



JUNE 2006

Q MAGAZINE

Inside this Issue:

Q Culture, Generation Q,
Introducing Q Art,
Q Beauty, Q Dining,
Q Cosmetic, Q Travel,
Q Fashion, Q Wine,
Introducing Q Money,
Q Cabaret and more.

*Victorian born entertainer Kane Alexander
speaks with Q! about his amazing rise to musical fame.
Q Magazine - Made Locally! Enjoyed Nationally!*

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q comment: **COMMUNITY NEWS**

Celebrating The ALSO Foundation's 25th Anniversary, one of Melbourne's most legendary gay and lesbian dance parties – **WINTERDAZE** – is set to make a spectacular return.

An official event forming part of The ALSO Foundation's Silver Jubilee, all proceeds will benefit the ALSORTS youth housing project. Produced by Steven Haby and Geoff Wood of Ice Productions, renowned as the former owners of Prahran's popular Ice Cafe/Bar, they'll be ensuring this CHARITY EVENT is the biggest winter dance party on the Gay and Lesbian calendar.

Winterdaze DEFROSTED takes over Inflation Nightclub – 60 King Street, Melbourne – on Saturday 10th June as part of the Queen's Birthday long weekend. Steven also tells me that particular care and attention will be given to security before and after the party.

Those attending will be entertained for nine fabulous hours amidst a four-level winter playground by over ten of the nation's best house and trance DJ's. These will include Adelaide's DJ Josh, Brisbane's Matt Steer, Sydney's Mark Alsop and Melbourne's own Queen Martine.

On another very important community note:

Bringing together gay men from around the nation, **Rug Up for Winter** is a radical new response to recent rises in HIV infections in our community. Using cutting-edge technologies such as email, SMS and the web, Rug Up aims to create an alliance of 10,000 gay men who are ready to take personal action to stem the tide of HIV. Rug Up seeks to recruit 10,000 gay men from across the country who will:

- 1) commit to practising safe sex for three months;
- 2) have a sexual health check-up; and
- 3) invite six friends to join Rug Up.

For further information:

Please either email enquiries@rugup.org.au or visit the Rug Up for Winter website at rugup.org.au

Stay warm, play safe & enjoy
this month's super-sized edition
of Q Magazine.



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q celebrity: **KANE ALEXANDER**

How does a young man from country Victoria end up where you are right now?

Well... I don't know how it all happened, it just sort of did, but living in the country just wasn't for me and I just had this passion for music which I had to pursue. I was about eleven years old when I knew I wanted to make a career out of music — I started singing lessons, ended up in Melbourne studying at the Victorian College of the Arts and at that point wanted to be an Opera singer. When I finished my studies though, I was way too young to be an Opera singer so I went into acting — moving to New York to study, and that's where I discovered Jazz. I was offered a record label there [on a little independent label] but it all fell through... so I moved back to Australia — unsigned — decided to do my current album — which goes back to my roots which is classical music. It was great cause it was influenced by the jazz training I had and my love of pop - and it all just fell into place.

Do you have a favourite genre?

I'd have to say the one I'm doing — classical crossover — it's great cause I can fuse my love of jazz with pop and film scores and classical and opera and bring it all together in this real fusion of all these styles.

What was the experience of supporting Il Divo like?

Fantastic! I'd just got back from recording in Europe when we went out on tour. It was really great — not only were they fantastic [we had a great time together] — just learning from them... Sebastian told me "It's totally crazy... you will be blown away by this whole experience". Heading out on tour is really crazy — going from city to city — but it's really exciting as well... different cities and different audiences every night — I learnt a lot on that short tour [11 sold out concerts]. It was a great way to be launched and I am very grateful for the opportunity.

I listened to your album just before arriving today and loved it. I guess my stand out song would be "Crying" — brilliant arrangement.

It was interesting the way that happened cause we were doing another song that we were having a few problems with and ended up not being able to do, so at the last minute we were searching for another song and my music director and I had done Crying a few years ago and decided to do it... the audience loved it... you could have heard a pin drop in the Adelaide Entertainment Centre... so instead of doing it for just that one night [which was the original intention] we decided to do it every night and include it on the album — recording it four days before the master was done. It was the only track we recorded in Australia and the only one we didn't use the symphony on.

How important is it for you to sing in a foreign language?

It's not important, it is just a passion of mine. When I started studying classical music, I had to learn to sing in French, Italian, German — my favourite though was always Italian as it is so musical — romantic — passionate — emotional — and that's what I loved about Opera... so because I love singing in Italian so much and it leant itself so well to the sort of music we were presenting on the album I thought let's do one or two and it ended up four... the track Come Vivre [How Do I Live] was recommended to me and I liked it, but I could hear it in Italian. I think some songs transcend language barriers due to the emotion inside the song / the music.

Would you ever go back to Opera?

Probably not. I'd have to use my voice in a very different way and I've been singing pop and jazz for quite a long time... and also I think Opera is very different to classical music even - I can't see myself going back but I still have a deep passion for Opera... I love to listen to it and I love singing it too.

Finally... tour?

I want to get out as soon as we can. We have some concerts planned in about six weeks or so to help launch the album and then we'll be sitting back, see how the album does, and hopefully get out later in the year or early next year for a bigger tour. For me that's the joy of it — I'm a live performer — that's what I love.



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q music: HITS HITS & MORE HITS



Romanovsky & Phillips

Again from outMUSIC comes a great album of Gay themed tunes from two of the funniest men to hit the music scene. Their infectious brand of humour will have you splitting your sides and wanting more.



Ani DiFranco

I have loved this woman's music and style from the first time I heard and saw her perform. This petite artist really packs a punch. In anticipation of her [summer] tour season, Shock Records and her own label - Righteous Babe Records - have released her live 4.6.02 album from a concert she gave seven months after 9/11 at Carnegie Hall. Get it today at all good music stores. She will also be releasing her studio album "Reprise" in July.



Central Station Records

Celebrating a true milestone in the music industry, Central Station has released their limited edition double cd and dvd pack. The dvd highlighting their 30 years with a history of dance music in Australia, and the two cds jammed pack with the hits you know and love.



Pink

If you haven't got your hands on this one yet - get out and buy it today. Sassy, cheeky, sometimes naughty, Pink's "I'm Not Dead" album is typical Pink - exceptional to say the least. Out everywhere from Sony BMG.



Jewel

Goodbye Alice in Wonderland is the latest offering from this gentle sweet songstress. Almost haunting vocals presented in a gentle laid back style and accompanied by a non-evasive but extremely good score, this album is exceptional listening - almost folk with a good solid rock thread - I really enjoyed listening to this album. Thirteen superb tracks on the one CD - available now in all responsible record stores through Warner Music.



Mind Electric

This killer house remake of Stevie V's 1989 hit "Dirty Cash" is shaping up to be one of the biggest dance tracks of the year. Thanks Beat Broker for sending it to us. Out now through Vicious in all the best record stores.



k.d. lang

A brand spanking new compilation from the woman herself - k.d. lang. Twenty tracks including a previously unreleased track - Changed my Mind - makes this album an absolute collectors item. Available everywhere good music is sold through Warner Music.

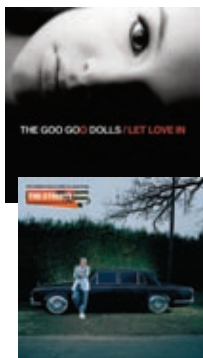


Love my Way

Liberation Music have released this compilation of tracks from the hit [logie award winning] tv series - including songs from Missy Higgins, The Finn Brothers, Eskimo Joe & many more.

q win: SOME THINGS IN LIFE ARE FREE

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Warner Music

Now here's a trio of fabulous goodies from Alice and her team at Warner - 5 k.d. lang albums, 5 Goo Goo Dolls albums and 5 of the Streets latest albums [wow I can hear you say]. Each prize is separate - so email getfree@qmagazine.com.au OR sms 0429 88 QMAG with "k.d" "goo goo" and "streets" in the subject line to pick yourself up one of the 15 albums on offer. Each album, of course, also available in stores now.

