



Ten Forty Matrix Newsletter

January 2013

www.olderdykes.org

Dinner and Discussion

6pm Saturday 2 February Rights, Roadblocks and Resilience - A Challenge to Ageism

with Sonia Laverty from the Older Women's Network.

We know from experience that we are either ignored and made invisible or we are identified as a problem with the potential to inflict all sorts of dire effects on younger generations.

We share the consequences of our biology and the discrimination this has attracted which, for many, means an inevitable slide into poverty as we age. But being resilient, and striving to be healthy and engaged, we represent the new age of old age!

To be an inclusive and fair society, governments must recognise the great diversity that we represent and the obstacles that limit our capacities contribute to our own wellbeing and that of society.

Mervyn Fletcher Hall, 81 Dalhousie Street (cnr Dixon St), Haberfield
BYO food to share and your own drinks.

Entry fee: \$10 fully waged, \$5 concession.

Entry to the Mervyn Fletcher hall is in Dixon Street, which has unrestricted parking after 6pm.

By bus, catch the 436 or 438 buses which set down on the corner of Ramsay Road and Dalhousie Street.

Dykes for Dinner

Thursday 14 February 2013

6.30pm

Satasia (Asian)

300 Darling Street Balmain
Licenced & BYO (\$3 corkage pp)
Book by Sunday 10 February via
email contact@olderdykes.org

Thursday 14 March 2013

6.30pm

Xenobia (Lebanese)

102 Norton Street
Leichhardt (opposite cinema)
Licenced
BYO (\$3.50 corkage pp)
Book by Sunday 10 March via email
contact@olderdykes.org

Ten Forty Imogens photography competition

Exhibition and prize giving will be held on

6pm Saturday 9 March

Mervyn Fletcher Hall, 81 Dalhousie Street (cnr Dixon St), Haberfield

The competition closes 5pm on 9 February 2013.

There are two categories –
Capturing the Senses and *Lesbian Life*

Prizes will be awarded for each category

First prize: \$100.00

Second prize: Massage gift certificate

Third prize: Book(s)

Entry forms and terms and conditions are on our website

www.olderdykes.org



Another great party

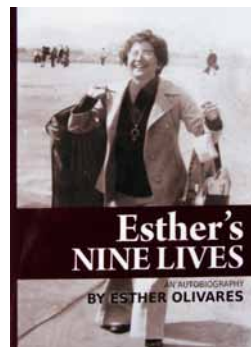
Older dykes sure know how to enjoy themselves! Once again Margot opened her perfect party house for a dazzling end-of-



year celebration. With chrisse lights flashing we feasted on festive food, drank fine wines – and mineral water – and laughed and talked the night away. It was wonderful to catch up with old friends and equally enjoyable to meet quite a few very interesting newcomers.

Amongst the newcomers were filmmakers Louise Wadley and her partner Jay Rutovitz. Louise and Jay think there are too few quality lesbian films being made (we share their view!) so they plan to make one themselves. They have a script written and actors chosen for a film called *The Trouble with e*, but need more money before they can start filming. We watched a clever and amusing promotional video and were invited to spread the word about the need for donations to make the film a reality. The video can be viewed at www.pozible.com/index.php/archive/index/13193/description/0/0

Thanks once more to Margot for hosting this great event. Looking forward to a dynamic Ten Forty year and another celebration party at the end of 2013!



Remember, you can purchase Esther's autobiography for \$20 plus postage by emailing contact@olderdykes.org

Sydney's International Women's Day

Saturday 9 March 2013

Meet at NOON outside Sydney Town Hall for the march!

Further information sydneyiwd.com

For news of other upcoming feminist and women's events check out syneysisterhood.wordpress.com and sydneyfeminists.org



Congratulations to Sylvia

Sylvia was awarded an Edna Ryan Mentoring Award this year for “sharing knowledge and ideas generously with other women.”

Read Sylvia's mentoring story at: ednaryan.net.au/sites/ednaryan.net.au/files/Sylvia%20Kinder%202012.jpg

Check out other Edna Award recipients at ednaryan.net.au

Lesbian history

Shirleene Robinson is interviewing for the Pride History Group. This is a voluntary community group. They are doing 100 oral histories. The problem is so far most of them are of men.

Shirleene has recently arrived from Brisbane so has few contacts. One interviewee said she was impressed with the interview.

