

Hamilton Pride Inc. 2017 Report

Introduction

Hamilton Pride Incorporated (HPI) is an organization committed to supporting and celebrating the diversity of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Takatāpui, Intersex and Queer (LGBTTIQ+) communities of Hamilton and the wider Waikato region. Our main objective is organizing an annual Pride Week Festival, as well as holding services for Candle Light Memorial Day, International Day of Transgender Remembrance, and World AIDS Day. Our activities are designed to help build positive collective identities and self-esteem in our communities; promote pride, celebrate our diversity and promote safer sex messages.

Our events help to establish Hamilton on the New Zealand map as an inclusive, diverse and safe community for all New Zealanders. Our main objectives are:

- Publicise Hamilton Pride events locally and nationally through various media;
- Serve as a liaison between various community groups as Pride events are coordinated and organized;
- Support various Rainbow community groups as they come together to organize annual Pride events.

Personal reflections

In April 2017 I took over as chairperson. I am passionate about HPI's role in the Waikato LGBTTIQ+ community. This past year I have had the opportunity to grow in the chairperson role and gained a great number of skills. I am still learning. I am excited about the future and building on the experience.

This past year I have noticed that Hamilton has two main areas where we could improve. Firstly we need to communicate more with the other groups within the greater Waikato area. Secondly we need to be more organised with planning events. I have purposed two new roles in the Hamilton executive team to help address these issues. I also hope that by expanding the executive team to five people we will have improved capacity to meet the expectations of our community.

These roles will be known as Community Liaison and Event Support. Community Liaison will be tasked with creating and maintaining a network that ensures groups within the Waikato connect with each other and are working together when possible. The Event Support person will be help with organising events throughout the year, supporting other groups who have asked for HPI assistance and supporting community members who wish to run events.

Membership

- There are a core group of committee members. People that assisted with the 2017 Pride Week Festival: Rhiannon Bond (Chairperson); Phoenix Adamson (Secretary); Michael Bell (Treasurer); Ben Plagge (Communications); Jo Wrigley; Paul Henckel; Craig Burns
- Committee members have affiliations with the following groups, organizations and businesses:

Groups

- UniQ – The Waikato University Support Group for LGBTTIQ students
- University of Waikato Staff Student Rainbow Alliance
- Lesbian Social Group(LSG)
- The University of Waikato Cultural Committee
- Rainbow Warriors – women’s baseball
- Waikato Queer Youth (WaQuy)
- Rainbow Youth
- MooLoo Mix
- Gaylink

Organisations

- Ending HIV/NZ Aids Foundation (NZAF)
- Diversity Liaison Group (DLG) – Hamilton Police
- Incedo
- Body Positive Waikato (webhealth.co.nz) – the local support group for people living with HIV
- Waikato University Chapel
- Hamilton City Council
- Link House
- Anglican Action; Flat Out Pride – FreeFM89 Real Community Radio
- Waikato Sexual Health Service (Waikato DHB)

Businesses

- Waikato Sexual Health Service (Waikato DHB)
- GayNZ.com
- The Meteor
- Two Birds Eatery
- Diggers Bar/ Biddy Mulligans
- Nivara Bar
- Hamilton Museum
- Express: GayExpression in New Zealand newspaper
- The Lawrenson Group
- Browsers Bookstore
- Hamilton East Warehouse
- Coffix
- David’s Emporium
- GuyZ
- Sky City Hamilton

Meetings

The committee meets on the fourth Wednesday of every month. Everyone is invited to the meetings. We have recently started advertising the meetings on social media using the events feature. This feature is particularly helpful as it sends electronic reminders to members who have signalled their interest in attending the meeting. We have had good feedback on the events.

However there has been a steady downturn in the number of members attending meetings. The largest meeting held had around ten to fifteen people, the smallest had around four. We have had to cancel at least two meetings this year because only the executive team were in attendance.

There have been a number of discussions around this issue. With most people agreeing that the Wednesday time slot is not fit for purpose. It appears to clash with a number of other activities, such as singing practice for a queer choir.

We have yet to find an answer to this complicated problem. More discussion is needed around changing the time or format of the meetings to ensure attendance that represents our diverse community. The meetings are currently the primary mechanism we have for meeting with the community, planning events and discussing community matters.

Minutes of all meetings are recorded on file. A website – www.hamiltonpride.co.nz and a group email list is used to notify people of events and meetings.

Community Engagement

At the start of this year HPI put out a questionnaire to get a better understanding of how the community saw our role. We asked eight questions. Twenty One people answered the survey. The results were discussed at the following meeting.

