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Bali Gay & Lesbian Business Association Newsletter

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“IT’S TIME TO GIVE SOMETHING BACK”

At his new beautiful villa nestled in last hidden rice field of Seminyak, Peter W. Finlason, the owner of Umah Watu Villas, greets Yudi from BGLBA for a special interview. Accompanied by a cup of coffee, in his jeans and casual shirt, he talked a lot about his family, business and gay life.

Q: When did you start your business in Bali and why?

A: I decided to do business in Bali 6 years ago because I want to do something different in my life. After working in some companies like Singapore Airlines, Intercontinental Hotel and my family business, I thought it is my turn to give something back.

Q: What is your family business?

A: My family business is the SVC Group which runs some businesses like pre-cast concrete, sheep & cattle farms that produces meat & wool, and “Rock House” winery at Kynton, approximately 80 km North of Melbourne, Australia. I worked there for around 20 years before I decide to move to Bali and let my sister handle the family business.

Q: You are also an actor, right?

A: Yes. I do a lot of TV commercials and programs like “Neighbors”, “Blue Healers”, “Stingers” and “Saddle Club” which is a program for children. I also performed and became lead actor for some plays & musical in theater such as “Annie”, “The Boyfriend” and “Grand Hotel” that was a premier production in Australia. I can do anything in entertainment and I love it!

Q: When did you start your “Umah Watu Villas”, is it only for gays?

A: Umah Watu Villas opened in April 2004 and another new 4 villas opened in January this year. I’m not disappointed making my place gay friendly rather than solely gay men only. Our villa works well when we have gay & straight people together. It’s warm, very warm. The best result is social & intellectual interaction. And



it’s lovely!

Q: What do you think about gay business in Bali?

A: I would like to say more unity for gay business people in Bali. More togetherness to support each other. I’ve tried to be very supportive to the gay community. I have supported a lot of things like the gay film festival. But I haven’t received a lot of support back from the gay community. I receive more from the straight community.

Q: At the beginning you mentioned about to give something back, what will you do?

A: My father said to me, after a while in your life you have to give something back. I could do it in Australia, but I’m choosing to do it

here because people need jobs. I’m trying to give people a life. I have a very good life.

And it’s time for me to give something back to the people and to the world. To give something back to the community is very important. It doesn’t have to be money. It can be just going and sitting with them and hold their hand. Sometimes we have to get down and get our hands dirty. And I’m so supportive for that. Actually I’ve done that. I worked with AIDS patients in hospitals in Australia. I visit them, to comfort them. And that’s something that I think our group can do.

Q: Do you know that on latter this year BGLBA will hold a charity night for a NGO non-government organization who support people with HIV/AIDS?

A: Good! Umah Watu Villas will give a free week-end voucher or something. No problem! We will do something on that. e glad to donate something,

Q: Last question, do you have some tips for foreigners who want to run business in Bali?

A: My tips to run business in Bali is to get yourself a very good business agent, who is able to give you advice on visa, business development and all anything involved in running a business. Don’t try to do it much on your own cause it can end up very messy. And follow the Indonesian rules. You may have to pay for it but it’s better to do things the right way.

(Interview by P. Wahyudi – Website Coordinator BGLBA)

Profile on

Dede Oetomo

LGBT advocacy turns 30 in Indonesia: gay rights pioneer Dede Oetomo talks about life and activism in the archipelago.

Justin Ellis— www.fridae.com

Dede Oetomo received the annual Felipa de Souza Award from the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission in 1998 for his contribution to LGBT human rights in Indonesia. After completing his Ph.D. in linguistics at Cornell University in the US, he returned to establish Indonesia's first gay outreach organization, Lambda Indonesia in Surabaya, East Java, in 1982; and later the GAYa NUSANTARA Foundation in 1987. He is today the most publicly visible activist for gay/lesbian rights in Indonesia being one of the first to openly discuss homosexuality and HIV/AIDS issues in the mass media. In 1999 and 2004, Oetomo ran for the national parliament, providing further opportunities to argue that gay and lesbian persons deserve full inclusion in Indonesian society.