* 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. 3, 15 - 17 Charnwood Road, St. Kilda 3182. 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 or SMS.

Pink Financial Services

From my good friends: Colin and Mark - and their team at Pink Financial Services - we have a CASH prize for the first time in Q Magazine - a whopping \$250 will be transferred into the account of the winner. All email addresses of entries for this will be handed to Pink Financial Services - but a small price to pay for a big win. Email getfree@qmagazine.com.au OR sms 0429 88 QMAG with "Pink" in the subject line to win.

Sony BMG

Kane Alexander has a new album out, and with the compliments of Sony BMG, we have 5 copies for you to win. Email getfree@qmagazine.com.au OR sms 0429 88 QMAG with "Kane" in the subject line to win.



Media, Events & Communications

Red5

With the compliments of Rachael and her team, we have 3 double passes to see the 3 Chinese Tenors at the Toorak Uniting Church - Friday the 16th of June. Names will be at the door for collection so get in quick and email getfree@qmagazine.com.au OR sms 0429 88 QMAG with "Tenors" in the subject line to win this very special prize.

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q art: with DAVID WESTLAKE

Why do we collect?

I don't believe you just start collecting - the desire will have always been there in some form. Remember those childhood bits and pieces that ended up on your desk...but as you grow up you find you have the finances, space and knowledge to collect, and that those bits and pieces turn into a passion that brings you joy, rewards your curiosity, or feeds your senses? You find yourself drawn to objects based on some desire that no-one but you can fully understand.

The most important thing to remember is that collecting is about your tastes, no-one else's. Whether it's Smurfs, photos, vintage clothing, 18th century ceramics, Buddha's, prints, paintings, shells, glass etc., (or all of the above) collecting needs to satisfy your passion before you should even try to explain it to someone else. A collection is not just a bunch of similar objects - though, of course, it can be - it is a group of objects brought together by your taste and passion. There's something about each object that satisfies something in you that brings them together. If an item doesn't feed that passion - doesn't give you that thrill or rush - then it doesn't belong in your collection.

Why do we collect? Some do it for investment, but all do it for the love of having objects they desire around them. Collecting for investment is fraught with danger as tastes and fads change and it may take many years to generate a return. An item or a collection of items is only worth what someone is prepared to pay - if fashions change, the value of your item can drop. It's an old cliché, but only buy what you love as you will live with it for a long time.

Next time, we'll look at starting your collection, where to get the items you want, and how to spot a bargain.

q theatre: PHAN OF THE OPERA



Like many opera enthusiasts, I have waited a long time to see Lakme being performed 'in the flesh'.

This work was first made famous in Australia when, in 1976, the partnership of Bonyng and Sutherland brought it to our shores. That production was an instant success, and probably would have been a constant piece for the Australian Opera (as it was then called), if not for an unfortunate warehouse fire which destroyed the entire production in 1978.

It was always going to be a daring act to try and emulate the success of that original production of Lakme; after all, who can compare to the stunning performances of La Stupenda herself? This new production, I am pleased to say, satisfies on every level. The cast was probably the best ensemble that OA has produced for many years. Not perhaps the most powerful voices, but certainly some of the most lyrical that we have seen on our opera stage for a long time.

From the opening choruses, through the angelic harmonies of Lakme (Emma Matthews) and her servant Mallika (Sally-Anne Russell) in the Dome epais (Flower Duet), which contained some of the sweetest singing that I have heard for a long time, to the challenging Bell Song in the second act (dazzlingly performed by Ms. Matthews), right through to the ultimate tragedy of the final act, little fault could be found in the evening. Others stand out in this cast - Bruce Martin as Nilakantha, Warwick Fyfe as Frederic, and Henry Choo, who stood in at the last minute, replacing Jaewoo Kim in the role of Gerald, due to the latter being indisposed for this particular performance. Mr. Choo, a relatively new performer, in particular impressed us all with the tonal quality of his singing. The entire cast, without exception, were a joy to hear. Some of this credit must go to maestro Richard Bonyng, who has somehow performed his magic as the conductor to ensure that this difficult work was given its due.

The design of the sets and costumes hark back to the time of the original period when this piece was written, and both the designer, Mark Thompson and director, Adam Cook should be proud of this work, as indeed should all who were involved in its delivery.

Let's hope that this new production will be a regular piece that is performed for many years to come by Opera Australia. Brava, Bravo and Encore!! Go to opera-australia.org.au for dates of all Opera Australia performances throughout Australia - while you're there join Allerta and constantly stay in touch.

q drag: by DR. PAUL

If you have not heard already, St. Kilda is alive to the sound of the "Campest Drag Show Ever". If you have any interest in entertainment, then don't miss this milestone in drag performance. The girls at Pink have outdone themselves to give you a night out that you will talk about for years - The Sound of Music.

Solving a problem like Maria (a naughty Jessica James) proves a handful for Mother Superior (Kris Del Vase) who climbs every mountain or should I say "raps" her way up to persuade Maria not to shag Captain Von Trapp. Meanwhile, "going-on-sixteen" Liesel (Amanda Monroe) is fighting a losing battle with her sexual springtime and gives a handsome Kurt (Jackie Stevens) more than just a telegram! The Flatulent Captain Von Trapp (also Kris) interrupts a very very cute bedroom scene with the (4!) Von Trapp children discovering a few of their favorite things! Gretel (Gillette Jones) is the blondest and sexiest pre-pubescent Von Trapp child ever!

In one of the best character performances in world drag history, a lesbian-oid "Baroness" (Roxy Bullwinkle) provides Maria with food for thought and discovers she may be "just a gigolo" after all - it's to die for! And just when you think you could not smile any harder, it's springtime for Adolph Hitler (Gillette) and cabaret like you would not believe: sexy, down and dirty, and just plain funky.

Can Maria trap her man? Can Kurt escape the rampantly hormonal Liesel and pursue that sex change operation? Can the Baroness decide between women and men? Does Mother superior really use a crucifix like never before? And what of the young Gretel?

This show must be seen to be believed, playing every Saturday night at PINK in Inkerman Street - so book a table at showbags.com or phone Jill on 0402003247. Catch the Showbags and the Manly Sisters on Drags Aloud Channel 31 - 10pm Thursday nights [Ed: I have caught this show on Channel 31 - it is also something you really must see].

q extra: PRODUCT NEWS



Nine Network Australia and SONY BMG Music Entertainment have announced an extension to their output arrangement to create, distribute and market DVDs. The deal will see the release of more DVDs from many of the network's current programs...stay tuned to Nine and enjoy!

Discover your own beautiful porcelain complexion...naturally! Daintree by The Natural Source has launched a new, specialist natural moisturiser to help lighten and brighten your skin. Used daily, Daintree White Silk Hydrating Moisturiser with UVA/UVB Sunscreen will help you achieve a clearer, fairer and more porcelain complexion while keeping skin hydrated and protected from the damaging rays of the sun. For stockists call: 03 9551 5544 or: thenaturalsource.com



AMSTEL - a Dutch beer - is proud to be in Australia - making this only the second country in the world to introduce the product following its launch in Russia earlier this year. Recognising a clear trend in health awareness and well-being, despite being a full strength beer, Amstel offers lower calories and carbohydrates in comparison to other international premium beers. Ask for it by name at your local bottle shop, restaurant, pub or club.

