



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

## **September 2014 Newsletter VOLUME 17-ISSUE 8**

The next meeting of PFLAG NSW Inc. (Incorporating Western Sydney) will be on Saturday, 27 September at 2pm 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**

I was watching "Silk" on the ABC last week, when the defendant, a closeted gay footballer, commented to Martha: "*Football is 21<sup>st</sup> Century when it comes to money, but 18<sup>th</sup> Century when it comes to being gay.*" It does feel a bit like that at times, especially in the light of recent homophobic comments by sporting commentators associated with the various football codes. However, with the Bingham Cup having just taken place in Sydney, with the support of so many straight allies, it appears there may be hope for a better future for gay people in sport, devoid of discrimination and harassment. Congratulations to the Sydney Convicts on their win and to the organisers on their very successful tournament.

The tournament was named after Mark Bingham, former University of California rugby star, who died in the September 11, 2001 attacks on board United Airlines Flight 93. It is accepted that he was one of the group of passengers that fought with the hijackers, leading to the plane crashing into a vacant field instead of targets in Washington DC. Mark is featured in the documentary "The Rugby Player", which was shown on ABC2 recently and at Event Cinemas, George St. His mother, Alice Hoagland, has become a high profile advocate for equal rights and was in Sydney supporting the players in the Bingham Cup.

Shelley Argent has written an excellent article in the September edition of the Star Observer on behalf of PFLAG, calling on all sporting clubs to step up and combat homophobia. Shelley's son, James, has played with the Sydney Convicts and she says: "All PFLAG parents want their sons and daughters to be free to be themselves but there are times when homophobia, internal or otherwise, can cause problems. And, sporting events and clubs can create circumstances where many choose to remain in the closet, even if they are out to family and good friends. However, what is so good is that with the Bingham Cup, this is not one of those times. Gay men – and women – are proud to be gay."

Narelle and I were privileged to be invited to a Farewell Reception at Sydney Town Hall for Her Excellency Professor The Honourable Dame Marie Bashir, Governor of NSW, in honour of her support of the GLBTIQ Community on August 26. The evening was a wonderful tribute to the outgoing Governor and she made a very heartwarming speech, highlighting her close connection with gay people early in her

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public life. What topped the night off for us was that we found ourselves seated next to the Governor's wonderful husband, Sir Nicholas Shehadie, who shared anecdotes with us for about an hour. As a revered International Rugby Player (He was considered to be the world's best prop), Sir Nicholas was really puzzled as to why PFLAG needed to exist. He kept saying to us: "What is the problem with having a gay child? – What's the difference?" What an inspirational couple they are and how lucky are we to have had them serve us in public life.

Narelle, Ray and I were warmly welcomed by the Pride Group and the Parents Group of the HSBC bank in George Street on August 19. Thank you to Jason To, who instigated the lunchtime event, and reported that the attendees were really moved by our stories and our passion for PFLAG and as a result have better insight into the impact on families and the importance of PFLAG as an organisation.

Ray and I were very pleased to be a part of the training for the GLLOs (Gay & Lesbian Liaison Officers) and Transport Police at Surry Hills Police Station on August 18. Thanks to Jackie Braw for inviting us and to all the police officers for providing a welcoming environment.

Thank you to all who came along to our August Family Meeting, where Relationships Counsellor, John Harradine, workshopped with us on the topic of "The 'coming out' process – it's still not a straight line!" I would like to thank John and his partner, Max, for giving up their time to assist us. I'm sure we all benefited from your insight, especially the new parents. John has kindly forwarded articles to me titled "Living Freely" and "Embracing our Vulnerability". If anyone would like me to forward them on, please let me know.



Well done to Wear It Purple for their successful day on August 29, with 130 schools registered, up from 86 last year and 22 in 2012. Wear It Purple Day supports rainbow young people, affirming they have the right to be who they are. GLLOs from NSW Police donned purple T-shirts to speak in a number of schools, Police Public Transport command were stationed at key Sydney hubs, "This is Oz" photo booth and stalls were set up in Hyde Park, Taylor Square and Newtown and 90

organisations and 25 tertiary institutes came on board.

It was good to hear in Star Observer that Queensland Labor passed a motion at their state conference last week to force Federal MPs to support Marriage Equality, rather than leave it to a conscience vote. The motion will be put to the Federal conference next July, calling on MPs to vote as a block on future Marriage Equality bills.

A motion, put by Greens Senator Larissa Waters, was agreed to in the Senate on August 28, condemning the anti-gay World Congress of Families Conference and calling on MPs to boycott the event. This congress is responsible for spreading homophobic and sexist prejudices around the world. The motion reaffirms equality, tolerance and non-discrimination as fundamental Australian values and reaffirms the value and dignity of all persons regardless of their gender, sexuality or family status. Kevin Andrews and most politicians pulled out of the event.

I would like to wish Adolfo well for September 22, when he will be undergoing a procedure in hospital to insert 2 heart stents. We really miss Adolfo from the committee, but his health needs to come first. I'm sure he'll be back to his old self, once the procedure has been completed.

I hope to see many of you at the Parramatta Pride Picnic on September 14 (please note the new venue) and at our Family Meeting on September 27, for as Rudy always says: ***"When you don't need PFLAG anymore, that's when PFLAG needs YOU to help others!"*** **Judy**

## **Stella Does Bingo-Fund-raiser for MCC Good Shepherd Western Sydney Inc.**

WHEN Friday October 3rd 2014

WHERE 37 East Street Granville

TIME 6.30 for 7pm

TABLE BOOKINGS OF 8 with Robert on 0412 481 195 or Email [lingling@ozemail.com.au](mailto:lingling@ozemail.com.au) Book early!

