



Ten Forty Newsletter

March 2015

www.olderdykes.org

Dinner and Discussion

6pm Saturday 11 April 2015

Transformation of Women's lives – What did lesbians do in World War II?

Speaker: Gillian

Lesbians and the Peace Movement

Speaker: Miranda



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.

Social Activities

Dykes for Dinner

There would normally be a dinner on Thursday 9 April, but because of the Easter holidays Janne is unable to organise one.

If anyone else would like to suggest a restaurant and coordinate attendance, please email Contact with details.

Hotel Saravan Bhavan

15 The Strand, Croydon

6.30pm

Thursday 12 May 2015

Please email

contact@olderdykes.org

by Sunday 8 May

Ideas welcome

If you have some ideas for social events and/or topics for our bi-monthly dinner and discussion evenings, please email

contact@olderdykes.org

Photography Walks 2015

Saturday 21 March

The March photo walk will be around the Opera House and The Rocks area. Meet on the Opera House steps at 9:30am.

Contact Diann to let her know you coming. Please email

contact@olderdykes.org



Another voice for older lesbians...

Matrix Guild of Vic Inc.

www.matrixguildvic.org.au/news/Feb2015-newsletter.pdf

Never give up

Many feminists today complain of burnout and fatigue over problems that seem to stretch ahead intractably. The suffragettes must have felt the same at times.

Histories often focus on the last 20 years or so of the struggle, but women fought for the vote for more than a century, with Mary Wollstonecraft helping to kick off the campaign in 1792, in *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, with a reference to the need for women's political representation. Forty years later, in 1832, the first petition for the women's vote was presented to the Commons, and over the course of the next century campaigners kept up the pressure – reinventing and re-energising their fight, and passing the baton from woman to woman. They were finally granted the vote on the same terms as men in 1928.

Extract from: *Nine inspiring lessons the suffragettes can teach feminists today.*

www.theguardian.com

Lesbian books

Dyke Books Inc is a not-for-profit, lesbian feminist publishing venture located in Melbourne. It was established in 2008 to publish books by, for and about Lesbians.

The website also includes Web Stories which can be read online or saved to a file.

www.dykebooks.com

UnitingCare Ageing and lesbian-specific needs

While I applaud UnitingCare for recognising that social justice requires moving out of the strictures of heterosexist mindsets, I am hoping that they and other aged care organisations/service providers will soon have more definitive outcomes and that they will continue to consult and inform the lesbian community about our identification of lesbian-specific needs.

Following the former Australian Government's lead, the Department of Health and Ageing published the *National Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI), Ageing and Aged Care Strategy (2012)*.

UnitingCare Ageing has taken an interest in LGBTI since at least 2012 with the temporary employment of an LGBTI policy officer, but the position has since disappeared.

Its 2014 document *UnitingCare Ageing develops LGBTI Aged Care Strategy* merely refers to: Strategic Direction 1 - Affordable and accessible within the communities that we serve. We will grow and develop affordable and accessible services for the broader community, and enhance our capacity to meet the specific requirements of Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (sic), homeless, Aboriginal, and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) people.

This document also claims credibility through membership of diversity groups

and training staff re LGBTI. I looked for more information by searching LGBTI on the UnitingCare Ageing web (NSW and ACT specific), and found one big problem.

Lesbians are subsumed under LGBTI, and the rainbow flag with its diversity flavour gets the attention.

We are seen as merely the L of LGBTI conglomerate (and a junior participant at that) and rarely mentioned as having needs specific to our gender, nor is there recognition of lesbians' sexual orientation in discussions about women's needs. This is nothing new for us lesbians, be it in health, aged care, education, etc. And as it brings with it serious deficits for us in using services, should it be put more widely and strongly? Yes.

The question is how best to change the ideas and activities of the purveyors of sameness among non-heterosexual people, and sadly some non-hetero allies, concerning our lesbian-specific requirements. (And I have reserved this discussion to the sexual orientation dimension rather than gender identity, which we know are not the same thing.)

The question again: what can be done?

Lesbianly, Lavender.

PS I often wonder if the term lesbian friendly is some kind of publicity stunt instead of using the patronising word tolerate. Or maybe its euphemistic use is to avoid discomfort?



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 Wendy

Money Management: Cheryl

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

Newsletter: editing and layout Ruth and Dorothy