



## Defence Gay & Lesbian Information Service

Tuesday, 02 February 2010

1/2010

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### Welcome to DEFGLIS

DEFGLIS is an organisation of Regular, Reserve and Civilian members of the Australian Defence Organisation (ADO) who are Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender (GLBT) and allies.

The DEFGLIS website aim is to provide information on; gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, intersex and transgender issues for members, supervisors, divisional staff and management staff of the ADO.

### Mission Statement

To provide support and increase consideration for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community, complementarily with the Australian Defence Organisation and established Defence and civilian support organisations.

### Message from the Chairman



**Chief Petty Officer Stuart O'Brien**  
Chairman

Welcome to 2010. We have already started this year running, with Fair Day and Mardi Gras just around the corner.

Some very exciting news out of the US; President Obama during his State of the Union Address to Congress said: "***This year, I will work with Congress and our military to finally repeal the law that denies gay Americans the right to serve the country they love because of who they are.***" Long over due, but it's great to see some positive movements to remove this policy.

We are also welcoming onboard from across the waters; **FLTLT Stu Pearce** from the New Zealand Defence Force. Stu has joined us as our **New Zealand Coordinator**. We look forward working more closely with our Kiwi Friends. Also, someone that has had to hit the ground running is **SGT Chris Warwick**. Chris has taken over as our **Media Liaison Officer** and is busy working already on a few projects.

So 2010 is here and is expected to be bigger and better.

## Wear It With Pride

**Wear it with Pride** is a campaign aimed to spark conversation about the 85 law reforms that give same sex couples equal rights in the areas of employee entitlements, privacy rights, tax, superannuation, child support and insurance. It's huge. 85 Federal laws that discriminated against same-sex couples and their families have been reformed.



### WHY WEAR T-SHIRTS WITH PRIDE?

These historic 85 reforms reward decades of protesting. To celebrate, 85 artists are designing 85 T-Shirts inspired by each reform. 85 influential Australians are wearing these T-shirts with pride, to spread the knowledge across the country.

One of our own is included in this influential list of Australians; **Air Commodore Tracy Smart** *"It's easier being on the front line, knowing she's protected at home."*

Entertainer **Natalie Bassingthwaight** has dedicated her new single, '**Love Like This**', to celebrate the Wear it with Pride campaign and will give all of her profits from the single, to the ongoing support of the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender) community. The new single is available digitally on

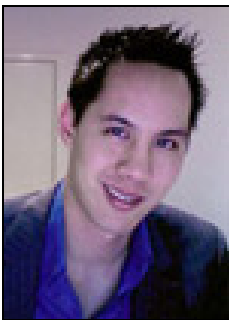
iTunes [www.itunes.com/nataliebassingthwaighte](http://www.itunes.com/nataliebassingthwaighte), bandit.fm [www.bandit.fm/nataliebassingthwaighte](http://www.bandit.fm/nataliebassingthwaighte) and all digital retailers from January 29, 2010. Natalie is a proud ambassador for the Wear it with Pride campaign which launches on 2 February 2010, and commemorates the ground-breaking human rights law reforms that have recently been introduced for same-sex couples in Australia.

Check out the video clip on ACON's web site at: <http://www.acon.org.au/advocacy/news/love-like-this> and see if you can spot one of our own DEFGLIS members dancing – maybe we can't call it dancing but it's a good effort.

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## Considering a posting to the USA?

*By SQNLDR Vince Chong*



**Vince Chong**

For those considering applying for a posting to the USA there were recent changes to United States State Department rules and regulations that may affect you and your same-sex partner. The following information may not yet be available in information provided in Departmental documents. In July last year amendments were made that allow same-sex domestic partners to qualify as immediate family when applying for an A class visa. In order to qualify, you must be in an ADF-recognised interdependent relationship and your partner will need to apply for (and be issued with) an Official Passport. Successful issue of an A-2 visa means that your partner will not have to leave the US and reapply for a visa every six months and will be eligible for some other official courtesies.

Authorisation for your same-sex domestic partner to work in the US is not guaranteed and an application cannot be lodged until you arrive in the US. If your partner wishes to work in the US, you may wish to consider applying for a different class of visa that will allow your partner to reside and work within the US in their own right.

These changes are still very new, not widely known, and experiences may differ, so we ask you to provide feedback to the DEFGLIS executive about your experience. This advice is not authoritative, so please seek assistance and advice from the Defence Travel Team before making any significant decisions.

