



DiversityACT

Diversity Digest

Issue 3 2018

President's Report – Delia Quigley

Well since our last newsletter in early August we have been busy, as always! We had a fun evening at our Wear it Purple Trivia night, and Mad B was a tremendous hit. We wish her luck as she is currently competing in the Miss First Nation drag contest!

We have continued to work with providing clients with support, be that food hampers, advocacy, counselling or attending specific appointments with clients. Our Youth continue to enjoy their Wednesday evening events and additional activities during holidays.

As always we rely upon our volunteers for fundraising activities and we will be hearing the stories of some of them this weekend for Mental Health week, at Telling our Stories II - Volunteers are Awesome! If you get the opportunity please join us this Saturday

afternoon to celebrate those that have helped support us, and those that have benefitted from better Mental Health through the activities that they undertake as volunteers.

As some of you may have seen, I was fortunate enough to be one of the recipients of the Michael Firestone Memorial Scholarship Fund, receiving \$500 towards assistance with student fees with my Counselling studies, which of course will benefit the mental health of our clients at Diversity A.C.T. Congratulations also go to Siân Jackson who also received a Michael Firestone scholarship of \$500 to assist her education in performance and circus arts. Members of our Youth group will recall the performances of Siân and her friends and the discussions regarding the benefits of flow arts (twirling poi, hoops and even fire) and performance art as a form of Mindfulness and improved Mental Health. Good luck with your preparations for the audition for the National Institute of Circus Arts Siân!

In the coming months we will also be participating at SpringOut events including FairDay. We hope to see you there. I hope that you enjoy the rest of the newsletter and the contributions from others within our Diversity ACT family.

Committee Update

You will be pleased to know that the Management Committee membership has remained stable since the last newsletter. However, we do still need 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. And a

bit of advanced warning – the AGM will happen in December!

From the Editor – Megan Jackson

Another newsletter full of people doing great things and interesting events. Thanks to everyone who has contributed articles for this issue.

There have been a few new members to Diversity since the last newsletter. 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

My basic role is to make sure funds are flowing within the organisation in a controlled and accountable way.

It is wonderful to be able to operate in an environment where funds coming in satisfy our needs for outgoing expenses so that we can do what we do best, supporting people. Our sausage sizzle continues to be our most reliable income stream, so let's keep those happening!

Until next time, stay balanced.

Wear It Purple Trivia Night



Figure 1- Chery and MadB

What a fantastic evening this was! The hall was close to capacity; Chery Gladman was a wonderful quiz mistress; MadB was a

totally gawgeous MC; Megan Jackson organised delicious food, and we were blessed by an abundance of prizes.



Figure 2 - the almost full house.

Not only that, but we donated \$150 to the national Wear It Purple campaign and still made a profit of just over \$1100. Those funds will enable us to continue providing support services to

LGBTIQ+ young people through QyouT, emergency food relief, and the many other support services we offer.



Figure 3 - so much purple!

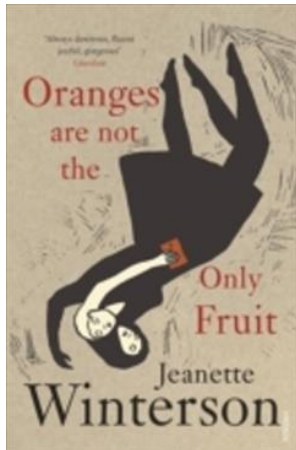
Exploring the Library at the Hub

In the last issue of the *Diversity Digest*, Bruce introduced us to the new system for borrowing books from the library at the Hub. It's very pleasing to see that people have been borrowing books! So, we are going to encourage folks who have read the books to write reviews. That way the rest of us can know a little more about the books in the library before we borrow them.

This issue's review is provided by Jean, who is a regular attender at QyouT.

Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit by

**Jeanette
Winterson**



First published in 1985 and later adapted into a BBC television series, *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* is about an orphan, Jeanette, who is adopted by Mr. and Mrs

Winterson. Mrs. Winterson is draconian in her expression of her Pentecostal faith, and Jeanette must navigate coming of age and her sexuality in a heavily restrictive household where her future as a missionary is already decided.

This semi-autobiographical work could have been depressing; however Jeanette Winterson writes humorously about her early life. Her humour and the conversational style of the book make *Oranges* an easy read.

Highly relatable and funny, Winterson reminds us that no matter the circumstances, we always have a choice –oranges aren't the only fruit, after all.

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.

