

## Introduction

Every year rainbow people gather together as a community of family and friends to celebrate our diversity and acknowledge the courage of those who act with courage to work to achieve fairness & equity. The Rainbow Awards are principally a celebration of our diversity and the richness that we contribute to the life of our communities.

Our world is sometimes hostile and rejecting so besides celebrating diversity through the Rainbow Awards and especially in Human Rights week we also acknowledge the courage of those who work for change in expecting respect for all.

This year we have 8 Awards that recognise both individuals and organisations that have demonstrated both courage, tenacity and passion in acting for change.

The Awards this year 2007 are as follows:

Nominee	Citation
<p><b>ABC Stateline - Airlie Ward</b></p> <p><b>Nominated Phillip Ritchie</b></p> <p><b>Lin Thorpe MLC Representing the Premier</b></p>	<p><b>Community Harmony Award * Excellence in Journalism</b></p> <p>Our community (GLBTI) their family and friends sincerely thank you Airlie for your positive presentation of our culture and our struggle to achieve safety and equity in our local and regional communities, through the Stateline TV program that exposed the positive work of the Coming Out Proud Program.</p>
<p>The sexual &amp; gender diverse community either benefits or suffers seriously from a sensitive or insensitive State press. Despite law reform in Tasmania the GLBTI community is experiencing considerable discrimination and harassment (sometimes violence) especially in rural and remote areas from fundamentalists and neo Nazi elements.</p> <p>(McNair, R., Thomacos, N., <i>Not Yet Equal: Report of the VGLRL Same Sex Relationships Survey</i>. 2005. Victorian Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby.)</p> <p>Achieving a change in the State culture to respect diversity is an important process at least for the next generation.</p> <p>Airlie Ward presented a significant program on ABC Stateline this year on achieving that change through the Coming Out Proud Program for sexual and gender diverse people in Tasmania. The segment not only exposed the discrimination and harassment that people experience but also the culture change following on law reform through the GLBTI Community Liaison Committees with the help of local government. Airlie as the journalist responsible for these segments showed her brave, skilled and ethical response as a professional. Airlie also demonstrated the importance of an independent ABC especially committed to minority groups.</p>	

Nominee	Citation
<p><b>Jo Goodman</b></p> <p><b>Nominated Brian Doran (Co Chair of the Kingborough/Huon Community Liaison Committee)</b></p> <p><b>Senator Bob Brown</b></p>	<p><b>Courage of Conviction Award * Recognising the Rights of Private Individual</b></p> <p>The assembled GLBTI Community acknowledges Joe Goodman her family and friends, for the courageous and tenacious fight for justice that she mounted against what she regarded as her constructive dismissal from her employment because she was a lesbian.</p>
<p>Jo Goodman worked for a southern regional Council and in the course of her responsibilities recognised that many of the areas that council worked in e.g. young people, older people, local planning had very important policy &amp; practice implications for the sexual &amp; gender diverse community. Jo joined the Coming Out Proud Kingborough/Huon Community Liaison Committee because she thought she could make a difference to influence local government involvement in these areas. While Kingborough Council had endorsed the COP Program and appointed a Liaison Councillor Huon Council was not yet involved. Jo supported the appeal to Huon Council to follow Kingborough’s lead and supported a campaign to achieve this. This has resulted in Huon indeed supporting the principle of inclusion as well as appointing a Liaison Councillor. Today Jo is Co Chair of the Liaison Committee and her knowledge of the Huon Council’s involvement in many important areas is an important driver in the Committees work in these areas.</p>	
<p><b>ASU – Mike Swanton</b></p> <p><b>Nominated Brian Doran</b></p> <p><b>Huon Councillor Liz Smith</b></p>	<p><b>Courage of Conviction Award * Recognising the Rights of Private Individual</b></p> <p>Mike Swanton of the Australian Services Union Tasmanian Branch is acknowledged by the assembled GLBTI Community their family and friends, for the strong, sensitive and culturally aware support that was provided to Joe Goodman in her fight against what she regarded as her constructive dismissal from her employment because she was a lesbian.</p>
<p>Many sexual and gender diverse people have special problems in the work place of bullying harassment and discrimination. Because prejudice is still strong in our community it is difficult to fight for equity and justice in the workplace. To fight discrimination and active hostility you have to disclose your sexual preference – this in turn leads to difficulties in any many other area of community life. The recent industrial law changes including the removal of the barriers to unjust dismissal have only made life at work and employment matters more difficult for our community.</p>	

