



Ten Forty Newsletter

May 2015

www.olderdykes.org

Dinner and Discussion

6pm Saturday 6 June 2015

Depression and Gender

Presenter: Helen, psychologist and researcher.

Why do twice as many women than men get depressed? To make this relevant we have to include the politics of it. How many of us growing up were taught to be good little girls - to be seen and not heard?

What happens when we also learn that society prefers women to NOT be seen as well as NOT be heard; to have no agency at all?

It's enough to make you sick or become depressed. Come along and contribute to the discussion...

Helen has been investigating and writing about women and depression since 1995. In recent years she completed post-doctoral studies to validate a measure of risk for depression called the SHIFT-Depression® Inventory – now available online at www.shiftdepression.com.au/test.php.

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 11 June 2015

Marina Lunga

367 Darling Street Balmain

Please email

contact@olderdykes.org

by Sunday 7 June

6.30pm Thursday 9 July 2015

Daytao Thai

207 Lyons Road Drummoyne

Please email

contact@olderdykes.org

by Sunday 5 July

Social Activity

2pm - 4pm Saturday 23 May 2015

Barefoot Bowling

Petersham Bowling Club (PBC)
77 Brighton Street Petersham

The PBC is a friendly and vibrant poker machine-free community club with a strong commitment to environmental sustainability.

Come and enjoy a game of barefoot bowls with a great bunch of gals! Just \$10.

Email

contact@olderdykes.org

Workshop Alert !

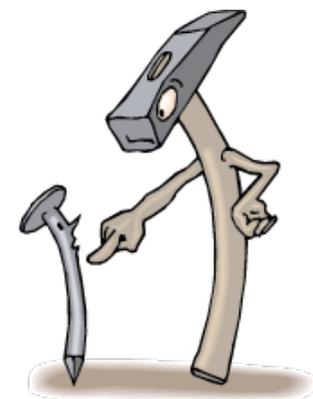
12.30pm, Sunday 14 June

St Peters

Basic Tool Use & Building Techniques. A bit of instruction from a “skilled amateur” combined with some hands-on work on a building project.

Email

contact@olderdykes.org



A Berry Fun Weekend

Members of Ten Forty Matrix Inc. are invited to a weekend of fun, frolic and fantasy at the Berry Sport and Recreation Centre from 5pm Friday 9 Oct to 10am Monday 12 Oct 2015.

The weekend is being subsidised with money from the Julie Hacker bequest.

This means you pay only \$100 for the entire weekend!

For \$100 we get comfortable accommodation, full catering with attention to special dietary needs and a wide range of recreational activities including a tennis court, swimming pool, archery, canoeing and kayaking.

For those interested in less physical pursuits there will be stimulating indoor activities such as Scrabble, Mah-Jong, Pictionary and a range of card games.

And ... drum roll ... at night women with musical, skits, poetry or story-telling talents will share their flair for entertaining. And of course there will be dancing!

To attend the Berry Fun Weekend you must be a paid-up member of Ten Forty Matrix Inc.

The cost of annual membership is \$10 concession or \$20 waged.

For existing members

Your 2015 membership fees are due on 30 June. They can be paid by cheque, money order or direct debit to Ten Forty Matrix Inc. BSB 062 148 Account Number 10526147. Don't forget to include your name on the transfer!

For new members:

To become a member of Ten Forty Matrix Inc. please ask for a membership form at the next Ten Forty Dinner and Discussion night on Saturday 6 June, or at Dykes for Dinner on 11 June, or email contact@olderdykes.org for a membership form.

If you need more information about a new membership please email contact@olderdykes.org.

For general information about the weekend contact Jan at berryfunweekend@gmail.com.



Set on 62 hectares of rolling hills and lush green pastureland, the Berry Sport and Recreational Centre offers an idyllic weekend getaway just two hours south of Sydney.

