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## q comment:

**Australia's longest running wine guide showcases the best local wines of the year**

Now in its 34th Edition, Australian Wine Vintages (also known as 'The Gold Book') is the essential guide to discovering the best local wines this year, no matter the price point or your level of wine knowledge. Written by Rob Geddes MW, it provides detailed tasting notes of over 3500 wines from Australian and New Zealand in print, and over 13,500 in the App.

Empowering wine buyers by demystifying the experience, Rob Geddes showcases the top 10% of Australian wineries that are proven consistent to drink, cellar and invest. With over 100 new wineries and 1000 new wines included in this edition, the book includes past vintage details for those who are cellaring or trading back vintages, as well as a guide to the various wine varieties and regions so you know what to look for. The Gold star list recognises the most consistent high quality wines in Australia, with an annual list of the top 100 wines tasted.

Accompanied by a panel of experts from other Master of Wine recipients, Sommeliers, major retail buyers and winemakers, all of the wines featured are tasted independently and objectively.

Suitable for both newbies and seasoned collectors, the 34th edition of Australian Wine Vintages is a trusted companion for exploring wine country or your local bottle shop.

Sydney-based Rob Geddes, Master of Wine, has been immersed in every aspect of the wine industry for more than 30 years as an author, consultant, speaker, judge and educator, and is one of less than 20 MWs in Australia today. Rob has recently been awarded various titles including visiting professor at China's A&F Northwest University, and Ambassador of Jumilla and the grape Monastrell.



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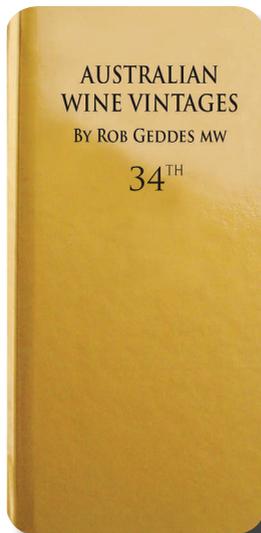
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Brett Hayhoe t/a Q Magazine  
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# q feature: **WIGSBYVANITY.COM**

## Courtney and Vanity Drive The Uber Their Newest Wig Creation

International drag queens Courtney Act and Vanity are celebrating the ÜberRiah, the new lace-front wig from their company, WigsByVanity.com. The name comes from the gay slang language, Polari: Über meaning ultimate and Riah is hair spelled backwards.

*"ÜberRiahs are the best wigs out there,"* declares Courtney Act.

Many in the drag community agree. In fact, a large number of the wigs seen on RuPaul's Drag Race today are designed by Vanity and Courtney.

Bianca Del Rio is a fan of their brand. *"If you want fabulous hair like mine, go to WigsByVanity.com. It's the best! Shit looks real!"*, she says.

Alaska Thunderfuck, Katya Zamolodchikova and William Belli are also often seen in ÜberRiahs. Alaska most enjoys the Classic Vanity in Illegally Blonde "because its icy hue and rich fullness mirror my natural hair's own color and beauty." Willam prefers the Courtney ÜberRiah "because it's clean and I don't have to brush it."

Katya is partial to the Marie in Illegally Blonde for its high quality and manageable length. *"It provides me the versatility to confidently assert my right to speak with the manager at Chico's while living my lifelong dream of impersonating a lesbian art dealer from West Germany."*

Even RuPaul is often seen wearing locks by WigsByVanity.com. There is a color in the collection called "The Shade Of RuPaul" that was created by matching hair from one of Ru's original lace fronts.

*"Every wig's life begins in a bag but what happens once it's been removed is where the magic lies,"* explains Vanity.

Vanity and Courtney began WigsByVanity.com in 2003, largely inspired by RuPaul's flawless lace-front wigs and their inability to find similar wigs for themselves at a reasonable price. Vanity, a master wig stylist, taught herself to hand-knot hair strand-by-strand. The pair then travelled to the provinces of China to meet with manufacturing experts in the wig field to develop a hybrid of the traditional "machine-made" wig and the handmade custom lace-front hairline, creating the first one-size-fits-most wig for under \$1000.

While traditional wigs are made for smaller female heads, Vanity and Courtney design their wigs specifically for drag queens. Wigs are larger in size, with fuller, more fabulous hair that is in perfect proportion to match a man's hair line.

*"It's like a queen wearing a crown,"* Vanity continues. *"A queen and her wig must become one."*

*"Very true,"* adds Courtney. *"A drag queen can exist without a wig, but an amazing wig is nothing without a drag queen."*





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# q travel: with BARRIE MAHONEY

'Tweeters from the Atlantic'

*Barrie Mahoney was a head teacher and school inspector in the UK, as well as a reporter in Spain, before moving to the Canary Islands to launch and edit a new English language newspaper. He enjoys life in the sun as a columnist and author, and continues to write a series of popular novels and books for ex-pats.*



## Atlantis or What?

**I don't have much time for conspiracy theories; I do not believe that Princess Diana was murdered by MI6, nor do I believe that the Moon landing was an elaborate US hoax filmed in Neil Armstrong's back garden. However, I am intrigued by the story of Atlantis, and the links with the Canary Islands that pop up from time to time. This intrigue was fed even more a few days ago following a meeting with a group of divers who were visiting the islands...**

Over the years, the tantalising story of the lost city of Atlantis is thought to have been Bermuda, the Azores, Gibraltar, the Bahamas, whilst the Russians claimed to have found it 100 miles off the coast of Cornwall. Boring cynics claim that it only existed in the mind of that wise old bird, Plato, who 2600 years ago was merely giving an example, rather than referring to a literal place on the map. Indeed, somewhere near Greece would seem to be the most likely place of all.

