



Queensland Association for  
Healthy Communities Inc.

**Statewide**  
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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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## Greetings from the General Manager

Welcome to the first edition of QAHC News for 2009.

I hope you had a restful and/or exciting break. Many of us here at QAHC were certainly looking forward to it after a very busy year.

QAHC's AGM was held at the end of November, with some new Board members joining us, and some long-serving members and supporters leaving (see article below for full list). Mark Morein has been returned as President for another year, to continue to lead the development of the organisation. Our Annual Report for 2007/08 is now available from [www.qahc.org.au/reports](http://www.qahc.org.au/reports) or by ringing a QAHC office. It summarises our main activities across the programs of work at QAHC.

Thanks to all those who supported World AIDS Day activities throughout the state, including purchasing red ribbons, attending events and spreading the word. Over \$7,500 was raised for The HOPE Fund to support those living with HIV who are in need.

End of year celebrations at QAHC included the first anniversary of the opening of the Cairns LGBT Community Resources Centre, which has now been named "Base Camp". Well over 150 people attended the QAHC end of year (beach) party in Brisbane and enjoyed great entertainment and catching up with friends. As is tradition, the Sunshine Coast office will host a new year's event later this month (contact the Sunshine Coast office for details).

All staff positions are now filled at QAHC, and we welcome new staff Caroline Hills (Sexual Health Program Manager), Jason Russo (Fundraising Coordinator), Ricki Menzies (Training & Development Coordinator), Nick Connor (Health Promotion Officer - Cairns), Jayne Amble (Graphic Designer) and Shane Horne, Dan Webb, Damien Bosworth & David Morton (casual Outreach Workers - Cairns).

The first few months of this year are already looking packed, with a range of events and activities including: MILK charity premiere, Packing Party V, launch of Condoman campaign, start of consultation on mental health and alcohol, tobacco & other drug issues, post-Mardi Gras events, gay men's retreat, plans for Gold Coast Gay Day in May and the launch of our free condom & lube distribution scheme.

To keep up with what's happening at QAHC between newsletters, check out [www.qahc.org.au](http://www.qahc.org.au)

Yours

Paul Martin  
General Manager

## QAHC Annual General Meeting - Our Board for 2008/2009

At the Annual General Meeting held on Thursday 27th November, the QAHC Board were elected as follows:

**President - Mark Morein**  
**Treasurer - Ross Wilson**  
**Secretary - Peter Newlands**  
**Brisbane Region - Carol Jeffrey**  
**Southern Region - Kathy Noble**  
**Central Region - Marj Blowers**  
**Northern Region - Joanne Leamy**  
**General Board Member - Troy Hakala**  
**General Board Member - Nikki Smith**  
**Staff Representative - Shaun Staunton**

We would like to thank Dion Reid, Lisa Heskouri, Ricki Menzies and Craig Lewis for their invaluable support, hardwork and input on the QAHC Board during the last 12 months.



**Men  
in the  
Middle**

Men in the Middle is a six week workshop group for gay and bi men in Brisbane (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:  
Brett on 3017-1729  
mim@qahc.org.au

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 free 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, self esteem, 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 6yrs Men In the Middle has provided a unique opportunity for many guys to take stock & connect with a variety of other men from all walks of life in a fun, hassle free environment.

The next Men in the Middle workshop commences in February, with a limited number of places available.

Feel free to contact Brett at QAHC on 3017 1729 or e: [mim@qahc.org.au](mailto:mim@qahc.org.au) if you have any questions.

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

## Out & About Social Group



The flyer features the 'out&about social group' logo in black and green text. In the top right corner is the QAHC logo, which consists of a stylized rainbow circle and the letters 'qahc'. A decorative black scrollwork graphic is on the right side. The main text asks, 'Are you interested in getting out and about and meeting new people?'. A dark grey box on the right contains the following text: 'Out & About is a fortnightly social group for all people in the LGBT communities. Come along and make new friends at fun and relaxed events such as games nights, dinners, movie nights and picnics. Contact Shaun Staunton for info about events: sstaunton@qahc.org.au or (07) 3017 1733. To learn more and download an event list go to www.qahc.org.au/outabout www.qahc.org.au |'.