Queer Youth Together – Shay-Leigh Willis

QyouT has been a powerhouse of keeping warm and building community activity over winter. We learned how to knit and made a rainbow lap rug as a prize for the Trivia Night. We made micro-countries and mini-food, and watched a couple of significant LGBTIQ+ films.



Figure 4 - we packed the gift bags for the Trivia Night. Such lollipop. Many chocolate.



Figure 5 - how bright and warm is this?

LGBTIQ+ sex ed is one of the highlights of our year – sorry we forgot to clean the illustrations off the whiteboard in the meeting room before the counselling session the next day! And how good was our multicultural

pot luck dinner – we had food from Zimbabwe, Korea, Australia, Malaysia and so many snacks from the Asian grocers!!

We would love to see some more new faces at QyouT. If you know would like to extend any LGBTIQ+ young people aged 12-24 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. We are working hard to ensure our activities continue to be both fun and educational for everyone involved.

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

Upcoming Events

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

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.



SpringOUT

We are part of a couple of different SpringOUT events this year.

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.

RCA – Becoming more truly who we are

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



Figure 6 - some of our volunteers outside Woolies at Mawson.

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. The afternoon

of the September BBQ was completely staffed by the Youth! 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

Nov 10th & Dec 29nd

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

Community News

Award Winners

As Delia mentioned in her report, there have been more awards for members of our community since the last newsletter.

Michael Firestone Scholarships



Figure 7 - Delia and Minister Rattenbury

These scholarships of up to \$500 each, to assist mental health consumers who wish to further their education. Congratulations to Siân Jackson and Delia Quigley for receiving

scholarships!

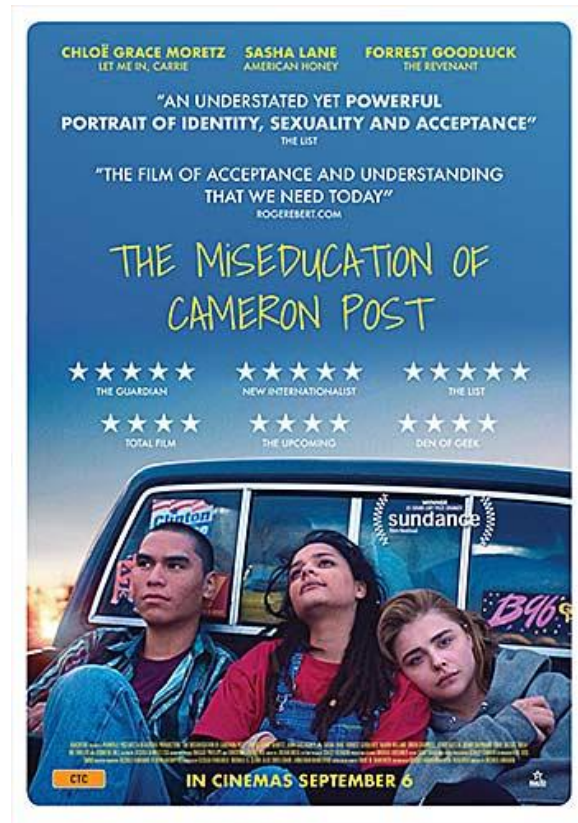
Delia will be spending the scholarship on fees for her counselling studies. Siân is studying with Warehouse Circus in preparation for her long term goal which is to study at the National Institute of Circus Arts (NICA).



Figure 8 - Siân and Minister Rattenbury

We look forward to hearing from you or seeing some photos of what you achieve from your studies.

Movie Night - The Miseducation of Cameron Post



From writer/director Desiree Akhavan and based on the celebrated novel by Emily M. Danforth, *The Miseducation of Cameron Post* follows Cameron (Chloë Grace Moretz) as she is sent to a gay conversion therapy center after getting caught with another girl in the back seat of a car on prom night. Run by the strict and severe Dr. Lydia Marsh (Jennifer Ehle) and her brother, Reverend Rick (John Gallagher Jr.)—himself an example of how those in the program can be “cured”—the center is built upon repenting for “same sex attraction.” In the face of intolerance and denial, Cameron meets a group of fellow sinners including the amputee stoner Jane (Sasha Lane), and her friend, the Lakota Two-Spirit, Adam (Forrest Goodluck). Together, this group of teenagers form an unlikely family as they fight to survive.

Parents and carers please note that *The Miseducation of Cameron Post* is rated M.

To book a ticket, please go to <https://fan-force.com/screenings/the-miseducation-of-cameron-post-dendy-cinemas-canberra-act/>

Chookas MadB!



Our very own MadB is the ACT representative. We have everything crossed for you precious!

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 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.