Recently at the Asia Pacific Outgames in Melbourne this year, Oetomo reflected on three decades of LGBT advocacy in Indonesia.

When did LGBT advocacy begin in Indonesia?

Dede: I would date it to the late 60s when the waria, the male to female transgenders became more visible and organized. They worked on social issues mostly, and out of survival, and usually with the help of municipal governments. In the 80s, following the example of the waria and ideas from the west, gay men and lesbians started organizing.

Gay men more openly, with post

office box numbers and magazines, the lesbians more discreetly. The gay movement, and in a way the waria movement, were boosted by HIV work in the early 90s, and the lesbians flourished after 1998 because of the growth in women's feminist groups. Some of them were hostile to lesbians, but lesbians dominated others. There is a movement in many parts of Indonesia at the moment. There are gaps, for example in Sumatra and Kalimantan, but the existing organizations are quite strong.

You established Indonesia's first gay outreach organization, Lambda Indonesia in 1982? Did you experience any resistance?

Dede: In 1982 we were doing brochures and translations of materials, and even though Lambda Indonesia was a gay (male) organization we meant to ask the waria and lesbians to join and a few lesbians did join. We didn't have any incidents but there were administrative problems such as in 1988 when an over eager journalist in Surabaya (the East Java city and province where Oetomo lives) newspaper reported us to the local office of the Minister of Information.

We received a warning letter asking us to register our newsletter - not to ban it. The threats started to come in the late 90s. I could date them from 1997, especially around Yogyakarta and Solo on Java, but now they have stopped.

And GAYa NUSANTARA was founded in 1987?

Dede: GAYa NUSANTARA was

founded to simply connect people with each other. This was before the Internet so our magazine was the one way for people who were



a bit shy and not street savvy to meet each other. Now, our strongest work in East Java province

and in the city of Surabaya and cities in other districts is HIV prevention, care, support and treatment, together with the government and international organizations.

But we are also doing more advocacy work on LGBT rights. This year, and this is very special and new, we are planning an activists' school to meet the demand from activists in other areas. With more visibility of LGBT organizations they feel they need to know more about the complexities of gender diversity and, for example, which hadith (Islamic teaching) to quote if a Muslim cleric challenges you about homosexuality.

And I'm happy to report that within GAYa NUSANTARA we now have active waria and also lesbians, so finally there are not only gay men but also all kinds of people, including sex workers. We might even have some female sex workers join us this year.

How did the human rights agenda change with the end of the Suharto regime?

Dede: I would date changes a little earlier than 1998 with the formation of the National Human Rights Commission of Indonesia in 1993. The New Order (Suharto) government set it up as lip service to the West but it turned out to be quite effective. The phrase human rights started to be known - in the sense

of freedom more than anything else.

And because of the human rights violations by the regime in East Timor, Papua and Aceh especially, the people got a simple but effective understanding of what a human rights violation was. In 1998 they thought, 'no more repressive regimes, now we have our human rights.' Groups of housewives would protest to the water company to get more regular and cleaner water, everybody would protest. Teachers would go on strike, workers, and also gay men, waria and lesbians. Sex workers would protest if they had to stop working during Ramadan. It wasn't always effective but it became a habit and what amazes me as an activist, probably I was naïve, is how fast people learn to organize.

How do you see LGBT advocacy and human rights in Indonesia today in light of the Human Rights Action Plan 2004-2009?

Dede: We should start with the amendment to the constitution in 2000, and actually before that was the 1999 Human Rights Act. Although sexual orientation and gender identity were not explicitly mentioned in the amendment to the constitution, sexual orientation at least, was debated.

It lost at three in the morning. People were tired and said, 'let's just say Indonesian citizens should be protected against discrimination on any basis.' Nobody has challenged it but it could be challenged. I've talked to lawyers; you just need to go to court. It's not such a habit among Indonesians yet. In terms of advocacy we have all the instruments. The Human Rights Action Plan 2004-2009 is an explicit mandate for the protection of LGBT rights. Things are slow and the National Human Rights Commission and the Ministry of Law probably have no idea about how to go about doing it but some of the LGBT organizations have started to do their own work.