GREAT PRIZES, Raffles & lots of fun! BYO, nibbles provided. Coffee & Tea available.

Looking forward to seeing you with us.

*If you would like to be part of a PFLAG table, contact Judy on 9869 1454.*

## **“Soldier On” – Polly’s Show**

The next Pollys show will be held on Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> September! “Soldier On!!!”, produced by Kitty with the Pollys cast, promises to be a real hoot!

Come and join us, and for a bit of fun come dressed up as soldier, sailor, pilot or warrior princess – let your imagination run wild! There will be prizes for the best outfits, so show us at your most fabulous, and show us how you “Soldier On”!!!

Please note the date change – we are holding the dance on SEPTEMBER 27<sup>th</sup> – one week later than originally advertised due to a double booking at Marrickville Town Hall (Ooops!)

Tickets are \$25 / \$20 concession. Reserve your seats by texting or calling Chris on 0405 146 552 or email: [bookings@thepollysclub.com.au](mailto:bookings@thepollysclub.com.au)

## **Project: Lesbian parents negotiating their sense of family and self in early childhood centres**

As a lesbian parent if you have used childcare with your children anytime since 2009, we need you! This study is part of my PhD research being conducted through Macquarie University. You are invited to complete a short online survey of 15-20 minutes that asks you about your experiences of using paid child care at a preschool/long day care or in family day care. Upon completing the survey there is also an option to do two follow up interviews with the researcher. Parents who are selected for the first interview will go in the **draw to win a book of ten Hoyts movie tickets**. At the completion of a second interview about your perspectives on the usefulness of children’s books that reflect same sex parented families, you will **receive two of these books to keep**.

**A/Professor Manjula Waniganayake** and

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Phone: 0434 433 604

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## **Help required for PFLAG stall @ Parramatta Pride Picnic on September 14 (11am – 4pm)**

**Parramatta River Foreshore Reserve (North side of Parramatta river, east of Barry Wilde Bridge – Access via Elizabeth St. Parramatta or walk across from car park on south side.**

The banks of the Parramatta River will come alive with Rainbow Pride on Sunday the 14<sup>th</sup> September as Helen Westwood MLC opens the Parramatta Pride Picnic.

This is the biggest annual event for Western Sydney's gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender (GLBT) community and is important as it helps to combat isolation and homophobia.

The picnic is being presented by the Parramatta Queer Forum, a group of GLBT community organisations including ACON – Australia's largest GLBT health and HIV/AIDS organisation – Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG), Parramatta City Council and the Western Suburbs Haven.

Music, sporting activities, games, competitions, prizes – the picnic has it all. There'll also be a range of community information stalls with people from various organisations which provide services for the GLBT community in Western Sydney.

Australia's Got Talent's Yodelling Drag Queen, Laydee KinMee, will be the MC for the picnic. There'll be lots of activities for the humans as well as a dog show and fun for our four legged companions. Picnic goers are encouraged to bring their dogs and enter them in Doggywood, to be judged by David Graham of Big Brother fame.

The Western Suburbs Haven will be there again this year cooking the barbeque for those people who don't want to bring a picnic basket. All the money from the barbeque goes back to the Western Suburbs Haven which supports people with HIV in Western Sydney."

NSW Police Gay & Lesbian Liaison Officers from Parramatta, Eastwood & Gladesville LACs will be there with a snazzy police car for photo opportunities.

*If you'd like to help on our stall or just come along call **Judy** on **9869 1454**. **Judy***

**New PFLAG Apparel** We now have for sale: PFLAG T-shirts @ \$25 each and white PFLAG caps @ \$10 each. We also have rainbow umbrellas and kites @ \$15 each or 2 for \$25 and rainbow lanyards and PFLAG badges @ \$3 each or 2 for \$5. Contact Judy on 9869 1454 or see us at the meetings.

**Civil Marriage Celebrant - Rev Robert Clark** from Metropolitan Community Church of the Good Shepherd, Granville, is a **Civil Marriage Celebrant**. You can check out his website: [www.weddingswithflair.net](http://www.weddingswithflair.net)

**Renewal Notice Reminder** Please do not forget to renew your membership for 14/15! Thanks to all the members who have renewed already. If you joined after 30 June 2014, you are deemed to be financial until end of 2015.

### **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

**Website** [www.pflagaustralia.org.au](http://www.pflagaustralia.org.au) **Email** [info@pflagaustralia.org.au](mailto:info@pflagaustralia.org.au)

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**Upcoming Events: Family Meeting - Saturday 27 September @ 2pm**  
**Parramatta Pride Picnic – September 14 (New venue: Parramatta River Foreshore Reserve)**

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

**PFLAG Northside:** Maree. 02 8959 2830

**PFLAG Blue Mountains:** Ruth & Ron Green 02 4757 4864

**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 Wagga Wagga:** Cheryl Harvey 0439 488 202 cheryl28june@gmail.com

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

**PFLAG Albury Wodonga:** Sarah 0419 019 254 pflagalburywodonga@gmail.com

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

**PFLAG Coffs Harbour:** Leanne: pflagcoffs@gmail.com

**PFLAG Newcastle/Hunter:** Michelle Lancey pflag.hunter@gmail.com



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Meeting held 4th Saturday of each month  
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