



DiversityACT

Diversity Digest

Issue 1 2019

AGM Report

As a result of the elections held at the Annual General Meeting, we have a new Management Committee.

President: Shay-Leigh Willis

Vice President: Bruce Moore

Treasurer: Morgan Sedaitis

Secretary: Megan Watts

General Committee Members: Glenda Chapman, Samantha Edwards, Helen Hopper, and Liz Stephens.

Public Officer: Doug Jackson

Votes of thanks were passed in acknowledgement of the outstanding contributions of Delia Quigley and Michel Hansen in the roles of President and

Treasurer/Public Officer/Volunteer Social Worker respectively.

We are very pleased to announce that Delia is continuing her involvement with Diversity ACT in the new role of Hub Manager.

A copy of the 2018 Annual Report is attached to this newsletter. The draft minutes of the AGM are available on the Diversity ACT website.

President's Report – Shay-Leigh Willis

Hello everyone!

My name is Shay-Leigh Willis and I am the new President of Diversity ACT. I believe that I am the youngest President that our organisation has had to date. I identify as Pansexual and Queer.

I'd like to start my first report by acknowledging all the hard work that has gone before. I'd particularly like to thank Delia for her incredible service to Diversity ACT and the LGBTIQ+ community in the ACT.

I cannot fully express how much of an honour and a privilege volunteering with Diversity ACT is. I have never been this excited or driven when taking on a role in an organisation before. I love Diversity ACT and the work that we do. I am determined to not only continue the work we have been doing, but also to create new and exciting ways to reach out and help our community.

During my Presidency, my goals for our organisation include increasing our membership numbers, and our community partnerships. I look forward to us expanding our services and our programs. It's great to see the new Southside Women's Group doing things, and

there's a new group for young adults coming soon. By working towards these goals, I hope that we can also begin to stabilise our finances.

I can't wait to work with all to provide help and support to our community!

Introductions

Over the next few editions of the Diversity Digest, we will introduce the new members of the committee. We are starting off with Helen, as she spent some of 2018 seconded to the role that she has now been elected to.

Helen Hopper



Helen, volunteer social worker and committee member

Helen is our volunteer social worker and was originally seconded to the Management Committee during 2018. She has 39 years working in the social welfare field and for the last 23 years as a social worker. She has worked in the areas of disability, aged

care and child protection. Helen has worked in rural New South Wales as well as the city metropolitan area of Canberra.

Retired from the ACT Government in December 2016, Helen is a sessional lecturer at the Australian Catholic University, Canberra Campus. Helen holds a BA (Soc. Welfare), a BSW and an MPA. She is a Graduate member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and in 2016 successfully completed 'Mastering the Boardroom'. Helen served as the AASW Company Secretary for 9 years and retired as

Company Secretary in September 2017. Helen also serves on the Abbeyfield Curtin Management Committee and the Board of Governance for Technology for Ageing and Disability ACT (TADACT) and the Australian Association of Social Workers ACT Branch.

Student Placements

Diversity ACT regularly provides opportunities for industry placements for students studying Youth Work or Community Services.

Babette Tinarran



Babette discovered Diversity ACT while doing her placement to complete a Diploma in Community Services. She reflected on her learning during that placement

"Talking and working with Delia, Megan and all the members of Diversity ACT has been very rewarding, interesting and an eye-opener to a world that I had never questioned before."

Babette finished her placement with us late in 2018. We wish her all the best for her future work in the Community Services sector.

Treasurer's Report – Morgan Sedaitis

Morgan will provide a detailed introduction in the next newsletter. For now, he's busy getting his head around our banking, finances and the Xero accounts package.

Thanks for taking it all on Morgan!

Queer Youth Together – Danielle

QyouT have had busy and varied time over the last few months. We have participated recently in the following activities: exploring art projects & funding at

Gorman House; a games night at the Hub; going to the Adventure Park in Kambah; making condom packs for International Condom Day; chatting with volunteers from Encampment; a pool

party; kite making, and visiting the National Arboretum where we flew our kites and looked at the memorials.



QyouT kites

QyouT has had the pleasure of welcoming multiple new members into our program this year. As QyouT is gaining amazing new members, space is getting pretty tight!

