

2017

Positive News

A round-up of news from Bobby Goldsmith Foundation



**bobby goldsmith
foundation**
practical emotional
financial support

BGF's FINAL EVER BAKE OFF!



After 30 years of cakes, tarts, drag and chocolate wheels, Bobby Goldsmith Foundation (BGF) is celebrating our 30th and last EVER Bake Off.

This year's Bake Off will once again take place upstairs at the Beresford Hotel, Surry Hills, on Sunday 10th September from 3 – 6pm.

Hosted by the iconic and hilarious Auntie Mavis along with drag sensation Joyce Mange, you will also be entertained by tunes from DJ Mark Alsop MA 15+ and a variety of surprise guests.

Leading the judging panel is the ever gorgeous Claire de Lune, Executive Chef at Claire's Kitchen at Le Salon, Darlinghurst.

Bake Off started in 1987 as a fun, community event to raise much needed funds for people who were living with HIV and struggling. Over the years we have seen the face of HIV change, but thanks to the support of the community, BGF has always been there for our clients.

That's why BGF has decided to revisit our heritage with the theme, 'A Throwback to the 80's!'

Also included this year will be a best dressed competition AND even more cakes, prizes, games and raffles! We look forward to seeing your best Madonna!

To enter a cake or buy tickets visit: bgf.org.au/events/bake-off

Tickets: \$10 + booking fee

Cake Entries: \$5 + booking fee (includes free entry to Bake Off). Categories to enter are Best Cake, Best Professional Creation, Best Decorated, Best Fete Baking, Best Tart; and Best Preserve.



WELCOME BGF'S NEW CEO



BGF proudly announces our new CEO Nicholas (Nick) Lawson who took up the role in early July 2017. Nick is a senior humanitarian professional with 18 years' experience both in the field and in the head office of Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF).

Combining strong field operational leadership, policy development, and senior international human resource development strategies, Nick has developed and directed secure and effective humanitarian operations in multiple contexts. In particular, Nick directed programs to provide ART and hospital care to 8,000 beneficiaries in Malawi.

Having recently returned to Australia from New York with his young family, Nick is now keen to pursue his passion of providing health outcomes for communities.

"Bobby Goldsmith Foundation is a fantastic organisation. I am honoured to be able to work alongside such a passionate and dedicated team, and I look forward to enhancing the strength of the relationships between ourselves, and our clients and partners in supporting and dignifying the lives of people living with HIV."

The BGF Board would like to thank outgoing CEO David Riddell for his significant contribution to the organisation in his roles as Client Services Manager, and for the past five years as CEO, and wishes David well in his future endeavours.

The Board and staff of BGF also wish to acknowledge the outstanding contribution of Andrew Buchanan, who has been acting in the role.

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Client Stories and more...

HIV heART – A Celebration of Art



Greens MP Jenny Leong with Artist, Hagi

In collaboration with the City of Sydney and as a part of the 2017 Mardi Gras Festival, BGF held the HIV heART Exhibition during the first week of March.

HIV heART showcased inspired artworks produced by the talented participants of BGF's Phoenix Art program, a program that aims to provide a safe space where HIV+ artists can creatively express themselves and build their self-esteem.

Curated by Ian Barnett and Natalya Shinn, 23 original artworks were on display in The Shop Gallery, Glebe. 80 guests packed out the gallery on opening night. The exhibition was officially opened by Jenny Leong, Greens MP for Newtown who praised the work of BGF and the significance of programs like Phoenix Art. "To see the work that is done, that is practical and directly connected to the community, and creating and building stronger community is a huge credit to the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation."

A special thank you goes to the City of Sydney's Matching Grants Program, which enabled the exhibition to take place. "What a great success and demonstration of providing a safe space for participants to develop their skills and confidence" commented Natalie Niamh Wright, Grants Officer, City of Sydney.

In addition to the works of art, some of which were sold, packs of greeting cards featuring selected works were available for sale, with all proceeds raised going towards supporting BGF's clients.

If you would like to purchase a pack of 10 greeting cards for just \$10, please contact us at bgf@bgf.org.au.



