



The Newsletter that reaches across Australia

# Country

# Network

June/July, 2013

Website: [www.countrynetwork.com.au](http://www.countrynetwork.com.au)

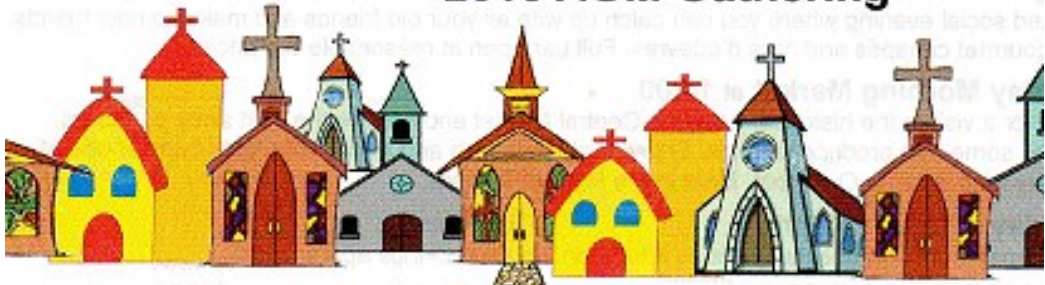
Secretary: PO Box 176, New Town, TASMANIA 7008

**DON'T MISS OUT  
ON THE FUN**



**Country Network**

**2013 AGM Gathering**



**Adelaide Meridien Hotel,**  
**21- 39 Melbourne St, North Adelaide**  
**Friday October 25th - Monday October 28th**



King William St.



Adelaide Entertainment Centre



Adelaide Oban



Central Markets

## From the Editor:



I cannot help but admire people who have developed skills in their fields of interest whatever that might be. Recently Herb C from Queensland sent me a number of newspaper clippings which are always very fascinating. Herb is no doubt a prolific reader and being an ex-Librarian covers a large number of print media sources. Thanks Herb.

One of the articles I particularly found intriguing was a tribute by Gerard Henderson in the Sydney Morning Herald (12th June 2013) to **Christopher Pearson** who passed away a couple of weeks ago. Christopher was obviously a well regarded polemicist (yes, I know you smarties out there know the meaning of *polemicist* but I had to look up the dictionary). So in other words he was an argumentative, controversial figure who was not afraid to voice his opinions about conventional establishments or beliefs. Gerard Henderson writes:

*“Regrettably, Pearson left only one substantial written work—his 1996 essay titled, ‘The ambiguous business of coming out’, which was published in Peter Coleman’s edited collection ‘Double Take’. Here, he referred to discovering his homosexuality as a boy and wrote that, at age 22, he had become a “lover” of South Australian Chief Justice and poet John Bray.*

In this article, Henderson points out that Pearson established the *Adelaide Review* and wrote for many major Australian newspapers. Surprisingly, Pearson started as a left-wing student supporting Labor politicians and moved to the Liberal side in 1995-96, briefly as a speechwriter for John Howard. His writing ranged from politics, to history, to the arts, even cooking. After reading this article it also seems he switched from recognising his homosexuality to almost homophobic feelings after being received into the Catholic Church. Having said that apparently he was a very skilful writer and no doubt made many enemies.

This article then led me to Google the Catholic Church’s view on homosexuality. I was surprised that it wasn’t all as damning as I thought and their catechism states that homosexual people should not be discriminated against. They state it is a trial for people and it’s OK to think about it but not act. HELLO!...let get back to the real world. When the hormones start raging, (and I speak for myself here) there is no way one can just sit down and say, “Hey, this is a trial”...by this time I’m already charged, convicted, and sentenced.

Anyway, look after yourselves and be kind to one another. Hugs - Cliff

Country Social Network Inc.  
(Reg Y2063541)



## Future Social Events Around Australia

- VIC 1st July—Evening meal —Monthly event—1st Monday in every month. (See page 9)
- WA 7th July—Morning Coffee in the city—10.30 am usual place. (See page 7)
- WA 17th July—Lunch at Mandurah—Ciccirello’s Restaurant 12 noon (See page 7)
- WA 27th July—Perth Workshop for Prostate Cancer—(See page 5)
- WA 23-25th August—Donnelly River Camp Up—(See page 8)
- SA **Adelaide AGM—25th-28th October, 2013. BOOK NOW! Adelaide awaits you!**

(Please contact me [Cliff 0422 799 729 or e-mail: [cliff11@inet.net.au](mailto:cliff11@inet.net.au)] if you have any important events in your State).

