

Newsletter

September 2011

Dinner and discussion

Saturday 8 October

6.00 pm

Come dance the night away!

And just for fun come as your favourite dykon: think Judy Garland, Greta Garbo, Katherine Hepburn, k.d. lang, Martina, Dusty, Radclyffe or any other lesbian icon who takes your fancy. Or just come to dance ... or even just to chat.

Mervyn Fletcher Hall, 81 Dalhousie Street, Haberfield
BYO food to share and your

own drinks.

Entry fee: \$10 fully waged, \$5 concession.

Entry to the hall is on Dixon Street around the corner. There is unrestricted parking on Dixon St after 6pm.

By bus, catch the 436 or 438 buses which set down on the corner of Ramsay Road and Dalhousie Street. It takes less than half an hour from Central then a 2 minute walk from the bus stop to the hall.

Dykes for Dinner

Thursday 8 September 2011

6.30pm

Banana Palm

260 Arden Street Coogee

Vietnamese

Mains: \$15-\$25

BYO

RSVP by Sunday 4 September via email to

contact@olderdykes.org

Thursday 13 October 2011

6.30pm

Marina Lunga

367 Darling Street Balmain

Italian

Mains: \$15-\$25

BYO

RSVP by Sunday 9 October via email to

contact@olderdykes.org

Thursday 10 November

6.30pm

Hotel Saravana Bhavan

15 The Strand Croydon.

Indian

Main \$7 - \$17

BYO

RSVP by Sunday 6 November via email to

contact@olderdykes.org

Women's Dance

Black & White Dinner Dance

Saturday 10 September

7pm

Petersham RSL.

\$70 includes a three course sit-down dinner, drink on arrival, tea and coffee. Contact Sylvia before 1 September with your full name via email:

contact@olderdykes.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 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.

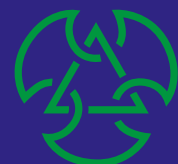
Newsletter subscription

The annual subscription for a hard copy of our bi-monthly newsletter is \$10 and \$5 concession 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.



Ten Forty does it again...

Our pre-Opera House Concert dinner and dance was a lovely success. About 70 women turned up – women from all over Australia. We ate well, talked heaps and danced for hours.

The small but experienced 10/40 team were delighted over how well the evening flowed. Special thanks to Judi for sorting out the key, Sylvia and Wendy for bringing the boxes, Ruth and Dorothy for putting together some very danceable music, and Judy for bringing a celebratory chocolate cake from the Mountains. And a special thanks to the guests for being such a friendly, high spirited lot.

Our new venue at the Mervyn Fletcher Hall turned out to be tops - just the right size, well placed to minimise the noise problem for neighbours, and a flexible space.

Jan

Hello 10/40 Matrix lezziez

As one of those out-of-towners who went to the Saturday night dinner and dance I want to thank you for a great night out. It was so great to see old friends and to meet some lezz hitherto unknown. The conviviality, dancing, food and all was terrific and much appreciated.

Then to top it off was Sunday night at the Opera House - fantastic! Another great gathering of lezzsisters – some I'd not seen for 20 years.

My special thanks to Wendy & Sylvia for hospitality, lifts, laughs and other things that made my Sydney stay so good.

Lesbianly, Lavender



A Night to Remember

Twenty years after the first Lesbian Concert in the Opera House, we did it again. Many of the original artists – Judy Small, Deborah Cheetham, Anique, Kath and Ini, plus the Jive with Jeanette dancers – performed to a wildly enthusiastic audience. A variety of musical styles and special community segments involving Bluehouse, Julie McCrossin, Shauna Jensen, Kerrienne Cox, Mignon, Gabe Journey MC and Maeve Marsden added more spice to the mix. Congratulations to all involved.



Photos by Diann



The Song/Singer that affected my life

Report: Ten Forty Matrix discussion August 2011

As always the evening started with eating and chatting. It was a small gathering but as always cheerful. Some background music set the scene for our theme of songs, music and singers that have affected our lives.

Sylvia provided an introductory overview. In the past lesbians claimed songs that were gender neutral and whose lyrics said something about their lives and social situations, even if this was not the intention of the singer or writers. Examples of these are 'Secret Love', sung by Doris Day, and Dusty Springfield's perennial 'I only want to be with you'. Later with the rise of the second wave feminists and radical lesbians we wrote our own songs and with companies like Olivia records were able to buy specifically lesbian records and listen to them.

During the evening women shared various stories of songs that have had an impact on them and some of us recalled songs and even had short sing-a-longs. Many of us recalled the days in the 1970s and 80s when there were many live bands (at one stage over 80) in Australia. Stray Dags, Foreign Body, The Ovarian Sisters and many more.

Not all of us had heard of lesbian music in our youth, but were influenced by other genres. Classical music written by women, or classical musicians who had overcome a male dominated field also offered inspiration.

