



# Ten Forty Matrix Newsletter

May 2014

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

## Dinner and Discussion

**6pm Saturday 7 June 2014**

**Lesbian Sex after 40**

Where does sex fit into our lives as we get older? Does it happen? Why? Why not? Have our ideas about sex changed since we were 20? Do we want the same things now? Are there negative or positive expectations around sex and ageing? Do we still live a sensual life? So many questions, so many women!

Mel will begin the evening with a short presentation on sex, sexuality, sensuality and love in the latter half of our lives. We will then break into smaller groups for 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

**La Botte D'oro**

**6.30pm**

**Thursday 8 May 2014**

137 Marion Street, Leichhardt  
Licenced and BYO (\$4 bottle corkage)  
Please email

[contact@olderdykes.org](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org) by Sunday 4 May

**Marina Lunga**

**6.30pm**

**Thursday 12 June 2014**

367 Darling Street, Balmain (opp. Post Office)  
Licenced and BYO (\$2pp corkage)  
Please email

[contact@olderdykes.org](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org) by Sunday 8 June

## The Imogens – 2014

Exhibition and prize giving will be held at  
**2.00 to 5.00 pm**  
**Saturday 26 July**

Mervyn Fletcher Hall, 81 Dalhousie Street (cnr Dixon St), Haberfield

The competition closes 5pm on Thursday 10 July 2014

There are two categories –

- Wild things
- Interactions

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**

Entry is free. Take a look at a few of the entries to the competition here [www.olderdykes.org/gallery/interaction.html](http://www.olderdykes.org/gallery/interaction.html)

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](http://www.olderdykes.org) and emailed to everyone on our Contact list.



## Social Event

### Tour of Elizabeth Farm 70 Alice Street, Rosehill

**Saturday 31 May 2014**  
**Full price \$8 Concession \$4**

Elizabeth Farm is the oldest surviving house in Australia, and is now a museum. If you love Australian history, especially involving a strong woman who refused to conform to some of the 'acceptable' norms for her sex, this tour is for you!

Meet at the entrance for the 11 am tour. (Tours leave hourly between 11 am and 2 pm). Light lunches are available at the teahouse.

Please contact Viviane on 9559 2025 or 0416 273 374 if you would like to come. If it looks like rain, please phone to find out what's happening.

### Transport

*Train:* From Harris Park station it's a 15-minute walk to Elizabeth Farm; from Rosehill station it's an 8-minute walk and from Parramatta station it's a 25-minute walk.

*Bus:* Get the Veolia bus 909 at Parramatta train station and get off on the corner of Alice and Alfred streets. Elizabeth Farm is a few minutes walk.

*Ferry:* Take the Parramatta River ferry to Parramatta Wharf, from where it's a 20-minute walk to Elizabeth Farm.

For up-to-date timetables or to find the quickest public transport routes to Elizabeth

Farm visit the Transport Infoline or call 131500.

## Aged Care

### Report of the April 10/40 Dinner and Discussion night

#### Guest speaker, Pat Joyce from The Aged-Care Rights Service (TARS) advocacy service.

Our April meeting in Haberfield on the topic of aged care was well attended and very informative. Even those of us who thought we had a handle on the system through having already had to negotiate it for parents, relatives or ourselves came away with a better understanding of our rights and new insights.

Pat Joyce is a trained nurse now working for TARS, The Aged-Care Rights Service Inc. TARS provides advocacy, legal, education and promotion services for those in, or needing, aged care, and celebrates being LGBT inclusive. It can advocate for consumers (and their carers) who use government-subsidised residential or community aged care. For example, it can help you to understand and defend your rights as a resident of an aged care service. It provides legal advice and information through its Older Persons' Legal Service and Retirement Village Legal Advice Service. For example, it can advise you about your rights, how to avoid financial exploitation, plan for later life or deal with elder abuse. Or it can help you in negotiating a bond or to resolve a dispute with retirement village management. It also

provides education to health care workers and managers. For example, Pat and her team travel around NSW educating them about the rights and needs of lesbian consumers of aged care services. She pointed out that there are many aged care services that have received LGBT awards.

TARS services are available for people in residential aged care or receiving home services. Pat took us through their four steps of consumer directed care: home care or community care, low care, high care, and dementia or specific care. Anyone can access home care and community services and there is no income cut off point for these when we need them.

TARS also networks with other agencies. For example, it works with ACON to educate community groups and staff caring for members of the LGBT community. Other TARS projects involve collaboration with the Alzheimer's Association and NSW Midwives' Association.

Pat drew our attention to the Charter of Rights for Aged Care Residents which, she was proud to point out, was initially drawn up by TARS. The Charter is under the Aged Care Act 1997 which governs residential aged care services, management of them and the fees and charges for them, as well as residents' rights and responsibilities. The Charter explicitly states that people living in residential aged care have the right to exercise their personal, civil, legal and consumer rights; to appropriate care; to be treated with dignity and respect; to

make choices; to live in a safe and homelike environment, and to freely make a complaint.

A significant legal change under the current Aged Care Act is that the LGBT community is now considered a culture and therefore respected at law, providing specific rights to choices and to culturally appropriate care, personal preferences and the right to negotiate what we want and need. If necessary, TARS can also help us in negotiating these needs.

Pat emphasised the importance of drawing up an Advanced Care Directive and establishing a Power of Attorney. She also supported us in advocating for the needs of our friends and neighbours, as well as ourselves, our partners and family.

