



Queensland Association for  
Healthy Communities Inc.

Statewide  
July - Aug 2009  
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**Welcome to the Qld Association for Healthy Communities Newsletter.**

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Vista users may not be able to view the picture. If you are unable to view the pictures in this email, please visit our website <http://www.qahc.org.au/newsletters/qahc> and view online.

*Please enjoy QAHC News.*

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## Tropical Pride 2009 - Cairns



Tropical Pride 2009 was run over two weekends this year to coincide with Festival Cairns. As partners with our regional council's festival we had the benefit of their advertising and support.

On the evening of Saturday 22nd August the Festival Cairns Parade wound its way along the Esplanade with the Pride Float a beacon of light, colour and movement. OUTloud, the LGBT choir, were on board together with a number of gorgeous Drag Queens. They were led by Dykes on Bikes and Pflag members. The puppets sent up from Brisbane were a huge hit with the public and were carried by Nick Connor and Robbie Laidlaw. The LGBT community followed waiving rainbow flags.

Our thanks to David Couplan Jones and his volunteers for putting the whole show together. It was brilliant. The parade after party was at held at Blue Sky Brewery and attracted well over 500 people.



The Community Awards night at Skinny Dips was held on Saturday 29th August. Twenty three groups, businesses and individuals in six categories won certificates.

The highlight of Tropical Pride was the Fair Day on Sunday 30th. This year an art show was included. Entitled "Looking Queer Art Exhibition" this addition was a huge success, will be extended and made an annual event. Stalls, a dog show, drag acts and a bucking bull all added to the fun of the day. OUTloud choir excelled themselves as did their retiring choir master proud. Thank you Cliff for your hard work bringing these voices together and best wishes to you and Matt for your new life in Tassie.



### Vanessa Wagner to appear at Sunshine Coast Pride Fair



The Sunshine Coast Pride Fair is delighted to announce that this year's Mistress of Ceremonies is none other than the captivating Vanessa Wagner.

Vanessa Wagner is one of Australia's most prolific entertainers. Starting out as a dedicated housewife and part time hostess, Vanessa went on to be crowned Sydney Mardi Gras Miss Fair Day 1993. For seven years Vanessa coordinated and hosted the spectacularly successful Drag Race Meet at Bondi Beach for the Sydney Fringe Festival. From early 1993 till 1996 Vanessa captivated audiences with Jamie and Vanessa parties and stage shows. Vanessa now produces her own parties, events and shows. She is proud dance mistress of her very own Crystal Stepz Dance Company, creating works of a kind rarely seen! Her sell out hit dance show, 'Vanessa Wagner's History of Dance' broke box office records and may become a film.

Vanessa co-hosted the Sydney Mardi Gras Parade telecasts on Channel Ten for 5 years and has appeared regularly on national youth radio station Triple J, as well as numerous national television and cable television appearances. Vanessa's intelligent, opinionated and funny repartee were a sure crowd pleaser when she appeared as the colourful and loved entrant in Celebrity Big Brother. With a myriad of corporate speaking engagements, charity work across Australia and "Pin up Girl" for Ozemail Vanessa has proven her ability to diversify and has cemented her position as a lovable Australian icon.

Don't miss the opportunity to see Vanessa at her finest as she MC's this year's second annual Sunshine Coast Pride Fair, Saturday 24th October 2009 at The Lake Kawana Centre, 10:00am - 4:00pm. Entry to the Pride Fair is via a gold coin donation.

"The Pride Fair aims to bring the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community, their friends and family together in a fun and supportive environment, to affirm and celebrate the community's diversity. It also provides an opportunity to raise awareness of local gay friendly health services, performers and businesses and to allow the LGBT community to gain access to information on health, sexuality and support services." Said Katie Bishop, Health Promotion Officer for the Queensland Association for Healthy Communities.

A jam-packed programme has been put together to keep all amused throughout the day. This includes a great line up of local artists who will provide live entertainment while you browse the wide range of market stalls and local community organisations.

Also on offer will be a variety of workshops from dance to spirituality, food stalls including a sausage sizzle to keep you fuelled up and amazing raffles including a two night mid week stay in an Interlude Deluxe Cabin at Amore on Buderim.

“Last year’s Pride Fair attracted participation from 50 stallholders and over 800 visitors and this year we’re expecting even bigger numbers. Added to this year’s festivities are a trivia night hosted by Cool Events and a production by the Brisbane Lesbian and Gay Pride Choir and there are many more surprises in store this year so don’t miss out.

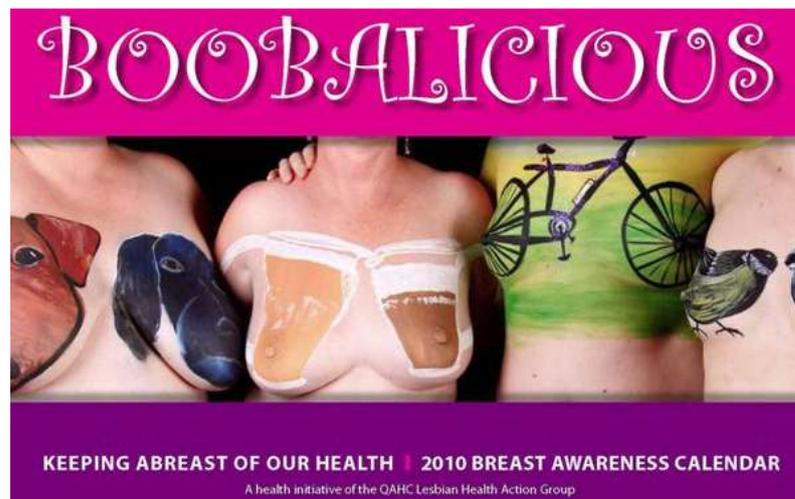
For all of the latest updates please visit [www.gaysunshinecoast.com.au](http://www.gaysunshinecoast.com.au) or if you’d like to be involved as a volunteer or stallholder please contact QAHC on (07) 5451 1118 or email [ssc@qahc.org.au](mailto:ssc@qahc.org.au)

## Lesbian Health Action Group Fundraiser - 2010 Calendar

QAHC’s Lesbian Health Action Group (LHAG) would like to announce their major fundraising initiative for 2009, The 2010 Lesbian Breast Awareness Calendar.

LHAG does not receive any government funding and relies on volunteers, fundraising, donations and grants to deliver vital health promotion messages to the lesbian community. LHAG is supported by QAHC with lesbian health promotion being a high priority for QAHC.

LHAG are producing the Lesbian Breast Awareness Calendar for 2010, this calendar will depict beautiful lesbian breasts, some tastefully body painted and some not, along with a health message about breast health and awareness.