Atlantis was considered to be a major sea power located in the Atlantic Ocean. Its kings were descended from Poseidon, the god of the sea, but their divinity became diluted after mixing with humans. The island conquered much of Africa and Western Europe and by 9600BC had put paid to most of its enemies. Plato describes the island in some detail, with mountains to the north and a plain to the south.

Over the years, scholars have attempted to locate the real Atlantis, believing that it represented some form of ancient superpower, with others claiming that the destruction of Atlantis was inspired by the Black Sea floods of around 5000BC, which might have also inspired the stories of the major flood in the Old Testament.

Plato claimed that Atlantis disappeared "in a single day and night, disappearing in the depths of the sea", after it failed to successfully invade Athens. Tsunamis were recorded in the region, with one massive event hitting Lisbon with a 10-storey tidal wave in 1755. Plato referred to Atlantis in his writings as an island in front of the straits known as 'the pillars of Hercules'; it is likely that these pillars were the Straits of Gibraltar. Plato's detailed description has focussed the search on the Atlantic and Mediterranean as the most likely sites for the city.

It is currently claimed that Atlantis is submerged under mud flats somewhere off the coast of Spain, just off Cadiz to be more exact, according to some scientists. The exact location has been pinpointed with the assistance of digital mapping, radar and underwater technology, using a satellite photo of a suspected submerged city to locate the site. Interestingly, US scientists claim that the residents who survived the destructive tsunami fled and eventually created new cities inland; these cities have been located in marshland and it is evidence from these sites that is being used in the current underwater surveys.

One event that continues to fascinate me is an account of a discovery that appeared online very briefly some months ago. Grid-like lines that resembled city streets were spotted on Google Earth, just off the Canary Islands. Google quickly dismissed the suggestions, claiming that the lines were left by a boat that was collecting data for them. However, this event excited many researchers and the Google explanation was dismissed with some cynicism by some experts. Interestingly, all accounts of this discovery were quickly removed from the Internet, with those in the know claiming no knowledge of the discovery. Indeed, the divers that I have been talking to are investigating these claims more thoroughly. Maybe, just maybe, a conspiracy theory is evolving here...

There are many who continue to claim that Atlantis sank into the Atlantic Ocean, leaving its highest mountains as islands calling from the sea. These islands are, of course, the Canary Islands and that the native people of these islands, the Guanches, were descendants of the people of Atlantis. Whether Atlantis is ever found, if indeed it ever existed, the story of the rise and fall of this great power, is certainly a fascinating and inspirational one, which will continue to be linked with the Canary Islands for many years to come.

*If you enjoyed this article, take a look at Barrie's websites: [www.bariemahoney.com](http://www.bariemahoney.com) and [www.thecanaryislander.com](http://www.thecanaryislander.com) or read his book, 'Island in the Sun' (ISBN: 9780992767181). Available in paperback, as well as Kindle.*

# q arts centre: **ALWAYS THE BEST**

**Hot Brown Honey set to smash stereotypes at Arts Centre Melbourne  
Calling out the patriarchy, shattering preconceptions of colour, and having a riotous time in the process**

Following a recent five-star season at the Edinburgh Festival Fringe, the sold-out festival sensation Hot Brown Honey makes its Arts Centre Melbourne premiere in a season of fiery, stereotype-smashing political cabaret. Hot Brown Honey has shocked and delighted audiences at the Edinburgh Festival, Melbourne International Comedy Festival, Sydney Opera House, Adelaide Fringe Festival and the Brisbane Festival over the past year. It's fiery, fun, stereotype-smashing Australian cabaret produced by the internationally renowned Briefs Factory and featuring a bevy of powerful and talented First Nations women from Aboriginal Australian, Samoan, Tongan, Maori, Indonesian and South African backgrounds.



Packing a potent punch with hip hop politics, the Honeys will make you laugh until you cry, clap until your hands bleed and shake every part of what your mama gave you. This posse of phenomenal women smash stereotypes, remix the system and dare to celebrate our similarities and differences. With set, music, costume and a lighting design by Paul Lim to rival Beyoncé at Madison Square Garden, this show is guaranteed to get you on your feet! Serving up an audacious platter of dance, poetry, comedy, circus, striptease and song, Hot Brown Honey is unapologetically fierce - defiantly shattering clichés in an explosion of colour, culture and controversy.

The performance was conceived by Samoan Australian Lisa Fa'alafi and South African-Australian Kim 'Busty Beatz' Bowers and is produced by Briefs Factory. Hot Brown Honey also won a Total Theatre Award for Innovation, Experimentation and Playing with Form in Edinburgh.