In order to deal with the space issue, and a need for additional support and a place for young people in their 20s to come together, we are exploring adding another group to our programs to cater for this. It will be for LGBTIQ+ people aged in their 20s. This group will involve regular drop-ins at the Hub as well as working together to decide on activities that interest them as a group.

QyouT has lots of interesting events coming up, including Sharing Our Stories and Our Queer Space. Check the details out later in this newsletter.

Even though we have been growing, we would still love to see some more new faces at QyouT. If you know any LGBTIQ+ young people aged 12-24 who might be interested in joining our youth group, please encourage them to come along to one of our QyouT nights. Hopefully they will continue to come if it is something they enjoy and a place they feel comfortable.

Southside Women

Southside Women is a new group providing regular social activities to all lesbian women living on the Southside (and all areas of Canberra). They are meeting at the Diversity Hub.

This group is endeavouring to create a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. They welcome all women to attend, participate, meet new friends and have fun.

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/573671329770553/>

Volunteering - Megan Watts

Are you starting to think about what you might do differently in 2019? Maybe you are looking for a way to give a little more to the community? Without our volunteers, Diversity ACT would not exist.

As well as providing important resources for community organisations like ours, volunteering is proven to be good for health and well-being for the people doing the volunteering. There is a wide range of volunteer tasks available at Diversity ACT— some require regular time commitments, others are more situational.

We are always keen to have more folk on the roster to keep the Hub open and maintain the

grounds. Are you able to give a couple of hours a month to open up the Hub, take phone calls, keep an eye on the email and do a bit of cleaning occasionally? Maybe you are an administrative type who would enjoy sorting out our filing, or a gardener who would like to make our grounds even more inviting. If leaving home isn't your thing, maybe you could be the volunteer co-ordinator or maintain the membership list? You could be the Newsletter Editor! And there is always a need for folk to shake buckets or sizzle sausages at fundraisers.

Some of our support groups are blessed by great volunteer teams – Queer Youth Together, the Southside Women and Rainbow Christian Alliance are well supported. (Doesn't mean the teams would say no if anyone else wanted to join in!) But the Platypus Paddle and REAL Parents are currently in abeyance due to a lack of leaders.

If any of these volunteer roles appeal, send an email to info@diversityact.org.au and we can chat. Induction training for new volunteers will be happening soon.

Sharing Our Stories – Volunteers are Awesome!

We had lots of fun at our Mental Health Week



event! MLA Rebecca Cody dropped by to say hello and share some afternoon tea. The CEO

of Volunteering and Contact ACT handed out service awards to some of our wonderful team.

Exploring the Library at the Hub

This issue's review is provided by Bruce, who as well as being the Vice President and provider of onions for fundraising BBQs is also a keen reader.

Perhaps you might want to join those who are borrowing books from the library? Or even provide a review for the next newsletter?

Call Me by Your Name – Andre Aciman

The novel *Call Me by Your Name* was published by André Aciman in 2007. It appeared as a film in 2017 starring Timothée Chalamet and Arnie Hammer, and the film was nominated for many awards. Most people probably know of Aciman's novel via the film, but the novel is well worth reading—the film is true to the 'feel' of the novel, but the novel and the film are very different creatures.

If you come to the novel from the film, the first surprise is that the novel is a first-person narrative with the 17-year-old Elio its narrator. This means that everything is seen from Elio's point of view, and the novel delightfully evokes Elio's erotic and frenetic obsession with the 24 year-old American doctoral student Oliver, who has come to the Italian villa of Elio's parents over six weeks of summer to finalise an academic book. We know from our experience with other first-person narrations that the judgements of the narrator in such a novel are not necessarily to be trusted. Moreover, the narrator-Elio is looking back on events that happened some 20 years in the past (1987 in

the novel, 1983 in the film), whereas in the film all takes place in the 'present', in the 'now'.



