



DiversityACT
COMMUNITY SERVICES

Diversity ACT

Servicing the needs of the LGBTIAQ+ community in the ACT region

September Newsletter

Yes, we know it's October. Sorry for the delay in getting the newsletter out.



Dear Members,

My term as President is drawing to a close, and this is the last newsletter that I have the opportunity to write for. That's mildly disconcerting, but also very exciting. I am looking forward to seeing where Diversity ACT will go under the next President's leadership.

Now is not the time for me to reflect on my time as President - that's for the Annual Report. Instead, let's focus on what's happening at Diversity ACT right now, and in the lead up to our Annual General Meeting in November.

In this newsletter you will meet our new practicum students, as well as find information about the outcome of the Westfield Local Hero voting and our new advocacy campaign, and updates from many of our subcommittees. As well as all of that, there's a host of upcoming events that you are welcome to attend, and hopefully also volunteer a little of your time at.

I hope you enjoy this edition of the Diversity Digest.

Student Placements

Breanna Thomson (she/her/they)

Hi everyone! My name is Breanna (Bre). I am a young mum of 2 beautiful children and I am currently studying for a Certificate IV in youth work.

I am working with Diversity ACT for my work placement towards a Certificate III



in Community Services. I have chosen to work with this service because I believe it's extremely important to bring awareness of the LGBTIAQ+ community to the wider community and to offer members of our community support and friendship. I have chosen to work in the community service sector because I want to give back to the community and offer support to young people in need.

I look forward to meeting more of you in the future.

I would also like to thank Diversity ACT for giving Braedan and myself this wonderful opportunity; we truly appreciate it!

Braedan Bourke (he/him)

Hey everyone, my name is Braedan and I am one of the student placement volunteers currently finishing Certificate IVs in Community Services and Community Development. I chose Diversity ACT for my placement because I myself am a young gay man and have always been interested in community work in a queer space and context. I've already completed some of my 80 hours for this placement and have had many great opportunities to work with the QyouT group as well as various community events and information sessions and it's been amazing to contribute thus far. I've met quite a few of you now and I look forward to meeting even more of you as my time continues!

Queer Youth Together

QyouT have continued their busy schedule of fun times together. Since the last newsletter was published, the young people have:

- Learned about the LGBTIAQ+ archives
- Helped prepare the table decorations for the Wear It Purple Trivia Night
- Attended the trivia night, and come second
- Celebrated birthdays for several members
- Laughed a lot at the ridiculousness that is the Super Pets movie



- Been to a book launch for Yenn Purkiss' latest work *The Awesome Autistic Guide for Trans Teens* (and there's a signed copy of the book in the Diversity ACT library if anyone is keen to borrow it)
- Visited Floriade, and
- Played many games, eaten lots of yummy food and enjoyed each others' company chilling at the Hub.

Looking forward, there are activities planned until the end of October. There will be screen printing and fabric painting at the T-shirts and Tea event on October 8th, followed by a trip to the Suffrage in Australia exhibition at Parliament House on the 15th. October 22nd is a drop in, and we are going to

FreshOUT on the 29th. (Many of the older QyouT members are also super excited about the Purple Dance Party, so their day on the 29th is huge!) Finally for October we are having a special QyouT gathering on Halloween - dress ups and spooky food strongly encouraged.

Southside Women



The group have enjoyed a variety of events over the past few months including movies and lunch, an afternoon of live music at The Bee Hive Queanbeyan, the Wear it Purple Trivia Night and lunch at Rose Cottage.

A reminder the Purple Dance Party is coming up fast on Saturday 29th October 6.30-11pm Weston Creek Community Centre. [Tickets are](#)

[available to purchase online now.](#)

Get ready to kick up your heels. We have some great performers lined up including Hit n Miss drumming group, Ravi Oli, and Queer Zumba, and our kitchen team are close to finalising the menu for supper. We need more volunteers to help on the night please text Liz [0422144441](tel:0422144441) if you can assist.

Subcommittee Updates

Research & Analysis

The big focus of the Research & Analysis team in recent months has been developing a new member survey. And now it's here! Please take a few minutes to

give us some feedback to help us prepare for the AGM and inform the new committee's practice in 2023 by completing the survey:

<https://forms.gle/6V6L6KvK4VjnKqPj9>

Property Management

Now Spring has sprung the Diversity gardening group will be meeting regularly. On Saturday 8th October 11.00-12.30 the gardening group will meet at the Hub to plant flowers and some vegetable seedlings. If you can assist please text Liz [0422144441](tel:0422144441). New members are always welcome.

