

Newsletter

May 2009
www.olderdykes.org



Ten Forty Dinner and Discussion

6pm - 10 pm, Saturday 13 June
Summer Hill Community Centre
Our Lesbian Herstory

Facilitator - Sylvia

A number of groups are trying to collect our recent lesbian herstory, that which is in our memories. We can add to the information by sharing our own stories.

Come with any photo's and at least one story of a group or important event that you feel is significant in our herstory. Examples are; demonstrations for lesbian rights, lesbian bands, lesbian social groups like Clover, dances and gatherings. We will have a great journey down memory lane for some and an eye into herstories we don't

know about. Even our own 10/40 Matrix has a great herstory.

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.

What's on

10/40 Matrix Book Swap

12 noon – 3pm Sunday 5 July 2009

The Women's Library
8 Brown Street
Newtown

This is next to the Library and just off Kings Street, opposite the Dendy.

Access by train and bus. Parking is always difficult.

Bring a lunch platter for yourself or to share also a Gold coin donation to the Women's library

If you have books you no longer want (by men or women) bring them along.

The aim of the afternoon is:

- To swap books
- To give books
- To leave unwanted books for the Women's Library to sell to raise funds
- Over lunch to talk about books we have enjoyed

So do come to this great book afternoon.

RSVP to Sue and Sylvia before 28 June if possible to give us an idea of numbers by emailing contact@olderdykes

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.



More what's on

Dykes for Dinner

Thursday 11 June 2009

6.30pm

The Sultans Table (Turkish)

179 Enmore Road Enmore
BYO only

Main courses \$3.50 to \$24

An inner sanctum is out the back. Highly recommended mezze and chargrilled shish kebab.

RSVP to Janne by emailing contact@olderdykes before Sunday 7 June.

Thursday 9 July 2009

6.30pm

Hotel Saravana Bhavan (Indian)

Meat and vegetarian dishes
15 The Strand Croydon
BYO only

Main courses \$7 to \$17

RSVP to Janne by emailing contact@olderdykes before Sunday 5 July.

We need a volunteer to organise and be the contact person for the August and September dinners – always the second Thursday in the month. Please email contact@olderdykes if you can help.

Outing to the Zoo

Undeterred by a not very encouraging weather report and black clouds massing over the north east, eight lesbians from 10/40 met inside the main gates to Taronga Zoo on 3 May.

The 12 noon bird show was a universal favourite so we agreed to meet at the amphitheatre, en route maybe finding the Australian birds, the koalas and the gorillas. We all thoroughly enjoyed the

Become a Goddess nerd

Saturday May 30, 1-4 pm at the Women's Library 8-10

Brown St, Newtown

Want to know more about how your computer works? Or maybe you know a bit and can share as well as learn. Perhaps you'd just like to understand the jargon. This group is about women sharing and learning together.

We are going to learn about emailing, managing multiple email identities (for example, your own and one for an organisation you help run) and email house keeping.

Contact Spider by emailing contact@olderdykes

Report

Women in Australia 2009

Minister for the Status of Women, Tanya Plibersek has released the Women in Australia 2009 report.

The report found that women spend less time in the paid workforce, are more likely to work part-time, work fewer hours, and are more likely to have interrupted career patterns due to caring responsibilities. Women's employment is also concentrated in lower paying sectors and occupations.

Copies of Women in Australia 2009 are available at www.fah-csia.gov.au/sa/women/pubs/general/womeninaustralia/2009



completely silent flight of the owls swooping close to our heads to take food from their handlers; the wingspan of the huge Andean condor made us feel quite small in comparison. We donated gold coins which were plucked from our fingers by a white tailed black cockatoo which then dropped them into a money box. Jan and Anne had their photo taken holding a powerful owl, the largest of Australia's owls. Amazing.

We saw the new baby meerkats all standing straight like toy soldiers and Pemba the red panda cub.

After lunch beside Monifa the pigmy hippopotamus, some of us 'birds' spent time in the Rainforest aviary spotting our feathered friends high up or running along the 'forest' floor. Others headed down to the harbour to see the seal show. We all had a great time - the Zoo's not just for kids!

Soiree

If you didn't attend the glittering soiree on 4 April at the very trendy Summer Hill Community Centre, you really missed something. It was a lavish, but intimate affair, with some of our most stylish and gifted older dykes playing a central role. And that was just the audience!