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q whispers: with ADDAM STOBBS



Who do you trust? And who do you believe?

As a hard-faced cynic, the answer to these and similar questions would have to be ... no-one! When politicians, police, major companies announce that they are going to make things "better" for gay and lesbian people, I am always suspicious. In the past "making things better" has actually meant making things worse, but making it look like it's a step forward when, in real terms, it is another constraint on our community.

The current hysteria over the 28% rise in infection rates in Victoria for HIV last year, has, of course, brought out more knee jerk reactions than a night of bad boot-scooting. Not only from those who want to pounce on the community and assign blame, but also from sectors within our community who want to make a difference.

Maybe one of the things the G&L community based response groups are doing is in fact to stay off any insurgency by 'concerned' government, by setting up internalised education networks and preventative stratagem based on current G&L culture (maybe that should just be Gay culture – I don't think there is a significant component of HIV lesbians).

Will we see new draconian measures and Anal police at SOP Venues making sure everyone has a rubber on? Probably not, the 1980's are long gone, but some responsibility lies with each individual. The safest way to negotiate any sexual transaction is to assume that every person you come into contact with is HIV+ and that way you are in control of your own destiny. Sure, drugs and being pissed may diminish your awareness of what you are doing, but that is the consequence you will face. My advice: if you are going to do drugs and binge then don't go to a SOPV to sober up or come down.

Telling us that safe sex is great fun and just as good is not going to convince anyone. We know it's bullshit - telling us that if we don't have safe sex we are probably going to die is much more effective. The truth is that even with all of these expensive drugs around, sustaining the life-span of a HIV+ person is a lot more effective than it was 20 years ago. Not in all cases though. Some people are very sensitive to HIV and suffer very early on. Some will go for a few years... but at the end of the day it is huge physical and psychological burden.

If you play with fire you will get burned. The burning will not just be for each person infected, but for the gay community as a whole, because there are those who would love to lock us all up, even though they say they "tolerate our behaviour and lifestyle and don't criminalise us" – the message behind those comments is "but I would like to". Please look after yourselves and each other, minimise your own risks, and buy botox instead of ecstasy.

q says: with DESTINY

q joke of the month

One day Mum was cleaning Junior's room and in the closet she found a bondage S&M magazine. This was highly upsetting for her. She hid the magazine until his Father got home and showed it to him.

He looked at it and handed it back to her with out a word. So she asked him, "What should we do about this?"

Dad looked at her and said, "Well I don't think you should spank him."

This camp butch bitch has single-handedly established herself from a well known Melbourne backyard variety to one of Melbourne's newest and most notorious young drag queens ever. Spearheading a new breed of queens, this beautiful metamorph has made constant appearances on the Novasgoss website and surprisingly tabloids across the country. Yet maybe it's through her other life as a footballer that, whether it be comedy or drama, her presence has a unique lyrical quality, which kicks a grand final goal with her audiences. Not many performers can get tears for applause.



Destiny has come a long way since her first night in drag. She is constantly creating and perfecting (with her make up artist, friend and drag mentor Crystal Clear) the artistic inspirations and creations that are involved with the transformation. With Crystal's sound knowledge of the new mellenium make up stylings. Destiny has amazing talent to transform her boyself into a stunning 6ft tall bombshell.

Destiny is now dedicated to the creation of new and exciting, different and individual styles. Recognised, admired, and most of all ...loved - it seems life has only begun for the inimitable Destiny Forbidden.

q wine: with PETE DILLON



Aaaaah ... the chill of early winter has set in. I love this time of year, with ideas of open fires, rolling naked on rugs and all of that. And usually what springs to mind is a big ballsy red wine (or perhaps a big ballsy Scandinavian, but I digress). But having a huge resurgence at present, and something I am very fond of, is Sherry. When we think of sherry, we think of little old ladies tipping before church, and sherry trifle and flagons of the stuff in brown paper bags. But Sherry is very much coming of age and, we in Australia, are producing some excellent quality fortifieds.

Sherry is traditionally an Andalusian fortified from Spain. The 2 types of grapes that are traditionally used are Palamino and Pedro Ximenez. The grapes are picked and then left to 'dry' for 2 weeks before pressing. This allows the sugars to concentrate. There are 3 definitions of sherry that define their quality:

Fino — is a dry and light drink, pale straw in colour with a fresh, clean nose. My recommendation here is Seppelt's Fino DP 117 Sherry. It emphasises the true characteristics of a light fino sherry, and at \$21-22, it is certainly something you can enjoy with Nana before Christmas lunch, or out on a winter's picnic with some pork pie and crusty bread.

Oloroso - is both richer and fuller than the fino. It is not as sweet but has a well rounded flavour. The term Oloroso means fragrant in Spanish, and this is a perfect translation. Oloroso is a natural golden colour. Yalumba make Museum Release 20 Year Old Oloroso and it is very highly rated. It's a nutty, honeyed type sweetness and is great for when friends come over to watch the footy, to get the heart started so to speak. \$25-27 is reasonable to pay and worth the spend.

Amontillado — is barrel aged for 8 years and is a full, rich, nutty experience (much like my most recent ex). It has a strong nose and a dark gold colour and is the quintessential winter drink. It's a bigger flavour than the fino and oloroso so if you like your drinks like I like my men, this is the way to go. If you really want to impress the one you want to roll in front of the fire with, then grab a Bodegas Tradicion 30 YO Amontillado, from Jerez in Spain. It will set you back \$129 but it's the sherry to impress with. Otherwise, Seppelt has a DP 116 NV Amontillado, that will cost you about \$20 and rates quite well.

So, get the old ideas of sherry out of your head and try a new experience. Serve it with a good lump of cheese if you wish and enjoy.

q dining: BEACHCLUB@DOCKLANDS



Beachclub, one of Melbourne's newest and most impressive bar and restaurant additions to Waterfront City, serves up more than just sensational signature cocktails and cuisine inspired by its harbourside location.



The sleek yet laid-back interior of the Beachclub bar invites visitors to lounge indoors whilst sipping the venue's infamous caprioska creation. Alternatively the balcony with its stunning Balinese wooden furniture and magnificent views of the city skyline is the perfect pre-dinner meeting place.

The Beachclub restaurant serves up exquisite modern-Australian food with a hint of Asian. The extensive wine list includes both recent and vintage drops. Cuisine is prepared by chef, Nigel Woodhead. Mouth-watering menu items such as the red-braised pork belly served with a jasmine rice rosti, crispy duck wonton and orange and cardamom reduction and the Dover salmon 'martini' with skewered, marinated salmon pieces served with a watermelon, mint and lime soup, will have taste buds abuzz.



Born and trained in the United Kingdom (UK), Woodhead has worked with the likes of TV chef John Burton Race at the L'Ortalon (French leave cooking program, now called The New Angel in Devon, UK) and Jake Ward at the Sheraton Mirage Port Douglas, Queensland.

I personally recommend this restaurant and bar in the highest way - my experience was nothing short of fabulous. Next month I will tell you all about Kobe Jones.

q invest: with LISA PARKER



6 Tax Time Tips for Investors:

With the ATO clamping down on property investors for wrong claims, it's imperative that investors are well prepared at the end of this financial year. Here are a few hints & tips to help keep your tax returns healthy & compliant.

1. Get a Tax Depreciation Schedule!

A Tax Depreciation Schedule is simply a report on all the items in an investment property that are decreasing in value, your accountant can make estimates on how much depreciation you may claim however obtaining a Tax Depreciation Schedule through a qualified quantity surveyor is bound to be more accurate and potentially give you more deductions over the long term.

2. Immediate Deduction for Items Under \$300 in Value.

This is a fairly straightforward one. If you have purchased an item for your rental property during this tax year and it is valued under \$300, you can claim the entire cost on your 06 return. Be sure you keep all of your receipts and give them to your accountant so they may register your claim.

