



Queensland Association for
Healthy Communities Inc.

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Welcome to the Qld Association for Healthy Communities Newsletter.

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Please enjoy QAHC News.

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Welcome to this edition of QAHC News - Paul Martin

Welcome to another edition of QAHC News.

Plans are well underway for QAHC's contribution to the Brisbane Pride Festival taking place in June (rally, march and fair day 14 June). The theme for this year's Pride is 'Freedom' with QAHC's sub-theme 'Freedom to be. Freedom to love. Freedom to act.' QAHC's Pride campaign launch will take place on Wednesday 4th June from 6pm at the Brisbane QAHC Resource Centre. For more information contact our Pride campaign worker, Shane Garvey on 3017 1733 or sgarvey@qahc.org.au

Cairns and the Gold Coast will also be celebrating Pride in spring/summer '08 with the support of QAHC. Contact Kevin (Cairns) and Ged (Gold Coast) for more information or to get involved.

May 12 to 18 is National Volunteer Week. QAHC would like to give a huge thank you to all those who have volunteered their time with QAHC over the past year. Your contribution to QAHC and the LGBT community is greatly appreciated. QAHC will be holding volunteer thank you events over the coming weeks (and after Pride in Brisbane) and will be presenting volunteers with appreciation certificates. The winner of the QAHC President's Award for Volunteering will also be announced during National Volunteer Week.

Congratulations to all those involved in planning and holding the Tropical Alternatives Film Festival across Queensland and thanks to those who attended. The festival, held in partnership with the Melbourne Queer Film Festival, was held in Cairns, Townsville, Rockhampton, Sunshine Coast and the Gold Coast. Several hundred people attending the screenings, which are part of QAHC's community building program.

Those of you who are financial members (other than life members) of QAHC should have received a membership renewal letter and form. Please help by getting you renewals back to us by the end of June. Remember also that you can make a tax deductible donation to QAHC along with your membership renewal, or by going to www.qahc.org.au/donations and making a donation online using you credit card.

This edition of QAHC News also brings the sad news of the deaths of two long-time QAHC supporters and volunteers, Louise Moesbergen and Lindsay Stewart. Our thoughts are with their families at this time.

Paul Martin
General Manager

Have your say on this topic - go to the QAHC Discussion Board - <http://www.qahc.org.au/forum/>

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Tropical Alternatives Film Festival - Sunshine Coast



The first Sunshine Coast Tropical Alternatives Film Festival was held at Cooran on Sunday 13th April. Over 120 people attended, which was well above our expectations and clearly demonstrates that this will become a successful annual event for the local community. A huge thank you must go out to the many volunteers that assisted in the lead up and on the day, without you this event would not of been possible. If you would like to be

involved next year's film festival please let us know.

The next big event for the Sunshine Coast will be an LGBT Fair Day in Spring 2008. Shortly we will be forming a steering committee to guide the activities of this event. If you would like to be involved whether it be on the steering committee, as a stall holder or performer please get in contact with us.

To find out more information on local LGBT events and social support groups please check out www.gaysunshinecoast.com.au, grab a copy of CQC magazine or drop into the Sunshine Coast QAHC Community Resource Centre at 10 Pikki Street Maroochydore (just behind the Sunshine Plaza). Also if you need assistance in forming a new LGBT group please get in contact with us as we can support you through advertising your group and providing a space to meet at the centre.

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Tropical Alternatives Film Festival Gold Coast



The Tropical Alternatives Film Festival for regional Queensland has come to it's conclusion with the final destination on the Gold Coast bringing it to a close.

The Gold Coast leg was held at the Arts Centre on the Gold Coast with around 80 people attending during the movie sessions.

This was the first time ever, the Tropical Alternatives Film Festival has been presented for the Gold Coast's LGBT community.

Two high quality international feature films and a collection of Australian LGBT themed short films made up the Festival.

Many thanks must go out to everyone who participated in making this a wonderful event for the Gold Coast. Special thanks to Chevron Island Tan our ticket outlet for the region, The Gold Coast Arts Centre, MP's Nightclub and the many volunteers and staff who also assisted on the day and leading up to the event.

Gold Coast Gay Day is about to go into planning as the next big Gay and Lesbian event for the Gold Coast Coast . This will be a Spring/Summer event to celebrate the diversity on the Gold Coast.

If you would like to express an interest in being a part of the Gold Coast Gay Day celebrations you send your details to gc@qahc.org.au or call 30171777

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Tropical Alternatives Film Festival Cairns



The screening of the Tropical Alternatives Film Festival was held Cairns over the weekend of 18th, 19th and 20th April. It was a full weekend with seven sessions compared to the three session screenings in other centres. It was a great success and a very memorable event.

