



Ten Forty Newsletter

August 2016

www.olderdykes.org

Dinner and Discussion

6 pm Saturday 3 September 2016

Games Night

Organiser: Diann

Bring your Mahjong; playing cards, Scrabble, Upwords, Rummikub, or another board game that takes your fancy. Or just join in and share an evening of games.

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 August 2016

The West Village - formerly White Cockatoo Hotel

30 Terminus Street, Petersham

Please email

contact@olderdykes.org

Tuesday 9 August

6.30pm Thursday 8 September 2016

Thai Patong

294 King Street, Newtown

Please email

contact@olderdykes.org

by Tuesday 6 September

Time is running out for entering your photos!!!

The Imogens Photo competition closes at **5pm on Tuesday 30 August 2016.**

Entry is free.

There are two categories and you can enter one photograph in each:

Lesbians in the Frame

and

Wild Frame

First prize: \$400

Second prize: \$200

Third prize: \$150

People's choice award: \$100

Prizes will be awarded to winning entries

between 2 and 4pm on

Saturday 17 September

at Mervyn Fletcher Hall Haberfield.

All photographs will be on display and refreshments will be served.

Entry forms and terms and conditions plus information about size and acceptable formats are available from our website olderdykes.org

If you are uncertain about how to send your photo or how to size it correctly email imogen@olderdykes.org and Sandy or Ruth will walk you through it.

The Imogens competition is sponsored by Ten Forty Matrix Inc.

Two entries from our 2014 competition:



Tea Dance

Sunday 17 July

Although many members were enjoying warmer climates in the northern hemisphere or suffering winter ills in Sydney, 45 of us managed to brave the cold weather for an afternoon of dancing, food and entertainment at the Red Rattler.

With its plush red velvet curtains, mismatched second-hand couches, and low lights, the Red Rattler creates an intimate and friendly atmosphere reminiscent of a by-gone era.

Throughout the afternoon we savoured a selection of delicious finger foods, Pearlie's homemade fruitcakes, and ordered any drink we fancied from the bar.

Barb paid tribute to her long-time friend Julie Hacker, whose generous bequest in 2013 enabled Ten Forty Matrix Inc. to fully subsidise the Tea Dance for its members.

The cabaret group Lady Sings it Better entertained us with an hour of witty songs and skits. This gorgeous group of young women playfully poke fun at male pop-music lyrics, and sing songs about women that gladdened our feminist hearts.

And then we danced...to a wide selection of music sourced by Ruth. Those of us not quite up to dancing enjoyed watching!

To the Tea Dance planning committee who made it all happen – Jan, Dorothy, Pearlie and Barbara – and to the many helpers on the day, many thanks.



Memory ...

Meg and Pearlie facilitated the Ten Forty Memory discussion held on 9 July.

From Pearlie: NZ author Janet Frame reportedly endured 280 ECT (electroconvulsive therapy) treatments in State run mental hospitals. In the early 1970s my memory was affected for many months after 11 ECT treatments administered whilst I was a patient in a State run mental hospital. My motivation in the years that followed was to recover back what was lost and to limit the ongoing affects of that low period in my life. I approached this topic of memory with the intention of exploring what I have learned about memory, in specific and general terms. If we imagine our brain as an attic storing all our memories, we must accept that because of our imperfect human condition, we can never hope to have a full daylight view of that storage. Instead, it is as though, equipped only with a torch, we venture into that space knowing our view is limited by what we can highlight with that focused glow. This is particularly true when trying to recall past events.

Although memories can be prompted by something said or read or in any number of other ways, it is usually the indirect/sideways approach that sparks recall.

If you find yourself doing say, 24 things in a day and your brain can cope with say, 20 then it's likely that four things will drop off and

you won't have any control of how important or unimportant those four things are.

I once had six weeks of family visitors from overseas. It was a hectic time. Two days after they left, I set about teaching a four-day intensive Adult Education class. My memory of references and subject themes was poor and I scraped through my agenda knowing I had not performed well. What I learned from that experience was the importance of pacing myself, taking transition time; the resting space between one demanding activity and the next.

Camouflage. We know we hide our lapses from others but it is important, I feel, to talk with trusted friends about what is or isn't happening. And asking for help is an important skill to learn. Too many of us dykes value our independence so highly we fail to recognise we just might need a friendly ear to hold the dark at bay.

From Meg: I think of personal memory as a companion that has helped me hold together, or create, a sense of continuity of myself across time and space. Not necessarily a reliable companion but significant, even precious. Those lines of memory from earliest childhood, tracing some or all of the shifts and struggles and changes through time and place that constitute a sense of self, a sense of a life, my sense of my own life. Such stores of personal remembering have always had to be a more or less selective process. But the remembering is precious.

