

THE COUNTRY NETWORKER

REACHING ACROSS AUSTRALIA

MAY/JUNE 2025

GROWTH

ACROSS THE COUNTRY





editorial



"Invisible Boys" is a prize-winning novel by Holden Sheppard, who is an Australian writer living in Perth's north.

"Invisible Boys" has also been made into a ten-episode series for Stan.

I haven't read the book (so this isn't a book review), but I have watched the series. In fact, I binge-watched it. If you don't have Stan, it's worth subscribing for a month to watch it.

The story is about growing up gay in a small country town, from the point of view of gay teenagers. The acting is good (I shed a few tears in a couple of places), and I thoroughly recommend this series.

John Holden
john@countrynetwork.com.au



A heartfelt shoutout to the Country Network members who put their all into organising events for the enjoyment of other members.

To help make the event truly special, and to ensure there's enough room, food or drinks for everyone - Please remember to RSVP.

Check your Events! Your response will make planning so much easier and will guarantee a fantastic time for everyone.

Let's show our appreciation for all the hard work behind the scenes that makes a gathering to remember.



CONTACT US

COUNTRY NETWORKER

editor@countrynetwork.com.au

Write a book review, Report on a group activity. It doesn't have to be a literary masterpiece, but of interest to our members

Any article ideas are accepted for review. Our member interests are wide and varied, so share your favourite topic with our members!

EDITORIAL

John Holden.
Editor

DESIGN

CONTRIBUTORS

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John Holden
Cheng Wee Sia*



president's report



Hello Members and welcome to the May June edition of the Country Networker. A lot has happened over the past two months and we need to let you know.

Firstly I want to talk about our family secret – our Members Private Facebook Page. Elsewhere in this edition you will find all the information you need to know about our Private Page. It is open to MEMBERS ONLY and you must be a member of Country Network to gain access, otherwise Bernie, our ever vigilant admin will give you the chop. I would encourage you to join our page and gain access to up to date info as it is updated daily.

One of the great things about Country Network is the long-established practice of Hosting. In Country Network, hosting is when a member contacts another member and requests if a bed is available for a few days. When you filled out your profile you indicated that you are able to host and or guide visiting members. We realize that a member's hosting position may change with time so please keep this aspect of your profile up to date. There are several guidelines associated with hosting, and I would urge you to read the article on hosting in this month's Networker. If you follow the guidelines then there will not be any cause for angst among members. An important thing to remember is that if you receive a request to host from a member, and you cannot host please reply to the member stating that you cannot host. This is a common courtesy and one that we should all follow in dealing with our fellow members.

Country Network is branching out into new territory this year. The Committee has decided and approved our attendance at country Pride events in several states. You would be surprised at the number of country towns who host a Pride event. Our first event will be showing the flag at the Wagga Wagga Provide weekend. Later this year we will be at the Leeton Pride festival. Our hope is to make Country Network known to those gay men living in country areas and encourage them to join us. A fuller report on the Wagga Pride is elsewhere in the Networker.

Planning for the AGM to be held in Mulwala from October 3rd to 7th is steaming ahead. Currently we are waiting for our bank changeover to be completed. The booking for the AGM will be done through our website and we will make the process as simple as possible. We have also tried to keep the costs as low as possible to encourage as many as possible to join us in Mulwala. The cost of the rooms is \$150 per night and there can be either 2 or 3 members in the room. Our activities cost is \$142.00, and the details can be found later in this Networker. Our AGMs are a great way to meet fellow Country Network members, and I know many enduring friendships have been formed from past AGMs. So come along, meet new friends and catch up with those old friends you haven't seen for a couple of years. See you in Mulwala on the 3rd October this year. Come stay and play at Mulwala.

Jeff

President Country Network
jeffrey@countrynetwork.com.au



2025 AGM

3rd to 7th October 2025

MULWALA, NSW



Are you looking forward to our AGM in October, I am for it will be a great time. There are lots of new members to meet and hopefully our old friends will show up to enjoy the fun and games. We can't wait for you to join us in **Mulwala, NSW**, for a weekend of meeting new members and catching up with old friends.

