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THREE DECADES

17 AUGUST 2015 **ISSUE 761**

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DRAGS TO RICHES: After a gruelling two months, dozens of shows and countless costume changes, Fran Giapanni was crowned the winner of Minnie Cooper's Drag to Riches. The drag star won a suite of prizes that includes \$1500. "I was very proud of Fran every week," said Minnie Cooper. "She was a well deserving winner." Photo: Mark Dickson

COMMENT

The iceberg that nearly sank Foxtel



Reg Domingo

Despite the best intentions and well-thought-out plans, things can easily go horribly wrong.

And so it was for Foxtel, who struck an iceberg of its own making and almost sunk under a sea of social media criticism.

It all began with a decision by Foxtel management to air a commercial by the newly-formed anti-equality lobby group, Marriage Alliance.

The commercial's main message is while same-sex marriage looks simple enough on the surface, "there's more to it than you think".

The graphics show same-sex marriage as the tip of an iceberg with a voiceover warning viewers: "It's time to step back and consider all the issues around same-sex marriage – like how it will affect children, or sex education in schools, or even what rights you could lose".

Shortly after its broadcast on Saturday morning – on youth channel FOX8, no less – subscribers turned to social media to air their discomfort and, in some cases, outrage.

But rather than address people's concerns individually, Foxtel social media moderators churned out a template response with the remorse of mailbot.

"Hi [insert name]. Thanks for your post. We take your concerns regarding this ad very seriously. Foxtel is acutely aware that its decision to carry advertisements for the Marriage Alliance has cause hurt and distress to some [sic] our customers. This decision was not made lightly and was made with the active involvement of a gay senior executive. Foxtel has and will continue to express support Marriage Equality."

Not good enough.

As a result, many viewers made moves to cancel their subscriptions.

It wasn't until a few days later, after the backlash made international headlines, and many more switched to Netflix, that Foxtel finally relented and announced it would stop airing the commercials. *Continued on page 5*

MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Public vote on marriage equality likely for 2016

Cec Busby

Australia could be set to go to the polls three times in the next three years if the Prime Minister Tony Abbott makes good on a promise to deliver a plebiscite or referendum on marriage equality.

The PM suggested the issue of same-sex marriage was now up to the people after a gruelling six-hour party room meeting last Tuesday resulted in the Coalition voting against giving its members a free vote on marriage equality.

Two thirds of Coalition members voted to continue with the status quo while one third called for a conscience vote.

Abbott said the result finalised the issue for this term.

"We have finalised a position for the duration of this term," he told reporters in a late-night press conference at Parliament House.

The move now presents same-



Demonstrators rally for marriage equality in Sydney on Sunday, August 9, ahead of the Coalition's party room meeting, which saw a vote against allowing members a conscience vote on same-sex marriage pass. Photo: Reg Domingo

sex marriage as a key issue for the next election, with the Opposition Leader Bill Shorten already promising his party will deliver marriage equality in the first 100 days of parliament if elected.

The PM's move to introduce a plebiscite or referendum on same-sex marriage has been criticised as contradictory and yet another delaying tactic since previously he

had suggested marriage equality was a matter for parliament to decide.

"The disposition, as I said, is that it should happen through a people's vote rather than simply through a Parliament's vote," the PM said.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, Treasurer Joe Hockey and Social Services Minister Scott Morrison are all said to back the idea of a

plebiscite.

Several Liberal MPs have suggested they will cross the floor in support of Warren Entsch's bill, prompting the PM to suggest they could be demoted from the frontbench for their efforts.

Meanwhile marriage equality advocates are suggesting if a plebiscite or referendum were to occur it should be part of the next election and the PM should not be setting the question, but rather the question should be set by parliament.

While a plebiscite would show the view of the Australian people, its result is not binding and government would still have to act to move legislation through parliament. A referendum would allow for changes to the constitution but the High Court has already ruled this as unnecessary, saying government has the power to legislate on the issue.

COMMUNITY

NSW Police Force

SUPERINTENDENT TONY CRANDELL:
GLBTI Corporate Sponsor, NSW Police



MAKE A STAND IN PURPLE

Wear it Purple Day – on August 28 this year – has become a favourite event on the NSW Police Force calendar. The campaign, initiated by young people in 2010, has a very simple yet strong message: Every young person is unique, important and worthy of love. Supporting Wear it Purple each year gives police officers across the state an opportunity to help young 'rainbow' people to feel safe, supported and empowered.

This year, as in previous years, our GLLOs (LGBTI Liaison Officers) are teaming up with School Liaison Police, Youth Liaison Officers, PCYC, Transport police and Crime Prevention Officers to demonstrate organisation-wide support for this initiative. I wrote earlier this year about the concerning findings of a recent study by Beyond Blue which reported a third of teenage boys did not feel happy about having a gay male in their friendship group. 40 per cent felt anxious or uncomfortable around same-sex attracted people and a quarter found the use of derogatory terms such as "homo" or "dyke" acceptable.

This data reminds us not to be complacent. These are very concerning levels of homophobia which causes harm to all young people and particularly young sexual, sex and gender diverse people, placing them at risk of mental health problems and suicide. Wear it Purple Day is an important reminder to challenge these attitudes and behaviours, whether they are found at school or elsewhere.

Police officers can be extremely effective role models and educators - just being in

a blue uniform and supporting a young person can make a huge difference. But on Wear it Purple Day, this uniform may turn purple. Police officers across the state engaged in community events will have an opportunity to wear a purple police shirt to show their support and help raise awareness about harassment, bullying and suicide prevention for young people.

Police will not just focus on metropolitan locations. In Albury this year, Senior Constable Amy Epstein is running a poster competition for schools with entries on display in the local library, along with our 25 Years and GLLO-ing History Display. GLLOs will be visiting schools, distributing purple promotional items and talking to young people about Wear it Purple.

In Hyde Park NSW police are teaming up with the City of Sydney, Wear It Purple organisers and a number of LGBTI community organisations to repeat the success of Snags 'n Snaps in May. Everyone is welcome to share lunch with us – all you need to do is have your photo taken wearing something purple and share it on social media. We want to flood social media on August 28 with purple images so join us from around 11.30am onwards.



HEADLINES



RELIGION

Hillsong welcomes gays ... just not the 'gay lifestyle'

Cec Busby

Hillsong Church head honcho Brian Houston has said the mega church welcomes gay people they just can't have an active leadership role at Hillsong.

Houston made the comments in a blog post just days after news broke that two engaged openly gay men were leading Hillsong NYC's choir.

The senior pastor at the Sydney evangelical group's home base said gays are welcome to attend, worship and participate as a

congregation member at Hillsong churches.

However, gay worshippers cannot "take an active leadership role."

He also stressed that Hillsong welcomed all people but does not affirm all lifestyles.

"Put clearly, we do not affirm a gay lifestyle and because of this we do not knowingly have actively gay people in positions of leadership, either paid or unpaid. I recognise this one statement alone is upsetting to people on both sides of this discussion,

which points to the complexity of the issue for churches all over the world," Houston said.

And lest anyone is confused as to the church's position on gay marriage, Houston had this to say: "I also live by my own convictions, and hold to traditional Christian thought on gay lifestyles and gay marriage. I do believe God's word is clear that marriage is between a man and a woman. The writings of the apostle Paul in scripture on the subject of homosexuality are also clear, as I have mentioned in previous public statements."



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Over 800 people attended the sold out gala charity screening of new Aussie film *Holding The Man* at the Ritz in Randwick last week, raising over \$20,000 for LGBTI community organisations ACON and Queer Screen. The event was also attended by the stars of the film Ryan Corr, Craig Stott, Anthony LaPaglia and Kerry Fox, who mingled with patrons at the packed after party. Director Neil Armfield and writer Tommy Murphy were also special guests.

