



# GLAM'D PRIDE ZINE

June 2022

Clarence City Council

An intergenerational LGBTQ+ project





TASMANIAN  
HEALTH  
SERVICE



The City of Clarence  
acknowledges the palawa,  
Tasmanian Aboriginal People  
as the Traditional Owners and  
ongoing custodians of lutruwita,  
Tasmania. We pay our respects  
to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait  
Islander people and to their  
Elders, past and present, and their  
continued connection to the land,  
sky and waterways.

HAPPY  
PRIDE  
MONTH

Generations Linking and Making a Difference (GLAM'd) is an intergenerational LGBTQ+ group that seeks to raise awareness and respect of the LGBTQ+ community in Clarence and beyond. GLAM'd has been facilitating meetings, art workshops and events to talk about emerging issues in the LGBTQ+ community to co-design this zine. The works included showcase a wide array of contributors, who range from high school aged all the way through to older aged members. GLAM'd has worked closely with the Clarence City Council, who are part funding and assisting the project. We also acknowledge the Tasmanian Government through the LGBT+ Grants Program 2021 who provided funding to the Clarence City Council for this project.

The topic of this zine revolves around pride and allyship. Many members are in different journeys towards pride, which you will see reflected in the content of this zine. Many are also allies who stand up for LGBTQ+ people in their own communities. This project offers 'Glammers' a chance to reflect on their own relationship to their identity and the world around them, through a ten question interview, artwork and creative writing.

A special thanks to the contributions of Victoria Vyvyan who helped facilitate the project, Julie Andersson, Allyson Byrne, Rhianna Airey and Suzie Adkins at the Clarence City Council, Megan Walsh, George Kennedy, Monotone Printers, Rose Bay High School, GLAM'd members and contributors, Brianna Cassidy for her graphic design contributions, and Chelsea Menzie who organised the layout and editing of the zine.





# Wallaby Sausage Rolls

## Using Authentic Australian Bush Spices

Pre-heat oven 180c - 350f

3 Sheets Puff Pastry

500gr Wallaby Mince

1 Medium Onion, finely diced

Ground Tasmanian Pepperberry (for taste)

1 1/2 tsp. Bush Tomato Seasoned Salt

1/4 tsp. Lemon Myrtle

2 Pinches of Wild Thyme

1 - 2 Pinches of Dorriggo Pepper

1 Egg

2 1/2 Dsp. Breadcrumbs

Milk For Brushing

### Directions:

Mix mince, diced onion and all the spices in a mixing bowl.

Add egg and breadcrumbs and mix until all ingredients are fully combined.

Cut pastry sheets in half and spoon meat mixture in a sausage shape along the length and centre of pastry.

Brush one side of pastry with milk and fold the other side over the meat to join the two edges. Lightly press with floured fork along edge.

Cut into 4 even segments and with a pointed knife, cut an x into the top of each one.

Brush top with milk and place on a baking tray lined with baking paper.

Cook for 30 minutes or until golden brown.

Enjoy.



D. A. Moles





## Small Apple Cakes



Place one large tin of pie apples into a saucepan and add 2 clove and cinnamon to taste.

When cooked, remove cloves and lightly mash leaving a thick but not dry consistency.

Let cool.

### Sweet Shortbread Pastry

500gr Self Raising Flour

250gr Butter

250gr Castor Sugar

2 Eggs Lightly whisked

Pinch of Salt

### Directions

Pre heat moderate oven - 350F or 180c

Grease or spray small muffin tin.

Cream butter and sugar together well and add egg.

Mix in flour to make a firm dough.

Roll out on lightly floured board to 3mm thick.

Cut out to fit leaving overhang to place on tops.

Cut out tops.

Fill each case to about half full.

lightly brush edges with a little milk & place on tops.

Using a floured fork, lightly press and seal around edges.

Bake 25 minutes or until golden brown.

Let cool in tin 5 minutes then remove & place on wire cooling rack until cold.

When cold, ice tops.

Sprinkle with a little cinnamon or for something different, lightly press into 100's and 1000's or coconut.

*D. A. Moles*

How do you identify? What are your pronouns?

Hi my name is Zac. My pronouns are he/him. I identify as gay and queer.

When you sing who do you sound like?

I struggled with this one. I'm not very good at singing.

If you had an ally when you were younger what difference did they make? If not what difference could they have made?

I feel like growing up when I was trying to figure everything out I didn't really have anyone that I thought it was safe to talk to about it. I never really expressed how I was feeling about it but I think if I had someone, the process of coming out would of happened a lot sooner than it did. Everyone did accept me but it was absolutely terrifying. It was very confusing at first. But I felt like I needed to stop hiding it. It was difficult going through that process because I didn't know how I felt about it, how to say it to people. But I did get there, although I think it would've been easier if I had someone I could talk to about it.