### WHY BREAST AWARENESS?

Lesbians usually don’t have 3 of the major protective factors for breast cancer; being pregnant, breastfeeding or using contraception. They also are more likely to have several risk factors such as smoking, obesity and not accessing preventative screening due to the fear of homophobia and discrimination.

And with International Lesbian Day falling on October 8<sup>th</sup>, which is breast cancer awareness month, it was the perfect opportunity to launch this health initiative.

So keep on the lookout for information about the calendar as we approach October, there will be a prelaunch teaser at Scarlet on September 26, with the main launch being at International Lesbian Day Expo on Oct 4. Check the citylickers website for more details on these events [www.citylickers.com](http://www.citylickers.com)

Calendars will be available to purchase for family and friends at both events, at the Sunshine Coast Pride Fair Day on October 24, QAHC offices, at several outlets around the state and on the QAHC website. Check the lesbian health page on the QAHC site to order online or for a distributor near you [www.qahc.org.au/lesbian](http://www.qahc.org.au/lesbian)

If you are interested in LHAG or would like more information, please contact QAHC on 3017 1777 or email [womenshealth@qahc.org.au](mailto:womenshealth@qahc.org.au)

## Lesbian Health Action Group Celebrates 1st Birthday!

The QAHC Lesbian Health Action Group (LHAG) has been promoting lesbian health issues for one year this September 2009. LHAG provides health information and resources for lesbians and other women who have sex with women at various community events around Queensland, such as Scarlet Nightclub and Live Venue, Girlfest '09, Tropical Queer Film Festivals and International Lesbian Day Celebrations. The LHAG Outreach Workers (now also known as the Purple Pussy Posse) wear Purple T-Shirts and are a friendly bunch who are on for a chat about anything to do with health from getting a pap smear for cancer of the cervix to coping with LBD (lesbian bed death, argh!). LHAG relies heavily on committed volunteers to continue its health promotion work as there is currently no government funding to provide health promotion for Queensland lesbians exclusively.

## QAHC Training and Development

The Queensland Association for Healthy Communities Inc (QAHC) has provided sexuality and gender identity awareness training to health and health related service providers in Queensland since 2005. Both half-day and whole-day workshops are delivered in either open-access or in-service formats. QAHC is committed to providing a high standard of interactive and challenging adult learning experiences. The continuing development and delivery of training tools and resources for service providers seeks to support the development of inclusive services for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) clients.

With the major QLD Health training project finalised, Ricki Menzies, the Training Coordinator, is now in the process of writing new training workshops to be piloted later in the year. So keep your eyes open for further information regarding these in the next few months. During this time however requests for in-service training around sexuality and gender identity and creating inclusive services are still being taken. So if training is what your organisation needs then please contact Ricki on 07 5479 4866 to book your session or for further information about the training QAHC offers.

## Speak Freely Here Resources



**QAHC would like to present our new Speak Freely Here resources.**

These resources are being provided to all services whose staff members attended our training in the past 4 years.

The Speak Freely Here resources allow the public to recognise LGBT friendly services, through the poster and sticker, the Community resource (green) which gives information on how to get the best from your service provider while the Service provider brochure (blue) provides information on how to create an inclusive service to the LGBT community.

If your service needs further LGBT resources please contact your local QAHC office or visit the website for a resource order form. [www.qahc.org.au](http://www.qahc.org.au)

To find out more or to list your service as LGBT friendly with the Speak Freely here campaign go to <http://www.yourvoicebox.com.au/>

## Rainbow Service is 1 year old

The Rainbow Service is a year old this month and has won broad support and acknowledgement from LGBT community.

The service was initiated through a collaboration between Relationships Australia (RAQ) and The Queensland Association for Healthy Communities (QAHC). Its success has been made possible by a strong partnership between the two agencies.

Staffing for the LGBT relationship counselling service is provided by RAQ, along with a body of expertise and knowledge in the area of relationships. QAHC provide the space, as well as promotional and financial support. This face-to-face counselling service operates each Thursday.

Chris Pye and David Wells from RAQ and QAHC respectively, are now working with staff of both agencies in Cairns and the Sunshine Coast, to support the generation of similar services in those regions.

This work is being complemented by a roll-out of LGBT-awareness training for staff at every RAQ branch across the state, including an intensive three-day training event taking place in November. 'Rainbow Representatives' in each branch will take on the task of applying the learning to the daily operations of their service, as well as providing direct support to local LGBT communities.

RAQ is committed to its tenets of inclusion and social justice and is grateful for all the support received from the community for this important work.



### Sometimes we just need to be heard

We all experience emotional highs and lows in our relationships with family and significant others. If we belong to a marginalised or oppressed group we sometimes feel the weight of additional pressures.

Relationships Australia can offer support, with a committed team of counsellors and educators who are trained to be aware of the particular issues faced by LGBT communities, and are sensitive to their complex needs.

*Relationships Australia*  
Supporting LGBT communities

### The Rainbow Service

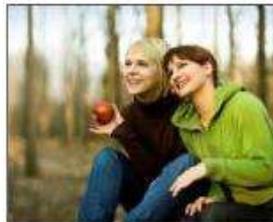
Relationships Australia now offers counselling for individuals, couples and families from LGBT communities, in a comfortable and confidential space based at the offices of Queensland Association for Healthy Communities (QAHC) in Newstead.

Our fees are very reasonable and fee reductions can be arranged if you are in financial stress. For more information or to book a counselling session with one of our team, you can phone the central call centre on:

**1300 364 277**

(Please quote 'The Rainbow Service' to book a session at this outreach)

Supported by



## Workshop Program Reaches Outward

As a component of the sexual health funding provided by Queensland Health, QAHC provides workshops for men who are sexually attracted to men.

The topic of sexual health is incorporated into broader lifestyle topics. The social topics that the workshops have been based on are areas that research has indicated hold a higher risk factor for rates of Sexually Transmitted Infections (STI's). These social topics also hold a greater appeal to this target audience.

The workshops aim to take a holistic direction in health promotion by providing information about personal safety in sexual liaisons, as well as addressing areas that can have a psychological impact on a person's decision making regarding safe sex.

The feed-back received from the participants who have engaged in a workshop has indicated that they viewed the process as personally rewarding, informative and beneficial. Many men identify that once they go through a workshop any pre-conceived fears that they had are put to rest.

The workshop program is offered in Cairns, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, Gold Coast and Brisbane.

In an attempt to reach the broader community and increase the participation rates, the Workshop program has been reviewed with new structures put in place to assist and encourage the target group to become involved.