"We're delighted that ACON's connection with the film was able to be celebrated in this way and we're extremely grateful to everyone who came along and supported the event," said ACON CEO Nicolas Parkhill. "It's a terrific film and we hope that lots of people get out to see it when it opens in cinemas on August 27." **See more photos: Page 20**
PHOTO: ROD SPARK



COMMUNITIES

PositiveLifeNSW



CRAIG COOPER:
CEO, Positive Life NSW

CHALLENGING HIV STIGMA AND REMAIN CONNECTED

A regional newspaper, Wagga Wagga's *The Daily Advertiser*, recently highlighted the unfortunate reality that HIV stigma and prejudice is alive and well in rural NSW. When people are devalued based on their association with any point of difference, whether sexuality or health, they can be shamed and judged. They can also be seen as less desirable and at worst shunned from ordinary social spaces and isolated.

Whether on a regional, state or worldwide level, people living with HIV are easy targets. Like all prejudice, HIV prejudice is never based on reason or reality and there is no valid reason for this misplaced and outdated discrimination.

Unlike the common cold, HIV is relatively difficult to catch and can affect anyone from a young man exploring his sexuality to a nurse providing care in a clinical setting. People living with HIV are everywhere and can be from any walk of life. We are middle aged mothers, small business owners, lawyers and students. We work, love and live alongside anyone else in society.

Positive Life NSW combats stigma through the promotion of positive images of people living with and affected by HIV. One of these ways is by social opportunities for all people living with HIV to get together, including their families and supporters, to build and develop friendship

networks which lessen the effects of stigma. In this safe and inclusive space, social connections offer a way to be part of a stronger network of friends who understand and share their experiences, no longer separate and alone but finding answers and encouraging each other.

The Positive Life social space where people with HIV can find friends and supporters has gone by a number of names over the years – *Planet Positive*, and currently *The Quarterly*. Over the next month, the Quarterly will be relaunched with a new name put forward by members. This name will reflect the change from a quarterly schedule (every three months) to being held every second month. It also reflects the inclusive nature of the event, welcoming to the broader community of people living with HIV including heterosexual and bisexual men and women living with HIV.

Whether you are living with HIV or not, challenge negative attitudes and HIV stigma wherever you see it. We all need to talk about HIV, regardless of sexual orientation or HIV status. Shaming or rejecting someone based on HIV has no place in our society. Everyone can turn the tide on HIV stigma and discrimination.

If you live with HIV and feel isolated or need support, you can call Positive Life on 1800 245 677 or (02) 9206 2177.

COMMENT

The iceberg that nearly sank Foxtel

Continued from page 3

Other than Foxtel, the commercials were also airing on Nine (Seven and Ten declined to broadcast it). Yet Nine got away scot-free while Foxtel felt the heat. Why?

Because Foxtel, unlike Nine, holds a special place in the gay community. We trusted Foxtel and we believed them when they put their logo alongside 53 other corporations in an advertisement to declare their support for marriage equality.

The past few years have seen an avalanche of brands and corporations come out in support

of the LGBTI community and equal rights. And while it's welcome, you can't blame queers for being a bit cynical about the sudden rush of pink-washing. After all, it's not as if we gays and lesbians only use ATMs during Mardi Gras, so why do we only see those ads during that one time of the year?

But when a genuine LGBTI ally like Foxtel airs a commercial that is clearly bigoted, designed to stir up fear, and blatantly denigrates our rights, it hurts.

Foxtel, don't do it again.

HIV TESTING STUDY

Are you a highly sexually active gay man who doesn't know his HIV status and doesn't get tested regularly for HIV? Positive Life NSW wants to conduct an in-depth interview with you to better understand the reasons why some people don't get tested for the virus. Call (02) 9206 2179 for details.

CORRECTION

An article in SX #760 (August 10) entitled 'The Art of Transformation' incorrectly described the photographic work of Ash Golsby. In fact, Ash Golsby's photography series *Transitory* documents female to male trans people. SX apologises for the error and for any distress this may have caused.

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PositiveLifeNSW
the voice of people with HIV since 1988



Nine days and nights of lantern wonder

Spectacular giant lanterns representing animal signs of the Chinese Zodiac will take over some of Sydney's most popular locations as part of next year's Sydney Chinese New Year Festival from 6–21 February.

A new program for the popular festival, 'Lunar Lanterns', will see lanterns standing multiple storeys high, located throughout the city from Circular Quay to Chinatown.

Groups from our Asian communities will be invited to perform and take part in activities at each lantern location over nine days and nights, celebrating and showcasing their cultures.

Lunar Lanterns will be the first exhibition of its kind in Australia. It will mark the 20th anniversary of the festival and its evolution from

a small community event to the largest Lunar New Year celebration outside China.

The festival will also include favourites like the Dragon Boat races, Lunar Feasts and more than 70 associated events. The festival now attracts more than 600,000 visitors, making it one of the most popular celebrations in Sydney's calendar.

Find out more about the City's great festivals and events at cityofsydney.nsw.gov.au/explore/places-to-go/events

Clover Moore
@CloverMoore



Australian Life exhibition in Hyde Park

The best of Australian Life

The City called on photographers from around the country to take a shot at one of the most popular photography competitions in Australia, and the finalists have now been announced.

Finalist images of football in the rain, a twilight swim, and diggers awaiting an Anzac Day march each capture Australian life in a different way.

As part of the City's Art & About festival,

Australian Life and Little Sydney Lives – our competition for youngsters – invited people to submit images that portray something unique about Australia's way of life.

The finalists' images will be blown up to bed-sheet size and shown in an outdoor exhibition in Hyde Park from 18 September–11 October.

To find out more about the competition and Art & About, visit artandabout.com.au

General enquiries and after hours assistance ☎ 02 9265 9333

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city of villages



Wear It Purple co-founders Scott Williams and Katherine Hudson.
Photo: Robert Knapman

HONOUR

Empowering LGBTI Youth

For establishing Wear It Purple, now a globally recognised gay youth suicide prevention initiative, co-founders Katherine Hudson and Scott Williams were recognised with Honour Awards, writes Lachlan Bennett.

US college student Tyler Clementi was just 18 when he took his own life after his roommate outed him using a webcam and Twitter. The tragic 2010 incident was followed by a string of high-profile gay youth suicides in America and soon reverberated across the globe after a passionate plea from talk show host Ellen DeGeneres.

"We knew that we as young people had to do something," says Katherine Hudson, co-founder of LGBTI youth suicide prevention campaign Wear it Purple.

"Katherine and I watched a YouTube clip of Ellen DeGeneres talking about this tragedy," adds Wear it Purple's other founder, Scott Williams. "We cried together, and then we came up with a plan for a day to celebrate and show support for young rainbow people."

At the time, 17-year-old Katherine was completing her HSC and Scott was in the middle of his first year studying law at Macquarie University.

Although they were young, the pair worked tirelessly to create what has become an internationally celebrated day of action that's now been endorsed by education departments across Australia, the NSW Parliament, and police and emergency services.

The premise is simple: one day of the year, people are encouraged to wear a purple item of clothing to show solidarity for LGBTI youth and raise awareness about the tragic consequences of bullying.

"I remember in the first year saying to

Scott if it was just us in purple on the day that'd be fine because at least someone was taking a stand for acceptance in schools," says Katherine. "But to think how far the organisation has come since 2010, I can't help but feel proud."

The widespread uptake and success of Wear it Purple saw Katherine and Scott win the Young Achiever Award at the 2013 Honour Awards.

The Honour Awards are an annual event celebrating the achievements and positive impact made by individuals, businesses and community organisations within or for the LGBTI community.

"When I was younger, I used to see the Honour Awards' recipients printed in *SX* every year and look up to them as leaders of our community," says Katherine.

"It's important to spend time celebrating the successes of those around us," adds Scott. "It's so quick and easy to nominate an unsung hero [for the Honour Awards] who is making a difference."

