Stepping up the pace

20th International AIDS Conference
Melbourne 20 – 25 July 2014

This year’s conference will present new scientific knowledge and opportunities for structured dialogue on the major issues facing the global response to HIV.

Other activities include the Global Village, satellite meetings, exhibitions and affiliated events. If you can’t make it to the conference, get along to the Global Village near the Clarendon Street entrance of the Conference venue.

Global Village activities include panel discussions and debates on cutting-edge HIV issues; film screenings; art exhibits; networking zones focusing on key populations and issues; non-governmental organisation (NGO) and marketplace booths showcasing the work and products of organisations working within the HIV field; and live performances from local and international artists.

Global Village opening times
Sunday 20 July 18:00 – 21:30
Monday 21 July – Thursday 24 July 08:30 – 20:30
Friday 25 July 08:30 – 12:00

More information
To find out more or to register for the conference go to www.aids2014.org

On Friday 16 May, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council raised 3 rainbow flags at its Hastings, Rosebud and Mornington Shire offices to mark International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHO Day).

IDAHO Day, created in 2004, is celebrated worldwide. It aims to raise awareness among policy makers, opinion leaders, social movements, the public and the media to the violence and discrimination experienced by GLBTIQ people.

Mornington Peninsula Shire’s Youth Services, Peninsula Pride and Health and Social Planning teams ensured the flags were proudly flying to support the GLBTIQ community.

Mornington Peninsula Shire’s Youth Services Team Leader Andrew Joseph said: “It demonstrates Mornington Peninsula Shire’s strong support for our GLBTIQ community”.

The Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex and Queer Community Advisory Group (GLBTIQ CAG) provides advice to Peninsula Health on how to create inclusive, more welcoming environments and appropriate care and treatment services. The GLBTIQ CAG welcomes new members.

Interested? Phone Leanne Bruce at Peninsula Health on 9788 1466

Please respect the environment and dispose of this newsletter responsibly
Peninsula Proud 2015
Friends/Family/Community
Planning has started for next year’s Peninsula Proud Health and Wellbeing Forum, to be held on Saturday 11 April 2015 at Frankston’s Cube 37.

The forum will explore Relationships – including relationships with family, same sex, friendships, and the community. The organisations that support GLBTIQ Health and Wellbeing and Community Inclusion will be available to talk with at the forum.

An art exhibition will be on display leading up to the event on 11 April. We will be seeking contributions to the exhibition later this year.

To find out more, phone Leanne Bruce on 9788 1466.

Paving the way for HIV prescribing
The GLBTIQ Advisory Group has set up an HIV prescribing working group to examine the availability of HIV prescribing in Frankston and the Mornington Peninsula; and to assess how we can improve it. The group includes Peninsula Health clinicians, community members, and other relevant local organisations. So far, the working group has:

• Made early links with an HIV medication prescriber in the community
• Taken steps to clarify the availability of prescribing within Peninsula Health
• Found out about availability of PEP (post-exposure prophylaxis) in Melbourne (but not Frankston); and PrEP (pre-exposure prophylaxis, not available in Australia yet), and
• Tentatively explored rapid testing.

We have a long way to go, but we are making progress.

Ticking all the rainbow boxes
Peninsula Health’s Mental Health and Community Health services are working towards earning Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria’s Rainbow Tick Accreditation. The Rainbow Tick guides organisations through self-assessment and review to determine how well they meet the needs of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex (GLBTI) consumers.

Research shows the GLBTI community have poorer health and mental health outcomes because of the discrimination they experience. Actual or perceived discrimination from health-related services also means that GLBTI people are more likely to avoid or delay seeking care.

Introducing our local Gay and Lesbian Liaison Police Officers
Local Victoria Police Gay and Lesbian Liaison officers (GLLOs) are currently working to:

• Improve police responses to family violence, including violence in same sex relationships
• Help community members experiencing mental health crisis issues through PACER, an initiative where a mental health clinician works daily with a police officer.

Superintendent Neil Paterson, Divisional Commander for Frankston and the Mornington Peninsula and a proud member of our community, said: “The GLLOs are a point of contact within your local police who have a special focus on helping GLBTIQ community members”.

Our local GLLOs
Sergeant Peter Webster
Frankston Police Station 9784 5570
Sergeant Chris Stock
Mornington Police Station 5970 4900
Sergeant Glen Michie
Hastings Police Station 5970 7800
Leading Senior Constable Paul Smith
Hastings Police Station 5970 7800
Sergeant Karl David
Rosebud Police Station 5986 0444

Peninsula Pride Youth Groups
Tuesdays 4pm – 6pm
QSA Rosebud for under 18s
Wednesdays 3.30pm – 6pm
QSA Frankston for under 18s
Thursdays 4.30pm – 7pm
QSA Frankston Over the Rainbow, 18 – 25 year olds
Contact Peninsula Pride Coordinator at headspace 8765 2626