An approach through collaborations with services and groups that appeal to all Men who are sexually attracted to Men (MSM), including Trans Men, is being introduced and in some cases extended.

QAHC has developed a library of workshops targeting all men who are sexually attracted to men on varied topics within a focus on, and relationship with, HIV and STI prevention. These workshops are offered to Health Services; Groups and individuals.

An on line registration form is available through the QAHC Website. As the minimum quota for participation has been set at 6 and the maximum at 12 participants, QAHC will present a workshop when the quota to hold a workshop has been met. This means that instead of QAHC setting dates and attempting to attract interest through varied promotions for a set period of time, the promotion will be on-going and relevant regardless of time structures.

The on-line booking system will assist individuals and service providers with booking into their workshop of interest. Information about the workshops on offer, as well as the workshop program has been included into a Workshop Information Guide which will be distributed and presented to services and groups.

The aim of this information guide is to inform service providers about the QAHC workshop program, encourage promotion and how they can assist their clients with booking on-line.

Service providers can book their clients into a workshop on-line and when the required number of participants has been achieved the client will be notified of a date that the workshop will be held. If services or groups would like one of the workshops held for their clients or members (men who are sexually attracted to men, including Trans Men) they can make contact with the program coordinator to negotiate arrangements. This process is beneficial when a particular client group shares experiences that they would feel more comfortable participating in a closed group.

Aside from the options mentioned about participating in a workshop, initiatives are currently being explored to hold 'Workshop Retreats' which would be held over a weekend with a workshop performed with a mixture of holistic activities that complement the topic of the workshop. Another option being explored has been named 'Round- table Workshops'. This concept involves meeting at a restaurant style of venue, once a month and over dinner and drinks engaging in a couple of exercises and further discussion from a particular workshop topic (e.g. relationships). Both of these options will be promoted in the future after their successful planning has been achieved.

If you would like to receive more information about any of the workshop initiatives please provide your details to the QAHC reception ( 07 3017 1777) or send an email to Dave Wells; QAHC Group Work and Counselling Coordinator ([dwells@qahc.org.au](mailto:dwells@qahc.org.au)).



Workshops on  
**Relationships, Cruising and Sexual Pleasure**

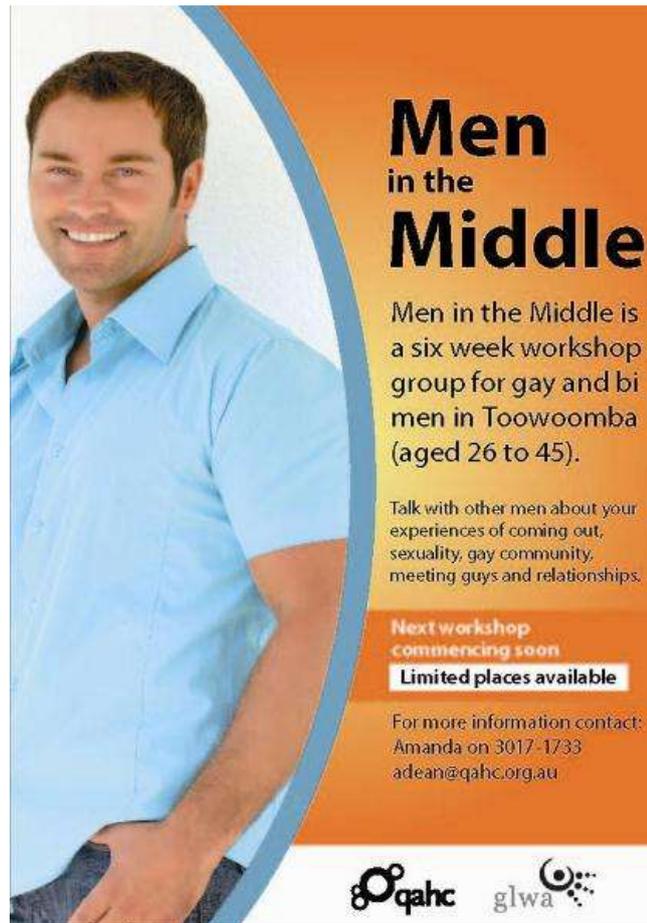
Free • Friendly • Informative • Fun

Limited to 12 participants and  
only when space is available

Held in Cairns,  
Townsville,  
Mackay,  
Rockhampton,  
Sunshine Coast,  
Gold Coast,  
Toowoomba and  
Brisbane.

Book on-line at: [www.qahc.org.au/workshops](http://www.qahc.org.au/workshops)  
Or by phone QAHC on 3017 1777 or 1800 177 434 (outside Brisbane)

## Men in the Middle - Toowoomba



**Men  
in the  
Middle**

Men in the Middle is a six week workshop group for gay and bi men in Toowoomba (aged 26 to 45).

Talk with other men about your experiences of coming out, sexuality, gay community, meeting guys and relationships.

**Next workshop commencing soon**  
**Limited places available**

For more information contact:  
Amanda on 3017-1733  
[adean@qahc.org.au](mailto:adean@qahc.org.au)

## Serosorting - New Campaign

The campaign focuses on risk taking by gay men who have adopted 'serosorting' as a strategy to reduce the risk of HIV transmission. 'Serosorting' is the term used to refer to choosing partners of the same HIV status for the purpose of having unprotected anal intercourse.

'Serosorting' has become more common among gay men over the past few years. In the post-2001 period there has been a dramatic increase in the proportion of unprotected sex with partners of the same HIV status. This increase has been threefold among HIV-negative men.

The campaign addresses issues such as: the desire not to use condoms; HIV testing; assumptions about HIV serostatus; disclosure; negotiating condom use; trust and communication; seroconversion illness symptoms, and the impact of undiagnosed and early HIV infection.

The REAL TIME booklet is designed to assist gay men in making positive behaviour changes by working through the perceived benefits and costs of unprotected sex. The booklet will help readers reflect on past and present actions, and identify and reduce patterns of behaviour that cause anxiety or stress.

For more information, please contact QAHC on 3017 1777 and speak to Craig Lewis.



## William Yang Raffle

William Yang is one of Australia's most recognised artists and has gained a worldwide reputation for his work. As a 25th anniversary gift, Yang has donated a photographic print 'Study for Safe Sex Summer' for QAHC to use as a fundraiser. The piece worth \$1785 fully framed, is being raffled to raise money for the Healthy Communities Fund which awards small grants for LGBT community projects.

Tickets are just \$5 each and there are only 400 available to purchase. With odds like that there's a real chance this collectors piece could be hanging on your wall soon. For more information, or to purchase tickets online, visit [www.qahc.org.au/raffle](http://www.qahc.org.au/raffle) or drop into our office at 30 Helen St, Newstead during business hours.