Please contact SQNLDR Vince Chong ([vince.chong@defence.gov.au](mailto:vince.chong@defence.gov.au)) if you would like to speak to a same-sex family currently posted to the US.

## **'Of Love and War'**

The excitement of blossoming romance, the pain of separation and the great joy of reunion are captured in a new special exhibition which opened on 3 December at the Australian War Memorial. The exhibition 'Of Love and War' is then planned to go to Victoria, Queensland, Western Australia, Tasmania and possibly to South Australia – subject to funding.

**'Of Love and War'** details the relationships forged during times of conflict, the passionate affairs and whirlwind weddings of lovers caught up in war, and the loneliness of those serving away from home — or those they left behind.

The Memorial's collection did not hold much material relating to contemporary relationships and, in particular, previously did not include material about same sex relationships. As a result the Australian War Memorial sought for Gay and Lesbian couples who were willing to share their stories and material for use in 'Of Love and War'.

The exhibition **'Of Love and War'** Curator, Rebecca Britt, and the Assistant Curator Private Records, Nicholas Schmidt, took almost two-years to develop the exhibit and subsequently a decision was made to publish an **'Of Love and War'** book. Material selected for the exhibition was prepared by the Conservation section for display. The Curator and designers also worked on an audio component of the exhibition which meant selecting passages from both written messages and audio messages.

The exhibition Curator and designers have used material provided by WGCDR Kate Carlisle and SGT Sharon Menso, displaying some of their emails and photographs, electronically in a digital frame. Whilst Kate and Sharon were invited to attend the opening they were unable to do so due to work commitments. On 14 January 2010, Rebecca Britt and Nicholas Schmidt very generously provided Kate and Sharon a personal tour of the exhibit. During the tour Kate and Sharon were approached by a member of the public who openly expressed how wonderful she thought the digital display was.



**Sharon Menso & Kate Carlisle  
ANZAC Day 2008**

*'This exhibit is brilliant. When a lady came up to Sharon and I and asked if we were the two girls in the exhibit she was jubilant. She felt so fortunate to speak to someone from the exhibition. She advised that she felt the e-mails and pictures were wonderful and was so happy to have had the opportunity to meet us. Her lovely words almost made me cry. To hear and experience first hand the appreciation from the public was an incredible feeling.'* **Kate Carlisle**

*'Being invited to be a part of the **'Of Love and War'** exhibition is an honour. Having the opportunity to speak with the curators and been walked through the exhibition and learn more of the background to the wonderful array of stories, written and audio pieces, was truly breathtaking.'* **Sharon Menso**

The Australian War Memorial remains very interested and the curators continue looking for material and stories to use in the book. As such, Rebecca Britt and Nicholas Schmidt would appreciate it if you could tell them about yourselves and how you feel that war, or deployment overseas, has affected your relationships. They are also interested to hear if you have material that you would be willing to share, via loan or donation, for **'Of Love and War'**. They are looking for things like letters, emails, photographs, objects or other material that you feel could tell your story.

For more information on this exhibit, email: [media@awm.gov.au](mailto:media@awm.gov.au)

## BIG Bingay “Back to the Beach”



Legendary drag star Mitzi Macintosh is your head lifesaver at a special Mardi Gras beach edition of *Big Bingay*. Mitzi's barrel girl is the all-singing out there dyke Naomi Palmer who recently received her first DIVA award.

Expect weird rules, sing-alongs, penalties and hilarious stories with prizes that range from the silly and camp to great theatre tickets or restaurant vouchers. Free snacks and food will be provided.

### What, when, where?

**What:** Big Bingay - Back to the Beach!

**When:** Friday 19 February, 7.30pm sharp

**Where:** Paddo RSL, 220 – 232 Oxford Street, Paddington, Sydney

**Cost:** Tickets \$37 for all games

*DEFGLIS has reserved at table of 20, so get in quick to get a seat. Email [stuart.obrien@defence.gov.au](mailto:stuart.obrien@defence.gov.au) to reserve your spot now; first in best dress.*

If you want to arrange your own table, contact David at ACON on (02) 9206 2110 or [events2010@acon.org.au](mailto:events2010@acon.org.au)

### What is Bingay?

*Bingay* is a weekly ACON fundraising event hosted by the multi DIVA award-winning drag queen, Mitzi Macintosh. Mitzi's barrel girl is the all-singing out there dyke Naomi Palmer who recently received her first DIVA award. *Bingay* has been running every Tuesday night from 1999. During that time, it has raised over \$750,000!

