

This is The Pinnacle Foundation newsletter. We have updates.

Executive Director's Report

Our efforts to go national have extended beyond scholars and mentors. We have also been able to attract:

- Many more persons from across Australia registering to be Mentors,
- More valuable contacts have been identified from most States
- Local support in Melbourne, Canberra, Brisbane and Adelaide. We are beginning to build regional relationships and supporters involvement in the Foundation

Our most urgent need is for help with developing and implementing our fund raising activities in a very targeted way. We also need help with our upgrading and general maintenance of our web site. Both of these volunteer activities are not demanding of leisure time since they probably involve only a couple of hours a week, but right now we are stretched so lending us a helping hand to help other GLBTIQ persons would be greatly appreciated.

It never ceases to amaze what we can do when we put our minds to it. So give me a call on 0414 279 880 if you can help out.

Meet the Chairman of the Board

Michael Bracken recently took over the role of Chairman so that Sean Linkson could move into the role of Executive Director. Sean said the move was an indication that the Foundation was now properly established and it was time to share the load, since there are opportunities to be followed and pressing issues to be addressed.

Michael's full time role is Chairman of the Board of Partners at TressCox lawyers.

Not only does he have strong corporate governance background, his experience and commitment to GLBTIQ community is long standing:

"I was on the Executive Committee of Gay & Lesbian Rights Committee for a few years and was heavily involved in the successful lobbying of the NSW Parliament to effect changes to the De Facto Relationships Act 1984 (NSW) which was amended and renamed the Property (Relationships) Act 1984 (NSW) in 1999. I also was on the Board of Sydney Mardi Gras as Secretary for a couple of years. "

At the pinnacle of his legal career Michael said it was time to again put back into his community:

"This is an exciting opportunity particularly given the growth phase of the Foundation. In addition to my skills, experience and networks I hope to bring some further energy and enthusiasm to the table."



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MP outrages one of our scholars

The Age newspaper recently ran a story of relevance to us.

The paper stated that one of Victoria's newly elected MPs, Geoff Shaw Liberal member for Frankston, had deeply offended one of our Scholars, **Jakob Quilligan** by suggesting that his desire to love who he wanted was as illegitimate as a dangerous driver wanting to speed or a child molester wanting to molest.

In early April, Jakob emailed Mr Shaw, his local member, to object to the government's new anti-discrimination legislation which extends exemptions to religious organisations.

Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commissioner, Dr Szoke, described the comparisons in Mr Shaw's email as 'wrong and potentially dangerous'.

One of the factors which the Selection Committee considers in its assessment of applications for scholarship (apart from being a serious and consistent student who has shown scholastic achievement) is their ability to demonstrate leadership skills and demonstrates pride in and dedication to the LGBTIQ community.

Nicely done Jakob!



Jacob Quilligan (Right) & mentor Simon Powell

Mentor Matches

As part of our commitment to helping young GLBTIQ people achieve their full potential, every Pinnacle scholar is matched with a Pinnacle mentor. The Foundation strongly believes that a key factor to achieving success is having a strong base of support. Pinnacle mentors are a sounding board for scholars, and, with their professional expertise, can provide assistance relating to their education and career.

Sean Linkson Executive Director said "this year we made fantastic matches which are beyond our expectations. "Now we need to kept up the momentum by building our registered mentor base so that we can again make great matches at the end of this year and beyond."

"When you consider that we now awarding scholarships across Australia and scholars are undertaking a diverse range of courses we need a strong supply of mentors to guide these amazing young people'.

The Foundation has launched a campaign to build a substantial mentor base and is calling on successful GLBTIQ persons to put back into our community by expressing their interest in becoming mentor.

You can do this by visiting our website and completing the self assessment process before proceeding to register.

The types of matches made this year were:

- A lesbian law firm partner in a regional centre mentoring a first year law student interested in police enforcement
- A final year gay medical student being mentored by a doctor with a large, successful medical practice
- The principal player in a leading Australian orchestra with music publication background mentoring a final year lesbian student at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music
- An expert in international aid and community development mentoring a young man undertaking international affairs and wanting to work in the aid community
- The Chief Corporate Counsel of a major Australia company matched with a young lesbian studying law
- A young gay nursing and paramedic student being mentored by a senior nurse with international experience and expertise in community health
- The Director of New Ventures and Innovation at a major University and former Commissioner of State Services mentoring a young lesbian studying Social Sciences.