**Sunshine Coast Pride**

An initiative of **qahc**

Saturday  
24th October 2009

*Sunshine Coast*  
**Pride Fair**

*Celebrating the diversity of the Sunshine Coast LGBT community*

Proudly supported by:

- Sunshine Coast Regional Council
- AMORE
- Schools Together Initiative
- POWERS
- Queensland Positive People
- pink
- HORIZONS

The Lake Kawana Centre,  
Sportsmans Parade, Bokarina

- Gold Coin Entry
- 10-6pm
- Vanessa Wagner - Mistress of Ceremonies
- Live entertainment
- Sausage sizzle
- Market stalls
- Activities
- Health and support services
- Kids activities
- ...and much more!

For more information please contact the Queensland Association for Healthy Communities.  
[07] 5451 1118 [ssc@qahc.org.au](mailto:ssc@qahc.org.au)  
[www.gaysunshinecoast.com.au](http://www.gaysunshinecoast.com.au)

\* Please note this is a pay-free event

## New Brisbane HPO Team Member - QAHC



Hi everyone, and thanks for welcoming me to the team - my name's Kurt Maroske and I'm the new Health Promotion Officer for the Brisbane metro area. This is my first time working in sexual health (having previously been involved in substance misuse prevention campaigns and homelessness/mental health outreach and support), so I apologise for being baffled by various acronyms or any horrible faux pas I might make while I find my feet.

I'm particularly interested in new avenues of engagement for men who may not identify as gay or be scene connected; engaging with the more fragmented or less visible queer subcultures; and exploring opportunities for health promotion through guerrilla campaigns, viral marketing, and new media/social networking.

I look forward to working alongside Brett and everyone else in the various offices throughout the State, and hope to introduce myself to those of you I've not already met in the coming weeks.

## QAHC Sexual Health Program Manager



It is wonderful to start my role as the Sexual Health Program Manager with the new QAHC as much has developed since I left Brisbane a few years ago. Having spent the past eight years working in Victoria and NSW in both HIV and LGBT health I look forward to using the relevant aspects of these experiences to promote the health and wellbeing of our Queensland community.

In Victoria I was part of the HIV Health Education Team with QAHC's sister organisation Victorian AIDS Council/Gay Men's Health Centre (VAC/GMHC) before working in the medical staff training program with the Australasian Society for HIV Medicine (ASHM) in Melbourne.

Over recent years I have called Newcastle in NSW home, while I was working with ACON managing the Northern Region. ACON's Northern Region covered from Gosford and the Central Coast through the Hunter, New England and the Mid North Coast areas to Lismore and the Northern Rivers and NSW/Queensland border region.

Limiting the spread and impact of HIV has been an integral role in all the broader LGBT health agenda of my previous activities. I hope that together we can further build on the significant work that is being done to support our community's desire to reduce the number of HIV infections across Queensland.

## QAHC Clinical Liaison Co-ordinator



Bernard Gardiner is the new part-time clinical liaison co-ordinator for QAHC. He has just returned to Australia after working in many countries over the last 12 years managing the HIV programmes of the International Red Cross. Bernard grew up in Queensland and moved south in his twenties. He was a volunteer in the Victorian HIV response in the 80's and served two terms as Vice President of VAC/GMHC. Later he was employed as the General Manager of VAC/GMHC for 3 years. He also worked for the Victorian State Government as Manager of the HIV Unit in the Community Services Department. Bernard lives with his partner on a farm in Conondale.

## Sportsman Hotel Charity Bake Off



On Saturday, 22 August volunteers & representatives from QAHC, QPP & ATSAQ (Transgender Association) once again came together to pool our collective decorating prowess & create series of fabulous cakes to be auctioned off at the annual Sportsman's Hotel Charity Bake Off 2009.

Whilst concentration was surely tested on the day, this was matched with a lot of laughter & in the midst of it all our group of amateurs managed to pull off some mighty creations with ATSAQ entering a Trans Proud cake, sculptured in the trans symbol; QPP entering a 21st yr Red Ribbon cake & QAHC mirroring the Keep It UP (Keep It Safe) regional campaign.

Thanks go out to both QPP & ATSAQ, as well as the volunteers that contributed to a fun filled day. If you're up for some off the wall fun, be sure to keep an eye out for the Bake Off Decorating day next year!

## Project Asia

Project Asia is a free & confidential group for Asian guys & their friends who are gay, bi/curious.

Project Asia is a social group that will also include Education Forums and a way to help make it easier to form friendships, social opportunities, gain access to health and community services and to provide safe space.

The groups will be held one evening per month with a view to extending this into other social opportunities on the Gold Coast.

This will also provide an opportunity to give feedback for resources for Asian men.

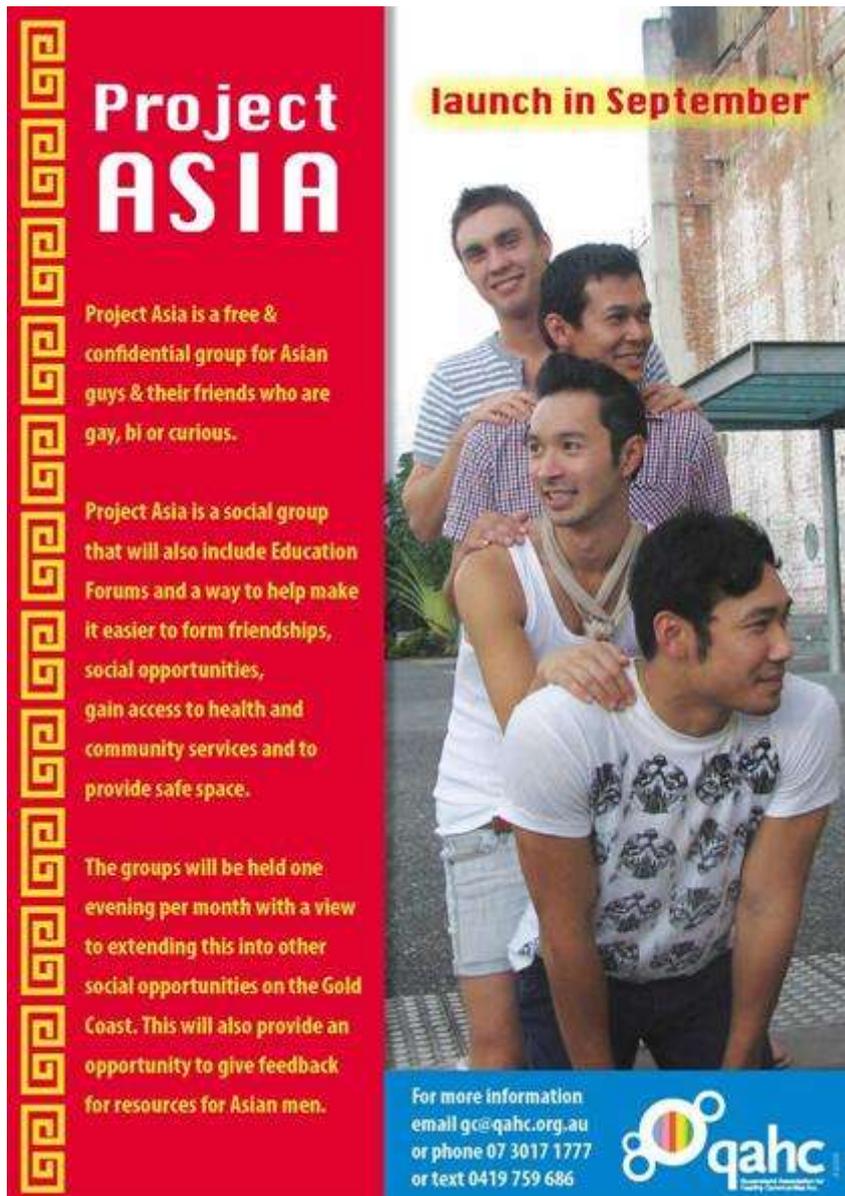
Project Asia is modeled on the ACON Asian Project's Connect Program with a focus on Health Information and Education in a social style setting.