### Contributors to Magazine:

Pete B.	Graham S.	Michael S
David T.	David F	Richard McL
John L.	Herb C.	Cliff M

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## SOUTH AUSTRALIAN AREA CO-ORDINATOR'S REPORT

### BIRTHDAYS ARE GOOD FOR YOU

The more you have,  
the longer you live!



### CORROBOREE COOEE

It was great to read the article by Ian B in the previous newsletter. I guess a lot of us don't say too much about the good things we do in CN, and perhaps we should, as we could share these good times with each other. Thanks Ian for bringing it to our attention.

### WENATEX BEDS

I went to a free lunch and presentation on a perfect sleep. If you are in the market for a new bed, look them up on the internet, but be aware, you may have to take out a mortgage on your home to pay for it!

### JUST A THOUGHT

Always buy good shoes and a good bed. Because if you aren't in one, you're in the other!

### MYSTERIOUS MYANMAR



### (BURMA)

If you are not visiting Adelaide on the 25th October, maybe you could be interested in an... All-Boyz fully escorted tour, 12th October to 26th October 2013, 15 days \$4500 twin share. Includes, air fares, boat, coach tours, accommodation and most meals. Four CN members have been on previous tours and next year another is being organised for Jordan/Israel. For more info, contact Geoff Ostling (after 22/7) on Ph 02 9568 3029 [email:geoffostling@gmail.com](mailto:geoffostling@gmail.com) or myself.

### BEST WISHES

To those of us that have been on the sick list we trust that you will have a very speedy recovery and be back in the thick of things.

### MOUTHING OFF

Who is the most popular guy in a nudist colony? The

guy who can carry a cup of coffee in each hand, and a dozen donuts!

### GOVERNMENT LICKED

South Australia's Government House is featured on a 60c postage stamp just released. The oldest continually-inhabited Vice-Regal residence in Australia. The four feature set also includes, Government Houses in TAS, NSW and WA.

Happy New Financial Year to ALL!

Regards, David T.

See YOU in  
Adelaide!



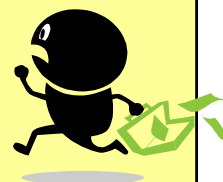
## Renewal Enthusiasm!

Since the email from Daddy Long Legs on the 20th May, 96 members have renewed. This is in contrast to 10 by the 30th June last year. I would like to think this is an indication of the enthusiasm of the members for Country Network, for the friendships and everything else that CN offers.

Each year someone will let his enthusiasm run away with him and send in two renewals. That has already happened this year. As I write, I have yet to embarrass the poor guy by ringing to ask what he wants me to do with the second cheque. Once the 1st July clicks over, only those members who have renewed (or who have joined since the 1st January this year) will be financial, but there is a period of grace, and during that period no one will be cut off from access to the website, or receiving the newsletter, so you can still stay in touch. At last count we had 266 members. That means many members still need to renew. Best get onto it straight away, before you forget.

**John Lynch — Treasurer**  
[john.a.lynch@bigpond.com](mailto:john.a.lynch@bigpond.com)

Single or Joint Membership with Internet option: \$30  
Single or Joint Membership with Postage premium option: \$45  
Renewal forms may be downloaded from the Internet or a paper copy can be obtained from the Treasurer or me (Editor) on 0422 799 729.

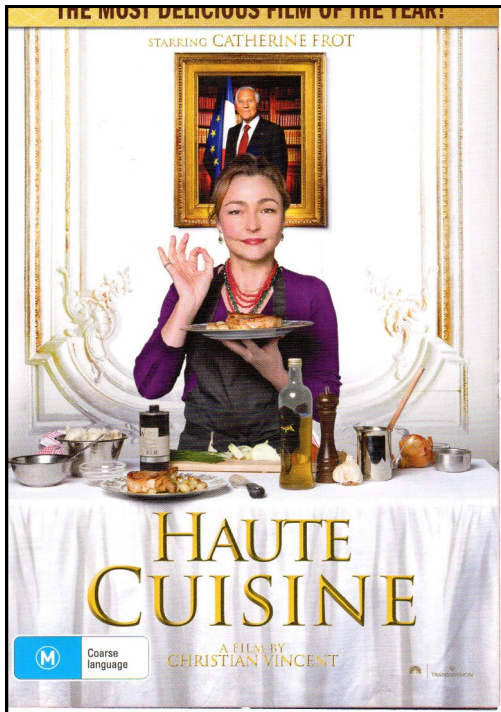


## At the Movies

By Michael S. of NSW

A Thought—"Happiness is time spent with a friend  
(unknown)

### Cinema



1. "Haute Cuisine" (subtitled)

This is based on the true story of French President Francois Mitterrand's private chef.

