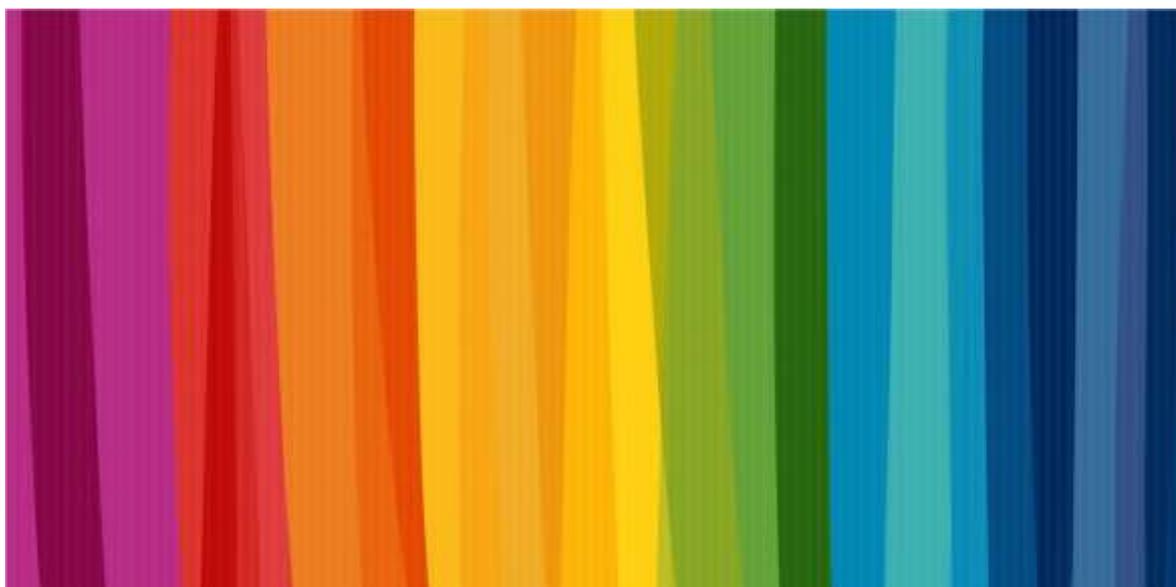


USQ Ally Network Newsletter



usq.edu.au/ally

Issue #48 May 2021



Dear Allies,

Welcome to the May edition of the Ally Network Newsletter for 2021. We hope everyone packed some fun into Easter break as we brace ourselves for the cooler weather!

So as we have had a great deal of interest in **the fresh, new Ally training**, we have an **Expression of Interest form** for those of you who would like to be contacted as soon as we have our dates ready to be announced! [This form](#) will put you on our priority list and you will be contacted by email and invited to our first training. Numbers will be limited, so please be assured we will continue to announce new dates as they become available so we can fit everyone in! We appreciated everyone's interest in the new training which will be more concise, but also more tailored for our university setting.

Trigger Warning: This newsletter acknowledges the passing of Toowoomba local and USQ student Thomas Coyne. Please see below the article below on this activist and advocate who will be sorely missed by many. Support services are listed with the article if you, or someone you know is distressed by this news.

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? USQ Ally Network Natter

USQ Ally Network Natters are intended to be a safe and inclusive space for discussion for members of the LGBTIQ community and their supporters within USQ. Details of the next Natter are:



Guest Speaker: Sergeant Nadine Webster LGBTIQ Liaison Officer QPS

Wednesday 19th May, 12.45pm

Sergeant Nadine Webster is the Officer in Charge of Ipswich District Crime Prevention Unit. Nadine has been a police officer for 29 years and has served at Mareeba, Mount Isa, Dalby and Ipswich (14 years) in a variety of functions and roles, one of which was one of the first School Based Police Officer's in Queensland.

Nadine is a Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) Liaison Officer, which is a volunteer role within the Queensland Police Force.

[Here's the link](#) We hope you can join us 😊

Mental Health First Aid Training



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

What's going on outside of USQ?



Lesbian teacher speaks out about sacking from Sydney religious school

A teacher who says she was sacked from a Sydney religious school for her sexuality has opened up about the “devastating” experience. Karen Pack worked at Morling College, a Baptist education institution in Sydney, for two years.Karen says she was sacked from the religious school. [More](#) QNews



Doc Q on Aussie COVID19 vaccination: Get your vac on!