The QAHC social group, Out and About, is getting ready for a summer of fun events, including a fun Sunshine Coast beach trip. With over 100 members on the mailing list, the group meets regularly in informal settings for different social activities, and always has fun. Events coming up for the year include trips to exhibitions, a picnic and pizza and bowling nights.

The coming summer will also see a review of the social group, to see how QAHC can make sure the group works as well as it can. People who complete an online survey can also go in the draw to win a \$25 CD and DVD voucher. To join the group, or to find out how to complete the online survey if you already are a member, call Shaun Staunton on (07) 3017 1732 or email [sstaunton@qahc.org.au](mailto:sstaunton@qahc.org.au)

## QAHC Staff Profiles - Meet our latest staff members

### Caroline Hills - Sexual Health Program Manager



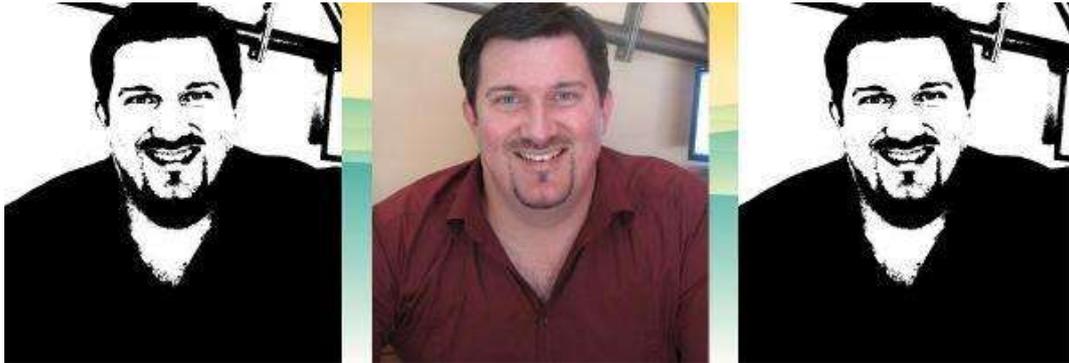
I joined the QAHC team back in October as the Sexual Health Program Manager. This is a state-wide position, but I will be based in the Brisbane office. The new role is as a result of the additional \$620,000 of funding that we recently received from the state government to enhance the HIV prevention and sexual health work that we do with gay men/MSM. My job is responsible for the overall management and co-ordination of the sexual health promotion program.

I will be working from a strategic viewpoint and hope to review and monitor the program's projects, as well as developing ongoing strategies for future development of the program.

I have been working in the field of health promotion for the past 5 ½ years, with much of my career spent working with a leading UK based HIV and sexual health charity. My past experience has involved me working in direct service delivery and as a manager, in the areas of sexual health promotion and social care and support for people living with HIV. I have been living in Brisbane for the past 18 months, and prior to October I was working with Queensland Health.

I am looking forward to my new role at QAHC and I hope to meet many of you in the coming months.

### **Jason Russo - Fundraising Co-ordinator**



As the new Fundraising Coordinator for QAHC, I look forward to the challenge of raising funds to get some wonderful QAHC projects off the ground and helping further the great work of the Ageing Action Group and Women's Health and Wellbeing Group. I'll be working on grants, sponsorship, donations, raffles, bequests, events and everything else to do with fundraising, including helping LGBT community groups in their own fundraising efforts to assist our community's growth.

Prior to QAHC I was at MS Society of Queensland for over 8 years in the marketing/fundraising department and have a great deal of experience from my time there and look forward to building QAHC's fundraising profile. I have a Bachelor of Visual Arts majoring in Graphic Design/Commercial Art which has definitely helped my career so far from a marketing perspective.

If you have any great fundraising ideas or contacts, I'd be happy to hear from you. Call me on 07 3017 1728 or email [jrusso@qahc.org.au](mailto:jrusso@qahc.org.au)

### **Nick Connor - Sexual Health Promotion Officer Cairns**



Hello, I have been with QAHC in Cairns in my role as Sexual Health Promotion officer for just over three months.

Most of my professional life has been involved in education; having worked as an ESL teacher, a university Learning Adviser and a self-employed Workplace Trainer and Assessor. I have also done stints working in the hospitality, migration and sex-on-premises industries.