Lesbian involvement in the Foundation

Would it surprise you to know that:

- 55% of this year's scholars are lesbians who have been marginalised or experienced discrimination;
- 3 out of seven Board members are lesbians;
- 23% of registered mentors across Australia are lesbians;
- Only a handful of volunteers who provide their skills and expertise to support the Foundation are lesbians;
- Very few lesbians financially support the Foundation yet we rely on our community to fund the scholarships?

Lesbians who are keen to become involved have lots of choices:

- Lesbians undertaking HSC or studying at a tertiary institution should check out our website for information on scholarships which close in mid October
- Retired lesbians who have had successful careers or still at the pinnacle of their career could consider registering as a mentor or/and volunteering to help us run the Foundation. Especially if you have great administrative capabilities, web based programing, marketing and public relations skills or experience in fund raising.
- All lesbians can make financial contributions immediately through our website.
- Older Lesbians who wish to provide substantial support to the Foundation to honor an individual, partner or friend could consider a named scholarship. We will be shortly releasing information about this opportunity to provide is currently being developed a living testament to one's commitment to diversity through education and can make a significant impact in the life of a deserving lesbian student.
- Lesbians seeking to volunteer should email me at: susan@thepinnaclefoundation.org

Victoria Launch

One of The Foundation's Victorian Directors **Bohdan Abrat** hosted a Meet and Greet function in Melbourne on behalf of Goldman Sachs and Reichstein Foundation. About 80 GLBTIQ persons came together to hear from the Foundation's Executive Director Sean Linkson, one of our Mentors Ian Seal and three of our Scholars who are based in Melbourne.

"I was truly proud of the fantastic response we received from the GLBTIQ community in Melbourne. The level of participation at the function and the forward commitments of financial and mentor support was amazing. So too was the participants who volunteered to help us promote awareness of the Foundation with the availability of scholarships, mentor building and fund raising, said Bohdan.



Bohdan works at Goldman Sachs and is currently Executive Director, Senior Counsel and Head of Compliance for the Asset Management division. At Goldman Sachs, he is also the co-chair of the GLaM network, which seeks to promote a work environment that respects, welcomes and supports GLBTIQ professionals, as well as providing a forum to foster an understanding of issues facing gay and lesbian professionals within the broader financial services sector, by partnering with local universities and not for profit organisations such as Pride in Diversity that focus on workplace inclusion.

Bohdan has also had a long running association with the Queer community, as the 'Queer Officer' at the Melbourne University Student Union, as a Director on the Board of the Midsumma Festival in Melbourne and led 'Team Melbourne' to the Sydney Gay Games and as co-host for 'The Sports Lounge' on Melbourne's FM Radio JOY 94.9.



Apart from being a director for the Foundation, Bohdan's key responsibilities are to build the involvement of the Melbourne community with the Foundation by identifying and building our relationship with supporters, donors, mentors, applicants for scholarship and volunteers.

Bohdan can be contacted on bohdan.abrat@gs.com.au

Interview with founding benefactors

John Douglass and **Warren Stanborough** have been partners for over 35 years. During their time together they have both had successful careers. John was in real estate and property development while Warren was in the airline industry (sales and marketing) and later hospitality.

They lead by example when it comes to supporting worthwhile causes. By making a four year financial commitment of \$100,000 to the Foundation, we were able to have a fantastic start to our operations. I talk to Warren about their relationship and motivation.



Question:

So tell us where did you meet and how the business relationship developed?

Answer: We met on a cruise ship. It was a four day Easter Cruise out of Sydney. I lived in Canberra at the time and moved to Sydney about 6 months later. And so began our journey together.

After I moved to Sydney we combined our meagre assets and purchased a small block of flats in Bondi. Our business partnership grew from there. Over the years we've purchased both residential and commercial properties. John purchased Ravesi's at Bondi with a business partner over 20 years ago.

Question:

What was your key motivation for making such a wonderful financial commitment to the Foundation, especially since in 2009 the Foundation did not have a track record?

Answer: For many years we have been donating to several charities. Although we felt we were doing the right thing, we never really got to see how the donation was being used. Was it being used effectively? We hoped so.