As an event, it deserves to be firmly in the calendar and minds of the regional Queensland community regardless of gender identity or sexual preference and while we have had teething problems in developing this event it was so much better than last year and my congratulations are extended to all involved.

The festival had the large response from the local population with people attending from all our communities. As this event continues to grow it can only get better still and members of our communities will hopefully feel more supported, My thanks to all involved including the Health Communities Grant which made the publicity and professional approach more visible this year than last.

Have your say on these topics - go to the QAHC Discussion Board - <http://www.qahc.org.au/forum>

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Brace Yourself for The Brisbane Queer Film Festival



The 9th Annual Brisbane Queer Film Festival will land at Brisbane Powerhouse, taking over the entire venue from 23 - 29 May, with an eclectic selection of award winning features, international girl and boy shorts and documentaries from around the world. The diverse program and Volkswagen Gala Opening Night special guests, ABC TV New Inventors judge Bernie Hobbs and Scissor Sisters' Tour DJ Sammy Jo, are a definite indication that this year's festival is set to be a crowd pleaser!

This years program will make you laugh, make you cry, inspire you, shock you - and as always, excite you. The quality of the films is evident, with many having impressive screening credits from film festivals all over the world.

Among the selection are Avant Que J'oublie (Before I Forget) and Naissance Des Pieuvres (Waterlilies) both featured in the 2007 Cannes Film Festival. Tribeca Film Festival, Toronto Film Festival and Berlin Film Festival also appear frequently next to film titles in the program, including the German comedy 18.15 Uhr Ab Ostkreuz (18.15 from Ostkreuz) which will have its Australian premiere at The 9th Annual Brisbane Queer Film Festival.

As always, the festival is packed with local content, starting with the short film competition finalists screening at the Volkswagen Gala Opening Night. Then direct from the Sydney Mardi Gras Film Festival come the finalists of My Queer Career, the world-famous annual queer film competition for Australian and New Zealand filmmakers. Films include Love Bite, Mirror Mirror, Sexy Thing, Paradise, Love is Love, Single Sexy Silingual, Everything We

Are, My Last 10 Hours With You and Ascension.

Boy, Girl and Documentary film packages will be the popular alternative for audiences who have trouble choosing a favourite, and this year Artistic Director Sarah Neal has also introduced the Director's Choice Package, highlighting some particular favourites.

"The 9th Brisbane Queer Film Festival has exploded! And will definitely get the attention of any filmgoer, be it mainstream, queer, art house or documentary," says Neal. "The list of awards and accolades for many of these films come from high profile film festivals all over the world. The quality of the program this year is going to completely blow people away, especially some of the films coming from the Middle East. They are a rare insight that should not be missed." Entertaining and thought-provoking, the 9th Annual Brisbane Queer Film Festival celebrates the best of queer film from across the globe. With such an eclectic range of films, there's something for everyone.

THE 9TH ANNUAL BRISBANE QUEER FILM FESTIVAL, 23 - 29 May, Brisbane Powerhouse, 119 Lamington Street, New Farm. Tickets: \$12 & \$15. Bookings: (07) 3358 8600 or www.brisbanepowerhouse.org



For all the details and screening schedules visit the festival website www.bqff.com.au

Have your say on this topic - go to the QAHC Discussion Board - <http://www.qahc.org.au/forum>

QAHC volunteers change our world!

Did you know more than 5.4 million adults (34% of the population) do voluntary work each year in Australia, contributing more than 700 million hours annually!

On 12th -18th May is National Volunteers week and this years theme is 'Volunteers Change our World!' QAHC would like to take this opportunity to thank the many volunteers we have and acknowledge the tremendous contribution you make to our organisation.

The LGBT community members and friends who are our volunteers are invaluable to QAHC across all our projects and centres in Queensland. Without your voluntary commitment of time and skills we could not do the breadth of services and activities we do in promoting the health and wellbeing of our communities.

These Volunteers are the spirit of QAHC and make valuable contributions to the LGBT community. The tasks they perform range from fundraising to group facilitation and the projects to which they give their time cross the spectrum of our services.

One of the more commonly accepted definition of a volunteer is '...someone who willingly provides unpaid help, in the form of time, service or skills, through an organisation or group' and to all of you we congratulate you for making our communities health that little bit better through your contribution.

We also encourage friends and supporters to get involved because we always need more volunteers to provide the services of QAHC to our communities. If you have time to spare please talk to your local QAHC staff member who can give you a volunteer induction pack and start you on the way to giving something back to the LGBT communities of Queensland.