TAKE CONTROL OF YOUR HEALTH+

**A WORKSHOP
IN BETTER HEALTH
MANAGEMENT FOR
PEOPLE LIVING
WITH HIV.**

Developed by
Stanford University of California

Presented by the
Bobby Goldsmith Foundation

DID YOU KNOW?



Being diagnosed as HIV positive doesn't mean that one's life is over. Far from it!

BGF runs a Stanford University Positive Self-Management Program called Take Control of Your Health. This presents a series of workshops that explore strategies to enable people living with HIV (PLHIV) to better manage their disease and to live the best life they possibly can.

The program and the accompanying guidebook: Living a Healthy Life with HIV, will help attendees find answers to some of the most often asked questions about navigating life ahead as a positive person.

The syllabus is extensive, with some of the topics covered including:

- Who should I tell that I have HIV? And when?
- What are the possible side effects of HIV medications?
- What about sex now that I'm positive?

The program is open to any NSW resident living with HIV. If you know of someone who you think would benefit from the program, or to find out more please email Richard.Kennedy@bgf.org.au or call 02 9283 8666.

Prefer to read your newsletter online? Let us know by emailing bgf@bgf.org.au

Shining a Light on the Northern Rivers, NSW



12 months ago Bobby Goldsmith Foundation expanded its case management services to the Northern Rivers area of NSW, with the aim of providing support to PLHIV with complex care needs living in the region.

Troy Dunn is BGF's Case Manager who, while based in Lismore, covers an area that extends from Tweed Heads in the north, to Coffs Harbour in the south and inland to Armidale – a vast territory. Troy provides community support in a rural part of NSW where PLHIV face numerous challenges: "Common barriers for many clients are access to services and economic hardship. In addition, lack of public transport, vast distances and high unemployment in a regional setting impedes their access to support".

The challenges faced by many PLHIV in these rural settings can range from mental health and accommodation issues, to social isolation coupled with alcohol and other drug issues. Troy works intensively with his clients to address their immediate challenges and to identify ways in which BGF can support them. These support measures can include financial assistance, peer led programs and practical interventions to improve their overall health and wellbeing.

Thanks to the generosity of our donors, BGF can fund resources for intensive work with its Northern Rivers clients. Something as straightforward as being able to transport clients to their appointments ensures BGF's services remain practical yet invaluable to this community.

BGF is delighted to have Troy as a key member of its dedicated Client Services team. We are confident that in the future we will be able to further expand the delivery of case management services to PLHIV with complex issues in other regional and remote parts of NSW.

Michael's Story – From hardship to healing

Michael has been a client of BGF since 2013 and has experienced numerous challenges living with HIV. This is Michael's story.

"I was referred to BGF in 2013 at a great time of need. I was homeless, unemployed, had an escalating amount of debt and just escaped an abusive relationship. My health had deteriorated and I was at breaking point. What's more, I had been coping with all this by using substances. I was assessed at BGF and became eligible for the HIV/AOD Integrated Care program."

"My Caseworker helped me move into transitional, supported housing while waiting for an offer of social housing. The financial counselling at BGF also greatly supported me in applying for part of my superannuation to repay some major debt."

"Until 2015, my substance use was still a big issue and a real struggle, so I decided to apply for a place in the AOD Harm Reduction program at St Vincent's Hospital. I started long term treatment with psychological and emotional support. During that same period, I completed the BGF Positive Self-Management Program (PSMP) which helped me take great steps towards my recovery."

"In July 2016, I enrolled in a TAFE Diploma of Community Services course with an Alcohol and Other Drugs component. I have now obtained work placement at WHO'S Community Therapeutic Treatment Centre in Rozelle and am hoping to find paid work in this field by the end of this placement."

"My journey has been challenging and difficult at times but intensive support from my BGF caseworker and BGF services has contributed to getting my life back on track."