The Centre is minutes from the railway station. It has four dormitory areas, each with shared bathrooms, a TV and a fridge. There are also a few rooms with ensuites that will be allocated to women with disabilities. Numbers are being kept low so that everyone can sleep on a lower bunk bed!

For more information about the Centre download their Information Booklet https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_VUOdwhON3PY1VqQUh2dU5zZm8/view?usp=sharing.

Registration forms (along with more information) will be emailed to financial members from 30 June and must be returned no later than 1st September.

Ten Forty Art Deco Quiz

Are you a woman who likes Art Deco and who likes quizzes?

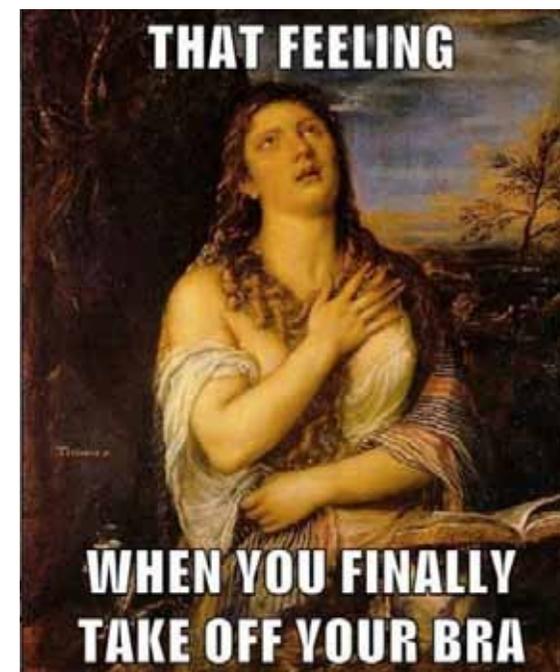
Janne has taken 24 photos of buildings and interiors around Sydney's CBD. Can you identify them? This is a fun quiz with prizes to be won.

Walk around with a friend, have a coffee and do the quiz.

Click the link below and when the weather fines up, start walking.

www.olderdykes.org/about_us/artdeco1.html

Entries close on 30 June 2015.



Women and the Peace Movement

The recent bi-monthly dinner and discussion meeting of Ten Forty was a particularly interesting one. We were lucky to have a wonderful guest speaker, Miranda, who took us back to an extraordinary moment in history with stories of her own engagement.

With the centenary of the Gallipoli Landing dominating the national cultural landscape we felt it important to remind ourselves that this is once again a major history which sidelines women and leaves our lives outside the construction of significant events.

It seemed appropriate to turn our attention towards women and to the peace movement and the significance of that movement in all our lives, whether or not we were active participants.

Miranda joined in with the World Bike Ride for Peace Disarmament and a Nuclear Free Future, which left Canberra on International Women's Day in 1982, and rode to Sydney, then up the coast of NSW and Queensland to Townsville, turned west there toward the centre of Australia, eventually reaching Darwin. This was mixed ride with people ranging in age from 11 years upwards. There was generally a core of about 30 people at any time, some who went from Canberra to Darwin, and others who joined and rode for a part of the way. The group was not affiliated with any organisation or party, but

Friends of the Earth were a large support in the instigation of the ride. The bike riders carried an Aboriginal message stick given to them by an elder of the Yuin Tribe as they set out from Canberra. As time went on they came to think of themselves as a tribe - "The Woobora". As they travelled they met with peace and environmental groups along the way, and protested at uranium mines.

Having reached Darwin, some of the riders flew to Singapore, rode through Malaysia to Bangkok, flew to Japan and continued the World Bike Ride there, again meeting with peace and anti-nuclear groups, and demonstrating at some of the Japanese nuclear reactors, including Fukushima, many of which are fed by Australian uranium.

Some of the riders regrouped in Europe, where Miranda met some of the Greenham women at a women's action in Geneva. She then went to England, wanting to stop for a while after covering some 14,000 kilometres on a bike. In England she looked for something like women's lands, and not finding something along those lines she ended up taking herself to Greenham Common and setting up camp.