Five years since its inception, Scott and Katherine have taken a back seat in Wear it Purple so it can continue to be run by high school and university students.

"I think it's really important that the organisation is led by current high school students who know what it is to be LGBTIQ in school right now," says Katherine.

"It's a day and organisation for them, run by them," adds Scott.

Wear It Purple 2015 is on August 28. Go to wearitpurple.org.

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN: Know a young LGBTI person who deserves to be recognised for their contributions to, or achievements within, NSW's LGBTI community? Nominate them now for the Honour Awards. Nominations open until August 26. Go to honourawards.com.au. Winners will be announced at the 2015 Honour Awards on Wednesday, September 30, at Ivy Ballroom. Tickets \$85 per person (inc. Quality wines and beers, delicious canapés & entertainment). Book at honourawards.com.au.

LGBTI COMMUNITY AWARDS

HONOUR 15

The Honour Awards is an annual gala fundraising event for ACON and Aurora which acknowledges outstanding service to or achievement within NSW's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community.

NOMINATIONS NOW OPEN!

Help the good work in our community get the recognition it deserves! Nominate people or organisations in the following categories:

- Business
- Arts & Entertainment
- Media Award
- Visual Arts (\$1000 prize)
- Health & Wellbeing
- Community Organisation
- Young Achiever (<30years)
- Community Hero

Nominations close 5pm Wednesday 26 August 2015

SILENT AUCTION

As part of the evening, guests will be able to bid on a range of sensational silent auction items including fashion, beauty, entertainment, travel packages and unique experiences as well as an impressive range of art and homewares.

Promote your business to the LGBTI community by donating a product, service or experience. Visit the Honour Awards website to find out more.

CELEBRATE

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GLRL members and the 'Sea of Hearts' (above) and SX crew with staff from their local cafe, Locanda Olivetti, get behind 'Nation of Hearts' (main). Photos: supplied; James Scardino

COMMUNITY

#NationOfHearts



The NSW Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby is marking the tenth anniversary of their iconic 'Sea of Hearts' initiative with a new global campaign for the digital age.

Ten years ago, on Saturday, August 13, 2005, the NSW Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby placed a number of pink cardboard hearts at Victoria Park in Camperdown, protesting against the Howard Government's ban on same-sex marriage, which was enacted a year earlier.

The campaign would become known as the 'Sea of Hearts' and eventually serve as one of the most potent symbols of LGBTI activism and equality used by equal rights supporters in Sydney and around the world.

Julie McConnell was the GLRL co-convenor at the time and said during the campaign's launch a decade ago: "Last year's marriage ban was a statement based on discrimination and prejudice against lesbians and gay men; it was a statement which said that our love is not equal. We will be planting pink hearts to show that our relationships with each other, and with our children, are equal and deserve full legal equality."

A decade on, and McConnell's words are as potent as ever.

"We are deeply disappointed with the

decision of the Coalition party room to deny its members a free vote on marriage equality, to deny the will of the vast majority of Australians, and to deny LGBTI Australians their right to equality, dignity and respect," said current GLRL convenor Dr Justin Koonin.

To celebrate the tenth anniversary of the 'Sea of Hearts', and to introduce it to a new and technologically savvy generation, the GLRL are reviving the campaign as 'Nation of Hearts' – and are inviting people from all over Australia and around the world to take part.

"All Australians, as well as our friends around the world, are invited to participate in our 'Nation of Hearts' campaign," GLRL said in a statement.

"This can be done by downloading our Nation of Hearts image and following the instructions on the sheet.

"Once planted, take a photo of your heart with its individual message of love and upload to the 'Nation of Hearts' Facebook page, Instagram, Twitter or email us your photo and we will upload it to our cyberspace garden (which can be viewed using the hashtag #nationofhearts).

Dr Koonin said: "We hope that this campaign will celebrate the diversity of which we can be so proud, united behind the idea that our love is more important than our differences."

Download the 'Nation of Hearts' from the Facebook page: www.facebook.com/nationofhearts.

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beam8



So, ready to spice up your relationship? If you and your boyfriend want to make “two become fun” there are ways you can always start gingerly (read: baby steps!) because it need not be scary. Hot, sporty group sex is within reach ... some guys just need a little push in the right direction.

If you and your partner have been together for a while, perhaps you’ve started to picture sex with another guy. It may be one man in particular (the new guy at work, that barista with the neck tattoo) or it may just be any man that isn’t your partner (are you spending a little longer at the gym? Does your mind wander back to the change rooms when you and your partner fuck?).

Whichever way the thirst has come about, it must be quenched. So after chatting, you both agree that opening up your sex lives to include others is a healthy, fun way to enhance your primary relationship. So where does sexual health fit in this new picture?

BE A LITTLE BIT WISER, BABY: RELATIONSHIP AGREEMENTS

Mutually deciding on the particulars of your open relationship (including sexual health) is known as a “relationship agreement”. Some couples even keep it cute and even write this down, but if your boyfriend gets a Justice of the Peace involved to notarise it, you might not be “there” yet, trust-wise (unless you both then fuck the JP...).

A relationship agreement essentially just means you both are on the same page. Will you tell each other about the sex you’re having outside the relationship? Some guys find it hot, others don’t want to know about it.

Will you only fuck raw with each other, and use condoms for everyone else? Will you only ever cum in your boyfriend? For some guys that’s a safety thing, for others it’s because they are greedy bottoms and their boyfriend’s cum ‘belongs’ to them.

Will you not spend the night at another lover’s house? For some guys, the idea of our partners romantically spooning and having breakfast the next morning can be harder to process than them fucking someone else.

Opening up your sex lives to include other guys means increasing the possibility of HIV transmission or other STIs. This is not a reason to avoid it, but depending on your situation there are a few things you can do to manage that ménage à trois (quatre, cinq, six, sept, etc.).

CHECKUP

Tonight is the Night When Two Becomes Fun

Ready to open up your relationship? Nic Holas has some practical advice, with a little help from the Spice Girls.



LIKE I’VE NEVER NEEDED LOVE BEFORE: PLAYING TOGETHER

In this scenario, you and your partner have agreed to include others only when you’re both present. It can be very hot to watch your boyfriend with someone else, or have a new energy enter the bedroom (a sandwich ain’t a sandwich if it’s just two pieces of bread).

This is probably the easiest way to manage your sexual health in an open relationship, given you’re all in the same room. Questions can be asked, decisions made mutually, etc. Taking the step into group sex, condomless sex, or any array of diverse sexual practices, is done together.

This means that should any STIs manifest afterwards (whether you use condoms or not, remembering you can catch them wrapped or unwrapped) you both deal with them together.

I HAD A LITTLE LOVE, NOW I’M BACK FOR MORE: PLAYING SEPARATE

Playing separate can get a little more complicated, but not unnecessarily so. The idea of fucking someone outside the relationship without our partner present can be a hot, fulfilling, and intimate experience. Some people can’t get everything they need from one person, and sex outside the relationship can help us appreciate (and desire) our primary partner even more.

The risk of passing STIs on to each other and your “bonus” partners is no higher than if you were playing together, but it does mean you may need to be mindful of your partner when it comes to testing and disclosure.

If you’ve both agreed to be “safer” with others (whatever that means for you), you can build some protections around your relationship in relation to HIV and STIs – but remember there is no such thing as 100% safe.

If you test positive for an STI, or even HIV, the responsible course of action is to be honest with your partner and get them tested and treated, too. If you’re in it together, you’re in it together.

FREE YOUR MIND OF DOUBT AND DANGER: PLAYING ON MY MIND

While managing your sexual health in an open relationship is important, so too is your mental health. An ex and I would (almost) always tell each other about our “bonus” sex. I recall a little pang of heartache every single time he told me he’d fucked someone else. That moment of jealousy/possessiveness got better over time, but to me it was all part of the negotiation of our openness. I wasn’t prepared to not fuck other guys, and I wanted him to have the same freedom.

