



DiversityACT

Diversity Digest

Issue 2 2018

President's Report – Delia Quigley

Well the last few months have been interesting and exciting. It is hard to believe that for such a small organisation that relies so heavily on sausage sizzles & volunteers that we are able to continually improve and obtain some amazing achievements.

Recently the A.C.T. Government has announced a fairly sizable budget for initiatives in the LGBTIQ community hopefully we will be able to obtain some of the grant money to be able to continue to provide innovative initiatives and amazing program ideas for the LGBTIQ community in South Canberra. I hope that you enjoy the rest of the newsletter and the contributions from others within our Diversity ACT family.

Committee Update

It's certainly been a year for changes to the Management Committee! You might remember from last newsletter that Kim Talbot was our new treasurer. Unfortunately Kim has had to step down from that role, due to family and work commitments. The wonderful Doug Jackson has stepped up to take on the Treasurer position. That means that he has had to step down as Vice President, but Shay Willis has volunteered to take on that role. Chery Gladman has had to step down from her position on the committee due to ill health. Helen Hooper has recently joined the committee. That leaves us needing at least one new person to join the Management Committee – is that you? Send an email to delia.quigley@diversityact.org.au or megan.jackson@diversityact.org.au if you are interested in discussing what's involved.

From the Editor – Megan Jackson

Another newsletter full of interesting reports about the wonderful things that happen in the Diversity ACT community – cool! Like Delia, I'm so impressed with what our little community service organisation achieves.

As always, it's been great to be adding new people to the membership and volunteers list. To all those for whom this is the first copy of Diversity Digest, welcome to the 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

Treasurer's Report – Doug Jackson

Hi all! For those of you who haven't met me, I'm your new Treasurer. I've been on the

Diversity Management Committee for about 18 months as the Vice President, and am the chief dishwasher at Rainbow Christian Alliance.



Figure 1 - Doug relaxing at the Botanic Gardens and introducing the QyouT members to the Summer Sounds concerts.

Outside of Diversity, I work 4 days a week in the IT industry, study visual arts, make clocks, and run a cub group down at Lake Tuggeranong Sea Scouts. (And I'm married to Megan, who is the Diversity ACT Secretary.)

Up to now, most of my active work with Diversity has been with BBQs and other fundraising events. I generally bring my stuffed dog along to the BBQs – he has lots of fun busking during the day.

We still need more members and volunteers. All volunteers need to be members of Diversity ACT. Membership year runs from 1 January to 31 December in each calendar year, and there is a membership form attached to this newsletter.

Volunteering at the Hub

Have you ever come down to the Hub during opening hours? It's an interesting (and rather restful) place to be. Maybe you would like to be one of the people on the Hub roster on a Saturday afternoon? Chat with other volunteers, drink cuppas, encourage the students doing their placements. Maybe you could be one of the folks on site when there's a petting zoo here! Send an email to info@diversityact.org.au if you'd like to learn more about how you can contribute in this way.

Award Winners

Recently two of our wonderful community members have received recognition for their amazing work.

Young Canberra Citizen of the Year – Personal Achievement Award

At the start of ACT Youth Work, our Youth Group Joint Convener and now Vice President Shay-Leigh Willis received an award for her personal achievements in overcoming some pretty dramatic obstacles and still being able to



Figure 2 – Shay and her trophy.

volunteer her time to make the world a better place for other people. We are blessed to have Shay as a member of our community, and very proud of her achievements. Go Shay!

Volunteering ACT Senior Volunteer of the Year

And then we had a great ACT Volunteering Week when our amazing president Delia Quigley was

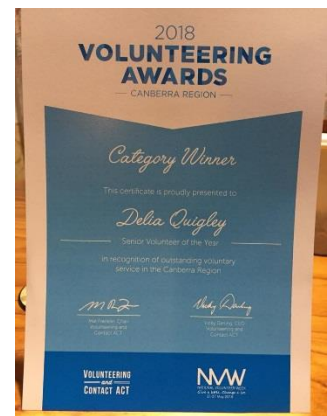


Figure 3 - Delia's Certificate – the trophy is glass and really hard to photograph!

recognised for her sterling work. Did you know that as well as the full-time hours Delia puts into Diversity ACT, she is also a Lifeline Crisis Counsellor and active in her church? Does this woman ever sleep?

From everyone at Diversity ACT – thanks for being you Delia, and thank you for everything that you do for us and others. This is such a well-deserved award.

