



# DiversityACT

## Diversity Digest

---

*Volume 2, Issue 1*

### **President's Report – Delia Quigley**

How can it be March already! Since our last news digest we have held our AGM and had a turnover of committee members due to personal and work commitments. Michel Hansen has stood aside as Treasurer after performing that role for the past couple of years and Kim Talbot has taken up this important task. Another member recently had to step aside due to health issues and this position has been filled by the wonderful Shay-Leigh Willis.

Last year we had a number of students undertake work placement, completing their qualifications in either Youth Work or Community Services. We currently have two Diploma of Community Services students undertaking their placement hours and C.I.T. are keen to have more students working with us to gain their experience in the coming months.

Wow, in a few short weeks our Queer Youth Together will have been operating for one year! It has been exciting adventure and joyful to hear young people enjoying themselves, learning, laughing and having fun!

We have continued to provide more assistance & supports to community members through receiving referrals and provided a number of Food Assistance hampers during the tough Christmas period through our partnership with Tuggeranong Uniting Church.

We are excited to announce that Shay-Leigh & Megan Jackson put in very hard work on an A.C.T. Youth Week grant to run an event called 'Telling our Stories' and were successful in being offered an grant for \$1,500 to operate this event. Keep an eye out for more information on this event, which will be happening next month!

The Youth team have also put some amazing work on a grant for a number of art installations to take place during SpringOut. The ideas for the installations came from our QyouT group and community icon, Jenni Atkinson sat in on the discussions and was very impressed by the creativity of ideas, the written application and the risk assessments that went with that application with a support letter from SpringOut! Fingers Crossed!

Last month our Rainbow Christian Alliance, Dare Café group in Goulburn celebrated their 2nd Birthday. Our Canberra RCA group will be 3 in July; time has flown for this amazing group of LGBTIQ Christians, who now call this group their Church.



I am both humbled by and proud of what Diversity ACT has achieved in the last couple of years and this year is only going to be bigger and better!

### From the Editor

Many thanks to all the people who provided articles and photos for this edition of Diversity Digest. You all rock!

As always, for all those for whom this is the first copy of Diversity Digest, welcome to our community. Anytime you want to add some content to the newsletter, please feel free to send it to me at

[megan.jackson@diversityact.org.au](mailto:megan.jackson@diversityact.org.au)

Megan

### Treasurer's Report – Kim Talbot

Hello all, my name is Kim and I am the new treasurer at Diversity ACT. I have been involved with Diversity for over a year now as a member and regular BBQ volunteer. I am working with Delia to



make the Platypus Paddle (our Trans and Gender Diverse support group) a regular event.

### Queer Youth Together (QyouT)

One of the youth leaders and one of the youth members were asked to come up with a joint descriptive statement for QyouT. Check this out:

“QYouT provides a fantastic opportunity to be a part of something bigger. LGBTIQ+ young people are bullied to death all over the world. This group offers a refugee and safe space for these people to realise they aren’t alone and that no matter what, there will always be someone fighting for their rights to be who they are. QYouT isn't just a place that feels safe, but also a place where diversity is celebrated and wings are strengthened, not clipped.”

QyouT is now meeting weekly instead of fortnightly. Over the summer holidays we had some activities outside the Hub. We have a pretty full schedule for the start of the year, including a guest speaker from Beyond Blue, making mini Japanese food kits, an evening with Tessa Devine and of course lots of food opportunities.

If you know any LGBTIQ+ young people between 12-24 who are looking for a community, please encourage them to come and chat with us.



## Marriage Equality

It seems so long ago that we got the results of the postal survey. Many of our members were present at the Big Gay Out in Glebe Park for the announcement of the results, and both our President and Vice President were in the Public Gallery at Parliament House for the final vote in the House of Representatives.

Congratulations to all the LGBTIQ+ Australians taking advantage of this change to our laws. If any of our members



have photos of weddings to share, we'd love to include them in this newsletter.

## Rainbow Christian Alliance and Dare Café Goulburn

These groups have continued their growth and development. Recent highlights for Rainbow Christian Alliance include preparing a submission for the Ruddock inquiry into religious freedoms, and attending the induction of Miriam Parker-Lacey at City Uniting Church on January 20th. To our knowledge, Miriam is the first out lesbian Uniting Church Minister in the Canberra Region, and we are excited to welcome her to her new home.

The Dare Café team braved the heat and went camping for the weekend of 19-21 January. Much respect!

## Focus on our Volunteers:

Diversity ACT is blessed by our volunteers. Each issue of Diversity Digest in 2018 will include an

introduction to one or more of our volunteers. This issue, let's learn something about one of our Vocational Students.



Hello! :)

My name is Crystal and I am studying a Diploma in Community Services through TAFE Online. I have been completing my work placement at Diversity since July 2017. I have really enjoyed my time working at the Hub - I have learned everything I need for my diploma and more! I have been given the opportunity to be involved in Fundraising Events, the QyouT Youth Group and much more. Doing my work placement at Diversity ACT is even better because I'm able to bring my son Benjamin with me sometimes, and he thinks that being at the Hub is cool because he gets to make lots of new friends, play with Delia's puppies and play on the awesome playground! Diversity ACT has become like a second family to Benjamin and I and once my work placement is complete I will be staying on as a volunteer because I love it so much!

