

USQ Ally Network Newsletter



usq.edu.au/ally

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Dear Allies,

Welcome to the first edition of the USQ Ally Network Newsletter for 2020! We hope you've had a smooth start to the year, and are not too badly affected by the goings on so far – fires, floods, flu. Welcome also to our new look email newsletter format! We hope you find this a pleasant way to access all your USQ LGBTIQ+ information. We welcome your feedback on this, as always. So please see what's been happening already this year, and what's coming up in the LGBTIQ+ space in USQ and beyond.

And please remember that we are always on the lookout 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.

What's going on at USQ?

LGBTIQ+ Awareness Training



The USQ Ally Network has already been busy delivering LGBTIQ+ Awareness Training this year, providing education, and welcoming new Allies into the fold. We would like to take this opportunity to promote our next training opportunities, not just for those who are yet to become Allies, but also to those who would like a refresher session.

We updated our presentation last year, so please feel free to join us to see what has changed, and to refresh yourself on general content if it's been a while since you did your initial training. If interested, please click on the date that suits you below to register:

29th April 2020

12th May 2020

19th August 2020

If you are having trouble registering through the above links, please email ally@usq.edu.au and we will provide you with an alternative link.

USQ Ally Network Natter

USQ Ally Network Natters are intended to be a safe and inclusive space for discussion and relaxation for members of the LGBTIQ community and their supporters within USQ. They are gatherings alternating between Springfield, Ipswich and Toowoomba campuses, which are also available to all USQ Allies via live webinar.

PLEASE NOTE: For the foreseeable future, USQ Ally Network Natters will be delivered online only.

Details of the next Natter are:

Wednesday 1st April, 12.45-1.15pm (online only)

"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: Attendees are advised that this presentation will contain discussion of matters of an adult nature

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.

This will now be available by online webinar only. To join us, please register [here](#). If any trouble with using this system for registering, please go to the zoom link [here](#).



Transgender Day of Visibility

"Trans Day of Visibility is an annual international celebration of trans pride and awareness, recognising trans and gender diverse experiences and achievements" tdov.org.au

"Transgender people come from all walks of life. They are your co-workers, family and neighbours. They are 7-year-old children and they are 70-year-old grandparents. They are a diverse community representing all racial and ethnic backgrounds, as well as faith backgrounds."

<https://www.hrc.org/resources/international-transgender-day-of-visibility>

The USQ Pride club had some lovely activities planned to mark this day across all campuses. These have now regrettably but understandably been cancelled. We hope you will still honour the occasion. Suggestions include wearing a preferred pronouns badge, or indicating preferred pronouns in your email signature.



IDAHOBIT

Please keep your eyes on your emails from the USQ Ally Network regarding planned activities for IDAHOBIT (International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia). IDAHOBIT is celebrated around the world on 17th May, which this year falls on a Sunday. We are planning a week of activities at USQ starting Monday 11th May. We will need to curtail some of the on-campus activities, but still hope to fly the rainbow flag, host an online USQ Ally Network Natter, and present online LGBTIQ+ Awareness Training. We will keep Allies updated as to details of all of these plans. Watch this space...

What's going on outside of USQ?



Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras parade 2020

200,000 people lined the streets of Sydney for the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras parade 2020. Despite a smaller crowd than last year, the crowd cheered on (most of) the almost 200 floats. [MORE](#)



Gay cowboys & cowgirls celebrate outback Mardi Gras

The Post Office Hotel in the far north town of Cloncurry last night kicked off a weekend of outback Mardi Gras fun for the local gay cowboys, cowgirls and their local allies. [MORE](#)



How will coronavirus affect the LGBTIQ community?

The global outbreak of Coronavirus (COVID-19) infections has not left LGBTIQ+ communities unaffected. From those who use dating apps, to people living with HIV and elderly LGBTIQ individuals, anxiety over the alarming spread of COVID-19 has led many to post queries in online social media groups or approach health organisations. [MORE](#)



Queer Readers group calling for Brisbane book lovers

Read a good book lately? Or, do you want to meet new people? Then Brisbane book club Queer Readers might be for you. [MORE](#)

Supports

LGBTIQ resources and referrals

Please remember that the USQ Ally Network keeps a list of LGBTIQ resources and referrals available for download on the [Ally website](#). Scroll down to the bottom of the page to find the downloadable list. This is a useful tool for you when supporting those who identify or who have people close to them who identify.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our office.

Kind regards,
USQ Ally Network

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