

## Member presence at Pride events telegraphs support to LGBTIQ people



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The Kempsey community sent a strong message of acceptance and celebration of diversity for LGBTIQ people recently by joining in the It's OK on the Macleay event.

The celebration took place at Kempsey Riverside Park and included a BBQ, guest speakers, dog show, kids' activities and stalls. Federation hosted a stall with local members volunteering to communicate our support of LGBTIQ people in the community.

This year the Its OK on the Macleay Committee will use stall fees to purchase books for LGBTIQ kids and young people that will be donated to the Kempsey Library as a resource for the community.

Federation considers the purchase of inclusive resources for LGBTIQ and questioning young people in the community a great gift that makes young people feel included and seen, and therefore make a difference to their lives.

With many LGBTIQ people facing discrimination, disadvantage and bullying in their lives, including in schools and workplaces, pride celebrations make LGBTIQ people feel more welcome and connected to their local community.

Federation has been involved in a number of regional Pride and LGBTIQ related celebrations this year and encourages local associations to be active and engage in these community events.

Federation members will participate in the Parramatta Pride Picnic on Sunday 10 November at River Foreshore Reserve, Parramatta, supported by Parramatta and Blacktown teacher associations.

If you would like Federation to be involved in a local event in your town or region, members are encouraged to raise the topic at the local Association meeting, and move a motion to support the activity or speak to your local Organiser or the Officer attached to LGBTIQ matters for more information about how to do this.

**Mel Smith** is the Officer attached to LGBTIQ matters

