



# Diversity ACT

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

## December 2022/January 2023 Newsletter

We really aren't having much luck getting the newsletter out on time lately. Sorry for the delay!



### From the President

Hello, wonderful community!

2022 was a big year. With the world still recovering from COVID, we made some great strides and the members of the Management Committee are proud of Diversity ACT's achievements. I am back again as President and look forward to new opportunities for our community to shine in the new year.

I'd like to thank the 2022 Management Committee members for their work, and particularly wish Kyra, Arun and

Arjun the best as they move on from committee membership. I'd also like to welcome Braedan to the Management Committee, once his student placement with us is complete.

The Diversity ACT Management Committee met earlier in January to plan for the year ahead. This year committee meetings will be on the 2nd Tuesday, and may happen at the Hub or on Zoom. Please reach out if you have any ideas or wish to contribute to our organisation, as a volunteer or simply a member. We have many planned partnerships and events already underway for 2023 and look forward to sharing the excitement with you all soon.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to making 2022 a better year and I can't wait to see what incredible things lay ahead. I hope you enjoy this edition of the Diversity Digest.

Warmest regards,

Shay Willis

# Annual General Meeting Results



Our AGM was held in November. The current committee is:

President: Shay-Leigh Willis

Vice President: Liz Stephens

Secretary: vacant (Megan Arthur acting)

Treasurer: vacant (Luka Musicki acting)

General members: Daniel Sudarto, Kim Malcolm, Braedan Bourke, Megan Arthur

Public Officer: Luka Musicki

We are urgently seeking people to take on the Secretary and Treasurer positions. Unfortunately, neither Megan nor Luka are able to continue in these roles for an extended period. If you are someone who enjoys making sure that meetings happen on time and with their appropriate resources, or someone who enjoys ensuring that finances are under control, we would love to hear from you. There is some training and other support available to new office holders.

Please don't hesitate to contact Shay via email at [president@diversityact.org.au](mailto:president@diversityact.org.au) to express your interest in either the Secretary or Treasurer roles.

## Queer Youth Together



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

- Welcomed some new members
- Explored the History of Suffrage exhibition at Parliament House
- Enjoyed a Halloween night with themed snacks and games
- Had fun at the Christmas Soiree and held their own Christmas party at the Hub
- Enjoyed the Feared and Revered exhibition at the National Museum
- Packed condoms for SHFPACT to distribute on National Condom Day
- And as always, played many games, eaten many snacks, shared many memes and enjoyed relaxing in each other's company.

QyouT returns to the Hub at 2pm on Saturdays after school restarts.



Southside Women members were actively involved in a number of events held in October, November and December.

After twice being postponed the Purple Dance Party was held on 29th October and was very successful with over 140 people attending and dancing the night away. Special thanks to Hit n Miss

drumming group, Queer Zumba and Out to Dance Greenway for their lively performances and Ravi Oli for being our MC. Pictured here are some of the Southside Women receiving their thank you certificates at the Diversity ACT Christmas Soiree.

On 22nd January we headed to the National Museum Australia to view Feared and Revered exhibition at 2.30pm then coffee/meal from 4.30pm at Snapper & Co at Canberra Southern Cross Yacht Club. Photos to come.

Our coastal Getaway is currently being planned for 17th-19th Feb. Thanks to one of our members we have accommodation available in a lovely house near the Moruya River. The accommodation is flexible - stay for as many nights as you like.

For more details text Liz on [0422 144 441](tel:0422144441) or go to our FB page.

## Subcommittee Updates

### Research & Analysis

As Megan Arthur has taken on the role of chair of the Communications subcommittee, this subcommittee needs a new chair. You will find some information about the work of the subcommittee [in this video](#). If you are interested in joining and/or chairing this subcommittee, please email Shay at [president@diversityact.org.au](mailto:president@diversityact.org.au)

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the Research & Analysis team has put together a survey. While the survey has been in the public domain for three months, there are very limited responses. Please take a few minutes to give us some feedback to inform the new committee's practice in 2023 by completing the survey: <https://forms.gle/6V6L6KvK4VjnKqPj9>

### Property Management

Due to lots of rain during winter/spring and lack of volunteers our planned restoration of the vegie garden didn't eventuate. However we have been kindly donated 2 Wicking Beds from the Hawker Community Garden Group.