What would you say to your younger self?

I think just that all of those feelings about being queer are normal. That you shouldn't feel ashamed about it or confused about it. It's completely normal. Things will get better for you even if it is really challenging at the moment.

What makes you proud?

I think just the journey that I've been

on so far since coming out. I've been involved in activism such as the legalisation of gay marriage and also the changes in birth certificate laws. Being a part of that has definitely made me really proud. I guess also just contributing to community building and safe communities by volunteering for events for queer people.

What is something an ally has done to make you feel safe?

One example I remember is that when I first came out one of my sister's friends was very disapproving. My sister stopped being friends with that person. She said that she couldn't really be friends with someone that has that attitude. That really meant a lot because a lot of people might find it easy to keep friends who do have those kind of opinions... It made me really happy at the time.

What's your superpower?

This was a really difficult question but one that I thought about was that I'm really good at retaining knowledge of songs. I know a lot of niche stuff that many people don't know. My trivia team always smashes it out when it comes to music. So I guess that's kind of a superpower.

What song or poem best describes you?

That's a tricky one.



### What makes you tired as a queer person?

I think these issues that have become a part of the culture wars. The Religious Discrimination Bill and trans women in sports. It's all that certain politicians talk about and they talk about it all the time. The trans stuff doesn't affect me personally but I see the way that it is affecting people that I know. At my work there's an increase in people using counselling services and something similar also happened during the postal vote. It has an impact and it's really tiring for people who want to get on with their lives. Even when the Religious Discrimination Bill was being tabled in parliament the whole day I was just worrying about what was going to happen. The worst didn't happen but it's upsetting thinking there were still plenty of people in parliament who wanted it to become law.

### If you could change one thing what would you change?

I think just not having our existence debated in politics, news and in the community. People leaving us be. There's a lot of things I want to change but that's probably the first thing that comes to mind. It's something that's so present at the moment and something that's always there.

- Zac Williams





- Drake

MORE  
LOVE,

AN UNCERTAIN  
JOURNEY



# BRAVE NEW WORLD



Q. What message  
are we trying to  
Send to the wider  
Community?

A. We are trying to  
provide a platform  
for everyone to be  
messengers for the  
LGBTQ+ community.  
Especially for teens

LAST WORD

Find your voice  
+ speak up  
for those who  
can't.  
Be an ally for  
the LGBTQ+  
community.

THINGS ARE CHANGING



moving through  
adolescence  
Seeing what  
they are  
dealing with

D. Moles

I'm not good at drawing, painting, poetry, or anything like that. I wasn't sure what "art" I could contribute to such a Zine.

After some thoughts of my own and some suggestions from other GLAM'd members, I decided to make a playlist. I created this playlist with 222 of my favourite songs by LGBTQIA+ artists as I wanted to showcase LGBTQIA+ talent.

A lot of people are unaware of the LGBTQIA+ talent that is out there. Visibility has certainly increased in recent years but there's still more to be done! Whether young or old, modern or classic, niche or mainstream, popular or alternative. It's a fun mix showing the diversity within our community that's expressed in the art form of music.

Enjoy!

- Zac



Scan me!







-Suzie Adkins

How do you identify?

I used to identify as bi, but now I think I just identify as queer. My pronouns are she/her.

When you sing who do you think you sound like?

I want to sound like Kate Bush... but I can't hit those high notes.

If you had an ally when you were younger, what difference did they make? If you didn't what difference could they have made?

I don't think I did have an ally. When I was in high school I wasn't 'out' and because I was still into guys I could still go along with that. My allies later were my friends once I was in my early 20s and started coming out. But I think generally

If I had allies when I was younger I would have felt more accepted, more supported, I would've been able to be myself at a younger age. Getting allies into adulthood was very validating and it made me feel really safe.

What would you say to your younger self/ older self?

I guess to seek out similar people. I didn't really have a lot of queer friends when I was younger but I used to see queer people around and be really intrigued by them. I would think that they are really cool but feel too shy to talk to them. So maybe I would say to put myself out there and create my own community.

What makes you feel proud?

I think what makes me proud is being part of a supportive community and being able to support those in my community. Also, getting to work with young queer people and be a supportive person in their lives.

What is something an ally has done that has helped you feel safe?

I guess just showing interest in my identity and standing up for me if someone says something negative or hurtful.

What is your super power?

Listening to people. Compassion for people from all different walks of life.