Nominee	Citation
<p><b>Elizabeth GLBTI Network</b></p> <p><b>Dr Arlette Mercae &amp; Avril Holderness-Roddam</b></p> <p><b>Nominated Dean Duggan (Co Chair of the Kingborough/Huon Community Liaison Committee)</b></p> <p><b>David Bartlett MHA – Minister for Education</b></p>	<p><b>Community Well-being Award * Government Services Division</b></p> <p>The Elizabeth College GLBTI Support Group is a most important innovative initiative providing critical peer support for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex Students that has most important implications for all Colleges in Tasmania. The Support Group is deserving of state recognition in supporting GLBTI Students in their ‘coming out’ into a sometimes hostile and very threatening environment. Run by the Students for the Students.</p>
<p>The GLBTI Support Group is a confidential, informal discussion and support group for students that has been running at Elizabeth College for three years.</p> <p>Nomination details: The GLBTI Support Group started as an initiative of the Student Equity Group and teacher, Arlette Mercae at Elizabeth College three years ago. It is a confidential group that meets fortnightly for GLBTI students and their friends to meet in a safe environment, make new friends and discuss issues of relevance. It is advertised on the newsletter and accessed through a confidential email address that is set up and managed by the coordinating teacher (Arlette Mercae) who also books rooms for meetings, arranges guest speakers, distributes relevant information and acts as community liaison.</p> <p>Research in Australia also shows the results of harassment and discrimination of sexual &amp; gender diverse people especially young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• same sex attracted young people (SSAYP) are three times more likely to attempt suicide than heterosexual youth (Howard, J. et al, <i>Same Sex Attracted Youth in Mental Health Promotion and Young People: Concepts and Practice</i>. 2002. Eds Rowling, L, Martin, G., Walker, L. McGraw Hill, Australia)</li> <li>• rural SSAYP are six times more likely to attempt suicide than the population as a whole (Quinn, K., <i>Rural Youth and Same Sex Attracted Youth: Issues, Interventions and Implications for Rural Counsellors</i>. Rural and Remote Health. 2003 Vol 3.)</li> </ul> <p>This research and statistics explain the importance of recognising and celebrating initiatives like the Elizabeth College GLBTI Support Group.</p>	

Nominee	Citation
<p><b>Working It Out -Baden Phillips</b></p> <p><b>Nominated Corey Peterson</b></p> <p><b>Peg Putt MHA Leader of the Greens</b></p>	<p><b>Community Well-being Award * Employee GLBTI Service Organisation</b></p> <p>Baden is an example to us all because of his work with young people to support their right to choice and self-determination of their sexuality &amp; their transition into an often-insensitive world with a sense of dignity and worth. Baden is also recognized for the part he played with the Coming Out Proud Kingborough Huon Community Liaison Committee and the Kingborough Council in establishing a youth policy that is nationally significant by including sexual and gender diverse young people.</p>
<p>Baden has been very active in putting himself “out” there to students and the general community. For example, I worked alongside Baden at the recent “ruMAD?” Conference (are you making a difference) held at Collegiate at the end of August 2007. Baden set up and staffed a stall helping people to understand same-sex attraction and put a human face to the GLBTI community, as well as made himself available for questions and discussion. He also hosted a session on the day along the same lines. Baden, as a part of the “working it out” group has epitomized the organization’s goal of “a just Tasmania, where people and communities of diverse genders and sexualities develop to their full potential.</p>	
<p><b>Hobart Pride Choir</b></p> <p><b>Nominated Neville Shaw</b></p> <p><b>Nick Mc Kim MHA Deputy Leader of the Greens</b></p>	<p><b>Community Wellbeing Award – Community Organisations</b></p> <p>The assembled GLBTI Community and our families applaud the Hobart Pride Choir and friends for the joy brought to the whole community as well as celebration of our culture by the Choristers in Southern Tasmania. This is their debut night so a special applause.</p>
<p>The Hobart Pride Choir was recently founded by some dedicated people headed by Robert Thompson. The Choir has been very lucky to attract Hans Kooij a pre-eminent and dedicated choirmaster. The Choir helps foster a sense of community amongst the sexual and gender diverse community and provides a very important focus for our pride in our selves. The Choir demonstrates to the general community what a proud and joyous group we can be.</p>	
<p>THE HOBART PRIDE CHOIR WILL RESPOND BY A CHORAL PRESENTING</p>	

