



# Ten Forty Matrix Newsletter

May 2013

[www.olderdykes.org](http://www.olderdykes.org)

## Dinner and Discussion

**6pm Saturday 1 June**

### Indian Head Massage

A practical session, conducted by Frances, where participants will have the opportunity to give and receive a massage.

Indian head massage has many benefits including:

- increased blood circulation to the head, neck and shoulders
- reduced mental fatigue and improved concentration
- the break down of fibrositic nodules, commonly known as 'knots'
- less stiffness in the neck and shoulder muscles
- increased lymphatic flow
- relief of tension headaches,

and much much more...

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 13 June 2013**

### Satasia

300 Darling Street Balmain

BYO and licensed

Please email

[contact@olderdykes.org](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org) by  
Sunday 9 June

## JJ's Social Dance for Women

**Saturday 25 May 2013**

**From 7.30pm**

Marrickville Tennis Club  
Henson Park, Centennial St,  
Marrickville

\$20 pp at the door and includes light refreshments and a short floorshow.

If you would like to be on a table with other 10/40 women please email [contact@olderdykes.org](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org) by Friday 17 May.

## Social Activity

**Sunday 7 July 2013**

### Skirting Sydney - Historical Walking Tour

**10.30 in the CBD (to be advised)**

Discover some of the lesser known city spaces promoting women's causes and abilities. Discover who the women were, where they were, and how they influenced public opinion and government.

We will be walking from Circular Quay and through the city so please wear comfortable walking shoes. If it's a sunny day we will lunch in Hyde Park - if it's raining or cold, there are plenty of places to eat in the city.

For more details and to register your interest please email [contact@olderdykes.org](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org)

### Who can organise Dykes for Dinner for July and August?

Please email [contact@olderdykes.org](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org) with details as soon as possible.

## What does 'family' mean to us?

Rebecca Jenkins was guest speaker at the Dinner and Discussion evening on 6 April which was attended by around 25 women.

Rebecca completed her PhD in England and published two books: *Tomboys and Bachelor Girls: A lesbian history of post war Britain 1945-1971* and *A Lesbian History of Britain: Love and sex for lesbians since 1500*.

A lecturer/researcher at Macquarie University Rebecca is half way through her research into lesbian views of family. She is interested in lesbian culture and parenting practices since 1945 and any differences over time. She has conducted 50 oral life histories so far. Interviewees were asked what they fantasised as a perfect relationship, how those expectations changed over time, and how finances were managed. Rebecca acknowledged that the results might look very different by the time the research is completed but spoke of the trends noted so far.

Lesbians in relationships in the 1940s to the 1960s experienced more family pressures and were more likely to marry a man.

Today, lesbians in their thirties are having longer relationships than lesbians in the 1960s had at the same age. Lesbians under thirty now expect to live together in long term relationships and have children.

Older lesbians value financial independence and women influenced by 1970s feminism

have more significant periods of being single. Lesbians in all age groups supported marriage equality but did not generally wish to be married.

Interviewees generally deflected questions about romance. Those of all ages said that there is no relationship without sex but that it is less important over time. Couples in their 20s and 30s reported not much, if any, sexual contact for about four years after conception.

In the 1980s in Australia lesbians had help from known men friends to become pregnant. Now middle class lesbians use IVF and those with less money have children from previous male partners and one night stands. Both co-mothers now expect to be called 'mother' and not to lose contact with children due to separation. IVF couples generally have a conventional family style with the birth mother staying at home and the other mother being the earner.

As always it was fascinating to have our lives reflected back and all were keen to hear more of Rebecca's research over time.

Cheryl

## Shulamith Firestone 1945 – 2012

Shulamith Firestone was a Canadian-born feminist. She was a central figure in the early development of radical feminism, having been a founding member of the New York Radical Women, Redstockings, and New York Radical Feminists.

Firestone's best-known work is her 1970 book *The Dialectic of Sex: The Case for Feminist Revolution*, written when she was 25. In it, she says that our culture of sex discrimination can be traced back to the biological structure of life itself. She claimed that advanced reproductive technology could liberate women from "barbaric" pregnancy and painful childbirth. By eliminating this fundamental difference between the sexes, sex discrimination could be eliminated.

Quotes from *The Dialectic of Sex: The Case for Feminist Revolution*

"...love ... becomes complicated, corrupted or obstructed by an unequal balance of power."

"'Emancipated' women found out that the honesty, generosity, and camaraderie of men was a lie."

"To be worshiped is not freedom."