Northern Rivers, NSW

"I feel I wouldn't be alive without the support of BGF. Whenever I came into the office everyone was always so kind and respectful, making me feel as though there was at least one place I always felt welcome." – BGF Client

Red Ribbons Marching

The 2017 Mardi Gras Parade saw BGF take to the streets in the rain, with our signature red ribbons held aloft. 19 lively marchers joined in our 'Stand With Us' campaign to raise awareness of BGF's work.

We presented as a sea of black and red shirts, red ribbons, angels wings, face paint and BGF's initials. The march was exhilarating to be a part of and everyone had a great time showing BGF's support for the LGBTIQ community!



Update from South Australia

In the last issue of Positive News, we wrote about the new services BGF has started offering in South Australia. We now have some exciting updates to share with you.

- BGF has welcomed 89 new clients in urgent need of care and support.
- Cooking classes have started in conjunction with SAMESH, PEACE and Centrecare. These courses promote healthy living, and teach PLHIV how to cook and prepare meals on a budget.
- A Positive Self-Management Program (PSMP) course starts on 12 September at the SAMESH office in Adelaide. This course will provide PLHIV with better skills to manage their health.

A big shout out goes to BGF's Caseworker in South Australia, Jess Hodgetts. Your achievements to date have been a great success. Thank you.

You can help BGF continue to provide unique and much needed support services in this region by making a donation. Donate today at bgf.org.au

"You and the people at BGF are amazing and caring people. I cannot thank BGF enough for saving my little dog's eye." – BGF Client

Lights! Glamour! Action! At the 2017 BGF Auction



Another successful Auction was held at the atmospheric Cellblock Theatre at the National Art School, Darlinghurst on Thursday 4 May.

Over 200 supporters and friends attended, raising close to \$39,000 of much needed funds to support the work of BGF's Client Services team of Case Workers, Case Managers and Community Support workers.

Deputy Lord Mayor, Professor Kerryn Phelps in her keynote speech spoke about how far BGF has come since the first AIDS epidemic in Australia and Independent Member for Sydney, Alex Greenwich, made a speech about the importance of supporting people living with HIV.

The fabulous hosts for the evening, Lesley Hancock and Tom Sharah, dazzled the audience with their performances and wit, along with guest acts Greg Gould, Alfie Arcuri and DJ Mark Alsop MA 15+.

The fantastic range of live auction items ranged from holiday houses in Bali, Hamilton Island and Bowral, to dinners with Todd McKenney and Alex Greenwich.

BGF is most grateful to our generous event sponsors for supporting this year's Auction: David Davies and Yakkazoo.

A special thanks also goes to everyone who helped make the Auction such a resounding success including all prize donors, caterers, volunteers, performers, media supporters and guests!

"I would like to congratulate the Bobby Goldsmith Foundation on its work over the decades and thank you all for your contribution." Professor Kerryn Phelps, Deputy Lord Mayor.



Deputy Lord Mayor
Professor Kerryn Phelps



The Team at Yakkazoo



Greg Gould

Client Services Update

During the 2016 to 2017 financial year, BGF's Client Services team achieved the following outcomes:



Welcomed
271 new
clients



Completed 26 face-to-
face outreach visits
across rural and
regional NSW from Far
West Broken Hill to
Tweed Heads in
Northern NSW



Assisted 62
clients to secure
\$54,000 worth
of No Interest
Loans to
purchase life's
essentials



Provided \$163,000 in
direct financial
assistance to cover the
costs of items like
medicines, vitamins,
back to work courses
and dental treatments.

The Man Behind Bear Bar



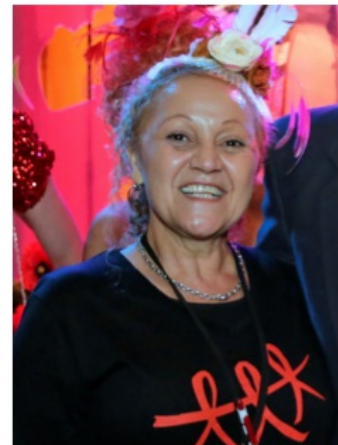
HONEY is one of Sydney's leading dance party brands and this year they celebrated their 5th Birthday. Known for its focus on great music and a friendly atmosphere, Honey parties have become a staple go-to for Bears and their friends.