The Soiree featured diverse acts: an eye-catching strip-tease (you had to be there!), a stunning cello recital, a great poetry reading, and a thrilling dance troupe singing Old D-y-k-e.



(To the tune of YMCA)

Old dyke, there's no need to feel down.
I said, old dyke, pick yourself off the ground.
I said, old dyke, many of us have found
There's no need to be unhappy.

Old dyke, fun is what you should know.
I said, old dyke, there are places to go.
You can get out, and I'm sure you will find
Many ways to have a good time.

It's fun to be an old d-y-k-e.
It's fun to be an old d-y-k-e.
Plenty to do, lots of women to meet
Lovely lezzies that you can't beat
It's fun to be an old d-y-k-e.
It's fun to be an old d-y-k-e.
You can ride on a bike, you can go for a hike
You can almost do whatever you like
Old dyke, are you listening to me?
I said, old dyke, what do you want to be?
I said, old dyke, you can make real your dreams.
But you've got to know this one thing!

No dyke does it all by herself
I said, old dyke, take your pride off the shelf,
And just get out of the closet today
And there'll be support come what may

Chorus

Dances, there are lots to enjoy
And romances, when you don't need a boy
And there's book groups, dyke books are great to
review

Lots of parties, picnics, meals too

Easter, there's L40 for you

I said, old dyke, there are workshops to do
You can play cards, share a story or two
Relax, then you'll feel good as new

It's fun to be an old d-y-k-e.

It's fun to be an old d-y-k-e.

Plenty to do, lots of women to meet
Lovely lezzies that you can't beat

It's fun to be an old d-y-k-e.

It's fun to be an old d-y-k-e.

Old dyke, old dyke, there's no need to feel down
Old dyke, old dyke, pick yourself off the ground
d-y-k-e.

It's fun to be an old d-y-k-e.

Old dyke, old dyke, just get down off the shelf
Old dyke, old dyke, you can just be yourself

Valentine *by Carol Ann Duffy*

Not a red rose or a satin heart.

I give you an onion.

It is a moon wrapped in brown paper.

It promises light

like the careful undressing of love.

Here.

It will blind you with tears

like a lover.

It will make your reflection

a wobbling photo of grief.

I am trying to be truthful.

Not a cute card or a kissogram.

I give you an onion.

Its fierce kiss will stay on your lips,

possessive and faithful

as we are,

for as long as we are.

Take it.

Its platinum loops shrink to a wedding-ring,

if you like.

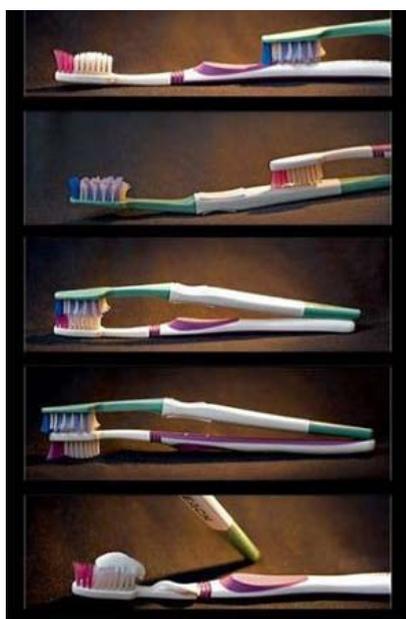
Lethal.

Its scent will cling to your fingers,

cling to your knife.

Poet laureate

Carol Ann Duffy, a 55-year-old Glaswegian lesbian, has become the first female laureate, attracting national attention and disturbing the peace of what a succession of commentators described as "the male-dominated world of poetry"



Same sex legislation update

The Rudd Government has coughed up \$450,000 ahead of next week's federal budget as part of measures to "ease the impact" of the recent same-sex equality reforms. However, the grandfather clause, our preferred option, has been rejected.

None of the money will go to the same-sex couples who will lose some or all Centrelink benefits from 1 July.

The National LGBT Health Alliance will receive \$350,000 to run a national education

campaign to inform the community about the reforms and their impact. A further \$100,000 will go to the Welfare Rights Network to advocate on behalf of same-sex couples affected by the changes.

For analysis and comment, go to www.starobserver.com.au/news/2009/05/05/rudds-equality-buy-off/12992

Comment from Lavender - *It is important that we do not cease to make our voices heard; write letters, visit your MP.*

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