In March there's going to be a national waria meeting, probably 100 people from all over Indonesia, and I know human rights is on the agenda.

We were always regional (Lambda Indonesia and GAYa NUSANTARA) so it was difficult to go to national parliament - and expensive - but now there are groups in Jakarta that are more militant and also better at lobbying, and there are allies in parliament, namely Eva Kusuma Sundari and Nursyahbani Katjasungkana. We had a bill on population registration, and in the bill there was a third gender called T - transgender. It didn't get in - it was voted out - but it was there.

The International Organization for Migration, with funding from the Royal Netherlands Embassy and in conjunction with Indonesian National Police trained the police in Aceh in human rights. Can you envision any LGBT human rights training for the Indonesian police?

Dede: I'm not sure about the Dutch government but we have approached the Dutch embassy in Jakarta. I'm trying to be fair to the Dutch government. I think they see that enough is being done by other people and parties. Dutch aid organization HIVOS is doing a lot of work supporting LGBT rights all over the country, so yes it's possible, but my point is it should be us demanding that the national commission or the police do these things. And it just hasn't been done.

At the recent ILGA Asia conference in Chiang Mai three Indonesians were elected to the first ILGA Asia regional board. This is quite a milestone in Indonesian LGBT advocacy, isn't it?

Dede: I guess so and I'm comfortable with these three (King-Toen Oey, from Arus Pelangi; Poedjiati Tan, secretary of GAYa NUSANTARA; and Kamilia of the Institut Pelangi Perempuan, a lesbian youth organisation) because they

are from existing and strong organizations.

There were Indonesians elected to ILGA boards in the past, but they were individuals who would sometimes disappear. Let's hope that these three can bring the vibrancy of the Indonesian movement to ILGA Asia so that ILGA Asia can do more for the region.

Your paper at the Rainbow Conversations human rights conference at the Asia Pacific Outgames was about indigenous transgenderism in Indonesia. How is it under threat?

Dede: For the major religions, Islam and Christianity, indigenous transgender people are seen as heathen. Also, many of the indigenous transgenders or homosexuals don't identify as gay or transgender the way people do in the modern world. They always connect their gender or sexuality to shamanism or to some ritual art, so for them it's the art.

The art can be under threat if you can't perform it and then you don't get paid. There have been efforts, by mostly progressive Muslim groups to defend these indigenous groups so that they can survive not only culturally, but that they will also have an economic base, as ritual specialists, wedding planners, preparing rice fields for cultivation and so on.

Tom Boellstorff titled his anthropological work on Indonesia, the Gay Archipelago. Is Indonesian society essentially tolerant of homosexuality now?

Dede: Yes, as long as you don't look into the family, but in urban areas, if you look at these young men and women and some transgenders, they are doing what young men and women and transgenders were doing in the 70s and 80s (in the West.) They are planning their coming out. They had to come out. That's urban; there are two sides. In other places you are tolerated but probably not by your own family. That's where the irony comes in.

Law reforms for gay couples

Misha Schubert

The Melbourne Age, Australia

GAY couples in Australia are on the verge of winning equality in tax, health, superannuation, aged care and other areas as the Federal Government moves to rush through laws to overturn same-sex discrimination.

The Age believes Attorney-General Robert McClelland will announce today that he will introduce amendments to Parliament as early as next month to alter around 100 federal laws.

The changes will not allow gay marriages or same-sex couples to adopt children, and the issue of access to the Family Court for same-sex couples is still being resolved.

Some of the changes would take effect immediately, but many financial laws — such as social security, tax and veterans' affairs — would be phased in by mid-2009. But first the changes will have to be passed by the Senate, where the Coalition retains its majority until July 1.