To get around any issues, we talked about it. A lot. However, I’m a talker (and a moaner FYI) – you might not be so verbose. Ask yourself why you don’t want to talk about it. Not wanting all the horny details is perfectly understandable. Not wanting to discuss how your open relationship affects you and your partner emotionally, less so.

In my experience a open relationship that just puts on the blinders and refuses to acknowledge a relationship’s “openness” in an adult, mature way may be headed for trouble, and could be opening up to find an exit rather than an enhancement.

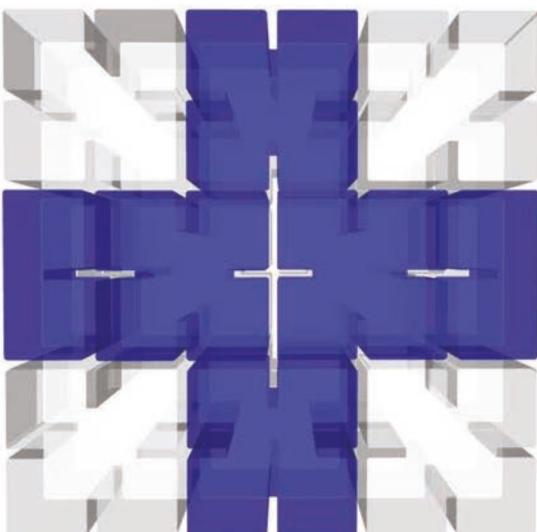
“Responsibility” is rarely an aphrodisiac, but when it comes to open relationships we have a few of them: to our own hearts, as well as our health. We also have a responsibility to do the same thing for our partners, although it’s a shared one – important to remember when navigating the fun, rewarding, completely acceptable world of open relationships.



Nic Holas is a writer focusing on living with HIV and the contemporary gay experience. He is the co-founder of

The Institute of Many (TIM), a social umbrella for HIV positive people. He is the contributing editor of CheckUp. Tweet him your feels: @nicheholas

CHECKUP
 For the latest HIV and LGBTI health stories from Australia and around the world, visit CheckUp: gaynewsnetwork.com.au/checkup/home.html



ARE YOU HIV POSITIVE AND NEVER TAKEN TREATMENT?

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BOYS BAR UP



Dancing Boys on the Bar

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Inside the 2015 Queer Screen Film Fest

Queer Screen has announced a total of 12 dynamic films for the 2015 Queer Screen Film Festival. Garrett Bithell takes a look.



BOULEVARD: OPENING NIGHT FILM: Robin Williams gives a stellar performance in his final dramatic role. Williams plays Nolan Mack, a man depressed with his monotonous life. After a near-miss accident, Nolan meets a beautiful young man, sex worker Leo, leading to an unexpected sexual awakening. *Tuesday 22 September, 7pm, Event Cinemas George Street*



FREEHELD: CLOSING NIGHT FILM: Based on a true story that made headlines in 2007, *Freeheld* stars Julianne Moore as Detective Laurel Hester, whose world is shattered when she becomes terminally ill and government officials prevent her from assigning her pension to her partner (Ellen Page). *Sunday 27 September, 6pm, Event Cinemas George Street*



CUT SNAKE: A smashing film from Tony Ayres (Teddy Award winner *Walking on Water and The Slap*), *Cut Snake* asks the question: how far would you go to get rid of the past? Set in 1974, *Cut Snake* is so much more than your typical Aussie crime thriller. *Wednesday 23 September, 7pm, Event Cinemas George Street*



GRANDMA: Cranky poet Elle (Lily Tomlin) has just been dumped by her girlfriend. Sage (Julia Garner), Elle's granddaughter, has no money to pay for an abortion her mother can't know about. When Sage shows up on her grandmother's doorstep, the two embark on a journey across L.A. *Thursday 24 September, 7pm, Event Cinemas George Street*



THE FOXY MERKINS: From the team behind the much-loved *Co-dependent Lesbian Space Alien Seeks Same* comes their next comedy *The Foxy Merkins*. A delightfully absurd buddy movie that premiered at Sundance and was nominated for an Independent Spirit Award, *The Foxy Merkins* pays homage to, and makes fun of, iconic male hustler movies. *Friday 25 September, 6.30pm, Event Cinemas George Street*



GUIDANCE: A drunk, deadbeat child actor pretending to be a high school guidance counsellor, Pat Mills' debut as writer-director-star is a recipe for a hilariously bubbly film that will send audiences into hysterics. An audience's favourite at the Toronto Film Festival, *Guidance* tackles the corrupt-the-youth comedy with a character that is surprisingly warm and amusing. *Friday 25 September, 6.45pm, Event Cinemas George Street*



MIXED SHORTS: *Mixed Shorts*, Queer Screen's popular collection of international short films, returns for another round of outrageous comedies, quality drama, and entertaining documentaries. This collection includes the best of gay, lesbian and trans shorts selected from over 100 submissions. The package includes *Followers*, the Iris Prize produced short film by Australia's Tim Marshall. *Friday 25 September, 8.30pm, Event Cinemas George Street*



A SINNER IN MECCA: The gripping new documentary by Parvez Sharma (*A Jihad for Love*) follows his devotional pilgrim to Mecca, in Saudi Arabia, as he explores his complicated relationship with Islam and whether someone gay like him can be a 'good' Muslim. Sharma takes the audience into uncharted scenes of sacred mosques and ceremonial sacrifices, defying bans on photography. *Saturday 26 September, 1pm, Event Cinemas George Street*



MARGARITA, WITH A STRAW: Laila is a talented writer who is wheelchair bound with cerebral palsy, but although society may treat her differently she never lets it get in the way as she strives to find love, success and a fulfilled life. Winner of the Audience Award at Frameline, *Margarita, with a Straw* is a story so rarely seen on screen. *Saturday 26 September, 3pm, Event Cinemas George Street*



TAB HUNTER CONFIDENTIAL: In 1950s Hollywood, Tab Hunter is number one at the box office and the music charts. He has the world and a sea of screaming girls at his feet, but Tab Hunter has a secret. This tell-all documentary from *I am Divine* and *Vito* director Jeffrey Schwarz is a fascinating look behind old Hollywood. *Saturday 26 September, 6.30pm, Event Cinemas George Street*



IN THE GRAYSCALE: Bruno seems to have the perfect life: outrageously handsome, a successful architect, married with a son, living a privileged life in Santiago de Chile. His world is turned upside down when he meets the vibrant Fernando, a tourist guide assigned to help him on a new architecture project. *Saturday 26 September, 8.30pm, Event Cinemas George Street*



KATE BORNSTEIN IS A QUEER AND PLEASANT DANGER: Kate Bornstein has been a pioneer in deconstructing gender, a trailblazing artist and activist, and a self-titled "gender outlaw" for many years. Now, in a playful and wickedly fun documentary, we witness firsthand the whirlwind life of this polarizing figure. *Sunday 27 September, 3pm, Event Cinemas George Street*

Opening with Robin Williams's final dramatic performance in *Boulevard*, and closing with Julianne Moore and Ellen Page in *Freeheld*, the 2015 Queer Screen Film Festival will be one to remember. There are several Australian premiere screenings, an Australian showcase presentation of a new LGBTI film by Tony Ayres, and the best queer documentaries from around the world. Also returning is their popular *Mixed Shorts* package led by Australian Tim Marshall's Iris Prize collaboration, *Followers*, which screened at Sundance earlier this year.

QUEER SCREEN FILM FESTIVAL
September 22 – 27
Event Cinemas George Street
www.queerscreen.org.au



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Email chickswithpicks.sydney@gmail.com to register.

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COVER

Here For Health

30 years ago this week on August 18, ACON was officially set up by our community to fight HIV and AIDS. Reg Domingo speaks to some of the figures who have guided the development of the key community organisation over the last three decades.