The majority of those people who participated in the survey agreed that HPI was successful at organising events and getting people together in the 2016/17 year. When asked what they would like to see in 2017/18 the consensus was that HPI needed to provide a larger range of events, including more events for all ages and workshop type events. Participants in the survey felt that HPI needed to improve its communication with members, and its outreach/visibility within the community.

When asked about HPI's role in the community participants seemed to agree that our main role should be supporting the community by creating a network and connecting with the other LGBTTIQ+ groups in Waikato. When asked what they thought HPI's role should be participants reinforced the message above and suggested that we should be involved in more advocacy. There was a focus on being more active socially, especially with disadvantaged members of the community.

When asked if they would like to become more involved with HPI 47.62% said yes, and 28.57% said maybe. Participants said that they would be more likely to get involved if HPI catered to a more diverse audience. Those who did not want to be more involved cited being too busy, or that they had bad experiences in the past with HPI. This means that there are a lot of people out there who would like to be involved, we just have to find the right way to motivate them.

Pride week was well attended and events throughout the year have brought out new members. We continue to have success with our outreach on social media, reaching over 1000 likes on our page this year. Our events have been advertised on a multitude of platforms including community radio, facebook, the 'what's on in Hamilton site', event finder and many more.

Link House continues to provide space for our regular meetings. We are grateful for their ongoing support and fantastic space.

Activities and Events

International AIDS Candlelight Memorial Service

Unfortunately the AIDS Candlelight memorial service was not held due to organizing difficulties.

Transgender Day of Remembrance

Some of the community gathered at the Riff Raff Statue to mark the International Transgender Day of Remembrance). It was a small gathering of around six people. People spoke about their own experiences and what our community could do to be better allies for trans, non-binary and genderqueer people. It was suggested that in the future we obtain more input in organising this event from the trans/genderqueer/non binary community.

World AIDS Day

HPI members participated in volunteering for World AIDS Day in December. Collections were held in Hamilton Central and at Te Awa – The Base. All organising was done through The New Zealand Aids foundation. HPI shared this information and encouraged its members to volunteer.

Pink Drinks

Pink Drinks is a social get together held by HPI the first Saturday night of every month. The format of Pink Drinks has changed since its initial creation due to declining numbers. Pink Drinks is now permanently hosted by HPI at a set venue. We have a standing booking at Cook Street Social Bar which is run by Good George Brewing Company. They reserve the same table for us every month: a space which we have almost started out growing recently. Negotiations for drinks or food deals are ongoing, but they are open to the idea. Pink drinks has been held at Cook Street Social for the last four months. There is now a ongoing Facebook event page setup with a wide membership. We have been seeing upwards of twenty people attend. The nights have been lasting longer and there has been a good mix of people there, with members of different queer groups in Hamilton attending.

Pink Performing Arts Night

The idea for a LGBTTIQ+ Performing Arts night came from a community member, Duncan Bower, who wanted to show a piece of theatre he was working on as part of his studies at a Pink Drinks night. The idea developed into a building an entire evening around Hamilton's queer performing arts scene. Duncan and I collaborated on the organising of the event. Duncan was instrumental in the success of the night. He arranged free hire of the venue (Nivara Lounge).

We advertised for performers to join and quickly had half a dozen who wanted to participate. We had a great range of acts including The Glow Singers, two slam poets, an excerpt from a local queer play and a burlesque performer. I was MC for the evening. Over 50 people attended the event. A great time was had by all and we received inquiries from people who would be like to perform at the next night. The event was free. It was suggested that in the future we ask for a Koha.

2017 Hamilton Pride Week

Planning for Hamilton Pride Week 2017 started later in the year due to the change over in the executive committee. Our annual Hamilton Pride Week of events was set for September 8th – 16th. The 2017 Hamilton Pride Week was carried out on a very limited budget as the organisation had not received the funding it was expecting for the year.



2017 Hamilton Pride Week Festival began on Friday 8th September with the Proud Party at diggers bar. There were a mix of events all organised by Hamilton Pride and other groups in the community. Hamilton Pride members networked extensively with local businesses to obtain prizes and sponsorship for events. Ending HIV sponsored the opening party at Diggers Bar, a PrEP workshop and a photographer for the two events. All together there were eleven events.

We received excellent feedback on Hamilton Pride Week. A full breakdown of the events is given below. Given the resources available and the experience level of the team putting together the 2017 pride week I was very happy with what we produced.