Greenham Common had been taken over as a military base in World War II. Later, rather than the common land being given back to the community as the locals had expected, the British granted the US request that the area be used by the Americans as a base for heavy bombers. In the 1950s a massive 3048m runway was built making it

the longest military runway in the Europe. In the early 1980s Greenham Common came to be used as a base for the US Army's Cruise missiles to counter the Soviet missile threat. These were (at the time) "small" missiles with nuclear warheads, each with the power of 16 Hiroshima bombs, that came equipped with mobile launchers so they could be taken out from the base and launched from around the countryside.



In 1981 a group of women called 'Women for Life on Earth' marched from Wales with a letter for the Base Commander calling for a debate and challenging the decision to house Cruise missiles on the site. When their request was refused the women set up camp at one of the gates outside the fence surrounding the base. Early on it was decided that the camp would be women only. As more

and more women joined them, camps were established at each of the 7 gates of the base, one for each colour of the rainbow. The camp came to be known as the Greenham Common Women's Peace Camp. This was a non-violent and non-aligned protest that could not be ignored by national and international politics through the 1980s and 1990s. The camp and the protest was to last for 19 years.

Eventually, the Intermediate Nuclear Forces Treaty of 1987 was signed by the USA and the USSR. One of the premises on which the camp was founded was acknowledged in the treaty where it recognised that "...nuclear weapons would have devastating effects for all mankind". Under one part of the treaty the missiles and US personnel were removed from Greenham back to the USA. The women's camp remained however until 2000 as a continuing protest against the war and the arms industry.

Miranda spoke to us of her time spent there between 1983 to 1985, camping at Orange Gate in primitive conditions and through all kinds of weather and seasons. She told us how the women organised themselves with imagination, inventiveness, joy, wicked humour and music, to deal with life with without electricity, telephone, running water, with soldiers as a constant presence, evictions and vigilante attacks, often angry locals, and freezing English weather, court cases and prison sentences for trespass, & "breaching the peace". Especially interesting was how all this was done without leadership

or hierarchies, how women learned to operate at co-operative grass roots levels where decisions and actions were taken by individuals to create such a strong and enduring community protest, where actions were organised by word of mouth and newsletters.

While larger groups of women came together in prominent protests to blockade the gates, or to surround the entire perimeter of the base, smaller groups performed regular incursions challenging security. They cut the fence, entered the compound, danced on the silos, and some even set up camp inside the fence. Along with these stories Miranda emphasised the powerful sense of community and learning opportunities that came with living amongst such a diverse group of women. Any one who spent time at Greenham had their life changed forever.

In the vibrant discussions that followed Miranda's talk there was a definite yearning for more of this kind of active community debate and interaction amongst women.

Gillian & Miranda

Another voice for older lesbians...

<http://www.oloc.org>

Old Lesbians Organizing for Change (USA)

Journey Into My Underworld

My newly released book has been published by Long Breast Press in Melbourne, a lesbian not for profit publishing collective.

Title of book: *Journey Into My Underworld.: An autobiography of a lesbian journey.*

Author: Jo Alexander (aka Margo van der Voort)

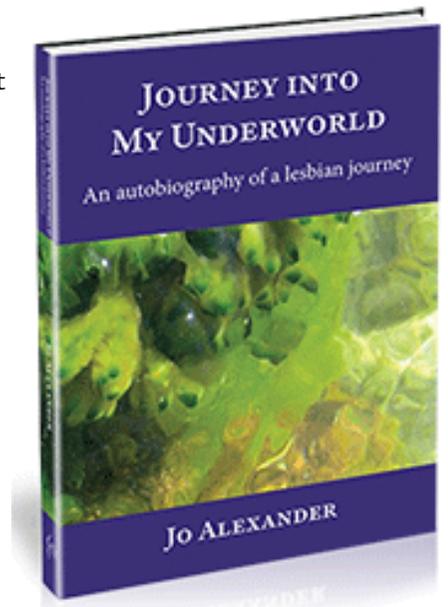
The late 1960s and early 1970s were times of great societal and political change in Western Europe, but in particular in progressive Holland (The Netherlands).

