

Metropolitan Community Churches - MCC Brisbane and Queensland Newsletter

May/ June/ July 2005

This newsletter is produced by MCC Brisbane as a service to the glbti communities of CQ and South East Queensland.

Services in Brisbane

Services are held weekly - Sunday evenings at 7pm at The Quaker Meeting House 10 Hampson St Kelvin Grove. **All Welcome.**

Sunday mornings at 9-30am there is an informal service / house group meets weekly at 40 Redfern St Morningside- this is just a 5 minute walk from bus stop 26 and the Morningside Railway Station. We meet under the house around the back. All Welcome

Services in Rockhampton

Services in Rockhampton are held on the first and third sundays of each month at 6pm. MCC Rockhampton meet at the Access Recreation Meeting Room Allenstown. This is diagonally opposite the Allenstown school and behind the old RSPCA office on the corner of Caroline st and Upper Dawson Rd. ALL WELCOME

Stonewall

MCC Brisbane is holding a Stonewall celebration service on **Sunday June 26th at 7pm.** This service, which is a part of the Pride Festival, will be held at 10 Hampson St Kelvin Grove. Plenty of parking available in nearby Prospect St. The guest preacher for this service will be **Anthony Venn Brown.** Anthony was for many years an evangelist in the Assemblies of God churches of Australia and NZ. Anthony is now an 'out' gay man and he has written a book A Life of Unlearning. Anthony will be well worth hearing and I would urge you to not only make sure you are at the service but also tell others about it!!

QPP Roster (Queensland Positive People)

MCC Brisbane cook once a month for QPP. Adrian would be happy to speak with you if you would like to assist with this. We are scheduled to cook on 10th June, 8th July and 12th August.

Pflag

Pflag (Parents and friends of lesbians and gays) provide support to families and friends of gay, lesbian, bi-sexual and transgendered persons. PFLag Brisbane is convened by Shelley.

Shelley can be contacted at or by ringing (07) 3017 1739. Pflag Rockhampton is convened by Neville and Rosemary Kajewski and they can be contacted at or by ringing (07) 49 287 275.

Internet sites

Dryk recommends as a helpful site.

Robert recommends people check out

B.O.D. (Board of Directors) Meeting

The BOD are responsible for the administration and financial running of the church. Only those on the BOD can vote at meetings but any member or friend of MCC can attend meetings. Meetings are generally held on the first Monday of each month at 7pm at 40 Redfern St Morningside.

Christmas in July

Our next social function will be a 'Christmas in July' on Saturday 30th July. This will be a Christmas style meal and fun night held at 40 Redfern St Morningside. We will require a \$5 donation (\$1 for children) to cover costs. Plan now to be at this fun event.

Study Group

A small group of people meet weekly on a Wednesday evening to look at the gospel reading for about 3 weeks ahead. We try to see what the reading looked at might be saying to us today and this helps inform the preacher as they prepare their sermon. We meet at 7pm at 40 Redfern St Morningside - around the back and under the house. All Welcome.

Fair Day and March

MCC Brisbane will have a stall at the Fair Day (in the community tent) so come along and say hi - or even better spend some time on the stall and be a part of the March if you are able to.

Barred Hearts

A sad countenance has fallen upon me this month.

I was listening to the news on the radio when I heard of the incarceration of an Australian and a Fijian gay couple for "homosexual offences".

The judge stated something extremely and shamelessly homophobic as the pair were sent to prison for 4 years each. But the worst, alas, is not their sentence but the maximum sentence homosexuality can bring - 14 years.

Ladies and gentlemen my head is bowed in utter dismay.

As I revert my mind back to the past history of gay and lesbian rights I discover a terrifying pattern emerging. A pattern of violence and imprisonment for gay and lesbian people who only ever wanted equality..

The gay and lesbian rights movement has been plagued by the spectre of violence. History will reveal the various instances where the fight for social equality became a fight for our very lives.

The Stonewall riots were the beginning of the American gay and lesbian civil rights movement. Then in 1978 the peaceful parade for the rights of gay and lesbian Australians quickly turned into a mass beating on gay and lesbian marchers. This was the first Mardi Gras.

The South African gay and lesbian rights movement was far more brutally treated with the police murdering Simon Nkoli for his political and sexual views.

Yes ladies and gentlemen I am sad for the first time since I came out, because there seems to be a very dark shadow looming on my freedom.

Whoopi Goldberg called gay and lesbian people "special people". I call us a legacy.

So when you walk down the street with your same -sex partner's hand in yours say a little prayer for those who were lost along the way.

Well I will sign off now and I leave you with this final word of wisdom-

The world is full of great opportunity

Time is constantly moving

And life is short

So seize the moment.

Love you all

Jean

A community forum

7.30pm Thursday 23 June

QPP Statewide Centre, 289 Vulture Street, South Brisbane.

Hear a distinguished panel of speakers examine the impact of Christian conservatism and fundamentalism on our lives.

Chaired by Dr Wendell Rosevear and Dr Rachel Collis

Speakers:

• **Wendy Lawson** is a Victorian-based counsellor, social worker, probationary psychologist and author.

Wendy was the co-leader of Exodus, the "ex-gays" group. Now she is openly lesbian.

• **Paul Martin** is a Brisbane-based psychologist and, with Wendy, was a co-leader of Exodus.

• **Anthony Venn-Brown** is a former leader of the Assemblies of God Churches and the author of “A life of unlearning: coming out of the Church – one man ’s struggle ”

This even is sponsored by Acceptance Brisbane, Brisbane Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, and Metropolitan Community Church, with the additional support of the Queensland AIDS Council.