3. Items \$300 - \$1,000 Go Into the Low Value Pool.

The Low Value Pool enables items to be depreciated more quickly. Items that enter the Pool during the year are depreciated at 18.75% in the first year, and then 37.5% per year after that on the diminishing total. Items priced over \$1,000 cannot enter the Pool until their value falls below \$1,000. Ideally, look for replacement items (like stoves) with an installed price under \$1,000.

4. Be Careful with Interest.

It's important you claim interest correctly on all of your investment related bank accounts. Make sure that you are not claiming a deduction for any interest on your personal loans. Line of Credit (LOC) loans can be tricky so be sure that your loan structure allows you to separate your investment use to your personal use.

5. Justifiable Travel & Accommodation Expenses.

You are entitled to claim for travel, vehicle and accommodation expenses, which relate directly to the management of your investment property. However, substantiation rules may apply to these accommodation and travel expenses so be sure to keep logbooks and odometer readings on your vehicle, as well as other records itemising travel expenses. Also, remember that only the proportion of accommodation and travel that relates to managing your investment property is deductible any proportion of the trip that was for pleasure is not, so only claim what are genuine expenses. (7 day trips to sunny QLD will not be considered a tax deduction – even if you have investments there...sorry sun lovers!!)

6. It Pays to Learn.

If you have attended seminars relating to the management of rental properties and maximising rental income, then the costs may be tax deductible (including travel and accommodation relating to attending the seminar as mentioned above). Once again though, the deductible costs must be proportionate to the content of the seminar that relates to existing investment properties. Any content that relates to future investments you may make are not tax deductible at all. You can also claim deductions that relate to expenses on property management magazines and journals.

7. Cover Yourself.

It's important you protect yourself and your investment, and what better way to do it, than through insurance. Landlord insurance can be particularly useful to have, it protects you against potential losses and minimizes your risk when investing PLUS it is tax deductible. The cost of Building/Contents insurance is also tax deductible and should be considered by all investor.

If you own investment properties be sure to use an accountant who is investment savvy – should you require a good "prop property" accountant or financial planner please email me at invest@qmagazine.com.au



Gay and Lesbian Lifestyle at it's Best

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q cabaret: FESTIVAL 2006



Melbourne venues team up to launch cabaret festival.

A group of diverse venues which regularly host cabaret is teaming up to present an exciting two weeks of creative and cutting-edge cabaret right across Melbourne.

The inaugural Melbourne Cabaret Festival will be held from Thursday 29 June to Sunday 9 July.

The private and publicly-run venues joining forces to create a cabaret festival are each responsible for their own programming over the two weeks, all under the "Melbourne Cabaret Festival" banner. The venues collaborating on the project are:

- The Butterfly Club (South Melbourne)
- Cardinia Cultural Centre (Cardinia)
- Glen Eira City Council (Caulfield)
- Northcote Town Hall (Northcote)
- Chapel off Chapel (Pahran)
- Gasworks Arts Park (Albert Park)
- Kingston Arts Centre (Moorabbin)
- Theatreworks (St Kilda)

The festival will present a broad range of cabaret genres. Such an inclusive and accessible cabaret festival right across Melbourne has the potential to communicate the breadth and dynamism of cabaret, support and develop cabaret performers and build the standing of the arts in general and of cabaret in particular.

The full program will be revealed this month. There are some spots still open to cabaret performers wishing to take part in the festival. Performers with enquiries should contact venues direct, the full details of which are contained in the festival's website: melbournecabaretfestival.com.

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Tricks of the Trade

Who teaches you how to buy a suit that is correctly fitted?

On a recent trip to Sydney I was dining at the Park Hyatt watching the male entourage of suits walking through. I was amazed at what I saw. Guy's whose trousers were too short or too long, jackets 5" off the shoulders and suits that were just badly fitted - in general, either too big or too small. The other thing that I noticed was that most of the guys did not know how to tie a tie correctly. This is what has inspired this month's article, even though we have touched briefly on some of these points before.

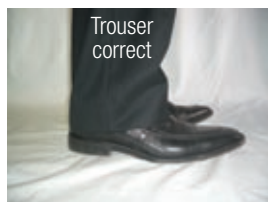
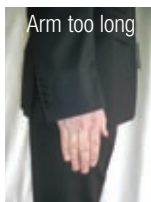
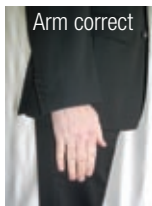
It is important for people to understand the difference between a great fitted suit and one that is just Ok. One of the key things I teach all my clients is that "you should wear the label, not the label wear's you".

What does this mean? It is simple. It does not matter what

brand you are wearing or paying for it - it comes down to the best fit for you.

When purchasing a suit, the client needs to know what they are looking for and how to tell the difference between what they are buying and what they should be buying. So how do we tell if we are getting the correct product to make us look 'hot' in a suit, or should that be 'sharp' for those who are more understated?

The key factors are much easier to see by a visual demonstration:



What does make a great suit?

You can spend a fortune on a suit but if it is not correctly fitted you will not be able to see the value in the product you have purchased.

In my studio we carry a beautiful wool suit that retails at \$499 in comparison to Hugo Boss Black label at \$1200. Most of my clients who have tried both find the more affordable one the better fit.

Gone are the days where you walked into a department store and you are fitted for a suit correctly. Do you remember when the old gentleman who would come out and take your measurements with a tape measure and then select the correct suit for you from their rack? (Most of us don't - we have only heard about the experience) Well, at First Impressions Count, we go one step further. We will take all of your measurements including alterations and record them on our data base for the next time you need something. You just call and tell us what you are looking for, then we will find you a collection that will suits your needs. This is the old fashioned service that has disappeared from retail.

These are all the things that you need to think about when you are looking to buy that next suit.

Don't forget all you guys who can buy your suits and write them off for tax purposes through your allowance at tax time - it is just around the corner.

First impressions Count is now offering corporate company accounts that can be set up to allow team member's clothing allowances to purchase direct from us.

Next month we will look at how to finish off the look for a great suit.

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Bitz 4 Boyz is definitely an innovative shopping experience.
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Be indulged with a luxurious facial, pampered with a relaxing massage or choose from many other beauty services at level 1, "Allure on Commercial".

Bitz 4 boyz is a one stop shop for men. Women are always welcome too!
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q travel: NEW ZEALAND SPLENDOURS

Pictures and article by Shek Graham



I first went to New Zealand in 1999 for the Heroes Gay, Lesbian and Transgender Party held in Auckland. I had a fabulous time at the party, very different to the crowds of the Sydney Mardi Gras, but nevertheless a most enjoyable experience. However, I found Auckland to be beautiful but oddly behind the times. Looking in shop windows I thought we must be a section of the city specialising in retro fashions and furniture. It took me a moment to grasp that the items on sale were current for Auckland. Now I should have guessed that Auckland was around 30-40 years behind the rest of the Western world based on the number of women sporting bee-hive hair do's, but I had thought they were all queens!



Hence, it was with some trepidation that I went to visit friends on the south island in January of this year. They were living near a tiny village called Lawrence, not too far from Dunedin, on the eastern side of the island. I was blown away with the beauty of the place. It reminded me of places back in Wales or even Scotland, but somehow this part of New Zealand is even more beautiful and majestic. Each drive into Lawrence or some of the neighbouring towns was a delight in itself.



Even though it was January, and should have been the height of summer, it was cold for the first few days we were there, but it was quite enjoyable crowding around a wood-burning stove and using our friend's two small dogs as lap warmers! When the sun did come out, it was pleasantly warm rather than the very hot and humid weather we had left behind in Cairns.



