

Newsletter

July 2009
www.olderdykes.org



Ten Forty Dinner and Discussion

6pm - 10 pm, Saturday 1 August
Summer Hill Community Centre
Lesbian labels: What's in a name?

Facilitator - Wendy

The discussion will be about the labels we use for ourselves, eg dyke, lesbian, the origins and meanings of the words, and how labels reflect social and political identity.

As a basis for discussion, Wendy has set up a short anonymous online survey that she would like to invite women to complete.

The link for the survey is: www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=v0w7celiVERa8vUVkQxJ2w_3d_3d

BYO food to share & your own drinks. Entry fee is:
\$10 fully waged
\$5 concession

Summer Hill Community Centre is at 131 Smith Street, Summer Hill, near Lackey Street, which leads from the station.

There is parking near the Centre and the station.

By train, the Community Centre is on the right hand side of the station, going towards the City.

By bus, from George Street, City catch the 413 bus to Junction Road, Summer Hill or the 483 to the junction of Liverpool Road and Carlton Crescent, Summer Hill.

RSVP by email to contact@olderdykes.org before Monday 7 September.

What's on

Dykes for Dinner

Thursday 13 August 2009

6.30pm

Thai Space

30 Glebe Point Rd Glebe

Main courses approx \$14

You must book in by Monday 10. RSVP by email to contact@olderdykes.org before Monday 10 August.

Thursday 10 September 2009

6.30pm

Pastabella

89 Glebe Point Rd Glebe

Most pasta dishes under \$20, specials \$22, veal, chicken etc \$15 to \$24

Social Event

Picnic/Lunch at the Fish Markets

11am Sunday 6 September

Gather outside the Fish Markets fruit shop by 11am – don't be late as tables fill quickly.

Wear a little purple for recognition.

Weather: Not on if it's really wet but a light shower would be OK.

RSVP: Let us know if you are coming so we can keep space at a table.

Email contact@olderdykes.org

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.

Five 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, you need to take out a newsletter subscription.

Newsletter subscription

The annual subscription for a hard copy of our bi-monthly newsletter is \$10 payable in January each year.

Subscriptions can be paid at Ten Forty Dinner and Discussion evenings.

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

To receive a hard copy please email contact@olderdykes.org.



Our Lesbian Herstory

Ten forty discussion evening Saturday 13 June

A small but enthusiastic group of women met for a discussion of our lesbian herstory. Following a social chit chat and a feast of diverse and delightful food, we settled in for an eclectic exchange of herstorical memories.

Sylvia facilitated the sharing of memories going back to the dark days of the 1960s when police, without any legal rights, raided even private lesbian parties. This happened across Australia and although not frequent, ensured that many lesbians lived secret isolated lives.

Recently The Pride History Group published a 45 page booklet, *Out and About; Sydney's Lesbian Social Scene 1960's-80's*, detailing some of the clubs and pubs that were frequented by lesbians during that period. Amongst these was Clover, which operated from 1972 to 2002. Thirty years of dances, picnics, sport events and many other social gather-

ings. Several women present had enjoyed Clover events.

There were also memories of lesbian involvement in the women's health movement, which was responsible for the setting up Australia's first Women's Health Centre in Leichhardt. Lesbian feminists in the early 70's participated in all the areas of the women's liberation movement but were not always supported by heterosexual feminists. Some of us remembered being asked to moderate our lesbian visibility to avoid the accusation from the media that all feminists were dykes.

The political debates and struggles, the parties, the shared households, the demonstrations, the magazines and newsletters, the women's bands, the attempts to have open relationships, the tears and the laughs were all shared and relived. If you are interested in reading anything that deals with our lesbian past in Australia the following may be of interest:

Witches and Faggots, Dykes and Poofters (Film), Digby Duncan (producer), Sydney 1979.

Living Out Loud: A History of Gay and Lesbian Activism in Aus-

tralia by Graham Willett, Allen & Unwin, St Leonards NSW, 2000.

All That False Instruction by Elizabeth Riley, Angus and Robertson, Sydney, 1975.(novel)

Degrees of Separation: Lesbian Separatist Communities in Northern New South Wales, 1974-95 by Judith Ion in *Sex in Public* edited by Jill Julius Matthews, Allen and Unwin, St Leonards, 1997, pp. 97-113.

It Was a Riot! Sydney's First Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras by Liz Ross, 1998. (Read it at www.sa.org.au/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=1600&Itemid=106)

Political Acts: Lesbian Theatre in Sydney by Jai Greenaway, self-published, Sydney, 1990.

Forbidden Love - Bold Passion: Lesbian Stories 1900-1990s, Exhibition Catalogue, History Inverted, Melbourne, 1996 by Ruth Ford, Isaac Lyned and Rebecca Jones.

How It All Began, Andrew Creagh, Campaign, September 1990, pp. 35-36.

Also Google Lucy Chesser's Bibliography of Australian Lesbian History.

Sylvia

Ten Forty Matrix Book Swap

On Sunday 5 July a group of about 13 women met at The Women's Library in Newtown to discuss books they liked and to swap and donate books to the Women's Library.

Following a brief history of the Women's Library we shared information about good books

we have read recently. While sharing the usual delicious food brought by the participants we also showed the books we wanted to give away. Women agreed this was a pleasant way to get ideas about books to read and to find a good home for no longer wanted books.

Two boxes of books and a small cash donation were given to the Women's Library. The Women's Library has a second hand

book shop, a terrific collection of fiction and non-fiction by and/or about women. It has an excellent collection of Lesbian fiction. Volunteers are always needed and the library depends on them to operate. Membership is \$25 or less for concession. If you have books looking for a new home please donate them to the Women's Library.