In just five years, Jonny Bastin – the man behind Honey – has run more than 45 parties and introduced the aptly titled pop-up Bear Bar, which has been running during the last three Mardi Gras seasons.

Jonny is also a wonderful ally of BGF's, raising thousands of dollars at numerous events to help support people living with HIV.

"I love working with the team at BGF, it's a cause that is close to my heart. Having worked as a Buddy with the Terrence Higgins Trust in London in the late 1980's, I'd encourage other small businesses to get behind BGF to support its essential community services."

The Magic of Mabil-lee: A Volunteer's Story



Mabil-lee Hayder has been a long-time volunteer for BGF and is also a great advocate for LGBTIQ issues in Australia.

"I was living in Darwin for about 25 years AND I always helped the young Gays and Lesbians that had no one to turn to. I adopted three teenagers for many years as they were still not open with their families. I became their parent and of course, their friend, who they could turn to at any time."

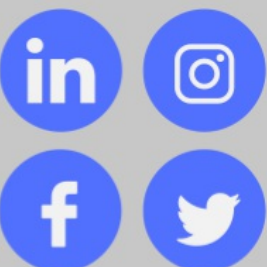
"In those early years, Darwin had no support for the LGBTIQ community. There was just a few of us that cared for and helped one another."

After Darwin, Mabil-lee moved to Europe for several years, eventually returning to Australia to work in a pub on Oxford Street. This is when she first became involved with BGF.

"I can't pick a favourite BGF event, as they all give you that beautiful feeling – seeing so many gorgeous humans that are so happy to open their hearts and their pockets. I'm always overwhelmed every time."

"People need to understand how far BGF has come. I've noticed myself the growth in so many different areas such as housing. Everyone has worked so hard towards this cause and so many of us have been there to support BGF at anytime, anywhere. We all believe in One Love!"

"My suggestion to volunteers who are considering helping BGF is that you'll have the most unbelievable and satisfying feeling after every event, and you'll meet so many gorgeous new friends. You have the opportunity to be part of so many great events, you learn new skills and have fun at the same time!"



**#STAYINFORMED
FOLLOW BGF ON
SOCIAL MEDIA!**

A SHOUT OUT TO BGF'S

Parties, BBQ's and Drag at Stonewall



Once again, Stonewall hosted a number of events throughout the year to support BGF. Volunteers were present at each event to shake buckets and enjoy the entertainment!

From Stonewall's Christmas Party celebrations, to Oxtravaganza's Mardi Gras BBQ, to Pride Festival in June, Stonewall has raised over \$1,200 for BGF!

We can't wait to see what other fabulous events you have lined up this year.

The Beresford's Club Tropicana



A mix of passionfruit, vanilla and bubbles led to an incredible donation of \$975 from The Beresford. Their hit cocktail Club Tropicana created just for Mardi Gras saw a \$5 donation to BGF for each cocktail sold. Now that's a lot of cocktails!

Thanks to the team at The Beresford for always thinking of us!

Lemons with a Twist & Fruits in Suits



Our good friends at the Sydney Gay and Lesbian Business Association (SGLBA) have been supporting BGF with their monthly events Fruits in Suits and Lemons with a Twist.

BGF volunteers are invited to run the cloakroom for a gold coin donation. In the last five months a total of \$1,051 has been raised!

Living Colour Plant Giveaway



Each year, the colourful plants seen throughout Sydney City are recycled and given away to new homes with the hope of brightening up gardens and making a greener Sydney!

BGF was selected as the charity of choice by the City of Sydney to bucket shake at Sydney Park in March. For a gold coin donation, people gathered on the sunny morning to take plants home. \$1,500 was raised thanks to the generosity of City of Sydney and the plant-loving community!



COMMUNITY FUNDRAISERS

Fit and Fabulous for HIV



The passionate and playful team at Plus Fitness Darlinghurst donated \$500 to BGF, for reaching 5,000 views on Facebook of their hilarious parody video.

