

**Goulburn Valley Pride Incorporated**  
**2019 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
Presidents Report 2018-2019  
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2017-2018 President/Senior Vice President

In the 357 days since our last AGM, the many people who make up our fabulous organisation have together created and ran 24 events. This tally does not even take into account the 5 films we screened or the ever-growing number of events we hosted and supported as part of last year's OUTintheOPEN Festival. Needless to say, there was a lot more than I had thought, which is important to highlight, because as a team of people with full time lives, who volunteer to keep this organisation going we do much more than we often think and I think that is something worth celebrating.

I happily go to our social media to check in with this year's progress and events tally (because I know each and everything we do is on there, thanks to Damien) and it helps remind me just how amazing and proud I am of GV Pride and all those who give their time to see it grow and continue.

Among that number of 24, which is actually 41 on a second count, there were a few amazing highlights I wanted to remind us of. In November last year we were joined by our local Interfaith minister to host a candlelight vigil for Transgender Day of Remembrance, a very special and moving event where we heard from our Transgender community members of all ages at the Victoria Park Lake. In March we hosted our 'Queerstories' event, in partnership with Shepparton Festival. 'Queerstories' was something we had not done before and something that I believe had not been seen in Shepparton before either. It was incredible to hear the untold stories of some who lived locally and some who had visited us before. The event saw many community members whom we do not often see come along, which is so wonderful to see. In 2018 in the lead up to OITO we hosted a number of elders Dance Club afternoon tea dance sessions and on Carnival Day of OUTintheOPEN there was a fantastic Nutbush dance session which I think was the icing on the cake for many who had been taking part in those events. We also had MQFF come to Shepparton and whilst the numbers may have not been what we wanted them to be in terms of attendance, the fact that 5 queer films were in our local Village Cinema for one weekend was a pretty awesome achievement for all involved.

As well as all of the wonderful events, GV Pride has also grown as an organisation. We now have a storage shed, where all our fabulous merchandise and event equipment now lives. I would like to thank all those who for a long time hosted GV Pride items at their house, in their garages and or anywhere they could find! We have a great partnership with University of Melbourne, where we have continued to host and hold our meetings for both GV Pride and OUTintheOPEN free of charge.

We were successful in a major grant from the Department of Premier and Cabinet's Equality Branch, receiving \$40,000 to initiate our leadership program FLEDGE, which began yesterday. The funding will help to upskill and build capacity of people in our community and I am still in awe of the amount of applications and interest we have had for this program. This has also brought a wonderful partnership with GOTAFE, who have given us a training room/office space to use when needed, as well as sponsor a teacher and student to participate in FLEDGE.

These are all incredible achievements. As I reflected upon where we are now in 2019 to where we were 6 years ago, hosting meetings at Kieran's house, I was and am so proud of all of our efforts. This has been and will continue to be a team effort, where we have all supported and celebrated each other as we have grown and will continue to grow.

It has been my pleasure to sit alongside the following amazing people, who have contributed to a position on the GV Pride committee. I would like to thank; Jenni Slade, Damien Stevens-Todd, Chris Murley, Julie Sullivan, Cate Collins, Emma Tang, Tiani Hombsch, Allison Leatham, Laurin Martin, Michael Boyd and Brendan Dobie. Thank you all for your contributions over the past year whilst on this committee. Your time given, passion and commitment are so valuable and have been vital to the continuation of GV Pride for another year. There are many other community members who also give their time to help us in many different roles throughout the year including OUTintheOPEN Festival, our Bunnings BBQ, driving the bus to Pride March, gift wrapping at Christmas time and selling (or eating) our Cadbury fundraising chocolates. Our organisation would not be able to continue without the generosity of those who give their time to help.

To our outgoing committee, thank you for your efforts, support and time spent over the past twelve months and beyond. I look forward to seeing what the next year brings for Goulburn Valley Pride, thank you.