

Who	What	Key	Length	Writer
Silke Bader	LGBTI Awards		200ish words	Gail K

## Celebrity profiles

### Carlotta

- Her sex change operation in the early 1970s was not the first such procedure in Australia, but was the first to receive national publicity
- As a panellist on the discussion program Beauty and the Beast she provided a voice for LGBTI rights and acceptance
- In 2017 Carlotta teamed up with Maurice Blackburn for their campaign 'Fighting for Fair'

She's fabulous. She's fierce. She's Carlotta - Australia's most famous transgender woman.

An Australian cabaret performer and television celebrity, Carlotta began her career as an original member of the long-running Les Girls cabaret show which would later inspire the film "Priscilla Queen of the Desert".

Carlotta's sex change operation in the early 1970s was not the first such procedure in Australia, but due to her celebrity status it was first to receive national publicity.

After being the first transsexual to be on a national prime time drama (Number 96), Carlotta regularly reappeared as a panellist on the discussion program Beauty and the Beast. Today she's a regular on Channel Ten's Studio 10.

Her message to the world has always centred around LGBTI acceptance and for LGBTI members, 'It's okay to be who you are.'

Since her induction into the DIVA (Drag Industry Variety Awards) Hall of Fame in 1997, Carlotta has not stopped performing and educating. Her biopic has screened on the ABC and she's teamed up with Maurice Blackburn's 'Fighting for Fair' campaign, recounting her lifelong battle for acceptance.

Carlotta will be performing at the 'The Coming Back Out Ball' to support the inaugural 2017 Victorian Seniors Festival in association with the third National LGBTI Ageing and Aged Care Conference.

At 73, Carlotta keeps the good flight going by using every moment possible and any opportunity to promote the LGBTI community, to fight for acceptance and our rights.



*Clever Copywriting*

## Harry Cook

- Was nominated in 2016 as LGBT Celebrity of the Year at the inaugural Australian LGBT Awards
- Spreads LGBTI awareness via his social media to a combined following of over 200,000 fans
- Recently won the Best Supporting Actor award at the prestigious Film Out San Diego for his role in the feature film *Drown*

Harry Cook is an actor, writer, activist and entertainer.

Known nationally and internationally for both his acting and his activism for LGBTQ equality, Harry has been at the forefront fighting for marriage equality, and was nominated in 2016 as LGBT Celebrity of the Year at the inaugural Australian LGBT Awards.

Harry spreads LGBTI awareness via his social media to a combined following of over 200,000 fans. He's also a contributor to the Huffington Post.

As an actor Harry has appeared in various films and television shows, recently winning the Best Supporting Actor award at the prestigious Film Out San Diego for his role in the feature film *Drown*.

Since age 17, Harry has starred opposite some of Hollywood's biggest names. He has played Academy Award winner Geena Davis' son in the hit film *Accidents Happen*, worked alongside Ben Oxenbould and Peter Phelps in cult Aussie surf thriller *Caught Inside*, performed with Sam Neil and Bryan Brown in ABC's *Old School*, and in 2016 played Mark Cohen in the Sydney production of the Broadway smash hit *RENT*.

Harry resides in Sydney, Australia with his husband Liam and their English Bulldog Poppy, who they rescued from a shelter in Los Angeles.





*Clever Copywriting*

## Joel Creasey

- Hosted the 2017 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras parade (SBS)
- Hosted the 2017 Eurovision Song Contest (SBS) – “(the) campest, schtickiest, beltiest, poppiest, most O T T number you’ve ever seen.”
- Was recently selected to be in Cosmopolitan’s inaugural Rainbow List as one of their top 50 most influential LGBTQI voices

At just 27 years old, Joel Creasey is one of Australia's most-popular, acclaimed and charmingly controversial stand-up comedians.

A self-described shameless "fame whore", Joel has become a television staple and this year hosted the glittering explosion that is the 2017 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras parade. The TV broadcast included the best of the floats, costumes and featured celebrity guests interviews. He garnered stories from some parade participants too – exploring issues of sexuality, equality and discrimination that affect the LGBTQI community.

Hosting the 2017 Eurovision Song Contest, Joel likened it to, “...an international rock eisteddfod; (the) campest, schtickiest, beltiest, poppiest, most O T T number you’ve ever seen.”

Most recently Joel was selected to be in Cosmopolitan’s inaugural Rainbow List as one of their top 50 most influential LGBTQI voices and recently became Ambassador to Skyy Vodka’s #CheerstoEquality campaign. He was also crowned Comedian of the Year at the most recent GQ Men of the Year Awards.

Since 15 years of age, Joel has harnessed his outrageous wit, sass and unrivalled story telling abilities to cement himself as Australia's undisputed 'Crown Prince of Comedy', and an in-demand international comedian. Every year Joel’s live show audiences grow as punters flock for an hour of no-holds-barred belly laughs. He slices, dices and smashes through celebrity and pop culture, including himself, with unflinching candour and brutal home truths.