Hortense Labourie is astonished to be appointed as the President's personal cook and as such to be responsible for arranging the menus for all his meals. She is unpopular with the other kitchen staff who are jealous of her but she perseveres and establishes a good rapport with the President.

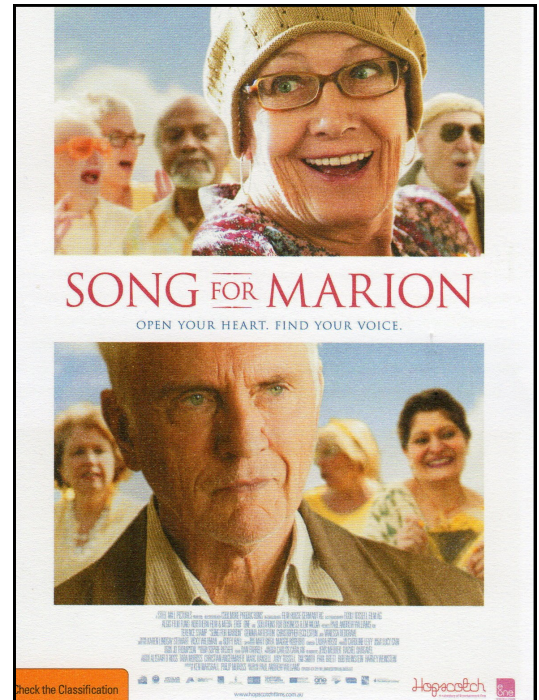
The movie is a wonderful description of the French approach to food and there are lovely recipes and dishes shown. Those interested in cooking will enjoy this film, I believe. I am not a cook (far from it) but I found it very entertaining.

2. "The Hunt" (subtitled)

Lucas works in a kindergarten in a small rural community where he is highly popular with pupils and staff. He is also coming to terms with a divorce and has met a new girlfriend. Lucas' life is completely turned upside-down when he is falsely accused of highly inappropriate behaviour by a small girl who is far too young to really know what she is saying—and everything mushrooms into a drastic situation. The movie shows with great clarity how frightening assumptions can be made where sexual abuse is concerned (and even more so when children are involved).

I found the film very moving and true to life—the climax came with a very subtle message in this respect. The part of Lucas is played by Mads Mikkelsen who played 'The villain' in the Bond film "Casino Royale" with Daniel Craig.

3. "Song for Marion"



The movie stars Terence Stamp and Vanessa Redgrave as Arthur and Marion Harris, a couple in their 70's. Marion, who is dying of cancer, is an enthusiastic member of a choir for the elderly

Arthur is grumpy to all and sundry other than his wife whom he loves dearly. He is also estranged from his son, his only child. When heartbreak strikes, Arthur is forced to rethink his approach to life and reach out to his son. The film is full of song, laughter and tenderness—I found it very moving.

4. "The Reluctant Fundamentalist"

This follows the story of a young Pakistani man who is making a successful start in corporate life in Wall Street. Following 9/11 he encounters changing attitudes and prejudice—subtle and not so subtle. Because of this, he becomes disillusioned with the American dream and finds himself drawn back to his family homeland. I found the whole storyline very credible and thought-provoking.

(Cont'd over....



## (Cont'd) At the Movies by Michael S

### NEWSPAPER HEADLINES:

1. Student Excited Dad Got Head Job.
2. Is There A Ring of Debris Around Uranus?

### Two Quotes from Mae West:

- A. I consider sex a misdemeanour—the more I miss, de meaner I get.
- B. “How tall are you?”  
“Six foot seven inches”  
“Let’s forget about the six feet and talk about the seven inches”

### Three movies also worth a visit:

- (1) “Star Trek into Darkness”  
All fans of the TV series will not be disappointed with this film.
- (2) “The Place Beyond the Pines”  
A crime drama well above the average
- (3) “The Great Gatsby”  
I don’t consider this to be a great movie but I found it a most entertaining one—wonderful sets, the men impeccably dressed and the women in fabulous gowns with sequins, diamonds, pearls, feathers, furs etc. I also enjoyed the 1920’s style soundtrack. I would recommend the film.