Booking your accommodation.

Please note that accommodation bookings are per room, not per person.

Some rooms are \$150.00 per night (2 sharing) and some rooms are \$225.00 per night (3 sharing) No matter what the room price each member pays \$75.00 per night (\$300 for 4 nights) Standard/Premium Room (19 rooms) 2 sharing \$600.00 (4 nights) 3 sharing \$900.00 (4 nights) These rooms have a king bed and a single or 3 singles Premium/Executive Room (15 rooms) 2 sharing \$600.00 (4 nights). These rooms are two people only.

We are staying at the:

Club Mulwala Resort, 271 Melbourne Street, Mulwala, NSW, 2647.

Phone: (03) 5744 233 Email: catering@clubmulwala.com.au

PLEASE NOTE: THE COST IS PER ROOM, NOT PER PERSON. Please divide the room cost by the number of people in the booking to work out a cost per person. For example: If the room houses three people, divide the cost by three, and that is the per-person cost. The prices quoted are for 4 nights and we would like you to stay the 4 nights, as that is the price Club Mulwala has given us based on 4 nights occupancy..

If sharing with someone, or you would like to be assigned a roommate, you must let us know on the booking form. This will be sent out early May.

GETTING TO AND FROM MULWALA.

The drive time from Sydney to Mulwala down the M31 is: 6 hours, 53 minutes.

The drive time from Melbourne to Mulwala using M31 is: 3 hours 26 minutes.

Drive time from Albury Airport to Mulwala is 1 hour 11 minutes.

Virgin Australia direct flights every day between Gold Coast (OOL) and Albury (ABX).

Qantas has direct flights from Sydney (Kingsford Smith) Airport to Albury Airport

NSW Rail station is Albury/Wodonga. A connecting bus is available to Mulwala.

Country Network AGM 2025 All Activities \$142.00

Friday: Arrival and Meet & Greet

Saturday: AGM Lunch

Saturday Night: 3 course Formal dinner

Sunday: Full Day Bus Tour including the Silo Trail, wineries and farm gate stopovers.

Sunday Night: Dinner is your choice whether the resort or elsewhere.

Monday: Cruising on Lake Mulwala with a BBQ lunch.

Monday Night: Farewell Dinner, Informal Dinner at Resort at your own cost.

As this is our AGM we would like you to attend all activities as the prices are based on 60 people attending. Country Network has also subsidized some events.

AGM Enquiries Please contact: jeffrey@countrynetwork.com.au

LOOK FOR THE APPLICATION FORM FOR THE AGM EARLY MAY. IT WILL BE AN EMAIL GOING TO ALL MEMBERS AND YOU JUST DOWNLOAD A PDF, FILL AND RETURN TO THE SECRETARY@COUNTRYNETWORK.COM.AU OR POST TO JEFFREY SPROAL 229/11 RESORT ROAD KEW NSW 2439

2025 Country Network AGM Gathering 3rd – 7th October 2025





PRIDE NEWS

REGIONAL PRIDE FESTIVALS

Earlier this year the committee voted to have a presence at Regional Pride Festivals, and to have a project to promote Country Network and membership possibilities and to promote our organization, the committee asked me to lead this project, and I have so enjoyed the process and so far we have had a lot of positive outcomes.

Part of the project was to look at our brand and how we look across all platforms, so in collaboration with Jeff our President we created Banners, teardrop banners and postcards with all the relevant information and Jeff then organized Country Network polos so that we had a complete look. These Polo's will be available for members to buy at a later date.

So with Jeff's assistance we have a Country Network roadshow and this year we will be attending five festivals in total. Our first was to Wagga Wagga Mardi Gras Festival earlier this month. Jeffrey, Peter, John and myself travelled to Wagga Wagga where we had a stand in Victory Park where the family friendly after party was held. We marched in the street parade with 28 other groups. It was so good to be joined by local members Spud (Area Coordinator) Gavin, Mark and Norman both for Dinner the night we arrived and at Fair Day and Mark and Norman marched with us down Bayliss St Wagga Wagga.