ACON's first general meeting in 1985, to discuss its incorporation, began cordially enough. Pleasantries were exchanged, hands were shook. Inside the NSW Teachers Federation in Surry Hills, there was an air of optimism. But the civility did not last long. As Bill Whittaker remembers it, proceedings swiftly took a sharp turn.

"It was a really complex and at times torturous meeting with arguments over the various intricacies of the constitution," Whittaker recalls. Voices were raised and feet were stomped on the auditorium floor. "It didn't leave a sense of tremendous progress. It left you wondering what exactly would happen with this organisation because it was trying to bring together some quite disparate elements."

But it was precisely this passion, diversity and enthusiasm that would urge the organisation to life – and sustain it for years to come.

Now, three decades on, ACON is the largest community-based LGBTI health and wellbeing agency in Australia. It is the leading HIV prevention and HIV support organisation in New South Wales, which is home to the largest number of people living with HIV in the country. ACON operates in Sydney and five regional locations in NSW, and it provides services statewide in the areas of sexual health, mental health, safety and inclusion, alcohol and other drugs, LGBTI ageing, diversity training, policy and research.

"The early years were predictably difficult but the organisation has just grown over the past 30 years," Whittaker, a former ACON CEO, says.

"The modern ACON of today is, I think, a great organisation, and I'm certainly proud to have been part of that history, which has included so many great people over the years."

BORN OUT OF CRISIS

"ACON was formed in 1985 by gay men and their friends at the height of public concern and hysteria about AIDS," Whittaker tells SX. "Prevention programs were sporadic, treatment and care services were struggling to cope. Few governments were taking the epidemic seriously and there was very little funding. Human rights of gay men and people living with the virus were under attack."

A cloud of uncertainty shrouded Sydney and many feared this new disease would wipe out the gay community.

"Gay men and others affected by AIDS needed a rallying point – they needed an organisation that would fight for their rights and for their lives," Whittaker says. "ACON was formed for that purpose."

OVERVIEW

A BRIEF HISTORY OF ACON

1985

The AIDS Council of NSW (ACON) is established by community members concerned about the HIV/AIDS crisis. The opening of a Sydney office is soon followed by offices in Lismore, Newcastle and Wollongong.

1994/5

AIDS-related deaths in NSW peak with up to 400 people dying from an AIDS-related illness and up to 500 being diagnosed with HIV each year.

1996

The development of antiretroviral treatment (ART) stops people dying from AIDS and changes HIV to a chronic manageable illness. ACON and other agencies develop new services to support people to live long term with HIV.

2000

ACON expands to become an LGBT health organisation while maintaining a core focus on HIV prevention and HIV support.

2007

Following extensive community consultation, ACON officially changes its name from the AIDS Council of NSW to just ACON to highlight an increasing focus on LGBT health.

2013

On the back of advances in HIV testing and treatment, the NSW Government launches a strategy to virtually eliminate HIV in NSW by 2020. ACON launches its award-winning Ending HIV initiative and starts setting up its a[TEST] rapid testing centres across NSW. ACON also officially starts responding to intersex issues and becomes an LGBTI health organisation.



HERE FOR HEALTH FOR 30 YEARS

Bobby Goldsmith Foundation (BGF) celebrate with ACON their 30th year supporting the health of LGBTI communities and people living with HIV.

BGF are proud of our long and productive association with ACON. The work ACON does has been innovative, influential and game changing.

Here's to thirty more years!



From the outset, ACON – then known as the AIDS Council of New South Wales – hit the ground running with the late Lex Watson, who was its first president, at the helm and later Whittaker, who joined the organisation as its first CEO in 1986.

Their first priority? “To get the resources required to deal with HIV prevention, and care and treatment for people with HIV and those at risk, and to get information out and to rally people together,” Whittaker says. “We grew the organisation very quickly and that was important to do because dealing with an epidemic, you can’t wait for the resources to educate, inform, galvanise people and look after people who were sick. All those things had to be built.”

And indeed, build ACON they did.

Over time, they reached out to the state and federal governments and secured funding for more staff, better programs and improved services. Importantly, they built bridges to all political parties, laying the foundations for a bi-partisan approach to AIDS – an approach that continues to this very day.

They launched public campaigns to educate the gay community in the wake of growing public hysteria, and assist the NSW response to HIV transmission, targeting bars, clubs, sex-on-premises venues and the gay media. It’s an area ACON eventually mastered, delivering ground-breaking HIV and STI prevention campaigns for the next three decades.

They built support programs to help improve the health and wellbeing of gay men and people living with HIV, as well as care for those who were sick and dying. These programs laid the foundation for future initiatives and projects, some of which are still running today in various forms.

They formed a strong advocacy and policy base to help achieve better outcomes – a commitment that is as strong as ever amongst current ACON management.

And they helped set up organisations that assisted other sections within the community, including PLWHA – now Positive Life – and SWOP (Sex Workers Outreach Project). ACON today continues to empower other community groups and offer support.

Public health expert Bill Bowtell, a senior advisor to Federal Health Minister Neal Blewitt at the time, developed Australia’s partnership response to HIV. ACON, he says, played a vital role in that framework.

“The people and personalities who were instrumental in the founding of ACON, people like Lex Watson, Bill Whittaker,



Don Baxter – many of them were simply outstanding,” Bowtell tells SX. “They were the people who shaped and organised the community response to HIV at a very serious, depressing and horrible time.

“They were certainly extremely well-organised and they had a clear set of goals they wanted to achieve and needed to be done.”

Whittaker says it was “frightening, exhausting, energising, challenging, rewarding and an absolute privilege to lead a brilliant and extraordinarily gutsy team”.

“I had great support from board members like Don Baxter, David Buchanan and Lex Watson.”

By the time Whittaker left in 1990, ACON had over 70 staff and three branches. From rocky beginnings, ACON, it seemed, had finally hit its stride.

‘ONE JUST HAD TO PUSH ON’

But despite the momentum, the late 1980s and early 1990s were also periods of immense sorrow and grief, brought on by the deaths of loved ones and friends to AIDS-related illnesses.

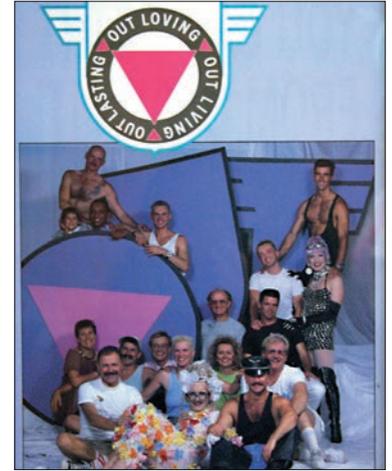
“The hard thing was because there were no treatments, people were getting sick and I lost a lot of my staff over the years and that was really, really hard,” Whittaker says. “They were great people.”

Rolf Petherbridge was ACON president from 1990 to 1991. “Dealing with death and decline was an almost daily challenge,” he says. “For many, normal emotions were an indulgence one could not allow oneself. One just had to push on.”

The brutal reality of AIDS struck Petherbridge particularly hard after a visit to a health workshop in the US. He arrived home two weeks later to discover four of his close friends had passed away.

And so for Petherbridge and many others, ACON became a pillar of comfort and a shoulder to cry on. The organisation spearheaded vigils, held candlelight memorials and did what it could to help ease the pain. Along with the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation, CSN, Ankali and others, ACON provided much-needed solace, emotional support and practical assistance.

Yet, in the midst of the suffering, scientific progress was being made and new



treatments were starting to emerge. A new health revolution beckoned.