Project Asia will be piloted in September on the Gold Coast and Logan with a series of workshops, one per month, till the end of the year.

The primary role of this project is to establish contact with Gay, Bisexual and non Gay Identifying Asian men who have sex with men who may not be receiving relevant sexual health information through their current social and/or community networks.

Project Asia seeks to empower Gay Asian, Bisexual and other Asian MSM with the knowledge, skill and capacity to make health choices regarding their sexual health practices. To increase awareness of HIV, HCV, and sexual health testing and other sexual health issues.

For further info about Project Asia email [projectasia@hotmail.com](mailto:projectasia@hotmail.com) or call/text 0419759686.



**Project ASIA**

Project Asia is a free & confidential group for Asian guys & their friends who are gay, bi or curious.

Project Asia is a social group that will also include Education Forums and a way to help make it easier to form friendships, social opportunities, gain access to health and community services and to provide safe space.

The groups will be held one evening per month with a view to extending this into other social opportunities on the Gold Coast. This will also provide an opportunity to give feedback for resources for Asian men.

**launch in September**

For more information  
email [gc@qahc.org.au](mailto:gc@qahc.org.au)  
or phone 07 3017 1777  
or text 0419 759 686



qahc  
Queensland Association for  
Healthy Communities Inc.

## New Group for Logan area

QAHC is hosting a social night in Logan on the 7th October with a view to holding regular social events in the Logan Area. The evening will be a light supper with an opportunity for the community to give input into social events for the region. Many people have been asking for an LGBT group in Logan and hopefully this event will be the spark to kick things along. To be a part of this event or for more info email [logan@qahc.org.au](mailto:logan@qahc.org.au) or text/call 0419759686

## Seeking LGBT community views on same-sex law reform

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and other sexuality, sex and gender diverse (LGBT) people are being asked to help shape a national education campaign about the Federal Government's recent same-sex law reforms.

The Commonwealth-funded campaign aims to increase awareness and understanding of the new rights and responsibilities that people in same-sex relationships have under changes made in July to 85 pieces of Federal legislation. The campaign is being produced by ACON on behalf of the National LGBT Health Alliance, a coalition of LGBT health organisations across Australia.

In preparation for the launch later this year, we are seeking feedback from LGBT people via an online survey to ensure the education campaign is as effective as possible. We'd like to hear from everyone – whether you are in a relationship or not.

**Complete the survey by clicking here**

[http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=zJamFwwVuVddF7d34XQlwg\\_3d\\_3d](http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=zJamFwwVuVddF7d34XQlwg_3d_3d)

**Please forward this survey on to your friends and networks**

The survey will be open for a two week period from Monday 7 September 2009 to Tuesday 22 September 2009, 5pm.

For further information about the survey or the campaign, contact the ACON project team directly on [sslr@acon.org.au](mailto:sslr@acon.org.au) or 02-9206-2086.

## QPP Update

**BRISBANE NORTH SOCIAL GROUP**  
for people living with HIV and their friends

**WHEN:** Fourth Tuesday of the month from 12pm  
May 26 June 23  
July 28 August 25  
September 22 October 27  
November 24

**WHERE:** Mooroo Park, Sandgate foreshore

**REF:DE:** Map 111.14

**QPP COMEDY Film Nights**  
Tuesday nights @ 6pm

**STARTS: October 6th/2009, Feb 9/2010, May 11/2010, August 10/2010, November 5/2010**

**positive women's conference**  
Gold Coast 2010  
19, 20 & 21 February

- weekend away with lots of other women
- therapy and activities
- education sessions
- childcare available
- nutritious meals
- flights and accommodation available for regional women

*you must register your interest with Jerran at QPP on 1800 636 241 or [jheywood@qpp.org.au](mailto:jheywood@qpp.org.au)*

**Positive Women Together**

Clear and safe is what you'll like to see at the 10th Annual Conference!

QPP invites you to an afternoon of good company and food where you can meet other positive women.

**Lunch provided, children welcome**

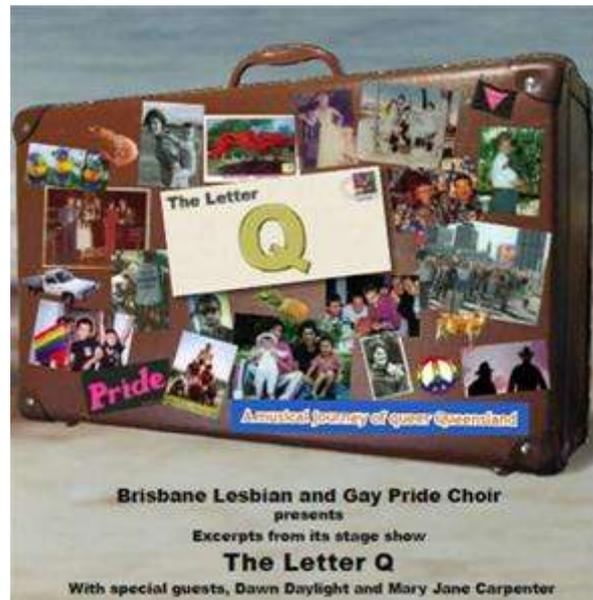
Saturday 11 July  
Saturday 29 September  
Saturday 14 November

from midday @ QPP, 21 Manilla St, East Brisbane

Phone: 207 6362, Visiting on Lynton Road 204 & 206, Meeting on Manly Bay Ferry to Manly Park