Call Me By Your Name film poster

It is inevitable that the film makes changes to the text of the novel. Some of Elio's first-person narration, for example, is dispersed among other

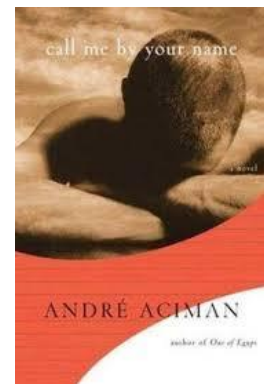
characters. At the end of the first of the novel's four parts, Elio considers a story he has read:

'While reading in my father's library one evening, I came upon the story of a handsome young knight who is madly in love with a princess. She too is in love with him, though she seems not to be entirely aware of it, and despite the friendship that blossoms between them, or perhaps because of that very friendship, he finds himself so humbled and speechless owing to her forbidding candor that he is totally unable to bring up the subject of his love. One day he asks her point-blank: "Is it better to speak or die?"'

In the film this story is related in a family reading situation, with Elio, his father and his mother, where his mother translates this text into English from a German tale. The question —'Is it better to speak or die?'—is relevant to the handsome young knight Elio's present situation, but has wider philosophical reverberations, and it is interesting that the makers of the film felt compelled to stress its significance.

The treatment of the famous 'peach scene' in the film, however, is a bit puzzling. The novel prepares for this scene with the earlier 'apricot scene'. The film includes the novel's discussion between Elio's father and Oliver about the etymology of the word 'apricot', but does not include Elio's introduction to this discussion:

'I shall never forget watching him from my table as he climbed the small ladder wearing his red bathing trunks, taking forever to pick the ripest apricots. On his way to the kitchen he threw me a very large one, saying "Yours", in just the same way he'd throw a tennis ball across the court and say, "Your serve". Of course, he had no idea what I'd been thinking minutes earlier, but the firm, rounded cheeks of the apricot with their dimple in the middle reminded me of how his body had stretched across the boughs of the tree with his tight, rounded ass echoing the color and the shape of the fruit. Touching the apricot was like touching him'.



This boy has some imagination! Later, of course, it is a peach that 'reminded [him] so much of Oliver's arse'. In both novel and film Elio removes the pit from the peach and masturbates into it. And in both novel and film Oliver discovers the peach. But what Oliver does with the peach differs greatly between novel and film. See what you make of this difference!

Novel and film differ most radically in their endings. In the film, after Oliver has returned to America, the family receives a phone call from him during their preparations for Hanukkah (and therefore in winter), in which Oliver announces the fact that he is to be married to a

woman. Elio then sits in front of the fireplace and looks directly at the camera for an extraordinary three-minute long take, as his emotions and thoughts attempt to come to terms with what has happened. It is a moving scene, focusing on the sadness of the end of the relationship, and of the end of Elio's coming-of-age story.

The end of the novel, however, is much longer, and takes up its fourth and final part. In the novel Elio learns of the impending marriage of Oliver in person when Oliver again visits the family. Some years later, Elio visits Oliver at his university in New England, and learns about Oliver's wife and two sons (although he does not visit them). Even later, after the death of Elio's father, Oliver again visits Elio in Italy. The yearnings to resume the relationship are strong in Elio, but it is clear that this will not happen. The sadness at the end of the novel derives from Aciman's sense of the flux and change that occur not just with this relationship, but with all relationships, and how time and memory compel us to renegotiate our past.

Even so, in spite of the novel's emphasis on the effects of time, it ends with Elio's final wish that his relationship with Oliver, that was so valuable and loving, and in which Elio and Oliver merged their 'selves' and called one another by their own names, might somehow be recovered, even for a moment: 'then, just this once, turn to me, even in jest, or as an afterthought, which would have meant everything to me when we were together, and, as you did back then, look me in the face, hold my gaze, and call me by your name'. A really great novel, and I strongly recommend it.

The novel can be borrowed from Diversity ACT's library at the Hub. See <https://diversityact.org.au/resources/library/>

for a complete list of all the books in the library. A DVD of the film *Call Me by Your Name* can also be borrowed from the library

Rainbow Christian Alliance and Dare Café

Rainbow Christian Alliance (Canberra) and Dare Café (Goulburn) are our very successful Christian fellowships for sexually and gender diverse people. Each service happens once a month. You can find the group on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1025029234182558/> or send an email to delia.quigley@diversityact.org.au



Rev Dr Josephine Inkpin at Tuggeranong Uniting

In November we were excited to host the Reverend Dr Josephine Inkpin, Australia's first transgender Anglican priest. Jo spoke to us about Sex and Gender Storms on the Sea of Faith. If you would like to read her sermon, you can

find it here:

<https://www.penandinkreflections.org/blog/when-god-is-naked-sex-and-gender-storms-on-the-sea-of-faith>

Our thanks to Tuggeranong Uniting Church for providing a substantial donation towards Jo's travel costs and a venue free of charge. The rest of the costs were raised by donations from people attending the event.