Above the march down Bayliss Street Wagga L to R Peter, Norman, Jeff and Mark.

The picture to the right shows Norman and Mark at our stand. Notice new pull up advert sign.



President Jeff and myself. Notice our new advertising material.

We had a great time and it was a very successful weekend with approx 4 new members but lots of interest and cards were handed out so we could get new members in the region over time.

Upcoming festivals that we are attending for 2025 are Leeton Pride Festival in June, if anyone would like to assist me with that one let me know. Then a few months break then 'Out in the Open' in Shepparton Victoria in November and the following week and the last one for the year will be 'Rainbow on the Plains' in Hay NSW.

We will then review 2025 and then plan for where we will go in 2026, if anyone would like to suggest a Festival that you think we should go to please let me know. We have sent Banners and promotional material to Ian in Darwin who will manage our Northern Territory promotions.

Cheers
Colin Armstrong
Membership Coordinator





digital update

Website Update – from Cheng, CN Web Manager

It's been a busy time behind the scenes at Country Network's website, with plenty of updates and improvements to keep our members informed, connected, and proud.

In response to suggestions from Bernie Gregory and other members, I've been working on refreshing the appearance and navigation of the site to make it easier and more enjoyable to use.

Key updates include:

- **Events Pages:** These have been updated across the board, including the Members' Only section. You'll now find a wide range of activities listed by state—like the Geelong lunch group in Victoria, Coffee Catchups in SA and NSW, events by the BAGS group in Queensland, and Tasmanian Queer Pride.
- **Articles:** New reads are available, including How to Get PrEP, a personal story on MPox from a gay man's perspective, and the latest health updates from ACON.
- **Member Contributions:** Several insightful articles written by members have also been published—thank you for sharing your voices!
- **Committee Member Profiles:** These have been updated so members can get to know the team better—and see their happy gay faces!
- **History Highlight:** One of the most exciting additions is a detailed feature on the history and origins of Country Network—a great read that reminds us how far we've come.
- **AGM Promotion:** Don't miss the poster and information about our upcoming AGM in October, set to take place in the beautiful regional town of Mulwala.

I've also removed outdated content to keep the site clean and relevant, and the latest edition of The Networker magazine is now available online.

A reminder to visit the website regularly for the latest news, events, and member updates. There's always something happening!

— Cheng

PLEASE LET US KNOW AT
EVENTS@COUNTRYNETWORK.COM.AU IF YOUR
EVENT DOES NOT APPEAR ON THE WEBSITE OR ON
OUR PRIVATE MEMBERS FACEBOOK PAGE.



membership update

From the Membership Coordinators Desk

Membership as at:- 18th April 2025

Country Network Members Total	311
New Members for the period	14



Hi and welcome to an update on membership news, I have been sitting in this position since early this year and I am enjoying the role immensely. I see my role as supporting all members but particularly new members when they come on board and ensuring they receive communication from their relevant Area Coordinator across Australia. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any membership queries or ideas on how we can improve our processes for membership. I can be reached at colin@countrynetwork.com.au

It is a strong value of mine that we support you all with engagement and connection across the regions, as you are aware we have a members only Facebook group and a public group on Facebook as well as Instagram. Myself and the committee are reviewing and looking at how we can better engage with you in our digital space over coming months, if you have any ideas please forward them to me, so I can put it on the agenda for discussion with the committee.

Colin Armstrong
Membership Coordinator
colin@countrynetwork.com.au

Invite a friend!

**Why not invite a friend to join
Country Network?**

**Country Network is a great place
to introduce your mates to other
great guys around Australia.**

**When they sign up, ask them to
mention your name!**

**We're always looking for more
members to join and experience
the fun and friendship of the
Network.**

Welcome new members

Take a moment to say hi to all our new members, either in our facebook group or via the member profile section of our website!

