



# GRAI MATTERS

September 2010

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***Have you paid your membership? We cannot do our work without your support***

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## Welcome

Welcome to the September issue of the GRAI Newsletter. It brings updates on GRAI business plus some national and international news and Pride events that may be of interest.

The August GRAI AGM saw the farewell to three long-standing Board members—Steve Singer, who has been the secretary for quite a few years; Damien Douglas-Meyer, who has particularly been involved with maintaining the website; and Virginia Hailes, one of our community representatives representing Alzheimer's WA, all finished their time on the Board. I thank them for all their hard work. Joining the Board is Deb Sinclair-Lane who works in aged care. At the Board's first meeting following the AGM the following positions were confirmed: Chair - Jude Comfort, Treasurer/Membership Officer - Stuart Pekin, Secretary - Malcolm Fialho and Brett Tizard.

Recently the Pride WA Glammy Awards were held. These recognise contributions to Perth's GLBTQI community and were presented at the Pride WA "MASKerade" Ball held at Novotel Langley Hotel on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> August 2010. I was recognised by being awarded the Outstanding Contribution by an Individual or Couple award. I thank all those who supported my nomination.

We have also been busy with more requests to discuss the research project "We don't have of those people here". Recent presentations include to the Alzheimer's Association conference "Many Voices", and the 2010 Rural GLBT Health & Wellbeing Forum in Victoria.

Jude Comfort  
Chair

## Membership renewals are now due!!

Membership renewals are now due. Thank you to those who have renewed their membership. To date, though, there has been a disappointing renewal rate. GRAI is a small, member-based group and our membership and associated membership fees provide the basis on which we operate, so please renew your membership. This also shows your support of the hard work that we undertake in our endeavour to advocate for better aged-care provision for LGBTI people. Email [info@grai.com.au](mailto:info@grai.com.au) if you need to check your membership or need more details.

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[info@grai.org](mailto:info@grai.org) [www.grai.org](http://www.grai.org)

## GRAI UNIQUE PRIDE EVENT

GRAI will be offering a unique Pride event this year and we wanted to give you some advance notice of this. Keep Saturday afternoon 16 October free, when you will have the opportunity to visit a gay-friendly aged-care facility that offers all levels of care. Join us for a walk through, followed by afternoon tea and a presentation by the Chair of GRAI on the highlights from the recent research report. So spread the word and make an afternoon of it. Unfortunately, the Pride program does not have the full details so please circulate this far and wide.

GRAI is providing the community with the opportunity to visit an aged-care residential facility, giving people of all ages a chance to see inside such a facility and also to have some questions answered. This is not just for the senior members of our community but for anyone. It could also appeal to those who may be facing decisions about care for relatives, etc. So join GRAI to visit one of Perth's premier aged-care facilities. Look, question, challenge your stereotypes. Join us for delicious afternoon tea and discussion of the recent GRAI research report "We don't have any of those people here". All ages, all welcome and it is free. Venue: St Michael's Residential Care, 93 Wasley Street, North Perth, 6006, on Saturday 16 October 2010, 2pm to 4pm. See you there!

### Seeking historical perspectives – can you help??

OUT in Perth Newspaper is looking for anyone who has ever been convicted of a crime relating to homosexuality or homosexual acts when it was criminalised. In particular, we are looking for anyone who still has the conviction on their record and would be willing to speak about its impact. Confidentiality is assured and participants can remain anonymous if they wish. Any help would be greatly appreciated as it's an issue we hope to address. Please contact Benn on (08) 9371 9877 or email [benn@outinperth.com](mailto:benn@outinperth.com)

## Inside a nursing home

From ABC Radio National's "Encounter", a repeat of a 2001 program that spent a day inside an aged-care facility. With the Australian political parties being urged to commit to long-term aged-care reform, "Encounter" this week goes behind the politicking, and into the Mater Aged Care Home at Forbes in western NSW. Nursing homes are a hidden world, veiled by our fear of death and ageing. But closer inspection reveals moments of grace, humour, dignity and wisdom