We visited several parts of the south island including Queenstown, famous for its extreme sports, and the fruit orchards of Central Otago, abounding in cheap delicious stone fruits. But the highlight of the trip was our visits to Doubtful Sound and Milford Sound in the Fiordland of New Zealand, on the remote west coast. Milford Sound is quite a small fjord, quite narrow and steep sided, and it is crowded with dozens of tour boats. It does however boast two fabulous waterfalls and one of the most gorgeous drives in the world just to get there. Doubtful Sound on the other hand is an immense fjord with four main arms and is relatively untouched by tourism as relatively few tour operators go there.



Which to do? We ended up booking an overnight trip on Doubtful Sound and had a superb time. Everything was exquisite, from the scenery to the food. The highlight, for me, was the bottle-nosed dolphins surfing the bow waves from the boat. I must have taken over a hundred photos of them. Thank God for digital!! On leaving the boat at lunchtime the next day, we made a quick decision to drive to Milford Sound. The weather had been quite dry and the waterfalls of Doubtful Sound were mere trickles, but those of Milford were still supposed to be flowing quite well.



It was a decision we didn't regret. Leaving just after 1.00pm, we were heading in the opposite direction to any traffic and had an easy journey, stopping every few minutes to capture some more of the awesome scenery. There was still snow on some of the mountains, and the lakes were a startling blue or even green. At Milford we took a short trip to the end of the fjord and back, having wonderful views of several waterfalls along the way. Magic! All in all, I have completely fallen in love with New Zealand, even the 50 zillion sheep were a delight!

q cuties: MALE BEAUTIES

Send your entries into cuties@qmagazine.com.au for your chance to be our monthly Q Cutie.

Our May Q Cuties title goes to our couple from The Star Hotel - Abbotsford. You have won a \$50 drink voucher at The Star to share - which can be collected anytime by simply identifying yourself to the staff anytime from now - congratulations.



The idea is YOU choose the picture you think has the cutest guy or guys in it and sms 0429 88 QMAG with the corresponding number. The pic with the most votes will win a fabulous prize with the compliments of one of our advertisers and Q Magazine. So get your fingers working and vote today!!



Conditions: All Qmagazine competitions are open to everyone, except those that specifically state you must be over 18 to enter. Competitions close on the final day of each calendar month with all prizes being drawn at 5pm the following day at Apartment 3, 15 - 17 Charnwood Road, St. Kilda 3182. Names and addresses of people winning prizes valued at or over \$250 ONLY will be published in the following issue of Qmagazine. All monthly Q Cuties winners will appear in the following edition of the publication.

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q culture: TOURS & CONCERTS



The 3 Chinese Tenors

This internationally recognised group will transport you to another place and time as they perform some of the world's most famous opera arias.

Surrounded by candles, high on the altar, this renowned group performs a classical repertoire including operatic arias by Verdi, Puccini and Lehar. Works include: La Donna e Mobile; Brindisi; and You Are My Hearts Delight. The group will also perform Neapolitan songs such as Cor'ngrato as well as works from musicals by composers Bernstein and Lloyd-Webber. The grand finale sees all three tenors crescendo into O Sole Mio in three different languages and styles.

Friday 16 June, 8pm - Toorak Uniting Church
Saturday 17 June, 8pm - St Andrew's Church, Brighton
Friday 23 June, 8pm - Holy Trinity Anglican Church, Williamstown
Saturday 24 June, 8pm - Mary Immaculate - The Catholic Parish of Ivanhoe
Friday 7 July, 8.00pm - Glen Waverley Uniting Church
Saturday 8 July, 8pm - Forest Street Uniting Church Bendigo
Thursday 20 July, 8.00pm Our Lady Help of Christians Church East Brunswick
Friday 21 July, 8pm - St Mark's Anglican Church, Camberwell.

All tickets: \$44.00 (including GST)
All bookings: 8290 7000 (Credit cards accepted)



SONY & BMG
MUSIC ENTERTAINMENT

Released on Saturday, May 6 was the delicious pop/disco feast 'This Time I Know It's For Real' from the all-star line-up of Australia's hottest pop femmes, **Young Divas**, aka Kate DeAraugo, Paulini, Emily Williams and Ricki-Lee! With their supremely divine voices, these fab four give Donna Summer's 1989 classic an incredible work-over that will leave you wanting to kick up your heels and party all night long. Includes an extended remix. Catch Young Divas on tour across Australia this July!

14.07.06 Star City Sydney 15.07.06 Star City Sydney
21.07.06 Canberra Theatre Canberra 22.07.06 Panthers Newcastle
23.07.06 Penrith Panthers Penrith 28.07.06 Burswood Theatre Perth
29.07.06 Burswood Theatre Perth 04.08.06 Lake Kawana Community Centre Sunshine Coast
05.08.06 Norths Leagues and Services Club North Brisbane 06.08.06 Conrad Jupiters Showroom Gold Coast
11.08.06 Campbelltown RSL Sydney 12.08.06 Regent Theatre Wollongong
13.08.06 Revesby Workers Club Sydney 18.08.06 National Theatre Melbourne
19.08.06 National Theatre Melbourne 25.08.06 Norwood Concert Hall Adelaide
26.08.06 Norwood Concert Hall Adelaide



Demis Roussos "The Ultimate 40th Anniversary Tour"

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CANBERRA
26th June
Canberra Theatre 8pm
Tel: 02 6275 2700

BRISBANE
28th June
Concert Hall QPAC 8pm
Tel: 136 246

MELBOURNE
30th June & 1st July
Hamer Hall 8pm
Tel: 136 160

ADELAIDE
2nd July
Adelaide Festival Theatre 8pm
Tel: 131 246

PERTH
5th July
Perth Concert Hall 8pm
Tel: 08 9484 1133

SYDNEY
7th & 8th July
Sydney Opera House 8pm
Tel: 02 9250 7777



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To make contact with Morag,
send an email to
camp@qmagazine.com.au

camp CAPERS

Not a lot happens in May. Apparently. Or so I thought.....

Following all of the excitement of the Midsumma; Labour Day; Easter; and Anzac party sessions, this old hag was actually looking forward to having a few nights in last month. However....

It all started on the 5th with an invitation to a straight Lebanese 18th birthday party. That's right. You read it right. — Morag has a very diverse group of fans you know - and there's NO WAY on this planet that this old chook was NOT gonna go to an 18th..... It wasn't until I got there though, that it became apparent that I was only asked to the party because of my fabulous belly dancing skills (skills that I had picked up during my time in the French Legion in Algiers). Anyhoo, the party was a hoot; the birthday boy DID in fact have a girlfriend; and I decided that it simply wasn't worth me keeping my shares in 'Nair for Men (Lebanon) Pty Ltd'.

Once all of the straight boys had finished doing tequila shots out of my (now exhausted) belly button, I started to think about my other little party invitation — a 50th birthday party the following day — well I did say that my fans were diverse;....

After spending hours trying to change my mind set and get into a slightly different wavelength from the young bucks the night before, I was ready to make my entrance to the VIP reception in St Kilda. No belly dancing here! This was a party for POOFTERS! — (well apart from maw, paw, and the kids in the corner). It didn't take long for the gradual rise in music volume to gradually push the hetro's into their four wheel drives — or was it the two guys giving head in the corner near the buffet? — Whatever it was, it resulted in this particular birthday boy acting as though it was his 18th and not his 50th. Suddenly, the reality set in.