## **Magda Szubanski**

- Since coming out live to air on The Project, has been a high profile media campaigner for LGBTQI rights and Same-Sex Marriage equality
- In her memoir *Reckoning*, she's helped non-LGBTQI people to relate to the experience of their gay loved-ones, friends and acquaintances.
- Spoke to The Women's Weekly about growing up gay and the importance of LGBTQI rights

Since coming out live to air on The Project, and despite being a very private person, Magda Szubanski has been a very active and high profile media campaigner for LGBTQI rights and Same-Sex Marriage equality. She's appeared regularly on almost every Australian television station, major commercial radio station and the ABC.

Magda has become patron of Twenty10, performed in Play 8 and has volunteered her support to numerous LGBTQI fundraisers, including both Orlando concerts in Melbourne and Sydney. She also spoke at a recent marriage equality fundraiser at Raheen.

In The Women's Weekly, Magda spoke at length about her experience growing up gay and the importance of LGBTQI rights. She has appeared at several rallies and privately lobbied politicians too.

In her memoir *Reckoning*, Magda details with powerful emotion her journey of self-acceptance, touching the hearts of nearly one hundred thousand people and helping non-LGBTQI people to relate to the experience of their gay loved-ones, friends and acquaintances.

As a performer and comedian, Magda's triumphs span three decades. She loved nation-wide for characters such as: Mrs Hoggett in the Academy Award / Golden Globe winning film *Babe*; her performance as Sharon Strzelecki in the hit television series *Kath and Kim*; and the show that introduced Magda to the world, the ABC-TV cult show *D-Generation*.

Accolades include a Mo Award, seven Logie Awards, three Awgie Awards, two People's Choice Awards and an AFI for Best Actress.

Magda continues to try to use her celebrity and popularity to help those who do not have a voice.



*Clever Copywriting*

## **Mark Trevorrow**

- Initially created his legendary comedic cabaret alter ego Bob Downe for the 1984 Glebe Food Fair
- As Bob Downe has completed five sell-out Sydney Opera House seasons and 17 Edinburgh Fringe festivals
- As himself (!), has established a successful parallel career to Bob, singing, acting and broadcasting since 2002

Bob Downe is one of Australia's most loved and enduring comedy characters and is the creation of journalist, comedian, actor and broadcaster Mark Trevorrow. Bob's multiple television credits include hosting the Sydney Gas and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade nine times across ABC TV, Network Ten, Foxtel & Optus Webcast.

Mark created Bob Downe in September 1984 at the Glebe Food Fair in Sydney and has toured the world as the Prince of Polyester ever since.

As well as receiving a Glasgow Mayfest Award in 1994, Bob's garnered consecutive Melbourne Green Room Awards for Best Cabaret Artiste, five sell-out Sydney Opera House seasons and 17 Edinburgh Fringe festivals. In 2013 Bob was presented with another Green Room Award for Lifetime Achievement in Cabaret.

Since 2002 Mark, as himself, has established a parallel career in singing, acting and broadcasting.

He appeared on *Good News Week* (ABC TV & Network Ten). His nostalgic documentary/talk series *The Way We Were* was a television ratings winner on Australia's national broadcaster, where Mark is heard regularly presenting Evenings on ABC Radio.

Mark has also appeared as a recurring character Darryl the menswear salesman in Australia's most successful comedy series, *Kath and Kim* and in the feature film *Kath and Kimderella*.





*Clever Copywriting*

## **Pam Ann**

- Hosted Australia's live broadcast of Mardi Gras 2009, airing in over 2 million households
- At his express request, she crewed Elton John's private jet
- Recently completed her 20th Anniversary Tour 'Touch Trolley...Run to Galley' which ending in London at The Hammersmith Apollo

Iconic international celebrity airhostess Pam Ann has evolved since first jetting out of her hometown of Melbourne 20 years ago. Pam – the alter ego of Australian comedian-writer-producer Caroline Reid – has developed a cult-like status both here and overseas with the often politically incorrect portrayal of an international hostie.

There's not much Pam *hasn't* seen or done – she's hosted Australia's live broadcast of Mardi Gras 2009, airing in over 2 million households. She crewed Elton John's private jet at his express request, shared a stadium stage on a UK tour with Cher, and counts Madonna in her legion of devoted fans.

Most recently Pam Ann has completed her 20th Anniversary Tour 'Touch Trolley...Run to Galley' which ending with a bang in London at The Hammersmith Apollo in March 2017. She's headlined in 19 countries including at the legendary Caroline's on Broadway. She's performed at the prestigious London Palladium, The Royal Albert Hall and sold out Hammersmith Apollo twice before her latest tour.

Pam Ann is a fixture at Bear Week in Provincetown in July performing at The Crown and Anchor for the past eight years. In between layovers, Caroline is penning a funny survival travel book for publisher Random House London.

