



**WEAR IT  
PURPLE**

**25.08.23**



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**Councillor Des Hudson,  
City of Ballarat Mayor  
He/Him**

On this Wear It Purple Day, I'd like to send my sincere support to all members of the LGBTQAI+ communities. I want them all to know they can feel safe in Ballarat and to know that they absolutely belong.

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**Asha Buckmaster  
She/Her**

I am the Youth Impact Lead at Y Ballarat. I moved to Ballarat with my boyfriend almost 19 years ago, for a job as a school counsellor. Never in a million years did I think I would still be here – and super keen to never move – let alone for that relationship to end and for me to find the love of my life. Next year, my wife and I will have been married for 5 years and together for 13 years. My point? You never know what is just around the corner... and it could be so incredibly wonderful ♥  
Happy Wear it Purple Day everyone. Whether loudly or quietly, be proudly you.





## Cheryl She/Her

Born 1962 (so last century! 😞)

I joined the RAAF after finishing year 11.

In the 1980's, during my time in the RAAF, I could not be my true myself as back then it was a career ending if you identified as LGBTQIA+. No gays in the defence forces. Thankfully after 1991, the ADF allowed LGBTQIA+ people to enlist. (Hate to break it to you.....we were already there!) Keeping my sexuality secret....was draining....as a teenager, I was thinking "what's wrong with me " as I didn't fit in, which turned into self loathing, and substance abuse, from CPTSD. The RAAF with their rules didn't help. Thankfully the ADF is a lot better now. I came out when I was 33 years old. I had to wait until my homophobic, racist grandmother died.

Since then, I've lived happily out and proud.

I've had substance abuse issues due to having CPTSD, but I've overcome that now. But I always have to be self aware. These days, I run Ballarat Rainbow Coffee, and Uncoordinated Queers which are open to anyone under the Rainbow Umbrella including allies.

If I had any advice for young adults...

It would be, life may seem crappy and you feel isolated and the only person who feels that' way. You're not the only person....there is a whole world for you to explore with your identity and the world is getting more progressive....you can't lose your job because of who you are and yay we can now marry who we want to!

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**Lance DeBoyle  
He/Him/Darling**

Darlings!  
I'm the Drag King host of LaNCE TV, a live Ballarat based LGBTIQA+ variety show on C31 Melbourne, CTV+, and Facebook.

To my wonderfully queer Ballarat family, regardless of whether you are out or you're living stealth, please know that you are everything that is good in the world. You're not imagining it, there really is absolutely nothing wrong with you – It IS definitely them. Sending you big purple love and tonnes of rainbow glitter!



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## Sez Lothian They/Them

I am a queer, non-binary and neurodiverse person, and I'm also the LGBTQAI+ Community Inclusion Officer at the City of Ballarat.

No matter if you're out and proud, closeted and nervous, unsure or questioning, I want to tell you how gosh darn proud I am of each and every one of you.

You make this world a better, more beautiful and more diverse place. You are loved, you are supported and the queer community of Ballarat has your back <3