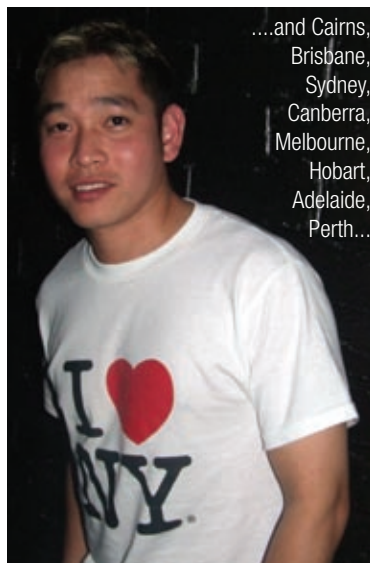
Not to confuse myself; but I then had a 21st party to get to. Jesus! Does this girl's popularity NEVER end?



Hey Hey Good Lookin'



Say...Cheese



....and Cairns,
Brisbane,
Sydney,
Canberra,
Melbourne,
Hobart,
Adelaide,
Perth...

Back into the Q Magazine limo, and off to South Yarra. "Change Mind Set" "Change Mind Set". How many different personalities and mind sets is a girl supposed to have? 18th to a 50th; 50th to a 21st. Needless to say, the average age at the 21st suited Morag a wee bit better. Not that I got anything. They were all into each other. The only meaningful conversation I had all night was with the birthday boys MOTHER! What the hell is happening to me?

Now you guessed it. No sooner had everything just started to kick in when I realised that I had another party to go to. A 50th. Yes another bloody 50th! After much, much deliberation I decided to try and change my mind set yet again. Unfortunately, it took me all night at the Peel to even begin to feel ok.

*..... I decided that it simply wasn't worth me keeping my shares in
'Nair for Men (Lebanon) Pty Ltd'*

Staggering into DT's on the Sunday afternoon for the 50th (only 5 hours late and straight from the Market!), I managed to get back into what I thought was the right frame of mind. Well, management didn't seem to agree with me that my frame of mind was all that 'right'. As I tried to pick myself up from the floor I did try and explain how hard it was and how confusing it was to go from an 18th to a 50th to a 21st and back again to a 50th all without going home to change ones bra or panties.....

Thankfully, my dear sister Dr Tiffany was at hand, and she explained to hotel management that it was my first time in a gay venue and the excitement had gotten to me. Given that, I managed to recover quite well, and then headed off to a little party at the Peel. Was it a 50th? Was it a 30th? Was it a 16th? I really can't remember, but the birthday boy was really, really, cute..... so what do you think?...

I realise of course that YOU - my fans - would like to hear more about my antics in May, but after arriving in Sydney on the 19th, my mind is a complete blank. Sorry.

Thank God nothing happens in June.....well, does Queens birthday count?
Morag

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To make contact with Ben email
ben@qmagazine.com.au

Single White Gay Male!!!

On the eve of having a man strapped to my back then jumping out of a plane at 15,000ft, the only thing I can think about is, "Damn I forgot to renew my life insurance!!!"

That, plus where have all the decent guys gone? I have to pay a man to be strapped to my back these days!

After going on more than just a few dates over the last 8 months, I've met some amazing men, down to earth and friendly, however I have not yet met that elusive "Mr Right" and quite frankly I'm at a time in my life where I'm looking for husband material!

You know what I mean, the man who, when you meet, you just click with instantly and there is something more there than just friendship and sex - but a heartfelt connection. It just seems to fit like a glove just before you're about to deliver some s&m to someone. (Oh what, so now you know what I mean!!!)

With "Mr Right Now" in major abundance in the gay community, sex seems to be the only thing it isn't lacking! So for the guys out there looking for more than just sex, (Ok, so I know half of you just fainted, yes they do exist, I think!) what does a man have to do to meet the partner of his dreams?

Well this may be one of the craziest things I'm ever going to do, but hey I'm up for the challenge!

I'm going to go on a series of dates over the next couple of months in search of that elusive partner, then write about it each month in Q! - taking you along for the journey with me to discover just what it takes.

However there is one major boundary I have set myself for this exercise:

· **No Sex – For a minimum of 3 dates!** (Oh my God, I'm gonna...)

So where are these dates going to come from?

Hint, hint, this is where you email ben@qmagazine.com.au with a photo and description of yourself. You must be in between the ages of 24 – 32, be looking for a relationship, fairly outgoing, fun, ambitious and have your shit together!!! Oh, I almost forgot the most important thing, you'll be male!

This isn't a full page personals ad at all! So why the hell am I doing this? (Stupidity did cross my mind) Apart from it being an absolute laugh and possibly meeting a partner, it will give you and I a true insight into the ups and downs of dating. Let's face it, dating is a minefield. I'm going to see if I can help you better navigate around it through my own (embarrassing) personal experience. What's the worst that could happen? (Hnnmmm, better not answer that one!)

So who will you be dating? I am 25 years of age, own my own business, am outgoing, love the gym, music, movies and meeting genuine people. Originally a farm boy, I am down to earth and don't take life too seriously. (I wonder if I should mention about my oversized appendage???)

If you think we might click, send an email to ben@qmagazine.com.au and tell me why we should go on a date.

Will I meet "Mr Right"? or will I die alone? They are the questions, and the answer will shock probably both of us. The only thing I know is that you'll have to stay tuned in the following months for some interesting follow-up articles!

Until then...



Q cosmetic: with DR. PAUL SPANO

Welcome to another edition of Q Cosmetic in Q Magazine - which just gets bigger and better all the time. In this issue I thought I would just give you all a quick run down on the regular things that people are doing in 2006 to make themselves look great.

1/ Use Stieva A cream on your skin – this is a prescription cream for acne but is a different formulation of Retin A and still the most powerful skin rejuvenating and clarifying product on the planet (bar none), that's why it's prescription only, it's strong, and you need a doctor to guide you. Great also for smoothing and clearing up your butt cheeks, at my clinics we mix it with something special to add extra "oomph" to it for burns, shoulders, backs and really damaged skin.

2/ The above cream is like a slow skin peel, to accelerate things a little, people flock in to have Jessner type peels. Jessner is a mixture of lactic, salicylic and resorcinol and gets rid of damaged and dull skin beautifully. Have a course of four peels/washes, they are safe and the clients love them.

3/ Microdermabrasion – skin polishing, no down time, need I say more?

4/ Medical IPL –Intense Pulsed Light (not the cheap Beauty Therapy machines), for brown and red skin blemishes, course of 3-4 and one per year for the best skin possible, esp. if used with the above cream etc, its just too easy!

5/ Fill deep lines and scars or add more presence to your lips with Restylane, soften the frowns and crows feet with Dysport (best and longest acting muscle relaxant) and for all our sakes go somewhere reputable to get it done as we see so many bad jobs done at Beauty Salons by "visiting Drs", yeah right, visiting because they cant get a job anywhere decent ! Beware the "clinics" with comical names or a gimmick, and don't take advice from the muscle-Mary at the gym, get real, this is your appearance and skin future we are talking about !!!

6/ You have heard about "Fat-Dissolving" injections, get your love handles reduced while having your Hydration Drip (with large dose Vit C and B added), lie there, have the vitamin infusion and the Lipo-dissolve at the same time, too easy!

7/ Maximize your TESTOSTERONE level, again the muscle-Mary's have it very very wrong with those cycles of steroid-injections – they ARE really BIG GIRLS because steroid injections raise your Estrogen level way out of balance (yes "girls" that's the female hormone) and makes you very unhealthy, sweaty, moody, aggressive and bloated (just like PMT – it's not the high Testosterone that does this, it's the female hormone you fools) AND THEN YOU GROW "BITCH-TITS". I mean really guys, you get PMT and grow breasts and you STILL don't realize that you're on the wrong path !!! Are you that stupid ??? I mean, what does your body have to do to tell you that you are stuffing it up, grow a uterus and have a period? You can get fitter and harder and stronger and longer if you get an anti-ageing Dr to put up your Testosterone, no cycles (again you are not a woman, you don't need cycles) and there are many other health benefits. Get out of the dark ages of buying steroids from the gym from Mrs. Beefhead, in 2006 we can do it for you properly !!!!

