

GOULBURN VALLEY PRIDE INC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

August 13th 2023, 11am

Goulburn Valley Pride Inc. Presidents Report 2022 / 2023

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Our wonderful committee of dedicated volunteers are to be congratulated for another successful year and I want to thank everyone for all the work that makes Goulburn Valley Pride as amazing as it is. For our community this has been a year of ups and downs, we have seen the lifting of COVID restrictions and a return to a new normal which has taken some time to grow used to. We have also seen devastating floods sweep through our communities leaving many people displaced and unsettled with many still putting the pieces back together.

SOCIAL

We finally moved out of the shadow of COVID and restrictions and have certainly enjoyed a full social calendar this past year., A combination of many old favourites including our free Christmas BBQ, brunches in Shepparton, and Echuca, lunch events, elders afternoon tea, recognition of days of significance, a fabulous OUTintheOPEN festival back in the Queens gardens and marching at ChillOut. This year we have also seen a few new events with our inaugural Pride Ball held at the Woolshed and the Glow Roller Disco held at the Showgrounds which saw several hundred people don the skates for a night of wobbly fun. To better coordinate our busy social calendar, we have seen the creation of an events sub-committee who have done a marvellous job keeping us all busy.

ADVOCACY

GV Pride continues to be recognised as a peak body for our community, acting as a liaison for community with the LGBTIQ+ Commissioners office, Equality Minister and Greater Shepparton City Council. GV Pride is an active member of the GO Alliance and Oceania Pride (InterPride) and is often called on by media outlets for perspective or opinion on current issues and events.

CAPACITY BUILDING

- A number of local community members this year successfully completed the Vic. Government LGBTIQ+ Leadership training which was targeted at rural and regional participants. Goulburn Valley Pride members were able to provide support to the program including mentorship of participants.
- GV Pride has been able to provide placement for local Community Services students supporting them to complete their studies.

RECOGNITION

We were privileged this year to be finalists for the Victorian Pride awards. Affectionately referred to as the Queer Logies, several of us enjoyed the opportunity to dance the night away at the awards dinner in Melbourne. We were not winners but were proud to be there to see Cris Stevens Todd receive the Victorian Pride award for media.

ORGANSIATIONAL GROWTH

We continue to grow as an organisation and have been successful in forging strong partnerships with community organisations, decision makers and businesses. We as an organisation take our commitment to our members very seriously. With expansion of our NDIS service provision and merchandise sales we are in a strong financial position with strong governance protections in place. We have however well and truly outgrown our shed and mobile set up and are exploring the option of setting up a physical space we can call home in line with our strategic plan developed last year.

My sincere thanks to every single member, volunteer, ally and band of amazing members of the Goulburn Valley Pride committee, particularly Damien Stevens Todd as Secretary who I would be lost without. The OUTintheOPEN Festival committee, Events sub-committee and TAG. You are all amazing and make GV Pride and our community what it is today. Thank you.