To celebrate your efforts we will be having special events in most of our centres over the next month or so to acknowledge the work you do, so please keep an eye out for details of what's happening in your local area.

Welcome our newest QAHC Staff Member - Kate Allen



QAHC has a new staff member, Kate Allen, who has undertaken a project to improve health outcomes for gay men by working with clinicians, including GPs on Sexual Health Promotion and HIV Prevention. The Clinical Health Education and Promotion (CHEAP) Officer role sits under the Enhancing Clinical Health Promotion Practice (Gay/MSM) Project, at QAHC, which is informed by the 2008 HIV Prevention Action Plan. The project will:

- conduct a literature review of current (sexual health promotion) practice in Australia and other western cities;
- consult with clinical providers regarding current HP interventions, resource/training needs and suggestions for wider gay men's HIV prevention;
- compare existing Queensland Sexual Health guidelines with STIGMA;
- develop resources/ training to assist clinicians provide HIV health promotion to gay/MSM;
- develop and/or promote resources for gay men to be distributed by clinicians; and
- make further recommendations for further action.

Kate has been a nurse in the HIV/Sexual Health sector since 2006 and worked in youth health prior to this. This position is part-time and when she is not a QAHC, she works at the AIDS Medical Unit and Brisbane Sexual Health

Have your say on this topic - go to the QAHC Discussion Board - <http://www.qahc.org.au/forum>

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Qld Positive People Events

Please contact Queensland Positive People to RSVP for these events or find out further information. Phone: 07 3013 5555 or Email: jheywood@qpp.org.au

Planet Positive Brisbane

The next Planet Positive in Brisbane will be Friday June 20th at The Pavilion, Boundary Rd, West End. Our Easter Planet Positive was a load of fun with about 55 people attending.

Planet Positive Cairns

The next Planet Positive in Cairns will be held on Friday July 11th at the Sapphire Bar from 6pm.

Gold Coast Newly Diagnosed Peer Support Group

With the Brisbane Group now up and running, attention is turning to the Gold Coast Newly Diagnosed Group beginning Wednesday June 4th and running for four weeks. Topics covered are Disclosure, Treatments, Living with HIV, Nutrition and Relationships. Anybody down on the Coast recently diagnosed (under 2 years) who may be interested, please put them in touch with QPP on 1800 636 241.

The LEAP Program

Positive Directions is recommencing the LEAP program, which is commencing on Monday 19th May 2008 at the Fortitude Valley PCYC. This is a structured group nutrition and exercise program that runs for 8 weeks by a qualified nutritionist. Individuals do not need to be a client of Positive Directions to participate in the program. The only requirement is that the participant be HIV+, which may need to be demonstrated through a doctors letter. Please call Positive Directions Nutritionist Rachel Roth on 3900 8000.

Massage Therapy well being program

Hushnow and QPP are offering the basics of massage therapy and relaxation therapy, which will teach people the basics. The program will be developed around the aspirations of the group.



**Gold Coast
Newly Diagnosed Group**
Wednesday June 4th

Topics covered include;
Disclosure, Treatments and Nutrition
along with guest positive speakers.

For more information please
call Jarran on 1 800 636 241 or visit
www.qpp.net.au

queensland
positive
people

Have your say on this topic - go to the QAHC Discussion Board - <http://www.qahc.org.au/forum>

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World Hepatitis Day - May 19th

This year's National Hepatitis Awareness Week is fast approaching, beginning May 19th. The theme this year is **'Am I Number 12?'** and will be launched internationally on May 19th. **'Am I Number 12?'** relates to the statistic that 1 in 12 people in the world have hepatitis B or C and the Hepatitis Council of Queensland has funded several community organisations to run activities throughout the state as well as holding a large **'Picnic in the Park' on Wed 21st May at New Farm Park 12pm - 3pm** In collaboration with several agencies in Brisbane.

For more information about NAW contact Kelly Harper, NAW Project Coordinator at Kelly@hepqld.asn.au or come along to our **NAW Reference Group, 24th April 3pm - 4pm at the Hepatitis Council of Qld**

This group will coordinate activities in the Brisbane region. For people outside of Brisbane just ask Kelly to put you on the wider Qld reference group to receive updates on NAW; statistics; event info and media packs as the week approaches.

There is a growing list of national activities that can be seen by going to www.hepatitisaustralia.com . If you would like to register an event in your area contact us and we can help promote your service and activities through the NAW promotions and national calendar of events.

We have provided links to a variety of resources that can be downloaded from our website or ordered in hardcopy through our resource order form. Some of the links can be placed on email signatures and uploaded onto your service websites. These resources can be printed for NAW displays, noticeboards, or can be passed on through your networks.

