



NSW Inc .

(Incorporating Western Sydney)

“Keeping Families Together”

October Newsletter

The next meeting of PFLAG NSW Inc.(Incorporating Western Sydney) will be held on **Wednesday 22nd October, 2008 at 7.30 pm** – We meet at the Conference Room, Wesley Lodge Motel, Cnr. Hawkesbury & Queens Roads, Westmead **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. The Wesley Lodge is very close to Westmead Hospital and Train station.

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

OCTOBER 2008-VOLUME 11-ISSUE 8

If you are on email, please help us reduce our costs (The cost of stamps has risen to 55 cents) by sending us an email with your details (which will remain confidential) and all future information will be emailed.

President’s Report

**“To be compassionate is to feel somebody else’s pain, to recognise and feel somebody else’s situation.”
– Alan Arkin.**

I think that this quote aptly describes what we are on about at PFLAG.

We had a small, yet excellent, meeting in September. I would like to thank Peter for facilitating the meeting so well. It was great to have the long-standing members there to offer support to the families who are still on their journey, yet making enormous efforts to come along for that much needed support. I would also like to belatedly thank Fr Claude Mostowic, our guest speaker in August, and Ruth for facilitating the August Meeting. By all accounts, they both did a wonderful job.

Ray and I spoke to the “Allies” group (Supporters of GLBT staff & students) at Newcastle University on October 2nd. We were invited to speak by Belinda Munn, the Manager, Equity & Diversity, who was one of the first people that we’d met in coming to PFLAG meetings in Parramatta years ago. We were very well received by the audience and many of them came up to say that Ray’s story had resonated with them and thanked us for the work that we do with PFLAG.

Narelle and I attended the Open Forum at UWS on September 17th titled “Families in the West – Conversations around Gender and Sexuality”. Rachael Wallbank was most informative on the issue of diversity in sexual formation, gender expression and sexuality and related much anecdotal material from cases that she was involved with in the Family Court of Australia. Professor Kerry Robinson and Cristyn Davies spoke about their study of GLBTI families in the west and inner-west of Sydney and the social, legal and educational equity issues that impact their lives. Emily Gray from the Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby focussed on the findings of the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission’s ‘Same Sex: Same Entitlements’ Inquiry and the Lobby’s 58’08 campaign to have those 58 + discriminatory laws changed by the end of 2008. Dr. Sev Ozdowski OAM, the Director Equity and Diversity at UWS assured us that the “Allies” program was alive and well and growing at the University of Western Sydney. This was very heartening to hear.

I hope to see you all at the meeting on October 22nd, where we look forward to hearing from Roxanne McMurray, the Manager of Leichhardt Women’s Community Health Centre.

Remember Rudy’s adage: **“When you don’t need PFLAG anymore, that’s when PFLAG needs you to help others!”**

Judy

Website:-www.pflagaustralia.org.au-Email editor@pflagaustralia.org.au.

1

Meeting held 4th Wednesday of each month

Appeal for Committee Members

If PFLAG has been a support to you in the past, maybe you would like to consider offering yourself as a committee member to **help to keep PFLAG viable**. Committee meetings are held bi-monthly, on a Sunday afternoon and are a great way of developing camaraderie between the members. There are two major events each year with which we require assistance: Fair Day in late February (our major fundraiser) and Mardi Gras in early March. Both of these events are very rewarding and a lot of fun, but can only happen if we have enough people on the ground to help out. There are other opportunities throughout the year if you wish to become further involved. Present committee members have found that working together for the betterment of PFLAG has helped them on their journey of acceptance. PFLAG is a well respected organisation in the community and this has been achieved through the dedication and hard work of committee members. Think about this and if you feel that you could give the time, complete the form at the end of the newsletter and either post it in or hand it in at the October meeting. Your offer of assistance would be greatly appreciated.



The Parramatta Pride Picnic, held in Parramatta Park on Sunday, 21st September, was a resounding success. The annual Pride Picnic is an initiative of the Parramatta Queer Forum, incorporating Parramatta City Council and the GLBT service and support agencies. The picnic was attended by over 500 people of all ages. The children enjoyed the face-painting, story-telling, the drummers, games and the tug-of-war.