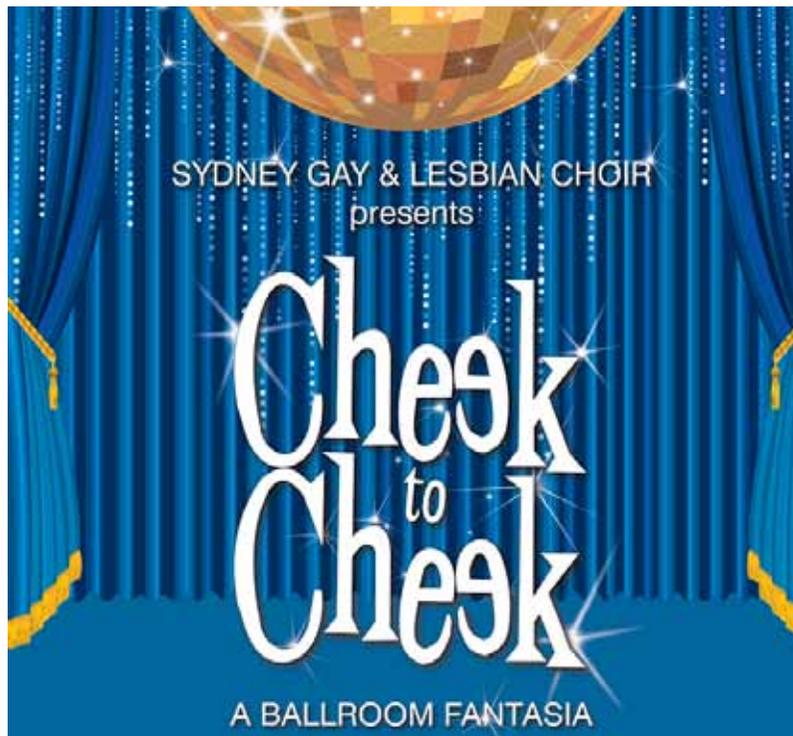
In this book, Jo takes you into her personal experiences of those times while the sexual, political and religious revolutions were raging around her.

Her journey into her sexual identity was not an easy one; lesbianism was invisible, homo- and lesbo-phobia was everywhere, and religious Roman Catholic repression was rigid and fearsome.

Jo writes about joy and liberation and of her love for women in general. Claiming her lesbian identity was a peak experience in more ways than one.

Copies of the book can be ordered by contacting Margo van der Voort via email: baubina55@gmail.com





CHEEK TO CHEEK

Saturday 20 June, 3pm and 8pm & Sunday 21 June, 2pm

The Roundhouse, UNSW, Anzac Parade Kensington

Prices: Full \$49, Concession \$44

Sydney Gay & Lesbian Choir, Sydney's vibrant same-sex ballroom dance community and some of our city's brightest music theatre stars present a dazzling song and dance spectacular. Cheek to cheek is a queer Cinderella tale with a message that anyone can go to the ball.

This glittering, funny, toe-tapping show is packed with dance music classics from across the decades, from Irving Berlin to Donna Summer.

Book tickets at

www.eventopia.co/profile/UNSW-Roundhouse/1820631

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

Who currently does what?

Events planning: Diann, Gillian, Krystyna, Bronwyn, Mel

Contact listing in LOTL: Jan

Utilities box: Sylvia and Gillian

Money Management: Cheryl

Websisters: Jan, Ruth, Dorothy, Diann, Margot, Sandy

Newsletter: editing and layout Ruth and Dorothy