John McDonnell	Mark Pizaro
Daniel Murphy	Robert White
Emmanuel Apiran	Don J
Philip Thorniley	Mark Wilksch
Joel Reachard	Andrew Suckling
Allan Ingram	Andrew Lee-Wright
Ross Burgess	Christopher Nitram
David Butt	Norman Phillips
Daniel Bryen	Mark Evans
Kim Eaton	John Holmes
Craig Appleyard	Rob O'Brien
Mark Whitty	Wal Arnot



Calling all photographers!



Would you like your landscape photograph featured on the cover of the Country Networker?

Send your Australian Landscape photos to editor@countrynetwork.com.au and the best photo each month will be chosen as the cover photo for the magazine.

Photos should be in portrait orientation if possible, and not contain identifiable people.

Show off your part of the world to other Country Network members.

Please also include a short introduction about your photo, a little about yourself and where the photo was taken.

So get clicking and we look forward to featuring the winning photograph on the cover of the next issue of the Country Networker.



HOSTING



Your Country Network promotes and encourages support, networking and friendship between members, creating a tradition of hosting and providing accommodation to fellow members.

One of the unique aspects of Country Network is getting out and about around Australia and meeting other members, often staying with another member for a short time. Our Country Network [Membership Requirements and Conditions](#) outline the protocol for hosting, and each individual member profile specifies if they can host or guide members visiting their area.

To see if a member is hosting in the area you plan to visit, search for members in that area and look for the "I am able to host visiting members" filter in their profile. You can then connect with that member and introduce yourself.

So, what are you waiting for? Get out there and meet some new Networkers!

HOSTING AND CONTACT

- Country Network promotes and encourages support, networking and friendship between members, which has created a tradition of hosting and providing accommodation to fellow members.
- Hosting is not obligatory. Even if you have previously indicated that you can host, it is your right to decline a hosting request. A member's choice to host (or not) is to be respected. A refusal is not to offend.
- To ensure successful hosting for both the host and the guest, consider the following protocols:
- When making initial contact, please use discretion, as the member's living arrangements may be unknown to you or may have changed.
- Country Network realizes that initial visits can come with some anxiety for both host and guest. Remember neither host nor guest is a stranger; both are fellow Country Network members.
- Hosting provides mutual benefits to both guest and host, such as support, friendship and networking especially for members in regional, rural and remote areas. Whenever you may be travelling, please strongly consider this opportunity as often you may be doing your host a favour.

- A member's capacity to host is on the member's profile on the Country Network website, however they may change their details at any time for any reason.
- To make an initial enquiry for accommodation, provide the member with sufficient time to consider your request. A refusal is not to offend.
- Hosts must clearly advise the living/accommodation/sleeping arrangements to guests upon initial enquiry.
- If you do receive a request to host and you cannot, please as a matter of courtesy reply to the email stating that you cannot host.
- To enable both host and guest to enjoy their experience of shared accommodation, remember the following:
- Establish boundaries and expectations before, or when, the guest arrives. This may include length of stay, personal requirements, privacy, any commitments such as work or family arrangements, etc.
- Be sensitive to a member's financial and personal situation and contribute to any expenses or the workload resulting from your stay.
- Both hosts and guests should respect that either may have arrangements or commitments that do not include the other.
- Communicate clearly and do not make assumptions.
- Guiding is to offer assistance to visitors when they visit your town or region. Some guidelines for guiding are:
 - The level of assistance is by mutual agreement between the visitor and guide.
 - Give your host reasonable prior notice, as the guide may not be available at short notice.

Hosting can be really great and you can get to meet different blokes and from that form some lifelong friendships.

We will have a discussion on Hosting at the AGM on the Saturday afternoon.



Anyone who identifies as a man is welcome at Bent Couch Counselling, where they will find a supportive and therapeutic setting. In addition to online group support sessions geared specifically towards men, I also provide individual online counselling sessions for those who require it.

I'm compassionate, deal with insight and empathy and I can assist other men in dealing with these and similar challenges. By dealing with my own personal experiences to seek inner healing, it has allowed me to find purpose in helping others.