Even after then, Labor will need the vote of conservative Christian and Family First senator Steve Fielding and independent senator Nick Xenophon if it cannot clinch Coalition support. Opposition Leader Brendan Nelson has signalled he backed the principle of removing discrimination against gay couples but has yet to secure formal support from his colleagues.

Mr McClelland will move swiftly to push through the changes, which could cost up to \$400 million over four years and are expected to be written into the federal budget on May 13.

The changes will include around 100 laws identified by an audit commissioned after the Government came to power last November. It built on a 2007 report by the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission, which identified 58 financial and work-related laws where gay couples faced discrimination.

"The changes will provide for equality of treatment under a wide range of Commonwealth laws between same-sex and opposite-sex de facto couples," Mr McClelland will say today. "They will make a practical difference to the everyday lives of a group of our fellow Australians who have suffered discrimination under Commonwealth laws for far too long."

The changes will apply in tax, superannuation, social security, health, aged care, veterans' payments, workers' compensation and employment entitlements. Under existing laws, gay partners cannot inherit each others financial entitlements such as superannuation, veterans' pensions or workers' compensation. They can also be excluded from hospital visiting rights or exercising automatic medical power of attorney for one another. Australian Coalition for Equality spokesman Rodney

Croome said he was overjoyed by the move. "Many same sex-partners can't wait much longer," he said. "For them this is an urgent reform, particularly in superannuation and aged care. For their sake alone it's important that this reform happens quickly."

Mr Croome urged the Coalition to get behind the changes.

He also called for automatic recognition under federal law of couples on same-sex relationship registers run by the states, giving them automatic spousal entitlements. Tasmania already has such a scheme and Victoria will have one by the end of the year.

Australian Christian Lobby chairman Jim Wallace said last night the changes would need to be scrutinised to ensure they did not undermine the institution of marriage. But he agreed there was a case to remove discrimination in many laws, especially where children were being disadvantaged by current laws.

"... but what we would not want to see are changes in areas that confuse the definition of family or undermine the definition of marriage," he said.



“Not just a load of crap” !!!!

Waste transformed to help wallets in Bali slum areas

Dicky Christanto, The Jakarta Post, Denpasar

Indonesians, especially those who live in slum areas, can improve their sanitation in ways that can also develop their livelihoods, says an NGO representative.

"The people can be responsible for their own livelihoods," Bali Focus coordinator Yuyun Ismawati said on the sidelines of a regional meeting of AKSANSI (the Association of NGOs for Public Sanitation) in Denpasar on Thursday.

Bali Focus has worked with the ministry of public works and local administrations to develop sanitation programs since 2003.

Yuyun said the program aimed at involving people in designing, developing and maintaining their own sanitation systems.

The program consists of building a sanitation facility in the form of a public toilet and installing a water waste and sewage management system that produces clean water and methane gas from domestic waste. The system then channels the methane to each household in the village to light cooking stoves. Yuyun said there were three sanitation programs ranging from providing a community with collective toilets to the installation of water waste and sewage management systems.

"By developing this system, it is not only that we promote healthier living conditions but we also provide people with free fire. It is very useful considering that many people out there don't have access to kerosene or LPG (Liquefied Petroleum Gas) these days," she said. She said the program was funded by the local administration, which contributed Rp 200 million, the Public Works Ministry that provided around Rp 100 million and

area residents who contributed Rp 6 to 12 million.

She added the fund from the people was mainly allocated for facility maintenance and wages of the facility's operators while the fund from the government was used to build the sanitation facilities and the sewage management system. The implementation of the sanitation program, including the disbursement of funds from each institution, was monitored by four NGOs: Bali Focus, Borda, Best and LPTP.

There are more than 100 NGOs working in public sanitation throughout the country with eight of them located in Bali. Most manage sanitation and sewage management systems in poor villages. Huda Nuryanto, an operator of the sewage management installation system in Banjar Batur, Ubung, Denpasar, praised the system, saying it had improved the livelihoods of residents of the village, once known as the dirtiest village in Denpasar.

