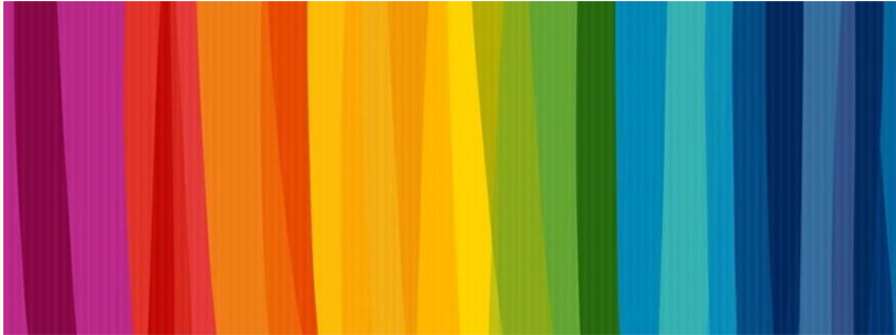


USQ ALLY

Network Newsletter



Issue #39 August 2019



It's August and we hope you survived the westerly winds. Looking forward now to Spring and some balmy weather. At USQ we're all in busy mode, but not too busy to stop and choose something purple to wear—officially Friday 30th for Wear it Purple Day, but also throughout that week at each campus with USQ Pride. More details inside on when and where, and what the cause means, and we invite you all to wear purple to honour the cause.

Please don't forget that we are always on the look out for interesting articles, information about events and professional development opportunities to include in the Ally newsletter. Please email ally@usq.edu.au to share your points of interest.



USQ Ally Network Natter

Wednesday 4th September, 12.30-1.30pm, H321 Ipswich

"Gay pornography: Liberation/liability?" – Dr Geoff Parkes

The modern LGBTQI+ movement dates back beyond Stonewall, to a time in the early to mid 20th Century when, in many Western countries, representations of homosexuality were seen as deviant, illegal and pornographic.

The term pornography was often used by governments, institutions and political movements to censor these representations or arrest the creators and distributors of such material. However, research has shown that as a result of the dissemination of materials in the art and cultural worlds, as well as a variety of publications, for sale and by subscription, gay, lesbian and transgender liberation networks formed. These movements would later advocate for social, political and legal change, forming the foundations of what we now understand as the post-Stonewall rights movements.

Dr Parkes' presentation will consider how the term "pornography" has been historically used negatively, but also how important such pornography was to many people who previously had no exposure to representations of sexuality and desire with which they could identify. Geoff will also discuss the ways the gay pornographic industry participated in the safer-sex response to the HIV/AIDS genocide in the 1980s and 1990s, and some of the problematic concerns that still exist with labelling work pornographic.

Warning: Concepts and ideas discussed here may be considered offensive by some. The presentation is designed as part of a serious discussion within the University context of examining representations of sexuality and knowledge.

Dr Geoff Parkes is a Lecturer in Academic English and Communications at the University of Southern Queensland. Geoff has a long history of involvement with queer and gay issues, including marching as a coffin-bearer in protests against cuts to HIV/AIDS health funding in the 1990s. Geoff was the first editor of Q News which later became Queensland's biggest gay and lesbian community newspaper, and was the national literary editor for Bent Magazine. Apart from their work on teaching and refugee education, Geoff's academic work considers the languages of the self, the way that we identify, and how we are found and find ourselves in texts.

To register your interest in attending at USQ Ipswich, please email ally@usq.edu.au. If you are unable to attend in person, you can register to watch the presentation live online [here](#).

**If you are reading a hard copy of this newsletter and wish to access the links,
please go to**

<https://www.usq.edu.au/current-students/support/lgbtiq-community>

where this and past editions are posted.

In the News



Brisbane rally opposes government's 'religious freedom' laws

A Brisbane protest rally has opposed LGBTIQ discrimination in the name of 'religious freedom' and the Morrison government's new religious discrimination laws. The government plans to introduce the as-yet-unseen legislation before the end of the year. But advocates are concerned about the detail of the bills and their impact on the LGBTIQ community. [MORE](#)

Win for transgender people in Victoria's Lower House

A bill to allow transgender and gender diverse Victorians to change the sex marker on their birth certificate without surgery has passed its first vote. YGender spokesperson Kochava Lillit said birth certificate reform is a "vital step" for transgender rights.

[MORE](#)



Mayor of Canada's capital comes out as gay in emotional op-ed

"I'm gay," Watson writes. 'There—I said it; or rather wrote it. Those two words took me almost four decades to utter, but as they say, 'Better late than never.'"' The mayor, who previously served as a city councillor and on the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, describes a childhood where he knew he wasn't straight, but lacked a support system to come out. [MORE](#)

Sport



Cricket Australia launches transgender and gender diversity policy

Erica James wasn't always this happy. For more than two decades, she holed herself up in her bedroom to find solace in video games. She didn't want to go anywhere, socialise with anyone or step into the world in a body she didn't belong in.