For Levinia Crooks, ACON president between 1988 and 1989 and later from 1991 to 1992, it was a time of hope. She says one of the greatest achievements during her presidency was “making the shift from ‘in the absence of there being any treatment or cure for HIV, then everyone should assume they are positive and practice safe sex’, through to ‘there are emerging treatments for opportunistic infections and HIV and as such we are now changing our position to one where people should test for HIV, monitor their health and make use of emerging treatments.’”

CHRONIC MANAGEABLE CONDITION

And so the advent of combination therapies in the mid-90s heralded a new phase for ACON as HIV began to shift from a ‘death sentence’ to a chronic manageable condition. The pressing issue for the organisation now was getting those drugs to those who needed them most.

Bruce Meagher was president of ACON from 1994 to 1996, a time, he recalls, “of great change and challenge for the community”.

“It was at the pivotal point when combination therapies were producing positive results in trials but were not yet widely available,” Meagher says. “Getting access to these drugs at affordable prices and educating people living with HIV/AIDS in their effective use was a significant challenge but clearly one that was ultimately successful.”

As people living with HIV started taking the new treatment regimes, and their health and wellbeing began to change for the better, so too did ACON’s programs

Image courtesy of ACON

To the ACON Staff and Volunteers,

Stonewall Hotel would like to thank and congratulate ACON for 30 years of services to the LGBTI community.

STONEWALL
175 Oxford St. Darlinghurst www.stonewallhotel.com

and campaigns. It was at this point, the organisation began to talk more about HIV not just in the context of sex, but also in relation to relationships, mental health, alcohol and drugs, and other lifestyle factors.

“Change is a great challenge to any organisation – responding to changes in the shape of the epidemic and changes in its communities was ACON’s greatest challenge, in my view, at the time,” says David Stone, the president of ACON from 1998 to 2000. “Improved therapies meant significant improvements in the health and wellbeing of many living with HIV, but they also brought new challenges around engaging our communities in education campaigns, and different support needs for some in our communities.”

In response, ACON began to broaden its purview and in 2000, after a wide-ranging consultation process, the organisation adapted a more holistic approach and became the ACON we know today – an LGBTI health organisation with a central focus on HIV/AIDS.

This modus operandi has enabled ACON to deliver positive health outcomes across all sections of the community – not just for gay men and people living with HIV, but also lesbian, and bisexual, transgender and intersex people.

ACON expanded its remit to other areas and started to look at how they impact HIV. These included developing new programs in community safety and anti-violence, diversity and inclusion, alcohol and drugs, anti-discrimination, women’s health, mental health and the health of sex and gender



diverse people. These ACON programs are now as vital to the community as are ACON’s ongoing efforts in HIV prevention, which today is in its most crucial stage.

“Thirty years later we now have the tools to end HIV by 2020,” says current ACON President Mark Orr.

ACON AND THE FUTURE

So where to now for ACON?

“In 2013, we launched our multi award winning Ending HIV campaign and framework, which refocusses efforts to dramatically drive down the number of new HIV infections by getting gay men to test

more, treat early and stay safe,” Orr says.

“We are making significant progress to achieving this ambitious goal with more gay men testing than ever before, over 90 percent men on treatment, and the majority of gay men using condoms.

“To help secure this goal, gay men need access to the full range of prevention options such as pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP), which has played a pivotal role in driving down new HIV infection rates in San Francisco. Securing ready access to PrEP is currently a major advocacy issue for ACON,” Orr said.

“And of course, alongside the significant momentum that has taken place with HIV,

ACON has continued to develop and expand our skills and expertise in working in broader LGBTI health. Since 2000, ACON’s focus on broader LGBTI health issues, including how they impact on HIV, have become more tailored and sophisticated in terms of our advocacy and service delivery across areas such as alcohol and other drugs, mental health, community safety, domestic and family violence, and workplace equality.

“As our new tagline states, ACON is here for health. Ending HIV and LGBTI health issues are, and will remain, our key areas of focus,” Orr says.

Asked if the organisation he helped build is headed in the right direction, ACON’s first CEO Bill Whittaker replies: “I think it’s not headed in the right direction, IT IS in the right direction”.

“ACON is fantastic to work with including current president Mark Orr and his board members, and CEO Nic Parkhill and the team,” Whittaker adds. “I’m really impressed with how the organisation is at the cutting edge of prevention and treatment and getting the message out to gay men in particular, empowering them with knowledge and access to treatment and testing and services. We want to end HIV transmission by 2020. It’s a tough journey but I see absolute determination in ACON to realise that goal.”

ACON celebrate its 30th anniversary at NSW Parliament House on Tuesday, August 18.

Visit ACON at acon.org.au.

Images courtesy of ACON



On behalf of Marrickville Council, I want to thank ACON for 30 years of tirelessly advocating for and promoting lifelong health of all LGBTIQ community members.

Thank you ACON for achieving what is universally regarded as one of the most successful responses to HIV/AIDS anywhere in the world, and then evolving into an organisation that now is so effective in improving general health and wellbeing.

To everyone in our LGBTIQ communities, know that Marrickville Council is your friend and supporter.

**Mayor of Marrickville
Councillor Mark Gardiner**

Marrickville Council is proud to be at the forefront of celebrating and embracing inclusivity and diversity.

In 2010, Marrickville was one of the first Councils to adopt the principle of marriage equality. We have since reaffirmed this commitment and have called on all political parties to support this basic right for all Australian citizens.



**MARRICKVILLE
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HERE FOR HEALTH FOR 30 YEARS

We congratulate ACON on this significant milestone and we are forever grateful for ACON's initiatives in our community, including the Anti-Violence Project, Fair Play and Fun & Esteem.

Kudos to ACON for its advocacy and support for our wonderful community.

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Events



THEATRE

THE OLD FITZ NEEDS YOUR HELP

The Old Fitz Theatre is a treasure for audiences and artists in Sydney. Although the new artistic management, Red Line Productions, has already brought the energy back to the hallowed building, it's a tough ask to cover the costs involved in delivering independent theatre of the highest quality. So, on Saturday August

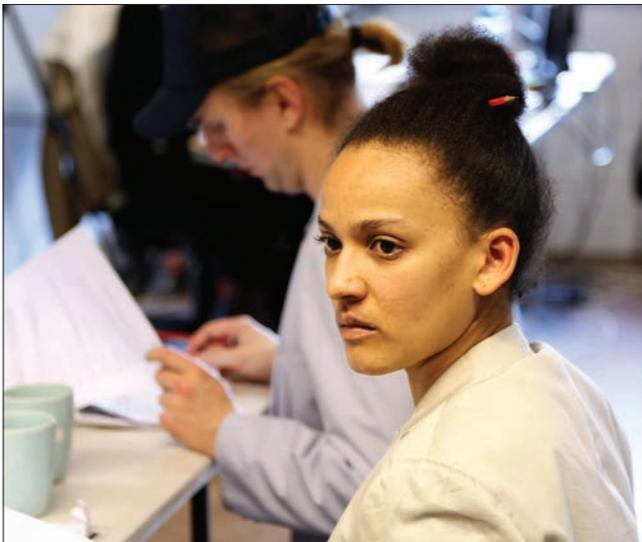
22, the Old Fitz will be buzzing with exciting talent in the hopes of enticing supporters along to help raise money to keep the legendary venue alive. Seven one-hour sessions of theatre will be staged back-to-back in the theatre space, while canapés and drinks will be served in the upstairs bar. There'll be plenty of raffles and prizes on

offer too. All entertainment on the day will be of high quality and will include many local community arts organisations and individuals. Every dollar raised will contribute to the future of Red Line Productions – comprising Sean Hawkins, Andrew Henry and Vanessa Wright (pictured) – ensuring they continue the important work they are contributing to the Australian arts scene.

Also on the day, the upstairs box office will be officially named after much-loved actor Mark Priestly, who passed away after a battle with depression in 2008. Priestly began his career at the Old Fitz, working onstage and behind the bar before establishing a successful film and television career.