(A big thank you to Michael for his observations).



## Tambar Springs NSW



Accommodation ♦ Great Beer  
Home Style Meals ♦ Great Pub  
All at the **Royal Hotel**  
Contact Brett & Rod on  
Ph: 02 6744 2936

### **PERTH WORKSHOP FOR PROSTATE CANCER SUPPORT PROGRAM**

A Perth Workshop to establish a local Gay/Bi Men’s Prostate Cancer Support Program is being conducted on Saturday, 27<sup>th</sup> July from 9.30 am - 4.00pm at Crawford Lodge 55 Monash Avenue, Nedlands.

The Gay/Bi Men’s Prostate Cancer Support Program is a new program that delivers improved support and educational resources to the gay community. Funded by Prostate Cancer Foundation of Australia (PCFA) and supported by ACON, Cancer Council NSW, Cancer Council Victoria, Victorian Aids Council, La Trobe University, Monash University, Urological Society of Australia and New Zealand and Male Care USA.

We welcome gay and bi men diagnosed with, being treated for or survivors of prostate cancer and their partners to attend a one day workshop to discuss your needs and to create an ongoing support group in Perth. Greg Millan, Men’s Health Consultant will be facilitating this workshop which is free and includes, information pack, all refreshments and lunch.

#### REGISTRATION IS ESSENTIAL

To find out more and to register for the day contact Greg Millan by email at [greg@menshealthservices.com.au](mailto:greg@menshealthservices.com.au) or phone 0417 772 390.



## Travels with your Aunt

### COMMUNICATION

We were travelling west from Samarkand along the Great Silk Road. It was flat, dry, and uninteresting. About midday we came to what in PNG would be called a HAUS wind, a raised platform with thatched roof supported at the corners allowing free passage of cooling air.

There were three separate raised platforms in this HAUS wind. We sat around one of them for our lunch. Five local men sat on another platform, and the third was empty. When I finished my meal I moved over to the platform with the group of five local men. They had indicated I should join them.

I took off my sandals, got onto the platform and sat cross-legged like them. They began asking me

questions in their own language and one word stood out: 'Americano'. In horror I crossed my two forefingers and held them up to protect myself saying, 'No, Nien, Nyet'. they roared with laughter. Then I said 'Australiano'.

They were obviously interested to know how we had got to Uzbekistan. I started by saying 'Sydney', then spread my arms and 'flew' to Bangkok then 'flew' again to Beijing. From Beijing I started to pump my arms like a steam train, held up one finger, shut my eyes and put my head to one side as if I was asleep. I then held up a second and third finger, each time mimicking sleep. I then said Irkutsk, Siberia.

I then 'flew' to Tashkent where I took to a steering wheel to indicate a bus and 'drove' to Samarkand. We

Tashkent, Uzbekistan



were taking the bus to Bukhara where we were to catch the train back to Tashkent. From Tashkent I 'flew' to Moscow and then indicated a train journey to London which would take three days, two sleeps. Luckily they didn't ask me how I would cross the Channel.

They were very interested in my story, and the whole incident reminded me of a comment made by a friend; "Words are for the inarticulate".

(Thanks to David F., Canberra)

## Short Book Review

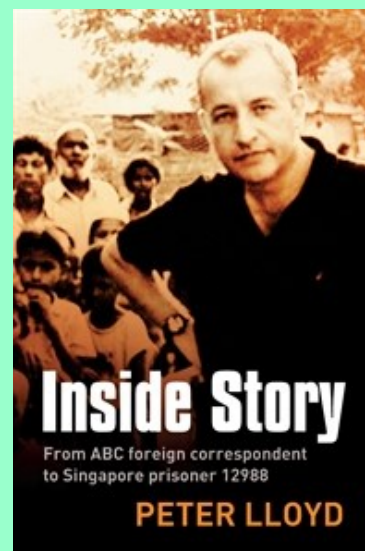
### "Inside Story" - by Peter Lloyd

In September, 2008, the ABC TV journalist Peter Lloyd was jailed in Singapore for possessing a small quantity of drugs. He only resorted to drug use in an attempt to get some sleep, suffering post-traumatic stress disorder after covering the Bali bombings and other horrors. He had also begun living with a gay Malaysian man. His wife, children and mother came to support him through his trial.

Many members would find this an interesting insight into a reporter's life and the Singapore legal system.