Shaun Williams
Counsellor & Facilitator
0499 487 492

Bent Couch Counselling. "Let's Connect"
www.bentcouch.com | admin@bentcouch.com





'Look, a dragon's coming!' Sam Sparkle pointed up into the blue sky, so his family would know where to look. He wasn't sure how he knew about the dragon, but he did. The knowledge had just popped into his head.

'Yeah right, like I'd believe that,' Lucy, his older sister said.

Sam had caught her smoking last week, but he hadn't told their parents yet. She was sprawled on the back seat of their new car, a yellow Jeep Cherokee. Sam's dad had bogged it in the off-road red sand one hundred and fifty-four kilometres from Uluru, according to the trip meter.

His mother sighed dramatically and shook her head at him. 'Everybody look for twigs to put under the wheels so we can get out of this sand-drift.' She bent down to the open window. 'That includes you too, Lu. Straightening, she laughed and said, 'Hey, I'm a poet.'

'But Mum, a dragon's coming.' Sam had put sunblock 50+ on during the drive from Alice Springs and he was wearing a wide-brimmed straw hat and he wasn't looking into the sun. He knew about looking after himself. He'd just completed year five in school, quite successfully he was pleased to report.

'Gee...um...whiz, Sam. Stop farting around and lend a hand, his father said. 'And Lu, get out of that bloody car.'

His father was trying not to swear as much. People called him a rough diamond. He was embarrassing sometimes; Mr Jensen, Sam's English teacher, said swearing showed a lack of vocabulary. When Sam told his dad that, he got angry.

Lucy flounced out of the car. 'Well, I didn't drive off the highway and onto a dirt track to "see the real Australia",' she snapped.

Sam knew she'd snuck out when she was meant to be studying for a chemistry exam - she got A+; Sam was impressed but hadn't told her yet. She'd gone to her friend Becky's place over the road to watch Berlin Station on iView; they swore all the time on that show. He knew that because he'd watched the first episode with Lucy in her room, on her computer.

Sam had collected a bundle of twigs. He should have a drink of water before the dragon arrived; the heat had made him thirsty.

'Wow, here's Sam's dragon!' Lucy called from the other side of a cluster of gidgee trees. He ran to where she was. She had a whole two twigs in one hand and was leaning down to pat a goanna with the other. 'That's a goanna,' he said. 'It could bite.'

Lucy jumped back. 'I know that.'

'That's a goanna,' Sam's father said as he arrived on the scene.

'That's a goanna,' his mother said when she arrived. 'Don't touch it.'

'The dragon's ten minutes away,' Sam said. 'Can't you see her?' He pointed into the sky. 'That speck, see?'

'You're so full of it, Sammikins.' Lucy sneered.

That's what Granny Watford called him. He wished she was there with them. He knew Lucy was going to dye her hair purple when they got back to Melbourne. She was looking forward to shocking their parents, but Sam knew they wouldn't care. They'd worn ugly 80s fashions and horrible hairstyles in their day, something they didn't talk about. But Sam had seen the photos.





‘Now now, Lu,’ his father said, squinting into the sky. ‘It’ll be a bird, Sam.’

Sam’s mother looked at him, slightly worried but not freaking out or anything. If Granny were here, she’d believe him. Anyway, they’d all know soon enough.

Sam loved The Red Centre, even though their car was bogged, and the weather was hot and none of his family wore a hat or sunblock. The “ancient landscape”, as the Northern Territory’s state travel website called it, was awesome. Endless red earth and rocks, a wide blue sky and plants that looked faded from the sun. And a dragon. Melbourne seemed far far away.

With the help of the twigs under the Jeep’s wheels, his mother backed the car out of the sand-drift on the first try. Sam, his father and Lucy weren’t in the car; that would’ve been extra weight. They clapped and cheered his mother as she did a three-point turn and faced the car towards the highway.

‘Get in,’ she said. ‘And have a drink of water.’

‘But Mum, the dragon’s almost here.’ He didn’t have to look up at the sky. He just knew it.

‘Shi...vers,’ his father said, pointing up. ‘Kath, get here.’

