



# Ten Forty Matrix Newsletter

November 2012

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



## End of Year Party

For Ten Forty Matrix women  
and friends

7pm Saturday  
15 December 2012

At St Peters

Bring a plate of festive food to share and a  
Lucky Dip gift – (perhaps something you'd like  
to receive yourself?) – price guide around \$15

To RSVP and for more details - email  
[contact@olderdykes.org](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org)

## Dykes for Dinner

Thursday 13 December 2012

6.30pm

Finolas

156 Darling Street Balmain (Balmain  
Bowling Club) Licenced

Book by Sunday 4 December via email

[contact@olderdykes.org](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org)

Please note: there will be no Dykes for Dinner  
in January 2013.

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## Dinner and Discussion

Date to be confirmed in February 2013

Rights, Roadblocks and Resilience - A  
Challenge to Ageism with Sonia Laverty,  
Older Women's Network

**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.

## The Imogens

Dust off your camera and prepare yourself for  
the inaugural Ten Forty Matrix photography  
competition.

The competition opens on 1 December  
2012 and closes at 5pm on 9 February 2013.

There are two categories – *Capturing the  
Senses* and *Lesbian Life*

Prizes will be awarded for each category

First prize: \$100.00

Second prize: Massage gift certificate

Third prize: Book(s)

Entries will be on  
display and prizes

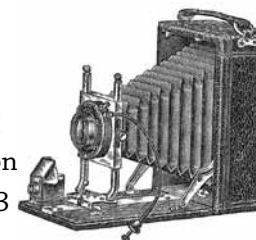
awarded to the winning  
Imogens at Haberfield on  
Saturday 10 March 2013

Entry is free.

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.



# Esther's Nine Lives by Esther Olivares

## Esther in conversation with Rob

Rob's well chosen questions provided a perfect structure for the launch of Esther's book on Saturday 6 October.



Rob first asked why the book was called Esther's Nine Lives. It seems that Esther's editor had come up with the title after reading about the many near-death experiences Esther had survived. Originally content for her book to be called something like My Autobiography, Esther was delighted with the new title.

When asked what motivated her to write her life story, Esther told us that the drive to start writing emerged after she retired. She has been a diary writer all her life, which accounts for the amazing detail surrounding the events described in her book.

Esther's story begins in Chile in 1939 and traces her childhood in a small community during the 1940s and 1950s. It is filled with images and recollections that point to her courage in the face of family violence, sexual aggression and political terror. She was shot at and persecuted during the Pinochet regime,

survived horrendous car crashes, was persecuted by co-workers and betrayed in lesbian relationships.

Esther was also a successful small business woman who supported her family from an early age and who also maintained some very fine friendships throughout her life.

In every situation Esther showed guts and determination to survive and thrive, and this is what makes her book so captivating.

If you are interested in lesbian life in Chile and Sydney, feminism, South American politics, indigenous cultures, migration, world travel,

mid-life career changes, coping with disability, and renovating a house, then you will find Esther's autobiography fascinating.

You can purchase a copy of Esther's book for \$20 plus postage by emailing [contact@olderdykes.org](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org)

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## A Great Day ...

Six intrepid travellers met up at the Sydney Tramway Museum at Loftus on Sunday 14 October.

We had a short ride on a gorgeous Victorian tram. The woodwork and brasswork was stunning. Then we jumped on board a silver Brisbane tram and headed into the National Park. After walking for about 15 minutes we came to Bungoona Lookout with its panoramic views over the Hacking River and the green beyond. It was a perfect place to eat our picnic lunches.

Then the return journey by tram and a long look at old photographs and lots of trams in the Display Hall before saying our goodbyes and drifting home.

Janne



## 'Now, listen here, luv' - when words become weapons

Greg Baum, associate editor,

The Age, October 15, 2012

Not many weeks into my teenaged sister's first full-time job as a secretary, a train strike made it impossible for her to get to work one day. Promptly, her boss sacked her. My mother, infuriated, rang him. At first, she was civil and her voice level. But at a certain point, he said to her: "Now, listen here, luv."