Since taking over the management of the legendary pub theatre, Red Line Productions have provided more than 100 artists the opportunity to practice their craft across over 25 productions, many receiving critical and audience acclaim.

Saturday, August 22, 2-10pm, \$20 per session, \$100 for Supporter's Lounge access (including canapés and drinks). Info at www.oldfitztheatre.com



BELVOIR: LA TRAVIATA

Melbourne theatre stars Sisters Grimm, aka Declan Greene and Ash Flanders, plunder the canon with one eye on mischief and the other on a necessary argument. Once the serial numbers are scratched off, their stolen goods are smelted into smart, anarchic comedies that question the world we live in. Their next production puts epic Romantic opera *La Traviata* into the smallest theatre in Sydney, downstairs Belvoir, with a cast comprising Flanders, Emma Maye Gibson, Michael Lewis and Zindzi Okenyo (pictured). **August 27 – September 20, downstairs Belvoir, Surry Hills, www.belvoir.com.au**

PARTIES

MORE WEEKEND HIGHLIGHTS



THE SHIFT CLUB: A new night at the Shift Club aims to take us back to how the strip used to be. A return of Oxford Street in the 90s in all its former glory, when clubs and bars like The Midnight Shift, DCM, The Flinders, The Barracks, The Oxford and Gilligan's reigned supreme – well before dating apps, smartphones, streaming media or the internet became mainstream. Tunes like it used to be, shows like it used to be, people like it used to be. Step back in time for this very special night at the Shift Club. With DJs Drew Koning and Louie Diamond, and shows from Penny Clifford. **Saturday, August 22 from 9pm, Shift Club, Darlinghurst.**



TROUGH X RETURNS TO SYDNEY: It's one of the most infamous parties on Melbourne's queer scene, and now it's winging its way north to Sydney for a second time – this time at the Arthouse Hotel. Since 2005, Trough has been serving underground techno vibes to a wide assortment of gays who want something a little less usual from their weekend trashbaggery, and a decade later, it's still attracting locals, curious clubbers, and more than a few out-of-towners who put in for a long weekend, book their tickets and head south to see what all the fuss is about. There will be nonsensical decorations, video screens and inflatable penises, as well as a top line-up of DJs comprising Stereogamous (Jonny Seymour and Paul Mac), Kiti, Amanda Louise and L'Oasis DJs. **Saturday, August 22, 10pm – 5am, Arthouse Hotel, Sydney, troughsydney.iwannaticket.com.au**

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Freeheld starring Julianne Moore and Ellen Page



Grandma

Thursday 24 September 7pm

Cranky poet Elle (Lily Tomlin) has just been dumped by her girlfriend. Meanwhile Sage, Elle's granddaughter, has no money to pay for an abortion. Sage shows up on her grandmother's doorstep, and they embark on a life-changing journey across L.A.



Mixed Shorts

Friday 25 September 8.30pm

Mixed Shorts, our popular collection of international short films features outrageous comedies, quality dramas, and entertaining documentaries. This collection includes the best gay, lesbian and trans shorts, including *Followers*, the Iris Prize produced short film by Australia's Tim Marshall.



In the Grayscale

Saturday 26 September 8.30pm

Bruno seems to have the perfect life; outrageously handsome, a successful architect, married with a son, living a privileged life in Santiago de Chile. His world is turned upside down when he meets the vibrant Fernando. A beautifully shot, sensual and tender drama.

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PHOTOS: ROD SPARK



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PHOTOS: REG DOMINGO



HIV AND THE MAN

HOW HIV HAS SHAPED THE LIVES OF GAY MEN

Date & Time

**Wednesday 2 September, 2015
6:30pm**

Location

**Gingers, Lv 1, Oxford Hotel
134 Oxford St, Darlinghurst**

RSVP

1/9/2015

www.acon.org.au/HIVandthemanforum

PHOTO: Tim Conigrave & John Caleo, early 1980's

Holding The Man, one of our community's most cherished love stories, is now a major new Australian film.

Based on the much loved memoir of former ACON HIV educator Timothy Conigrave, it provides a compelling personal insight into the devastating impact of HIV and AIDS during the early years of the epidemic.

We've come a long way from those dark days, with the potential now to end HIV transmission in NSW by 2020.

What can we learn from the past as we move towards an HIV free future? What does it mean these days to be a gay man with HIV compared to 20 years ago? And how can we continue to honour and celebrate the memory of our lost loved ones in a post-AIDS Australia?

Join *Holding The Man* screenwriter Tommy Murphy, writer and HIV activist Nic Holas and a panel of gay men and HIV advocates at this special FREE community forum as we go back to the future to explore how HIV has affected the lives of gay men.

Light refreshments will be served after the forum.

$$\left[\begin{matrix} \text{TEST} \\ \text{MORE} \end{matrix} \right] + \left[\begin{matrix} \text{TREAT} \\ \text{EARLY} \end{matrix} \right] + \left[\begin{matrix} \text{STAY} \\ \text{SAFE} \end{matrix} \right] = \left[\begin{matrix} \text{ENDING} \\ \text{HIV} \end{matrix} \right]$$

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PHOTOS: MARK DICKSON

TRANSISTERS: MIDNIGHT SHIFT

PHOTOS: HAMID MOUSA



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Fit & Pretty



TATTOO BE GONE!

Badly scarred after a boozed-up trip to a tattoo parlour at 3 in the morning? Head to Undo.

Undo Laser Tattoo Removal in Newtown is undoubtedly the cleanest and largest clinic facility in the inner west. Featuring state of the art facilities and equipment, our laser machine is the world renowned Medlite C6, the gold standard in tattoo removal. It is combined with the best technology in cooling devices from the USA, the Zimmer. The Zimmer's function is to cool the skin before, during and after laser tattoo removal to achieve numbing and minimize thermal damage to the surrounding tissue.

Undo Laser Tattoo Removal's senior laser therapist, Irene, has a solid background in aesthetics and skin biology. She says, "Our first and foremost priority is the safety and health of our client's skin. To date, we've been able to achieve realistic goals in laser tattoo removal without blistering, scarring or tissue damage."

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tattoo ink is recognised by your body as a foreign substance. As soon as the ink was put into your skin your body was trying to get rid of it, but the ink molecules were simply too large for your body to process. It's like a human trying to take a bite out of an elephant. Laser breaks down the ink particles so that your macrophages can come along like little pac-men and gobble up those ink particles.

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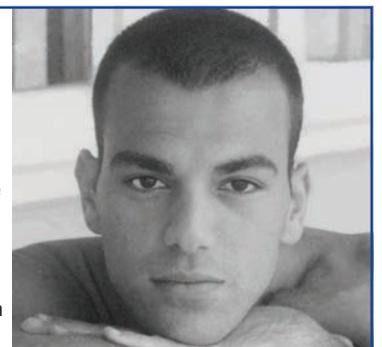
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this accomplished recipe and is aimed at buyers who want a more engaging and driver focussed warm hatch with sharper handling, more aggressive looks and more power.

The Suzuki Swift Sport is available in a single specification level and buyers have the choice of two transmissions: a six-speed manual and a CVT automatic with seven steps and steering wheel mounted paddles. The manual version is priced from \$24,490 plus on roads and the CVT version as

tested here is priced from \$26,490 plus associated government charges.

Swift Sport highlights include a 1.6 litre engine from the Suzuki S-Cross (ordinary Swift models utilise a 1.4), sports seats, single zone climate control, smart key with push button start, satellite navigation, 17inch alloy wheels, four-wheel disc brakes, sports suspension, distinctive head and tail lights, bespoke front and rear bumpers and sports seats.