Sam’s mother hurried out of the car.

‘It’s just a bat,’ Lucy said.

Sam thought that coming top of the year ten science stream at high school was going to Lucy’s head. Everything had to be logical or scientifically proven, otherwise she wouldn’t believe it. Although, she certainly believed in sending text messages to that idiot Zeke Evermore.

‘Bats aren’t green,’ muttered their father.

No-one spoke as they watched the dragon fly down towards them in an ever-decreasing spiral, although Sam’s father said the F-word a couple of times.

Sam grinned, hugely – at the dragon, not his father. Welcome, welcome, he thought. He knew she could hear; because he could hear what she thought. She was beautiful, with eucalyptus-green skin.

The dragon landed softly in the clearing, with only a small puff of red sand.

Sam wasn’t disappointed but she was nothing like he’d expected. He’d thought she’d be bigger and have spikes on her back and perhaps breathe fire, like in The Game of Thrones trailer he’d seen. This dragon was a bit bigger than the Jeep and smooth and not scary at all.

She folded her wings, staring intently at Sam. She moved one pace closer to him.

He held his hands out, palms up, and walked to her. Her face looked kind of like a Labrador’s.

‘Oh Sam,’ his mother whispered.

‘Shoosh, Mum,’ Lucy said. ‘It’s alright.’

‘Sammy, be careful,’ his father said in a tiny, croaky voice.

‘Hush, Dad,’ Lucy said. ‘The dragon won’t hurt him.’

Sam and the dragon looked at each other, their noses almost touching. He wondered if he was allowed to put his hands on her neck, then he knew he was, so he did. For two seconds, a rushing sound filled his head.

She’d told him her story. Dragons had watched humans in Australia for sixty thousand years. Some humans could be trusted to keep the dragons’ secret, that this country was their home also. She had chosen Sam and his family, but Sam was special. She could communicate with him.

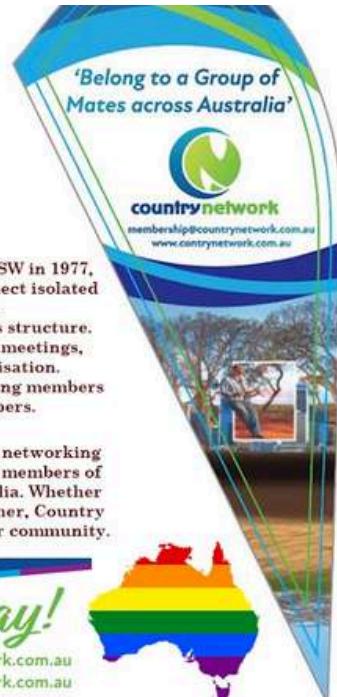
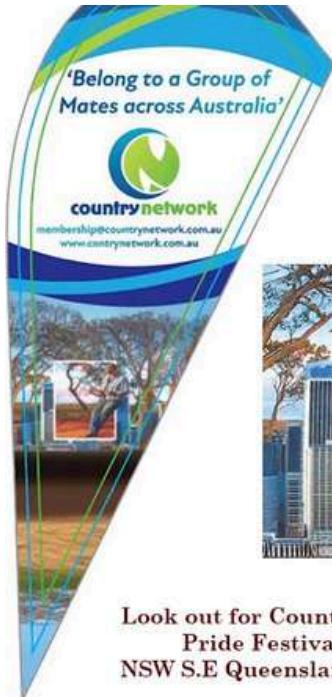
He withdrew his hands and walked backwards until he bumped into Lucy. He turned to her, smiling. He knew his sister understood.

Sam Sparkle

John Holden ©



BITS AND BOBS - ADVERTS FOR COUNTRY NETWORK



Look out for Country Network as we visit
Pride Festivals across regional
NSW S.E Queensland and Victoria in 2025

From its early beginnings at Dubbo NSW in 1977, Country Network was founded to connect isolated gay men in rural Australia. Early gatherings shaped the networks structure. Over time, it expanded, held annual meetings, then becoming a web based organisation. Now with both rural and our city dwelling members boosting our membership numbers.