What song/poem/ best describes you?

I'm not sure.

What makes you tired and dispirited?

I think feeling like society is progressing and then turning on the news to see what politicians have said. Around the world, in Australia and in Tasmania too. It makes me think that I can't believe that we are still here. It's very tiring.

If you could change one thing, what would you change?

Erase all bigotry.

-Suzie Adkins





I wish I didn't feel  
Grateful  
That I wasn't disowned when I  
Came out

- Jasper Godden

How do you identify?

I identify as a queer man. But beyond queerness I identify as a writer, poet, artist, dog dad, athlete and good human among other things.

If you were a meal what would you be? OR

When you sing who do you think you sound like?

I have a versatile voice. I enjoy singing many different styles: from Bo Burnham to Against Me! to Phoebe Bridges to Hozier to Hamilton. But I'm not sure who I sound like...

If you had an ally when you were younger, what difference did they make? If you didn't what difference could they have made?

My oldest friend Alice has always been my greatest ally. They came out years before I even thought to question myself. They gave me a safe haven to question myself and know that nothing I was going through was abnormal or wrong despite my upbringing and education telling me so.

What would you say to your younger self/older self?

I would tell my younger self that everything I hope happens to me will. I grow up and get away from my upbringing, I write and create and meet my people, I find love in all its forms many times over.

What makes you feel proud?

When I create work that people resonate with! When I am a good friend! When I'm looking after myself and feeling fulfilled. My aim in creating

and existing is for other people like me to feel less alone.

What is something an ally has done that has helped you feel safe?

When the plebesite was happening in 2017 and my grandmother was walking through the mall with me screaming about how ridiculous it was.

What is your super power?

I have a gift for creating a space for people to share their stories with me.

What song/poem/ best describes you?

I think it'd be wrong to not choose my own poetry as the one that best describes me. Most of my poetry is a reflection on the events and feelings I'm processing in my day to day life.

What makes you tired and dispirited?

Besides having a chronic illness and a busy life? When my loved ones are sad and I can't do anything to help. When there are events in the world that could be avoided if we learned to communicate better and choose kindness.

If you could change one thing, what would you change?

I'd have every persons hierarchy of needs taken care of (food, water, shelter) I think people would be so much mentally healthy and able to follow their passions if they didn't have to worry about paying rent or filling their bellies.

- Jasper Godden





## LGBTQIA+ Education

By Raven

One day I was told my cousins  
name was different, that she was a  
he  
I don't remember if there ever was  
an explanation why, if there was  
It wasn't memorable  
It didn't explain it well enough  
Didn't know or understand what it  
meant to be '*trans*'  
The word foreign, weird, different  
And I don't know why but  
I was scared to ask  
To ask what it meant, what it means  
  
I know now why I was scared  
It's because I was taught to be  
We were taught to be  
We as a society were taught to fear  
things that are *different*  
Our species is so diverse in  
Race, gender, who we love, how we  
show that love  
And we are taught to fear it  
To hate it  
To despise what makes us  
*Us*  
To despise what is a part of being  
human  
And call it inhumane

I didn't know about *LGBTQIA+*  
Not until high school  
Not until I had already discovered  
that I  
*Hated* the body I was in  
Not until I discovered that I was  
Different  
The very thing I was taught to hate  
and fear  
And I wasn't until high school that I  
learnt why that was  
And even that was difficult to learn  
Because I had to teach myself  
This wasn't in any curriculum  
It still isn't  
There are classes to teach me to  
cook and craft,  
Do maths and play music,  
Write and spell  
But nothing to teach me about who  
I am  
And what it means  
  
In grade 7 I learnt another word  
But it wasn't in class, it wasn't a  
teacher who taught it  
It was my sister who told me  
Said she was *bi*  
Said she liked boys and girls  
I didn't know that was an option  
*Since when was that an option*

A year or two later my sibling came  
to me  
Said *she/her* didn't fit  
But *they/them* did  
This time *they* explained what they  
were  
What it *meant*  
What it *means*  
It gave me *hope*  
And so, I researched  
School wouldn't teach me, so I taught  
myself  
I learnt what the world hid from me  
And still tries to hide  
Because humanity like to call the  
humane inhumane  
And say that the different are  
Monsters  
And should be  
Feared  
The amount of pain and death this  
causes  
Is what is  
*Inhumane*  
*Monstrous*  
Is what should be  
*Feared*

They send us to school to educate us  
To teach us what we need to  
*Survive*  
But the information that could save so  
many lives

They don't teach  
They only teach us to  
Fear it  
Hide it  
Pretend it's not there  
Until it slowly grows and eats away at  
us  
And we can't keep it any longer  
*And the flood gates open*  
*And*  
*We*  
*Drown*  
So, I beg and plead for you to  
*Teach us, educate us, give us our*  
*needed education*  
*Please, so that we might be saved*  
*from the flood.*



- Sef



- Rosemary



# GUIDE FOR ALLIES

## 1. Don't be afraid, step outside your comfort zone

- The first step is the hardest, but we think you will find that it will be OK!