We have known Philip Coman's for many years. We know him as a person of integrity. And one night over dinner he told us about the Foundation and what his and Sean's plans were for its future. As part of the conversation he suggested that if we made a substantial financial commitment we may have some involvement in the running of the Foundation. We are now comfortable supporting Pinnacle, as our major charity, with the added benefit of being able to 'watch it work'. The rest is history.

Question:

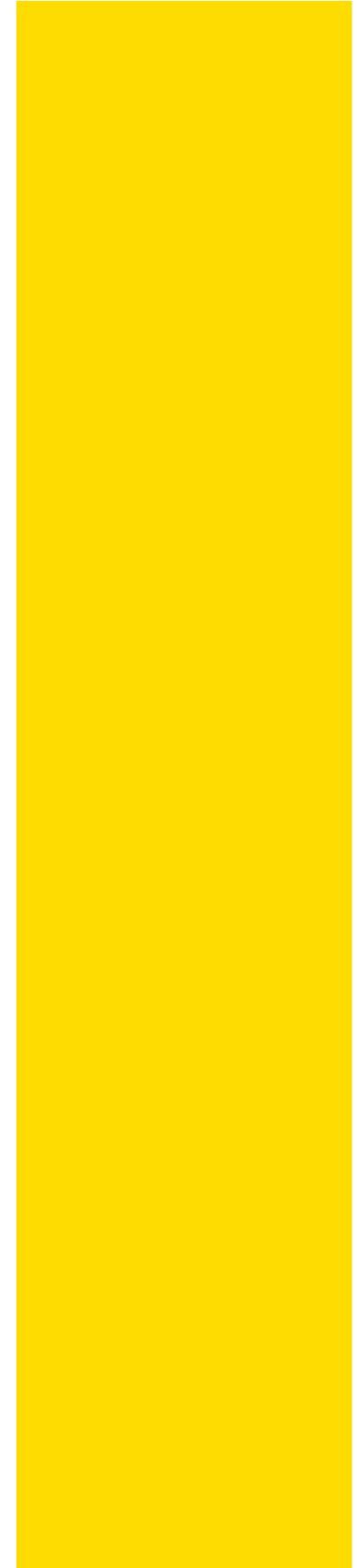
You are a founding member of the Selection Committee for scholarships and joined the Board this year, so what has been the most interesting aspect of these activities?

Answer: Easily the most interesting, albeit at times harrowing, has been the scholar selection interview process. Each of the applicants has a different story to tell. Mostly sad but always inspiring. Very inspiring.

Question:

What would you say to a GLBTIQ person considering to make a financial commitment to the Foundation?

Answer: I'd say that we all get asked to make donations, but if you donate to Pinnacle none of the money goes to salaries or expensive promotions. All the people running the Foundation are successful and competent people doing it out of love and the genuine desire to make a difference to someone's life. You won't regret it.



BEHIND THE SCENES – Steven Deveraux-Stanford, Marketing and Communications

Opening new offices, managing his real estate businesses and taking over the role of Communication and Marketing Team Leader was all managed with the greatest of ease by our chief spruiker ably assisted by our University Liaison person, David Rorke. Steven is co-founder and Managing Director of Leonarder Collins Luxury Leasing and has honed his expertise from working with some of the worlds most highly regarded estate agencies. With qualifications in Public Relations, Marketing and Property, Steven is well placed to successfully translate these skills into excellent results for the Foundation.

“After working closely with the foundations founders over a number of years, I was able to see first hand the life changing results they were achieving. I was therefore ecstatic to when asked to assist with their marketing and communications.” “In supporting the foundation and its work, it was important to me the emphasis on education, as I feel this is the key to producing tomorrows community leaders.”