"If you came to our village around six years ago, I bet you wouldn't have dared to enter, not because it is a scary neighborhood filled with criminals but because of the unbearable odors of the waste and unpleasant scenery," he told *The Jakarta Post* on Thursday.

He said the biggest part of the smell was generated by poultry droppings as most of the village residents were poultry breeders. Around 150 cubic meters of droppings are produced on a daily basis, providing the residents with more than enough clean water and methane-based fire to cook their everyday meals, he said. He said many organizations had

come to see and learn about the implementation of the sanitation program.

"I hope that someday everybody will use this system so that we can help the government in creating not only a better environment but also assisting it in these time of energy crisis," he added.



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Survive the insurance game

Injury, liability, fire and theft – it would be sheer folly to imagine a small business with all its potential mishaps could escape the insurance rounds.

Risky business

The most annoying thing about insurance is that you're paying for something that might not happen. It's a gamble, but one you might be glad you took when and if misfortune comes knocking.

As galling as it may be to hand money over 'just in case', particularly when you're a cash-strapped start-up, there's good reason. Your business is unlikely to stay afloat should it be burnt out by fire, offer damaged products or is successfully sued.

Rod Frail, corporate affairs manager for the Insurance Council of Australia, says there's one sure-fire test that will tell you if you really need to get business insurance.

"If you can't afford to replace your business out of your own pocket, you can't afford not to have insurance," he says.

The degree of risk or the likelihood of particular scenarios playing out will largely determine the amount of insurance you'll pay. Insurance companies evaluate each case on its merits, so don't assume you'll get the same price as your mate down the road.

Every step you take to reduce your risk, like keeping copies of the company's records outside of the main business area, just as you would a spare key, will be taken into account. Once they've done the evaluation and come up with a price, Frail says don't be afraid to haggle.

"It's a very competitive area and we'd certainly urge people to shop around," he says. "However you do need to be careful that you don't buy insurance on price alone. If it doesn't provide adequate cover for you, it's a false economy."

Quirky corner

If you're ever tempted to feel sorry for the insurance industry, don't. In 2004/2005 they increased their overall profits by almost 30%.

A basic small business package can cost anything from a few thousand to \$100,000 a year.

17% of all registered small business employing up to 20 people have no insurance while another 17% are underinsured, according to 2001

statistics from the Australian Bureau of Statistics.

Types of insurance

There's no doubt about it, small business insurance can be



pretty confusing. There's quite a lot of different types that you may or may not choose to take out depending on what your business is and does.

Most big insurance agencies offer small business packages where you get cheaper deals by bundling your different insurance policies together. Some policies, like workers' compensation, have to be purchased separately.

There are a thousand different policies out there that differ from insurer to insurer so it's important to check the fine print. Here's a run-down of the basic types of insurance:

Fire and other perils

Ah, good old Mother Nature, the most unpredictable of them all. Should your business go up in smoke, explode, act as a lightning rod, be swallowed up by the ground or become the target of a malicious person with intent to damage, this insurance is what you need. It will cover the cost of restoring your premises, including the contents of your office or business. It's the one time you really don't want to underestimate the cost of your business. The only thing worse than having your business flattened by a killer cyclone is finding out you're only insured for about a quarter of what it'll cost to replace it.

Burglary and theft

Kind of self-explanatory, this kind of insurance will protect you from hooded hoons who break-in, but you'll also need to check it protects you from five-fingered staff. A loss of money policy will protect you from losing the actual hard green stuff either to theft, fire or if you get rolled on your way to taking it to the bank.

Liability insurance

This insurance falls into two categories. Public liability insurance covers you if someone other than your employee gets hurt and needs to be compensated while they're dealing with your business, for example, if they fall over on the wet floor of your shop. The other type, product liability insurance, is only needed if you sell a product, and will protect you should someone hurt themselves using that product. Sometimes warning labels are just not enough.

Workers' Compensation

A compulsory insurance that deals with compensation should your employees hurt themselves. It's managed at a state level, so the regulations and requirements differ all around the country.

