



PRIDE MONTH PACK

Exploring what your club can do to support Pride month

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WHAT IS PRIDE MONTH?

Pride Month will take place this June, celebrating the diversity and culture of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community.

Countries across the world celebrate the annual event through organised activities, such as parades, film festivals, art exhibits, concerts and more

Pride Month is about acceptance and equality. It's about acknowledging achievements, and recognising where further changes are needed.

HOW CAN YOUR CLUB JOIN IN?

Hosting a Pride event at your club during the month of June will help show your support for the LGBTQ+ community. You do not have to identify as an LGBTQ+ community member to host a Pride event.

You can be an ally by hosting a Come and Try or Cardio session for LGBTQ+ participants and allies, or by hosting a Club Pride Night. We have included a list of resources below that your club can use to the most out of hosting a welcoming, safe and inclusive event:

Attachments to download:

- *LGBTQ+ Engagement Guide*
- *Transgender Community Inclusion Guidelines*
- *Tennis Pride Nights – Pride Cup Handbook*



Online resources:

- [Creating an LGBTQ+ Inclusive Club e-Course](#)
- [LGBTQ+ Inclusion Checklist](#)

The Tennis Pride Nights – Pride Cup Handbook is an excellent resource that offers you tips and insights on how to host a Pride/LGBTQ+ event. It also includes a checklist to help you prepare and deliver a successful event.

WHAT IS THE CLUBS PRIDE NIGHT INITIATIVE?

The Clubs Pride Night program is a fun LGBTQ+ event that clubs can host for their local community which includes social tennis, a BBQ, music and guest speakers.

Many clubs that choose to host a Pride Night event also partnered with local LGBTQ+ businesses to promote their support, as well as increased their engagement with local LGBTQ+ community members.

While 16 clubs held their Pride Night events during this year's AO Pride Day, you can view examples and photos from Collaroy Tennis Club, Castlemaine Tennis Club and Uralla Tennis Club in attachment A.

WHY PRIDE MONTH?

In 2020, Tennis Australia commissioned a research piece in partnership with Western Sydney University titled "Game On", to understand how Tennis can be more inclusive of LGBTQ+ people. The report found:

- Majority of LGBTQ+ people have experienced discrimination, exclusion, homophobia, biphobia and transphobia in sport;
- LGBTQ+ people playing tennis reported having higher physical & mental health and felt more socially connected to their community;
- LGBTQ+ people not involved in tennis expressed an interest but were not confident in the welcoming and inclusive nature of sport/sporting events.

HOW DOES TENNIS AUSTRALIA SUPPORT THE LGBTQ+ COMMUNITY?

- Provides LGBTQ+ awareness and education training sessions for the workforce, clubs and coaches;



- Hosts AO Pride at the Australian Open including the Glam Slam Tournament where 200 participants from over 30 countries participate;
- Supported 16 Tennis Clubs across Australia host their Clubs Pride Night initiative during the 2023 Australian Open event;
- Advocates through various channels to promote LGBTQ+ initiatives and sharing stories to help create greater awareness.

WHY SHOULD CLUBS BE INVOLVED?

The aim of the initiatives mentioned above are to educate and support tennis clubs on how they can be inclusive of their local LGBTQ+ community. They aim to help provide a welcoming and safe environment. It is also an opportunity for tennis clubs to lead the way on advocating zero tolerance towards homophobia, biphobia, transphobia and interphobia.

Local clubs have an opportunity to be leaders in providing inclusive tennis opportunities for all by increasing visibility of LGBTQ+ inclusion in all programs and events. By doing this, clubs can also expand their membership base as well as improve their profile as an inclusive venue.

This will also enable LGBTQ+ participants who enjoy playing tennis having higher physical and mental health outcomes and feel more socially connected to their local community.