### Signed Matthew Mitcham Speedos - Up for Grabs

Fancy an opportunity to showcase a piece of gay sporting history on your wall? We've managed to nab a signed pair of 2008 Olympic Gold Medalist Matthew Mitcham Speedos & an accompanying signed photograph, all beautifully framed to the value of \$400 to be raffled as a fundraiser for QAHC's Healthy Communities Fund.

Help us, to assist your community. For as little as \$5 per ticket, or \$10 for 3 you can enter the draw to win this fabulous piece of sporting memorabilia as well as contributing towards the Healthy Communities Fund.

The Healthy Communities Fund has been established by QAHC to help support small LGBT groups, organisations and projects across Queensland. Monies are available on a grant based system aimed at building and strengthening lgbt communities; promoting health and wellbeing of LBGT Queenslanders; and supporting fundraising activities for lgbt Queenslanders.

Tickets are available from QAHC Reception or alternatively look out for guys & girls in the QAHC T-shirts at various venues leading up the raffle being drawn at Big Gay Day in March.

### Aqualicious Pool Party - Red, Hot & Delicious - Tickets available from QAHC



On Saturday 31 January from 5pm-10pm at Splash Centenary Pool, Spring Hill will come alive as the premier pool party event on the calendar headlines DJ Les Smith and Pool Diva Miss Synthetic to entertain the masses with fun, frivolity and just a little lycra.

A fully catered and licensed 18+ event this is also an opportunity to wish the athletes in training for the World Outgames in Copenhagen well in their events and competitions. With some fun games and races plus great raffles and prizes on offer it's going to be fun filled evening.

All monies raised on the night from the Aqualicious raffles are generously being donated to the benefit QAHC and Open Doors.

Tickets are only \$10 and are available from various outlets, including QAHC. With a limited number of tickets available it is sure to be a sell out. Team Aqualicious (QAL) is Brisbane and Queensland's GLBTI Swim Team and now boasts over 60 active members. For further details check out <http://www.aqualicious.com.au/>

### World AIDS Day 2008 - Brisbane



World AIDS Day 2008 saw a number of organisations join QAHC in planning a range of activities to mark the most famous of awareness days. This year we worked with the Queensland Injectors Health Network, Queensland Positive People, Positive Directions, Metropolitan Community Church, the Australian Pharmacy Guild and Ethic Communities Council of Queensland to get the red ribbons out into the community.

Not just on the day itself, but in the period leading up to World AIDS Day we had library posters displays in suburban libraries and an extensive display of World AIDS Day memorabilia in the Brisbane City Library, and an interesting display of HIV and World AIDS Day facts projected on the library wall over a weekend. Also leading up to the week, we had volunteers selling World AIDS Day ribbons in the city, as well as at a collection of other services and businesses.

Working with the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland, the group was also involved in HIV information presentations and the running of a World AIDS Day poster competition at the local Milperra School. Still with Schools, QAHC ran a "Shades for AIDS" program, letting young people where a pair of shades to school in return for a gold coin donation, as well as involving students in the awareness raising. To achieve this they distributed red ribbons in School and gave speeches at assembly.

Over the weekend just before World AIDS Day, QAHC volunteers and staff were again out in the gay venues of Brisbane selling red ribbons and World AIDS Day badges to raise money and chatting to patrons about the awareness day.

Once again, we had a great response from the gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender community, and all outreach staff ended the night weighed down by heavy boxes full of gold coins. On the day itself, QAHC joined with the other organisations to hold a large World AIDS Day event in the public square outside the Casino in the Brisbane city. This event featured a large painting activity for people to take part in, live entertainment, showbag giveaways, a vintage HIV education poster display and a video diary for people to record their thoughts about World AIDS Day.

The day was a great success, with a wide range of people stopping to buy ribbons, watch the entertainment and take part in the activities. After the event, the Metropolitan Community Church held a multifaith gathering at the Judith Wright Centre to mark the day. Once again, we saw our community, not just our brothers and sisters in the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community, but our straight friends and family, come together to mark this important day on the calendar.

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

### QAHC Christmas Party 2008



Fun was had by all who attended the QAHC Christmas Beach Party. Entertainment on the night ranged from a burlesque performance to a contemporary dance performance and a freestyle fire performance. Earlier in the evening QAHC's own Gold Coast Health Promotion worker, Ged Farmer, got the crowd warmed up with a playing some well know hits, as well as some of his own material. QAHC would like to thank Bertie Page, Sam from the Carnival of the Divine Imagination, Mishka and Ged for providing such great entertainment on the night.