Herb C, QLD

(Editor's Note: Herb wrote personally to this man to commend him on his story, his honesty and recounting his harrowing experiences through the book. To learn more about this fascinating person you can Google *Inside Story—Peter Lloyd.* )



## AREA COORDINATOR'S REPORT—WA

Since last report, the Theatre Organ concert has taken place where five members went along. Graham was thrilled to have his picture taken with the main guest, Tony Fenelon. A couple of birthdays were celebrated recently with John M turning 70 and Richard W celebrating 60.



Graham (left) & Tony

Over the past month I have a couple of contacts from (Pres Neil) where people are seeking info on CN after reading our website. One from Kalgoorlie and the other from Albany region. It is great to see people are finding us and even contacting us and from this we may have a new member joining from Albany. As you will see in the newsletter there are two functions planned in the future and I must thank John T from Armadale for offering his ideas. Don't forget, if you have an idea, please contact me to share it.



Kalgoorlie Superpit

We have been away for a fortnight which saw us in Kalgoorlie/Boulder. We visited friends, helped clean up a rental house and then saw Graham's son and wife. The highlight of the visit was the joy flight over the Super Pit. Awesome! That hole is bloody big!

(Graham's son's wife is a truck driver there and shared some experiences which were frightening. We are now back in Bunbury and getting ready for the forthcoming events (see below and over page).

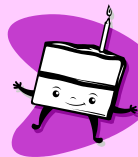


Richard cutting cake

Keep warm and happy.  
Pete

Birthday Greetings to:

**July** 14 Cliff B.  
21 David K.  
28 Bob A.  
**Aug** 7 Ted S.



Coffee morning in  
Perth city—same  
place 10.30 am.

7TH JULY—ring

Cliff (0422 799 729) if unsure.

## Lunch in Mandurah WA

**Date:** Wednesday 17/7/13

**Venue:** Cicerello's  
2/73 Mandurah Tce

**Time:** 12.00pm



Catch the train from Perth, jump on the shuttle bus from the station to Mandurah Tce and within 50 metres you're there. There is a Senior Citizens meal available for \$16.50. After the meal there are plenty of places for a walk, chat and coffee. Have a look at the link to see where it is <http://www.cicerellos.com.au/contact>



# Donnelly River Winter Weekend

*Date:* **23 – 25 August 2013**

*Venue:* Donnelly Cottages, Donnelly River (25 kms from Bridgetown)

*Bring:* Linen, blanket and warm clothes

*Things On:* Saturday – Pemberton Tourist train—\$24 per ticket  
Sunday – Balingup Medieval Carnivale—Free entry

*Cut off date:* **31 July 2013**

*Contact:* **Ric Shell 08 90712338 or  
e-mail: ric.shell@bigpond.com**



Food and Meals will be provided by Rick and Graham at the venue and the cost will be \$20 per person. Accommodation costs will vary depending on the amount of people there. An approx. figure of \$25 each night per person would be fairly close. Most people usually arrive Friday afternoon. This weekend seems to be happening each year and we can make it a regular annual event. Should you have any queries or wish to make a booking, please contact Ric.

**So, start planning and telling your friends.**



## CN—NOTICE BOARD

- \* **PET SITTER REQUIRED** - would you like a holiday in **Perth** (Ocean Reef) during August 2013. We are looking for a person or couple who like cats, to move into our house to feed our two cats. We will be leaving on the 19th of August and returning Thursday 29th August and we would be happy for you to arrive a few days before we depart and stay for a few days after our return. If you are interested for this date or for another time, please contact us:  
Carl McKenzie (08) 9300 6014 or Mob: 0409 375 359 or e-mail: resolute3@bigpond.com.

The Outrageous Ageing LGBTI Elders' Wellbeing Project is designed to help LGBTI people who are ageing sustain independent, active and healthy lives. Above all, we want this to be *your* project – for you to tell us about the challenges you face, what information you need, what's working for you – and what isn't. So, please take our survey! We want to find out about ageing from your point of view. For more information or to get a survey form mailed to you,