## 2. Ask LGBTQ+ people about their lives, be inquisitive

- Our identity is part of who we are, don't just talk about everything else.
- We would like you to know us as whole people, not just as part person.
- Be respectful, don't ask questions about things you wouldn't ask of someone else you know as well as us.

## 3. Check in and see if the LGBTQ+ people you know are doing OK

- This is especially important when there are negative things in the media about LGBTQ+ people.
- It's awful when the whole country seems to be debating your human rights.
- Sometimes we need you to ask, it helps us feel accepted and supported.

## 4. Don't try to control others, just be accepting of difference

- You are not going to agree with everything we say or think or do, that's because we are different.
- We'll try to accept you as you are, so please don't try and change us.

## 5. Please don't make it weird, don't be EXTRA nice or ask about stuff you wouldn't ask someone else about.

- We hate that feeling of being someone's pet LGBTQ+ person.

## 6. Don't change your spots, be authentic.

- It really hurts when people speak up for us in our presence but speak against us when we are not around, or remain silent.
- Your bravery in speaking out will help to change homophobia and transphobia slowly but surely, one word or action at a time.

## 7. Educate yourself, watch documentaries and films, read, be curious, pay attention

- We have fought to be who we are, and for our rights, and sometimes we get tired. We can't always do the educating.
- Educating yourself is fantastic for us, we feel relieved.
- When you educate yourself we feel supported and that we mean something to you.

## 8. Educate others also, be a voice for us.

- Yes we are tired of always speaking out, so when you can do this we do a happy dance!
- Little things go a very long way.
  - o Drag someone along to some theatre, music or an exhibition.
  - o Read a book and hand it on to a friend.
  - o Share things of your social media and in conversations.
  - o Talk to people, start conversations.
- Encourage your workplace to do LGBTQ+ inclusion training.

## 9. Take a stand, challenge homophobia and transphobia when you see and hear it

- Just be real, say when you don't agree.
- Say when you find something offensive.

## 10. Attend our events, like our Pride events and celebration, exhibitions, theatre and music

- We love to celebrate, join us!
- Allies are part of our family too.

For more information, training or support, contact :  
Working It Out (03)6231 1200 , [workingitout.org.au](http://workingitout.org.au)



How do you identify?

Gay

If you were a meal what would you be?

Greek Souvlaki

If you had an ally when you were younger,  
what difference did they make? If you didn't  
what difference could they have made?

A lot

What would you say to your younger self/  
older self?

I'm finally where I want to be

What makes you feel proud?

My Daughters and Partner

What is something an ally has done that has  
helped you feel safe?

Covered for me

What is your super power?

My Cooking

What song/poem/ best describes you?

Diamonds by Rhianna

What makes you tired and dispirited?

Hospitals and Surgery

If you could change one thing, what would you  
change?

I want a House and Rich

- Trevor



- Li Yang











How do you identify?

Gay

If you were a meal what would you be?

Pizza

If you had an ally when you were younger, what difference did they make? If you didn't what difference could they have made?

Could have helped with my demons

What would you say to your younger self/older self?

Be true to yourself and be who you are

What makes you feel proud?

My partner, my children and grand-children

What is something an ally has done that has helped you feel safe?

Has told me that he would be there for me no matter what

What is your super power?

To love unconditionally

What song/poem/ best describes you?

Not one song/poem describes me as there are pieces in a variety of songs/poems that describe me in different ways

What makes you tired and dispirited?

Negativity

If you could change one thing, what would you change?

Being myself at an early age

- Denzil

How do you identify? What are your pronouns?

I identify as a female, but I like my pronouns to be they or them... cisgender but I like they/them. My partner is Swedish and I kind of identify with how they have gotten rid of she/him and actually created a new word. While I have never felt a situation where I have wanted to change the gender I was assigned at birth most of my friends who I have hung out with in the world are LGBT so I really am drawn to and support people in a really strong ally way.

When you sing who do you sound like? Is it good?

Well I think I sound fantastic but one of my kids is like mum you just sound terrible! My son and I sing a lot together in the car when he's driving. I couldn't tell you who I sound like. I would love to sound like Liza Minelli. So let's just say I sound like Liza Minelli.