Country Network promotes and fosters networking and friendship among male-identifying members of the LGBTIQ+ community across Australia. Whether it's catching up for a chat or a get-together, Country Network is a great way to be part of your community.

Join Today!

countrynetwork.com.au



Stay Connected with Your Community!

We don't want you to miss out on the exciting stories, events, and updates that are happening in our community! ☀

By joining our private Facebook group and visiting our website, you'll gain access to inspiring member stories, the latest news, and details about upcoming events that celebrate and uplift our vibrant community. It's the best way to stay informed, engaged, and connected with everything we're working on together.

Be sure to:

- Join our private Facebook group for exclusive updates and discussions.
- Visit our website regularly to stay in the loop.

We look forward to sharing more with you—because your voice and presence matter to us! Let's make our community stronger together.

Also don't forget, Country Network has a Public Facebook page and for those who use Instagram, we are there.



<https://www.instagram.com/countrynetworkaustralia/>

<https://www.facebook.com/countrynetworkaustralia>

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CountryNetworkAustralia>

<https://countrynetwork.com.au/>





secret facebook page.



Our Facebook group is a secret group open only to financial members of Country Network – That's you!

Our Facebook group is a great way to get to know other members in a more informal social online environment.

Joining is easy! Copy the link below and paste it in your search bar to get started.

facebook.com/groups/CountryNetworkAustralia

When you request to join you will need to answer a couple of quick questions, including letting the administrators know your actual name, as per our member system, if it is different to the name you use on Facebook.

We understand that for privacy reasons people use aliases on social media, however we do need to reconcile our member database with our Facebook group members in order to keep all our members as safe as possible online.

Our secret Facebook group is different to our Public Facebook page which is found elsewhere on Facebook.

The use of our secret Facebook group is governed by our Terms and Conditions of membership which are shown below.

FACEBOOK

- Country Network runs a Private Facebook group which is available to financial members only, and a Public Facebook page which is accessible to both members and the general public. Administrators appointed by the Country Network Committee control both pages.
- The Private Facebook group provides a platform for all paid members to post discussions, events, stories or anything else deemed relevant and of interest to fellow members. To join the private Facebook page, click:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/CountryNetworkAustralia>
- The Administrator must approve your request.
- The Public Facebook page is used to create awareness of Country Network in the public domain.
- Members may only post material on either the Facebook page or group that:
 - Complies with Australian law or regulations.
 - Does not contravene this document.
 - Members must not post anything that:
 - Includes any personal or private contact details of any member unless that member provides prior approval.





- Includes a photo of a fellow member without the member's prior approval
- May be deemed to be offensive to fellow members.
- Is a personal attack or accusation against fellow members, named or not.
- Is hearsay or gossip that may be deemed prejudicial to the interests of Country Network.
- Incites disputes, or is considered impertinent, or that may bully or harass a member.
- Brings Country Network into disrepute.
- May be considered offensive or defamatory to a third party.
- The Facebook Administrator reserves the right, without retribution, to remove any post deemed to be inappropriate, offensive or unsuitable.

1. The author of any post removed by an Administrator may respectfully contact an administrator for reasons of removal by sending a direct message to the Facebook group or page. The author may also raise a grievance with the Committee if they do not agree with the action to remove the post. (See section on Grievances).
2. Repeated breaches may result in the suspension or banning of a member's access to Country Network Facebook page or group, and/or any other appropriate action as deemed suitable by the Country Network committee.

The Country Network Facebook group is YOUR group, so have fun, meet other members and don't forget to show some love to the Group administrators who work hard to keep things running smoothly.

Welcome to
countrynetwork Country Network
Australia

Members Only

Private Facebook Group

You have more friends than you think
all over Australia

countrynetwork.com.au

Country Network acknowledges the traditional owners as custodians of this land, waters and community. We pay our respects to Australia's First Peoples and their elders past present and future.

Since 1977, Country Network has promoted and fostered networking and friendship among male-identifying members of the LGBTIQ+ community across Australia. Whether it's catching up for a chat or a get-together, Country Network is a great way to be part of your community.