## Same-Sex Law Reforms

### Overview of the Australian Government's Same-Sex Law Reforms

[http://www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/agd.nsf/Page/Humanrightsandanti-discrimination\\_SameSexReform](http://www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/agd.nsf/Page/Humanrightsandanti-discrimination_SameSexReform)

The Australian Government believes that people are entitled to respect, dignity and the opportunity to participate in society and receive the protection of the law regardless of their sexuality. Following the Australian Human Rights Commission's report, Same-Sex: Same Entitlements and an audit of Commonwealth legislation, the Australian Government has introduced reforms to remove discrimination to enable same-sex couples and their children to be recognised by Commonwealth law.

The reforms aim to ensure that same-sex couples and their families are recognised and have the same entitlements as opposite-sex de facto couples. As a result of ensuring that same-sex couples receive the same treatment as opposite-sex de facto couples, the reforms may also impose burdens on some same-sex couples or reduce certain benefits they currently receive.

It is the Government's view that these reforms are necessary and an essential step towards a fairer and more just society.

The reforms amend 84 Commonwealth laws to eliminate discrimination against same-sex couples and their children in a wide range of areas, including social security, taxation, Medicare, veteran's affairs, workers' compensation, educational assistance, superannuation, family law and child support.

The reforms will have a significant impact in the following areas:

- Taxation
- Superannuation
- Defined Benefits Superannuation
- Social Security and Family Assistance
- PBS Safety Net and the Medicare Safety Net
- Aged Care
- Child Support
- Immigration
- Citizenship
- Veterans' Affairs

### Laws amended by the Same-Sex Reforms

A full list of the 84 Commonwealth laws amended is set out below. The laws that are amended fall within the responsibility of various Australian Government Departments.

[http://www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/agd.nsf/Page/Humanrightsandanti-discrimination\\_LawsamendedunderAustralianGovernmentDepartmentsforSameSexReform](http://www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/agd.nsf/Page/Humanrightsandanti-discrimination_LawsamendedunderAustralianGovernmentDepartmentsforSameSexReform)

## World AIDS Day 2008 - Gold Coast



### World AIDS Day event on the Gold Coast raises much needed funds.

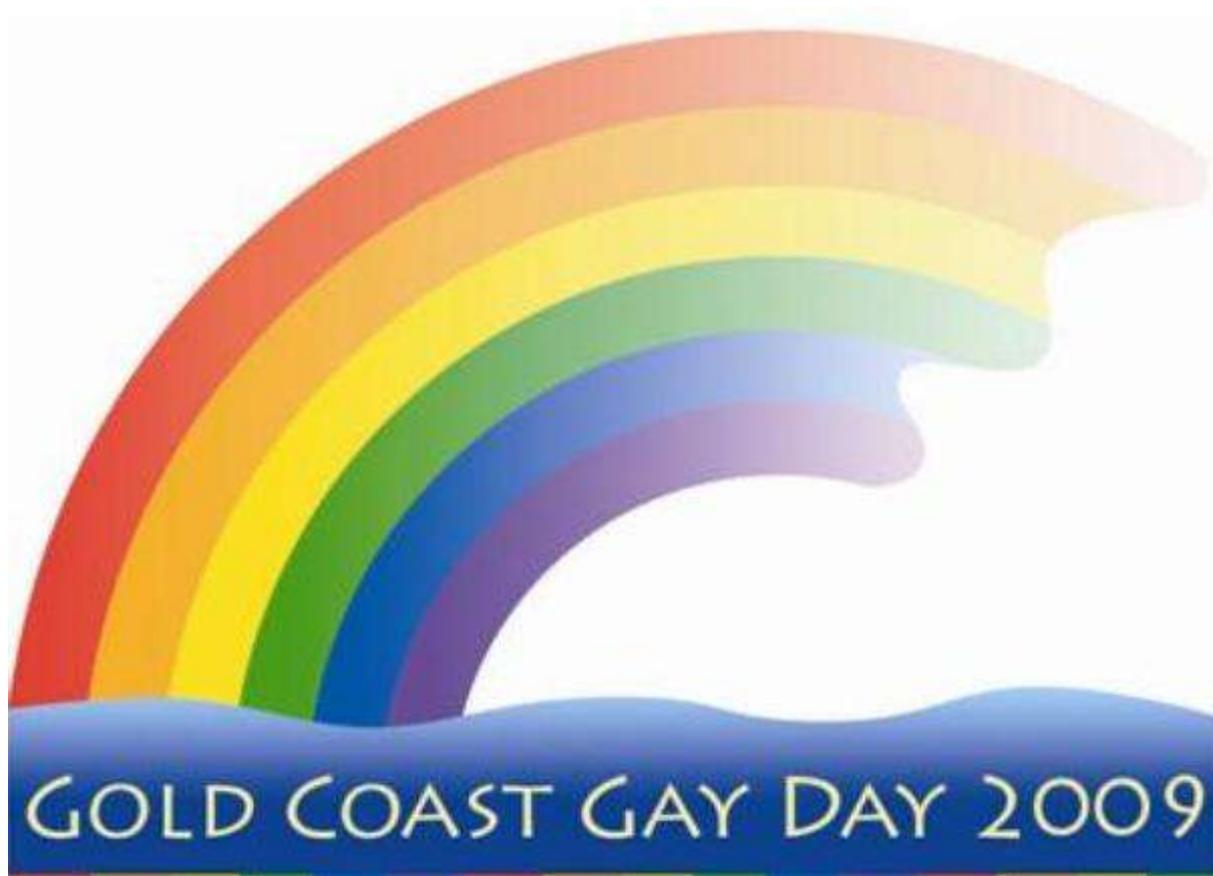
The Meeting Place Night Club in Surfers Paradise has held another successful World AIDS Day fundraiser. All of the performers and DJ's donated their performance fees on the night as well as the club donating the door takings.