If you had an ally when you were younger what difference did they make? If not what difference could they have made?

I might turn that around. The first person that ever wanted to kiss me was my very best friend in grade three or four. It's kind of funny because he is the gayest person I know. But even at that young age we connected as humans regardless of sexuality. I like to think that I was a good ally to him even at that young age and he was definitely a great ally for me.

What would you say to your younger self?

Don't worry so much. Sometimes you just don't have to take things so seriously. To really do what you want to do without thinking so much about setting yourself up to have the right job, or money. I was saying last night that if I had my time again I would want to pursue being a director. I love films and I love musicals. I always remember thinking about how cool it would be to go to NIDA. I wasn't really raised to follow my dreams, I was really raised to fit in with what would be available to me.

What makes you proud?

My kids make me really proud. The time that you get to spend with your kids is really precious. They are reflections of the love that my partner and I have for each other but they are also their own people.

What has something an ally has done to make you feel safe?

My friend and I lived together, he was going away for work and he said that I could stay with one of his ex-partners. He sort of did things without my consent. When I said this to my friend he was so enraged and so supportive. He basically said he would no longer have anything to do with him. It felt really good that I was believed and he immediately did demonstrable actions to show me that. I think that's what allies do, they stand up and they say what someone has done or said is not

okay. It doesn't always have to be that dramatic. And on the flipside that is what I try to do for my family and my friends and for those that are within the LGBTQI+ family.

**What's your superpower?**

I communicate with cats. I've had cats all my life and I just adore them, they're a great source of joy and company.

**What song or poem best describes you?**

I love Shakespeare. There's a lot about the way Shakespeare writes that is beautiful but complicated. Sometimes the meaning can be a little bit hidden, but it's also really obvious. I think that sort of sums me up. Also anything to do with Dua Lipa sums me up. The song where she sings "I don't give a fuck" I love. And anything Doris Day, I love musicals.



- Kyle 30

**What makes you tired?**

People with too much drama going on.

**If you could change one thing what would you change?**

I would really like to see the end of war across the world and hunger. I don't understand how people can be starving when there is so much abundance and waste. That's kind of two things I hope that's okay.

- Julie Andersson



- Yangi Sherpa

I left the library feeling hollow, scooped out – like I had been shamed all over again. Who would have thought that feeling of shame could last nearly 70 years? Before the interview I would never have thought those painful feelings from my childhood would have come to the surface like that.

My feelings were in no way the fault of the interviewer although the experience of having nameless people sitting nearby as I responded to questions was something I was acutely aware of. The quiet library meant that I thought (maybe without any reality) that those nameless people could hear me – I know it left me answering less fully.

I've questioned myself about why I didn't suggest we move – that was shame too. I felt I should have overcome my shame about my lesbian life. I thought my decades-long partnership and many years of wonderful lesbian friendships and community would have dissolved the shame, but it roared back to life. How do you overcome shame about feeling shame?

I know where the shame started. I was about 8 and had a best friend – Marnie. We spent many hours together and had lots of sleepovers. My mother found us naked together one day and I never saw Marnie again. I can remember my mother's face – fury, anger and then silence. I didn't know why but knew I had done something very wrong in her eyes.

It wasn't until I was in my 20's that I heard her speaking to my god-mother about how terrible lesbianism was, how utterly wrong it was, how shameful. A couple of years later she died. We never spoke about it.

