

# **GOULBURN VALLEY PRIDE INC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

TEAMs meeting August 3<sup>rd</sup> 2021, 7pm

Goulburn Valley Pride Inc. Presidents Report 2020 / 2021

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In the blur that has been the past year with COVID I can hardly believe it has been a year since the last AGM. But am incredibly grateful and proud on all we have achieved for our community in such difficult times. Our committee of dedicated volunteers are to be congratulated, we have barely seen each other in the flesh and have met via TEAMs all year, twisting and turning with COVID restrictions, I acknowledge the challenges this poses and the resilience we have found.

## **SOCIAL**

COVID and restrictions have had a huge impact on our community and many of our usual events and catch ups have had to be reinvented. We have held numerous social events including our free Christmas BBQ, care packages, brunches in Shepparton, Dookie and Echuca, ZOOM catch ups, lake walks, fundraising Bunnings BBQ and a reinvented but successful virtual Out in the Open festival with steps challenge, makeup tutorial, and a livestreamed Carnival Day. We have marched in Pride in Melbourne and had members present our work at the Better Together Conference in Adelaide and at InterPride to the Oceania Pride members.

## **ADVOCACY**

GV Pride is recognised as a peak body for our community with invitations to join advisory boards and committees in Health, Education and Local Government. GV Pride continues to promote and advocate for our community with active membership of the GO Alliance and Oceania Pride (InterPride). We are also pleased to advise that as an organisation we will have an ongoing seat at the table for the GSCC LGBTIQ+ advisory board. We had members attend the Advocacy Masterclass hosted by Equality Project.

## **CAPACITY BUILDING**

Our leadership program FLEDGE was a resounding success with 21 members of our community having the opportunity to be involved in a leadership program building skills, resilience and capacity as change-makers. GV Pride has proudly auspiced the work of LINE (LGBTQIA in the North East) over the past few years. LINE as an organisation has gone from strength to strength and has now grown wings to take this valuable work out to that region as a stand-alone organisation. TAG (Trans and Gender Diverse Advocacy Group) operates as a sub-committee of GV Pride and has had a number of successful grants and events this year with development of a logo, banner, postcards and tees, and they this year hosted a very successful TDOV event at Queens Gardens.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

It is worth mentioning the support our community has benefitted from in terms of events led not by GV Pride but the community itself. This is testament to the work GV Pride has done over many years. The Goulburn Valley library hosted drag story time, the Aussie Hotel hosted a drag “party” to bring Mardi Gras to the regions, Melbourne Queer Film Festival ran in Shepparton and Out For Australia hosted a “building your brand” session. GV Pride have supported community events including a rainbow flag raising event for IDAHOBIT at GOTAFE, Rural Melbourne lecture series to coincide with IDAHOBIT and rainbow flag raising at Echuca hospital. GV Pride provides civic participation support through NDIS as provider of choice for participants, with 2 ongoing clients.

My sincere thanks to every single member, volunteer, ally and band of amazing members of the Goulburn Valley Pride committee, 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.