Pat was a well-informed and skilled speaker, able to respond effectively to all questions with relevant examples. It was an excellent opportunity for us to raise a number of more specific issues and enjoy some very informative discussions.

*Gillian & Viviane*

[www.tars.com.au/index.php/aged-care-advocacy](http://www.tars.com.au/index.php/aged-care-advocacy)

## Lesbian cemetery is a world-first

What may be Europe's first lesbian-only burial place has opened in a forested Christian Lutheran graveyard in the German capital, Berlin.

The final resting place will give gay women a place to share in the afterlife, said Astrid



Osterland of Safia, an association primarily for elderly lesbians.

The burial ground is part of the 200-year-old Georgen Parochial cemetery in Prenzlauer Berg, a district in the east of the once-divided city near Alexanderplatz square.

"The idea emerged four years ago in the lesbian group Safia, whose members, advancing in age, asked themselves where they want to be buried," said Ms Osterland, 69.

"We wanted to stay together, to be close to those with whom we lived, we loved, we worked, we fought," she told AFP, adding that she has already reserved a burial plot for herself.

The 400-square-metre section of the cemetery, newly landscaped with a winding sand path, has space for 80 bodies or urns containing cremated ashes.

"We had surveyed several cemeteries, but we decided on this one because we knew it and we knew it was beautiful," Ms Osterland said about the project, financed by the women's housing association Sappho.

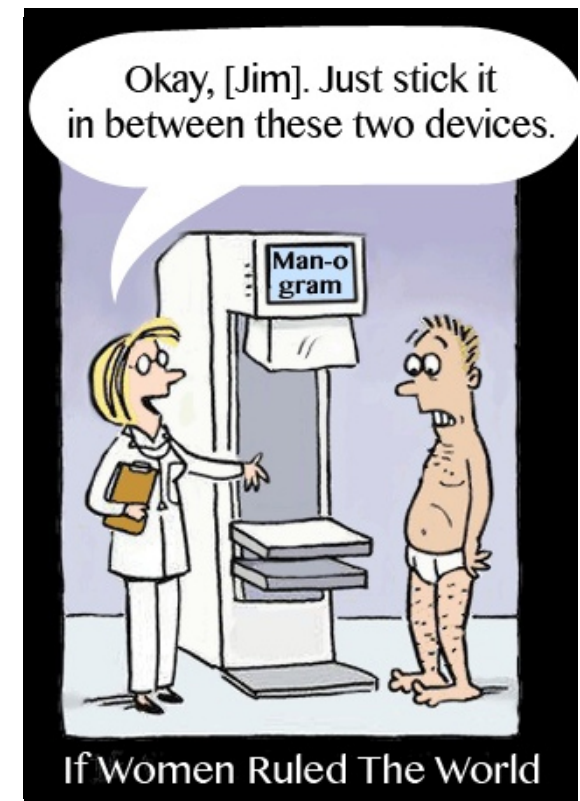
Ms Osterland granted that "this idea may seem exotic" but stressed that "it is not a fight against men".

"There will be no barrier to demarcate it and all those who want to come and honour the dead with respect are welcome," she said.

Safia in a congratulatory message on Sunday hailed the opening of "what may be Europe's first lesbian cemetery" as a "historic" occasion - a term one speaker corrected to "her-storic".

"Now there's another reason for a journey to Berlin, even if it may be your last," the group added.

*SMH April 7, 2004*



## Update on Ten Forty Matrix Incorporated

At a meeting on Saturday 5 April amendments were made to the second draft of the Ten Forty Matrix Inc. constitution. Final agreement on the changes have been achieved and we are now pleased to announce that the new Association has a constitution crafted to suit our particular needs.

Our primary objective is “To promote the wellbeing of older women in NSW who identify as lesbian”. All assets and income of the Association will be used for this purpose.

Membership is open to women aged over 40 years who reside in NSW and identify as lesbian. Women who want to become a member must be nominated and seconded by two existing members. The annual membership fee is \$20 waged and \$10 unwaged. Following the meeting on 5 April there were 21 members of Ten Forty Matrix Inc.

The inaugural AGM of Ten Forty Matrix Inc. will be held at 4pm on 2 August 2014 at the Mervyn Fletcher Hall (prior to the 6pm Dinner and Discussion).

The AGM is open to all lesbians over 40. Under the constitution, women wishing to vote are required to be financial three months prior to the AGM, which means applications and payment must be received by 2 May 2014.

The purpose of the AGM is to elect a committee consisting of office-bearers

and ordinary committee members, receive a financial report, and discuss future directions.

A reminder...there are now two membership categories for Ten Forty Matrix: the Contact mailing list (free) and the Incorporated Association membership list, (which involves a membership fee).

Ten Forty Matrix events are open to all lesbians over 40. There is no obligation to go on the Contact mailing list or become a member if you want to attend an event.

## Volunteer Position Vacant

The Websisters group, who manage the [www.olderdykes.org](http://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](mailto: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.

## Contribute to the newsletter

If you would like to contribute to the newsletter please email your contribution to [contact@olderdykes.org](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org) by the following dates: **June 8, August 10, October 19**

## 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.

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

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## 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)

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## Who currently does what?

Events planning: Diann, Gillian, Krystyna, Vivianne, Rob, Wendy, Bronwyn

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 contact Jan on 9810 5130 or email [contact@olderdykes.org](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org)