



PFLAG NSW - (Incorporating Western Sydney)

**February 2016**  
**Volume 19, Issue 2**

PFLAG NSW Inc. (Incorporating Western Sydney) meets at **2pm** on the **4<sup>th</sup>**  
**Saturday**  
of every month.

**Next meeting: Sat 27<sup>th</sup> February**

**Venue:** Wesley Lodge, Westmead  
**Corner Hawkesbury & Queens Rds, Westmead.** Opposite Westmead  
Hospital and a short walk from the train station.

**Parking:** Enter carpark via Hawkesbury Rd; boom gate access. Code  
available at Wesley Lodge Reception.

**For Information contact: Judy on (02) 9869 1454 or Natalie on 0406 124 239**  
**Postal Address: PO Box 3751, Marsfield NSW 2122.**  
**Email: jr\_brown@bigpond.net.au or**  
**ncooper101@gmail.com**

**Note: There will be NO meeting in March, due to Easter**

## President's Report

*"I can sense change...in the thoughtful messages my partner, Sophie, and I received on the birth of our daughters; in the kindness of strangers stopping me in the street to ask after our family; in the attitudes of a man in work gear, extending a calloused hand, telling me how wonderful it is to be a parent, and the woman in the market handing our four-year old another biscotti". – Senator Penny Wong, in an essay on how Australia's attitudes towards same-sex marriage and same-sex parenting have changed for the better. – The Fitz Files, The Sun-Herald of 7/02/16.*

Senator Wong, however, was critical of those who still choose to discriminate. ***"The 'think of the children' argument is among the most hurtful in the marriage equality debate. It posits that gay and lesbian relationships harm children, that gay and lesbian parents are bad parents."***

This is the kind of prejudicial rhetoric that will abound if the federal government pushes ahead with its intended plebiscite on the issue, instead of allowing a free vote in Parliament. This is the reason that our National Spokesperson, Shelley Argent, Australian Marriage Equality and Get-Up are mounting the campaign to petition the Prime Minister, Malcolm Turnbull, to allow a free vote on the issue of Marriage Equality.

I agree with Judith Ireland (SMH, 27/01/16), that the choice of David Morrison as "Australian of the Year" was a positive one. In his acceptance speech, the former Army Chief commented that: ***"Too many of our fellow Australians are denied the opportunity to reach their potential. It happens because of their gender, because of the God they believe in, because of their racial heritage, because they're not able-bodied, because of their sexual orientation. We, as a nation should be able to give them the chance to reach their potential"***. As Judith Ireland says: *"It's about acknowledging that equality and inclusion are everyone's responsibility...The truth is a textbook 'macho man' will be able to reach some parts of Australia that other campaigners will not"*.

I also feel that the choice of defense Lawyer and Refugee Advocate, Deng Thiak Adut, to deliver the NSW Australia Day Lecture at Sydney's Conservatorium of Music was an inspired one. In his address, Deng remarks: ***"It is not so long ago that gays and lesbians lived in fear of exposure. Attitudes and actions needed to change and that has happened, but there is still more to be done."***

Thanks to Caitlin Hall and IAG Insurance for inviting PFLAG to speak at a lunchtime presentation to staff in their George St. office on Thursday, February 11. Thanks to Ron and Wanda for offering to take part with Ray and I in the presentation.

Thanks to all who came along to our January Family Meeting. It was lovely to see some faces from the past and some new ones and thanks to Pastor Robert Clark and MCC Good Shepherd for kindly offering their premises for our meeting, whilst our Wesley Lodge meeting room was being refurbished. It was great to have Mal McPherson come along and enlighten us on Australian Marriage Equality's campaign for a parliamentary free vote, rather than a plebiscite on Marriage Equality legislation.



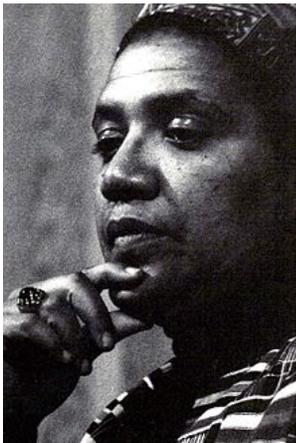
**OUR PFLAG CONTINGENT IN THE 2016 MARDI GRAS ON MARCH 5 IS ALMOST FULL. OUR NUMBER HAS BEEN RESTRICTED TO 90 PARTICIPANTS THIS YEAR. IF YOU WISH TO JOIN US, YOU NEED TO CONTACT JUDY IMMEDIATELY:**  
**PHONE 9869 1454 OR EMAIL [INFO@PFLAGAUSTRALIA.ORG.AU](mailto:INFO@PFLAGAUSTRALIA.ORG.AU)**  
**TO SECURE YOUR SPOT OR HAVE YOUR NAME PLACED ON THE WAIT LIST.**

We accepted a quote from Stuart Garske at our January committee meeting to set up our new website. Stuart has been working very hard and it should be up and running very soon. Many thanks go to Dom Rocheta, who has voluntarily assisted us with the website for the last couple of years.

I hope to see many of you at Fair Day @ Victoria Park on Sunday, February 21 or at our Family Meeting, back at our usual meeting room at Wesley Lodge on February 27.