The Federal Government's [Business Entry Point](#) website has links to each state's workers' compensation system.

Business interruption

Mother Nature or some other malicious sod has wrecked your business, so it's closed 'for renovations'. Business interruption insurance will cough up your estimated profit margin for the period you're closed and pay your employees' wages. The only condition is, of course, that you're actually going to reopen your doors. And because it covers so much, it's not cheap.

Extras

Depending on what type of business you have, you might also want to look at the following policies:

Electrical equipment: If your computer or hard-drive decides to malfunction, this policy will get it to the fix-it shop but it does not tend to cover general maintenance or wear and tear.

Machinery breakdown.

Goods in transit: Useful for anyone in the export/import business or responsible for distribution.

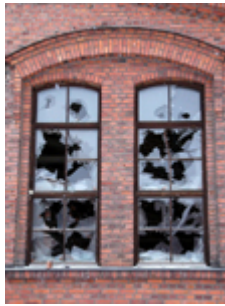
Fraud: Useful when you, or more particularly your staff, deal with large volumes of cash.

Professional indemnity: It's super expensive, but if you're in the business of handing out advice to people and it all goes terribly wrong, you'll be thankful you've got this one. In some cases, for example if you're a doctor, you will not be able to practise without this type of



insurance.

Personal accident or sickness: Not even Superman is made of steel. Business owners get sick and injured too. This policy helps compensate you for loss of funds while you recuperate. Another option is a salary continuance policy.



Partnership: Useful if you're a small business, if your partner meets with mishap it will protect their half of your business from money-grubbing relatives.

When disaster strikes

When Newcastle was hit by an earthquake in 1989, thirteen people were killed and more than 70,000 buildings suffered damage. The insurance bill reached \$1.124 million. Sadly, says Frail, many people and businesses were not insured or were underinsured, so the real cost was a lot higher. "More than 60% of small businesses didn't reopen their doors," he says. Earthquakes aside, Frail says one of the biggest worries for the Insurance Council of Australia is the possibility of flooding.

"One of our major complaints with local councils is that they approve development on flood plains," he says. "Many business areas are built on flood plains, particularly industrial areas which are built on reclaimed land."

Frail says the high risk has made insurers very nervous about insuring for flood, something they hope to get around by creating a pool of insurance for flooding, as there is for terrorism. After the September 11 attacks, insurance companies ran a mile. To make sure businesses were protected in the event of an attack, the Government set up a terrorism insurance pool. All businesses, depending both on size and on their location (businesses with a Perth, Adelaide, Sydney, Melbourne or Brisbane postcode fork out the most) pay an additional premium, which is managed by the Australian Reinsurance Pool Corporation.

From the horse's mouth...

How to bring down your insurance

According to the national general manager of AON, Steve Lardner, the best way to cut your premiums is to understand your business risks and then set about either reducing or avoiding them

altogether.

"I talk to clients all the time that completely change their business model to cut down on risk," he says. "For example, they might decide to pay a bit more rent and move down the road rather than have to deal with flood insurance." "If you're manufacturing boxes and cutting cardboard at your warehouse, staff could easily cut their hands," he says. "You might want to think about sourcing the cardboard already cut so you lower your risk."

As insurers evaluate premiums on what the industry is like, the size and turnover of your company, the number of claims you have made and according to the 'postcode affect' – your geographical risk – Lardner advises small business to train up staff.

"Small businesses quite often forget about training up their people," he says. "If you train up your staff to avoid the risks then you can end up with lower claims which is the best way to reduce your premiums."

And, when it comes to dealing with the gold star insurance salesmen, Lardner says stay clear about what you need and want.

"Don't forget that you are the person in control as you are the one doing the buying," he says.

