



Ten Forty Newsletter

June 2016

www.olderdykes.org

Dinner and Discussion

6 pm Saturday 9 July 2016

Memory

Should we think of it as a pulsing muscle or an arthritic limb? Let's take a closer look at what we know and what we can learn from each other.

Facilitated by Pearlie and Meg

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

6.30pm Thursday 9 June 2016

My Thai

64 Dalhousie St Haberfield

Please email

contact@olderdykes.org

by Sunday 5 June

6.30pm Thursday 14 July 2016

Hotel Saravan Bhavan

15 The Strand Croydon

Please email

contact@olderdykes.org

Sunday 10 July

The Imogens Photo Competition

The competition opens on Wednesday 15 June 2016 and closes at 5pm on Tuesday 30 August 2016. Entry is free.

Special thanks to Ten Forty Matrix Inc. for sponsoring the competition this year.

Prizes will be awarded in two categories:

Lesbians in the Frame

and

Wild Frame

First prize: \$400

Second prize: \$200

Third prize: \$150

People's choice award: \$100

Prizes will be awarded at Mervyn Fletcher Hall, Haberfield, on Saturday 17 September between 2pm and 5pm.

All photographs will be on display and refreshments will be served.

Entry forms and terms and conditions plus information about size and acceptable formats will be available on 15 June 2016 from our website olderdykes.org

Queries about the competition can be emailed to imogen@olderdykes.org

Two entries from our 2014 competition:





Special events for 2016

In the second half of 2016 Ten Forty Matrix Inc. is subsidising three special events for lesbians over forty:

Another Tea Dance !

Sunday 17 July between 2 and 5pm

The Red Rattler 6 Faversham Street, Marrickville

RSVP by Saturday 9 July to contact@olderdykes.org

The afternoon will include a performance by the talented 'Lady Sings it Better'.

For those who don't know the Red Rattler, picture a large space reminiscent of a by-gone era with plush red velvet curtains, mismatched second-hand couches, a quality dance floor and low lights. Together it creates an intimate atmosphere where older dykes can relax, dance, eat, drink and be entertained in convivial company.

Entry is free for members of Ten Forty Matrix Inc. (not the same as Ten Forty), so if you are not a member or have not renewed your 2016 membership see the next column of this newsletter for details. If a member wishes to bring a friend to the Tea Dance she can join Ten Forty Matrix Inc. on the day.

The Imogens Photographic Competition

Sunday 17 September between 2 and 5pm. See previous page for details. This event is free and open to everyone.

Berry long weekend

Friday 14 to Monday 17 October 2016

Berry Sport and Recreation Centre

This is a members only event, so please ensure your membership is up to date by 1 July.

Registration forms will be sent out after 1 July when membership renewals and new applications close.



Ten Forty Matrix Inc. or Ten Forty?

Ten Forty

Ten Forty is a loose-knit organisation with no membership list and no joining fees. A planning committee organises Dinner and Discussion evenings and occasional social outings. A small entrance fee is charged at the Dinner and Discussion evenings to cover rent and refreshments. Ten Forty also manages Contact (the email list) and the olderdykes website.

Ten Forty Matrix Inc.

Ten Forty Matrix Inc. was incorporated in 2014 following a bequest of \$43,000 from Julie Hacker. It offers a number of subsidised events each year, which are for members only. The cost of annual membership is \$10 unwaged and \$20 waged. To renew your membership or become a new member of Ten Forty Matrix Inc., see below.

Ten Forty Matrix Inc. Membership Renewals

All membership fees and renewals are due on 1 July 2016.

Please print and complete the membership renewal form attached to this newsletter and pay your fees by:

- electronic transfer BSB: 062148 A/C Number: 10526147 – please remember to identify yourself on the transfer.
- depositing a cheque or cash into the Commonwealth Bank Ten Forty Matrix Inc. BSB: 062148 A/C Number: 10526147. Please attach your bank receipt when sending in your renewal form.

