

Thorne Harbour Country introduces *LGBTI Q Time* in Bendigo

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday 3 February 2023 - Thorne Harbour Country is working with Bendigo Library to launch '*LGBTI Q Time*' a new initiative creating a safe space for community members to ask questions related to gender identity and sexual orientation. Starting this week, Thorne Harbour Country will have a staff member at Bendigo Library from 10AM-12PM on the first Monday of every month.

Based in Bendigo, Thorne Harbour Country is part of Thorne Harbour Health (formerly the Victorian AIDS Council) and provides information, counselling, and referrals to health and wellbeing services to LGBTIQ+ people and people living with HIV.

"It is fantastic to see a number of LGBTIQ+ pride festivals underway across regional and rural Victoria, but some people may be hesitant to engage with LGBTIQ+ community pride events or come to see us at our location on Mundy Street" said Thorne Harbour Health Acting CEO Carolyn Gillespie.

"This could be due to previous experiences of discrimination, apprehension about 'coming out', or simply being intimidated by all the excitement."

Damien Stevens-Todd is the Thorne Harbour Country Program Manager.

"We're partnering with Bendigo Library to create a welcoming and safe opportunity for anyone in the community to ask questions, access resources, and discuss their experiences - regardless of their gender identity or sexual orientation," he said.

During *LGBTI Q Time*, a Thorne Harbour Country staff member will be available near the Information Desk at Bendigo Library for people who want to drop in to learn more about LGBTIQ+ communities, to become better allies, to ask questions they may be apprehensive about asking at larger events, or to learn about how to better support their LGBTIQ+ family member, colleague, or friend.

LGBTI Q Time starts on Monday 6 February and will run from 10AM-12PM on the first Monday of every month at Bendigo Library located at 259 Hargreaves Street in Bendigo.

ENDS

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F 61 3 9826 2700
Toll Free 1800 134 840

Positive Living Centre

51 Commercial Road
South Yarra VIC 3141
P 61 3 9863 0444
F 61 3 9820 3166
Toll Free 1800 622 795

Centre Clinic

3A / 79-81 Fitzroy Street
St Kilda VIC 3182
P 61 3 9525 5866
F 61 3 9525 3673

PRONTO! / Equinox

200 Hoddle Street
Abbotsford VIC 3067
P 61 3 9416 2889

SAMESH

57 Hyde Street
Adelaide SA 5000
P 61 8 7099 5300

Thorne Harbour Country

58 Mundy Street
Bendigo VIC 3550
P 61 3 4400 9000

The Cottage

51 Bower Street
Woodville SA 5011
P 61 8 7078 4128
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