Image: iStockphoto

Written By Rebecca Martin

ICAAP conference to be held in Bali

The organizing committee and sponsors warmly invite you to attend the 9th ICAAP. The congress will be held at the Bali International Convention Center (BICC) in Nusa Dua, Bali – Indonesia from 9 – 13 August 2009. Bali International Convention Centre is the largest and most technologically advanced resource in Bali for meetings and events. It is ideally located in Nusa Dua, home to the island's most luxurious hotel and resort accommodation and conference facilities, just 10 kilometers from Bali's international airport and 25 minutes from the chic and vivacious Kuta, Legian and Seminyak districts.

Why should you consider attending?

- *Leading scientists in the world in this area will be invited to present plenary lectures focusing on developments in different areas over the past two years and to discuss possible future developments and fruitful areas for research.*

- *Discuss social, economical and programmatic aspects of HIV/AIDS including stigma and discriminations*

- *Strengthen collaboration and networking of nations, leaders, activists, community in general in Asia and the Pacific to fight HIV/AIDS and related issues*

- *Leaderships and political commitments*

- *Many different aspects of the AIDS response will be discussed with delegates from Asia and the Pacific. We expect in the order of 5,000 delegates.*

- *There will be special exhibitions running alongside the conference. These will include stands of international organizations, displays of various AIDS programs from PLHIV groups and organizations offering technical and financial help to the AIDS response.*

- *Place for sharing experiences, learning, speaking up, updating information, networking*

- *Bali is also known as the "Island of the Gods", where temples and ceremonies can be found almost everywhere and everyday.*

- *In Bali the passage of life is measured through elaborate rituals performed by artistic and hospitable local people. The Balinese maintain a precious heritage of unique arts and a dynamic culture amidst breathtaking panoramas of cultivated rice terrace, awesome volcanoes, pristine beaches and thousands of temples, augmented by an unrivalled range of modern leisure activities.*

- *There will be exciting pre and post congress activities as well as attractive day-trips designed to immerse you in the Bali experience.*

Rainbow flag to fly over second British embassy

Warsaw holds its Pride parade on June 8th and in a mark of solidarity the Rainbow flag will fly next to the Union flag over the British embassy in the city.

The parade, the end of a week of events called Equality Days, will pass by the embassy.

The Rainbow flag will fly over the embassy building from this afternoon to Monday morning.

Her Majesty's Ambassador to Poland, Ric Todd, will raise the flag over the British Embassy building on Aleje Ujazdowskie at four this afternoon.

Last week the Rainbow flag flew over the British embassy in Riga to mark that city's Pride event.

"The UK remains committed to promoting the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people overseas," said Mr Todd.

"This small gesture is a symbol of the British embassy's commitment to equality and acceptance for all.

"This weekend's Pride March will be a celebration of diversity in Poland, Europe and beyond. I particularly hope participants travelling from the UK will enjoy the festivities."

It is common for the Rainbow flag to fly from municipal buildings to mark Pride or other events such as the annual International Day Against Homophobia, but it is thought that last week marked the first time a British embassy has displayed it.

In May the Foreign and Commonwealth Office confirmed its commitment to engage with foreign governments about the rights of gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans people.

It issued an 'LGBT Toolkit' to its 261 embassies, high commissions and other diplomatic posts.

The kit contains information on the official British policy on gay rights and instructions in how to "provide added value to equality and non-



discrimination work."

It covers a wide range of issues, from decriminalisation, sexual health, reproductive rights and health education to bilateral work with other countries.

The document states that LGBT activists are often targets for persecution and that the FCO should ensure these people are "included among human rights defenders concerning whom the UK will lobby and will engage the support of other governments, especially EU members."

A spokesperson for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office told PinkNews.co.uk:

"The UK remains committed to promoting the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people overseas.

"Last December the FCO adopted a programme of action for promoting the human rights of LGBT people abroad.

"This made clear that sexual orientation cannot be a qualifying factor in the application of human rights.

"We have now worked with partners to develop a programme to guide our embassies overseas.

"This programme has now been sent to all our diplomatic posts worldwide.

"We will continue to engage with our posts to promote the rights LGBT people across the world."