One of the first things James did after transitioning in 2016 was to join a cricket club. A quick Google search of "transgender-friendly clubs Sydney" didn't bring up any results, but James says she was lucky to stumble upon a Cricket NSW document about inclusivity. [MORE](#)

Events

Wear it Purple Day

Wear it Purple strives to foster supportive, safe, empowering and inclusive environments for rainbow young people. Wear it Purple was founded in 2010 in response to global stories of real teenagers, real heartache and their very real responses. Wear it Purple was established to show young people across the globe that there was hope, that there were people who did support and accept them, and that they have the right to be proud of who they are. [MORE](#)

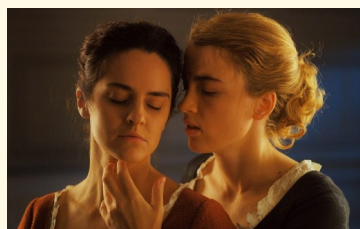
Join USQ Pride on campus:
SF: Mon 26th 11am-1pm
IP: Tues 27th 11am-1pm
TBA: Wed 28th 12pm-2pm



Entertainment

Lesbian romance opens Queer Screen Film Fest 2019

Queer romance films from France, Spain and New Zealand are on the lineup for this year's Queer Screen Film Fest in Sydney. The lineup features 29 films from twelve countries, focusing on romantic films under the theme 'Light Your Fire'. [MORE](#)



The Pinnacle Foundation Scholarships

Applications for 2020 scholarships with [The Pinnacle Foundation](#) are now open. Applications will close on 15 September 2019. A link to the scholar application page can be found [HERE](#)

The Pinnacle Foundation provides multi-year educational scholarships and mentoring support to young adults (between the ages of 17 and 26) across Australia where their gender identity, sexual orientation or sexual characteristics have prevented or hindered the achievement of their career aspirations or personal development.



FREE TRAINING USQ STUDENTS!

Ever wondered what to do if someone close to you was having a mental health emergency? Could you recognise the early warning signs of a mental health problem? Would know where to send someone for help? Interested in having a mental health qualification to add to your resume?

Mental health first aid is the help provided to a person who is developing a mental health problem or who is in a mental health crisis. Like physical first aid, mental health first aid is given until the person receives professional help or until the crisis resolves.

USQ is offering FREE MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID TRAINING to all students over the age of 18. This two day training program will teach you:

- How to recognise the signs and symptoms of mental health problems
- To help people in the early stages of these problems
- Where and how to refer people to get help
- Understand what types of help are effective
- Know how to assist in a mental health crisis until professional help arrives.

To register email mhfa@usq.edu.au



SafeZone App

Safety is important for all of us. SafeZone is a free app that connects you directly with the University's Campus Security team or Emergency Services. SafeZone is available free for all staff and students. This is a safety app for your phone which allows you to request assistance from USQ Campus Security easily and discreetly. Download it, and log in with your uni email address!

[MORE](#)



Support Services



QLife/Diverse Voices

QLife is Australia's first nationally-oriented counselling and referral service for people who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and/or intersex (LGBTI). QLife provides nation-wide, early intervention, peer supported telephone and web based services to people of all ages across the full breadth of people's bodies, genders, relationships, sexualities, and lived experiences.

3:00pm to midnight in your state, around Australia, every day.

CALL 1800 184 527

ONLINE CHAT

PFLAG

A support group for the family and friends of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Agender and other diverse people.



Toowoomba

Phone: 0478 735 242

Email: pflagtoowoomba@gmail.com



Brisbane

Phone: 0400 767 832

<http://www.pflagbrisbane.org.au/contact-us>



Ipswich

Supporting our GLBTIQ community, their families and friends

<https://www.facebook.com/pflagipswich>



Black Rainbow is Australia's first and only National ATSI LGBTQI Suicide Prevention National Advocacy Platform. They support LGBTQI ATSI people who are homeless, leaving DV relationships or in the justice system.

[CONTACT](#) or their [Facebook Page](#)

www.blackrainbow.org.au

Open Doors

Open Doors provides Advocacy and support

services for lesbian, gay, bisexual, asexual and/or transgender, Intersex and queer (LGBTIQ) young people aged 12 to 24 and their families who live in South East Queensland.

<http://www.opendoors.net.au/>



Relationships Australia—Rainbow Program

Relationships Australia, Ipswich and Toowoomba, now provides The Rainbow Program,

striving to support the mental health and wellbeing of people of diverse bodies, genders and sexualities, including lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender & intersex (LGBTI) people, as well as those questioning their gender identity or sexual orientation. Includes counselling and support groups. <http://www.raq.org.au/services/rainbow-program>



Our House Our Haven Inc. is a brand new registered charity organisation based in Ipswich. They are a nurse-led clinic providing care, psychotherapy and different treatment options for chronic and crisis mental health clients. Where staff are trained in supporting those who identify as LGBTIQ+ <https://www.ohoh.org.au/>