Awareness week resources (mainly postcards and stickers) will be available soon featuring the **'Am I Number 12?'** theme. Contact Kelly to order these and other Hepatitis Council resources. A new general community poster has also been created by the Hepatitis Council of Qld which can be ordered through the resource order form

(click on last link below).

Resource Links:

http://www.hepqld.asn.au/resources/NAW2008/A4_poster_jeans.pdf
http://www.hepqld.asn.au/resources/NAW2008/A4_poster_manshaving.pdf
http://www.hepqld.asn.au/resources/NAW2008/A4_poster_younglady.pdf
http://www.hepqld.asn.au/resources/NAW2008/Bannerad120x240_english.gif
http://www.hepqld.asn.au/resources/NAW2008/BannerAd_468x60_english.gif
http://www.hepqld.asn.au/resources/NAW2008/HCQ_Am_I_Number_12_poster.pdf
http://www.hepqld.asn.au/resources/NAW2008/postcardsfin_english_sm.pdf
http://www.hepqld.asn.au/resources/NAW2008/HCQ_Bloody_Serious_Poster.zip
http://www.hepqld.asn.au/resources/NAW2008/HCQ_Resource_Order_Form_April_08.doc

Have your say on any of these topics - go to the QAHC Discussion Board - <http://www.qahc.org.au/forum>

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Australian Youth Forum - What do U Think?

Australian Youth Forum consultations for 15 -24 yr olds are kicking off!!

Join us for a chat, a feed and tell us what you think about....What are the main issues affecting young people today? What different ways can government hear from young people? How can we get young people to participate in the Australian Youth Forum?

The Australian Youth Forum (AYF) is being set up as a way for you to put forward your ideas and concerns. We need your ideas on how the Australian Government can improve ways you are able to influence policies, programs and services that impact on you. Whether you are at school, tafe, uni or working. Whether you are living at home or on your own. Whether you are a young carer, a young parent or a young person with a disability. We want to hear from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Youth, and those from cultural and linguistic diverse backgrounds. We need to know how you want the Australian Youth Forum to be!!

To register contact **Origin Communications**, contracted as an independent group to run youth consultations on behalf of the Department of Employment, Education and Workplace Relations (DEEWR).

Send us your name, email, phone, age and location. **CALL/SMS 0424 189 838**.
Email: youth@origincommunications.com.au

Be quick! After you register, we'll send you dates and venues.

If you can't make it let us know online at www.thesource.gov.au or for info email youthforum@deewr.gov.au

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Alphabet Soup - Support and Networking Group

Are you a lesbian, gay, bisexual, dyke, transgender person or queer?
Do you work in the community sector in Brisbane?
Do you want to meet others like you to get support?

We want you for Alphabet Soup!

We are a support and networking group for workers in the community sector in Brisbane. We will be meeting informally bi-monthly to talk about what it's like to be LGBT in a workplace, and our first meeting will be held in May.

To put your name down for the first meeting or if you have any questions, contact Shaun Staunton on (07) 3017 1732 or sstaunton@qahc.org.au.

Be quick to put your name down for this exciting new project.

The graphic features a blue and white checkered background. On the left, a red banner contains the text: "We are a support and networking group for workers in the community sector in Brisbane". In the center, a white banner reads "We want you for ALPHABET SOUP". To the right, a bowl of soup is shown with the words "QUEER", "TRANSGENDER", "DYKE", and "GAY" written on the floating ingredients. Below the central banner, a white box says "We meet informally bi-monthly to talk about what it's like to be LGBT in a workplace." and a red box at the bottom right provides contact information: "sstaunton@qahc.org.au (07) 3017 1732".

Have your say on these topics - go to the QAHC Discussion Board - <http://www.qahc.org.au/forum>

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Men in the Middle - Starts in July!

New to the Gay Community, moved interstate or just want to socialise with people outside of the club scene?

Men In the Middle is a 6 week workshop, one night a week for guys 26 to 45 who are gay, bisexual or think they might be. It gives you the chance to talk, listen & learn about a range of topics with a variety of other guys.

Each session covers a range of topics including coming out, sexuality, the gay community & scene, safe sex, meeting guys, relationships etc. While there is a structure to the program, it's also flexible, with plenty of room to raise topics you want to talk about in a safe & confidential manner.

Over the last 5yrs Men In the Middle has provided many guys a unique opportunity to take stock & connect with a variety of other men from all walks of life in a fun, hassle free environment.

Contact Brett Stevens at QAHC on 3017 1729 or mim@qahc.org.au for more information. Next workshop starts in July - limited places available!

