



Introducing our new Coordinator

GLBTI government reference group meetings in Education, Health and Police Services.

As a team we are planning the next 12 months of actions and activities around the state, some of which you will read about here and now. A scriptwriting workshop will begin soon in three locations around the state, focusing on negotiating good safe sex and other aspects of personal safety with those who believe in best practice. More news very soon.

Training, networking and programming are part of our core business to educate and celebrate. In second term WIO will run a pilot **Pride and Prejudice (P&P)** programme in five Tasmanian schools. The P&P programme was developed in Victoria to reduce levels of homophobic prejudice amongst secondary school students. This is a very exciting partnership with the nominated schools and the Education Department which we anticipate will continue to reap rewards for all concerned. A comprehensive evaluation of the project is presently being planned independently to the project. *Words Out* will keep you up to date on all that is happening at WIO and more.

Coordinator: 6231-1200 *Susan*
coord@workingitout.org.au

HERE I am in North Hobart at Working It Out's discreet Georgian Home in Burnett Street, writing for this our very first *Words Out* collector's edition. Hello and we are excited to have you as a reader.

I've moved to Tasmania after two years on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland and seven years in the NT. My background includes education and the arts and my passion is to create projects that bring together new people and new ideas to create change. The people, the work, the building, the ideas and the potential here excite me, sitting as I am in this room in this building in this city in this state. I'm seeking out thoughts and ideas for Working It Out Programming, so ring me.

For those of you who are just finding out about Working It Out:

- We are a sexuality and gender support and education service
- We are a statewide community based organisation.
- We work out of Burnie, Hobart and Launceston
- We provide professional development programmes and training
- We coordinate and facilitate community development projects
- We offer direct support that is confidential and FREE
- We celebrate diversity.

What do I do? Since taking up the position in early April I have attended WIO training sessions with police cadets, final year medical students, community services students and



some of the WIO team: *Trish, Baden, Susan, Jenny and Julianne.* Meet more of the crew in the next edition

Postcards from the North...

HELLO everyone out there. Our queer youth group Allsorts has been meeting from 4pm every Tuesday. Pizza and the QSOC movie night follow every second meeting. Two members of the group are heading down to the Festival of Dreams, and thanks to Launceston College and NYCC for their sponsorship. Allsorts is also working with the sponsor organisations on an under-age gig with a number of bands to be held June 30. They are looking for people to volunteer as bouncers for the event. Connect4life, the GLBTI suicide prevention group's next meeting is Tuesday July 4 at 6pm at WIO North. They are looking for people to help them sell sausages to raise funds at Bunnings on Saturday 8 July. Come along!

A number of men are interested in a Gay Men's Group. The first meeting is Wednesday June 14 at 6pm at WIO. Please RSVP if you would like to attend. Relationships Australia has offered to run a Couple Communication Course for local queer folk, call me for info or pop into the WIO North office, 45 Canning St, Launceston. Members and friends of the queer community are also invited to the fortnightly QSOC movie in Lecture Theatre One at 7pm at the Uni, Newnham Campus. Gold coin donation. Give me a ring if you need directions.

North: 6334-4014 *Trish*
north@workingitout.org.au

...North-West

Hi everyone. I am the new WIO Counsellor and Educator on the North West Coast. I have been with WIO for about three months now and loving it! How lucky I am to be doing a job that I feel so passionate about. I am really enjoying being back in Tasmania after living interstate for the past eight years. One of my main focuses so far has been to get out in the community and introduce myself so that everyone has heard of WIO and our services.

... and South

Hi there. It has been a busy start to the year in the South with new staff and some new educative programmes coming to fruition. Winter may be setting in, but it's hotting up at WIO south! There's always room for your input so please, do be in touch.

In partnership with the Sexual Health Service and TasCAHRD, a sexuality and gender diversity awareness session was delivered for the first time to fifth and sixth year medical students in April. We have also developed our relationship with some TAFEs, providing awareness and anti-homophobia sessions to Community Service, Aged and Disability Care students. Plus we're about to go web-side! Excitingly, we are also poised to open up our doors inviting members of the queer community to make use of our new Art Workshops, at which people will be able to come in and work on their own or collective pieces, culminating with the GLC Artfully Queer Exhibition in August. Begins 28 June 4-6pm at WIO 39 Burnett St, Hobart. Stay tuned, or drop in, and ask about the other workshops and projects planned for 2006!

South: 6231-1200 *Baden & Julianne*
south@workingitout.org.au

I have met some fantastic people working in the Community Services sector here and they have been very supportive and sending referrals our way (11 Jones St, Burnie). Unfortunately there is little happening socially on the North West Coast for the GLBTI community and I really hope we can change this in the next few months. It is very important for GLBTI individuals to have social contacts and to feel part of the community, especially if they are just 'coming out' or have moved to the area. I am appealing to anyone living up on the coast who is interested in expanding their social networks to contact me so we can arrange some get togethers (BBQ's, coffee, film nights, movies etc). Please contact me at the office, on my mobile 0419-361-128 or e-mail me.

