi Gras season's biggest day-time event. Each year, dedicated PFLAG people set up the stall early on the Sunday morning. We spend time

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chatting to our many visitors, giving out information, brochures and booklets, selling our rainbow merchandise, having a good look around, generally having a fun time, and then packing up about 4pm.



Fair Day is also a major fund-raising opportunity for us. This year, we will be selling umbrellas, neck lanyards, kites and PFLAG badges, all in rainbow colours and copies of the DVD "Bouncing Castle".

Helpers are very welcome and essential! Come for a couple of hours or for the day and enjoy the camaraderie and the chance to talk about PFLAG.

This year we need people power to help set up the stall early on the Sunday morning (say 8.30 am – parking is usually pretty good at that time) and also to help dismantle the stall about 3.30 – 4pm.

Please phone Judy on 9869 1454 or Narelle on 9874 3624 to register your willingness to assist.

Hot Seat, ROAR Theatre, 2SER and the Tamarama Rock Surfers present

VINCENT RIVER

Vincent River has been murdered. Vincent's grieving mother Anita hadn't even known her son was gay; now he's been outed in the papers, Anita is surrounded by neighbours who gossip about Vincent's so-called sordid lifestyle, and the unsympathetic police haven't solved the crime. Then Anita meets teenage Davey, who claims he found Vincent's body. Davey begs Anita to help him get that memory out of his head, and Anita agrees: but only if Davey admits to the part he really played in Vincent's death.

From acclaimed UK writer Philip Ridley comes this taut thriller about grief and redemption. Set against an all-too-relevant backdrop of intolerance, Vincent River recently had sell-out seasons on the West End and in New York seasons, where critics called it "Exhilarating" (The Independent), "Riveting" (The Guardian) and "Shockingly good! Ridley's best play." (Times, London)

Vincent River stars AFI-nominated Elaine Hudson, soon to be seen in STC's Streetcar Named Desire with Cate Blanchett, and multi-award-winning playwright and actor Beejan Olfat. It's directed by Jonathan Wald, whose 2008 production of Hilda was chosen for the Seymour Centre's Best Independent Theatre series, made a Time Out Critics' Pick, and called "haunting" and "tremendously played."

Vincent River - PFLAG BENEFIT: Wednesday January 14th at 8 pm (% of the proceeds go to PFLAG) Old Fitzroy Theatre, Woolloomooloo

Tickets: Adult \$28; Concession \$20; Beer, Laksa, Show \$34; Cheap Tuesdays \$16

Bookings: 1300 GETTIX or online www.rocksurfers.org

Enquiries: jonwald@yahoo.com (Jonathan Wald)

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ACCEPTANCE SYDNEY TRIVIA AND DANCE FUND-RAISER

This event is our major fundraising venture for Stanford House (which provides accommodation and support for people living with HIV and AIDS).

Venue: St Joseph's Crypt (under the church!) Cnr Bedford and Station Streets Newtown

Date: Saturday February 21st, 2009

Time: Doors open 7 pm. First Question 7:30 pm

Dress: Your interpretation of the 80's

Bookings ESSENTIAL tables of 8-10 email pw_168@hotmail.com or ph 9590 9010

BRING your alcohol, BRING some food and BRING your FRIENDS!!

Nibbles will be available

Cost: \$20 / \$15 per person. Lots of Prizes to Be Won. Enormous Fun to be Had!

Polly's Idol Talent Quest

The Polly's Idol Talent Quest will be held on Saturday 24th January 2009 at The Polly Club.

Special Guest is Matthew Mitcham, Australia's gay Gold Medalist in diving at the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing.

Tickets: \$20 concession \$15

Address: The Polly Club, Cnr Marickville & Petersham Roads (next to Fire Station)

Bookings: Brooke 9708 6123/0401846077 (before 9 January) or David 9557 6739 (after 9 January) or email info@thepollyclub.com.au.

Time: 7pm

The club is licensed and also BYO. Soft drink, tea & coffee and hot snacks are available.

If you would like to be a contestant please call Lulu on 0401 548 989.

Renewal Notice Reminder

Please do not forget to renew your membership for 08/09! Thanks to all the members who have renewed already. If you joined after 30 June, 2008, you are deemed to be financial until end of 2009.

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.

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 January 28th @ 7.30pm

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

PFLAG Mosman: Contact Maree Ph. 02 99397706

PFLAG Central Coast/Newcastle: Contact Shelagh 02 49773271
contact@newcoastmcc.org.au

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