**Arts Centre Melbourne and Briefs Factory present Hot Brown Honey  
Arts Centre Melbourne, Fairfax Studio - 6 to 13 December 2016  
Tickets [www.artscentremelbourne.com.au](http://www.artscentremelbourne.com.au) or phone 1300 182 183.**

## **Briefs**

**Cult Australian boylesque sensation returns to Arts Centre Melbourne**

After dazzling sell-out runs in Berlin, London, Paris and Glastonbury, Briefs returns to glitter bomb with a splash of Christmas cheer at Arts Centre Melbourne's Fairfax Studio. Glamorous host Shivannah will guide the audience through a jaw-dropping, eye-popping evening of extravagant birdbath boylesque, too-close-for-comfort yo-yo tricks, valiant aerial acrobatics, irreverent interludes and show-stopping drag artistes. The cult Australian boylesque sensation is delighted to be back on home turf with more circus, more comedy, more disorder and more burlesque... with balls!



The collective began in 2008 as a speakeasy in the bowels of Brisbane's alternative variety scene and pays homage to the traditions of circus, the extremities of physical theatre, the artistry of drag, the guts of burlesque, the imagery of theatre, the debauchery of speakeasies and the showmanship of cabaret. They have spawned a production company, Briefs Factory, that develops, produces and presents other award winning independent work all over the world including Hot Brown Honey (Total Theatre Award Winner Edinburgh for Innovation and Experimentation and Playing with form), Brat Kids Cabaret (Special Commendation for Family Theatre Adelaide Fringe), Club Briefs and Sweatshop.

**Arts Centre Melbourne in association with Briefs Factory presents Briefs  
Arts Centre Melbourne, Fairfax Studio - 13 TO 18 December 2016  
Tickets [www.artscentremelbourne.com.au](http://www.artscentremelbourne.com.au) or phone 1300 182 183.**

**TICKETS FOR BOTH SHOWS ON SALE NOW**

*For more information about Arts Centre Melbourne visit [artscentremelbourne.com.au](http://artscentremelbourne.com.au) or phone 1300 182 183. Become a fan of Arts Centre Melbourne on facebook or follow @artscentremelb on Twitter / Instagram.*

# q books: FALL / SPRING BOOK BOX

By Jimmy Newsum

By September, many of us have had our fill of dips in the ocean and in pools or for the southern hemisphere, a long, cold winter. Perhaps its time to dip into some reading?

The fall season offers some sizzling new books for every appetite. Whether you have a taste for intrigue, romance, fierceness or drama - or if you'd like to learn how to make yourself a better person in time for the holidays - there's something out there for you.

We've pulled together a list of titles that definitely deserve a spot in your weekend tote.

## FIERCELY YOU

Be Fabulous and Confident by Thinking Like a Drag Queen  
By Jackie Huba, with Shelly Stewart Kronbergs  
(Berrett-Koehler Publishing Original)

Jackie Huba teaches readers how to apply the lessons of drag queens into their everyday lives. The truth is, too many of us are controlled by our bosses, significant others, friends and parents. We succumb to perceptions that we aren't smart enough or capable enough and we fail to live up to our true potential. Huba unlocks the Keys to Fierce, showing readers how they, too, can become supremely self-assured and utterly fearless by simple acts drag queens do such as dressing for power, striking a commanding pose, ignoring naysayers and taking risks. She weaves together critical research, compelling examples, lively storytelling and draws on interviews with the world's top drag performers, many of whom have competed on RuPaul's Drag Race.

Huba even illustrates her point by becoming a drag queen herself! It's a compelling read that may lead you to your own transformation.

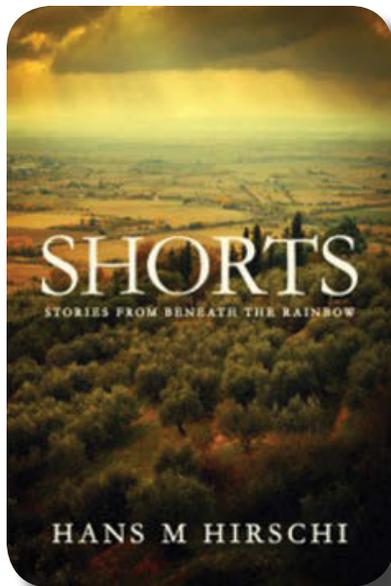
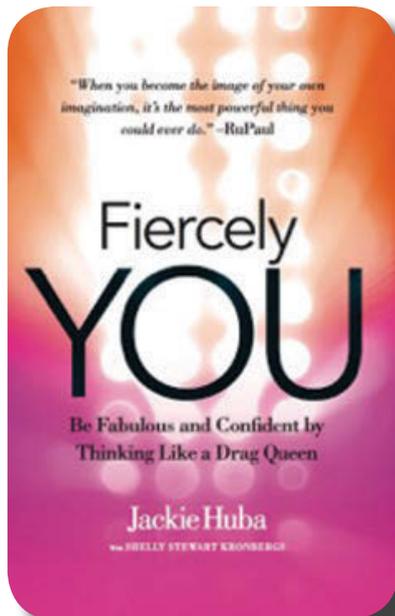
No wigs or stilettos required.