Over \$2000 was raised to support people living with HIV/AIDS. Red Ribbons were sold during the evening with almost all of the patrons on the night wearing a Red Ribbon.

Ged Farmer Health Promotion Officer with QAHC on the Gold Coast said "an event like this is quite significant especially in a financial climate where fundraising and donations to charities has become increasing harder. The LGBT community on the Gold Coast have been very generous and supportive."

A huge thanks must go to Mark the manager of MP's for his ongoing support to the community and the wonderful staff at MP's.

### Gold Coast Gay Day - May 2009



The next big event on the Gold Coast will be Gold Coast Gay Day on the May Day long weekend.

This will be part of a three day event that we are affectionately calling 3 Days of Gay in May. The Tropical Alternatives Queer Film Festival will be on Saturday the 2nd of May, Gay Day on the 3rd of May and a Picnic in the Park on the 4th of May hosted by Happy Campers.

For more info on Gold Coast Gay Day and other events on the Gold Coast email Ged on [gc@qahc.org.au](mailto:gc@qahc.org.au) or phone 07 3017 1731

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

## Sunshine Coast Pride Fair Day 2008



The Queensland Association for Healthy Communities hosted the first Sunshine Coast Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Pride Fair on Sunday 19th October 2008 at the Millwell Road Community Centre, Maroochydore.

The Pride Fair aimed 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 provided 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.

The Pride Fair kicked off at 10:00am and entry was free. Door prizes were up for grabs throughout the day including two nights' accommodation at Horizons at Peregian and a twin stay at The Hideaway Men's Resort. A great line up of local artists provided live entertainment while everyone browsed the wide range of market stalls and local community organisations. Also on offer was a sausage sizzle, face painting, fairy floss and many more activities which kept all amused throughout the day.

More than 800 people attended the event which ranged from locals to state-wide and interstate visitors. Qualitative and quantitative data was gathered via a range of informal and formal methods. This included recording numbers at the door, demographics through Q-List cards, Pride Fair surveys and Pride Passports.

Overall feedback about the first Sunshine Coast Pride Fair has been very positive and recommendations have focused around the need for a larger venue and extended activities including and after party next year to support such a popular event.

If you would like to be involved in next year's event please contact the Sunshine Coast QAHC office on 5443 4365 or 5451 1118 or email [kbishop@qahc.org.au](mailto:kbishop@qahc.org.au)

Keep an eye out on [www.gaysunshinecoast.com.au](http://www.gaysunshinecoast.com.au) for information on the next Pride Fair and other Sunshine Coast/Cooloola events.

