



Defence LGBTI Information Service Incorporated
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Hello All

As we near the end of the financial year, I thought that it was important that we here at DEFGLIS share some of the amazing things that have occurred this year thus far and engage with our community on the things that they can look forward to in the second half of the year.

The board have been extremely busy working behind the scenes to deliver a community that engages well, delivers on outputs and meets the needs that are expressed by you. To those with a keen eye you would have seen the change in the logo to include the colours of the progressive pride flag, this will be emulated through all of our marketing and advertising material. We are very excited to have this change as we believe it immediately displays a connection to our community and provides a safe and supportive space to reach into.

Family and Social

In 2022 we have seen the continued support to the Sydney family day held at Ragging waters, we are hoping that this will continue and become bigger and better. Melbourne and Sydney community members have cashed in on the \$500 social event package sponsored by DEFGLIS, with all other Capital cities and Regionals on request are yet to get in on. I encourage local DEFGLIS members in these areas to build the networks and DEFGLIS will support a networking event to the value of \$500. These are great incentives to come together and build a strong, supportive and engaging community.

Our mission is to build to support our community through peer programs, networking education and advocacy. We cannot do this in isolation and we ask that if you are keen and have a couple of hours spare in a month then reach into the amazing board and get something planned. DEFGLIS has made many connections over the past couple of months that can assist us with planning activities, event spaces and meeting rooms so any ideas you may have put them forward and we will link you in for amazing opportunities of connection.

DEFGLIS attended its first stall holder invitation to a DMFS event held at Taronga Zoo. This was a great opportunity to network and be an open part of the Defence community. Whilst there I was able to connect with RSL Care, Defence Bank, DMFS, DFM, NSW Health. All of these connections will be vital as DEFGLIS moves to establish support hub across the Nation on and around all of our bases, establishments and squadrons.



Defence
Bank

ANZAC Day

Let's talk ANZAC Day and the rainbow Wreath Project, this year we saw an amazing level of support not provided before from Wagga Wagga memorial, Canberra Memorial and The Shrine in Melbourne. This year DEFGLIS worked closely with the Shrine of Melbourne and you can read more about that later. DEFGLIS also saw representation in Adelaide, Hobart, Brisbane, Sydney, Perth and Ballarat. This project is very close to all our hearts and it is a time where we can stop, reflect and pay the respects to our LGBTIQA community members past and present.

As part of the ANZAC Day spirit I was invited to be the guest speaker for the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Business Association (SGLBA) at their monthly "Fruits in Suits" evening. This was an excellent opportunity to network with community members in the Sydney area and build connections. DEFGLIS was well received for the night and I have to say thanks to the individuals that donated to DEFGLIS, these donations allow us to give back to the community and provide opportunities that spread well beyond the major cities.



DEFGLIS and Defence Bank have partnered for the next 2 years to deliver the Rainbow Wreath Project, what this does is allows us to expand across all Capital Cities and into those more Rural areas where we have a great level of community support and presence. I look forward to how this grows and delivers for 2023 on the back end of what will be a very successful Worldpride 2023. DEFGLIS would like to extend our thanks to Michael and his team at Defence Bank for seeing the value in our project and supporting us into the future.



Mardi Gras

This year we saw for the first time the ADF contingent march in Mardi Gras wearing ceremonial uniform and medals to highlight the pride and inclusion felt by all. We marched to the beating drums of the Army Drum Corp and paraded the National Flags of Australia, Aboriginal First Nations and the Torres Strait Island National Flag. Signifying our commitment to amplify, support, empower people from all diverse backgrounds and people representing all Diverse, Sex, Sexuality and Gender in this year's parade. The ADF were again supported by the DEFGLIS contingent that expressed themselves to the choreography of Vince Chong and Nikki Rosendell. The colour of purple stood out and shone bright with glitter, lights and movement. I would like to personally express my thanks to the ADF contingent lead by GPCAPT Jenson who paraded us to the centre where we needed to mark time for a mammoth effort of 7:30 minutes. Simply a fantastic effort.