Some of the lesbian singers of early years are still around and making music: Alix Dobkin, Chris Williamson, Janis Ian, Joan Armatrading and many more. The Feminist Bookshop sells many of the less available music should you wish to hear it.

Over all it was agreed that music is an important part in forming our identity. We read into lyrics what we want and take from music the meaning we need.

Sylvia

Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service

The volunteer-based Gay and Lesbian Counselling Service of NSW provides telephone counselling, information and referral services and support groups for lesbians, gay men, bisexual and transgender persons on sexuality and life issues. All services are free, anonymous and confidential. Volunteers provide telephone counselling every evening

and face-to-face support groups.

The Women's Coming Out Group is a safe and friendly place to meet and gain support from other women while coming to terms with your sexual identity or, if you already identify as lesbian, a place to meet and socialise in a non-threatening situation.

It meets fortnightly at the Women's Library.

Phone 02 8594 9500 for more information.

How To Be a Woman

by Caitlin Moran (2011)

Edited extract from a review in *The Independent* 3 July 2011

When only 25 to 30 per cent of women identify themselves as feminists, and girls aspire to being glamour models and footballers' wives, Moran's book comes not a moment too soon.

"Feminism ... has ground to a halt ... and no one is tackling £600 handbags, tiny pants, Brazilians, stupid hen nights or Katie Price (the 'celebrity' who posed topless for a tabloid newspaper). And they have to be tackled ... rugby-style, face down in the mud, with lots of shouting."

How To Be a Woman is rooted in the school of thought that "the personal is political". Moran writes about discovering masturbation, her breasts, and a lot about being the proud owner of a big, furry muff. She describes her three-day labour and a later abortion in horrible detail, so she seems in a position to hold forth about the joys of having children, and the liberation of not doing so. She speculates about over-eating as an addiction (what if more women hit the heroin while Keith Richards binged on pasta?), concluding that: "Over-eating is the addiction choice of carers, and that's why it's come to be regarded as the lowest-ranking of all the addictions."

Read an Australian review at www.dailytelegraph.com.au/lifestyle/sunday-magazine/is-feminism-over/story-e6frfo39-1226099971663

1943 Guide to Hiring Women

The following 'Eleven Tips on Getting More Efficiency Out of Women Employees' was written for male supervisors of women in the workforce during World War II.

There's no longer any question whether transit companies should hire women for jobs formerly held by men. The draft and manpower shortage has settled that point. The important things now are to select the most efficient women available and how to use them to the best advantage. Here are eleven helpful tips on the subject from Western Properties:

1. Pick young married women. They usually have more of a sense of responsibility than their unmarried sisters, they're less likely to be flirtatious, they need the work or they wouldn't be doing it, they still have the pep and interest to work hard and to deal with the public efficiently.
2. When you have to use older women, try to get ones who have worked outside the home at some time in their lives. Older women who have never contacted the public have a hard time adapting themselves and are inclined to be cantankerous and fussy. It's always well to impress upon older women the importance of friendliness and courtesy.
3. General experience indicates that "husky" girls - those who are just a little on the heavy side - are more even tempered and efficient than their underweight sisters.
4. Retain a physician to give each woman you hire a special physical examination - one covering female conditions. This step not only protects the property against the possibilities of lawsuit, but reveals whether the employee-to-be has any female weaknesses which would make her mentally or physically unfit for the job.

5. Stress at the outset the importance of time the fact that a minute or two lost here and there makes serious inroads on schedules. Until this point is gotten across, service is likely to be slowed up.

6. Give the female employee a definite day-long schedule of duties so that they'll keep busy without bothering the management for instructions every few minutes. Numerous properties say that women make excellent workers when they have their jobs cut out for them, but that they lack initiative in finding work themselves.

7. Whenever possible, let the inside employee change from one job to another at some time during the day. Women are inclined to be less nervous and happier with change.

8. Give every girl an adequate number of rest periods during the day. You have to make some allowances for feminine psychology. A girl has more confidence and is more efficient if she can keep her hair tidied, apply fresh lipstick and wash her hands several times a day.

9. Be tactful when issuing instructions or in making criticisms. Women are often sensitive; they can't shrug off harsh words the way men do. Never ridicule a woman - it breaks her spirit and cuts off her efficiency.

10. Be reasonably considerate about using strong language around women. Even though a girl's husband or father may swear vociferously, she'll grow to dislike a place of business where she hears too much of this.

11. Get enough size variety in operator's uniforms so that each girl can have a proper fit. This point can't be stressed too much in keeping women happy.

Ten Forty Matrix

Who currently does what?

Bookings, liaison, and general contact: Jan

Utilities box: Sylvia and Wendy

Money Management: Esther

Website management:

Jan, Ruth, Dorothy, Rob, Spider, Diann, Fiona

Newsletter: editing and layout
Ruth and Dorothy

Photocopying: Judi

Mail-out: Esther

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