Nominee	Citation
<p><b>Tourism Tasmania</b></p> <p><b>Nominated Paul Dimich</b></p> <p><b>Hobart City Council Alderman Jeff Briscoe Hobart Community Liaison Committee Representative</b></p>	<p><b>Progressive Business- – Government Services Division</b></p> <p>Tourism Tasmania is acknowledged for it’s excellent work with tourism industry operators to develop and promote gay friendly holiday experiences in Tasmania and marketing these to the GLBTI community interstate. An important effect of the Department’s initiative is the attraction of so many Gay &amp; Lesbian immigrants to our beautiful state.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formation of a gay &amp; lesbian (g&amp;l) reference group to provide input and feedback to Tourism Tasmania.</li> <li>• Development and communication of guidelines for tourism operators to help them understand what it means to be “gay friendly”.</li> <li>• Workshops were developed in partnership with the Gay &amp; Lesbian Tourism Association of Australia (GALTA) and presented in Hobart and Launceston to inform tourism industry operators of the value of the g&amp;l market; how to ensure their business was gay friendly; and how to market to this niche market.</li> <li>• Installation of a section on the discovertasmania.com website (under ‘about Tasmania) tailored to a g&amp;l audience.</li> <li>• Identification of gay friendly tourism services on the discovertasmania.com website by display of the ‘rainbow map’.</li> <li>• Production of the <i>Gay and Lesbian Visitor’s Guide</i>; also downloadable from the web.</li> <li>• Promoting Tasmania as a gay friendly destination by advertising in key g&amp;l publications; and development of an on-line campaign utilising banner ads linked to a dedicated g&amp;l microsite, see <a href="http://www.discovertasmania.com/gandl">www.discovertasmania.com/gandl</a></li> </ul>	

Nominee	Citation
<p><b>Country Network Peter Brown – Dave Arnold</b></p> <p><b>Nominated Stan Rimon</b></p> <p><b>Hobart City Council Alderman Helen Burnett</b></p>	<p><b>Community Harmony Award - Community GLBTI Organisation</b></p> <p>Peter Brown &amp; Dave Arnold have been long standing social activists who had founding and in those days courageous roles in the Tasmanian Aids Council as well as the Tasmanian Law Reform Group. As a community we applaud their initiative, dedication and longstanding commitment to us as well as their example in their loving and long standing partnership. They are especially applauded for their commitment to supporting Country Network that gives many Australian GLBTI people an opportunity to meet in friendship in each state and across state borders.</p>
<p>Peter and David have been involved with Country Network, a national organisation, for nine years. Peter is the national President of 2 years standing and David has been the Tasmanian Area Co-ordinator for the past four years.</p> <p>Country Network is a national organisation which aims to overcome the social and emotional isolation experienced by gay people especially in rural areas by facilitating and promoting communication and support.</p> <p>Peter and David were involved in Lambda when the initial moves were made towards law reform and when the Aids Council [ now TasCAHRD] was coming into being. Peter, as President, was the Tasmanian representative on the Australian Federation of Aids Councils. David acted as a red ribbon seller on World Aids Day and assisted with the Gay Information Line for some years. Both have been regular supporters of a wide range of gay activities.</p>	
<p><b>Roberts Real Estate – Manger Adrian Kelly</b></p> <p><b>Nominated Corey Peterson</b></p> <p><b>Roger Chevalier</b></p>	<p><b>Roberts were nominated but declined from ‘conflict of interest’ as a Sponsor Group – but worthy of special mention. Progressive Business- Private sector division</b></p> <p>Robert Real Estate Division is awarded the Progressive Business Rainbow Award for the special human relations strategies it has developed to recognise the importance of recognising and celebrating diversity in the workplace. The GLBTI community recognises and applauds Roberts for this progressive business policy that will contribute to a happy and productive workplace that attracts GLBTI customers.</p>