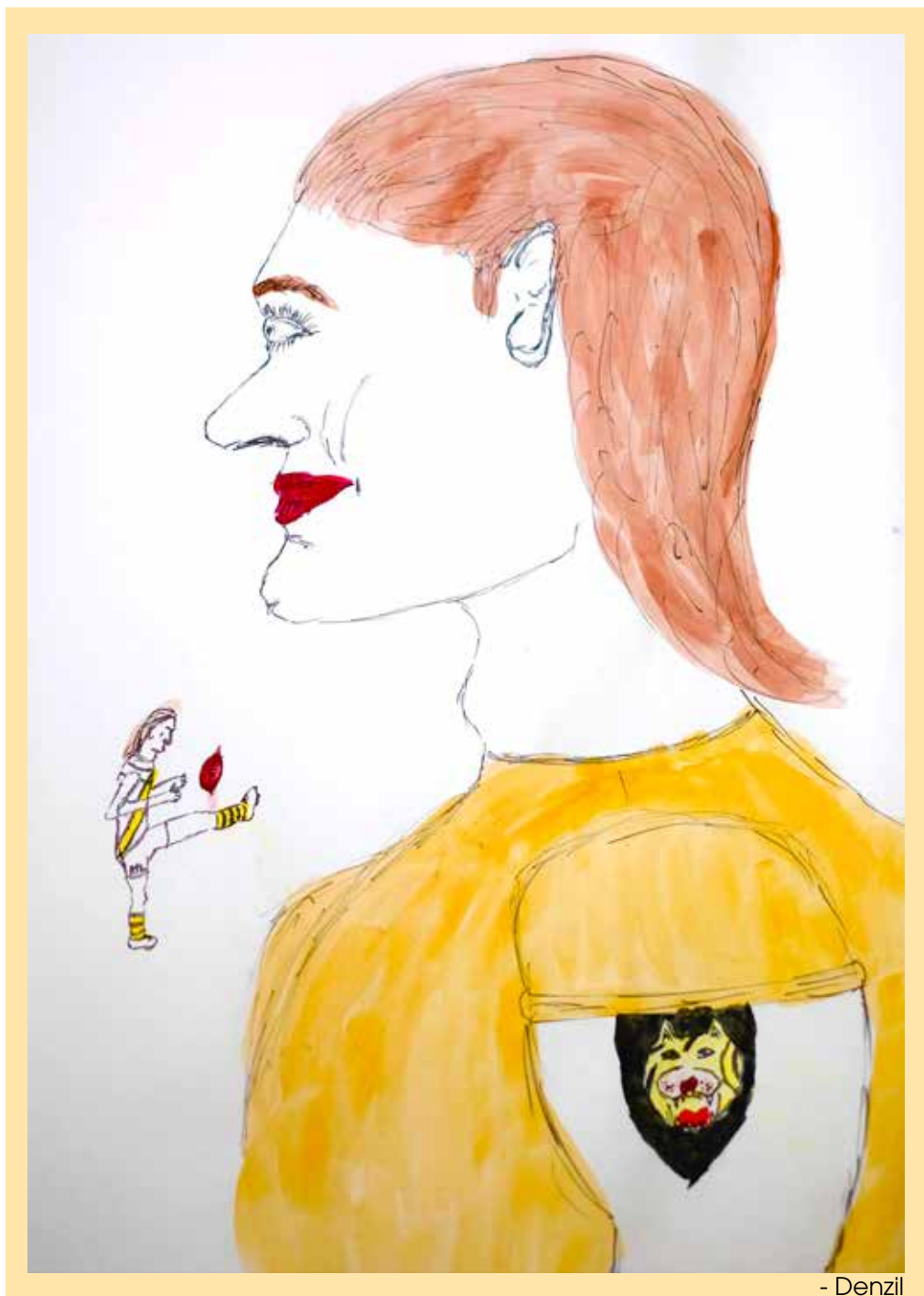
So shame persists. It hangs on to my heart and my soul. The synonyms for shame – disgrace, embarrassment, dishonour, humiliation, indignity, ignominy, infamy – say it all.

- Anonymous



- Rosemary





- Denzil



- Marie Biden



- Suzie Adkins

How do you identify? What are your pronouns?  
I identify as queer or lesbian. I use she/  
her pronouns.

When you sing who do you sound like?  
Bjork when she screams

If you had an ally when you were younger what  
difference did they make? If not what difference  
could they have made?

I don't really know that I found  
allyship until I was older, although I  
think in general compared to older  
generations I grew up in a much more  
gay positive environment. I did a pretty  
decent impression of being straight,  
so much so that I didn't really know  
differently myself. That being said my  
friends and teachers were always  
supportive allies in college, even if I  
didn't quite know what I was yet.

What would you say to your younger self?  
A lot of school is inconsequential. Not  
everything needs to be so serious.  
Follow your intuition and your interests.  
Whatever you're struggling with won't  
last forever.

What makes you proud?  
I'm incredibly proud to be queer.  
Of course it's not much of an  
achievement because it's probably  
biological, but having a life and  
relationships that don't revolve solely  
around men and the patriarchy is so  
incredibly freeing and fulfilling. Being  
a first generation university student.  
My partner and our life together. My  
commitment to know my authentic  
self in my interests, hobbies, needs and  
boundaries.

What is something an ally has done to make you  
feel safe?

I remember distinctly a moment where  
my mum said something to me when I  
was very little along the lines of "when  
you grow up and marry a man or a  
woman...". It's maybe problematic that  
she assumed I was going to engage  
in marriage, but it was probably the  
first time I had ever heard gayness  
talked about as a non-pejorative, or  
even talked about at all as something  
more than a punch line. Although  
we're rocky and she's not always been  
the perfect ally I like that she put it  
out there as a viable possibility open  
heartedly. I also think my friends living  
their lives as LGBT+ people out in the  
open made me feel safe to be myself  
too.