Adults joined in a lot of the fun activities as well and were able to connect with representatives from all the GLBT service and support organisations, the Metropolitan Community Church and the NSW Police Service. The Western Suburbs Haven raised some money with a popular BBQ. PFLAG was able to distribute educative and support material, advise of family meetings and engage in some fundraising with the sale of rainbow umbrellas, lanyards, badges, kites and "Bouncing Castle" DVDs. The rainbow kites proved to be very popular. Special thanks must go to Jeff, who sought out and donated the 40 rainbow kites to PFLAG. Thanks to Team Sydney, who voluntarily gave of their services in organising the volley-ball, the fun races and the popular tug-of-war. It was great to see the Lord Mayor of Parramatta, Paul Barber, who came to officially open the picnic, stay for the whole day, interacting with everyone on the stalls and joining in the fun activities. Thanks to Gaspar, the official photographer for the day, who took lots of photos to document all the fun. David Moutou, from Twenty 10, did a fantastic job again as MC for the day. Thanks to Jonathon Llewellyn, Aandrea Ingram and Matt Vaughan, the co-convenors, for their superb organisation and thanks to the PFLAG members, who helped out on the stall or came to support and join in the fun.

The Annual Eastwood Granny Smith Festival – Saturday, October 18

Ryde Rainbow Alliance, a collaboration between "Come Out Northside", PFLAG, the NSW Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service and Twenty 10 Youth Support, invite you to join with them in their float in the Granny Smith Festival parade at Eastwood. The Granny Smith Festival is one of the largest community festivals in Sydney and reflects the diversity of the City of Ryde. As well as the parade, there are many performances and concerts during the day and many different stalls. Come Out Northside, PFLAG, the NSW Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service and Twenty 10 are sharing a **stall** which will be **staffed from 9am to 4.30pm**. PFLAG will be distributing booklets and brochures and selling rainbow umbrellas, kites and lanyards, PFLAG badges and "Bouncing Castle" DVDs.

Our float will be a Rainbow Walk. If you do not already own a PFLAG rainbow umbrella, PFLAG will have umbrellas on sale for you to carry in the parade. If you have rainbow flags, bring them along. Come along and show support for the GLBT community and **your children**.

So join us at the Granny Smith Festival at Eastwood on Saturday October 18th!

- Time:** Parade commences at 9.50am
Assembly Point: Eastwood Park
Assembly Time: From 8.30am. All participants **MUST** be in place by 9.30am
Route: Lakeside Road, Glen Street, Shaftsbury Road, Rowe Street, The Avenue and back to Eastwood Park.

For more information, call Judy (PFLAG) on 9869 1454 or Mal (Come Out Northside) on 0409 321 233.

PFLAG NSW

Our next Family Meeting: Wednesday October 22nd @ 7.30 pm

Guest Speaker: Roxanne McMurray - Manager Leichhardt Women's Community Health Centre Inc. Roxanne heads up the NSW Women Partners of Bisexual Men Service (which may be the only funded service in the country that provides this support!)

It is a state-wide service for women with a gay / bisexual male partner providing counselling, groups, information and training.

<u>PFLAG NSW: Family Meetings</u> Every 4 th Wednesday of the Month

<u>PFLAG Penrith:</u> Contact Vicki on 02 4730 4660 or Carol 02 47354680

<u>PFLAG Mosman:</u> Contact Maree Ph. 02 99397706
--

<u>PFLAG Central Coast/Newcastle:</u> Contact Shelagh 02 49773271

contact@newcoastmcc.org.au
--

<u>PFLAG Northwest:</u> Contacts Val Harris 02 6769 7552 or Fay Heywood 02 6785 7325

<u>PFLAG Bathurst/Orange:</u> Contact Tony Sutton 02 6331 7267
--

<u>NSW South Coast:</u> Contact Catherine Horsley 02 44214752 Email: kkean@aapt.net.au

Other Community News & Events

Charity Fund-raiser:

RAMS Ten Pin Bowling Bingo Night at the Marrickville Golf Club, Wharf Road Marrickville, Saturday October 25th 7pm. Bookings to Ron on 0416 487 316. Will be a fun night with loads of prizes. All proceeds to MCC Welfare Services. Make up a table of family friends and supporters. Pay bar available.

Inaugural John Marsden Lecture.