## SHORTS

Stories From Beneath the Rainbow  
By Hans Hirschi

This latest collection from Hans M Hirschi is a tapestry of the LGBT experience, featuring stories that span the wide spectrum of personalities that together, make up the fabric of the LGBTQ community. Each story carries a unique message. From "The Kiss", which recounts a Somali refugee who experiences his first same-sex kiss to "The Loner", a reflection of how the gay community looks at middle aged men (not a pretty picture); every story manages to look at queer life from a different angle and perspective. Alex, a story about a trans doctor who rescues the life of an adolescent, aims to encourage readers to remove gender labels. "The Slasher", involving a gay club with multiple murders and the mention of ISIS, bears an eerie similarity to the Orlando shooting.

There are stories of a dried up spinster, a Navajo dyke, a completely unfiltered twink, and more; all meant to show the humanity of the LGBTQ community and how queer people struggle with self-esteem, fall in love, help others and fight to survive – just like everyone else.



## MOMMIE SMEAREST

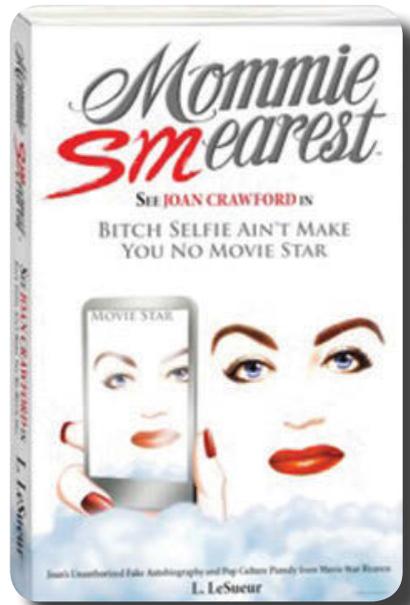
See Joan Crawford In Bitch Selfie Ain't Make You No Movie Star  
By L. LeSueur

When JOAN CRAWFORD is stopped at the gate to Hollywood Heaven and ordered to Hell "for reasons well known to her," she must return to Earth to both explain her Mommie Dearest sins and perform good works, most notably: rescue true celebrity back from today's reality starlets and civilian selfies. In this riveting posthumous fake autobiography, Joan, writing as L. LeSueur, reinvents herself as the rap artist mo.m.m.i.e.D. and from a secret base at a Florida trailer park, launches raucous battles against the likes of Kim Kardashian and Martha Stewart.

In between her squabbles, Joan offers hilarious flashbacks from her own rich Hollywood life, including a never-revealed audition for TV's The Brady Bunch.

In the end, multiple story lines converge into an affirming crescendo of activity that includes criminal indictments, a high-profile gay society wedding, and the final verdict on Joan's entry into Hollywood Heaven. It all

serves as a reminder of the 'realness' of fame, especially in today's celebrity-obsessed culture where anyone with a smartphone can be a star.



## WHY DRAG?

By Magnus Hastings  
(Chronicle Books)

In drag culture - where pushing boundaries is the exception rather than the rule - there will always be a need to stand up for grit. Inside the pages of Magnus Hasting's vibrant new coffee-table book, pageant queens strut in full regalia while waiting for a bus, Bianca Del Rio digs into a Barbie doll with pins and needles, and Adore Delano gives great face in front of a McDonald's while rocking a Budweiser one-piece. Hastings' spent two years travelling the country to shoot the queens and learn why they do drag. The book offers their answers in the form of short stories that are marked by their humor and, oftentimes, sincerity.

And then, of course, there are the gorgeous photos.



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# q product: **AEOS**

AEOS offers a wide range of award-winning formulations that are completely organic and natural with no toxic chemicals or synthetics and contain innovative harvesting of natural, organic and biodynamic plant extracts, essences, essential oils, as well as spagyric tinctures of crystals and gems. AEOS formulations are blended, purified and activated using cutting-edge technologies and innate expertise, obtained from natural sources, pioneering water purifying methods, and through the unique use of ancient spelt on its very own biodynamic farm.

AEOS - Active Energised Organic Skincare, have a variety of products suitable for men that are naturally cruelty-free and 100% plant-derived.

When it comes to products we put on our skin, there is a growing demand for green practices including pesticide-free, organic and even attempting DIY garden beds, which is why AEOS are particularly relevant.

Mike's Farm-to Face philosophy is at the core of what AEOS products represent. "Many of the ingredients used in AEOS products are harvested and farmed sustainably, right here on our 500 acre biodynamic Farm" explains Mike, "It's so important to be able to trace products we are applying topically, understand the process of where they came from. Men have a responsibility to care for their skin and entire wellbeing."

All AEOS products are suitable for men and women, but the AEOS Enriching Spelt Hand Cream, Enriched with organic oils, hydrosols and the wonderful biodynamic spelt oil produced Biodynamic Shire Farm and offers the very best of nature directly to the hands. Spelt Hand Cream will nourish hands that have become dry or de-natured, leaving them feeling and looking soft and moisturised. Containing liquid tinctures of crystals, spelt hand cream can help to rejuvenate damaged or problem skin.



The AEOS Blue Cleansing Wash and Enriching Moisturiser are rich in skin soothing chamomile are enhanced with the crystal essences of amethyst, turquoise and emerald, which help clam, soothe and relax the skin, and the soul. Perfect for use after a long day at the office, when all you want to do is sit on the couch, de-stress and relax.