Meet our Directors? Call Jerran on 1800 636 241 or email [jheywood@qpp.org.au](mailto:jheywood@qpp.org.au)

## Upcoming Gigs - Brisbane Lesbian and Gay Pride Choir



### UPCOMING GIGS: OUR FIRST STAGE SHOW "The Letter Q"

- Ipswich 19 September - Murphy's Town Pub, 5 Union Place - 8:30 pm
- Toowoomba 26 September - Burke and Wills Hotel, 554 Ruthven St - 8:00 pm
- Sunshine Coast 24 October - Lake Kawana Centre, Sportsmans Parade, Bokarina - 6:00 pm
- Brisbane 31 October - Old Museum Concert Hall, Gregory Terrace, Bowen Hills - 7.00pm

For venue and ticket information visit our website <http://www.myspace.com/brisbanelesbianandgaypridechoir>

### SINGING WORKSHOPS

The choir, with support from QAHC, will hold free, fun-filled singing workshops, open to all queer folk. No need to book, just come along!

- Brisbane 28/6/09 (Studio 3) Old Queensland Museum
- Ipswich 19/9/09 (3:00pm-5:00) Fig Jam Café, 59 Limestone Street
- Toowoomba 25/9/09 (10:00am-12:00) 6 Anthony Street
- Sunshine Coast 24/10/09 Sunshine Coast Pride [www.gaysunshinecoast.com.au](http://www.gaysunshinecoast.com.au)

## BiDentity - Q-Arts

### Love and insanity - is there a difference?

Meet Mel Steinhart, the director from hell. Her mood swings defy gravity. Her friends are walking on eggshells, the cast is terrified. What is the problem?

Lucy Moxon puts a human face on mental illness with her new play, BiDentity. Utilising the microcosm of a theatre company, BiDentity examines the fluid nature of sexual attraction, against a backdrop of one woman's experience of depression and it's impact on those around her.

The theatre is a unique habitat and actors an odd breed. When rehearsing a show a group of relative strangers spend long hours together over a short period. Then after an adrenaline fuelled performance the group dissolves. This spawns relationships intense as they are brief. People share intimacies backstage they wouldn't dream of discussing with their closest friends. Add in creative egos and high emotional investment and things happen. Fast.

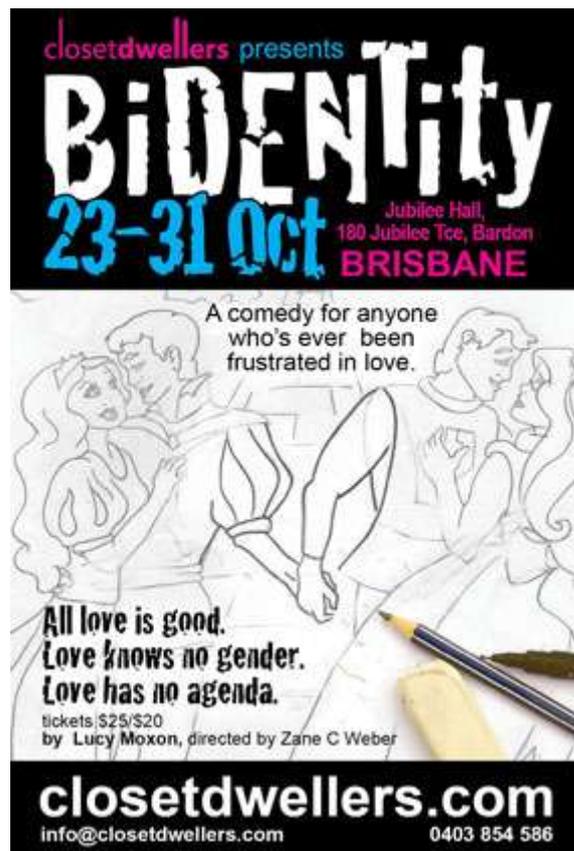
And then there's the cast party, where everything changes.

Closet Dwellers are performing 'BiDentity' from October 23 to 31 at the Jubilee Hall, in Bardon, Brisbane. Directed by Zane Weber, BiDentity is a romantic comedy for anyone who's ever been frustrated in love. Set in a theatre during the production of a musical, the predominantly queer cast bring to life the story of two couples and their increasingly complex relationships.

Writer Lucy Moxon says her hope is that "While audiences focus on enjoying a good story, they will incidentally absorb some understanding of mental illness and how it might affect a person in their day to day life".

BiDentity is supported by Q-Arts, a queer art mentoring initiative of the Queensland Association of Healthy Communities (QAHC). Q-Arts' research has shown that connection to the queer community has a significant role in promoting positive mental health. Their objective is to bolster community participation by supporting creative ventures by queer artists, and offer an alternative to the pub and club-based scene.

BiDentity plays at the Jubilee Hall, Bardon, BRISBANE, October 23 - 31. Bookings 0403 854 586 or [www.closetdwellers.com](http://www.closetdwellers.com)



## Other -wise

**BRISBANE FESTIVAL 2009** presents **BF09 UNDER THE RADAR** featuring **sunny drake** in the new version of **Other-wise**

*A gutsy convention-defying gender-euphoric one-person show weaving theatre, magical animation, movement, puppets & multimedia*

**Venue:** Studio, Metro Arts, 109 Edward Street, Brisbane

**When:** 8pm Sat 26 – Wed 30 Sept (no shows Mon 28 Sept) & matinee 1.30pm Sun 27 Sept

**Tickets:** \$20 Adults, \$15 Concession & Groups (incl booking fees).

*No-one turned away for lack of funds* (email [abbie.trott@gmail.com](mailto:abbie.trott@gmail.com))

**Bookings:** [www.brisbanefestival.com.au](http://www.brisbanefestival.com.au)

Also on 1300 762 545 & through Oztix retail outlets

This morning I lost my homework and the dog ate my gender. Children, can you say trans-gender? Animated creatures whisk us into worlds of magic as Sunny explores boy tits, coming out to family, learning to fly and getting comfortable with contradictions and not knowing. As funny as it is moving, *Other-wise* is a testament to the courage it takes to be true to oneself.