What's your superpower?

I like to think I'm mostly unpretentious  
and unjudgmental. I think letting go  
of egoism to talk with people where  
they're at is really important. It also  
allows me to ask the 'dumb' questions  
freely.

What song or poem best describes you?

The Boss by Diana Ross or Freaks to the  
Front by Amyl and the Sniffers.

What makes you tired as a queer person?  
 Coming out (or the expectation to).  
 Being harassed. Feeling sexualised.  
 Being the butt of the joke. Hearing slurs  
 in 2022.

If you could change one thing what would you  
 change?

Ideally capitalism and western notions  
 of hyper-individualism, as well as  
 all of the issues that I believe come  
 along with it. The degradation of the  
 environment, poverty, inequality,  
 colonialism, war and discrimination.

- Chelsea Menzie



- Allyson Byrne



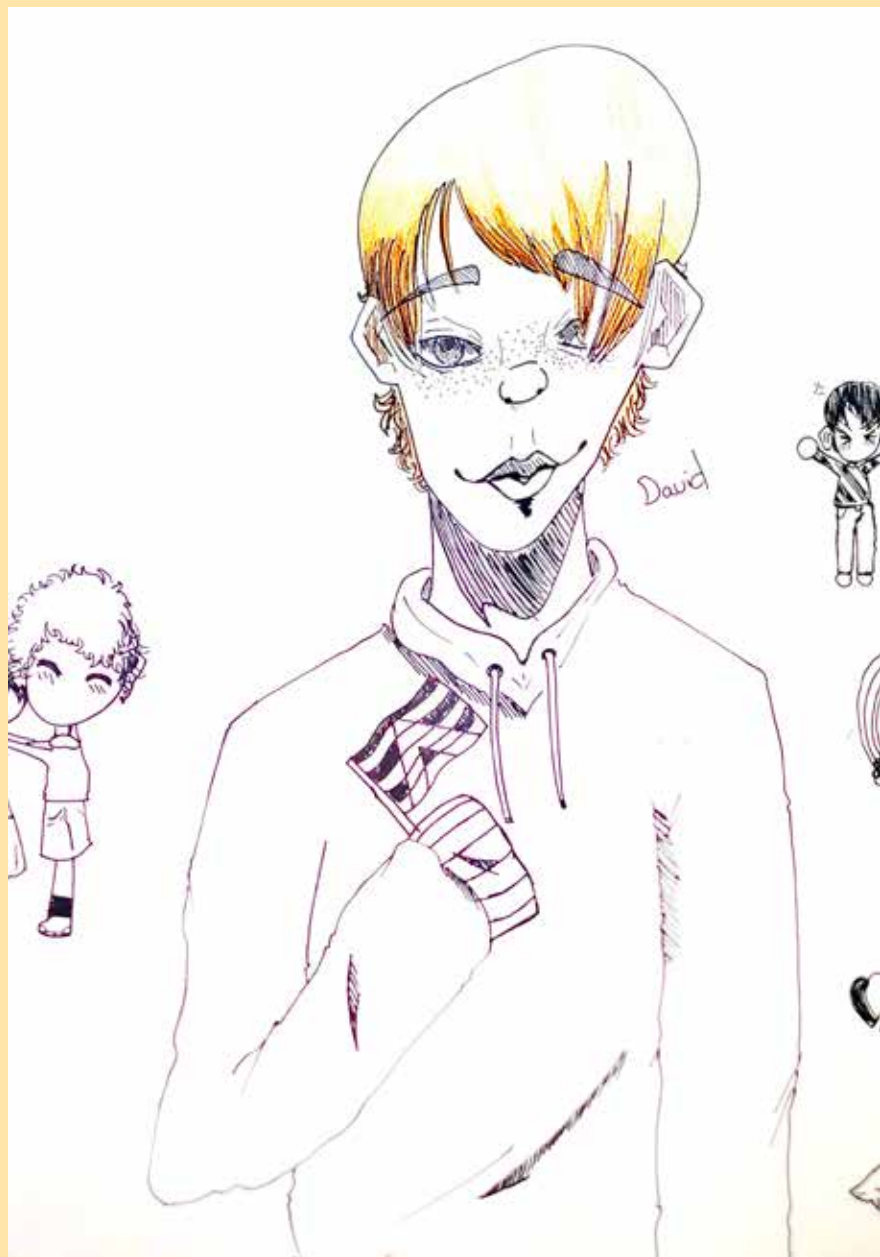




- Suzie Adkins









- Trevor



- Trevor

How do you identify?