All Welcome. Admission Free. Please let your friends know about this important events

Sister Speak

All women are welcome to Sister Speak functions. Sister Speak is an open group of women from different faith backgrounds and is loosely linked to MCC Brisbane. Sister Speak meets on the 2nd Saturday of each month. “Chatting, eating and laughing are high on the agenda”

For more details speak to Anne or Iris on (07) 33 99 23 67.

Rocky News

Services are held in Rocky on the first and third Sundays of each month at 6pm. Services are held at the Access Recreation Meeting Room on the corner of Caroline St and Upper Dawson Rd Allenstown - diagonally opposite the Allenstown School.

Coffee Club is held each Sunday evening from 6pm to 8-30pm at Bec’s place. More details can be obtained by ringing Bec on 043 195 7274.

Library The MCC library of glbti books is located at Bec’s place and can be accessed on coffee club nights or by arrangement with Bec on 0431 95 72 74.

Shows are held in the Archer Room of the Country Comfort Hotel Quay St Rockhampton. Show dates are 18th June, 30th July, 27th August, 24th September, 29th October, 26th November and 17th December.

More information can be obtained from the Rogalwots website at-

Rainbow Ball

The Rainbow Ball will be held on the 9th July at the Frenchville Sports Club in North Rockhampton. The organisers are expecting many guests from a great distance at this so make it a priority in your diaries.

Anne’s next visit to Rocky is planned for the 3rd week in July. Anne is happy to meet with people whilst in Rocky. Give her a ring on (07) 33 99 23 67 and organise this in advance.

**Congratulations to Mark and Duggie on their
1st anniversary.**

Metropolitan Community Churches in Queensland

These are MCC Brisbane and the Brisbane outreach of MCC Rockhampton.
The Pastor is Rev Anne James. The Assistant Pastor is Rev Iris Saggars.
The Worship Coordinator in Rockhampton is Mr Wayne Larson.

Anne and Iris can be contacted on (07) 33 99 23 67 or Anne's mobile 0401 434 564
Wayne can be contacted on (07) 49 381 214 or mobile 041 777 9390.
Anne's Email address is spaganne@iinet.net.au
Iris's Email address is isaggers@echidna.id.au

Anne and Iris in Brisbane and Wayne in Rockhampton are available as a 'friendly ear' or 'shoulder to cry on'. Anne and Iris are also available for Commitment Ceremonies, Baptisms and Funerals by arrangement.

MCC Brisbane Address is PO Box 317 Fortitude Valley Qld 4006
MCC Rockhampton address is PO Box 4100 Rockhampton 4700

Brisbane services are held at the Quaker Meeting House 10 Hampson St Kelvin Grove
Rockhampton services are held at Access Recreation Meeting Room cnr Caroline St and Upper Dawson Rd Allenstown.

ALL WELCOME AT ANY OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED SERVICES

Calendar of Events - Rockhampton

Sunday 29th May Coffee Club at Bec's

Sunday 5th June 6pm Service at Access Recreation Meeting Room
Coffee Club at Bec's

Sunday 12th June Coffee Club at Bec's

Saturday 18th June Dance Party and Show

Sunday 19th June 6pm Service at Access Recreation Meeting Room
Coffee Club at Bec's

Sunday 26th June Coffee Club at Bec's

Sunday 3rd July 6pm Service at Access Recreation Meeting Room

Coffee Club at Bec's

Saturday 9th July Rainbow Ball at Frenchville Sports Club

Sunday 10th July Coffee Club at Bec's

Sunday 17th July 6pm Service at Access Recreation Meeting Room

Coffee Club at Bec's

Sunday 24th July Coffee Club at Bec's

Saturday 30th July Dance Party and Show

Sunday 31st July Coffee Club at Bec's

Calendar of Events - Brisbane

Sunday 29th May 9-30am Home Group at 40 Redfern St Morningside

7pm Service at Kelvin Grove

Wednesday 1st June 7pm Study Group at Morningside

Sunday 5th June 9-30 am Home Group at Morningside

7pm Service at Kelvin Grove

No study group on Wednesday 8th June

Friday 10th June Cooking for QPP

Sunday 12th June 9-30am Home Group at Morningside

7pm Service at Kelvin Grove

Monday 13th June BOD Meeting at Morningside

Wednesday 15th June Study Group at Morningside

Sunday 19th June 9-30am Home Group at Morningside

7pm Service at Kelvin Grove

Wednesday 22nd June Study Group at Morningside

Thursday 23rd June 7-30pm Public Meeting at 289 Vulture St

Saturday 25th June Fair Day and March

Sunday 26th June Stonewall service 7pm Kelvin Grove

Wednesday 29th June Study Group at Morningside

Sunday 3rd July 9-30 am House Group at Morningside

7pm Service at Kelvin Grove

Monday 4th July BOD meet

Wednesday 6th July 7pm Study Group at Morningside

Friday 8th July QPP cooking

Saturday 9th July Sister Speak function at Lavinia's

Sunday 10th July 9-30am Home Group

7pm Service at Kelvin Grove

Wednesday 13th July 7pm Study Group at Morningside

Sunday 17th July 9-30am Home Group at Morningside

7pm Service at Kelvin Grove

Wednesday 20th July 7pm Study Group at Morningside

Sunday 24th July 9-30am Home Group at Morningside

7pm Service at Kelvin Grove

Saturday 30th July Christmas in July - social function

Sunday 31st July 9-30am Home Group at Morningside
7pm Service at Kelvin Grove