



Ten Forty Matrix Newsletter

January 2014

www.olderdykes.org

Dinner and Discussion

6pm Saturday 1 February 2014

Suffragettes as political artists and activists

Spider will make a presentation on suffragettes as political artists and activists and how they used art as part of their campaign. She will discuss some of the suffragettes and suffragette actions from Australia, France, USA and UK to illustrate the discussion.

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

Love.fish

6.30pm

Thursday 13 February

580 Darling Street Balmain

Licensed

Please email

contact@olderdykes.org by Sunday 9 Feb

Please note: Dykes for Dinner in March will be organised by Helen. Watch out for more details via contact@olderdykes.org

The Imogens – 2014

Only six weeks to go now before the second annual Ten Forty Matrix photography competition closes.

The competition opens on 1 December 2013 and closes at 5pm on Tuesday 4 March 2014.

There are two categories –

- Lesbian Life
- Rainbows and Other Symbols

Only one entry per person is permitted in each category.

Prizes will be awarded in each category:

First prize: \$200.00

Second prize: \$100.00

Third prize: \$50.00

Entries will be on display and prizes awarded to the winning Imogens at Haberfield on Saturday 22 March 2014 at 6pm.

Entry is free.

Photographs can be in colour or black and white and can be taken with any type of camera.

Three carefully selected members of Ten Forty with a background in photography have agreed to be judges.

Entry forms and terms and conditions plus information about size and acceptable formats will be available on our website

www.olderdykes.org and emailed to everyone on our Contact list.



Photos from last year's Imogens competition. See all the entries at www.olderdykes.org/gallery/imogens2013.html

Celebrating 2013's longest summer day

On 21 December on Summer Solstice a bunch of 10/40ers and friends enjoyed another end-of-year celebration at Margot's place. Thanks and congratulations, Margot, for continuing this tradition for the past 10 years at your place!

Sue and Meredith kicked off the entertainment with some familiar songs, including Judy Small's Festival of Light, followed by Annabel on recorder, who played three different melodies. She received a special round of applause for the one she had composed herself.

For the fancy dress, Margot mounted another pair of skyscraper-high heels complete with sexy stockings and other see-through items. A highlight of the evening was when many women shared a piece of news from 2013, which ended up encompassing a wide range of events, from the personal to the global. Some were indeed moving to hear and/or share.

Finally, in the 'risky business' of a lucky dip exchange of presents, many women enjoyed a pleasant surprise when they unwrapped the gift they chose. We again were able to catch up with old friends, meet new women and leave the celebration with the gifts of friendship (material or otherwise) that we had shared.

Viviane

Responding to 55Upitty

One of the great things about 10/40 is that the women who attend these events tend to be strong, articulate and feisty, especially when they perceive injustices in the world. They are quick to defend others and to speak their mind on issues. They do not all speak with one voice and opinions are rich and varied.

Interestingly Viviane's recent article in the newsletter provoked a variety of comments from a few women. Viviane was reporting on Teresa's talk to 10/40 about her fabulous project 55Upitty, aimed at promoting the visibility and the dynamism of our older lesbians.

Viviane wrote a summary of the event and Teresa's presentation. She then went on to put forward some personal observations and musings of her own. Some of these were taken (by some readers) to be harsh criticisms of Teresa's project. Viviane is clear that this was not in any way her intention and that, rather, her comments were written as an attempt to reflect on some of the issues which Teresa herself had flagged with her project but had perhaps not necessarily foregrounded. After all a project only comes into being through a process of delineation and focus. The result is that decisions have to be made as to what can be presented within a certain space and what becomes excess and remains in the background.

As it turns out, however, some of those excesses, those issues which squeezed themselves out and fled the rigour of Teresa's own project, have resurfaced in tandem with, and as a result of, that project and offered themselves up to some lively debates elsewhere. Questions and debates about presentation and representation, the right of inclusion and the desire for self determination are all important. We need to continue working out not just who we are, but who we want to be, and these are issues at the core of lesbian communities.

We would argue that these questions are at the centre of Teresa's project and that project is responsible for pushing us to continue reflecting on how we approach the responsibility we all have for engaging with these issues. Viviane's article may have inadvertently strayed into areas that could be taken as extraneous and somehow critical of the 55Upitty project but we tend to read it as grappling with similar complexities and as a voice which works with rather than against this project. And the great thing is that 55Upitty continues to resonate at the heart of 10/40. Some of these debates will continue and lead on to other conversations.

Gillian, Krystyna, Bronwyn, Viviane, Rob, Diann, Cheryl



Ten Forty Matrix Incorporated update

Julie Hacker, a Ten Forty Matrix supporter and wonderful friend to many of us, died early last year. In her Will Julie made a bequest to Ten Forty Matrix (one of her friends described it as another one of her 'crazy exploits'), which has now been finalised.

In our March 2013 newsletter we explained that in order to receive the money we needed to become incorporated, which has now been completed. We specified the aim of Ten Forty Matrix is "To promote the wellbeing of older women in NSW who identify as lesbian". To complete incorporation quickly, and on advice from Fair Trading, we used their Model

Constitution, which forms the structure within which an organisation operates.

Obviously, we have specific conditions for membership of Ten Forty Matrix so the Membership Eligibility in the Model Constitution does not 'fit' and needs to be changed. Check the Model Constitution at www.fairtrading.nsw.gov.au/pdfs/about_us/publications/ft412_model_constitution.pdf

A Special General Meeting will be held soon to discuss all these issues – and more. An email via Contact will provide details of where and when the meeting will be held.

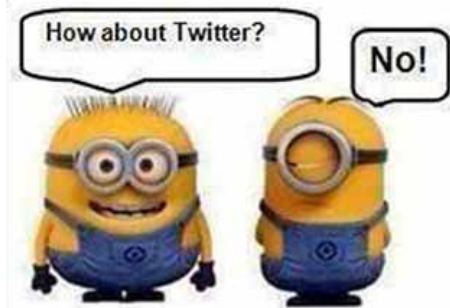
The Interim Committee for Incorporation

Members of the Committee: Jan, Dorothy, Esther, Diann, Robyn, Krystyna, Wendy

Volunteer Position Vacant

The Websisters group, who manage the www.olderdykes.org website and the Contact email information list, are interested in adding further expertise to their group.

If you have experience in maintaining and developing websites please email your background and contact details to contact@olderdykes.org. We meet once a month for dinner before our meeting – usually in Balmain – but as the work is online women living outside Sydney may wish to apply and attend meetings by Skype or similar.



Online Petitions

Occasionally members of Ten Forty have asked if Contact can circulate details of a petition they have signed. The response from Contact is to explain that only petitions that have a feminist/lesbian focus can be passed on.

Petitions and privacy...

If you are tempted to sign an online petition, make sure the sponsoring site has a Privacy Policy and/or Code of Ethics. Check that your personal information will not be disclosed or sold on to advertisers or commercial databases, but do be aware that no data transmission over the Internet is ever 100% secure.

The pitfalls of petitions are explained on this site: www.truthorfiction.com/rumors/p/petitions.htm#.UnrVDxarYyE

Below are petition sites with a strong commitment to privacy:

www.change.org/en-AU/

www.getup.org.au

www.avaaz.org

sumofus.org

www.amnesty.org.au

www.activism.com/en_AU/

www.care2.com/take-action/

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.

Please note our new postal address is PO Box 1312 Randwick 2031

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

Contributions to the newsletter

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter please email your contribution to contact@olderdykes.org by the following dates:

**February 23, April 6, June 8,
August 10, October 19**