

Newsletter

September 2009
www.olderdykes.org



Ten Forty Dinner and Discussion

**6pm - 10 pm,
Saturday 10 October
Summer Hill Community Centre
"Keeping a good memory for
life" with Lorna**

Lorna runs her own consultancy business, Brainsense. She has presented workshops on memory for many years. Visit her website: www.lornaparker.com.au

BYO food to share & your own drinks.

Entry fee is: \$10 fully waged
\$5 concession

Summer Hill Community Centre is at 131 Smith Street, Summer Hill, near Lackey Street, which leads from the station.

There is parking near the Centre and the station.

By train, the Community Centre is on the right hand side of the station, going towards the City.

By bus, from George Street, City catch the 413 bus to Junction Road, Summer Hill or the 483 to the junction of Liverpool Road and Carlton Crescent, Summer Hill.

What's on

Dykes for Dinner

Thursday 8 October 2009

6.30pm

Banana Palm Restaurant

260 Arden Street, Coogee

Vietnamese – BYO & licensed

Main courses approx \$22

Please book by Sunday 4 October via email to

contact@olderdykes.org

Thursday 12 November 2009

6.30pm

Il Goloso

60 Dalhousie Street, Haberfield

Italian - BYO & licensed

Main courses \$14-\$25

Please book by Sunday 8

November via email to

contact@olderdykes.org

Social Event

Sunday 1 November

Picnic at Bundeena

Meet at Cronulla Wharf at 11:15am to catch the 11.30 ferry.

Wear something purple so we can identify you.

Bring your own picnic, including drinks.

Catch the 10.30 or 11.30 ferry from Cronulla. Someone will meet you at Bundeena Wharf.

If you are driving, meet us at Bundeena Wharf at either 11am or 12noon.

If it's raining hard, the picnic will be cancelled, but if it looks likely to clear up, we'll go ahead.

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.

Five 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 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.



Report of 10/40 business meeting

1 August 2009

Wendy has agreed to look after the catering box with Sylvia as back up.

Sylvia will purchase new melamine plates and metal forks

Esther provided a financial report

Jenny read out a letter from Barbara who is moving to the Blue Mountains and will no longer be able to attend Ten Forty dinners and discussions. Jan undertook to reply.

Spider will send out a press release on the Sappho's Party court case soon.

Sylvia talked about Joyce Stevens and her political contributions to feminism over many years. Joyce has Alzheimers and is now in a nursing home.

Sylvia suggested that we need to make sure we collect and preserve women's history before it is lost.

Thanks to Wendy for all the preparation she put into her discussion topic, Lesbian Labels: What's in a name?

Lesbian labels: what's in a name?

Over 200 lesbians completed an online survey conducted by Wendy in the weeks leading up to the meeting. The survey explored the way in which we label ourselves as lesbians and what we prefer to be called by others.

The meeting began with a round of introductions in which each woman stated how she labelled or identified herself. Whilst some preferred not to use labels, it was clear that many liked to identify themselves as lesbian feminists, often more so than simply lesbian.

Three discussion groups explored questions relating to social and political issues, definitions of a lesbian, and the use of umbrella terms such as 'gay'.

The groups reported that the use of the word lesbian in an out and proud way is particularly associated with older lesbians of political conviction, and although younger and apolitical

women are reasonably happy to be called lesbians, they are more inclined to call themselves 'gay'. Gay is considered a neutral word that is neither empowering nor threatening. 'Dyke' is a word favoured mainly by older feminist lesbians, but we prefer to use it amongst ourselves than have it applied by others who may use the word disparagingly.

It can be difficult to define exactly what a lesbian is, but we all agreed that it involves deep emotional as well as physical attraction to women. An interesting point was made that a true lesbian, having found her identity, does not want to change.

The results of the survey can be viewed online at the following link:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/sr.aspx?sm=ck0IYACjdsbDeMSpgQGBR8QwEm3rjmUKXgUdCCn2RFI_3d

An analysis and discussion paper will soon be published on the olderdykes website, www.olderdykes.org.

Wendy

Feminist Conference 2010

I am involved with a committee of young women from Sydney Uni in organising a Feminist Conference in 2010. Projected dates: March 21 and 22.

We are in early stages of planning but would like your members to know about it, to become involved if you wish.

Meetings are held at 6.30 pm on Monday nights fortnightly at Amnesty, 79 Myrtle St Chipendale.

Ten Forty members are welcome to join committees if they are interested, to have a presence re a workshop or session at the conference, and to suggest topics for discussion.

One of the aims of the conference is to open up a conversa-

tion between older and younger feminists – Second Wave to Third Wave so to speak.

Please let your members know about this via email, at your newsletter or meetings, and please give me some feedback as to your interest.

Gail Hewison

The Feminist Bookshop

Email contact@olderdykes.org

Vale

Suzanne Keys

Some of you may have know Suzanne Keys who sadly died on Aug 3, 2009.

Suzanne had been suffering from cancer for five years and died at her home in Bemboka NSW where she lived with her partner Kerry and their two young children.