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Big Gay Day - Brisbane



On Sunday, 9 March the QAHC Venue & Events Outreach Team were certainly kept busy with over 5, 000 party goers in attendance at Big Gay Day 08. This year the Team set up a QAHC Chill Out Space, complete with beanbags, sunscreen, safe sex packs & glow sticks which proved to be a very popular spot indeed, as well as setting up posters & other health related info + roaming around the crowds. By the end of the day over 2, 000 Big Gay Day branded Men's & Women's Safe Sex Packs & sunscreen were handed out...a full on day, but fun had by all!

Do you like to Party? Enjoy meeting people? Want to get involved in the upcoming Pride Festival? For more information on how you can play part contact Brett Stevens at QAHC on 3017 1729 or bstevens@qahc.org.au

In the Pink...Strange Fruits!

THE JUDITH WRIGHT CENTRE AND CHRIS MAVER PRODUCTIONS PRESENT

IN THE PINK...EN ROSE CABARET

In The Pink takes queer arts out of the ghetto and into the spotlight of wellbeing and happiness. Following last year's Fruit Tingle Cabaret success, In the Pink struts out & sharpens its makeup pencil and this year, everything's pink, from poodles to iced vo-vos.

Ever-probing, director/producer Dr. Strangefruit Chris Maver has mined rough pink diamonds from the landslide success of the Fruit Tingle Cabaret, and polished them into this year's precious gems. On-stage sparklers include Mistress of Ceremonies, Ruth Gardner realising rouge dreamings, physical performers Fez Fa'anana & Mark Winmill, newcomer and dreamy vocalist Ofa Fanaika, crimson song and story conspirator Kristy Apps, Queensland's Best Drag King '07, Mary Alexander who'll introduce us to ballsy, bogan, love god, "Tricky," aerial artiste Imogen Kelly, Silver Circus' spoken word and songsters Lucinda Shaw Lamont and James Lees, star accompanist Gary Nunn, flaming flamingo designer, John Beamish and choreographer facilitator, Alethea Athanasiov. Making a one-off special pink appearance on Saturday night will be Dr Strangefruit, Chris Maver.

In The Pink promises to leave its audiences smelling of roses and bathed in a rainbow afterglow.

Contains adult themes.

This project has been partially funded by Healthy Communities Fund, a youth mentorship component in association with Open Doors.

In The Pink ...Strange Fruits!

Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts

11th - 14th June '08

4 nights only @ 7.30pm. Doors open 7pm

TICKETS Reserved. Full Web/Ph \$26/\$28

Unreserved. Full Web/Ph \$22/\$24 Concession. Web/Ph \$16/\$18

Groups (10+) \$18

VENUE Performance Space, Judith Wright Centre of Contemporary Arts, 420 Brunswick Street, Fortitude Valley

SEATING Reserved cabaret and unreserved theatre seating

BOOKINGS www.judithwrightcentre.com or 07 3872 9000 Mon to Fri 12-4pm



Have your say on these topics - go to the QAHC Discussion Board - <http://www.qahc.org.au/forum>

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Packing Party III

Freedom to Be, Freedom to Love, Freedom to Pack!

Be sure to mark your diary for Sunday, 1 June from 10am - 2pm as worlds collide with volunteers from the Queensland Association for Healthy Communities (QAHC), Queensland Positive People (QPP) & the Brisbane Pride Festival hold our Packing Party III at QAHC, 30 Helen Street, Newstead.

If you weren't at the last Packing Party, be prepared to expect the unexpected as this is no ordinary sweat shop with condoms, dams & other assorted paraphernalia forming the basis of games played in between packing moments, with some fabulous prizes on offer as your reward.

The aim of the Packing Party is to replenish much needed stocks of resources for the Brisbane Pride Festival & beyond. With a target of packing over 5, 000 resources on the day, we certainly have some work cut out for us & this is where we are hoping to call upon your assistance!

Bring some friends, get a team together & join in on the fun as we up the ante with a variety of live entertainment & shows as well as lunch provided to help spur you on...

Feel free to contact Brett Stevens on 3017 1729 or email bstevens@qahc.org.au for further info or to RSVP.