WHAT WE LIKE:

- Accurate and engaging handling
- Eager engine
- Bucket seats
- Sports styling

NOT SO MUCH:

- Strange speedometer intervals
- No parking sensors or reversing camera
- CVT can be a little slurred
- Should be a couple of grand cheaper

SPECIFICATIONS

Make and model: Suzuki Swift Sport
Engine type: 1586cc inline four cylinder with DOHC, four valves per cylinder and variable valve timing
Power: 100kW @ 6900rpm
Torque: 160Nm @ 4400rpm
Transmission: Seven step constantly variable (CVT) transmission with front-wheel drive
Fuel consumption: 6.1 litres per 100 kilometres
Dimensions: 3850mm long, 1695mm wide, 1510mm high and 2430mm wheelbase
Weight: 1075kg
Suspension: Front: Macpherson strut
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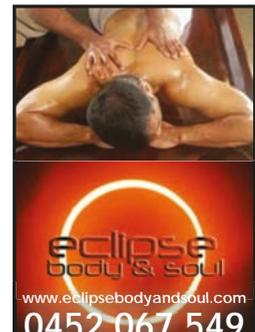
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SHORT STREET CENTRE	KOGARAH	13:00-16:30	15:30-19:30	9:00-12:00	9:00-12:00	9:00-12:00			9113 2742
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Stars

STEPHEN DEVINE

ARIES 21 MAR – 20 APR

You may be experiencing the tendency to overanalyse your actions. It is therefore important that you do not act in haste otherwise regrets are likely to occur. Have faith in your ability to make the right decisions and believe in your luck.

TAURUS 21 APR – 21 MAY

Hopefully you have been building a solid base for future expansion. The stars are encouraging you to stand up and be noticed so make sure that you are ready both physically and mentally for public scrutiny. Don't allow good offers to pass you by.

GEMINI 22 MAY – 21 JUN

Thanks to Jupiter, you have entered a stage where you are discovering a few home truths. Celebrate your talents and abilities and be proud of your background and where you come from. Talk to others about your experiences.

CANCER 22 JUN – 22 JUL

Financial and domestic concerns will be much on your mind. It is important that you think deeply about any problems in these areas as Venus' placement signifies that you will eventually find the right solutions. Be patient!

LEO 23 JUL – 23 AUG

You are probably torn between living in the moment and being concerned about your responsibilities. Realise, that with the right planning, luck is on your side so you can dare to be a little adventurous, even wild! Just don't go too far.

VIRGO 24 AUG – 22 SEPT

Hopefully you are beginning to realise what direction you need to head in and where changes need to be made. Take your time as your path will become clearer in the months ahead. Remember to keep your mind and your options open.

LIBRA 23 SEPT – 22 OCT

The quirky side of your nature may come to the fore, as you'll be interested in personal, less mainstream, pursuits. You will be reflecting on your past and contemplating the future. Celebrate your successes and learn from your mistakes.

SCORPIO 23 OCT – 21 NOV

Don't allow financial ambitions and social recognition to rule your world. Spend some time with your friends and indulge in your favourite pastimes. Think carefully about what really makes you happy and act upon this information.

SAGITTARIUS 22 NOV – 21 DEC

Be aware of what you are capable of. Refuse to be held back by past experiences or present circumstances. Jupiter will assist you to visualise successes and help you to be motivated for fresh challenges. Remain optimistic!

CAPRICORN 22 DEC – 20 JAN

Saturn is granting you one last chance to repair significant friendships. Opportunities to pursue a new direction should also not be ignored. If you decide to turn your back on this advice then please do not feel sorry for yourself. Be in control.

AQUARIUS 21 JAN – 19 FEB

Take heed of that old song title 'You Can't Hurry Love'. Venus' retrograde motion is causing you to think about what you want out of relationships and what your standards are. Look to your past for answers. Your financial position should improve.

PISCES 20 FEB – 20 MARCH

This week you are likely to see saw between the practical and the romantic. Mars is encouraging you to be gung ho while Mercury and Jupiter are suggesting that you adopt a softer approach. It is this latter attitude that will bring the most success.



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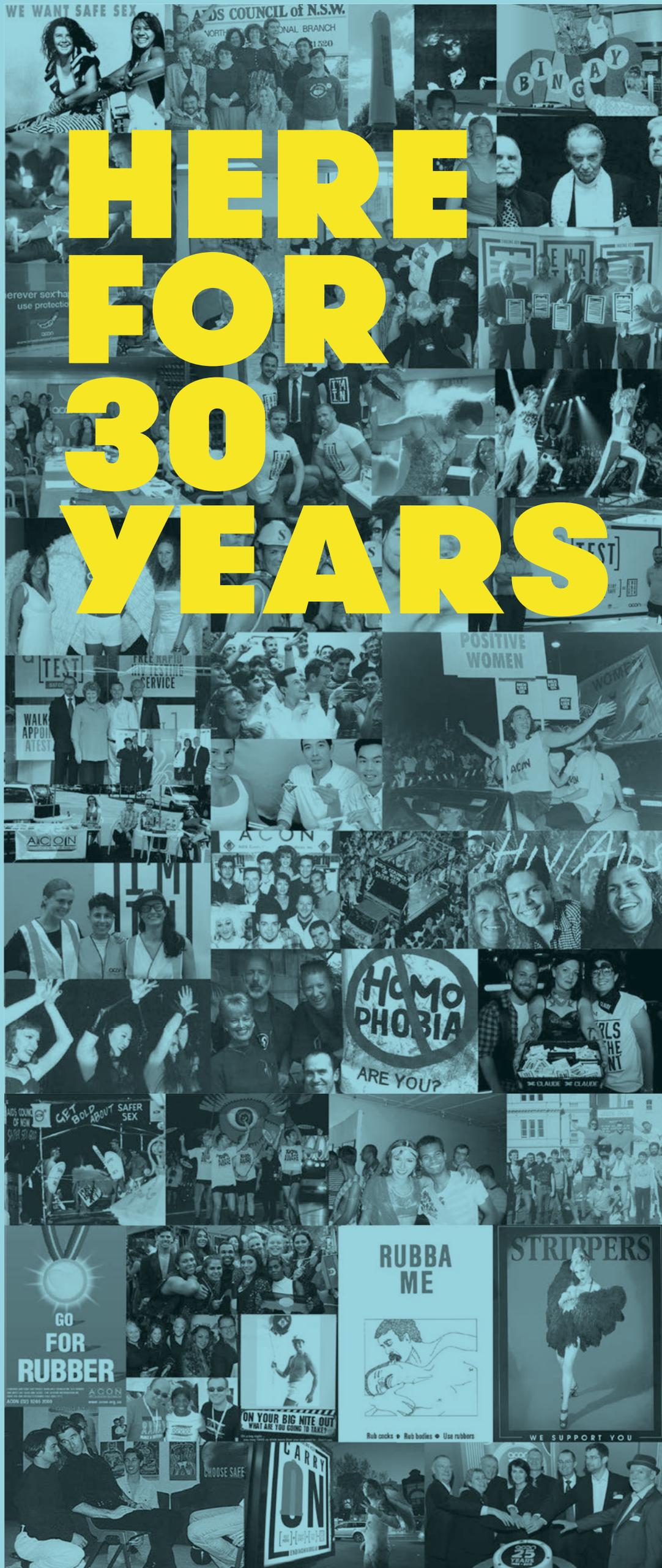
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Since 1985, we've been here to help people in our community take control of their health.

It's been an incredible journey and we'd like to thank the thousands of people and organisations which have contributed to or participated in ACON's work over the years.

To our staff, boards, members, volunteers and supporters, we thank you for your time, effort, expertise and care.

To all our organisational stakeholders – especially successive NSW governments, NSW Health, Positive Life NSW, researchers and clinicians – we thank you for your remarkable and committed collaboration.

And finally to our clients and community members, thank you for caring for each other and working with us to end HIV transmission, support people with HIV and improve the health of LGBTI people.

We're ACON – we're here for you and we're here for health.



HERE FOR HEALTH FOR 30 YEARS