OTHER WAYS YOUR CLUB CAN GET INVOLVED

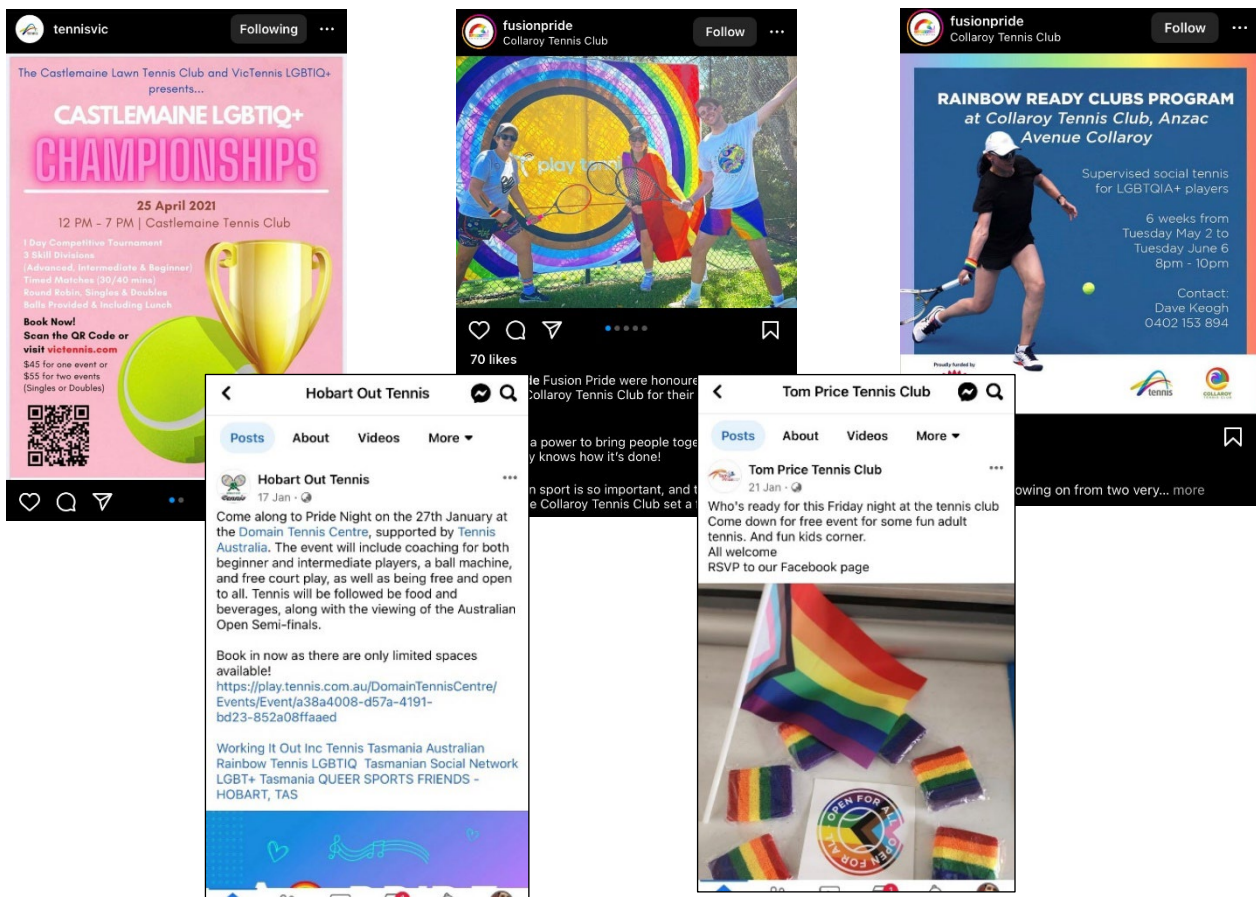
Through social media

Social Media is a great channel to promote your club events as well as educate others about your programs and initiatives. You can download the following resources to assist with the messaging behind supporting Pride month.

1. Why Pride Night – this is a simple summary that aligns with Tennis Australia’s strategy and why we are committed to supporting our LGBTQ+ folks through tennis
2. Game On Research summary – Tennis Australia commissioned Western Sydney University to research the participation impacts of LGBTQ+ participants in tennis across Australia. This is the first time that research was conducted with LGBTQ+ folks in tennis in Australia

We encourage you to use the hashtag **#OpenForAll** when you promote your support for Pride month to help increase the profile of your club and support for the LGBTQ+ community across Australia.

Below are some examples of local clubs promoting their LGBTQ+ events via social media:



With a Commitment Statement

At Tennis Australia, an example commitment to the LGBTQ+ community is sharing a statement via our website and social media channels. Tennis Australia’s statement can be found here: <https://www.tennis.com.au/play/inclusion-and-diversity/lgbti> (scroll to bottom of webpage to view the statement).

We would encourage you to adopt a similar approach. Below are examples that you can utilise for your club:

<Club name> not accept discrimination of any form within our sport.

<Club name> is committed to inclusion by ensuring our venue is welcoming and safe for everyone.



The commitment statement could also be displayed in the clubrooms for extra visibility.

By doing this, it will demonstrate that your club is committed to supporting your local LGBTQ+ community in the longer term and not during a one-off event.

If you would like more information, email inclusion@tennis.com.au

ATTACHMENT A

AO23 CLUBS PRIDE NIGHT INITIATIVE

Collaroy Tennis Club, NSW





Castlemaine Lawn Tennis Club, VIC



PRIDE NIGHT

27th Jan, 5pm

Castlemaine Lawn Tennis Club
Wheeler St

Bring your picnic blanket down for night of free tennis and fun. Everyone welcome, Kids and Adult racquets and balls supplied. BBQ from 6pm.

THE STORY STARTS **HERE**

The poster has a purple-to-pink gradient background. It features a tennis ball icon, a musical note, and a heart. The text is in white and blue. The event details are enclosed in a white box.



Uralla Tennis Club, NSW

A graphic for a Pride Night event. It features a large, stylized rainbow with thick, wavy bands of color. The background is white with colorful abstract shapes in red, yellow, purple, and green.

**URALLA TENNIS CLUB
PRIDE NIGHT**
URALLA SPORTING COMPLEX
FRIDAY 27TH JANUARY 6PM
AMERICAN MIXED FORMAT
MUSIC + BBQ
EMAIL ZAC ON ZLEWIS3331@GMAIL.COM
OR TEXT ON 0422157553 TO ENTER

WEAR SOMETHING GROOVY!

A horizontal bar with the colors of the rainbow: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, and purple.