Shulamith Firestone

## Same sex latin and ballroom social dancing



Solo or partnered – all are welcome

### Venue: Dance Planet

72 Wyndham Street  
Alexandria 2015

Close to Redfern railway station

Onstreet parking

\$15 a session includes;  
light refreshments

1hr coaching by a professional dance teacher

**6-8pm**

**19 May & 16 June**

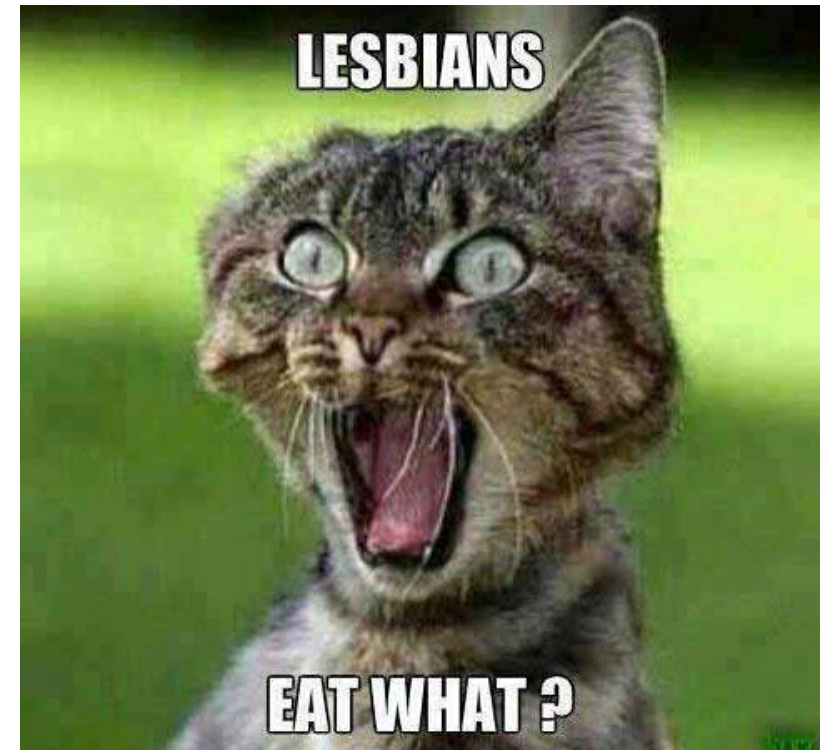
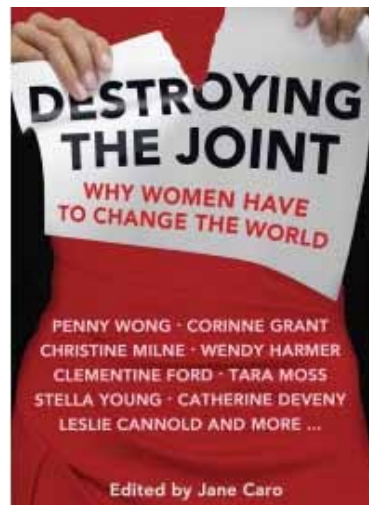
All enquiries email:

[sundaydanceclub@gmail.com](mailto:sundaydanceclub@gmail.com)

## Destroying the Joint: Why Women Have to Change the World

Women are reaching that critical 30% threshold of representation in politics and media — which is terrifying for the likes of Alan Jones, writes ethicist, researcher, writer and commentator Leslie Cannold in the book *Destroying the Joint: Why Women Have to Change the World*.

Edited by Jane Caro, this entertaining and thought-provoking collection by women ready to destroy the joint is available for \$29.95 from a bookshop near you.



## GLBTIQ Forum

**Wednesday 15 May 2013**

5.00 - 9.00pm

160-164 Livingstone Road,  
Marrickville

Marrickville Council is hosting a forum to consult with the gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender, intersex and

questioning communities to assist in planning relevant and responsive programs and services over the next 12 months.

RSVP: By 10 May 2013  
phone (02) 9335 2143 or email  
[clcm1@marrickville.nsw.gov.au](mailto:clcm1@marrickville.nsw.gov.au)

### Ads to make you smile

Dinner Special: Turkey \$2.35; Beef \$2.25; Children \$2.00

We do not tear your clothing with machinery. We do it carefully by hand.

## Growing Old Disgracefully

**Mondays 10.30am-12.30pm**

**May 13 to May 27, 2013 (3 weeks)**

\$30/\$15 Payment is required on booking.

A group for women who want to explore the challenges and opportunities of ageing.

Light refreshments provided.

Leichhardt Women's Community Health Centre, 55 Thornley St, Leichhardt 9560 3011.

## Margaret Thatcher – homophobe extraordinaire



She may have been the UK's first female prime minister but her funeral was the biggest parade of scary old white males seen in a long time.

Tributes to Margaret Thatcher poured in but surprise, surprise, her aggressive homophobia was largely ignored.

In 1967 homosexuality was legalized in the UK. In 1972 Thatcher imposed an anti-gay amendment to the law called Section 28. The amendment advocated censorship – preventing local councils and schools from discussing homosexuality or engaging in anti-bullying activities – and sneered at “pretended family relationships”.

Thatcher made it very clear where she stood: “Children who need to be taught to respect traditional moral values are being taught that they have an inalienable right to be gay. All of those children are being cheated of a sound start in life – yes, cheated.”

A number of support groups for lesbian, gay and bisexual student in schools and colleges across Britain were closed due to fears that they were breaching the Act. Arrests and convictions for consenting same-sex behaviour rocketed, as did queer bashings and murders.

Section 28 remained on the statute book until Labour eventually repealed it in 2003. In the House of Lords Baroness Thatcher continued to vehemently oppose repeal of the Act until her retirement in 2002.

## Community Singing

The Sydney Gay and Lesbian Choir invites you to attend free community singing workshops at Millers Point and Redfern.

Even if you've never sung in public before, SGLC Music Director Dr Sarah Penicka-Smith will teach some basic tips to get the best out of your voice.

During the workshops you will also learn two songs which you will have the opportunity to perform with Sydney Gay & Lesbian Choir at the Broadway Baby concert at Sydney Town Hall on 2 June.

For further details go to [www.sglc.org](http://www.sglc.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.

Ten years ago we established the website [www.olderdykes.org](http://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](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org) and ask to be put on our mailing list.

## Newsletter

To receive a free emailed newsletter, please email [contact@olderdykes.org](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org)

The web edition and back copies of the newsletter are available for download from our website [www.olderdykes.org](http://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](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org)