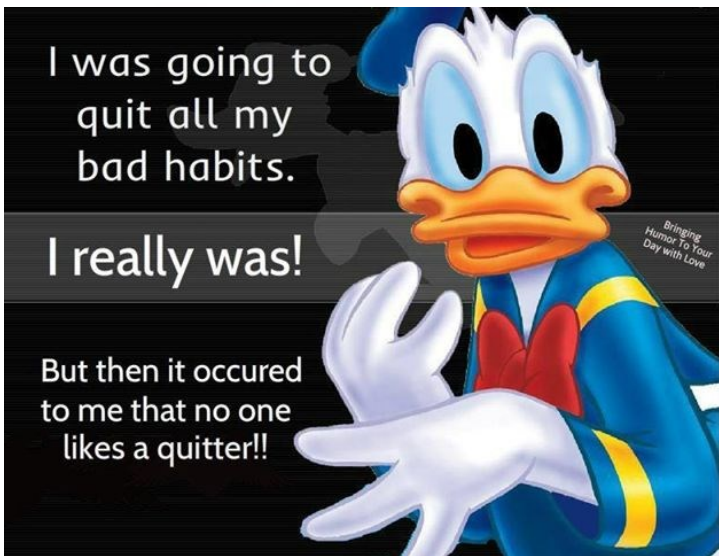
please contact project officer: Sujay Kentlyn [sujay@outrageousageing.org.au](mailto:sujay@outrageousageing.org.au) or 0488 035 500.

(The Outrageous Ageing project is an initiative of Evergreen Life Care, and is supported by the Australian Government Department of Health and Ageing.)





I HAVE JUST ONE QUESTION:



THE 18<sup>TH</sup> CAMEL

There was a father who left 17 camels as an asset for his three sons. When the father passed away, his sons opened up the Will. The Will of the father stated that the eldest son should get 1/2 (half) of total camels while the middle son should be given 1/3rd (one-third) and the youngest son should be given 1/9th (one-ninth) of the total camels.

As it was not possible to divide 17 into half or 17 by 3 or 17 by 9, the three sons started to fight with each other. So, the three sons decided to go to a wise man. The wise man read the Will patiently. The wise man, after giving due thought, brought one camel of his own and added the same to 17. That increased the total to 18 camels. Now, he started reading the deceased father's Will.

Half of 18 = 9. So he gave the eldest son 9 camels  
1/3rd of 18 = 6. So he gave the middle son 6 camels  
1/9th of 18 = 2. So he gave the youngest son 2 camels.

Now add this up: 9 plus 6 plus 2 is 17 and this leaves one camel, which belonged to the wise man and he took it back.

**Moral:** The attitude of negotiation and problem solving is to find the 18th camel i.e. the common ground. Once a person is able to find the 18th camel the issue is resolved. It is difficult at times. However, to reach a solution, the first step is to believe that there is a solution. If we think that there is no solution, we won't be able to reach any!

**Little Johnny's Breakfast**

A grade three teacher is giving a lesson on nutrition, and she decides to ask her students what they had for breakfast. To add a spelling component, she asks the students to also spell their answers.

Susan puts up her hand and says she had an egg, 'E-G-G'.

'Very good', says the teacher.

Peter says he had toast 'T-O-A-S-T'.

'Excellent.'

Johnny has his hand up and the teacher reluctantly calls on him.

'I had bugger all', he says, 'B-U-G-G-E-R-A-L-L'.

The teacher is mortified and scolds Johnny for his rude answer.

Later when the lesson turns to geography, she asks the students some rudimentary questions. Susan correctly identifies the Capital of Canada. Peter is able to tell her which ocean is off Canada's east coast. When it's Johnny's turn, the teacher remembers his rude answer from the nutrition lesson, and decides to give him a very difficult question. Johnny, she asks, 'Where is the Pakistani border?'

Johnny ponders the question and finally says, 'The Pakistani boarder is in bed with my mother.'

That's why I got bugger all for breakfast



**VICTORIA— THE STATE OF HANDSOME MEN'S MONTHLY GET-TOGETHER**

On the first Monday of each month (unless Monday is a public holiday, then it moves to Tuesday), the guys get together for a fantastic evening meal. Prices at the restaurant are very reasonable—so for further information contact Brooce, Geelong on 03-5244-1265 or e-mail: adamsbd@optusnet.com.au. If you plan to attend please contact Brooce the Friday before.



## RETURNING OFFICERS REPORT

### Procedures to be followed – if a postal ballot is required:



Every financial member on the CN Voter Register which is the most current CN Membership List available at the time of calling a Postal Ballot, will be sent a Nomination Form either by email or “snail mail”, whichever the CN Member has already nominated as their preferred way of receiving all CN related correspondence.

Every CN Member who is financial as of 27<sup>th</sup> July 2013 should receive an official CN Nomination Form, however, those who who did not receive a Nomination Form within 7 days of that date should contact me immediately.