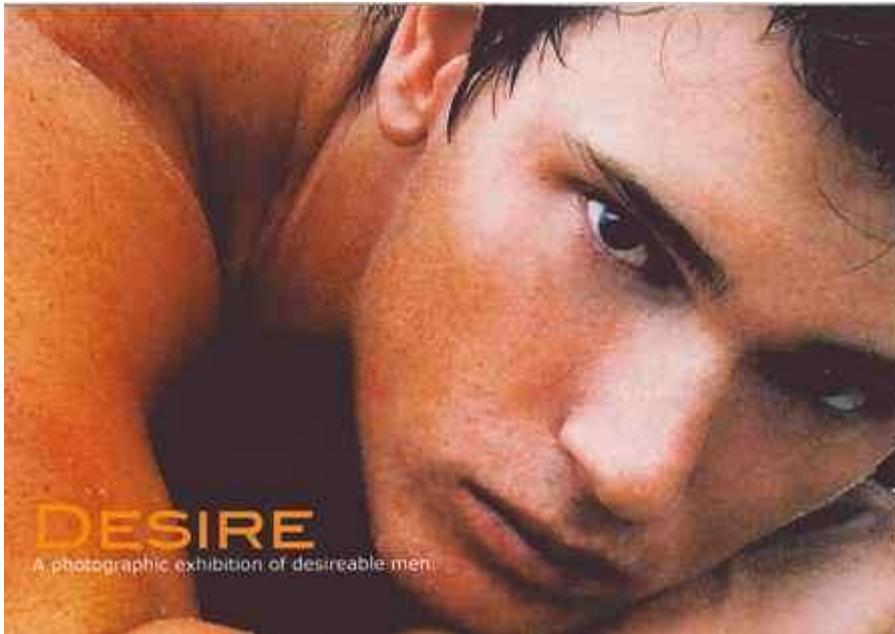
Here are some pics from our last packing party!



Have your say on this topic - go to the QAHC Discussion Board - <http://www.qahc.org.au/forum>

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A Very Desirable Exhibition



Brisbane based gay photographer Russell Fleming has a very exciting exhibition at the Brisbane Powerhouse, from 19 May until 6 June 2008.

DESIRE: A Photographic Exhibition of Desirable Men features some of the most stunning male subjects photographed by one of Australia's leading male photographers.

Russell Fleming's DESIRE captures images of gorgeous men, styled for print, but designed for desire!

DESIRE is part of the Photos x Four Exhibition, which sees four different male photographers, all with their very own style and passion, but with the same vision - To create beautiful images while keeping within their style of photography. Over 40 images are on show and cover genres from editorial style fashion / nudes of men, to urban landscapes that appear from a distant future.

The four series of works centre around the idea that the images can be used commercially, but yet each series draws its own attention, without distraction from the others. The exhibition is shown separated into four parts - ESCAPE (Matthew Leasegang), WHISPERS (James Debenham), STORIES (Mark Lobo) and DESIRE (Russell Fleming). This is a rare union between 4 of Brisbane's most up and coming, and promising photographers, and an exhibition that should not be missed.

DESIRE, 19 May - 6 June, Turbine Hall, Brisbane Powerhouse, 119 Lamington Street, New Farm.
Admission is FREE. For More Info: www.brisbanepowerhouse.org or www.russellflemingphotography.com

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Diverse Perspectives on Queer Lifestyles Forum

On Tuesday, 13 May at 6pm in the Heath Room, Union Building, University of Queensland, St Lucia Campus people from different cultural backgrounds will come together to share their stories of sexuality and coming out, of Queer Pride and prejudice experienced in Australia and overseas.

The event is an interactive forum for queer students & key community members to discuss the impact of their cultural background on their experiences of coming out and identifying as gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender or intersex. Guest speakers will lead the discussion, with an emphasis on differing cultural perspectives on queer sexuality. The forum is to be hosted by the UQ Union Queer Sexuality collective in collaboration with the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland, the Queensland Association for Healthy Communities and the QUT Queer Collective.

The event is scheduled for UQ Diversity Week to draw attention to the diversity of ethnic, religious and cultural backgrounds that colour individuals' concepts of and attitudes towards queer sexuality, marriage, children, etc. We hope that participants in the workshop) will walk away with not only a greater understanding of a variety of different cultural value systems, but also the impact on an individual's sense of identity and self-worth.

Audrey, a Student from Europe, says of her experience as a lesbian woman "My cousin came out to the family a couple of years ago, but still everyone expects him to get married to a woman...and some members of the family are downright disgusted by queers"

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender (Queer) and Intersex culturally and linguistically diverse Students face a wide range of obstacles such as vilification and non-acceptance in Australia. In addition they must also struggle with the fact that homosexuality and gender issues may be illegal and taboo in their culture, and may not be accepted by their family. This event will give these people the chance to meet and hear from other people who have had the same experiences.

For Audrey, Australia presents a chance to be herself. "I have been involved in the (University) Queer Department... I am convinced that I would have never done that in my country, or even had the chance to."

The stories shared and lessons learned from the event will be retained and shared with others through the publication of a booklet on the topic, including the speeches of our guest speakers and submissions from students.