LETS GET COOKING

Who does not enjoy a hearty warm rice pudding Old-Fashioned Rice Pudding (old school recipe) - dessert. Creamy thick pudding with rich vanilla aroma and a pinch of cinnamon. serves 4

INGREDIENTS

6 cups whole milk, divided
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup long-grain white rice, I use a heaping half cup
2 teaspoons vanilla extract
optional ground cinnamon(But sprinkled on top it adds to the taste.)

INSTRUCTIONS

In a large saucepan, combine 5½ cups milk, sugar, and salt. Stir and bring to a boil.

Add washed rice (I use a heaping half cup), stir, reduce heat to low and cook for 50-60 minutes, stirring occasionally.

When rice porridge thickens, remove from heat, add vanilla, and cool. Then pour in the remaining milk, stir and serve with a pinch of ground cinnamon.





Emen8 launched in May 2017 as Australia's biggest and boldest online sexual health and wellbeing initiative for gay, bisexual and other men who have sex with men.

The following two articles once you click on them should take you to a read about gay cruises and coming out later in life. They are both from Emen8, a blog that is worth following.

6 gay fantasy novels to add to your reading list

<https://emen8.com.au/lifestyle/entertainment/6-gay-fantasy-novels-to-add-to-your-reading-list/>

Five reasons to join an LGBTQ sports club and where to find one

<https://emen8.com.au/health/food-and-fitness/five-reasons-join-lgbtq-sports-club-find-one/>



Support services

Adult

Lifeline: 13 11 14
lifeline.org.au
Suicide Call Back Service: 1300 659 467
suicidecallbackservice.org.au
Beyond Blue: 1300 224 636
beyondblue.org.au/forums
MensLine Australia: 1300 789 978
mensline.org.au

Youth

Kids Helpline: 1800 551 800
kidshelpline.com.au
headspace: 1800 650 890
headspace.org.au
ReachOut: ReachOut.com

Other resources

Head to Health: mental health portal
headtohealth.gov.au
Life in Mind: suicide prevention portal
lifeinmind.org.au
SANE: online forums saneforums.org

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander: healthinfonet.ecu.edu.au
Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, and/or intersex: 1800 184 527 qlife.org.au
Culturally and linguistically diverse: embracementalhealth.org.au

BITS AND BOBS - ADVERTS FOR COUNTRY NETWORK



MEMBER EVENTS

country network
REACHING ACROSS AUSTRALIA

UPCOMING EVENTS ARE WE MISSING AN EVENT?

LET US KNOW!

Coffee Morning, Lunch or Dinner events

... to keep our Facebook group & Website updated, please advise of any events you have planned ...

Thank You

The advert features a large, colorful rainbow graphic at the top and bottom. A circular logo on the left contains the text 'MEMBER EVENTS' in a stylized font. The 'country network' logo is at the top right. Below it, the text 'REACHING ACROSS AUSTRALIA' is in small capital letters. The 'UPCOMING EVENTS' section is in large, bold, colorful letters. The 'LET US KNOW!' button is a red rectangle. The 'Coffee Morning, Lunch or Dinner events' section is in a grey box. The '... to keep our Facebook group & Website updated, please advise of any events you have planned ...' section is in a grey box. The 'Thank You' section features a yellow smiley face icon and the words 'Thank You' in a stylized font.

MEMBERS DO NOT FORGET TO SEND YOUR EVENT INFORMATION TO EVENTS@COUNTRYNETWORK.COM.AU THIS ALLOWS US TO KEEP MEMBERS INFORMED THROUGH OUR PRIVATE FACEBOOK MEMBERS PAGE AND THE COUNTRY NETWORKER.



2025

AGM
Annual General Meeting

Everyone is welcome.
Stay informed and get involved.

ClubMulwala

Accommodation



A photograph showing a view of a lake and a building complex, likely the Club Mulwala accommodation. The sky is blue with some white clouds. A black railing is visible in the foreground.