Gentle Cleansing Lotion RRP \$84.80  
Enriching Moisturiser RRP \$100.20  
Enriching Spelt Hand Cream RRP \$141.00



For more information and to view the full product range, go to <http://www.benaturallyyou.com/aeos-s/158.htm>

**GIVE YOUR WORD. PROMISE  
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# q youth: with **TASMAN ANDERSON**

**Tassie's Bucket List: #172 "Attend a Same-Sex Marriage and Blubber like a Baby"  
How is it 2016 and we still don't have marriage equality in Australia?**

With the Australian government considering whether or not a plebiscite on same-sex marriage should be undertaken, the topic of marriage equality is grabbing the attention of a lot of Australians, young and old.

I'll be the first to admit that I had no idea what a plebiscite even was before this year. I hadn't heard the word before now but that wasn't much of a surprise considering I often get too fed up to listen when politicians talk. So to clear it up, a plebiscite is a fancy name for when the public get to vote on a change in constitution. There are benefits to these types of situations but with an estimated cost of \$200 million to have one on same-sex marriage, it hardly makes sense.

It's not a secret that a majority of Australians support marriage equality. In fact, a recent Newspoll survey found that 62 percent of the Australian public would support the legalisation of same-sex marriage. So why do we need to spend taxpayers' dollars on something that shouldn't even be a debate?

I find it truly shocking that we're still debating whether Australia should allow same-sex marriage. Our world is changing faster than a lot of us can keep up with. Gay characters are dominating our television screens and reality shows like Gogglebox Australia feature same-sex couples who have been together just as long as many of the straight couples I know. But with the good, comes the bad. Reality shows like Married at First Sight focuses on complete strangers marrying each other as some type of social experiment.

I just don't get it; how can people still believe that same-sex couples will violate the sanctity of marriage when shows like this are dominating our televisions. When did marriage become entertainment?

I'm not about to claim that I know everything about the situation because I don't. My knowledge of Australian politics is limited and I also have never been married before. What I do know about is love and the ability to freely express that. I haven't had a partner of 15 years that I couldn't marry, nor have I had to hide my love because I was afraid of what would happen if people found out. I've been able to take marriage for granted because I've been given that privilege without a second thought. I can't say the same for my LGBTI friends and family, and that is what's truly sad about this entire thing.

You're not just dealing with legislation; you're dealing with people. These are living, breathing humans who just want to express their love for each other and have the security and exclusivity that comes with marriage.

So what can we do about the injustice? We can speak up. No change in history was ever accomplished by staying silent. When women weren't allowed to vote, the world rallied behind them. When indigenous people were treated like second-class citizens, the country spoke up and demanded equal rights. Of course both of these situations took decades to accomplish but they were achieved through a unified voice. Allowing same-sex couples to marry should be no different. You don't need to be a member of the LGBTI community to say something.

Marriage should be something that all people have access to. Love and marriage does not belong to one specific race, religion, or ethnicity – it's for everyone.

There is so much that you can do. You can write to your local parliament member about the injustice and your desire to see change in legislation, you could attend marriage equality rallies and march alongside others, or you could teach your own children lessons in tolerance and respect so that maybe they could make the changes that we currently don't see.

Make your voice heard because that's the most important thing. Marriage may not be something you want but it's an option that should at least be available to you.

We shouldn't need to vote on something that every Australian should be entitled to.



# q drag: GH CELEBRATES 21 YEARS

Despite rumours of its closing or being converted to apartments, the GH has weathered the storm and celebrates its 21st Birthday on 17 September 2016. Alan Mayberry looks at how the old gal has survived the decades.

Drag has always been an integral part of St Kilda night life, be it Les Girls in the 70s or Pokeys in the 80s. For years people took the Greyhound for granted. It was that pub in the iconic art deco building across the road from the St Kilda Town Hall, with loud bands most nights and drag shows on a Saturday.

The hotel's history dates back to 1853 when it opened and greyhound racing was a popular sport in St Kilda. The hotel boasted a painting of two greyhounds. A billiard table was an added attraction in 1871. The art deco renovation came in 1938 with the addition of cement rendered brickwork and tiles.

By 2011 the GH complete with its multi-million dollar facelift, and a winning entertainment formula evolved into Australia's premier stage for drag entertainment. The formula was great dance music, drinking and most notably a diverse and stunning array of drag performances.

Sixteen years ago, Laurie Dunstan was the Greyhound's Saturday promoter. Laurie was a former Trade Union official, but entertaining drag shows was his love. He admits, 'When I took over, the Greyhound was at a low. We started at the bottom but gradually built it up. Our stage was 2 pellets with a piece of ply on top and our spotlight was a garden flood light. Pretty soon we were attracting 100s every Saturday.' Laurie proudly boasts 'I always looked after the girls and the crowd loved them. I was responsible for bringing the Showbags to the stage, then Kerrie Le Gore's *All Stars* and finally Paris and The Classics.'