You can say what you want and there is no pressure to disclose what you don't want to. If you believe that the diversity of our lives and our public and personal experiences are important to document please consider participating.

If any lesbians out there would be willing to share some of their history for posterity, please contact:

Shirleene Robinson

Phone: 0412 308 174

Email: Shirleene.robinson@mq.edu.au

Vale Kate O'Brien



Kate O'Brien, playwright, poet and editor, died on Christmas Day while holidaying in Bali with her family. She was 67.

Kate enjoyed Ten Forty events and was a member of Websisters, wielding her considerable word-smithing skills on many of the pages of the olderdykes.org site.

In mid 2009 she was diagnosed with multiple myeloma, a cancer of the bone marrow. She was aware that a cure was not possible, but in her determination to drink life to the very last drop accepted every treatment, including a stem cell transplant.

Throughout those painful years – sometimes in hospital but mostly at home – Kate always remained positive, and welcoming of the company and support offered by loving friends. As well as her friends in Sydney, visitors came from Melbourne, Canberra and Adelaide, cities where she had previously lived.

And Kate never stopped writing: plays, poetry and short stories, and editing others' work. In July 2012 *Last Songs* – a play based on her own life about the passionate love between two married women – was performed at Melbourne's La Mama theatre. And in November last year *Flaunt 4*, edited by Kate, was released. Kate wrote generously of the lesbian story-tellers in *Flaunt*: "Talent is bursting from these pages, much of it wrestling with the eternal of love and death. There is, as I'm sure you'll find, drama, passion, wit, humour, breadth of imagination in these works. There is deftness of touch; there is beautifully crafted, confident work." Had I Kate's gift for words, these are the very ones I would use to describe her own talent.

A celebration of Kate's life for family and friends will be held in mid-February. A notice will be sent out via Contact for those who would like to pay tribute to the life of this gracious and inspiring friend, mother and sister.

Dorothy

House Arrest

by Kate O'Brien

No Aung San Suu Kyi,
I,
Flower in her hair,
Delicate hauteur
Facing off the generals
Over her front gate.

No Galileo Galillei
I,
Scoping the solar system
Rattling the gold chains
Of Mother Church.

No Donald Wood
I,
In black ink enraging
The masters of apartheid.

More's the pity.

But my gaoler
Is as unsmiling
And implacable
As theirs.

Another of Kate's poems, *Reflections of an Older Sappho*, can be found at olderdykes.org/words/poetry/sappho.html



End sexism, violence and discrimination.
Read more at www.destroythejoint.org

Feminism has fought no wars. It has killed no opponents. It has set up no concentration camps, starved no enemies, practiced no cruelties.

Its battles have been for education, for the vote, for better working conditions...for safety on the streets...for child care, for social welfare...for rape crisis centres, women's refuges, reforms in the law.

If someone says, "Oh, I'm not a feminist," I ask, "Why, what's your problem?"

Dale Spender

About Ten Forty Matrix

Ten Forty Matrix is an informal group of lesbians over forty, many of whom have been socially and politically active in Sydney since 1987.

We enjoy discussion and debate on the issues we face in work, life and at home, and hold regular fun events to keep us in touch with the lighter side of life.

Ten years ago we established the website www.olderdykes.org to encourage national and international connections between older lesbians.

Ten Forty Matrix is not an organisation you have to join, but if you want to receive regular information about our activities and our bi-monthly newsletter, email contact@olderdykes.org and ask to be put on our mailing list.

Newsletter

To receive a free emailed newsletter, please email contact@olderdykes.org

The web edition and back copies of the newsletter are available for download from our website www.olderdykes.org

Who currently does what?

Events planning: Cheryl, Daniela, Diann, Frances, Gillian, Helen, Krystyna, Rob, Wendy

Contact listing in LOTL: Jan

Utilities box: Sylvia and Wendy

Money Management: Cheryl

Websisters: Jan, Ruth, Dorothy, Diann, Margot, Sandy

Newsletter: editing and layout Ruth and Dorothy

If you would like to become involved in any of the above, or have some ideas about social events and/or topics for our bi-monthly dinner and discussion evenings, please email contact@olderdykes.org

Someone should open a bar called "The Gym." Then, I could be one of those annoying people on facebook that brags about going there everyday.