Queer Youth Together – Brandon Willis

Last term at QyouT we had a range of activities, such as iris paper folding, a rhythmic drum circle, and were treated to a small personal show from the lovely and talented Tessa Divine. We've also had some quiet nights where we just sit back and relax watching Queer Eye or something on Netflix, with some snacks obviously.

This coming term we have a few things in motion for more community based programs and projects, such as preparations for the Trivia Night and our "Not so Binary" art project which is still being fine-tuned. Many exciting things are in the works.



Figure 4 - The amazing Tessa Devine performing at QyouT

Diversity ACT would like to extend an invitation to any LGBTIQ+ young people aged 12-24 interested in joining our youth group to come along to one of our QyouT nights, and hopefully continue to come if it is something you enjoy and a place you feel

comfortable. We are working hard to ensure our activities continue to be both fun and educational for everyone involved. We would love to see some more new faces at QyouT.



Figure 5 - QyouT learning about Iris Folding. So much paper and sticky tape!

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

Library – Bruce Moore

We are excited to announce that the Diversity ACT library of LGBTIQ books is now open, and members can borrow one or two books for up to four



Figure 6 - Thanks to Bruce and his team for all their work on setting up the library.

weeks.

The library includes works that address lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and intersex themes.

It includes many of the 'classic' texts, such as Radclyffe Hall's *The Well of Loneliness* (1928) and James Baldwin's *Giovanni's Room* (1956), and more recent classics such as André Aciman's *Call Me By Your Name*.

There is a variety of genres, including fantasy from writers such as Marion Zimmer Bradley and Ursula Le Guin, and detective stories with gay and lesbian main characters from writers such as Joseph Hansen, Michael Nava, Ellen Hart, and Claire McNab. Australian writers in the genre of biography include Tim Conigrave, Benjamin Law, Magda Szubanski, and Nevo Zisin.

Transgender explorations in literature are represented by texts including Virginia Woolf's *Orlando* (1928), Ellen Wittlinger's *Parrotfish* (2007), Nevo Zisin's *Finding Nevo* (2017), and Alison Evans' *Ida* (2017).

The books by Wittlinger, Zisin, and Evans belong to the category of Young Adult fiction, and this category is one of the major strengths of the collection. Leading Young Adult writers such as Nancy Garden, David Levithan, and Benjamin Sáenz are well represented.

How do you decide what to read? Of course, you can visit the Hub and simply browse through the shelves of the library.

We have also provided guidance to the collection with two documents on our website, under the drop-down menu at 'Resources'.

The first document is called 'Main List', and it gives a list of authors, titles, and dates in

alphabetical order by author surname. This list also gives thematic information about the texts. First, there is guidance about which area of LGBTIQ the text belongs to: Lesbian, Gay (i.e. gay male), Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex. Secondly, after the LGBTIQ designation, information is sometimes also given about the genre of the text: Biography, Detective, Fantasy, Young Adult, and so on.

The second document is called 'Expanded List'. It includes all the information in the Main List, but it also adds detailed descriptions of the books, taken from various web sources. These will give you a good idea of what is in each book, and give you a sense of whether the book might appeal to you.

In subsequent newsletters we will include reviews of books from the library. And we would love to have reviews from YOU.

Upcoming Events

Wear It Purple Trivia Night

Our inaugural trivia night last year was lots of fun and a good way to raise some funds, so we are doing it all again.

Date: Friday 31 August 2018.

Venue: Tuggeranong Senior Citizens Centre - 101 Cowlshaw Street Greenway.

Facebook event:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/227148514569003/>

Pre-purchase tickets from Eventbrite here:

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/wear-it-purple-trivia-night-tickets-47877423663>

Mental Health Week 2018 - Volunteers are Awesome!

We have been successful in our application for a Mental Health Week Reimbursement Grant. (That's two years in a row!) This year, we have an event for Diversity ACT to formally acknowledge and express our appreciation for our volunteers, because (a) volunteering is proven to improve mental health & well-being, and (b) feeling appreciated, and the gratitude which flows from appreciation, is also proven to improve mental health.

Date: Saturday 13 October 2018

Venue: Tuggeranong Senior Citizens Centre - 101 Cowlshaw Street Greenway*.

Time: 2-4pm

Save the date, watch the Diversity ACT facebook page and the website for more details, come along to celebrate with us, and do good things for your mental health in the process!

Do you know someone in the Diversity ACT Community who should receive an award for their work as a volunteer? Send an email to info@diversityact.org.au and tell us about them.