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

## Outer Metro South East Queensland LGBT community news and info

Hello QAHC newsletter readers; my name is Amanda Dean, I am the new Outer Metro South East Queensland worker for QAHC. I started this position late September and have been run off my feet with supporting LGBT events and activities in the suburbs and towns surrounding Brisbane especially Ipswich and Toowoomba. Such events include the Out West dance party's at Ipswich, the Toowoomba LGBT social nights, and QAHC's initial Gay/MSM retreat held late November.

The Out West Dance parties started in November and are proving to be a huge success with around 70 people attending. The first night really kicked off with a wonderful performance from local drag queens. Out West has a nice country feeling with everyone being very welcoming and saying hello. Out West is on every 3rd Saturday of the month at City View hotel Ipswich.

I recently attend The Toowoomba LGBT social night which was also a terrific event with over 25 people attending and the local launch of the "Keep it Up" campaign. I gave away 3 USB safe sex is respect wrist bands to any one that could guess the smell of the "Keep it Up" car fresheners. If you haven't seen the "keep it Up" campaign please go to [www.qahc.org.au/regional](http://www.qahc.org.au/regional). The next Toowoomba event will be the on the 7th of February please contact me on 3017 1733 for more information.

The QAHC Gay/MSM beach retreat was a smash hit with over 30 men attending and many of the participants describing the retreat as a supportive and excellent weekend. The retreat offered many free activities; massage, relationship, laughter and spirituality workshops. I was personally amazed at how friendly and loving the participants were towards me. The next retreat is on the 30th of Jan to the 1st of Feb at Camp Duckadang at the top of the Esk Valley, so please ring me on 3017 1733 to book your place or for more information on the retreat.

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

### End of an Era - Final Crush on Sunshine Coast

November marked the end of an era for the LGBT community on the Sunshine Coast. For the past six and a half years the second Saturday of the month has been Crush night at the Sands Tavern in Maroochydore. This gave the LGBT community and their friends a chance to get together and socialise while having a drink or two in a safe place.

On the 8th of November even the pouring rain didn't stop the crowds as an astounding crowd of over 200 come through the front doors for the last time. The night was a huge success with DJ Corey Czok rocking the dance floor with some of our favourite tunes. DJ Corey has been the DJ at Crush for the past year and a half and describes the final Crush as "very successful" adding that he "really enjoyed his final set" and he "looks forward to playing for the Coast again soon at the Pink Pineapple Party", which will be held on the 14th of February, 2009.

As an added bonus on the night, the five piece girls dance troupe, K-otic entertained the crowds with sexy outfits and an energetic performance with "most of the girls in the crowd checking out the dancers and most of the guys in the crowd taking note of the dance moves".

QAHC was there with gay press and safe sex packs for the crowds, and for a special last night treat the Mailbox Game was out in full force. Over 90 people grabbed their numbers and many messages were passed from person to person. Victoria Gadd said "This is called shag tag in England, but it's a fun and innovative way to meet new friends".

I'm sure that at least once or twice over the years, the majority of the local LGBT community has attended a Crush event and it was great to see a vast sea of faces both male and female, gay and straight and old and new to come and celebrate what has been a successful and fun event over the years. The mass was silenced as Corey said a few words of thanks to Jason Riddle for his huge contribution in organising this event over the years as well as many volunteers and workers helping at the door and behind the scene. The Sands Tavern was also thanked for allowing and supporting us with this event for its entirety.

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



**Married. Straight. Gay. Bisexual.**

Completely confidential Men's sexual health line  
**1800 155 141**  
Staff available business hours.  
Automated information service available other times.  
[www.men.org.au](http://www.men.org.au)

Call us about:  
Sexuality issues  
Sexual health  
Referrals Information  
Support

## Playing Safely - Keep It Up!



**PLAYING SAFELY** **keep it up!**

Speak with the following services about your sexual health  
Your Doctor (GP)  
Your Local Sexual Health Service [www.health.qld.gov.au/sexhealth](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/sexhealth)

QAHC Men's Sexual Health Line 1800 155 141 [www.qahc.org.au/regional](http://www.qahc.org.au/regional) 

**Labels don't matter, your health does**

## GLBT Respite Host Home

### Expression of interest GLBT Respite Host Home

The Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centres (CRCC) are seeking expressions of interest from the GLBT community to become involved in a unique GLBT host home pilot. We seek interested GLBT individuals or couples who would be willing to provide basic support in your own home to senior GLBT people who need support for short periods of time such as personal care and meals to give their carer a break.