<http://www.abc.net.au/rn/encounter/stories/2010/2998408.htm>

**PRIDE FAIR DAY HEALTH SURVEYS – HELP REACH OUR TARGET OF 1,200 COMPLETED RETURNS. Look for the WACHPR survey staff and ensure all age groups are included in this important health survey. Surveys target both gay men and lesbian/bisexual women.**

## GRAI listed internationally

**ILGA** is a network of over 600 groups from 111 countries fighting since 1978 for equal human rights for lesbian, gay, bisexual, intersex and transgender people. The work of ILGA is supported by the Dutch organizations HIVOS and NOVIB, by IBM, by the Swedish International Development Agency (SIDA), and by the ARCUS Foundation. Their directory lists members, non members and other allied groups including trade unions, women's and human rights organizations.

This unique world directory, which was created thanks to a grant from IBM, is free and open to all. It aims at capturing the diversity and richness of the many groups and people of goodwill in the world campaigning for the equal rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex people. Check out the listing of GRAI. Go to <http://ilga.org/directory/en/>

## Uniting Church Pride Offerings

From Bev Fabb --- Uniting Friends:

I am contacting you to let you know about a couple of events happening during Pride month which I would like you to advertise through your networks. We believe the Training Workshop will be particularly relevant to community workers in organizations such as yours.

Anthony Venn Brown, a former Assemblies of God pastor, came out as gay in 1991, after 22 years of trying to change his sexuality. He is now a gay ambassador, having twice been listed as one of the 25 Most Influential Gay and Lesbian Australians. His book *A Life of Unlearning* is a best-seller and he is a popular speaker promoting respectful dialogue between the Christian church and the gay community. Anthony is speaking at two events in Perth during Pride which Uniting Friends, a DSGI-friendly group run by the Uniting Church, have arranged as part of Pride Month. This is his first visit to Perth. You can hear Anthony speak on

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> October**, 5.30 for 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm, in UCIC Centre, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, 97 William St, Perth.

**Public Forum on Homosexuality, Christianity and the Church- Resolving the Conflicts.** Entry free but donations welcome.

**Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> October**, 9.00 am to 12.30 pm, in UCIC Centre, 1<sup>st</sup> floor, 97 William St, Perth

**Walking Between Worlds -- Training Workshop for Community Workers** on how to work effectively with GLBT people of faith background. Registration fees apply

For more information or to register for these events phone 6103 4222 or email [bev@ucic.org.au](mailto:bev@ucic.org.au) or go to <http://www.perthunitingchurch.com.au/viewStory/Uniting+Friends>

## Empowering older women in the midst of Australia's ageing population

*by University of Western Sydney Media Unit, 29/07/2010*

An expert in elder law from the University of Western Sydney has launched a series of brochures, designed to protect the financial security of older women.

Ms Sue Field from the School of Law at UWS teamed up with The Older Women's Network (OWN) NSW to produce the set of publications. Aimed at elderly women, the 'How Could They?' series of brochures tackles issues such as financial abuse, negotiating new relationships, going guarantor, gifts and loans, and buying a 'granny flat'.

Ms Field, who is the NSW Trustee and Guardian Fellow in Elder Law, had the initial idea to educate elderly women about these key issues some years ago after repeatedly hearing cases of elderly abuse.

"Older women play a critical role in supporting their families and communities. And, in an environment of increasing social and financial pressure, older women must also ensure that they do not jeopardise their own security when asked to help those they love," said Ms Field.

"Both older men and older women can experience financial abuse; however, women tend to experience financial abuse more often than men as some women may be financially inexperienced, particularly if they have not worked outside the home or have not had much experience managing money."

Ms Field says some of the worst cases of financial elder abuse are perpetrated by those closest to us, and begin with seemingly small transgressions, often culminating in the inadvertent surrendering of power, authority and financial security.

"Unfortunately, unless we recognise this potential and initiate steps to protect ourselves early, communication can break down, with the situation and the relationship deteriorating."

The 'How Could They?' series comprises with a set of five brochures exploring legal and financial issues, including: \* A Room of One's Own -- for older women considering 'Granny Flats' \* Love at Last! -- for older women negotiating new relationships \* Over the Rainbow - for older lesbians negotiating new relationships \* One Good Deed... -- for older women considering gifts and loans \* Safe as Houses? -- for older women considering going Guarantor

Each brochure is based on a real situation and has been developed by and for older women. Brochures on different topics have an easy-to-follow format with sets of commonly-asked questions and answers, as well as a section for other questions for consideration.