There are, of course, the uncertainties of memory as I get older and the challenges of forgetting. Words that don't immediately arrive on my lips as I need them, the unreliability of retrieval. Ways of camouflaging, of searching for another way to cover the same ground. And then acknowledgement of the gap...

Our discussion included many strategies for remembering. Perhaps we need a list?

Gay & Lesbian, Then and Now: Australian Stories from a Social Revolution

By Robert Reynolds and Shirleene Robinson
\$29.99 Penguin Books 2016

This collection of case studies charts the gay and lesbian experience in Australia from the "veterans" of the 1950s, to the Baby Boomers, Gen X and the Millennials.

The authors interviewed 60 subjects, whittling them down to 13, and the result is something of a social history.

We read about Merv doing the '50s homosexual beats in Brisbane, and Nola, whose disrupted childhood led to the army, lesbian relationships and, later, bass guitar in a band.

Tony, an Aboriginal growing up in Wagga, recalls the effect of watching Bohemian Rhapsody on Countdown; Liverpool-born Jennie, who saw the Quarrymen (aka the Beatles), describes landing in Western Australia and her first relationship, while

Joshua and Kate provide contemporary tales: all of them the individual stories behind the broader cultural shift.

Their stories reveal the legacy of homophobia, the personal struggles and triumphs involved in coming out, and the many different ways of being gay or lesbian in Australia.

The Babayagas' House

A feminist alternative to old people's homes and home care

It's been 15 years in the making but the Babayagas' House, a name taken from Slavic mythology meaning "witch", has just been inaugurated in Montreuil, on the east side of Paris.

"To live long is a good thing but to age well is better," says 85 year old Thérèse Clerc who dreamt up the project back in 1999.

The Babayagas House is a self-managed social housing project devised and run by a community of dynamic older women who want to keep their independence, but live communally.

There are 25 self-contained flats. 21 adapted for the elderly and four reserved for students. Residents pay an average of 420 euros for 35m².

The five-storey building is in the heart of Montreuil, just a stones throw from metro, shops and cinema. Being central was important.

Growing old well means keeping the grey matter going. So the house isn't just a place to live. The ground floor is reserved for activities and will house a university for senior citizens. Residents were selected partly in relation to what they could contribute to the "community" and the extent to which they shared the Babayaga philosophy. Many are active in the voluntary sector.

The project cost nearly 4 million euros (almost 6 million Australian dollars) and funding came from no less than eight different public sources, including Montreuil city council.

It was a difficult, long road, not least because getting funding for a project run by an association was genuinely innovative. Two similar projects are underway in Palaiseau and Bagneux, and other local authorities are interested in following Montreuil's example. After all, a quarter of France's population (17 million) are currently over the age of 60. By 2050 it'll be a third. The French will have to find solutions for the care of its growing elderly population.

Contributed by Anne Stevens from <http://en.rfi.fr/france/20130305-babayagas-house>

OWCH: Older Women's Co-Housing

The OWCH housing project is called 'New Ground' and is located in Barnet, North London.

Twenty-six women between 52-85 recently moved into the housing complex that they have designed and planned themselves. And it's a single-sex community – no men allowed!

Each woman has a self-contained home. Together they manage the estate and share activities.

There are one, two or three-bedroom flats, a communal garden, a community living room and kitchen and a guest flat for friends staying over – and pets are welcome.

Two-thirds of the flats are purchased on a long lease and a third are available for social housing.

<http://www.express.co.uk/life-style/life/641254/old-girls-allowed-first-kind-housing-development>



A Berry Fun Weekend

Subsidised by Ten forty Matrix Inc.

**5pm Friday 14 October to
10am Monday 17 October 2016**

Members of Ten Forty Matrix Inc. are invited to a long weekend of fun, frolic and fantasy at the Berry Sport and Recreation Centre, 66 Coolangatta Road, Berry NSW

The subsidised cost is \$100 for the entire weekend. To receive the subsidy you must be a financial member of Ten Forty Matrix Inc. (Membership for 2016 closed on 1 July 2016.)

However, non-financial members or women who live outside NSW can apply for a limited number of registrations at the full price of \$330.

Registration forms will be emailed to all financial members around 5 August. Non-members who would like to attend should email contact@olderdykes.org requesting a registration form.

Please return your registration form no later than Friday 2 September.

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

The Centre provides:

- comfortable accommodation
- full catering with attention to special dietary needs

- a wide range of recreational activities including tennis, swimming, 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.

At night women with a talent for music, skits, poetry and story-telling will share their flair for entertaining. And of course there will be dancing!

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.



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

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/about_us/newsletters.html

Who currently does what?

Events planning: Diann, Gillian, Krystyna and Bronwyn

Contact listing in LOTL: Jan

Utilities box: Sylvia and Gillian

Money Management: Esther

Websisters: Jan, Ruth, Dorothy, Diann, Sandy

Newsletter: editing and layout Ruth and Dorothy