What has made *Bingay* such a long lived and very popular night is first and foremost Mitzi with her incredible wit and humour and legendary stories, and the interaction between Mitzi and Naomi. Their appeal crosses all boundaries. Most Tuesday nights are a great mix of poofs, dykes and straight people. Many even bring their mums and aunties. But be warned, the night is a racey one!

*Bingay* is Mitzi's take on bingo, but it has a very big twist! Expect weird rules, sing-alongs, penalties and hilarious stories with prizes that range from the silly and camp to great theatre tickets or restaurant vouchers. It is a night for friends to get together and have fun on a 'school night', that also ends by around 11pm so you can have a great night out without feeling like you can not face work the next day! Free snacks and food are served each week.

## 2010 Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras



*2009 Mardi Gras Parade Defence Contingent*

### Fair Day – Sunday 21 February 2010

The biggest and best-loved community event of the Season, Fair Day will officially launch this year's Mardi Gras and promises a fun, relaxed day out for all the family, even the pets!

Up to 70,000 routinely turn out to sit on the grass, browse the stalls, gorge themselves on the plethora of delicacies available at the stalls, have a few drinks, but most of all to catch up with old friends – and make some new ones.

**Location:** Victoria Park, City Road, Chippendale, New South Wales

**When:** 21 Feb 10.00am to 8.00pm

**Cost:** Gold coin donation

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### Mardi Gras Parade – Saturday 27 February 2010

Yes it's almost here, our entry has been registered and this year we'll see approximately 100 members march as part of the Defence contingent in the Sydney Gay & Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade. Even if you aren't marching with us, be sure to line the streets with the other 300,000 spectators and cheer us along.

We have some new banners and new shirts to make us stand out a lot more. Also a little surprise leading the parade (ok it's not that much of a surprise cause we've told you all already, but a little tribute to the Andrews Sisters thanks to a few of the "Girls").

Don't forget, after the Parade, we'll be heading to the Paddington RSL for a few refreshing drinks, so come and join us.



*2008 Mardi Gras Parade Defence Contingent*

## Upcoming Events

Below is a list of upcoming events that may interest DEFGLIS members. If you are aware of any events in your area, let us know so we can advertise it via e-mail, on our web site and in the newsletter.

Date	Location	Details
19 Feb 10	Sydney, NSW	<b><u>Big Bingay - Back To The Beach!</u></b> <b>When:</b> Friday 19 February, 7.30pm sharp <b>Where:</b> Paddo RSL, 220 – 232 Oxford Street, Paddington, Sydney <b>Cost:</b> Tickets \$37 for all games
21 Feb 10	Sydney, NSW	<b><u>Mardi Gras Launch / Fair Day</u></b> Fair Day will kick off our season on 21st February 2010. This huge community party in the park is always one of the highlights of the season and even in torrential rain in 2009 thousands came out to party.
27 Feb 10	Sydney, NSW	<b><u>Mardi Gras Parade</u></b> On Mardi Gras night hundreds of thousands line the streets of Sydney to watch the colour, spectacle and outrageousness of the Parade.
6 Mar 10	Sydney, NSW	<b><u>Mardi Gras Party</u></b> There is nowhere more fun to be gay (or indeed straight) than at the Mardi Gras Party! It will take place on March 6th 2010 and is the major closing event for the Mardi Gras Season and attracts up to 20,000 people to a huge multi-venue site at Sydney's Entertainment Quarter.

If you know of an event that isn't listed here, forward the details to our Events Coordinator, Nathan Howarth at [nathan.howarth@defence.gov.au](mailto:nathan.howarth@defence.gov.au).

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## Contact Details

Position	Name	E-mail	Telephone
Chairperson	Stuart O'Brien	<a href="mailto:stuart.obrien@defence.gov.au">stuart.obrien@defence.gov.au</a>	0438 122 475
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Media Liaison	Chris Warwick	<a href="mailto:chris.warwick@defence.gov.au">chris.warwick@defence.gov.au</a>	0419 463 801
Events	Nathan Howarth	<a href="mailto:nathan.howarth@defence.gov.au">nathan.howarth@defence.gov.au</a>	0424 939 491

Contact details for State and Territory Coordinators can be found on the Management Team page at [www.defglis.com.au](http://www.defglis.com.au).