"The questions, strategies and resources contained in each brochure have been designed to empower older women with the relevant tools to resolve problems and strengthen their position without jeopardizing their personal relationships," says Ms Field.

"We have ensured that each publication is written in plain English, minus the legalese."

The series aims to provide older women with a starting-point for help and guidance so they can avoid becoming a victim of elder abuse.

For more information, please contact OWN NSW on (02) 9247 7046, or to obtain further copies of each publication visit: [www.ownnsw.org.au](http://www.ownnsw.org.au).



Curtin University



## 2010 Elizabeth Jolley Lecture

The School of Media, Culture & Creative Arts, and Curtin University invite you to attend this year's lecture. The Federal Department of Ageing has facilitated the speaker, the Government Ambassador for the Ageing,

### NOELINE BROWN

in giving the lecture,  
*"How ageing is represented in the media".*

Noeline Brown is one of Australia's most respected actors with a highly successful career spanning radio, television and theatre. She spent her childhood in Stanmore, in Sydney's inner-west and attended Stanmore High School. After leaving school at fifteen, she started working at Marrickville Municipal Library. It was also at the age of fifteen, she discovered a passion for performing.

In 1962 Noeline was "discovered" performing at Sydenham's Pocket Playhouse. Two years later she featured on the popular "Mavis Brampton Show", making her a household name. Countless memorable appearances followed on programmes such as Graham Kennedy's "Blankety Blanks" and "The Naked Vicar Show". Her career has seen her win several awards, including a Logie for Most Popular Female Personality.

In recent times, Noeline has been seen in the 2007 Australian film "Razzle Dazzle" and on Channel Seven's "Dancing With the Stars". In 2008 Noeline also received a Green Room Award for her role in "Glorious" at Sydney's Ensemble Theatre. In 2009 Noeline teamed with Barry Creyton for the highly acclaimed "Duets". Her autobiography "Noeline Brown – Longterm Memoir" was released in 2005 to critical acclaim. Noeline runs her own production company, Wintergreen Productions alongside her husband, Tony Sattler. Now living in the Southern Highlands, she continues to work tirelessly for arts organisations and institutions such as the Actors Benevolent Fund, as well as maintain her successful entertainment career.



Time: 6.00pm Refreshments (John Curtin Gallery foyer)  
 6.30pm Lecture (BankWest Theatre)

Date: Thursday 23 September, 2010

Venue: Bank West Theatre,  
 Curtin University of Technology  
 Kent Street Bentley

RSVP: *RSVP Essential*

## Community Values 2010 LGBT Study

The largest ever international survey of its kind for the lesbian, gay, bisexual and trans community (LGBT) has been launched throughout most of the world including North America, Europe and Australia.

Specialist independent gay marketing company Out Now is conducting this comprehensive survey that will cover information on LGBT lifestyle, travel habits, income, and social issues like racist and homophobic behaviour.

The results of the research could be used not just to learn where the hotties are travelling to next summer, but also to learn about LGBT lifestyles, demographics, workplace issues, causes of concern, discrimination and many more important topics.

The results will be used by governments, business and other organisations and can help make sure we enjoy an equal 'seat at the table' in Australia and other communities around the world.

Australian GLBT communities are being invited to participate in this very important survey as soon as possible to ensure our voice is heard around the world as the survey has the potential to change many things to make the world a better place for our community and others globally.

There will be follow-up surveys with other subjects included in the coming years.

It takes just 15 minutes to complete the survey and you may also get lucky and win one of their giveaway prizes including airline flights, Amazon gift cards and iTunes vouchers. Go to <http://www.outnowconsulting.com/latest-updates/community-values-2010-lgbt-study.aspx> for the survey.

We will have some Board members on hand at Fairday, 9 October at Russell Square handing out GRAI brochures and advertising our Pride event. Say hi, help spread the word about the work of GRAI and our GRAI Pride event. See you during Pride!!