Summary Outline of each Pride Event

Proud Party (Opening party)

Date: Fri Sept 8th 8pm - 2am

Venue: Diggers Bar, 17 Hood Street

Organized by: Hamilton Pride Incorporated

Attendees: Approximately 165 (not including performers, Ending HIV or HPI exec members)

Costs: DJ: \$350, Security: \$72, Koha for entertainers- drinks vouchers: \$90

Profit: \$315

Sponsors: Ending HIV, The Hillcrest Warehouse, Browsers Bookstore, The Lawrenson Group, Diggers, Pride Gear underwear

Event Description: This year's Pride party theme is "unapologetically fabulous". Hamilton's LGBTI+ networks have come together to organize an awesome night filled with great music, drinks and dancing! The "Proud Party" is the opening party for the Hamilton Pride Weeks festival. Come and dance the night away, to celebrate everything it means to be part of our beautiful community! The Ending HIV team will be coming along to show their support and help make this a night to remember!! We have a DJ, tons of drink specials and fabulous entertainment from Hamilton's very own drag scene. Can't wait to see you there!

Notes: The party went very well. We were pleased with the large turnout. People came in large groups of friends. We got good feedback from the drag queens and from attendees. People liked the atmosphere and I think the price was just right (\$5). People also loved the drink deals and custom cocktails made for us by the diggers mixologist.

LSG Cocktail Party

Date: Sat Sept 9th 5pm - 7:30pm

Venue: House On Hood, 27 Hood Street

Organized by: LSG

Attendees: 30

Costs: \$0

Profit: \$0

Sponsors: Lawrenson Group

Event Description: Celebrate Pride Week with the Lesbian Social Group at our fabulous cocktail party @ House on Hood! Glam it up in your favourite cocktail dress, throw on a natty rainbow tie, or mix it up however you like it - just come ready to celebrate! There will be Pride week cocktail



specials, snacks available for purchase, and sparking conversation with the ladies and lesbians of LSG - see you there!

Notes: LSG were disappointed by the turn out. It was suggested that the event may have been too early.

Out In the Hak's

Date: Sun Sept 10th 7:30am - 3pm

Venue: Hakarimata Summit Track

Organized by: Hunter and Shane

Attendees: Approximately 10 from Hamilton and 20 from the Auckland tramping group

Costs: \$0

Profit: \$0

Sponsors: -

Event Description: Get OUT and Get UP to the Hakarimata Summit! Due to finding out the Auckland Gay Tramping Group are hiking to the Hakarimata summit on the same date, we have decided to join forces and head along on their excursion! As part of Hamilton Pride Week 2017, join us for an outdoors adventure along the Hakarimata Rail Trail to the summit view tower, after enjoying the views we will descend along the Summit Track aka the famous Hakarimata Stairs, past the old dam and waterfall.

Notes: It was really fun. The first ever pride week in 2007 had a tramp. People were keen to make it a regular event. It was great that the timing matched up with the Gay Auckland tramping group doing the track.

WaQuY - Waikato Queer Youth AGM

Date: Mon Sept 11th 5pm - 7pm

Venue: Zeal, 9 Ward Lane

Organized by: WaQuy

Attendees: 18

Costs: \$0

Profit: \$0

Sponsors: -

Event Description: We invite you to join us for our Annual General Meeting, it has been a year of exciting changes and we would love to share our growth with you including our new home with Zeal Hamilton.

Notes: Was good to communicate with WaQuY, started up dialogue about the need for us to work together more. It was clear at the AGM that they are doing a lot of work upskilling their executive. My main takeaway message is that we should also look out for those opportunities such as the strategic planning and leadership workshops run by Community Waikato.

Mooloo Mix's Love Your Body Workshop

Date: Tues Sept 12th 5:30pm - 7pm

Venue: Link House, 2 Dawson Street

Organized by: Mooloo Mix

Attendees: > 20

Costs: \$0

Profit: \$0

Sponsors: Kotiro Natural Body Products, Link House

Event Description: An evening not to miss. Last year we made facial scrubs, moisturizers, and oils. Come along to a hands-on workshop on how to make natural products. Create a special gift to take home with you to love your body or someone else's. No nasties, no chemicals, just you, me, heaps of friends and a fun evening of making goodies. There will be some items (soaps, balms etc) for sale so bring some extra cash along and get your Christmas prezzies taken care of!! Cost: \$10 per person cash only (to cover ingredients, resources & materials).

Notes: Good feedback. Lots of fun. May need a bigger space in future.

A Night of Learning and Love

Date: Weds Sept 13th 6pm - 7pm

Venue: Waikato Uni Lecture Theatre, L.G.04

Organized by: UniQ

Attendees: > 15

Costs: \$0

Profit: \$0

Sponsors: Family planning, UniQ

Event Description: UniQ Waikato is proud to present "A Night of Learning Love" for Pride Week 2017.

