

# PFLAG - PERTH



NEWSLETTER MARCH / APRIL 2009

PARENTS FAMILIES AND FRIENDS OF LESBIANS AND GAYS PERTH INC

## THE OBJECTIVES OF PFLAG ARE TO:

- Provide a support system for families and friends of lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans\* & intersex people, in an effort to understand, accept and support them with love and pride.
- Offer loving support and understanding to lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual & intersex people.
- Support and encourage the recognition of full human rights for them.
- Help parents, family members and friends to learn what the current members of PFLAG have already learnt and to help change attitudes and create an environment of understanding, so that all lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual & intersex people can live with dignity and respect.

## HAPPY 20<sup>TH</sup> YEAR PFLAG - PERTH

*Hello Everyone*

*I find myself back here as acting President for two months, as we are having trouble getting members to carry out some of the necessary duties due to people having a long overdue break. Also our beloved Elfie has not been well and we send her every good wish for a quick recovery. Our thoughts are with you Elfie, you have been a wonderful support over the years.*

*This is our 20<sup>th</sup> year and I cannot believe it. Where has it gone so quickly? As we have come into a bit of money we are hoping to get some ideas (from anyone) as to what we can do to make PFLAG Perth a stronger and more available organization.*

*We are certainly still very much needed. At the last meeting we had a new mother and it was the same old story, no-one wants to believe their son or daughter is Gay. We still have many phone calls asking for help from parents about their Gay children but sadly only a few will come to a meeting and fewer still stay coming to support the group.*

*We would like to get started on ideas for the "Pride Parade" this year, as it is the 20<sup>th</sup> for us as well as for "Pride". If possible we would like to have a float as most of us oldies are not walking so good these days, or maybe this oldie isn't.*

*If anyone has any spare time, even if it's only once every six months we would be grateful to see you at a PFLAG meeting. We would also love to see any past members who are still with us and could take the time to come along to a meeting now and then.*

*Our sole purpose is to support our GLBTIQ children, there are so many out there still hurting. Hope to see you at the next meeting.*

*Love June*

## HOW PFLAG – Perth BEGAN

PFLAG – Perth came into existence on 2<sup>nd</sup> Dec 1989, during the fight to have homosexual acts decriminalised in WA. A handful of parents, lobbying politicians, somehow found each other and so PFLAG began in WA.

Some of our original members made many futile searches for answers to the “problem” and finding others (parents) in the same position seemed almost impossible. We found the gay kids but they all seemed to have reluctant or fearful parents who didn’t want to know, let alone share their thoughts with other parents in the same situation.

However, with the formation of PFLAG a whole new world seemed to open up for us. It proved to be a loving environment, and a place where people could come to share their feelings, to talk and cry without any fear or feeling of shame.

At first we met once a month then twice a month, because of the need, then back to once a month again.

Over the years we have seen so many parents come and sadly, go. We have seen people from all walks of life but all with a common story to share, we all have someone we love and care for who is sexually different from the so-called “heterosexual norm”.

But unfortunately, when the initial difficulties are overcome most parents have drifted away without thinking that, perhaps, they may then be in a position to pass on the good news to others by continuing to be PFLAG members and come to the support group meetings and join the committee.

So sadly it remained the problem for the “oldies” to carry on.

Over many years of association with the “Gay Community”, we’ve heard all the stories, some good, some bad and some of the disastrous. We wish we could have done more to help but of course the first move has to come from the mums or dads.

PFLAG has grown and shrunk over time but at present we seem to be at an all time low with a handful of *oldish, older and real old* members holding the group together. Nowadays we sometimes think ‘what’s the use of meeting at all?’ Then along comes a “new mum or dad” and we feel it’s all been worthwhile.

We hope PFLAG will continue, for all time, to be there for GLBTI people and their families and friends, to provide the help and understanding that they may seek from us. But we can only hope to do this if newer and younger members are prepared to be active, join the committee and so carry the P / FLAG into the future.

*Where are you?*

## Our 20th Anniversary Year

2009 sees PFLAG – Perth entering its 20<sup>th</sup> year, so, included is another part of our third Newsletter from August 1991. It was all typing and the old cut & paste at the time so not too fancy in those early days. Through the year we will include some more samples, just to give people an idea of how things have changed for us. We hope you will enjoy and find them interesting.

**A Bit of Bad News:** Our PFLAG rep and Phonenumber lady in Bunbury, Jill, is at present recovering from having a bad fall breaking her elbow and kneecap. She is in hospital in Perth at present and will be needing quite a time of rehabilitation to get back on deck so, in the meantime, we have taken her name off as a phone contact person. We send her our love and wish her a speedy recovery.

**CLOSETS ARE FOR CLOTHES NOT  
PEOPLE JOIN PFLAG  
WE NEED YOU**

## On A Lighter Note ☺☺☺☺

### **THE GAY FLIGHT ATTENDANT**

My flight was being served by an obviously gay flight attendant, who seemed to put everyone in a good mood as he served us food and drinks.

As the plane prepared to descend, he came swishing down the aisle and told us that 'Captain Marvey has asked me to announce that he'll be landing the big scary plane shortly, so lovely people, if you could just put your trays up, that would be super.'

On his trip back up the aisle, he noticed this well-dressed foreign looking lady hadn't moved a muscle.

'Perhaps you didn't hear me over those big brute engines but I asked you to raise your trazy-poo, so the main man can pitty-pat us on the ground.'

She calmly turned her head and said, 'In my country, I am called a Princess and I take orders from no one.'

To which (I swear) the flight attendant replied, without missing a beat,

'Well, sweet-cheeks, in my country I'm called a Queen, so I outrank you.

Tray-up please'

*(From the Internet. Thanks Sarah)*

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### *JOKES and QUIPS from Kemsley, in "Ginger Meggs' Comic Strips in the "West Australian"*

- If it wasn't for the optimist, the pessimist wouldn't know how happy he isn't.
- They said it couldn't be done and I proved it.
- Time waits for no man and very few women.
- "On your journey through life, you'll learn lots of things ---- you'll forget lots of things! It's nature's way of not letting your brain get too full!"
- The secret of a successful life --- panic slowly!
- I'm an optimist but I don't think it helps much.
- There has been an alarming increase in the number of things I know nothing about.
- I don't make mistakes --- I do variations!
- Misers make wonderful ancestors.
- Foresight? Knowing when to shut your mouth before someone tells you to!
- Discoveries are made by not following the instructions.
- Want your children to listen? Try talking softly ---- to someone else.
- Be careful of your thoughts, they may become words at any moment.
- Do you ever stop to think and forget to start again?
- Always get the facts first ..... then panic!
- Ginger Meggs : "What's the best thing about getting old?"  
Grandpa : "The time it takes."
- Friend : Do you say prayers before meals at your place?  
Ginger : I do if dad's been cooking!
- Ginger : "Is it good being old enough to get a senior discount."  
Grandpa : "It is if you can remember to ask for it."
- If only the good die young ---- what does that tell us about grandparents?
- Nowadays I'd settle for the fountain of middle age.
- The nice thing about standards is there are so many to choose from.
- A Conscience? A little voice that tells us someone might be watching!
- Life would be so much simpler if everyone read the manual.
- Work 8 hours, sleep 8 hours ; but not the same 8 hours.
- Admit your mistakes before someone exaggerates them for you!
- Unlike most people, I'm just an average person!
- Three ways to become a millionaire : Inherit it! Earn it! Sue!
- Too busy to laugh? Then you're too busy



*The trouble with ignorance is that it picks up confidence as it goes along! - Arnold Glasgow*