## The Ruddock Inquiry

Several of our members, and the Canberra RCA group lodged submissions to the Ruddock inquiry. We are waiting with interest for the report from the inquiry, and we shall see where that takes us next.

## LGBTIQ+ Canberra History – Bruce Moore

The ACT's Office for LGBTIQ Affairs is pleased to announce that it has commissioned a history of LGBTIQ Canberra to celebrate the 50 years of achievement since the formation of Australia's first gay rights group, the Homosexual Law Reform Society, in Canberra in 1969. The book will be researched and written by Graham Willett, a historian of queer Australia whose works include *Living Out Loud: A History of Gay and Lesbian Activism in Australia* (Allen and Unwin 2000).

The history will begin with the very small camp scene which existed prior to 1969 and will continue up to the present. It will look at grass-roots political activism, social life, and Territory laws, regulations and policy brought about by advocates within as well as outside the government apparatus. The focus is on Canberra as a community in its own right; one in which queer people of all kinds have lived and loved, danced and demonstrated, agitated and advocated.

The work is due to be completed by the end of 2018, and in the meantime Graham is keen to hear from and talk to anyone who has memories of LGBTI Canberra and is willing to share them. He can be contacted at [gwillett@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:gwillett@unimelb.edu.au)

2018 is the fortieth anniversary of the Sydney Mardi Gras, and there has developed a narrative that sees this festival as the origin of gay political activity in Australia. However, the significant political activity began a decade earlier, and the ACT Homosexual Law Reform Society was at the forefront of this activity.

In *Sunshine and Rainbows* (2001) Clive Moore gives a short summary of the establishment of the ACT Homosexual Law Reform Society in 1969:

An Australian Capital Territory Homosexual Law Reform Society was formed in Canberra on 27 July 1969 at a meeting of thirty concerned people, although all of its spokespersons identified as heterosexual. They published a ten-page newsletter one month later. The Canberra Society was formed at the instigation of Australian National University (ANU) Philosophy lecturer Dr Thomas Mautner, who was disturbed by reports that a Canberra gay man had been jailed for six months on an indecent assault charge. The convicted man's solicitor Mr M A S Landale teamed up with Mautner and Dr Des O'Connor, ANU lecturer in criminal law, to form the Society. (p. 165)

More information can be found in an article by Graham Willett, available online at:

<http://books.publishing.monash.edu/apps/bookworm/view/Out+Here%3A+Gay+and+Lesbian+Perspectives+VI/126/oh110001.xhtml>

No doubt there will be celebratory activities in 2019 to mark the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of this significant Canberra society, and

we will keep our members informed about them. In the meantime, anyone with memories of the LGBTIQ+ Canberra community is encouraged to contact Graham.

## Strategic Planning Day – Megan Jackson

The Management Committee had a very productive day on 27 January, working through strategic planning, goal setting, website changes and talking about policies and procedures. (I know that doesn't sound inspiring to some of you, but for structure and process people like me it was kind of nerdy heaven!)

Take a look at the website, and check out the revised mission statement, vision statement and strategic goals. And stay tuned for opportunities for you to get involved in helping Diversity ACT achieve these goals. And if you have some ideas on what our organisation should be doing, send us a message at [info@diversityact.org.au](mailto:info@diversityact.org.au)

## Membership

It's a new year, and that means it's time to renew your Diversity ACT membership. There's a membership form attached to this newsletter, and you can pay by bank transfer. So easy! (Thanks so much to the folks who have done this already. You rock.)

While our membership fees are a small component of our ongoing fundraising, membership of the organisation is required to make sure that our volunteers are covered by our insurance. Not to mention members receive benefits like this newsletter!

Maybe you know someone who you think should be a member of Diversity ACT? Maybe you could give them a membership form, or share something on your social media encouraging people to join us?

## Upcoming Events

### Fundraising BBQs



The BBQs are continuing, and are an important source of regular income. It's been great to see more members of the Diversity community helping out. If you can give an hour of your

time for the next one, please send Megan an email – [megan.jackson@diversityact.org.au](mailto:megan.jackson@diversityact.org.au)

Bunnings Tuggeranong: April 13<sup>th</sup>

### Sharing Our Stories

Keep your eyes open on the Diversity website & facebook page for the details of this event. We are hoping to get some fantastic guest speakers to an event during ACT Youth Week.

### Platypus Paddle

Food, conversation and community for Trans, Intersex and Gender Diverse people, their family and friends. We are in the process of sorting out meeting dates for 2018.

## Wear it Purple Day

This year Wear it Purple Day is 31 August. We are planning another Trivia Night, so please book the date in your diary.