Well, folks, the day has finally arrived. The SARS-COV2 COVID19 vaccination rollout has begun. So, when your turn comes, get your vacc on. You might know that Australia’s COVID19 vaccination plan includes two different vaccines. The mRNA Pfizer vaccine arrived first and was offered to very high-risk groups including frontline workers. (Who knew that also included our PM!!). Now the adenovirus AZ vaccine is also on offer, starting with the 1b group. That includes people over 70 and those with chronic medical conditions such as diabetes, HIV and heart disease. [More](#) QNews



Twenty years ago, the world's first legal same-sex marriages began

Twenty years ago this week, the world’s first same-sex marriage legislation officially came in to effect in the Netherlands. The country’s House of Representatives granted same-sex couples the same legal rights as heterosexuals. The legislation enjoyed as much as 75% public support at the time, according to polling. Then, on April 2001, when the law began, the first same-sex marriages occurred shortly after midnight [More](#) QNews

Entertainment



Dale Woodbridge-Brown: Not your typical gay club performer

Dale Woodbridge-Brown is a queer Kamilaroi man from Mungindi who has trained in acrobatics, baton twirling, flying trapeze and dance. Throughout his career he has worked with the likes of *Circus Oz* and *Briefs Factory* in shows both here in Australia and, around the world. "Performing arts wasn't common in my family so I was doing it on my own... [More](#) *Star Observer*



Pop Erotic artist Anita is a survivor

Anita Nevar was raised in a religious doomsday cult and having escaped that highly traumatic experience has created a successful and lauded career as a self taught visual artist, using those experiences to fuel a passion for the creative arts to not only explore her own sexuality but help guide others to discover the joys of their own kinks and self explorations. [MORE](#) *Star Observer*

Events



Pride his the beach during the brand new Gold Coast Pride Festival

Surfers Paradise Beach on Queensland's Gold Coast will turn rainbow during the brand new Gold Coast Pride Festival next month. The inaugural week-long celebration of the Coast's LGBTIQ community runs from May 23 to 30, with several events planned. [More](#) *QNews*



MELT: Festival of Queer Arts & Culture

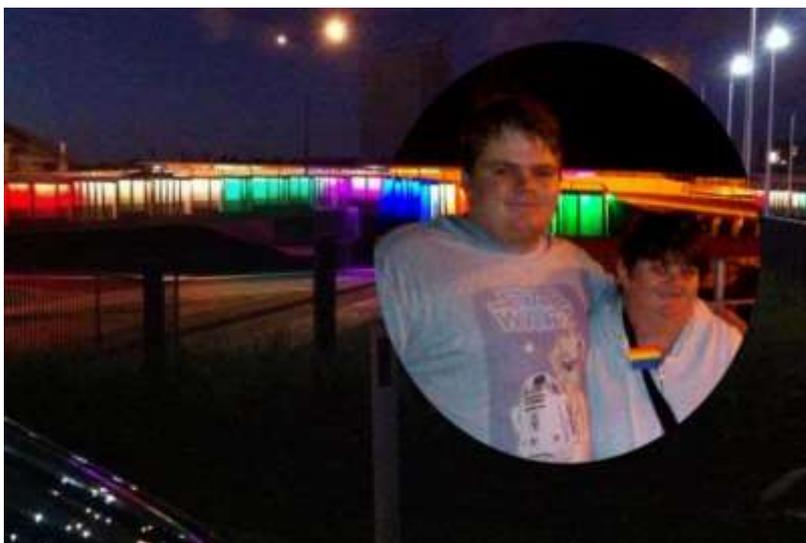
MELT: Festival of Queer Arts and Culture raises the curtain on another program of spectacular events, dazzling performances and provocative discussions at Brisbane Powerhouse from 20–30 May 2021. Now in its sixth year, this sizzling festival is designed to celebrate LGBTIQ+ arts and culture to promote visibility and inclusivity among the queer community. [MELT Program](#)

Candlelight vigil for Thomas Coyne at Toowoomba Bridge

Friends, former schoolmates and fellow activists as well as members of the Greens and the LGBTIQ+ communities gathered in Toowoomba tonight for a candlelight vigil and bridge lighting in honour of Thomas Coyne. Thomas' mum Jo spoke movingly of her love for her son and of the great support he was to her in life. [Thomas Coyne died in a car accident late Sunday 11 April.](#)

The site chosen for tonight's vigil held special significance for friends of Thomas Coyne. Locals gathered there in 2016 to celebrate the illumination of Victoria Bridge in Rainbow Pride colours for [IDAHOBIT Day.](#)

[More on remembering Thomas](#)



If you need support, please reach out Lifeline 13 11 14, Mensline 1300 78 99 78 both 24/7. Q life 1800 184 527 and [Webchat](#) available 3pm to Midnight

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

E: ally@usq.edu.au

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