The Diverse Perspectives on Queer Lifestyles Forum will be held in the Heath Room, Union Building, University of Queensland, St Lucia Campus. Start time is 6pm with catering provided. For further information, please contact Brett Stevens on 3017 1729 or bstevens@qahc.org.au

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Chancellor's Medal - Marj Blowers

Marj Blowers (previously employed by QAHC as Temporary Project Officer on the Sunshine Coast) was awarded the Chancellor's Medal at the University of the Sunshine Coast. The medal was judged on academic performance, university governance, contribution to student welfare and contribution to the community. A photo of her is below (graduation night – wearing the rainbow flag with pride).



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To Test or not to Test!

There seems to be some confusion in the minds of some sexually active men about what they should test for and when they should worry. Asking your doctor for an HIV test because you have been having too much of a good time will not make you safe for yourself or your future sex partners. Nor will it necessarily get you a full screen for all the STIs that are out there.

It's important that we check with our doctor that they understand us and we understood them. Asking for an HIV test is not code to all doctors, that you have been sexually active and need to check for other STIs that can be contracted during sex. Some doctor's will give you what you ask for ... an HIV test!

Take the time to explain what sex you have been having (because that might change the anal probe to a throat swab or just a blood test) and discuss what the doctor means by a full screen for STIs as some labs do different procedures. The more your doctor knows you, the better they can look after your health.

The other consideration is getting to the doctor at the right time. We are going into winter; those flue like symptoms may be just that! A cold coming on. Pace yourself and those visits. The more active you are, the more frequently you should test; and don't forget President Clinton was *WRONG!* Oral sex and foreplay still count when it comes to contracting STI's.

You can check on your health and the health of your partners by learning a bit about them (start by sharing names) and what they have been up to. You could lead the way by disclosing your own health "I had a herpes outbreak the other day so I'd prefer to use condoms". And you should give you and your partners body a good looking over. Let them know if you spot something as they may not know about it.

Winter in Queensland can be a time of good weather when it's cool enough to enjoy raising a sweat, so get out there. Enjoy yourselves, but take the time to know a little about your partners, their bodies and your own. It might save you from some anxiety later on and it might save your life! If you're experiencing a sexual drought right now use the opportunity to get yourself in top working order. See your doctor anyway, for your annual check up and STI screen. Work on your fitness and food intake and get involved in local LGBT community activities. Who knows, you should enjoy it and you might meet Mr Right.

Have your say on this topic - go to the QAHC Discussion Board - <http://www.qahc.org.au/forum>

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Call for Expressions of Interest in Board Membership - April 2008

The AIDS Trust of Australia (ATA) is Australia's national fundraising body, raising and distributed funds for community based HIV education, care, support, and research within Australia.

ATA is entering an exciting new phase of its development, working in close co-operation with the state based AIDS Councils and their equivalent and with AFAO to develop strategies to ensure its long term success in

raising funds.

At this time, the ATA is specifically seeking individuals with knowledge, skills and experience in the following areas:

- Marketing
- Sponsorship
- Fundraising
- Networking

Governors are expected to commit at least one day a month to the activities of the ATA. Appointment as a Governor is on a voluntary basis.

Role of the Board

In accordance with good governance principles a Board's role is to:

- Set the strategic direction of the company;
- Ensure the company complies with all legislative requirements, especially those set down in corporations law and related legislation;
- Select and appoint the CEO;
- Set goals and evaluate the performance of the CEO;
- Evaluate its own performance from time to time.

In terms of the strategic direction of the company the board requires a wide range of knowledge, skills and experience in order to fulfil its role. These areas include:

- law
- finance
- marketing
- media
- sponsorship
- member relations
- event management
- HIV/AIDS and the particular role of community based organisations in Australia's response
- networking.

Appointment to the board is on a voluntary basis.

To find out more about the ATA please contact Nick Toonen, Chief Executive Officer, nick@aidstrust.com.au or (02) 9285 4420. Further information about the ATA is also available at www.aidstrust.com.au.

To express interest in appointment as a Governor or to find out more about what would be required from you, please contact Adrian Lovney, Deputy Chair, alovney@cuscal.com.au or 0411 641 340 (m).

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Obituaries - Louise Moesbergen and Lindsay Stewart farewelled



Louise Moesbergen, 74, died peacefully on April 3.

Louise was a "very strong Catholic" grandmother credited with saving the lives of "countless" gays and lesbians has been farewelled with a requiem mass in Brisbane on April 14.

Louise was best known as a volunteer co-ordinator at the Queensland AIDS Council (now QAHC), and also a founding figure and driving force behind Building Bridges, a Catholic group which aimed to reconcile families with their adult gay children.