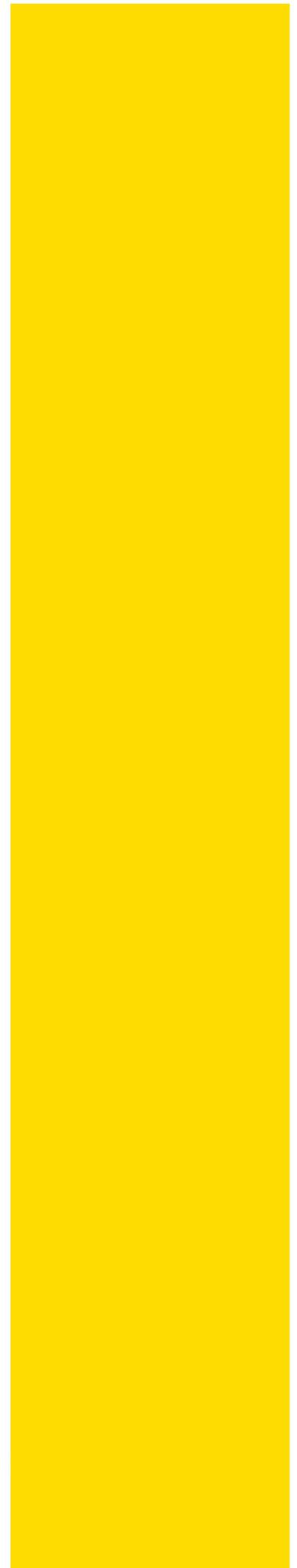
As Head of Spruiking Team his task is to substantially increase awareness of the Foundation within its target audiences, including potential donors, scholars, mentors, patrons and friends of the Foundation, as well as key decision makers/influencers. It's a tough role especially when you are a volunteer but Steven has an infectious enthusiasm about him and is a great communicator.

“We have made great inroads to reach youth throughout Australia, including regional areas. Not only is this a key focus for the Foundation, but also a personal one to ensure the opportunities offered reach as many disadvantaged youth as possible.”

“It's my aim to increase and create awareness of the Foundation, its great work and success so that we are able to change, and better lives of Australia's disadvantaged GLBTIQ youth in perpetuity...”

“Seeing firsthand the positive outcomes and opportunities realised by our scholars to date is all the thanks you could ever ask for.”

Steven is seeking assistance from someone with web-based program skills to keep our website dynamic and current. So no matter where you live give him a call on 0412 264 884 if you can help the Foundation manage and improve its website. *“Our website and its social media links are a very important way in which we communicate to our stakeholders”*



UPCOMING EVENTS

Adelaide and Canberra events – stay tuned.

Community Leaders – inspiring others

Over the past two decades, chef and restaurateur **Christine Manfield** has become more than a provider of good food at one of Sydney's leading restaurants, consistently awarded two hats in the SMH Good Food Guide. In 1996 Christine was asked would she still be cooking at 50?

“Probably” was the answer with a laugh, but then corrected herself and thought maybe another five years and then evaluate.

She continues to find the need to “take regular short holidays to get away from the routine and to work out what is happening in the world and to maintain some sort of sanity”. Christine talked admiringly about diversity and how much you can learn from different cultures and cuisines and all the fantastic things to experience. “I guess that's the real issue - not limiting yourself in what you do, discovering what you're prepared to do.”



Well, she certainly has not limited herself. Today Christine has become a gastronomic travel host, author of several exotic cookbooks, has her own range of spice pastes and remains at the top of her profession as the owner of Universal Restaurant, an icon for food lovers across Australia.

I asked her a few questions:

1. You and Margie have a long and enduring relationship that has inspired many so what is your secret?

Answer: Finding balance, respecting each other's needs, sharing adventures and experiences and having fun together

2. Where do you obtain your inspiration and motivation from that has made your new ventures so successful?

Answer: Believing in potential and aspiration. Margie has a great saying that has always stuck in my mind - “If you're not living on the edge, then you're taking up too much space.” Life's too short to be mediocre. I go into anything I do with the assumption of succeeding, the power of positive thinking

3. Hard work and dedication have obviously played a part in your success, what about mentors?

Answer: Having an ideal that requires hard work and commitment certainly plays a significant role - luck has some part to play but I believe you have to drive your own business no one can do it for you - being in right place at right time - historically and socially - has been the luck factor. A few key people have played a significant role in my work, more in the early days than now. Now it seems to be my turn where I can mentor and encourage younger people.

4. Given your very busy life what are your connections with the GLBTIQ community today? How do you try to make a difference?

Answer: Incidental rather than focused - we are both just busy doing our own thing - no direct community involvement

5. And what do you believe are the best ways that other successful lesbians can put back into our Community?

Answer: Role models, speaking out and being assertive, there is always strength in numbers, to lead by example - show diversity, not stereotypes - dare to be different.

Extracts from an interview with Mietta O'Donnell have been used.

universalerestaurant.com