Sue and Sylvia

Same-sex relationships and Centrelink

An excellent factsheet *Declaring your same-sex relationship to Centrelink* is now available on the Welfare Rights website: <http://www.welfarerights.org.au/default.aspx>

Topics include:

- What does Centrelink need to know? How can I tell if I am living de facto?

- Separated? Separated and living under one roof?
- Financial arrangements?
- Accommodation and domestic arrangements?
- Social relationship?
- Sexual relationship?
- Relationship with children?
- Commitment to each other?
- How does Centrelink investigate?
- Hardship?
- Appeal rights

Research project

I am a psychology student at the University of Western Sydney and am seeking participants for my honours research project which is examining possible factors influencing the mental health of lesbian and bisexual women. My project is a survey based study in which participants remain anonymous.

Lesbian or bisexual women over the age of 18 are invited to complete a questionnaire

The aim of this research is to gain a better understanding of mental health issues experienced by lesbian and bisexual women. Such a study has the potential to provide gay affiliated organisations, support

groups, and counselling providers with a better understanding of these issues, while possibly assisting the development of intervention strategies for the reduction and prevention of mental health problems for lesbian and bisexual women. Participation is voluntary and no identifying details will be obtained, ensuring your anonymity.

Please complete the questionnaire by 31st August 2009.

For more information and to complete the questionnaire:

Go to: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=3MQK75ZLJ9X7v72xTERd0Q_3d_3d

Helen Robertson

Email Helen at 16275010@student.uws.edu.au or phone 0422 758 635

October Ten Forty discussion evening

**10 October 2009
facilitator and discussion topic/event needed**

At present we have nothing planned for our discussion evening in October. If you would like to run a discussion or organise some other sort of event for our next evening at Summer Hill please email contact@olderdykes.org

Reading

From Superwomen to Domestic Goddesses: The Rise and Fall of Feminism by Dr Natasha Campo

The book explores why today many women feel betrayed by the promises of feminism and are looking for liberation through 'raunch culture' or as 'yummy mummies' and 'domestic goddesses.'

Published by Peter Lang

Pine Gap Women's Peace Camp 1983

An exhibition from the Archives of the Jessie Street National Women's Library will be on display throughout September in the Parliament House Fountain Court.

The exhibition includes a collection of photographs, posters, banners and memorabilia that was collected from the Women's Peace Camp at Pine Gap organised by Women For Survival 26 years ago.

New Northern Sydney Group

Two of our members who live at Berowra are interested in setting up a new informal social group in the northern Sydney Area. If you are interested, please email contact@olderdykes.org

Are women paid enough?

Equal work for equal pay is a principle most workplaces appear to support, but the Employment and Workplace Relations Committee is discovering that the reality tells a different story.

An inquiry into pay equity has found the pay packets of full-time working women still lag behind those of their male colleagues. While women do work less hours, the nub of the problem is that they are low paid because their work is not properly valued. This is one of the key points made by the National Pay Equity Coalition (NPEC) and the Women's Electoral Lobby (WEL) in their joint submission to the House of Representatives Employment and Workplace Relations Committee's inquiry into pay equity.

Further details on the inquiry, including the terms of reference, back-ground documents, membership of the Committee and advice on making submissions can be obtained on the Committee's website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/ewr/index.htm or by contacting the committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4162 or emailing ewr.reps@aph.gov.au.

Freda du Faur

Freda Du Faur (1882-1935) was Australia's first great mountaineer, but she is better known in New Zealand than in her own country. In 1910 she made history as the first woman to climb New Zealand's highest peak, Aoraki ('sky piercer'), which in Freda's day was called Mount Cook.

With guides Peter and Alex Graham, Freda Du Faur went on to achieve many absolute first ascents in the Southern Alps, where she named several peaks. Her post-climbing days were interrupted by a questionable psychiatric intervention which had disastrous consequences for Freda and her lifelong partner, Muriel Cadogan.

To listen to a documentary on her life – "Starlit Heights and Winding Valleys: the life of Freda Du Faur" go to Radio

National's Hindsight <http://www.abc.net.au/rn/hindsight/stories/2009/2576819.htm>.

The documentary follows Freda Du Faur's life from suffragette Sydney, to New Zealand's 'virgin peaks', onwards to England during the backlash against first-wave feminism and, ultimately, to a grave in Manly cemetery which, for 70 years, lay unmarked.

Publications

The Conquest of Mount Cook and Other Climbs by Freda Du Faur, Allen & Unwin, London 1915

The Madness of Women: Myth and Experience by Jane Ussher, Routledge, (forthcoming)

Core of My Heart, My Country by Maggie MacKellar, MUP 2004

Between Heaven and Earth: The Life of a Mountaineer Freda Du Faur by Sally Irwin, White Crane Press, Hawthorn 2000

Salsa!

Dance classes for women

Bring a friend or come on your own and meet new friends

Wednesday 29 July - Salsa!

Monday 27 July - Intro to Latin & Ballroom

6 X 1 hour lessons \$100. Beginners/Refresher 6.30pm & Intermediate/Advanced 7.30pm start.

Venue is The Addison Gallery, 142 Addison Rd, Marrickville

To join in the fun or for more information contact Jeanette via email jivejeanette@optusnet.com.au

Ten Forty Matrix

Who currently does what?

Bookings, liaison, and general contact: Jan

Utilities box: Jan and Robyn

Money Management: Esther

Website management: Jan, Ruth, Dorothy, Diana, Kate, Robyn,

Spider, Diann and Rosemary

Newsletter: editing and layout

Ruth and Dorothy

Photocopying: Judi

Mail-out: Esther

If you would like to become involved in any of the above, email contact@olderdykes.org