

## **Record of community consultation held on 21 March 2009 at The View Factory**

### **Issues**

- Membership
  - Need to get membership organised – new members have not received membership cards or newsletters.
  - Need to recruit more members and make sure they receive regular communication/information and are encouraged to feel that they have ownership of the organisation. A newsletter has recently been sent out but may have missed some members. It was also noted that RV is a community owned organisation and needs the community to assist to keep it going. Any organisation is only as strong as its membership and allies.
  - It was stated that too much reliance is placed on emails. RV is aware that not everyone has a computer and some newsletters were sent by snail mail to people who did not have email addresses. However, snail mailing all newsletters would be costly and a waste of paper. We will do both in future but will try to keep snail-mailing to a minimum.
  - Need to broaden membership – should non GLBTIQ people be encouraged to join? Business and Services Directory includes businesses owned by non GLBTIQ people
  - Need to look at why someone would join Rainbow Visions – what does the organisation offer members? Businesses in Directory are encouraged to give discounts. We have also offered discounts to members at events.
  - Membership fee is too high for our working class community. Committee to look at this issue.
  - Paul Thornton agreed to join the committee and take responsibility for membership. Sean, Baden, Maryanne and Keith volunteered to assist Paul by forming a project team which will operate until August.
- Visibility
  - Need to be more visible in both GLBTIQ and mainstream communities
- Communication & promotion
  - Need to ensure events are well publicised in GLBTIQ and mainstream media through editorials and media releases – Jennifer has a friend who is an ex-journalist who has offered to help
  - Website must be kept up to date
- Evaluation
  - Each event should be evaluated
- Research
  - Some research needs to be undertaken to ensure that we understand the demographics of our community and are targeting appropriately.
  - In previous years we have had a survey at the picnic – could do this again
- Website
  - Needs to be kept up to date
  - Needs everyone to encourage businesses and services to register for the web-based directory.

- Other organisations should be encouraged to put their events on website so that a calendar is maintained
- Events
  - General consensus was that the Festival and Ball should continue
  - Maybe have 3 main events – Mardi Gras, Ball and Festival plus monthly Mixed Fruits

## **Ideas**

- More ‘whole of community’ events – eg mixed dances
- Better use made of ACON’s youth worker and community development worker
- It was suggested that the Festival be kicked off by the picnic which could both launch and promote the Festival.
- It was suggested that Rainbow Visions has a regular bi-annual event such as a writer’s festival or a concert or art exhibition or marathon
- It was suggested that the website could provide a ‘mix n match service’ so that people with particular interests eg. Bird watching or shell collecting could find one another
- It was suggested that the website has a community notice board
- It was suggested that ‘more pissy nights/dances be organised at the Wickham Croatian Club’
- It was suggested that all the GLBTIQ groups that are interested in collaboration should get together on a regular basis to plan events, support one another and share resources.
- It was suggested that RV could act as an umbrella organisation for other groups and individuals that wanted to organise events. (This would be subject to a risk assessment and agreement of our insurer).
- It was suggested that a ‘Pink Drinks’ type regular event be held. Mixed Fruits has a similar function.
- Someone said something about blogs but I don’t know what was being suggested.

## **Forthcoming events**

- Rainbow Visions in conjunction with Centrelink is holding an information session about the new same-sex legislation on 2 May @ 10.00 probably at the Gallipoli Club in Hamilton.
- Greg Millan is organising a GLBTIQ Meditation Program called My Time. It will be held at ACON, Maitland Rd, Islington from 20 April to May 24 on Mondays from 18:00 – 19:30. Cost is \$5 per session or \$24 for 6 week program. Numbers are limited. To book a place or find out more phone Greg on 0417 772 390 or email [gmillan@bigpond.net.au](mailto:gmillan@bigpond.net.au)
- Greg Millan is also interested in holding a gay men’s forum which will inform the Commonwealth’s Men’s Health Policy initiative. It is important that gay men’s issues are put on the agenda as they appear to have fallen off. Anyone interested in attending should contact Greg on the above number or email address. If Greg doesn’t get sufficient people interested he won’t hold the forum so please let him know if you would be interested in attending.