Filmed on site at the gym and featuring high-class acts: Ma-dani Trani and Gaynor Tension, the video was a fabulous hit! We're definitely looking forward to the next production!

An Emotional Film Screening

For Queer Screen's Mardi Gras Film Festival, BGF co-presented the exceptional documentary *Memories of a Penitent Heart*. This film explored emotional themes of lost love, family and the challenges of living with HIV in 1970's New York.

The film opened with a speech from BGF Fundraising Committee Member, Romany Brooks, followed by volunteers bucket shaking to raise vital funds. Thank you to Queer Screen for the opportunity to co-present yet another amazing film!



**Thank you also to the following
local businesses for their
support over Mardi Gras:**

**Darlinghurst Business Partnership
Bloody Marys
The Commons
Burdekin Hotel
Work-Shop Makery
Oxford Art Factory
Harbour City Bears
NessyArt**

World AIDS Day Commemoration

World AIDS Day is held on the first day of December each year and is a time when we remember the loved ones we have lost to AIDS.

It also aims to raise global awareness about issues surrounding HIV and AIDS. BGF was fortunate to be the beneficiary of some amazing fundraising efforts.

MAC HIGH TEA



On a beautiful summer morning, MAC AIDS Fund hosted a 'High Tea for HIV' in the tearoom of the exquisite grounds of Vaucluse House to raise awareness of and funds for PLHIV. Guests which included many members of the Sydney based media community were treated to champagne upon arrival, followed with tea, coffee and array of the most delicious savouries and cakes.

\$377 was raised to support BGF's programs by selling red ribbons and raffle tickets - with a gorgeous Estée Lauder Prize Pack up for grabs. The relationship between BGF and MAC AIDS Fund was highlighted in a speech by MAC General Manager, Jodie Matthews. In response BGF Board member, Abby Landy spoke passionately about the work of BGF in support of people who have been diagnosed positive in their hour of need.

BGF would like to thank MAC AIDS Fund for their ongoing support. The passion, drive and warmth shown by MAC staff for our cause is greatly admired and appreciated.

If you'd like to host your own small or large scale 'High Tea for HIV', register at www.HighTeaforHIV.org.au or contact Melanie.Manuel@bgf.org.au

OSCEFA at Aladdin!

Oz Showbiz Cares / Equity Fights AIDS (OSCEFA) once again took to Sydney theatres during the first week of December to raise funds for people living with HIV (PLHIV), in conjunction with other World AIDS Day events around the city.

Volunteers shook buckets in the foyers of various theatres around Sydney, with BGF volunteers located at the Capitol Theatre for the colourful performances of Disney's Aladdin!

Funds raised from all theatres totalled an incredible \$40,000 which has been split evenly between BGF and ACON. \$20,000 is a fantastic donation which has gone directly towards supporting BGF's clients.

PORT KEMBLA HOSPITAL STAFF RIDE FOR HIV



Dale Holland, Dave Candy, Geza Belley and Peter Schmidt embarked on a road trip from Port Kembla to Bega to help raise awareness of HIV.

The self-professed 'ordinary blokes on bikes' hit the road stopping off along the way to speak to communities about HIV. Mr Belley said "We're trying to raise awareness that it's still out there, that it's still taking a heavy toll."

As a result of their efforts, Port Kembla Hospital generously donated \$224 to BGF! A huge thanks to these wonderful adventurers!

A special thanks goes to all our Red Ribbon sellers WAD 2016

- State Street
- Sydney Theatre Company
- Rocks Brewing Co
- Aboriginal Health Council South Australia
- South Eastern Sydney Local Health District

Together they raised \$2,600! A fantastic effort, we appreciate your support!

WWW.BGF.ORG.AU 02 9283 8666 L3, 111-117 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills NSW 2010

BGF sends direct marketing material from time to time such as updates on our work. If you no longer wish to receive information by mail, you can send a letter to the Fundraising Manager, PO Box 1444, Strawberry Hills, NSW 2012. Or call 9283 8666 to discuss your options.
BGF's privacy policy is available at www.bgf.org.au. ABN 65 141 126 703