Join us as we explore the theme of Healthy Relationships and Communication with Louise from Family Planning. The workshop will consist of discussions and activities about good communication, red lights and what makes a good or bad relationship. Participants will learn skills that can be allied to both romantic and friendly relationship throughout their lives. Afterwards, Kirsty, a staff member at the University of Waikato will be giving a talk about love in its various forms. Come along for what should be a great night! Snacks will be provided.

Notes: Part of ongoing workshops with UniQ. The layout of the lecture theatre didn't work well for the family planning bit of the night, but Kirsty's talk went really well and I would be keen to have her speak again at an event.

PrEP Forum

Date: Thurs Sept 14th 5pm-7:45pm

Venue: The Bank Bar & Brasserie (Upstairs)

Organized by: Ending HIV

Attendees: 32

Costs: \$0 (\$100 for photographer - covered by Ending HIV)

Profit: \$0

Sponsors: Ending HIV

Event Description: As part of Hamilton Pride 2017, Ending HIV presents Hamilton's first PrEP Community Forum, to provide an upfront and honest space to find out more about PrEP (Pre-exposure Prophylaxis), a daily pill that provides protection from HIV. Entry is free - the bar will be

open and nibbles provided.

Come along to hear from:

- A doctor from Hamilton Sexual Health, who is currently prescribing PrEP
- A current PrEP user
- A local guy living with HIV
- NZAF's Executive Director

There will be a panel discussion, followed by a Q&A session. The Q&A aims to provide an open space for community members to ask anything they want about PrEP. Doors open at 5pm. A cash bar will be open and complimentary food will be available. From 5pm till 6pm, free rapid HIV testing will be available. Panel Discussion + Q&A runs from 6.15 - 7.45pm.

Notes: Was very informative. Very important information. Ending HIV was happy with the turn out and the space. The panel was made up of local experts and people which was a good opportunity to find out more about the services available in Hamilton. There were no problems with the fast testing on the night, which lot of people took up.

Movie Screening – Gayby Baby.

Date: Sept 14th 8pm - 10pm

Venue: Lido Cinema - The Balcony, Centre Place

Organized by: HPI, Incendo

Attendees: 50

Costs: \$0

Profit: \$0

Sponsors: Incendo, Lido Cinema

Event Description: Screening of GAYBY BABY follows the lives of four kids – Gus, Ebony, Matt and Graham – whose parents all happen to be gay. As they each wrestle with personal change, the outside world wrestles with the issue of marriage equality, and whether or not kids of same-sex families are at risk. 9:30pm-10:00pm: Q&A with Ebony and guests

Notes: Great uplifting movie. Fantastic Q&A afterwards from one of the stars of the movie, who was flown over from Australia by Incendo.

Ten Pin Bowling Fri

Date: Sept 15th 6pm - 8:30pm

Venue: Bowl And Social (Sky City), Level 2, 346 Victoria Street

Organized by: HPI

Attendees: 16

Costs: \$0

Profit: \$0

Sponsors: Sky City

Event Description: Got some time to spare and fancy the idea of bragging rights over your friends? Come join the fun!! 6pm at the Skycity's Bowl and Social for two slightly-competitive games of ten pin bowling. Couples, teams or singles ready to mingle, the more the merrier!

Notes: It was a good night. Sky city provided a discount and some food. Sky city also advertised Pride Week on its digital displays.

Pride At The Disco

Date: Fri Sept 15th 7pm - 10pm

Venue: 9 Ward Lane

Organized by: WaQuY

Attendees: 30

Costs: \$0

Profit: \$0

Sponsors: WaQuY and Zeal Hamilton

Event Description: Celebrate your individuality for Pride week. Put on your flash kicks, grab your mates and get wrecked on the dance floor. For those aged 27 and under only. DJ and sick venue. Drug & Alcohol free.

Notes: Great concept. Some suggestions were made on the night that it would have been better with a lower cover charge (<\$10), more snacks and more decorations. The young drag queens were FANTASTIC and the kids loved seeing the older Hamilton drag queens.

Rainbow Warriors Trivia Night Fundraiser

Date: Sat Sept 16th 7pm - 10pm

Venue: Waikato Commerce Club, 197 Collingwood Street

Organized by: The Rainbow Warriors softball team

Attendees: >60

Costs: \$0

Profit: \$0

Sponsors: Waikato Commerce Club, Browsers Bookstore, Harcourts and various other sponsors sourced by the softball team.