Anyway, that's the insight and inside word, the rest is up to you, we can most likely do much more for you than you think. Keep Safe.



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q money: with COLIN PAULL

We are going to start by looking at some of the changes to the tax system for 2006. Our first topic will be the new Child Care tax rebate. We will also look at the professions the ATO have indicated they will be looking at more closely this year with audits and also cover some housekeeping before the end of the year. We only have 12 more weeks before the next tax season is up on us!

Tax Tip of the month... 30% Child Care Tax rebate.

The 30% child care tax rebate will apply to child care fees incurred from 1 July 2004 to 30 June 2005. A Claim should be made in your 2005-06 income tax return. The rebate will be 30% of your out-of-pocket child care expenses with a maximum rebate of \$4,000 per child per year per primary claimant. The rebate is offered as a tax offset. This means it reduces your tax liability in the year in which you claim it but cannot be taken as "cash in hand". It is given in addition to the Child Care Benefit payment.

Are you eligible to claim the rebate?

You may be eligible to claim the rebate if you: Received the child care benefit (CCB); Used approved child care; Passed the work/training/study test (or be otherwise eligible for up to 50 hours of CCB per week)

Approved child care is formal child care including: Long day care; Family day care; In-home care; Outside school hours care; Vacation care, and; Some occasional care services.

You must be using approved care to be eligible to claim the rebate. Registered care is not eligible for this rebate.

Approved child care fees are usually calculated on a weekly or fortnightly basis. They do not include non-recurring, or one-off, fees itemized on your receipts for extra costs e.g. excursions. It may include amounts paid for meals or other services if these are provided as part of the standard service provided.

To pass the work/training/study test you and your spouse must either be working, performing voluntary work, looking for work, training or studying. Meeting the work/training/study test means you are eligible to claim up to 50 hours of CCB per child per week. You should contact the Family Assistance Office if you are unsure if you will be eligible for CCB on 13 61 50.

How is the rebate calculated?

The rebate is 30% of your out-of-pocket expenses. Out-of-pocket expenses are total child care fees for approved care less CCB entitlement. ie: [calculation follows next]

Total child care fees - Total child care fees is the amount you are charged by your child care provider before any reduction for CCB. **minus Child care benefit** - After the end of each income year, the Family Assistance Office will send you a letter confirming your CCB entitlement for that year. This will happen once you have lodged your tax returns and all your child care usage details have been received **equals Out-of-pocket expenses** - There are two ways to calculate out-of-pocket expenses. The first option is based on total child care fees paid throughout the year using your records and receipts. Alternatively, if you do not have records of total child care fees paid throughout the year, you may use the total eligible fees figure to calculate the out-of-pocket expenses. Etax Accountants will be able to advise you of this figure when we are helping you lodge your tax return.

What records do I need to keep to claim the rebate?

Ideally you should keep all of your receipts from your child care provider. If you do not have all of your receipts, you will still be able to claim the rebate with alternative records such as: Weekly/fortnightly/monthly child care receipts; A summary statement of fees incurred and dates of the child's enrolment period provided by the child care provider; Cheque butts, credit card statements, bank statements, internet generated bank or credit statements; BPAY reference numbers; Electronic or internet generated receipts. Your receipts should be itemized per child as the rebate is calculated per child. Even though you may not have paid the fees in the year in which you incurred the child care expense, the fees will form part of the total fees for that year. Again, you may use the total eligible fees figure to calculate the out-of-pocket expenses if you do not have all of the records mentioned above to support your claim. Etax Accountants will be able to advise you of this figure when we are helping you lodge your tax return.

You should also keep any letter sent to you by the Family Assistance Office confirming your annual CCB entitlement for the relevant income year. This letter can be used to help calculate your rebate for the next year.

Other information about the rebate:

Any unused amount of the rebate can be transferred to your spouse, as at 30 June in the year in which the rebate is claimed. The nomination of the transfer to a spouse will be irrevocable. Both parents can claim the rebate if both parents are claiming the CCB and satisfy the work/training/study test. You cannot include the fees incurred by your spouse for those periods of care for which you were not entitled to a CCB. You will not be able to claim the rebate if you do not have an income tax liability.

For further information on this
or any other tax related enquiries, please email
money@qmagazine.com.au

generation q: with LUKE HUGGARD



To make contact with Luke, send an email to luke@qmaga-zine.com.au

State of Mind.

I suppose what everyone predicted would happen, has done exactly that...I'm experiencing somewhat of a pre-mid-life crisis! The first signs were recognised about a month ago by a friend who commented on my sudden obsessive focus on household shopping. Suddenly, my conversations began to centre around the latest Freedom catalogue; and instead of a fresh SABA bag adorning my shoulder at Sunday brunch, I was actually spotted at a popular Prahra restaurant with a matching toilet brush bathroom set I'd just purchased.

Don't get me wrong...this new-found emphasis on the domestic side of life isn't exactly a bad thing. But as I began to reflect on past relationships, my future ambitions and the walking contradiction I naturally am, I couldn't help but pose the question...Where the hell am I going in life? It is probably no co-incidence that these sudden behavioural changes and identity crisis occurred immediately prior to my 21st Birthday. Do you ever get the feeling that sometimes it's just a little hard to keep up with things? If your answer to that question is no, then you are simply not human - or just really God damn lucky! What I mean is.. amidst the chaos of our everyday lives, investing in our futures and building on (or making up for) our pasts, it seems that it can be easy to get a little lost in the now sometimes.

Relatively recently, I learnt that five year plans are fabulous in theory and, although they may provide us with direction, are by no means concrete. They are subject to change, alteration, a re-alignment of priorities and the simple fact that no-one possesses a crystal ball through which the future may be viewed..(if you do have one, please contact me immediately!). As the end of my adolescence approached, and the safeguards it entails began to fall down, I started to take a long hard look at myself and question what exactly it means to be a Politics student who sometimes doesn't read the paper for weeks, a homebody who sometimes doesn't go home for weeks and a hopeless romantic whose last romantic comment received was, "Damn, you're great at Vanilla!". And equally important is the question of: What

does it mean to be twenty-one and gay? I looked to the pages of Melbourne's gay press in search of guidance, yet I could only find influential journalists who would rather focus on the "leading men of today" (apparently straight-acting gay men) like David from Big Brother, rather than tackle remotely significant issues of gay identity. No wonder I was confused. However, as the bartender at my over-the-top birthday party spilled out Cosmopolitans all night long, it got me thinking...maybe it's not a question of age or sexuality, but rather just the individual. I was lucky enough to have my house full of people whom I love and respect, despite vast differences in age, gender, sexuality, lifestyle, mannerisms etc, from the butchiest bloke on the block to the campest queen around. This example of Unity in Diversity would surely benefit many. I was once in love intimately with someone twice my age, and one of my closest friends and soul mates with whom I share a silver band is about that age too. Others are much older. In this day and age and especially in the gay scene, has age become truly irrelevant? Or at the very least, is age simply a state of mind? What is certain, is that while years of life experience can attain wisdom and foresight not possible at twenty-one, our own state of mind is determined by us, not age.

This is the world we live in, and maybe it's essential that we all focus on the now a bit more as today is definite, tomorrow is not. Like a balloon with your own name on it, sometimes it's the little things in life, along with your grand plans for the future that are equally special and important.