WWW.PINKNEWS.UK.CO

Australian Life Guards to make TV Program on Kuta Beach

The Australian Professional Lifeguard Association is to shoot a TV program on Kuta Beach in September about the life saving methods they use, a Balinese official said this week.

The film will broadcast on Channel 10 one of Australians TV Networks.

The association sent an application letter to the Badung government along with their plan to film in Kuta.

"We received a letter from them asking for a permit to use Kuta Beach as the location of the documentary. They plan to film rescues in progress, while staying on the beach for some weeks" said Made Subawa head of the Badung Tourism Department. The filming will take 8—10 weeks and six Australian Lifeguards are set to take part in the shooting. The program will be a great promotion for Bali. It will be broadcast twice a week on Channel 10 in Australia. Australians will get to see a side of Bali that they may not have seen before, "Subawa said.

The Title of the Documentary will be **Kuta Bali Rescue** since Australians will be familiar with Kuta Beach as a tourist destination he said.

Well I say that there will be some eye candy floating around Bali in September and I may have to increase my daily walks into Kuta beach area.....

www.balitimes.com

THINKING OUTSIDE THE DEPRESSION BOX

Gay men are more likely to suffer mental health problems than straight men, but the difference is less between lesbians and straight women, a report by depression initiative Beyond Blue claims.

The not-for-profit initiative by Jeff Kennett has released a new discussion report into mental health issues for same-sex attracted people claiming sexual orientation is a potential cause for depression, but mostly for gay men.

"Gay and bisexual men were more likely than heterosexual men to be diagnosed with at least one of five mental health disorders (major depression, generalised anxiety disorder, panic disorder, alcohol dependency, and drug dependency)," the report stated, quoting a US study in the *Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology*.

It said gay and bisexual men were three times more likely to meet criteria for major depression and almost five times more likely to meet criteria for a panic disorder than heterosexual men were.

"The prevalence of mental health disorders between lesbian-bisexual and heterosexual women was less common than the differences found among men," the report concluded. A new acupuncture trial will investigate if alternative and wholistic therapies are effective in treating men with depression.

The College of Traditional Chinese Medicine at UTS is looking for men who have been depressed or are currently taking medication for the first Australian clinical trial of the alternative treatment.

"To date the subjects making the greatest improvement have been men," researcher Kirk Wilson said. "The aim of the trial is to increase the understanding of how acupuncture can be used in combination with drug therapy to treat depression. It is hoped that this in turn may lead to a better understanding of how drug dependency and side effects can be reduced."

The treatment involves 12 acupuncture sessions

ACON undertook community forums on mental health and depression in 2006, but was only able to secure funding for counsellor training for when mental health and drug use are both present.

OUT & ABOUT WHATS ON IN BALI IN

MIXWELL BAR AND LOUNGE
OPEN 7 DAYS A WEEK
8PM TILL LATE

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Police	110
Fire	113
Ambulance	118
PLN	123
HIV/AIDS CENTER	163
OPERATOR	108
BALI TAXI	701 111
SANGLAH HOSPITAL	227 911
NGURAH RAI AIRPORT	751 011

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HULU CAFÉ
Drag Cabaret
1st Show 10pm
2nd Show 11:15pm
7 Days a Week



OUR VERY OWN MEMBER PROGRAMME

Alcoholics Anonymous Bali

AA Bali holds regular meetings around the island if you think you need help or know someone who is in need, below is a list of locations and times of free meetings

Seminyak / "The Ruko"

JL. Dhyana Pura 103 (upstairs at Warung Kita) Monday - Sunday 09:00 Monday / Wednesday / Friday / Saturday 19:00 Bahasa Indonesia / Friday 17:30

Sanur

JL. Kesari, Villa Sari 2A
Monday 18:00

Ubud

Casa Luna
JL. Raya Ubud (lower terrace)
Sunday & Thursday 19:00

Nusa Dua

Nusa Dua Beach Grill, Geger Beach
(park at Geger Temple)
Sunday 10:00

Thinking outside the depression box on this page was written by Harley Dent the original text can be viewed at www.sso.com.au