Community members interested in being a host provider must be willing to enter into a contract to provide services for the centre. The successful applicant will be paid up to \$100 a day and must have or be willing to obtain:

- Minimum of certificate 3 in Aged Care or the equivalent
- Participate in a WHS environmental audit for suitability
- Police check
- Be willing to commit to a 12 month contract and have an ABN
- Professional indemnity insurance and public liability (CRCC may assist with costs)

The CRCCs are funded by the Australian Government and provides short term respite support to carers of people who are frail aged or have a disability in emergency or planned situations.

For further information to become a host home provider contact Stephen Gamble at the Commonwealth Respite and Carelink Centre on 3256 8033



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AUSTRALIA  
*Always making a positive difference in people's lives*

## QAHC's Entertainment Guide

### **Aqualicious Pool Party 09**

**Red Hot and Delicious, Saturday 31st January**

5.00pm - 9.00pm

DJ Les Smith

Hosted by Miss Synthetique

Brisbane's soakingly good Wet & Wild Drag Race

Great raffles & prizes, hot food & beverages available

Tickets: \$10 Check [www.aqualicious.com.au](http://www.aqualicious.com.au) for outlets. Tickets limited.

### **An Ideal Husband**

**5th - 21st February (Thu - Sat 8pm, Sat 2pm)**

Centre Stage Theatre, 25 Quarry Street, Spring Hill

Tickets: \$15 - \$24.50. Bookings: Oztix 1300 762 545 or [www.oztix.com.au](http://www.oztix.com.au)

### **Jose Carreras**

**Friday 6th February. 8pm, Brisbane Entertainment Centre**

Tickets: \$100 - \$600

Bookings: Ticketek 132 849 or [www.ticketek.com.au](http://www.ticketek.com.au)

### **Busting Out**

**11th - 22nd February, Twelfth Night Theatre**

4 Cintra Road, Bowen Hills

Bookings: 3252 5122 or [www.ticketek.com.au](http://www.ticketek.com.au)

### **Chicago**

**From 19th March 2009 (Tue - Sat 7.30pm, Wed & Sat 1.30pm, Sun 3.00pm)**

Lyric Theatre, QPAC, Cnr Grey & Melbourne Streets, South Bank.

Tickets: \$69.90 - \$99.90. Bookings: Qtix 136 246 or [qtix.com.au](http://qtix.com.au)

### **Brisbane's Big Gay Day 2009**

**Summer Street Party, Sunday 15th March**

The Wickham Hotel, 308 Wickham Street, Fortitude Valley

More info go to [www.biggayday.com.au](http://www.biggayday.com.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.

### **Rehearsals**

Rehearsals are at St Mary's Church, Cnr Merivale St and Peel St, South Brisbane, each Tuesday beginning at 7pm. Auditions are not necessary to join, everyone in the GLBTI community is welcome.

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 email [blgpc@optusnet.com.au](mailto:blgpc@optusnet.com.au) or call 3397-2123.

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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)

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## **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>

## 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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### 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.

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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 on upcoming events contact Louise through [www.glbtfqnq.info](http://www.glbtfqnq.info)

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### **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, Maryborough 6pm - 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 anytime.

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### **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

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](mailto: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](http://www.happycampers.com.au)



**GETTING REGULAR  
STI CHECKS keep it up!**

Speak with the following services about your sexual health  
Your Doctor (GP)  
Your Local Sexual Health Service [www.health.qld.gov.au/sexhealth](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/sexhealth)

QAHC Men's Sexual Health Line 1800 155 141 [www.qahc.org.au/regional](http://www.qahc.org.au/regional) 

**Labels don't matter, your health does**



**LOOKING AFTER YOUR  
MATES**      **keep it up!**

Speak with the following services about your sexual health

Your Doctor (GP)

Your Local Sexual Health Service [www.health.qld.gov.au/sexhealth](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/sexhealth)

QAHC Men's Sexual Health Line 1800 155 141 [www.qahc.org.au/regional](http://www.qahc.org.au/regional)



**Labels don't matter, your health does**

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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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