**Warning:** you will only understand this show if you are human & born on planet earth. If you've ever tried to fit into other people's expectations or been worried someone wouldn't understand or be proud of you, then this story is also about you.

**Writer/ performer:** Sunny Drake

**Director/ Dramaturge:** Anna Yen

**Multimedia & animation:** Kate Geck, Ingrid K Brooker, Dana Aleshire

**Costume & puppet:** Anthea Brescia

**Set designer/maker:** Greg Clarke

**Stage Manager:** Abbie Trott

[www.facebook.com/sunnydrake](http://www.facebook.com/sunnydrake)

[www.myspace.com/sunnydk](http://www.myspace.com/sunnydk)

## Rip and Roll



**MYTH**

I'M NOT AT RISK OF GETTING HIV AS I DON'T SLEEP WITH "THOSE SORTS OF GUYS".

**FACT**

ANYONE CAN HAVE HIV  
— YOUNG OR OLD, CITY OR COUNTRY, EXPERIENCED OR INEXPERIENCED.

info and support 1800 155 141 • [www.qahc.org.au](http://www.qahc.org.au) 

What's On.....

Brisbane

**Lesbian Women's Writers Group**

Announcing the formation of a new community of lesbian women writers meeting once a month, from 2pm to approx 4pm every third Sunday at QAHC, 30 Helen Street Newstead.

We're interested in finding ways and means to support lesbian women writers/ing in Brisbane and surrounds (ie within a 40k radius from the GPO in Edward St City). Although we are open to applications by long distance members.

Some of the ideas we have so far are: monthly meetings to workshop work in the short term, but eventually, we would like to hold regular public readings, produce an annual anthology of our work, raise funds to pay for a weekend retreat and perhaps even invite agents or publishers from the industry to address the group.

This group is NOT only for published lesbian women writers but also for those lesbian women interested in stoking the fires of their creative writing imaginings.

On a final note if you have any questions re the definition of lesbian women please contact Sian at [doccarooni@gmail.com](mailto:doccarooni@gmail.com). In fact, for further queries about the group please contact Sian or Anne on 0424 285236.

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### **Sunboys of Brisbane**

Nudist social group for men. Meet on the third Saturday of each month for a BBQ & swim. Email them at [sunboys@netspace.net.au](mailto:sunboys@netspace.net.au) or check out their website [www.brisbanesunboys.com](http://www.brisbanesunboys.com) Sunboys is not a sex club, but a group of guys who enjoy socializing in a nudist environment

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### **2 QT 2 B STR8**

Social support group in Logan for LGBT young people 16-25  
P: 32088199 E: [2QT2BSTR8@yfs.org.au](mailto:2QT2BSTR8@yfs.org.au) M: 0403587708

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### **Brisbane Lesbian and Gay Pride Choir**

Provides an opportunity for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender people to sing together.

The Choir is an a cappella, SATB (soprano, alto, tenor, bass) group. We sing well known popular music including ABBA, Madonna, Queen, Dolly Parton, Sweet Honey in the Rock, Blue House and Cole Porter, as well as spirituals, early music, folk songs and original songs. We are available for public and private performances and aim to entertain audiences not only within the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community, but also general audiences from the wider Brisbane Community.

For more information please visit the website <http://www.myspace.com/brisbanelesbianandgaypridechoir>

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### **BrisBears**

BrisBears is a Club for men who identify as Bear, who enjoy facial and body hair and admirers of men who have facial and body hair. We meet on the 3rd and 5th Saturday of each month at: The Sportsman Hotel 130, Leichhardt Street, Spring Hill, Qld 4000

For more information please visit our website [www.brisbears.org.au](http://www.brisbears.org.au) or email [info@brisbears.org.com](mailto:info@brisbears.org.com)

### **Dykes on Bikes**

For lesbians who love motorbikes. New look chapter. New contacts, new rides, great fun.  
For more information call Vicki on 0403-798-131

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## Open Doors

Counselling and support for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender young people 12-18yo and their families. Drop in every Wed between 12-5pm. For more information phone 3257-7660 or email [opendoors@opendoors.net.au](mailto:opendoors@opendoors.net.au) or visit <http://www.opendoors.net.au>

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## ACCEPTANCE BRISBANE

Support group for GLBT Catholics. Meet every 2nd Friday monthly for mass and discussion. PO BOX 817, FORTITUDE VALLEY 4006, Ph: 3846-1714, 3846-1714

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## Brisbane Gay & Lesbian Business Network (GLBN)

The Gay and Lesbian Business Network (GLBN) is the portal for gay and "gay friendly" individuals and businesses wishing to be involved in business, social and support networks within the gay and lesbian community.

The Vision of the GLBN is the establishment of a business network, which is renowned for the development, and provision of informative business and support systems, which focus on current and developing business issues. For more information email [secretary@brisbaneglbn.org](mailto:secretary@brisbaneglbn.org) or visit <http://www.brisbaneglbn.org>

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## Brisbane North Social Group

A new social group for people across Brisbane's northern suburbs is now held on the fourth Tuesday of the month from 12pm at Moora Park, SANDGATE. Details are attached but upcoming dates are **June 23, July 28, August 25, September 22, October 27 and November 24**. Trips to Mt. Cootha and Maleny are scheduled for July and October and will require an rsvp.

## North Queensland

### Queer Youth Action Group

Join the Queer Youth Action Group to increase support for LGBT young people in Far North QLD. For more information contact QAHC: 4041 5451

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### Body Positive

A Cairns based group for people living with HIV. Monthly social events, fundraising activities. Contact Jarran at Queensland Positive People (QPP) Ph: 1800 636 241 or Kevin at QAHC Ph 4041 54 51.

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### Boyzout

A social Group for gay men of all ages based in Cairns meets once a month. Contact Graham & David Ph: 4093 9492 or email: [boyzout@people.net.au](mailto:boyzout@people.net.au)

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### Tablelands Social Network

A social group for LGBT people living on or visiting the Atherton Tablelands. For details contact Louise through [www.glbtqfnq.info](http://www.glbtqfnq.info)

## **WOW - Women on Women**

Movie Night. "Girls Night". Last Sunday of every month. 6:30pm @ QAHC, 290 Draper Street, Cairns. BYO snacks and a beanbag.

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## **G.R.A.C.E. - (Girls-rent-a-crowd-events)**

We are a group of fun loving gay women who meet up once every three months (or so) for dinners, camping, picnics etc. If you are interested in becoming a member (which is free) then contact me on MOB: 0427 657 350 or QAHC 4041 5451 (Wed 9am - 1pm) or send us an email to [bindy123@bigpond.com](mailto:bindy123@bigpond.com) with your details.