But in the early days it was the veteran Tootsie who stole the show. Making her debut at 61, she kept performing there for years. In those days DJs made do with 2 home CD players, and a clapped-out tape deck, not to mention a string of double adaptors to work the lighting. Tootsie hosted *Social Identity* and went on to become a St Kilda icon with performers like Emerald Stone, Jamie Lee Skye and Tina Sparkles. For a few years around 1999, Jamie Lee staged *Dream Girls* with Linda Lamont, Anita Mann, Lois Mantis and Divanna Lorette, bringing big costumes and huge head dresses to the stage. Laurie is proud of the atmosphere the venue provided, different to any other, and filling the void left by Pokeys which had closed in the early 90s. He is chuffed at what he achieved. 'I'd created something that people liked and kept coming back to. The punters rewarded us by returning by the drove week after week. Looking after people was the key to our success. I loved the way people would sit cross legged on the beer-soaked carpet to watch the show in the early days. It had real character.'



Next came Amanda Monroe, Jessica James and Linda Lamont, the original Showbags, in 2001. Amanda Monroe, who was the marketing genius recalls, 'Crowds went from 70 when we started to about double. Within 3 months The Showbags were drawing a record crowd of 900. Linda was with us for 3 shows and then left to go travelling. Her replacement was Vivien St James. We were also staging shows like the *Red Curtain Trilogy* on a Wednesday featuring Kitten Kaboodle.'



When the Showbags finished their record-breaking 3-year run, they had risen the performance stakes dramatically. To fill the gap Kerrie Le Gore did a 14-week *All Stars* season that bought the cream of the drag world to the Greyhound stage. Week after week there were headliners like Terri Tinsel, Debra Le Gae and Doreen Manganini as guests, with Vivien St James as Le Gore's glamorous side kick.



The Classics were formed in August 2003 to replace *Le Gore's All Stars*. Compere was Paris, with Vivien St James and Laura Gravity and later came Rita Le Coqueater, Nova and finally Millie. Then the male dancers were added, first led by Simon Voules and Craig Fook, and later Matteo Snooks, Julian Ardley and Trent Harlow, with Paris binding it all together. For a decade they were the cornerstone of the GH. And Connie Lingus headed the team of backstage dressers as well as being the weekly Bingo dynamo. Now Jessica James hosts the session with different guests every week.

The Classics' strength was the focus on burlesque and theatrics – not just doing drag numbers. And *Boylesque* extended that concept even further. The brainchild of Paris and Todd Patrick, it proved to be an overnight sensation with dancing skills equivalent to any seen at the Folies Bergère. As Paris and Todd said, 'Audiences are much harder to please now, with arms folded, cynical looks, mobile phones and text messaging at the ready, all glaring at the stage: "All right, entertain us – or else!" You'll never see us in a metre of disco sequin with shoestring straps and the same wig for the whole show. We owe our audience more, and they do appreciate the effort. We are theatrical drags and not female impersonators; theatre and not a dance troupe.' Later *Boylesque* came under the direction of Jason Coleman's Ministry of Dance. Art Simone and Philmah Bocks were hosts. Now the Friday tradition continues under the direction of Day Tona with the introduction of theme nights and Hustler.



The sensational facilities provided with the building upgrade meant the sky was the limit for entertainment. Fridays saw the birth of the *Friday Night Project* some 6 years ago with Tabitha Turlington and Pussy drawing large crowds early in the night and introducing heaps of new talent to the scene. *The Dinner Ladies*, the brainchild of Rita, with Candee and Sue Ridge and now Laura and Taylor were an added Saturday bonus.

The shows are always evolving with the times. Audiences flooded in to enjoy *Royale* and Glamazon's Disney extravaganza. As well young talent like The Size Queens, and Queen were given the opportunity to perform. Drag.net unleashed a sea of new stars like Isis and Aysha Buffet. Recently the magnificent staging facilities have attracted many live shows from the Comedy Festival to Pam Anne. The invasion of the *RuPaul Drag Race* superstars brought new audiences and Karen from Finance. Now the venue is undergoing yet another change, and on Saturdays will be leased to independent promoters who aim to revamp the image with more international DJs, and a greater variety of entertainment throughout the venue – hopefully to recreate the magic that they did at Freakazoid at the Dome on a Saturday.



The GH prides itself on giving back to the community, and every year hosts many events to help support Pride March and the Victorian AIDS Council.

The only thing that is certain is that nothing stays the same forever. The Melbourne drag scene saw dramatic changes this year. The lucky ones in all the changes are the audience. Some appreciative and others more enamoured by the lure of their iPhone screen. It often makes me wonder why they even bother going out. Never before have they seen such a feast of entertainment – all varied, all taking hours to rehearse and costume. I've been so lucky to be there for the ride. Let's just hope every dog hasn't had its day and that this Greyhound lives on – I'd hate to see us lose the finest drag stage in Australia.