Any financial CN Member may either propose OR nominate themselves or any other financial member to stand for election to ONE OR MORE executive and or non-executive position and may reproduce the official Nomination Form as many times as required to complete the nomination task.

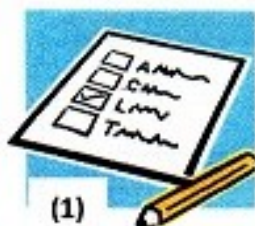


Please return the completed Nomination Form/s to: The Returning Officer, by email: [rmc88820@bigpond.net.au](mailto:rmc88820@bigpond.net.au) OR by “snail mail” C/- P.O. Box 6968, Coffs Harbour Plaza NSW 2450.

Those members who may be remote to any other financial CN Members and have nominated and proposed themselves BUT are unable to have another financial CN member second their form should still return their incomplete Nomination Form as is. The Returning Officer is authorised in such cases to act on your behalf, and may call upon any other financial CN member to complete that part on your behalf.

When all Nominations have been returned **NO later than 27<sup>th</sup> August** AND IF more nominations have been received than positions available, a Postal Election will be held.

If a Postal Ballot IS required, the current CN Inc. Constitution only allows for the “*first past the post voting system*” to be used. The “*first past the post voting system*” ONLY allows “you” the voter to cast ONE vote per Ballot Paper and is NOT a preferential system.



(1)

To cast a valid vote, “YOU” MUST ONLY MAKE ONE mark on the Ballot Paper AND any Ballot Paper with two or more voters marks on the same Ballot Paper is automatically an “informal” vote and will not counted.

The “*first past the post system*” allows the voter to cast a valid vote by using any one of the following three different acceptable “voters marks” which are: (1) a tick (2) an “X”

or the (3) The Roman Numeral Number “I”.



(2)

No matter which of the three “voters marks” are used, to cast a valid vote, the voter MUST only cast a vote for ONE of the candidates listed on the Ballot Paper otherwise their vote is “informal” and will not be counted.

The voter may use any one of the three “voters marks” illustrated above in the three separate cartoons, to cast a valid vote BUT MUST ONLY VOTE FOR ONE of the candidates listed on the Ballot Paper.



(3)

**NOTE:** The voters MUST NOT identify themselves in any way whatsoever on either The Ballot Paper or the small Ballot Paper envelope, inside or outside, otherwise that Ballot Paper will be declared “informal” and not counted in the Ballot.

Should a Postal Ballot be required, a minimum of three other CN members will witness the drawing of candidates names from a “hat”. All candidates names will be written on paper and drawn from a “hat” in the presence of the witnesses and listed on the Ballot Paper in the same order as drawn. Ballot Papers must be posted by “Snail Mail” **within 14 days of the close of nominations ie: 9<sup>th</sup> September.**

A large “outer” envelope contains (1) Voting Instructions (2) Ballot Paper/s as required (3) as many small Ballot Paper “buff”/“beige” coloured envelopes as required one per Ballot Paper and (4) a self addressed return envelope to: The Returning Officer.

“YOU”, the financial CN voting member will be asked to affix your own **60 cent** Australian postage stamp onto the self addressed return envelope to The Returning Officer and post same back ASAP.



# COUNTRY NETWORK AND PRIME TIMERS COMBINE TO CELEBRATE RICHARD'S 60TH BIRTHDAY

Photos courtesy of Michael G., Eric M. and Cliff M.

It's party time



That can't be true!



Bear Hug-everyone should have one!  
Richard & John



The only way to dress for work



Michael & Graham



The porno cake which people enjoyed getting their lips around!



Trevor & Victor sharing a joke

Bring on the food. Gary & Graham delights!



John & Franz in serious mode



Here we were waiting for the naked dancing boys to appear. Oh well it is winter!



The Gang



## For Gay Men, a Fear That Feels Familiar

Danny Ghitis for The New York Times

Demetre Daskalakis, a doctor and gay activist, at Paddles in Chelsea.

By ANEMONA HARTOCOLLIS  
Published: May 17, 2013

At around 4 on a Saturday morning, a time when most of the gay bars in New York have closed and locked their doors, a steady stream of young and middle-aged men, almost all shirtless and some stripped down to their boxer briefs, have found their way down a dark stairwell and into a maze of basement rooms, where the décor can best be described as fallout-shelter chic.