## **Central Coast (including Sunshine Coast)**

### **Clubrok**

Rocky's Tavern  
Cnr. Alma & Derby Street,  
Rockhampton  
Re-occurring fortnightly Saturday event from 1st September.  
Contact Rod 0439 494 331 or [clubrok@hotmail.com](mailto:clubrok@hotmail.com)

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### **Diversity Party**

Fraser Coast GaysClub Wharf (Criterion Hotel)Wharf Street, Maryborough6pm - 10pm (then club opens to General Public until late)  
More info log onto [www.frasergays.com](http://www.frasergays.com)  
Re-occurring event 3rd Saturday of every month.

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### **PFlag Rockhampton**

Meets 1st Tuesday of every month  
Community Health Centre, Room 2, Cnr Bolsover & Cambridge Street, Rockhampton  
Contact: Neville or Rosemary 07 4928 7275 or [rosiejnevillek@bigpond.com](mailto:rosiejnevillek@bigpond.com)

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### **Rock'in Rocky Females - Rockhampton Bi Club**

Contact: 'The Girls' [rockinrockybigroup@hotmail.com](mailto:rockinrockybigroup@hotmail.com)  
The group is for mid 20's to late 30's females ONLY. We enjoy regular outings together. Some of us have children and husbands, some of us have kids but not the hassle of the man and some of us are single females.

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### **Rainbow Brigayde - LGBT Youth Group**

Every second Tuesday from 12th February. Location: Verbyl, 40 James Street, Yeppoon.  
Time: 5.00pm - 7.00pm. Contact Cameron Vella (Rainbow Brigayde Manager) [rainbowbrigayde@hotmail.com](mailto:rainbowbrigayde@hotmail.com) or 07 4939 9212 (youth volunteer) .This is a youth based support system and group get together for gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender persons of the Capricorn Coast. Rainbow Brigayde is based in Yeppoon but anyone who feels the need to talk can call or email

### **Lesbian Social Dinners**

First Thursday of each month. Location: Rocky's Tavern, Cnr Alma & Derby Street, Rockhampton.

Time: 6.30pm onwards. Contact Sandy & Denise 07 4928 4520

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### **Lemon Lounge**

Second Wednesday of the month. Time: 7.00pm. Location: Varies  
Contact: Ricki 0408 843 221

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### **Lesbian Mother's Support Group**

First Saturday of the month. Location: Varies. Contact: Donna 0412 072 021

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### **Sunshine Coast Queer Collective**

Every Second Wednesday (starting March 2008) Time: 12.20pm  
Location: Lawn area at the back of the student guild.

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### **Gympie Women's Coffee Morning**

Second Tuesday of the month. Time: 10.00am  
**Location:** Whispers, Gympie  
**Contact:** Rhonda 0438 163 325

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### **Gay Dads**

Contact: Terry Rubes, 0410 772 872 or [tezza1108@hotmail.com](mailto:tezza1108@hotmail.com).

There are men living in various situations. Some raise their children on their own while others are not able to see theirs. We hope to be there for all men who want support and or friendship. If you are a gay dad or grand-dad and want to simply chat or want advice on resources or you are a friend of a gay dad feel free to contact us

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### **Woman 2 Woman**

Support group for lesbian and bi women on the Sunshine Coast and Cooloola Coasts.  
Contact: For support and info on what's on phone Ricki 0408 843 221 or [rickicate@msn.com](mailto:rickicate@msn.com)

## **Gold Coast**

### **Castaways**

Every first Monday of the month, the Castaways group holds a luncheon. This is a lively occasion for People Living with HIV/AIDS, their partners, family and friends as well as the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender community. A lunch is provided and a donation of \$4.00 is appreciated by those attending. For more information email: [goldcoastcastaways@hotmail.com](mailto:goldcoastcastaways@hotmail.com) or call 07 3017 1777 or 0425 778 994.

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### **Project Asia**

Project Asia is a free & confidential group for Asian guys & their friends who are gay, bi/curious.

Project Asia is a social group that will also include Education Forums and a way to help make it easier to form friendships, social opportunities, gain access to health and community services and to provide safe space.

The groups will be held one evening per month with a view to extending this into other social opportunities on the Gold Coast.

This will also provide an opportunity to give feedback for resources for Asian men.

For further info about Project Asia email [projectasia@hotmail.com](mailto:projectasia@hotmail.com) or call/text 0419759686.

## Toowoomba

### GLBTF Toowoomba

A group for anyone from Toowoomba who is Gay, Lesbian, bisexual, transgender and their friends. Meeting every Friday night from 8pm til late. Burke & Wills Cocktail Bar, Ruthven Street, Toowoomba. For more details see <http://www.facebook.com/reqs.php#group.php?gid=38970570172>

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### Prism

LGBT Youth, family and friend group meets every 3rd Sunday for Barbecue and Guitar Hero.

Prism, in association with QAHC, Open Doors and Young Women's Place, holds regular events for the LGBT community and their supporters, with a particular aim of including families, young people and others who may not feel welcome at all LGBT events. Contact Amanda 3017 1733 for more info.

<http://www.facebook.com/groups.php?id=541933313#/group.php?gid=178627720522>

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### Alliance

The Alliance is a group for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, transgender, straight and label-free staff and students of the University of Southern Queensland. It is run by students with the support of the USQ Student Guild. The Alliance aims to create an environment where students, staff and local community members can feel free to be who they are without the threat of discrimination and harrassment. Email [usqalliance@gmail.com](mailto:usqalliance@gmail.com). Website <http://usqalliance.webs.com>

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### Toowoomba Lesbian Club

We are trying to set up a space for Lesbians to go to on probably a Thursday night to talk, relax and enjoy each others company. Courtesy bus, free pool, possible theme nights, a space for local talents to case their work and any other creative innovations people desire. We would not discriminate if other local gays or transgenders would want to participate. It is just an evolving concept in production. Toowoomba is ready for a Lesbian Club!

<http://www.facebook.com/reqs.php#group.php?gid=99538786385>

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## QLD Association of Healthy Communities Brisbane & Statewide

ph: **07 3017 1777**                      email: [info@qahc.org.au](mailto:info@qahc.org.au)  
fax: 07 3852 5200                      web: [www.qahc.org.au](http://www.qahc.org.au)

mail address: PO 1372, Eagle Farm BC 4009  
street address: 30 Helen St, Newstead

Sexual Health information & referral	1800 155 141
Indigenous Gay Men & Sista Girl	07 3017 1736
Members	07 3017 1777
Volunteers	07 3017 1777
Donations and Bequests	07 3017 1714

*QAHC News is funded by QLD Health*

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