**Can you tell that the folks here are giving us a great deal on hire costs? How cool is that!*

SpringOUT

As part of the Diversity ACT contribution to the SpringOUT festival this year, Rainbow Christian Alliance is hosting the Reverend Jo Inkpin, Australia's first transgender Anglican priest. Jo will be sharing with us over dinner at Tuggeranong Uniting Church

Date: Sunday 11 November

Time: 6-9pm

Venue: 2 Comrie Street Wanniasa

Not So Binary

We have lodged a couple of grant applications to create some artworks. The goal is to have art that explores the non-binary nature of gender on display in multiple venues around the Canberra CBD during the SpringOUT festival in November. Keep an eye on the facebook page and website for updates on the grant process.

Fundraising BBQs



Figure 7 - 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 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

Upcoming BBQs at Woolworths Southlands

Oct 20th, Nov 10th & Dec 22nd

Platypus Paddle

Food, conversation and community for Trans, Intersex and Gender Diverse people, their family and friends. Contact Kim Talbot for details - kimtalbot6679@gmail.com

Fair Day

Date: Saturday 3 November

Time: 11am-4pm

Venue: Gorman Arts Centre, 55 Ainslie Ave
Braddon

Are you going to Fair Day? Drop by the
Diversity stall and say hello.

RCA will be joining with some of the other
LGBTIQ+ positive religious groups on a separate
table.

Community News

Sharing Our Stories

Hello, my awesome community!

My name is Shay and I have the pleasure of
being the leader of our youth group, Queer
Youth Together. During the April school
holidays, we ran an entirely new event to try
and reach out to LGBTIQ+ youth. We invited
some incredible people to
present their
stories and
share their
experiences as
queer people
with our youth
group and the
public.



Figure 8 The winning cake - a portrait of
one of the QyouT leaders made in icing
and smarties.

We had some wonderful
role-models share their lives with us. The list
included Jenni Atkinson, an advocate for gender
diverse communities. Sian Jackson, a young
queer person who is changing the world by
spreading light and acceptance through her
performance pieces. We also welcomed Ivan
Hinton-Teoh, the founder of just.equal and
former deputy director of Australian Marriage
Equality. We shared stories, cake and tears.

The goal of this event was to provide an
atmosphere of true understanding, safety and
to tear apart the idea that anyone is alone in
this community. We plan to do this event again,
making it bigger and better every year. We
already have ideas how to make it better!
Thank you to the volunteers and members who
helped us pull the whole thing together.

Fundraising

How much fun was our Sing-along Rocky Horror
Picture Show screening? Many thanks to Coral
Vann from CIT for putting on the event, and we
hope that Coral achieved all of her
competencies for her Events Management
course.

Some community and school groups held
fundraisers for us on the International Day
against Homophobia, Biphobia, Intersexphobia
and Transphobia (IDAHOBIT). Thanks to all of
those people for helping us pay our bills.



Figure 9 - Who knew that
patting geese was a
thing?

We have had lots of
children's birthday parties
at the Hub this year. Our
volunteers have enjoyed
listening to the children
play, and the petting zoo
was fun for us as well as
the little people! Maybe
there are some birthday
parties coming up in your
friendship/family circles?
Can you suggest the Hub
to them as a possible venue?

As always, we are seeking other sources of
funding, and so far this year we have completed
multiple grant applications. We'll keep you
posted about how we go there. If you have any
suggestions about other funding sources, please
send an email to info@diversityact.org.au

Member Initiatives

Making Connections Together

This NDIS registered provider has a business membership of Diversity ACT, and is owned/managed by one of our members. The organisation runs a couple of groups that Diversity members might be interested in: Health, Wellbeing & Mindfulness on Monday lunchtimes, and Drumming Circles on Monday afternoons. If you are interested, you should contact Michel on 0420 639 407 or info@mctsw.com.au

Education

Thanks to the funds from one of the grants we received, a number of Diversity members received First Aid training from St John's Ambulance. It was a bit interesting spreading the CPR mannequins around the Hub, but we managed it.

Governance

The Committee is continuing the process of reviewing our policy documents, following on from changes to the requirements around privacy that come into effect in 2018. We are also starting on the journey 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

Social Workers

Don't forget that Michel Hansen is our long term resident Social Worker. Diversity ACT would also like to welcome on board Helen Hooper who is also an extremely experienced social worker. Michel and Helen are available for appointments. They can assist you with applications, support and advocacy, counselling, or you can just come down and have a chat.

Please contact Diversity ACT to make a time to meet with either Michel or Helen.



Figure 10 - you know you want to come down and spend a Saturday afternoon or two just relaxing at the Hub. Come and join the volunteer team!



Figure 11 - QyouT members are learning how to knit so that we can make blanket squares. Such colour, many rainbow.