FROM JUNE 23<sup>RD</sup> TO JULY 2<sup>ND</sup>



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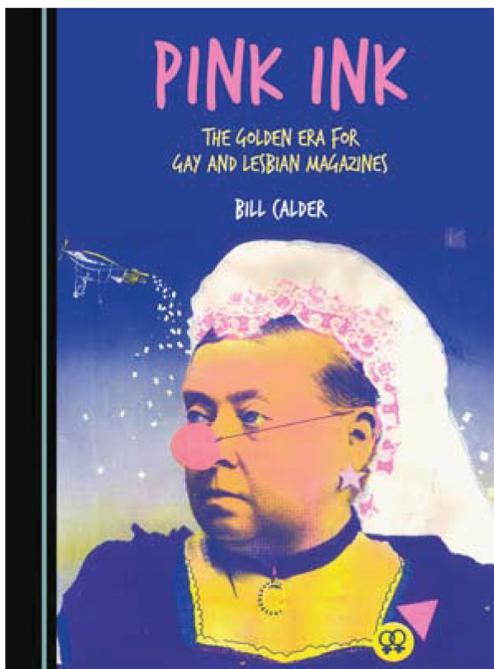
The Secret Gardens of the Dandenong Ranges' is an exclusive event from October 17 - 21, bringing together some of the finest gardens in Melbourne. Passionate garden lovers will experience first-hand a selection of beautiful, privately owned gardens throughout the Dandenong Ranges, not normally accessible to the general public. They will have the opportunity to visit rare plant nurseries, eat at a range of restaurants and al fresco locations, and quaff canapes and champagnes in beautiful gardens.

*Book Now*

For a full tour program or to book 1-5 day tour packages visit our website...

[www.secretgardensofthedandenongranges.com.au](http://www.secretgardensofthedandenongranges.com.au)

# Book Launch



## MELBOURNE

Thursday 20 October  
Hares & Hyenas Bookshop  
63 Johnston St, Fitzroy  
6.30 for 7pm start

Award winning Australian author Christos Tsiolkas will officially launch *Pink Ink*

## SYDNEY

Religious icon, Mother Inferior will launch *Pink Ink* in Sydney

Friday 21 October  
Stonewall Hotel, cocktail bar  
175 Oxford St, Darlinghurst  
6.30 for 7pm start

The tapping of typewriters first lifted the secrecy around homosexuality and a vibrant array of voices was soon heard. The publishers of gay magazines and newspapers were a diverse and lively lot. Some wanted to publicise where the best parties were held; some to fight the political battle; and others to show new ways for lesbians and gay men to live their lives. The story of these magazines and newspapers is the story of society's changing attitudes, and indeed, the changing gay world. This book traces the evolution of Australia's gay and lesbian publications from smudgy porn sold in brown paper bags to glossy coffee-table magazines proudly on display; from gestetnered newsletters to an industry publishing millions of newspapers each year – that is, until the Internet changed it all.

***Pink Ink* on sale at special discount promotional price \$35 (approx. half RRP) at the book launch and online during October only at [cambridgescholars.com/pink-ink](http://cambridgescholars.com/pink-ink).**

## About the author

For nearly two decades Bill Calder edited and published Australian gay newspapers and magazines, including Melbourne's *Brother Sister* in the 1990s, and more recently *Bnews*. Previously he was the senior news journalist at *The Melbourne Times*. *Pink Ink* is based on his recently completed PhD researching the history of gay and lesbian publications in Australia.

# Q win: RUBIK'S NEXT GENERATION

If your family are fans of Rubik's Cube, they'll be happy to hear that the makers of the iconic game are releasing a new, all electronic version called Rubik's Spark (\$49.95).

Guided by flashing LED lights, players tilt and turn the cube where special sensors know where the lights are as you move it around. Rubik's Spark comes with 6 challenging & entertaining inbuilt games suitable for the whole family - regardless of what your family looks like.

Now available at all major toy retailers.

We have four (4) Rubik's Spark to give away. Simply email [getfree@qmagazine.com.au](mailto:getfree@qmagazine.com.au) with **Rubik's** in the subject line to see if you're a winner.



\* All prizes are open to everyone, except those which specifically state you must be over 18 to enter. Entries close on the final day of each calendar month with the prize draw taking place at 5pm the following day at Apt. 7, 16 Westbury Grove, St. Kilda East 3183. Names and addresses of people winning prizes valued at or over \$250 ONLY will be published in the following issue of QMagazine.

All monthly winners are notified by email.

SIA AND PANTERA  
FOR PETA



# TAKE A BITE

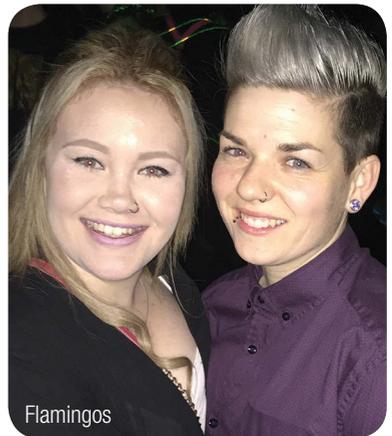
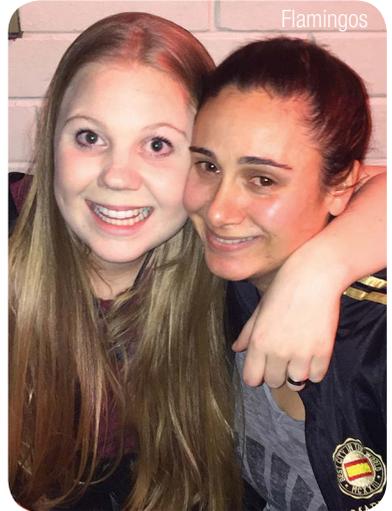
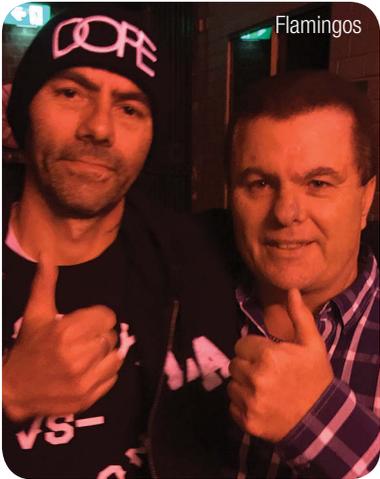


OUT OF ANIMAL  
OVERPOPULATION:

SPAY OR  
NEUTER  
YOUR DOG.