Royal Commission

After all the excitement of Mardi Gras and the success of the Rainbow Wreath Project, DEFGLIS was approached by members of the Royal Commission into Veterans Suicide, we were asked to participate in a submission that is currently being worked on. In these conversations it was decided that to support our community and assist the needs of the Royal Commission we held a Town Hall and invited all members to gather in a safe place to be addressed by members of the Royal Commission, to show that there is trust and respect for our community. The Royal Commission has identified that there is a greater depth to the risks and threats to our people and they understand that DEFGLIS can play a pivotal part in identifying and supporting members of the community that come forward to share their lived experiences. DEFGLIS is looking at holding another Town Hall in the near future. We look forward to seeing you all there. For further information (www.royalcommission.gov.au)

Shrine of Remembrance

The Shrine of Remembrance Melbourne and the team there are also working on an exhibition to elevate and promote the journey of serving LGBTIQA persons in Defence. This year marks the 40th anniversary of when 4 community members were asked to leave the Shrine due to their sexuality. This has been signified as a sad day in our history and the Shrine has decided to right that wrong by constructing an amazing live art piece of remembrance to celebrate and signify our journey. DEFGLIS members are actively engaged and are a part of this exhibition and we are excited to celebrate this occasion and opportunity with them. If you would like further details visit the website

What's next

After such a hiatus due to the pandemic we are pleased to announce that we are back running and hosting events for all the community to enjoy. Save the dates and lock in those mini holidays because we are pleased to announce our very first Pride Party to be held in Canberra 22nd July at the National Museum, go to the website to check out further details. Then we have the inaugural Ski Trip starting from 29th July. Then there's the one that everyone is waiting for, the Military Pride Ball. This year we are back and the ball will be celebrated in all its glamour at the Pearl Room Barangaroo Sydney.

We decide to hold it on the 01st October to align with the long weekend thus giving everyone the best opportunity to take advantage and stay for a couple of nights. This year will be celebrated with live band, community entertainment, we have secured Minnie Cooper so you don't want to miss the return of the Ball.

Tickets are on sale now, get in quick.

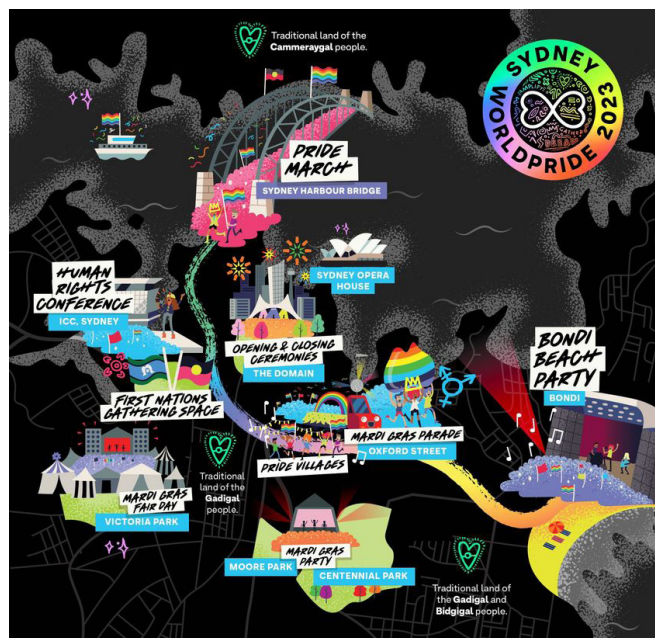
For those that took advantage of the offer from P&O cruises for the very first LGBTQA cruise in November I will see you all there, if you have missed this event don't fear there are still cabins available for families, which are encouraged to attend. Contact our Travel representative Ms Rebecca Setchell (0413 138 210) at www.boardingtime.com.au and or Planet Dwellers www.planetdwellers.com.au directly in Sydney. Due to the demand of the return of the cruising industry prices have come down significantly so get in and grab a bargain.

Long Range WorldPride2023

DEFGLIS is already working collaboratively to secure an amazing involvement in World-pride 2023. We are holding talks with the Executive Director Mardi Gras to ensure that we meet their creative needs whilst trying to shape and scope our involvement. We are very excited to what will come of the festival.

For those that are unaware there are two marches next year, one on the 25th February, this will be the return of the street parade and all its sparkle. Then on the 5th March the Sydney Harbour Bridge will be closed for a march of solidarity and support to the community across the bridge, the first of its kind. DEFGLIS will advise in greater details the way in which we will involve ourselves in these events.

What I can tell you about the 2 parades, the main MG PARADE will be what we all remember; however it will still be quite restricted in numbers, looking at 40 per float. The second march that will be across the bridge will be a registered event consisting of groups no more than 4 personnel. This is a once in a life time opportunity so it's not an annex to the parade. DEFGLIS will work with Mardi Gras to ensure we have the best options of involvement available.



Cheers All and thanks for your amazing support so far this year.