Communication

The Communications subcommittee has been struggling a little of late, as the chair has been posted interstate for work, and has had COVID-19. Because of his work situation, Arjun has decided to step down from the position of chair of this subcommittee, and is seeking someone to take over from next month's Annual General Meeting.

Details on what's involved in the Communications subcommittee can be found here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5EHQ43TKns8>

If you are interested, please email Megan at president@diversityact.org.au to discuss the role.

Events & Outreach

This winter has been cold and extremely wet and outdoor events have been limited. Spring is in the air and we are busy planning some great events. On Saturday 8th October 1.30-4pm we are screen printing Diversity ACT t-shirts at Diversity Hub. Come along join us, meet new people, make yourself a t-shirt and share afternoon tea. More information in the Upcoming Events section of this newsletter.



Westfield
Local Heroes
Finalist 2022
Awarded a \$5,000 grant

Finance & Fundraising

The big financial news this time around is that the amazing Angel Hellyer was a finalist in the Westfield Woden Local Hero campaign. Because of that, Westfield will be donating \$5000 to Diversity ACT. These funds are to be used to improve our client services, and support our Equal Forms campaign. Thanks for being awesome Angel!

Not So Binary

This project is getting so close to completion that we can almost taste it! Our wonderful photographer Empress Eyrie is in the editing stage, and soon we will have the final versions of the images to share with you all. Keep your eyes open for an exhibition launch date coming soon!



Inclusive Forms

We all deserve forms that reflect the wide diversity of our community.

Yet too often, gender-diverse people and people with variations of sex characteristics have to provide incorrect information on forms because there is no option that accurately reflects them. Diversity ACT is calling on all organisations to ensure their forms are inclusive.

We have already had a commitment from the Australia Institute to change the way they do their data collection to bring it in line with the Bureau of Statistics recommendations. We'd like to thank Meridian, SHFPACT, AGA and IHRA for their input into the development of the campaign collateral, and Angel Hellyer for all their work in getting the campaign off the ground.

So, if you are someone who manages forms at work, or you have encountered some forms that could be more inclusive, there's lots of resources available for you on the Diversity ACT website:

<https://diversityact.org.au/services/advocacy/inclusive-forms/>

Upcoming events



T-shirts & Tea - 8 October

Join us at the Diversity Hub for a fun afternoon of food and screen printing. Bring along your own t-shirt and add a Diversity ACT logo. This is a free event, but bookings are required for catering www.eventbrite.com.au/e/screen-printing-day-tickets-423985952397



FreshOUT Stall - 29 October

[FreshOUT Fair Day](#) is happening in Glebe Park from 11am to 5pm. We have an information stall at this event, and need volunteers to assist throughout the day. The QyouT members are keen to assist, but they need adult supervision, including for set up and pack up. You can sign up on the volunteer roster for this event here: [FreshOUT Roster.docx](#)



Purple Dance Party - 29 October

[The dance party](#) is for all cis and trans women, as well as non-binary people who are comfortable in a space that centres the experience of women. This is a SpringOUT event. As mentioned earlier in the newsletter, there's a great line up of entertainment, a delicious supper, drinks (alcoholic and not) available for purchase and of course, all the dancing. As always, more volunteers are needed, and you will

find the roster here: [Purple Dance Party Volunteers](#)



SouthFEST Open Day - 5 November

The [SouthFest Open Day](#) is an opportunity for us to link up with some of our local community. The Community Garden is joining in on the act, and we are chatting with the tennis club as

well.

Annual General Meeting - 12 November

The AGM starts at 2pm. This is your opportunity to ask questions of this year's Management Committee, vote for next year's Management Committee members and enjoy another food opportunity at the Hub. Members will receive the AGM pack via email in the next few weeks.



DiversityACT
COMMUNITY SERVICES

November 12th
2pm - 4pm

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

8 Laidlaw Pl Kambah

Fundraising opportunities



Canberra Southern Cross Club Community Rewards Program

If you are a member of the Canberra Southern Cross Club, don't forget to nominate Diversity ACT and link us to your membership. The Club will calculate the equivalent of 7.5 cents for every dollar you spend on food and beverages at Woden, Tuggeranong, Jamison and Yacht Club to be donated to us.



Do you like this update? Share it!



Diversity ACT Community Services

8 Laidlaw Pl, Kambah
Australia



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