Post the completed renewal form to: The Secretary, Ten Forty Matrix Inc. 4/3 Hutchinson Street, Annandale 2038.

Joining for the first time?

Print and complete the membership form attached to this newsletter. You will need a proposer and a seconder who are existing members of Ten Forty Matrix Inc to sign it. Post to The Secretary, Ten Forty Matrix Inc. 4/3 Hutchinson Street, Annandale 2038.

Report on 'Books That Rocked Your Mind'

Twenty-two women came to the 'Books That Rocked Your Mind' discussion evening in May, facilitated by Jan.

Jan started the evening off by recounting her early experience of reading books. She loved reading and as there weren't enough books to read in her own town her mum organized books to be delivered via bus from the next one. You can read what she said on our website www.olderdykes.org/words/articles/lesbianReader.html

We were each given three minutes to talk about books and reading. Introductions to reading varied from mum reading children's books and school librarians encouraging children to read. Many women had fond and lasting memories of these early childhood experiences, particularly A A Milne's *Christopher Robin* and Enid Blyton's *Noddy and Big Ears* (before someone thought they had an unacceptable subtext).

We shared stories of reading under the covers, reading by streetlight, in cloakrooms, and surreptitiously reading in the classroom until the teacher became suspicious.

Enid Blyton's character George was the first insight by many adolescent readers about girls who weren't afraid to state what they wanted. Many women murmured and smiled when someone mentioned *The Famous Five* books and George.

Women talked about searching for books that would help them understand their own

sexuality, identity, their own view reflected back in language that made their views seem real and solid.

One woman's parents thought only educational books ought to be read by children and so encyclopedias were the only books in her home. This provided an opportunity to learn about the world, but alas, not about her sexuality.

Another woman told the story of discovering a love of reading as a young teenager after stealing her brother's copy of *Playboy* and reading an article about an environmental issue – 'the importance of swamps'. (She must be the only person who admitted to actually reading *Playboy*!)

In the past, women largely did not read, and nor were they expected to read. In general women who were exposed to literature were well off and had the time to read. These days reading books help us understand the messy world we live in.

A wide range of books from *The Well of Loneliness* to Germaine Greer's *The Female Eunuch*, *The Second Sex* and many others, provided a context and political analysis for many women to challenge aspects of their lives.

Rachel Remen's *Kitchen Table Wisdom* contains down to earth stories that heal and *Grandfather's Blessing* tells stories of strength and courage.

Books written about women of colour were mentioned, in particular *This Bridge Called My Back*, an anthology by radical women of colour and *The Colour Purple* by Alice Walker, which won the Pulitzer prize and was later made into a film.

Maureen Duffy, playwright, poet, novelist (fiction and nonfiction) and screenwriter writes

with political passion. Her book *The Gor Saga* is about the assumptions of the gulf between humans and other species.

Aboriginal/colonial history in *The Secret River* by Kate Granville was a favourite for one woman. Another mentioned *Into the Labyrinth* by Sigge Eklund.

There were far too many book titles to record for this short piece and I have probably missed a favourite book or ten. You might like to take the opportunity to write a short piece about your favourite book, or provide book titles I missed, by going to olderdykes.blogspot.com.au and posting your thoughts on the Olderdykes Talk Back blog.

Contribute to the blog and stay in touch with other women who love to read, share book titles, maybe even meet up and form a book group. You never know where this will take you!

Many women spoke about books being nourishing, expanding their knowledge and soothing their soul. One woman said she no longer loans books because some weren't returned and her favourite books "are too precious to part with".

For some, crime fiction is a great escape from political happenings because the baddie always dies. Biographies, in the opinion of one woman, were for sticky beaks into other people's lives.

Apparently research has shown that children don't want online books; they prefer to hold a book and turn the pages.

Thanks Jan, and to everyone, for sharing your favourites.