Suzanne was a committed feminist and a dedicated activist in the Women's movement in the 70's and 80's in Sydney and many will remember her from her involvement with Woman Action Theatre, Crystal Set Radio Program on 2 SER FM, Women's House and various

Lesbian Feminist conferences and groups.

She was at the historic first Mardi Gras in 1978 – a 78er– and realised her wish to attend the 20 year anniversary of Mardi Gras riding up front with her friends Sabina Wynn and Chris Burke. See photo below taken by Sally Colechin – Suzanne is in the middle.

Suzanne will be remembered also for her work in education and social justice in Sydney, London and the South Coast of NSW. In recent years she was passionately dedicated to teaching reading and giving many, many children a love of books and a foundation skill for life.

Digby



Northern Sydney Group

Two of our members who live at Berowra are interested in setting up a new informal social group in the northern Sydney Area. If you are interested, please email contact@olderdykes.org.

Pine Gap Exhibition

This exhibition is still on display throughout September in the Parliament House Fountain Court.

It includes photographs, posters, banners and memorabilia that was collected from the Women's Peace Camp at Pine Gap organised by Women For Survival 26 years ago.

Ten Forty discussion topics and events for 2010!

We know that 2010 is ages away, but there's nothing like getting in early!

So, get your thinking caps on, activate those creative juices and make an offer to lead a discussion, suggest an activity or plan a social outing.

Bring your ideas to the next meeting on 10

October or email them to contact@olderdykes.org

Ten Forty Matrix

Who currently does what?

Bookings, liaison, and general contact: Jan

Utilities box: Jan and Robyn

Money Management: Esther

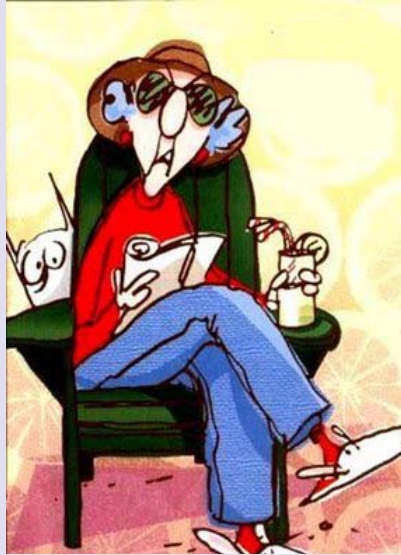
Website management: Jan, Ruth, Dorothy, Diana, Kate, Robyn, Spider, Diann and Rosemary

Newsletter: editing and layout Ruth and Dorothy

Photocopying: Judi

Mail-out: Esther

If you would like to become involved in any of the above, email contact@olderdykes.org



One of the simplest Living Wills we've seen! (eds)

I, _____, being of sound mind and body, do not wish to be kept alive indefinitely by artificial means.

Under no circumstances should my fate be put in the hands of pinhead politicians who couldn't pass ninth grade biology if their lives depended on it, or lawyers/doctors interested in simply running up the bills.

Signed _____

We can now legally reject medical care in NSW!

A NSW Supreme Court decision has upheld the right to refuse medical treatment, even if the decision was made only in anticipation, and well before treatment was needed.

This means that doctors and paramedics cannot give life-saving medical care if a person has previously made an advance care directive or a 'living will' clearly stating under what circumstances they do not want medical treatment.

Doctors can now respect patient's wishes without fear of litigation by relatives.

In fact doctors and paramedics who treat a person against their expressed wishes could be sued for providing unwanted treatment.

NSW Health advises that while an advanced care directive is legally binding and cannot be overruled by family members, it cannot contain instructions for euthanasia or assisted suicide.

For answers to questions you may have about Living Wills, Enduring Guardianship and Power of Attorney, go to <http://www.dwdnsw.org.au/ves/index.php/category/facts/>

You can also download a Living Will form from this site.

Retiring Women

11 am, 18th September

Picnic/BBQ and bicycle ride in Centennial Park. Meet at One Shot Pond (turn left at York St entrance and look for balloons).

To attend please email contact@olderdykes.org

Women earn \$1 million less over a lifetime than a man

The average woman will earn \$1 million less than a man over a lifetime. It also takes 14 months for a woman to earn as much as a bloke does in 12 months.

However, a new Equal Pay Alliance has been formed to push for equal pay almost 40 years after it was legally granted. The coalition of 135 organisations urged the government and business to close the gender wage gap.

The move was timed to coincide with Equal Pay Day - exactly two months into the new financial year when women chalk up the equivalent of a man's annual wage.

Women in full-time work earn 17 per cent less than men, and

women graduates start on salaries \$2000 below men with the same qualifications. And fewer than 2 per cent of ASX 200 have a female chief executive.

The alliance predicts that, without decisive action, the salary gap will increase over coming years.

The Equal Opportunity for Women in the Workplace Agency said if current earning patterns continued, the average 25-year-old male would earn \$2.4 million in the next 40 years and a female just \$1.5 million.

For more information, visit the Business & Professional Women's website, www.bpw.com.au