Fran will be setting up the Wicking Beds at Diversity Hub in February and giving a talk on the benefits of installing a wicking bed. Everyone is welcome to attend and share afternoon tea.

If you're interested in becoming a volunteer with the gardening group please contact Liz at [info@diversityact.org.au](mailto:info@diversityact.org.au)

## Communication

Having stepped down as President, and become a general Committee member, Megan Arthur has taken over the role of chair of the Communications subcommittee.

Megan is keen to build on the outstanding work that Angel Hellyer put into this subcommittee, and is hoping to set up a roster system for a few volunteers to manage our emails and social media presence. If you would like to volunteer from home, have an hour a week available in your calendar, and have Internet access, the Communications subcommittee would welcome your input.

## Events & Outreach

One of the strategic goals for Diversity ACT for 2022 was "Building community by running community events". Despite poor weather and COVID restrictions, we ran five community events in 2022, as well as multiple information stalls. There are links to upcoming events for you to add to your calendar elsewhere in this newsletter.

Perhaps you have some ideas about possible events for 2023? Get in touch with Liz (Events and Outreach Subcommittee Chair) via [info@diversityact.org.au](mailto:info@diversityact.org.au)



## Finance & Fundraising

Hiring out the Hub is one of our regular income sources. Since February 2022, [ABC Dog Training](#) has been a regular hirer, with dog training happening at the Hub 2.5 days most weeks.

Jess has kindly shared a photo from dog training. Looks like the dogs enjoy being at the Hub as much as we do.

## Education & Training

Here's a training opportunity for members - we have two free places available on a face to face CIT Mental Health First Aid course.



Mental health first aid is the help provided to a person who is developing a mental health problem, experiencing a deterioration of a mental health problem, or in a mental health crisis. First aid is given until appropriate professional help is received, or the crisis resolves.

For dates (scroll down the page and open the Standard MHFA face to face drop down link:

[https://cit.edu.au/courses/education\\_community/mental\\_health/mental\\_health\\_first\\_aid](https://cit.edu.au/courses/education_community/mental_health/mental_health_first_aid)

Please email [info@diversityact.org.au](mailto:info@diversityact.org.au) if you would like to take up one of these places. You will need to supply us with your name, email address, and the dates of the course you wish to attend.

Many thanks to the CIT Health, Community & Science faculty for their kind donation of this training opportunity.

## Projects

### Not So Binary

The Not So Binary exhibition launch happened at the Diversity Hub during the Wellbeing & Sustainability Day.

Empress Eyrie produced a stunning set of framed photos representing the power and creativity of bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and non-binary people. We enjoyed her introduction and explanation of each of the photos, and also heard from some of the models.

While some of the photos have been purchased and have moved to permanent homes, others remain available for purchase. At least one of the photos is likely to be exhibited at the National Museum during their A Night at the Museum: Queer event on February 10th.

If you are interested in viewing or purchasing one of the NSB photos, please email [info@diversityact.org.au](mailto:info@diversityact.org.au)

We'd like to take this opportunity to thank the project team.

First up, the amazing [Empress Eyrie](#) who was the NSB photographer. Empress was wonderful to work with, and produced outstanding photographs to illustrate the participants' exploration of the NSB theme. Working with Empress as Artistic Advisor to the participants was [Sian Brigid](#). The community representative was [Jonathan Davis MLA](#) who provided the project team with unending enthusiastic support, and a free meeting space. Kirsten Wehner from [PhotoAccess](#) provided much appreciated support with the original grant application and the technicalities of preparing a contract for Empress. Megan Arthur was the Diversity ACT Management Committee representative, and she poured many hours into making NSB happen.

We also acknowledge the ACT Government, who provided funding for this project through the Capital of Equality Grants program. We are keen to provide the end of

project reconciliation to the government, so that we are once again eligible to apply for Capital of Equality funding in 2023.



## Inclusive Forms

The Inclusive Forms campaign is ongoing. Several of our members have used [the resources on our webpage](#) when in discussions with employers, businesses and community groups about how they they are challenged by forms that don't reflect the spectrum of sex and gender.