## Community News

### Fundraising

As always, we are seeking other sources of funding, and we have already completed three grant applications this year. We'll keep you posted about how we go. If you have any suggestions about other funding sources, please send an email to [info@diversityact.org.au](mailto:info@diversityact.org.au)

### Education

The Summer issue of the ACT Council of Social Services newsletter has theme on 'Liveable Canberra'. It contains an article written by Megan reflecting on the impact of the marriage survey on the LGBTIQ+ experience of liveability. If you haven't read it yet, here's the link: <https://www.actcoss.org.au/publications/quarterly-journal-update/update-issue-82-summer-2017-18-liveable-canberra>

### Governance

The Annual General Meeting happened on 16 December 2017. We farewelled Michel Hansen from the Treasurer's role. Our new Treasurer is Kim Talbot, and she has introduced herself earlier in this newsletter. Delia mentioned the other committee changes in her report.

We would like to take this opportunity to publically thank Michel for the many hours of blood, sweat and tears that she has invested in Diversity ACT during her time on the Management Committee. Without her, we probably wouldn't still exist. Our community owes Michel an enormous debt of gratitude. We wish her all the best with the new project

that she is devoting herself to, and we are sure that project will be a great success.

The Management Committee had a Strategic Planning Day on 27 January, which has been reported on elsewhere in this newsletter.

We are also still keen to work towards a Reconciliation Action Plan. Any members who are interested in being a part of the process? Please send Delia an email about it – [delia.quigley@diversityact.org.au](mailto:delia.quigley@diversityact.org.au)



Diversity ACT Community Services  
 PO Box 101  
 Erindale Centre ACT 2903  
 Ph: (02) 6231 3126  
 E: [info@diversityact.org.au](mailto:info@diversityact.org.au)  
 ABN: 95 478 146 869  
[www.diversityact.org.au](http://www.diversityact.org.au)

## Application for Membership

Name/Organisation:

Phone:  Email:

DOB: (individual only)  ABN/ACN: (Business only)

Address:

Please tick

New	<input type="checkbox"/>	Renewing	<input type="checkbox"/>
-----	--------------------------	----------	--------------------------

Membership Type	Annual Amount (includes GST)
<input type="radio"/> Individual – Full	\$25.00
<input type="radio"/> Individual – Concession	\$15.00
<input type="radio"/> Family *refer to terms and conditions below	\$50.00
<input type="radio"/> Not for Profit Organisation	\$75.00
<input type="radio"/> Corporation	\$600.00
<input type="radio"/> Small Business	\$150.00
<input type="radio"/> Life Membership - Individual	\$500.00
<input type="radio"/> Life Membership - Family	\$750.00

I wish to make an additional donation

Total amount to be paid

Please direct deposit to: Account name: Diversity ACT Community Services Inc  
 BSB: 012 984 Account: 454517418 Account Description: Your full name

Please email completed form to [info@diversityact.org.au](mailto:info@diversityact.org.au) or mail a printed copy PO Box 101 Erindale Centre ACT 2903.

I authorise the above as my application for membership with Diversity ACT Community Services Inc.

I agree to the membership terms and conditions of this document:

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### OFFICE USE ONLY

Approved	<input style="width: 200px;" type="text"/>	Date of Membership	<input style="width: 200px;" type="text"/>
Signature	<input style="width: 150px;" type="text"/>	Membership Number	<input style="width: 250px;" type="text"/>

## **Membership Terms and Conditions**

- 1) Membership is open to anyone.
- 2) A family is defined as a family unit of up to 5 members living in the same household .
- 3) By making this application for membership, you understand you are applying for membership of Diversity ACT Community Services Inc (Diversity ACT). You agree with and support Diversity ACT mission statement of support, understanding, tolerance, respect and acceptance of all LGBTI members of the community.
- 4) Members are representatives of Diversity ACT who value and support its name in the wider community.
- 5) All membership is to be in accordance the Diversity ACT Association Rules, Diversity ACT Privacy Policy and any laws that govern the membership of an incorporated association in the Australian Capital Territory.
- 6) Membership does not become valid until it is approved by and announced at a committee meeting and fees are paid in full.
- 7) Membership is not refundable. Diversity ACT will make refunds of membership fees only where there has been an error in the amount paid for membership. The total amount of any refund will only be the amount required to reimburse an overpayment.
- 8) Memberships are non-transferable
- 9) Members are entitled to:
  - 9.1 Access and use facilities and services offered by Diversity ACT (some services have a cost)
  - 9.2 Attend Annual General Meeting (AGM) and vote to elect committee members
  - 9.3 Join work groups to assist in delivering Diversity ACT services to the community
- 10) Diversity ACT will work in accordance with the Information Privacy Act 2014 and the Diversity ACT Privacy Policy.
- 11) Diversity ACT may use your details to communicate to you information on current services, events and meetings.
- 12) It is the responsibility of all members to notify Diversity ACT of any changes to contact details. All communication can be made by emailing [info@diversityact.org.au](mailto:info@diversityact.org.au)
- 13) The Committee may at its discretion reject an application or terminate the membership of any person.
- 14) The committee reserves the right to change membership terms and conditions at any time. Changes will be communicated to all members.