North West: 6432-3643 *Jenny*
northwest@workingitout.org.au

Still teaching: Learn To Include...



Included: *Vicki Harding* in Hobart

The *Rainbow Cubby House* (pictured) is one of the set of early childhood educational readers which include same sex parent families. It is WIO rated (G) for good, and (F) for Family.



RECENTLY spotted were 'truly unbelievable' newspaper headlines trying to convince Sydney that a progressive and inclusive childcare centre is brainwashing and corrupting babies! At the heart of the scandal are the *Learn to Include* (LTI) books which the centre is actively using as part of its social justice program. The LTI books depict stories of families with same sex parents. The stories are not explicit or sexual in any way, they are kids books, and not only for kids with same sex parents. LTI Project Manager and renowned lesbian parent, Vicki Harding (pictured here in Hobart at a WIO/Family Planning Tasmania workshop held in March) said the familiar back lash seemed to [again] miss the point. "Once again there have been calls for the books to be banned, and once again the support from all over Australia has been overwhelming. It all just goes to show that resources like the *Learn to Include* books should have been in schools 40 years ago!" The LTI books are available for purchase at the Tasmanian Gay and Lesbian Rights Group Salamanca Market stall, the LTI website (<-weblink) or via WIO. Check them out. :-)

http://www.hotkey.net.au/~learn_to_include/

Thanks go to...

A FAREWELL party was held for outgoing WIO staffers Martine Delaney and Meredith deLandells at which the Management Committee and staff thanked each for their valued contributions over the years. Martine was WIO's inaugural service coordinator and prior was on the committee, making contributions at both a state and national level, particularly her expertise in transgender and queer rights. Meredith was one of the longest serving staff members during the two plus years she worked in Burnie as Counsellor and Educator. She helped WIO become a leader in diversity training and education, and clocked up more parking tickets than previously thought possible. WIO wishes them both the best in future endeavours.



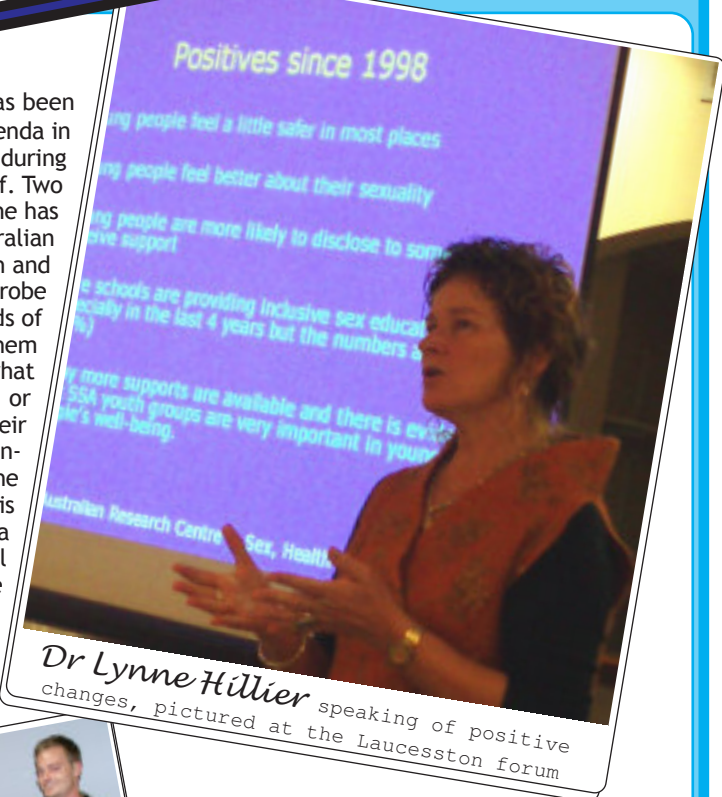
Fond farewell: *Martine, Meredith* pictured with Trish, Talon and Tracey

WordsOut is **your** newsletter. Make yourself heard. Contribute, question, discover. **Tell us your story.**

Counselling, Education, Community



DOCTOR Lynne Hillier has been among those setting the agenda in queer youth health research during the past decade and a half. Two major national projects she has worked on through the Australian Research Centre in Sex Health and Society (ARCSHS) at Latrobe University surveyed hundreds of young people and asked them about their experiences, what might have been different, or even helped them in their establishment of positive non-hetero selves. The research she and others have worked on is routinely used to support a focus on the health and social needs of people in these groups. Presented in partnership by the University of Tasmania Gender Studies Program and Working It Out, forums were



Dr Lynne Hillier speaking of positive changes, pictured at the Launceston forum



Hobart Forum: *Susan, Barbara, Lynne, Paul and Baden*

held in Hobart and Launceston May 3 and 4 to share findings from the most recent study, *Writing Themselves In Again, Six Years On*. Health and education workers as well as students participated in the forums. Dr Hillier reported one finding: that young people were more likely to have a positive experience these days if enjoying support structures including groups of affirming friends, responsive schools and availability of queer support services such as WIO, (incidentally formed around the time of the first study, released in 1998). Have a look at the report yourself at your local WIO Library or at www.latrobe.edu.au/ssay