She/her. It's definitely interesting to think about that, you know I identify as a lesbian, I've been in a long term relationship for 25 years but before that I had been married, had kids and all of that. Most of my friendships were with women, I was active in all sorts of feminist stuff, and so a lot of those friendships were lesbian women who were my friends. The question is also about how do I identify but I suppose it depends a lot about the context, here it's about gender and sexuality but in other contexts I would probably prioritise a different identity description. So activism has been a big part of it of it for me, not just from a gender perspective.

When you sing who do you think you sound like?

I can't answer who I sound like when I sing, but if I was a meal I would probably be some sort of comfort food with a twist to it in some sort of a way. I really don't know enough about singers. I used to sing a lot as a child and thought I wanted to be a singer when I grew up but now even my daughter doesn't want to hear me!

If you had an ally when you were younger, what difference did they make? If you didn't what difference could they have made?

I didn't have an ally. That was also because I internalised quite a lot of homophobia. My dad died when I was very young, but my mum was particularly scathing and derogatory. I went to an all-girls school, you know I

had crushes on prefects and things like that but it was never something you would act on... never sexual or thought of. I think that kind of internalised homophobia really coloured my life.

Out of my three kids, my middle child who is my daughter, when I was in my first lesbian relationship she was in her teens. She was vicious, she hated it. I think it was really hard for her to have a lesbian mum. The two boys it didn't seem to faze them at all. But that fed into my own homophobia too, it made it really hard. I also found it really interesting that with my daughter, she was a really big supporter in other ways of gay couples. There was a gay couple in her grade in grade 10 that she was really supportive of in her school community. But she still found it really hard to have a lesbian mum. She got married recently and my partner was the photographer for the wedding, she is more accepting but that was very hard. I think an ally in the family particularly would've been extraordinary.

The Marriage Equality Act was something as well that was really scary when it was happening, it was potentially really frightening. When the outcome was positive it was fantastic. It was so good. My partner and I got married, part of it was about security as a married couple but the outcome was also that my extended family were really pleased for me. Although we know that it is not the case in other countries.



What would you say to your younger self?

I think I've touched on it, but I always really admired friends who were more defiant, or people who knew who they were and said "I am who I am and I'm okay with that". I think for me that was a really hard space to find. If I could go back I would encourage myself to be that way. Maybe if I had been less troubled my daughter would have been more accepting, but it didn't start there it started with my mum.

What makes you feel proud?

One of the things I'm really proud of is my children and that they are all good people. I'm proud of that because I left my husband when my youngest was one, so they had a long time of being raised by a single mum. I am also proud of the activism that I've been involved in over the years and maintaining that even now, taking risks with it. I worked in human rights areas, with climate issues and also on Nauru. I'm also proud of my academic achievements, getting a master's degree as a single parent.

My older son after my partner and I got married sent me a letter saying he was so happy that he had three mothers. His mother in law, me and my partner. That was lovely. It really made me feel good.

Thinking as well about a friend, another woman, she helped me find my anger. Feminism is a big part of my life. In the 60s and 70s it was just like finding something that was extraordinary. It was literature and poetry. This book called

'Gynaecology' was pwoaa it was just extraordinary. Everything that was doing the rounds in the 70s. I felt like a sponge and suddenly poetry that was written by women spoke to me in a way that poetry by men did not. Women in the Western world were finding their voice and it was such an exciting time.

What is your superpower?

I have no idea what my superpower is. Solitude is something that I get strength from. Trees and the bush. Although maybe that is not quite what the question is talking about.

What Song or poem best describes you?

I had a lovely time working out which song described me. Sinéad O'Connor 'Oro Se Do Beatha Bhaile'. That has spoken to me. It's about oppression and finding creative ways of not being downtrodden. I love that. Celebrating female ferocity and strength.

What makes you tired?

Destruction of nature. Cruelty and stupidity. When I can't be own my own to recharge.

If you could change one thing what would you change?

I don't know it's too limited. There's too many things that I would like to change.

-Anonymous



## On Being an Ally

I have had family and friends who have been different to I, loved different to me. But who am I to judge who can love who? Society has for far too long written the wrong rules, spoken untruths, not allowed people to be who they are, love who they love, accept everyone is destined to be who they are: unique individual and true.

-Julie Andersson



An Acrostic Poem - Diversity and Allies

Diversity

Inclusion

Fairness

Fusion

Equality

Rights

Effortless

Needed

Complete

Exiting

Accept

Listen

Love

Influence

Engage

Support

- Julie Andersson