Event Description: Come wrap up Hamilton Pride Week by showing off your smarts. There will be many categories including Pride questions! This is a trivia fundraiser for the Rainbow Warriors, the only queer women's sports team in the Waikato! So come support your pride team and help us be the best Rainbow Warriors we were born to be! Bring a team of 4-6 people or join a team on the night. Entry is a suggested donation of 5 dollars (nobody turned away for not having this) but larger donations are greatly appreciated!

Notes: This night went very well. The softball team organised a great night. They obtained a lot of sponsorship for prizes for the event. It was well received and they were happy with the turn out and funds raised.

Cancelled Events

Pride In The Park - Family Event

Date: Sat Sept 16th 12pm - 2pm

Venue: Claudelands Park, Claudelands

Organised by: WaQuY

Reason for cancellation: Weather. The event was meant to occur at Claudelands Park. WaQuY had checked with the council who authorised the event, but closer to the time called it off due to the grounds being too wet and the potential damage to the grass.

Pride In Politics

Date: Sun Sept 10th 4:30pm - 7pm

Venue: House On Hood, 27 Hood Street

Organised by: Jo Wrigley

Reason for Cancellation: Jo was very busy with running for local office. She couldn't find someone to take over the organizing of the event. There were a few challenges resulting in the cancellation of this event.

Hamilton Pride 2017 Revenue and Expenditure Activity

Revenue		
Opening Balance	514.04	
Payment for 2017 Pride Parade Van	120.00	
Funding Grant –Ending HIV	500.00	
Photography Sponsorship	200.00	
Donations	126.00	
Subtotal	<u>946.00</u>	
Fundraising		
Pride week opening Party	825.00	
Total revenue	<u>1771.00</u>	
Revenue & opening Balance		2285.04
Expenditure		
Donation – Link House	253.00	
Website	90.00	
Van for Auckland Pride Parade 2017	202.98	
Van for Auckland Pride Parade 2018	120.00	
Subtotal	<u>665.98</u>	
Pride Week Expenditure		
Photographer	200.00	
DJ	350.00	
Koha for entertainers	90.00	
Security	72.00	
Subtotal	<u>712.00</u>	
Total Expenditure		1377.98
Total revenue & opening balance – total expenditure		907.06
Closing Balance		909.06
Difference		+2.00

Please note: There is a \$2 discrepancy in the accounts (we have \$2 more than can be accounted for)

Auckland Pride Parade 2017

Our participation in Auckland's 2017 Pride Parade was very successful. There were over 25 people in attendance. The name of the pride float was "Hamilton Pride and friends". We wanted to acknowledge the other groups that come up with us, and put time into organizing their members. An email inviting all the other LGBTTIQ+ groups to come join our float was sent out. This email encouraged them to share the facebook event page with their members. We had a walking float. The float celebrated the Waikato's LGBTTIQ+ community. We dressed in the Waikato colours.

Hamilton Pride organised and paid for a minivan to the event. Petrol money was donated by the members who chose to take the van up. Six people took the van to Auckland. The Warehouse provided some props for the Parade - large love hearts which we attached balloons to. We got a lot of good feedback about our float and got a brief mention in a live news broadcast.

Future Opportunities

We received a number of inquiries about transport to the Big Gay Out in Auckland. I believe if transport was made available it would be widely taken up. It would be fantastic to obtain funding to make this a reality for Auckland Pride Week 2019.

A lot of the feedback we have received has been around the need for a greater variety of regular events throughout the year. I believe it would be a good goal to have 2-3 events per month, including at least one age inclusive event every three months. I would like to see a regular coffee group set up. We could also have more picnics, BBQ's, walks, educational workshops and movies. The Pink Arts Night was a large success, which I would like to repeat.

Conclusion

I believe that the Hamilton Pride executive team did our community proud. Despite being a young and inexperienced group, we managed to finish the year with a number of successful events to our credit. We are in a much better financial position with almost double the amount of money in our bank account than we started with. We recognise that funding is currently a huge limiting factor for what our organisation can achieve. We hope to strengthen our financial position in the coming year by taking advantage of more funding opportunities. I believe that this will enable us to better serve our community.

We have received a lot of positive messages throughout the year from people who appreciate the work we have all put in. I would like to thank my current executive members, all previous members and everyone who has helped me this year. Our successes would not be possible without them. It's important to recognise that HPI as society is now just over ten years old. Every new iteration of Pride will bring something new and valuable to our small, but growing community. I'm looking forward to discovering what it is that HPI has to offer under my leadership and growing that with you all.

Rhiannon Bond
Chairperson of Hamilton Pride Incorporated 2017-2018