



Ten Forty Matrix Newsletter

July 2018

www.olderdykes.org

What's On?

Dinner and Discussion Group for Older Lesbians

Topic: The Demented Fear of Dementia

Facilitated by Pearlie

5.45 for 6pm

Saturday 4 August 2018

Mervyn Fletcher Hall, 81 Dalhousie Street
(cnr Dixon St), Haberfield.

BYO food to share and your own drinks.

Gold coin donation

How deep is your fear of dementia? And how realistic is your fear? How do we tell the difference between this disease and age-related forgetfulness? And if we are having problems remembering, how difficult is it to talk about or to ask for help?

These are important questions, not just for the person who thinks they might have something to worry about, but also for the people around us.

How private or open can we be? If our instinct is to hide away will this make things worse? Do we fear being judged?

Dementia really is a feminist issue and only with insight and exploration of the complexities involved, can we hope to examine our fears, and begin to talk about them, whether we are concerned about ourselves, our loved ones or the woman next door.

Pearlie has learned a lot about dementia in the past 14 years. Maybe you have too?

We need your empathy, your experience and please don't forget your sense of humour.

No bookings required. We warmly welcome any newcomers.

Dykes for Dinner

6.30pm Thursday 9 August

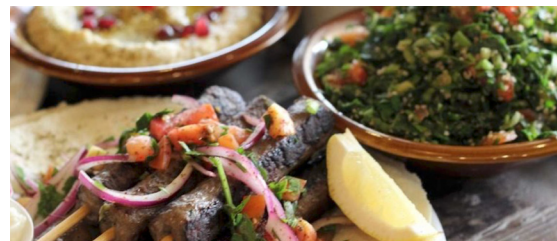
Jasmin 1

116 Marion Street, Leichhardt,

BYO welcome

Please RSVP

contact@olderdykes.org by Sunday 5 August so a booking can be made.



6.30pm Thursday 13 September

Gloria's Portuguese Restaurant
82 Audley Street Petersham, BYO wine \$3 p.p.

Please RSVP contact@olderdykes.org by Sunday 9 September so a booking can be made



Out & About

A monthly social group in the Sydney area.
For details about future events, please email contact@olderdykes.org

For your diary...

Future Dinner and Discussion Groups

October: Open Mic Night

Saturday 6 October 6-9pm

Contact Sandy by email contact@olderdykes.org to register your interest in performing

Special Grant from ANZ/Mardi Gras

The Ten Forty Matrix Committee recently made a grant application for a three-day weekend holiday for older lesbians.

We are very happy to announce we have received \$8,000!

Below is an outline of our application:

A Focus On Friendship

Being involved in Ten Forty Matrix offers opportunities to have fun, make new friendships, strengthen existing ones, and develop a greater sense of belonging within the older lesbian community.

Our project involves holding a three-day weekend gathering for low income and/or socially isolated older lesbians who are struggling with health and other issues.

The three-day gathering will be fully catered and offer accommodation to forty or more older lesbians from metropolitan and regional NSW.

It will focus on lesbians who are of retirement age, on low incomes, isolated, and who would benefit from contact with other similar women.

Over the three days of this gathering participants will be able to access respite and support through a range of activities offered by skilled practitioners on hand to

run creativity and personal development workshops, yoga, massage, exercise and low impact games.

Women with special needs and new to groups will be allocated a 'friend' to help them negotiate their stay at the camp.

The three-day weekend will probably be held in March 2019.

Report from the June Dinner and Discussion

History/All About Us

The meet and greet and eating part of the meeting was a buzz of happy chatter. Feedback praised the food which was very diverse and truly delicious. It appeared participants had catered for all tastes. It is always remarkable how much effort women put into the preparation of their 'plates'. 17 women attended.

After a brief welcome, business and information round the guest speaker Cate, almost 90 years old, talked about her life and the struggles she faced as a lesbian in the 40s, 50s, 60s and even the 1970s.

Born and educated in New Zealand, Cate recalled crushes on high school teachers, and always feeling something about her was different. She went to teachers college and then teaching, but decided this was not a good job for a lesbian. Having no one to share her feelings with or information about

lesbianism she became judgemental towards herself.

Cate began work in Wellington in the reservation section of an airline, but found herself ostracised by female co-workers when she and a colleague developed a relationship. She sought help from a priest, doctor and psychiatrist. Whilst not getting help as a lesbian she did get help to raise her self-esteem.

Cate left New Zealand and came to stay with her brother in Australia. After a year she returned to New Zealand. Her twenties were unhappy years. In 1958 as she entered her thirties she returned to Australia and found other lesbians, although still closeted.

In 1967 she met her life partner and shared 31 years with her until her partner died. At 65 Cate retired from work and became active in the Women's Electoral Lobby, the Older Women's Network, and other organisations. She dedicated herself to working for the rights of women and lesbians. Following Cate's talk we shared some of our own stories in small groups.

Feedback from the participants was very positive, with all stating they enjoyed the presentation and the group discussion. Comments included, 'excellent discussion', 'great company', 'heating was good and great company', 'delicious food', 'guest speaker was fabulous', and 'more story telling please'.

Lesbian Story Telling Afternoon

2.30pm for 3pm, Saturday 25 August

Come out, come out wherever you are; all you secret writers, poets, lesbians with a story to share and those who love a cosy afternoon listening to good lesbian tales.

Michael Maher Room, Ground Floor 78
Dalhousie Street, Haberfield

(This is just opposite Dickson Street where we meet for Dinner and Discussion, Ten Forty Matrix)

Afternoon tea will be available, including: coffee, tea, hot chocolate (with marshmallows), dips, savouries, and cake. If you want to bring some wine that is fine.

The room is carpeted but we want it to be cosy so bring cushions to sit on, or your favourite fold up or low chair. There are plenty of standard chairs available.

This is your chance to share your writing or tell an interesting tale, read your poetry or even share the writing of someone else.

Please contact Pearlie to book in if you wish to speak.

Pearlie mobile: 0407 903 322

If you are planning to attend the storytelling please RSVP for catering purposes:

Sylvia contact@olderdykes.org
Gold coin donation is welcome.

This event is brought to you by the Dinner and Discussion Planning Group, part of Ten Forty Matrix, for lesbians over 40.

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 Matrix 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.

You can pay an annual fee to join Ten Forty Matrix, or you can participate as a casual member. If you want to receive regular information about our activities and the free bi-monthly newsletter join our mailing list www.olderdykes.org/mailList/?p=subscribe

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: Members of the Ten Forty Matrix committee

Telephone contact: Jan 9810 1862

Utilities box: Sylvia and Gillian

Money Management: Kel

Websisters: Jan, Ruth, Dorothy, Diann.

Newsletter: editing and layout Ruth and Dorothy



Wendy gets privacy by creating her own book covers