Remember Rudy's adage: **"When you don't need PFLAG anymore, that's when PFLAG needs you to help others!"**  
**Judy**

## Spotlight on History: Audre Lorde (1934 – 1992)



Born (Feb 18, 1934, New York) as Audrey Geraldine Lorde to immigrants from Grenada, she was in her own words a "black, lesbian, mother, warrior, poet" whose essays focused on civil rights, feminism and black female identity.

She received a BA from Hunter University, an MLS from Columbia University and published her first volume of poems, *The First Cities*, in 1968. Her work moved from exploration of love to the political, with intersectionality a major theme in her work. Lorde confronted racism, South Africa. Her poems expressed fury at sex discrimination as well: "One oppression does not justify another".

Audre Lorde was often criticised both for the anger evident in her work, and for her openness about her sexuality. Referring to a prominent white arch-conservative senator, she said: "My sexuality is part and parcel of who I am, and my poetry comes from the intersection of me and my worlds....It is about revolution and change".

Audre Lorde died of breast cancer in 1992. *The Collected Poems of Audre Lorde* was published in 1997.

<https://www.poets.org/poetsorg/poet/audre-lorde>  
<http://www.poetryfoundation.org/bio/audre-lorde>

## LGBTQI Refugees: Australia can do more - A Queer Thinking Forum

A panel of experts will explore some of the unique challenges faced by many LGBTQI refugees, outline the current complex policy landscape and propose strategies for long, medium and immediate term action to make our Australia a place of inclusiveness and refuge from gender violence and violence based on sexual orientation.

**Event Date:** Wednesday 24th February 2016

**Event Time:** 7pm - 9pm

**Venue:** Pitt Street Uniting, 264 Pitt Street, Sydney 2010

**Tickets:** FREE

**Registration Essential:** <https://register.eventarc.com/32715/lgbtiq-refugees-time-to-do-more>

## Fair Day: Saturday 21st February 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 PFLAG has a very popular stall. We speak with many visitors and give out information, brochures and booklets. Fair Day is an important opportunity for us to make connections in the LGBT community and offer support.



Fair Day is also a major fund-raising opportunity for us. This year, we will have for sale our rainbow fold-up umbrellas, kites, neck lanyards, loom bands, rainbow scrubbers, PFLAG badges, caps, T-shirts and our DVD "Bouncing Castle".

Come for a couple of hours or for the day and enjoy the camaraderie, and the chance to talk about PFLAG. Our raffle prize will be a beautiful SEIKO Le Grand Sport Solar Chronograph watch, **value \$695**, kindly donated by Jason

Lancett from SEIKO. Tickets are \$2 each, \$5 for 3, \$10 for 7, \$20 for 15.

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

Please phone Judy on 9869 1454 to register your enthusiasm and your willingness to assist.

## Upcoming Events

### Mardi Gras Film Festival

Thurs 18<sup>th</sup> Feb – Thurs 3<sup>rd</sup> March

Various venues. Schedule and ticketing at:

[www.queerscreen.org.au](http://www.queerscreen.org.au)

**Sydney Gay & Lesbian Choir: Still Something to Sing About –**  
An Exhibition Celebrating the 25 year history of the Choir

Thurs 25<sup>th</sup> Feb – Wed 9<sup>th</sup> March

[www.sglc.org.au](http://www.sglc.org.au)

### The Pollys Club “I Still Call Marrickville Home”

Celebrating all things kitschy and Aussie, this will be a real blast from the past! Prizes for best dressed.

Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> February, Marrickville Town Hall, 7pm- midnight

Tickets: \$25 / \$20 concession.

Bookings: David (9557 6739 or email:

[bookings@thepollysclub.com.au](mailto:bookings@thepollysclub.com.au).

### Finding Nemo 3D

Revisit the Pixar animated classic *Finding Nemo*,

as we put on a Rainbow Families screening of this hilariously fun film in 3D!

[http://tix.queerscreen.org.au/session\\_mgff.asp?sn=Finding+Nemo+3D&s=13](http://tix.queerscreen.org.au/session_mgff.asp?sn=Finding+Nemo+3D&s=13)

Sat 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 1PM

Event Cinemas George Street

### Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade

Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> March

Start: Oxford & Flinders Sts, Darlinghurst

[www.mardigras.org.au](http://www.mardigras.org.au)



Ashfield Library, in partnership with The Bookshop Darlinghurst, is proud to present a GLBTQI evening of readings featuring: **Benjamin Law, Kevin Klehr, Todd Alexander, Rebecca Jennings, C. S. Pacat, Tom Langshaw** and **Nigel Bartlett**.

**When:** Wed 24 Feb

**Time:** 6.30pm for 7:00pm start— 8:15pm

**Venue:** Ashfield Town Hall 260 Liverpool Road Ashfield NSW 2131

## Regular Announcements

### PFLAG Merchandise

We now have for sale: PFLAG T-shirts: \$25 each; white PFLAG caps @ \$10 each. Rainbow umbrellas and kites @ \$15 each or 2 for \$25. 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** of Metropolitan Community Church of the Good Shepherd, Granville, is a Civil Marriage Celebrant. You may check out his website:

[www.weddingswithflair.net](http://www.weddingswithflair.net)

### *Upcoming Family Meetings (all at 2 p m)*

*February 27th Wesley Lodge, Westmead*

*March NO meeting (Easter)*  
*April 23<sup>rd</sup> Wesley Lodge, Westmead*

## PFLAG NSW Contacts

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