They have come to Paddles, an after-hours sex club in Chelsea, not yet ready to end their evening. They prowl the long cinder-block hallway, exchanging knowing glances. A husky, bearded man in his 40s lounges on a corrugated black rubber bench, admiring a chorus line of smooth-chested 20-somethings, their flesh glowing under a pink neon sign and black lights. A man in a metal-studded black leather chest harness strides toward a back room, the hookup room, where a circle of men, skin glistening with sweat, hover around a swing, watching.

Then, in walks a skinny man in a black baseball cap, with soulful eyes and a nose that juts forward like the prow of a ship. He stops at a folding table set up between two video screens showing continuous reels of gay pornography. He strips off his black leather jacket, flexing toned biceps in a

black muscle shirt. He sets up a red hazardous-waste bin as nonchalantly as if it were a plastic juice jug from Costco, arranges some Band-Aids and a bowl of lollipops next to it, and pulls out a syringe.

This is Demetre Daskalakis, a doctor and gay activist who has come to spread the message that a new health threat has emerged among the city's gay population and that he is there to stop it.

"Have you been vaccinated?" he asks, smiling, his voice warm, as the half-naked men walk by.

A new, casually transmittable infection — a unique strain of bacterial meningitis — has cast a pall over the gay night life and dating scene, with men wondering whether this is AIDS, circa 1981, all over again. Seven men have died in New York City, about a third of diagnosed cases, since 2010. And in the last few months, the contagion seemed to be accelerating. It has targeted gay and bisexual men, and nobody knows exactly why.

The city's best hope to curb the outbreak is to vaccinate as many at-risk men as possible, focusing on those most in danger: men who regularly hook up with other men whom they meet at parties, bars, clubs and through apps like Grindr. Dr. Don Weiss, the director of surveillance for the city's Bureau of Communicable Disease, has called it "Russian roulette sex," because "sooner or later, you are going to come across this organism and be exposed."

The health department's own vaccination efforts at several gay bars have had limited success. Men out partying want to have fun, not be told that they may fall prey to a lethal disease by doing so.

Hence Dr. Daskalakis's early-

morning club crawl, medical bag in hand. Being a nonthreatening gay man who does not wear a white coat helps. So does his empathy and sense of humor. When this reporter sent him an e-mail expressing a wish to remain fully clothed while out cruising, the reply from his iPhone was instantaneous: "I will be in a burkha :)"

Every half-hour or so, the owner of Paddles, Michael Aulito, makes a public-service announcement: "If you haven't gotten a shot, please go talk to Dr. Demetre." Once, he adds, "Not Dr. Demento, Dr. Demetre."

Dr. Daskalakis hands the men a consent form and asks the threshold question: "Do you have an illness more serious than a cold?"

"Will it hurt?" they ask.

"I'm hitting more than 700 today, my injections have gotten really good," he says, grinning proudly.

"Can I get it from having sex?"

"Maybe," he says, "but not just from sex. You can get it from being close, like kissing or cuddling."

This is motivating. Most of the men have checked their shirts at the door. Some have checked their pants. Conditions for injection could hardly be better. Before Lady Gaga can stutter out "Pa-pa-pa-poker face, pa-pa-poker face," Dr. Daskalakis stabs them in the arm with a needle, applies a Band-Aid and sends them on their way. All over Paddles, men are happily sucking on the lollipops he is handing out as a reward.

"Dr. Demetre told me every person who gets a shot saves four other people," Mr. Aulito says. "If he gives 700 shots, that's 2,800 people that he saved, an amazing number." Mr. Aulito has been vaccinated, as has his wife.

### Editor's Comment:

You will note there is no President's message in this edition. Neil and Mal are currently touring Europe, rubbing shoulders with all those sexy Turkish and Italian men, on a well earned holiday.

Also a number of other gorgeous CN members ventured to Europe (Italy etc.) together. To stimulate the economy over there, I believe!

### WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS



We hope you will enjoy meeting some of our members. Don't be shy, pick up the phone and contact another member from our Membership List: either in your area or anywhere in Australia. For those who are already members, check the list and see who has joined so you can contact them to make them feel WELCOME!

Denis P. - NSW	Cahal F. - VIC	Robert D. - QLD
Kerven K. - NSW	Craig Mac - VIC	Cliff B. - WA
David L. - NSW	Colin T. - WA	Terry M. - WA
Franz P. - WA	Gary M. - WA	
Brendan R. - NSW	Michael P. - NSW	