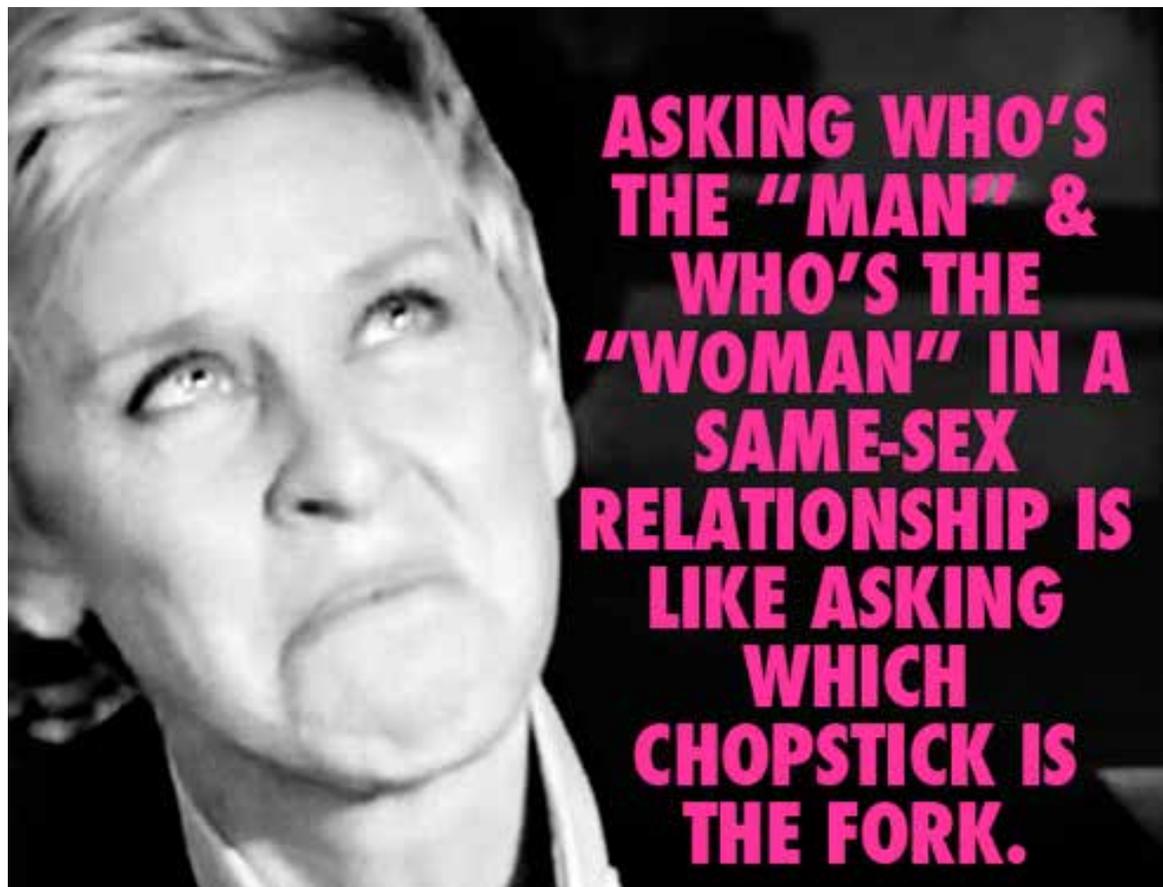
Krystyna

Volunteer Position Vacant

Websisters, 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.



About Ten Forty

The first national conference of Ten Forty in the mid-eighties attracted politically active feminists of all hues and sexualities. However, over time it became obvious that a huge majority of women attending follow-up meetings and activities in Sydney were lesbian feminists. Today Ten Forty and Older Dykes refer to the same group of women. We enjoy discussion 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. Our website www.olderdykes.org encourages national and international connections between older lesbians.

Ten Forty 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/about_us/newsletters.html

Who currently does what?

Events planning: Diann, Gillian, Krystyna and Bronwyn

Contact listing in LOTL: Jan

Utilities box: Sylvia and Gillian

Money Management: Esther

Websisters: Jan, Ruth, Dorothy, Diann, Sandy

Newsletter: editing and layout Ruth and Dorothy