In the late 1990s there were parish priests openly discriminating against family members as well as gay people and Louise changed a lot of people's attitudes, even the attitudes of LGBT's towards their parents. She gave a new perspective on what it's like to be gay in a straight family.

Amongst other things, she met with government ministers and got the Catholic Church to donate money for anti-homophobia workshops in the outback. Louise was extremely intuitive and supportive and she has left a huge imprint and legacy.

Louise Moesbergen is survived by seven children, twelve grandchildren and a very grateful gay community.



VALE: LINDSAY THOMAS STEWART (1955 – 2008)

One of QAHC's former Board Members has passed away. Lindsay Stewart from Townsville had been diagnosed with cancer late last year and after being admitted to hospital on Saturday night 26 April, he died in the early hours of Sunday morning. We are sure that many people from the old Queensland AIDS Council days will remember him as one of those people that always put their hand up to help out. Lindsay held several positions on the QuAC Board at different times over a number of years. Lindsay was always a strong advocate for HIV+ people, particularly for those living in regional areas. For your interest we have included a **copy** of his Funeral notice which appeared in the Townsville Bulletin on Tuesday 29 April 2008:

STEWART, Lindsay Thomas. Late of Pimlico. Passed away on Sunday 27th April, 2008 after a short illness. Loving Soul Mate of Debra.

Much loved and missed Father of Kristy, Nick, Olivia and Jackie. Loved Son of Jim and May Stewart (Tasmania). Brother, Brother-in-law and Uncle of Neville and Denae, Neil and Tess, John and Jo, Anne and Martin, Roslyn and Peter Milton, Jan and Paul White, David Lane and their respective Families ~ Aged 53 years ~ "Constantly Fishing Where They're Always Biting" Family and Friends of LINDSAY are respectfully invited to attend his FUNERAL SERVICE which will commence at 2.00 p.m. TOMORROW WEDNESDAY, 30th APRIL, 2008 at our White Dove Chapel, Fitzgeralds Funerals, 7 Yeatman Street, Hyde Park. NO CORTEGE

What's On.....

Central 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

CRUSH

Sands Tavern, Plaza Parade, Maroochydore
8.00PM - 3.00AM
www.crushevents.com
Contact: Jason **0408 061 402** or email Jason@crushevents.com
Reoccurring event 2nd Saturday of every month

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
Re-occurring event 3rd Saturday of every month.

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

Rock'in Rocky Females - Rockhampton Bi Club

Contact: 'The Girls' 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.

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 or 07 4939 9212 (youth volunteer)

This is a new 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 anytime.

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

Lemon Lounge

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

Lesbian Mother's Support Group

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

Sunshine Coast Queer Collective

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

Gympie Women's Coffee Morning

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

Gay Dads

Contact: Terry Rubes, 0410 772 872 or 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.

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

North Queensland

Queer Youth Action Group: Join the Queer Youth Action Group to increase support for LGBT young people in Far North QLD. Next meeting is on the 5th of March at QAHC resource Centre, 290 Draper St, Cairns. For more information contact Amanda Dean at QAHC: 4041 54 51

Spirituality Group: A spirituality group for LGBT people is now happening in Cairns. The group is facilitated by Rev Dr Jason Gregg, a member of the FNQ Parish of St Margaret of Antioch (Catholic Church). The group meets each Tuesday afternoon at the QAHC Cairns LGBT Resource Centre at 290 Draper St, Cairns. Ph: 4041 5451 for details.

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.

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 .

Tablelands Social Network: A social group for LGBT people living on or visiting the Atherton Tablelands. For details on upcoming events contact Louise through www.glbtqfnq.info

Brisbane

Planet Positive

A fun night out for HIV+ people and their friends

Friday 20 June, 6pm - 11pm

The Emerald Room at the Pavillion Hotel

123 Boundary Street, West End

More Info: Call QPP on 1800 636241 or email: jheywood@qpp.org.au

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 or check out their website www.brisbanesunboys.com Sunboys is not a sex club, but a group of guys who enjoy socializing in a nudist environment

Gold Coast

Castaways

Each Monday 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 or call 07 3017 1777 or 0425 778 994.

Happy Campers

Another great event is held monthly by Happy Campers. The guys from Happy Campers host a monthly BBQ at Chris Cunningham Park, Tweed Heads (behind Centro Tweed) on the last Saturday of every month. There is always a large gathering of people from the community and all new members are welcomed by the organisers. It's a great opportunity to meet local people and connect with a friendly network of people on the Gold Coast and Tweed Heads region. For more info go to www.happycampers.com.au

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QLD Association of Healthy Communities Brisbane & Statewide

ph: **07 3017 1777** email: info@qahc.org.au
fax: 07 3852 5200 web: 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

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