My mother exploded, saying that she was not his love, and that he had a damned cheek to address her that way. When he persisted, she rained down on him language that I would say we had not heard before, except that there had been moments when the six of us had tried her as far as any mother should be tried.

Still a teenager myself, I was proud of, and inspired by, Mum that day.

I don't know if my sister's miserable ex-boss learned a lesson, but I did. It was that the most innocuous and even affectionate words can be used as weapons, especially against women. He used that word, in that tone, explicitly to put my mother in her place in their conversation. He used it to talk down to her.

Mum's spirited moment in the forefront of feminism rushed back to mind last week when Prime Minister Julia Gillard mounted her now world-famous denunciation of

Opposition Leader Tony Abbott's attitude to women, and especially to her.

Critics say that praise for Gillard is misplaced because in assailing Abbott, she was defending the indefensibly gross Peter Slipper. They say the world has taken her out of context. That was not how I saw it. Abbott, speaking before Gillard, had accused Australia's first female Prime Minister of acquiescence in, even nurturing of, sexism and misogyny. By the time Gillard rose to speak, Abbott had changed the terms of the debate. It had a new context.

In the Prime Minister's harangue, I heard a booming echo of the fed-up voice of a woman who had once too often been addressed as "luv" in one of its many insidious, controlling and chauvinistic forms, and had had enough. "Listen here, luv, only us men are cut out for leadership." "Listen here, luv, us men know what's best when it comes to abortion." "Listen here, luv, iron me a shirt?" "Listen here, luv, you really need a bloke." Her breaking point, it seemed, was his use of the infamous phrase "died of shame", with its overtone: "Listen here, luv, you know what your dad really thought of you?"

Abbott said later that his use of the phrase "died of shame" was unthinking, which invited the question: how much had he thought about the rest of what

he was saying in that quarter-hour? Was it unthinking as "listen here, luv" is unthinking? Because that is not unthinking, it is thoughtless.

In any case, to dwell on context is to overlook what the rest of the world saw.

We each see things through our own prisms. Through one, Gillard was playing politics, acting a role, albeit convincingly. I think that view is too narrow. Through another, the Prime Minister was seizing the opportunity to take a decades-overdue stance against a disposition that does no credit to any of us. Around the world, women felt a tingle not in their cheeks, but up their spines.

My sister is now a mother, with a working-age daughter of her own. But the moral of that moment all those years ago remains powerful in my mind. "Luv" was not just an inappropriate form of address, but a calculatedly offensive one, freighted with centuries of sexism and, yes, misogyny. "Love", on the other hand, was Dad's word for Mum, and still is.







## Stop the Violence, End the Silence

The 2012 Reclaim the Night march was held Sunday 28 October, with more than 1000 women, men and children participating. If you would like to read more about this event go to [welnsw.org.au/2012/11/01/yes-means-yes-no-means-no-reclaim-the-night-2012/](http://welnsw.org.au/2012/11/01/yes-means-yes-no-means-no-reclaim-the-night-2012/)

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## Destroy the Joint

At a recent fund-raiser for Reclaim the Night Jane Caro, author, broadcaster and lecturer and Jenna Price, lecturer and journalist talked about the successful social media campaign called Destroy the Joint. Its aim is to end sexism, violence and discrimination. Read more at [www.destroythejoint.org](http://www.destroythejoint.org)

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## Planning for 2013

Ten Forty activities being planned (but not yet confirmed) include:

- Guest speaker Rebecca Jennings, whose research interests focus on lesbian and gay history and the history of gender and sexuality.
- Games Night
- Teaching groups how to play the card game '500'
- Picnic at Watsons Bay
- Visit to the Zoo
- Exploring multicultural food in suburbs such as Cabramatta
- Skirting Sydney part 2
- Floriade in Canberra – September/October
- Sculptures by the Sea – October/November
- A walk around Coogee and visiting the women's pool
- Kayaking

These are just some ideas suggested by the Planning Team. If you have any other suggestions for activities, special nights, events etc., please email [contact@olderdykes.org](mailto: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](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.

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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: Cheryl, Daniela, Diann, Frances, Gillian, Helen, Krystyna, Rob, Wendy

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 email [contact@olderdykes.org](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org)