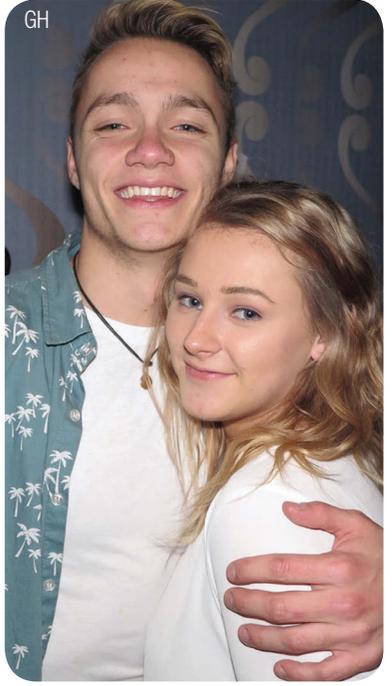
# q scene: OUT & ABOUT



# g scene: **OUT & ABOUT**

Dentists for our community  
[HampsteadDental.com.au](http://HampsteadDental.com.au)

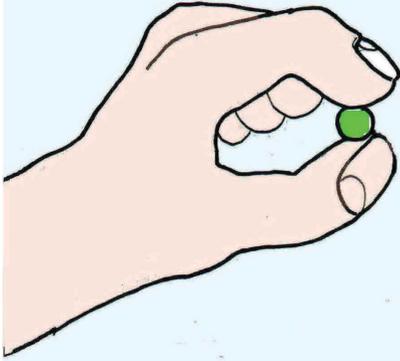
Hampstead Dental



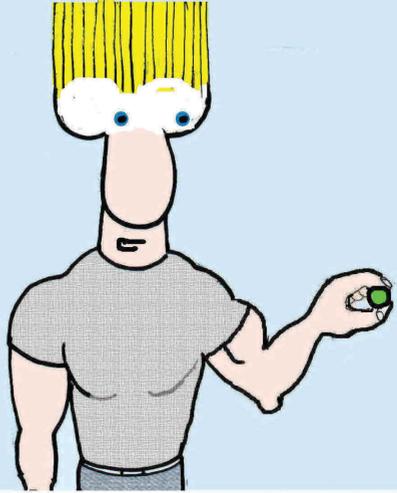
# Gaylord Blade

by KICHI

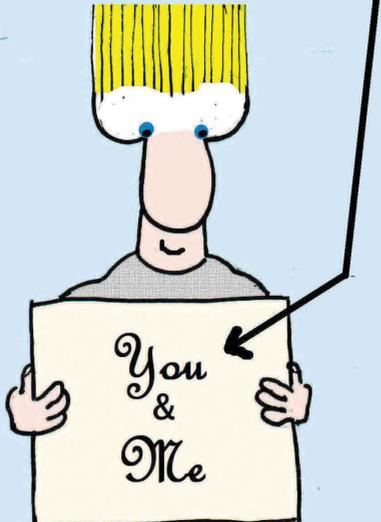
When the human fetus is just 8 weeks old - *the size of a pea* - sex organs are developing ....



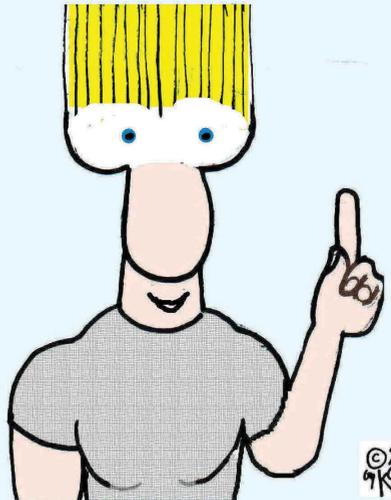
... at 12 weeks, hormones assign the fetal brain male or female "wiring" ...



but, sometimes, genitals & brain don't match 100% due to biological forces, thus creating



so, don't let anyone tell you that who you are, or sleep with, is anything but **NATURAL**





Your connection to  
LGBT-welcoming  
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[IGLTA.org](http://IGLTA.org)

IGLTA Platinum Partners:



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MELBOURNE



DYKES ON BIKES MELBOURNE PRESENT

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HOSTED by the RETRO GIRLS

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1 CHURCH ST RICHMOND

7PM TILL LATE

## SATURDAY NOVEMBER 19TH

ZIGGY DISCOBALLS

REX SPANDEX & HARRIS LONG

JEZZA BELLENO

DRAG QUEENS

LIVE PIERCING

RAFFLES