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151



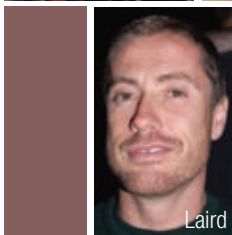
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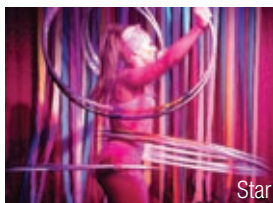
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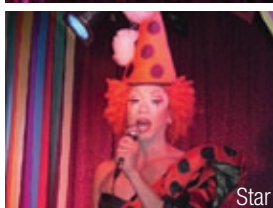
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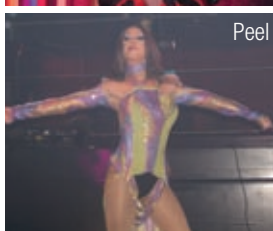
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Monday
Spag 'n' Drag



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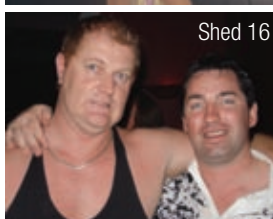
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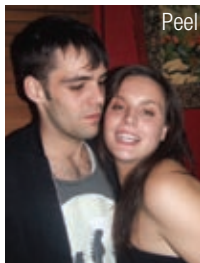
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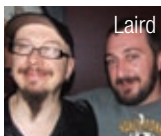
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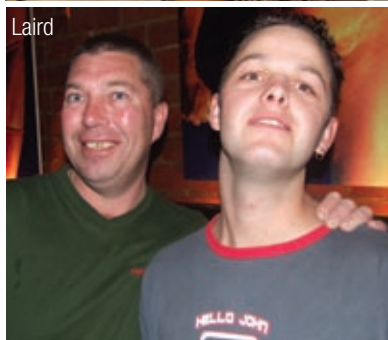
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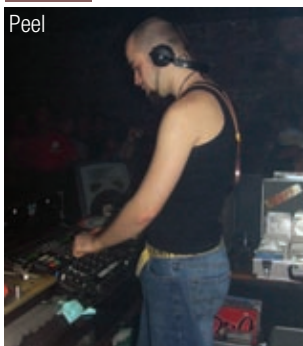
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From the dear doctor's desk....

A very big thank you to Anthony and Benny for that unbelievable chat we had upstairs during Tules 50th birthday. Love you both big time. (See the pic @ dtshotel.com.au, out'n'about section)

Please send your questions to deardrtiffany@qmagazine.com.au and they will be answered in the next issue of Q Magazine. ** please note that the content of this section is for entertainment value and should be taken in the light it is intended.

dear: DR TIFFANY

Dear Dr Tiffany

I'm at wits end with my life. 15 Years ago, when I was 20, I met this really yummy girl called Joselyn at a tap dance competition - which she acutally won (my God could she dance), but a few years later, due to complications with an ingrown toenail, she had to have her leg amputated. Unfortunately that ended her dance career (no-one wanted to know about a one legged tap dancer). So to help with her recovery, we went on a holiday to America, which seemed to lift her spirits tremendously, until we popped into a small town in the deep south called Melonsville. Once a year they have a watermelon tossing competition. We were standing there enjoying the tossing, when a rogue melon hit Joss on the head. When she came to, she couldn't remember who she was, who I was or where we were. At present, Joss (or should I say 'Joselyn the unbelievable') and I work at a circus. Joss is a tight rope walker and I feed and care for the animals etc.

Oh, by the way, we are just good friends now because Joss has taken a shine to the bearded lady. Sorry to lay all this on you, but I do not know what to do next. Please help me, PLEASE!

Signed Jackie

Dear Jackie,

You have certainly had your fair share of bad luck, but I really think it is time to turn your life around. You mentioned you care for the animals, so do not feed the lions for a couple of days, and then tell 'Joselyn the unbelievable' that you have a surprise. Blindfold her and then let her hop up into the lions cage. Within half an hour your new life can start. Bon Appetite!

Dear Dr Tiffany,

My name is Troy. My problem is that, although I am quite good looking, I am very shy. When I go out to parties or to a bar, I just stand there with half a silly smile like I am sort of enjoying myself. What can I do to become more popular?

Signed Troy

Dear Troy,

From your letter, I assume you are in your early 20's. You will find, as you get older, you gain more confidence which enables you to chat more freely to people. That is how friendships are built. But if you can't wait for that, do what everyone else does..."Lie"

I remember going out on a heavy clubbing night. Within those 3 days, I would have met 500 trolley dollies and 2000 jet fighter pilots. Just go with the flow. Good Luck!





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Winterising Your Skin

With winter upon us, it's now time to look at updating or supplementing your skin care regime.

Due to the effects of winter months: central heating, wind and cold, the effects of which all work to dry out and dehydrate your skin. Dryness is due to a lack of natural oil produced by the skin's sebaceous (or oil) glands. During winter less oil is produced, whereas in summer they tend to over-produce. The oil excreted by our skin helps to protect against dryness, infection, sensitivity and discomfort. When oil is reduced on an already dry skin the effects can range from having dry flaky skin, to hypersensitivity and redness or high colour.

Dehydration on the other hand is due to lack of moisture or water in the skin. Central heating, open fires, electric blankets, wind and cold, coupled with smoking and drinking alcohol, all deplete the skin of natural moisture, thereby dehydrating the skin leaving it looking dull, aged and lifeless.

TIP: It's important to always have a bowl of water situated in the rooms of your home to allow moisture into the air whilst central heating and open fires are used. A simple water feature works well that can be added to your décor.

To combat the effects of dryness and dehydration, it is important to care for your skin using products that will compensate for what winter takes away. In addition, the increase in your consumption of fluids will also be of great benefit (and I don't mean Vodka). Increase your water levels, as this is the only way to really moisturise your skin from within. Moisturiser's work topically to lock moisture in and prevent further loss. A good moisturiser will also help to attract moisture to the skin's surface with the use of ingredients known as humectants. Humectants help to flood the upper layers of the skin with moisture, resulting in the skin looking plumper, smoother, softer, less lined and more radiant.

Specific additions to your skin care regime such as a hydrating mask will also help to compensate dryness and dehydration. Moisturising masks can be used weekly and are usually left on the skin for ten to twenty minutes. Depending on how dry your skin is, depends on how often per week. Some skins will benefit from using a mask once a week (for oilier skins) to two or three times a week (for dryer skin). To help you decide on the right moisturising mask for you, I have chosen a couple that think are great.



Clarins Thirst Quenching Hydra Balance Mask 50ml (\$58.00)

This mask thoroughly rehydrates skin in just a few minutes. Smoothes fine lines caused by dehydration, relieving the uncomfortable feeling of dry, tight skin. Promotes a more even skin tone and enhances a long-lasting, radiant appearance. This rich, non-drying, creamy mask helps replenish skin's optimum level. In just 5-10 minutes, skin appears satin-soft, more luminous and healthy looking. Natural ingredients such as Himanthalia Elongata extract: enhances skin's natural moisture balance within the corneal layer. - Pinus Lambertiana and Cactus extract: help the skin maintain a constant level of hydration. - Sweet White Lupine and Lapacho: minimize moisture loss.

Ultracuticals Ultra ACE Hydration Booster 75g (\$75.00)

Hydrates, Firms and Refines

Super hydrates the skin and also contains vitamins and antioxidant ingredients. This mask is an ideal booster for tired, asphyxiated and dehydrated skin.

Beauty Benefits:

- Super hydration with glycerin, lactic compound, and hyaluronan
- Retinol and retinyl palmitate give the skin an intense revitalisation
- Vitamin C helps to stimulate collagen synthesis which plumps up the fine lines and wrinkles.



Happy moisturising! If you have a specific question about your skin's needs, please email me at beauty@qmagazine.com.au



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