

Rainbow Awards 2011		
Theme	Tonight we celebrate the Rainbow Community rejecting discrimination and moving from the margins to mainstream. The Awardees have all taken Courageous and cooperative action to achieve equity by acknowledging, accepting and celebrating diversity while rejecting bigotry	
Category	Achieving Above All United Loving Families	
Sally David & Jan Foster	David took a courageous public stand supporting the right of marriage for his daughter Sally and her partner.	To night we applaud Sally, David and Jan for the stand they have taken – simple honest words that will challenge many to accept and love their children for who they are.
Leanne Bonney & Lucas	Leanne & Lucas worked together on the difficult and unique situation of a mother and son ‘coming out’ on the North West Coast.	Both Leanne and Lucas are a vital part of the founding work to establish the COPP Community Liaison Committee in the Cradle Coast Region, working to allow GLBTI people to ‘come out with pride’ and live in their community with dignity as fully respected and participating members.
Category	Teachers & Students Combating Bullying and Celebrating Diversity	
Sandy Verrier	Sandi, a Teacher at Rosny College, has supported many rainbow students being bullied and saved some from suicide & self-harm.	Sandi Verrier is a person of great conviction and sensitivity to the needs of all her students. Sandi has, with several of her LGBTI students, been responsible for setting up the Outright Youth self-determined peer model of support.
Joshua Brown	Joshua has taken a leadership role with Outright Youth, working with young people in schools and organisations to demand respect and equity for rainbow students. As a leader Joshua has been supportive of members and generous with his time and energy.	Same sex attracted young people are three times more likely to attempt suicide than heterosexual youth. The reality for Joshua and all of the ‘Outright Youth’ in rural areas of Tasmania is that they are six times more likely to attempt suicide than the population as a whole. Therefore the Outright Youth support group is a most important organisation providing critical peer support for gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex young people.
Phoebe Adams	Phoebe is a student at the School of Art (UTAS) Hobart, and as a first year student she has successfully established a GLBTI and friends of group called <i>Colouring Outside the Lines</i> . Phoebe promotes GLBTI voices within the School of Art and has endless patience and energy in negotiating with management and academics to claim a stronger voice for GLBTI students at the campus.	Phoebe with her personal qualities, enthusiasm and drive, will continue to make changes to the culture of the University and to the many GLBTI people, both young and more mature, looking for their place in the world.
Category	Artists Achieving Equity	
Robert Dessaix Peter Timms	Robert and Peter demonstrate that, being out and gay, living simply and	Robert and Peter, writers of national and international acclaim, inspire us by showing that being true to yourself is a fundamental

	<p>undemonstratively but being in the forefront of the mainstream of Australian life and international recognition, are all completely compatible.</p>	<p>requirement for genuine success and is a most important step on the road to respect and equality.</p>
Category	Politicians Achieving Equity Through Law Reform	
Nick Mc Kim	<p>Nick McKim, as a consistent political advocate, has shown a high level of support for same-sex equality going across many years and many issues, most recently, his amazing work on supporting same-sex marriage in the State Parliament. Nick has tabled a similar series of Bills in the Tasmanian parliament to allow for the legal marriage of same-sex couples.</p>	<p>Nick, alongside other politicians recognised tonight in the Rainbow Awards, has stood his ground in recognising the strong public concern about the issue of marriage equality. Nick represents that section of political life that uniquely has a moral conscience.</p>
Carol Brown	<p>Carol has worked within the Australian Parliamentary Labor Party and the Federal Parliament to advocate and support the removal of discrimination towards LGBTI Australians. Carol advocates publicly for the Marriage Act to be amended to allow for same-sex marriage.</p>	<p>Carol has played a significant role in influencing change within the ALP in relation to the development of party policies, which in turn, have fostered change benefiting the wider community.</p>
Stuart Benson	<p>Stuart, President of Young Labor, is a founding member of Rainbow Labor in Tasmania, which has had a significant influence on party policy in relation to LGBTI rights. Stuart is long-standing advocate for the removal of all forms of discrimination and an avid supporter of a Tasmanian Charter of Rights.</p>	<p>Stuart has had a significant influence on party policy in relation to LGBTI rights and significant influence within Young Labor supporting motions to State ALP Policy Conference in relation to marriage equality and adoption by same sex couples.</p>
Category	The Courage to Tell Personal Stories of Discrimination	
Craig Zimitat & Brett Goodsell	<p>Craig & Brett have confronted a very serious incident of planned hate crime that has changed their lives and taken a great deal of courage to confront. In so many ways they have been on their own in their struggle to confront the violence and</p>	<p>As a gay couple, these men have had the courage to tell their story to the relevant authorities and ask for support for other people so that they won't have to suffer what Craig & Brett themselves have endured.</p>

	abuse that they faced on one night (in particular) in Hobart.	
Peter Graham	Last year Peter tragically, unexpectedly, lost Dean Williams, his partner of 14 years, through a pedestrian accident. In his grief, Peter initiated a court procedure requesting Brett's body for the funeral. Peter found the court was not familiar with the 'senior' respect that was due to him as the legal 'de facto' partner.	Peter's willingness and courage to tell his story has achieved the benefit of change for other rainbow people who find themselves in a similar situation and need respect and acknowledgement for their partnership.
Category	Working in the Community for Change	
Ashley Matthews & John Perry	Ashley Matthews has been an outstanding foundation Chairperson of the COPP Trust and has worked tirelessly to establish the fund. His partner, John Perry, has been significant in the development of the League of Gentlefellows (LoG) as a state-wide informal grouping of Tasmanian gay & lesbian people.	Ashley & John's working together as a dedicated couple has enabled others to work for change in areas where discrimination and prejudice have serious effect on our community members. The COPP Trust Small Grants Program enables work in local and regional areas on LGBTI hate crime, suicide prevention in schools and youth development. Through the simple venture of running LoG social functions in 'safe space', John has supported young and more mature community members experiencing isolation and loneliness.
Don Macdonald	Don has embarked upon the lonely road of being a representative in the North as Chair of the Greater Launceston COPP Committee for the LGBTI Community. Don has worked to push back people's fear of 'coming out' and the fear of rejection in a sometimes hostile environment.	Over the years, Don has attended many meetings, functions and conferences in support of the rights of the LGBTI community to have its say, sometimes with much resistance. Don has a strong voice which will not be silenced in its rejection of discrimination.
<p>Commendation: Father Greg Barker - Catholic Presbytery, Cygnet (has not accepted the Rainbow Award nomination, as he sees his work for Van & Oahn as part of his parish work).</p> <p>As a Catholic priest, Greg, who cares about injustice, has provided extraordinary and unwavering support to Van & Oahn, two women refugees who were in great danger of being extradited back to Vietnam and having their application to live in Australia rejected on grounds that denied their long-term life partnership.</p>		