Upcoming Events

Southside Women's Mystery Tour

Join Southside Women for a Magical Mystery Bus Tour on 24 March, meet at ACT Diversity Hub car park 8 Laidlaw St, Kambah 10am.

We will be visiting a range of attractions and towns outside of Canberra and maybe a winery if people are interested. We will have lunch at a cafe or pub.

Cost is \$6 per person to cover petrol.

We welcome lesbian women from Canberra & Queanbeyan surrounds to join us on a fun tour: sit back, relax, mingle & make new connections.

RSVP ASAP by text to Liz 0422144441 - seats are limited.

Sharing Our Stories 2019

The QyouT members are off and running with organising our Youth Week event for 2019. The venue is booked, the first speaker and the lunchtime entertainment are sorted and funding has been gratefully received from Pink Tennis.

Date: 17 April 2019

Time: 10am-3pm

Venue: Smiths Alternative, 76 Alinga Street
Canberra City

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2253341008319693/>

Our Queer Space Launch

Our Queer Space is a quirky artwork, which links sheep, space and the flags of the LGBTIQ+ community. It reflects the heritage of the Diversity Hub as a shearer's cottage and celebrates this safe space for queer people. The

artwork has been designed and constructed by the members of Queer Youth Together. The launch is part of the Canberra and Region Heritage Festival

There will be face painting, food, and fun at the launch of the work. We hope that you can come down and join us for the launch.

Date: 21 April 2019

Time: 2pm-4pm

Venue: The Diversity Hub, 8 Laidlaw Place
Kambah

<https://www.facebook.com/events/2301265430195882/>

Music@Midday

We are very excited to have been appointed the charity for Music@Midday in June. We are on the hunt for volunteers to collect the gold coin donations from the patrons, and staff our information stall. Please email info@diversityact.org.au if you can help!

Date: 4 June 2019

Time: 10am-2pm

Venue: The Canberra Theatre

Fundraising BBQs



Some of our volunteers outside Woolies at Mawson.

The BBQs are continuing and are an important source of regular income. It's been great to see more members of the Diversity community involved. There were so many people helping out at the SpringOUT BBQ, and the last two Mawson BBQs! If

you can give an hour of your time for the next one, please send Megan an email: megan.jackson@diversityact.org.au

Upcoming BBQs at Woolworths Southlands
20 April, 18 May

2019 Wear It Purple Trivia Night

Save the date – Friday 30 August 2019. Venue TBA.

If you know an organisation or an individual who might be willing to donate a prize, please email info@diversityact.org.au and we will give you a letter to share.

Community News

Awards

Rainbow Christian Alliance (RCA) was a nominee in the 2019 Australian LGBTI Awards in the new Faith Category. Thanks to some funding from Pink Tennis, Delia Quigley represented the RCA team at the Award Ceremony on 1 March. While RCA didn't win the award, it was great publicity for Diversity ACT, and Delia did some

very important networking.



Our wonderful Youth Group leader and new President, Shay-Leigh Willis received a commendation in the Emerging Young Leader section of the ACT Chief Minister's Inclusion Awards for 2018. Congratulations, and thanks for all you do Shay.

Social Workers

Don't forget that Helen is available for appointments. She can assist you with applications, support and advocacy, or you can just come down and have a chat. Please contact Diversity ACT to make a time to meet with Helen.

Diversity ACT Presents

Sharing Our Stories 2019

An opportunity for young people (LGBTIQ+ and allies, aged 12-24) to hear about the journeys of LGBTIQ+ people, to learn from potential role models, to build community, share food opportunities, and improve their mental health & well-being through connectedness.

Smith's Alternative
April 17th
10am till
3pm

Students and concession - free entry.
Waged - \$5

GUEST SPEAKERS & A PERFORMANCE BY
MADB

Pink Tennis