Justice Michael Kirby will deliver the Inaugural John Marsden Lecture on Wednesday October 15th, 6.30 – 8.30pm, in the Ionic Room, Sydney Masonic Centre, 66 Goulburn Street Sydney. RSVP to rightsnews@rightsaustralia.org.au

International Interfaith Abraham Conference, "Walking Together, Our Faiths and Reconciliation"

Sydney University, Saturday October 19th 11am-3pm. Cost \$20, includes lunch and afternoon tea. Chair, Richard Moorcroft and Guest Speaker Prof.. Larissa Behrendt, Prof.. of Law at UTS. Registration at registrations@affinity.org.au or telephone 9702 0789

Quorum, hosted by Metropolitan Community Church (MCC) Sydney, takes place on Monday 27th October in the Taxi Club (40-42 Flinders Street, Darlinghurst), 2nd Floor @7.30pm. This month's Quorum sees **Kerry Downes** (Bereavement Support for Lesbian Mothers) and **Sam Everingham** (All The Kings' Men, Australia's only gay old boys' association) reflecting on the people and events that have helped and motivated them in the course of their lives. For more info, contact the convenor, Glenn Boyd: 0438 690 921.

"BLOWING WHISTLES"

Narelle's son, **Neil Phipps**, is reprising his role in "Blowing Whistles" at the Darlinghurst Theatre during Oct – Nov. Some PFLAG people saw the play earlier this year when it was part of the Mardi Gras Cultural Festival. It is a "brilliant and poignant comedy that wonderfully captures the dilemmas of modern love". **Rider:** The play features nudity, strong language and scenes and images of a sexual nature.

Darlinghurst Theatre is at 19 Greenknowe Avenue, Elizabeth Bay – phone 9331 3107. Dates are - Preview: Tuesday 21 October Thursday 23 Oct to Saturday 15 November Tuesday to Saturday 8 pm. Sunday at 5pm. There are matinees on 8 and 15 November at 3pm.

Contact Narelle on 9874 3624 if you'd like to go with her and make up a group. Adult \$35: conc. \$30: Preview \$25 Preference would probably be for a matinee at 3pm or Sunday at 5pm.

PFLAG NSW INCORPORATED
PO BOX 3751 MARSFIELD NSW 2122
Registered No: Y2696735
Phone 02 9869 1454
Email: jr_brown@bigpond.net.au
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

In accordance with the requirements set down in the constitution governing PFLAG New South Wales Inc. the next Annual General Meeting of the group will be held as follows:

When: Wednesday, 26th November 2008

Where: Our usual meeting place: Wesley Conference Centre,
Cnr. Hawkesbury & Queens Roads, Westmead

Time: 7pm Sharp

The AGM will be combined with our Christmas Party.

Nominations are requested for the following officer bearers:

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer
Publicity Officer
Librarian
Education Liaison Officer
Committee members without portfolio (Four Required)

Nominations must be received, emailed as above or addressed to PO Box 3751, Marsfield, NSW, 2122 no later than FRIDAY, 7th NOVEMBER 2008.

Any member wishing to have motions discussed at the AGM must submit them by Friday, 7th November, 2008. Please note that only 2008-2009 financial members will be eligible to submit motions and vote at the AGM. An application form for membership is enclosed.

Judy Brown.
President

NOMINATION FORM FOR COMMITTEE POSITIONS 2008/2009

I _____, being a financial member of PFLAG NSW Inc., wish to nominate _____, also a financial member for the position of _____ at the election for committee members to be held at the AGM on the 26th November 2008.

Signed _____

PFLAG NSW INC
PO BOX 3751, Marsfield NSW 2122
Phone 02 9869 1454 / 02 9874 3624

APPLICATION for MEMBERSHIP 2008-2009*

Pensioner/Student	\$10.00
Single	\$15.00
Couple	\$20.00
Family	\$25.00
Bus/Community Group	\$25.00
Donation	

If joining after 30 June 2008, your membership is deemed to continue to November 2009

Name _____

Address _____

PHONE NO. HOME _____

MOBILE _____

WORK _____

FAX _____

EMAIL _____

I agree to be bound by the rules as set down in the constitution of PFLAG NSW Inc.

As a member I acknowledge that it is my duty to uphold the ideals and goals of the PFLAG organisation

Signed

OFFICE USE ONLY

Application Accepted By.....

Receipt No. **Date**