Nothing is out of reach of her pristine white gloves, strutting up the aisle with a trolley full of beautifully unpredictable, acerbic airline satire. The Queen of the Sky guarantees a turbulent flight.





*Clever Copywriting*

## Richard Reid

- One of his all-time favourite gigs is hosting the Talent Stage at Mardi Gras Fair Day with the one and only Hannah Conda
- Became a daily fixture on Australian television as the resident out-loud-and-proud Gossip Guru on Channel Nine's *TODAY Show*
- Currently enjoys frequent appearances as a panellist on Channel Ten's *Studio 10*

Richard Reid became a daily fixture on Australian television as the resident out-loud-and-proud Gossip Guru on Channel Nine's *TODAY Show*. He held (almost) nothing back when divulging the latest goings-on in Hollywood to an infotainment-hungry audience, long before gossip was as on-tap as it is today.

While thoroughly enjoying his eight years with *TODAY*, one of his all-time favourite gigs is hosting the Talent Stage at Mardi Gras Fair Day with the one-and- only Hannah Conda.

Following *TODAY Show* success, he was a sought-after contributor to the Australian entertainment industry, making appearances as a stylist on *Domestic Blitz*, *Celebrity Apprentice* and *20 to One* in addition to trading quips with radio's Kyle and Jackie O.

Richard has worked in entertainment television for the past 20 years, including *Entertainment Tonight*, *Access Hollywood*, *E!* and Seattle's *Northwest News Network* where he began his career.

Richard currently enjoys frequent appearances as a panellist on Channel Ten's *Studio 10*.



## Ruby Rose

- Recently awarded the Stephen F. Kolzak Award at the 2016 GLAAD Media Awards for making a significant difference in promoting equality and acceptance
- A fervent supporter of causes close to her heart such as anti-bullying, women and gay rights, animal welfare and youth mental health
- Is a series regular on Netflix's *Orange Is the New Black* as 'Stella Carlin'

A unique talent who's star is quickly on the rise, Ruby Rose is an Award-winning actress who continues to evolve with each project she takes on.

Ruby is a fervent supporter of causes close to her heart such as anti-bullying, women and gay rights, animal welfare and youth mental health. She was most recently awarded the Stephen F. Kolzak Award at the 2016 GLAAD Media Awards, which is presented to an LGBT media professional who has made a significant difference in promoting equality and acceptance.

In 2015 Ruby wrote, produced and starred in the short film *Break Free*. A tribute to gender fluidity, it garnered more than 25 million views on YouTube.

Ruby's breakout acting role is as a series regular on Netflix's hit show *Orange Is the New Black*. In the show's third season the actress debuted as 'Stella Carlin', an edgy inmate who catches the eye of 'Piper' (Taylor Schilling). In 2016, Ruby won a Screen Actors Guild® Award for Outstanding Performance by an Ensemble in a Comedy Series.

In 2017 she was recently seen in a trio of actions films: Vin Diesel's *XXX: The Return of Xander Cage*; opposite Milla Jovovich in *Resident Evil: Final Chapter*; and in *John Wick: Chapter Two* alongside Keanu Reeves. She recently wrapped Universal's *Pitch Perfect 3* starring opposite Anne Kendrick and Rebel Wilson.

She currently resides in Los Angeles.



## The Veronicas

- In May 2009 Lisa marched alongside Drew Barrymore and other celebrities in support of gay marriage in California and against Proposition 8
- Joined a 'Wear it with Pride' campaign to reform same-sex laws in Australia for the 85 legislative changes made in 2010 to overturn discrimination against same-sex couples and their families
- In 2007 the song *Untouched* made them the first Australian artists to have a single certified Platinum in the U.S. with over 1 million paid downloads

The Veronicas, an Australian band from Brisbane and comprising of identical twin sisters Lisa and Jessica Origiasso, was formed in 2004. Since their debut album *The Secret Life of...* debuted in 2005, they've carefully combined their pop music success with support for charities, protest marches and assisting LGBTI causes.

In May 2009 Lisa marched alongside Drew Barrymore and other celebrities in support of gay marriage in California and against Proposition 8, a ruling created by opponents of same-sex marriage.

The Veronicas also joined a 'Wear it with Pride' campaign to reform same-sex laws in Australia for the 85 legislative changes made in 2010 to overturn discrimination against same-sex couples and their families. The campaign involved the girls wearing numbered t-shirts representing each legislative change. In August 2017 The Veronicas made a final 24-hour facebook plea to Australians that were missing from the electoral rolls to register for the upcoming YES same-sex marriage campaign.

The newfound fame that allowed Lisa and Jessica to make strong political statements came from their first album that became a four times platinum album, selling over 280,000 copies.

Their second album released in 2007 performed well too and featured *Hook Me Up* which went on to become their first Australian No.1 hit. The song *Untouched* was the first single released from this album and made The Veronicas the first Australian artists to have a single certified Platinum in the U.S. with over 1 million paid downloads.