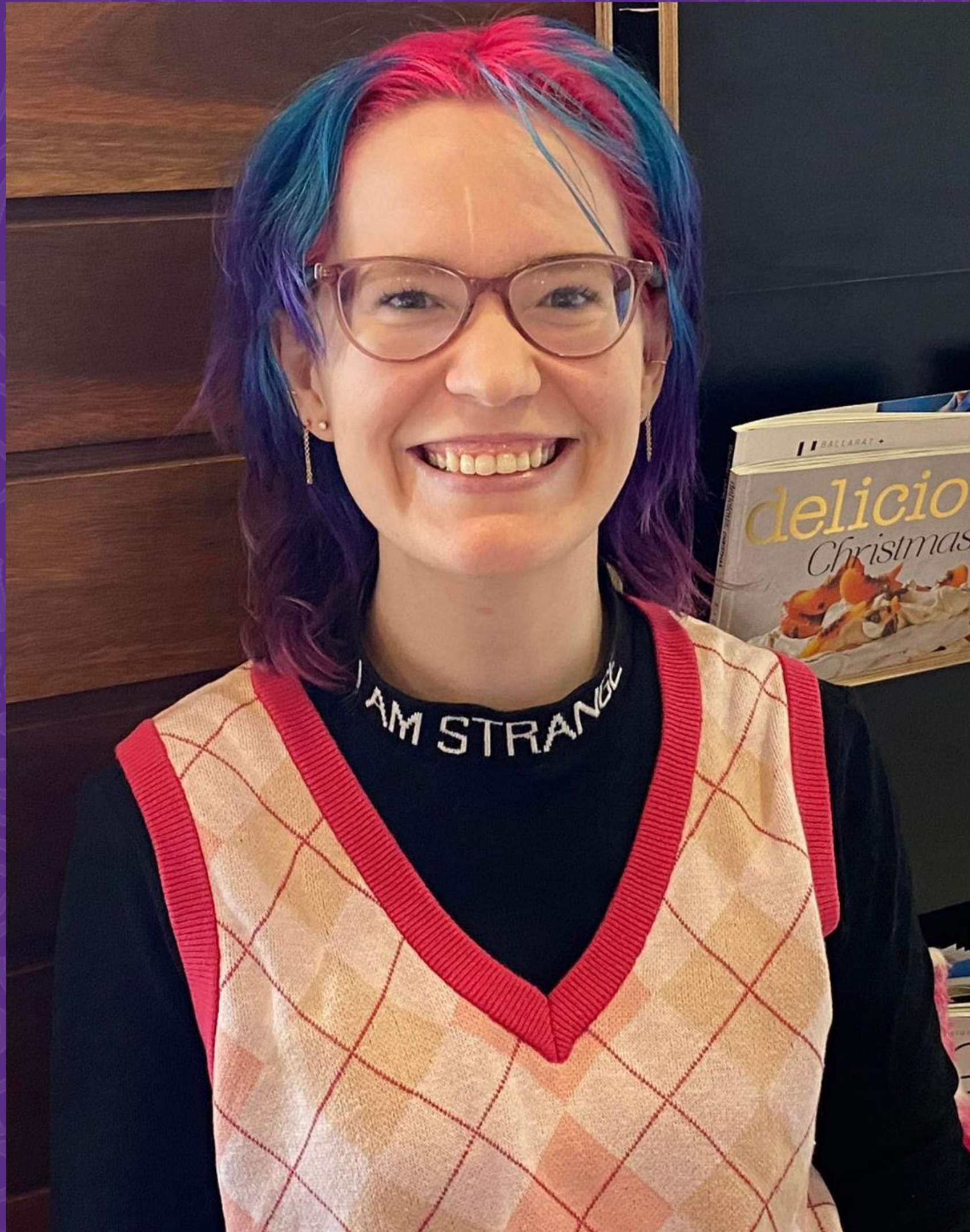


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**We also went to a Rainbow Coffee catch up, to photograph and interview people for this slideshow.**

**They didn't know we were coming, so most of them weren't wearing purple 😊**

**But they have lots of messages of support for each one of you.**



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**Laura**  
**She/Her/They/Them**

I'm a nurse and work on the emergency department. I'm a roller skater and am in roller derby. I love to craft - knitting and crocheting. I own a Dalmatian. She is wild and adorable. I'm a good cook. I love my friends and queer community.

Message for young people: Increasing your visibility is scary, but does promote inclusion and you will be surprised at how many people rally around you.



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**Helen  
She/Her**

I'm a community elder and I've learned that each of us is enough. I've been out for about 30 years. I was a late developer - not everyone knows immediately.

Message for young people: hang in there!





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## **Anne T Tudor, OAM She/Her**

I was born in Gordon in 1949. Went to primary school in Gordon and secondary school in Ballarat. I came out at 25 and met the love of my life. We had 37 wonderful years together. She passed away three years ago. She was the most magnificent person. I was awarded the Senior Victorian of the Year in 2021 and was awarded an OAM in 2021 for service to dementia care. I'm an optimist and I bringing with me what I've learned. I believe that mistakes are opportunities to learn and to do things differently. I love people who make me laugh

Message for young people: Be yourself. Stand up for what you believe in and don't let anyone try to control you.

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## Colin

I came out a very long time ago. In my twenties. I grew up in a little country town. I moved to a city and then came out. I've now been about for about 50 years. I'm happily partnered up with a beautiful man. We have been together for 36 years and we have two children.

Message to young people: keep being brave!





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## **Vanessa She/Her**

I am a counsellor and have lived in Ballarat for five years. I've been out for about 8 years and love that Ballarat LGBTIQA+ people is diverse and inclusive. I have found my people and this is not something I have found in other places.

Message for young people: I wish I'd been told that not only is it okay to be proud of who you, but it's a really good thing to have that acceptance of yourself.

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**Dawn  
She/Her**

Born in WA and lived so called the normal life. Came out when I was sixty after having been married and had two children. Moved states to Victoria. Met someone and was with her for 13 years. Currently single and looking for love even though I am nearly 80.

Message for young people: Be yourself and seek support.



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CITY OF  
**BALLARAT**



the **Y**

**PROVIDED BY THE CITY OF BALLARAT'S LGBTIQA+ ADVISORY COMMITTEE, THE Y AND THE CITY OF BALLARAT**