Recently, while assisting a client lodge an appeal against a Centrelink decision, we discovered that the

Administrative Appeals Tribunal (AAT) have great inclusive titles, but the gender options on their forms leave much to be desired. Using the resources from the webpage, it took us about 10 minutes to create an email to send to the AAT.

## Upcoming events



### SEE-Change Repair Cafe

Since SEE-Change set up the Tuggeranong Repair Cafe, Diversity ACT has provided lunch for the SEE-Change volunteers, and sold snacks and beverages for the patrons. We are very thankful for all the volunteers who have provided the food and staffed the cafe across that time.

While this is not a significant fundraiser for us, it is one of our regular income sources. The Repair Café is also a way

for us to increase our public profile, and bolster our excellent working relationship with SEE-Change. It would be great to see more volunteers involved in supporting this event. The next Repair Café will be held on February 26th. Please email Megan if you are interested in helping [out: megan.jackson@diversityact.org.au](mailto:megan.jackson@diversityact.org.au)

### 10 February 2023 - Night at the Museum: QUEER

A night of discovery and delight at the National Museum of Australia, exploring and celebrating Australia's rich queer cultures and histories. Diversity ACT will be a part of the Community Connection Hub, and we



are contributing artefacts to the pop-up exhibition.



### Kambah Community Project - 11 February

At 4pm on Saturday 11th February at the Diversity Hub we are providing afternoon tea as part of a Kambah Woolshed history talk and walk with local historian Glen Schwinghamer. All Welcome.



### FreshOUT - 11 March

To quote their website, FreshOUT is a one-day outdoor event on Saturday 11th March at Glebe Park, featuring Australia's finest performing artists, a village of market stalls representing our diverse community organisations and local businesses, and a showcase of Canberra's finest food and wines produced within the region.

Diversity ACT will be at FreshOUT with a market stall. Volunteers are needed to

staff the stall, so please email Megan if you can join that roster:

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

An Evening with Sophie



## Labelle - 17 March

TranzAustralia and Diversity ACT are thrilled to bring Sophie Labelle to the Tuggeranong Arts Centre. Profits from this event will be shared between Diversity ACT and Black Rainbow. Tickets are [available for purchase](#).

Sophie Labelle is a Canadian cartoonist, public speaker, and writer. She is known for her webcomic Assigned Male, which draws upon her experiences as a trans girl and woman. She is an activist in the transgender rights movement, and speaks on the subjects of trans history and transfeminism.

Sophie will speak to her lived experience, and a Question & Answer session will follow. There will be an opportunity to purchase Sophie's books and artwork at the end of the event, as well as a book signing.

## Community News



### Raise Youth Mentoring Program

In 2023, Raise Youth Mentoring will have programs at Campbell High, Canberra High, Calwell High and Lanyon High. Raise will be running its evidence-based youth mentoring program for the second year at Campbell and Calwell High Schools and 2023 will be the first year for Canberra and Lanyon.

Young people across Australia are experiencing an increasing number of challenges that impact their wellbeing, yet many are unable to access someone or somewhere for support during tough teenage years. Raise Youth Mentoring Program offers early intervention, evidence-based mentoring for young people in high schools with trained and trusted independent adults. One-to-one mentoring support helps young people to get through adolescence, believe in themselves and others, and feel more equipped to shape a purposeful life.

The positive impact of having a mentor in your life is well recognised. Vicki Condon AM, Founder and CEO of Raise states, "When people donate their time to listen, young people learn to cope better with life's challenges while benefiting from one-to-one support. We evaluate and report on our programs, so we know the positive impact Raise mentoring has community wide. The young people who graduate the program experience growth in resilience, help seeking skills, sense of school belonging and hope for the future."

Raise recruits and trains volunteer mentors to match with students who would benefit most from an independent adult to talk to, someone who shows up just for them, every week across the 23 week program. If you're interested in becoming a Raise Volunteer Youth Mentor in 2023, find out more here: [raise.org.au/mentor](https://raise.org.au/mentor). For more individualised information, please email [mentor@raise.org.au](mailto:mentor@raise.org.au)



# 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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