



Ten Forty Matrix Newsletter

November 2018

www.olderdykes.org

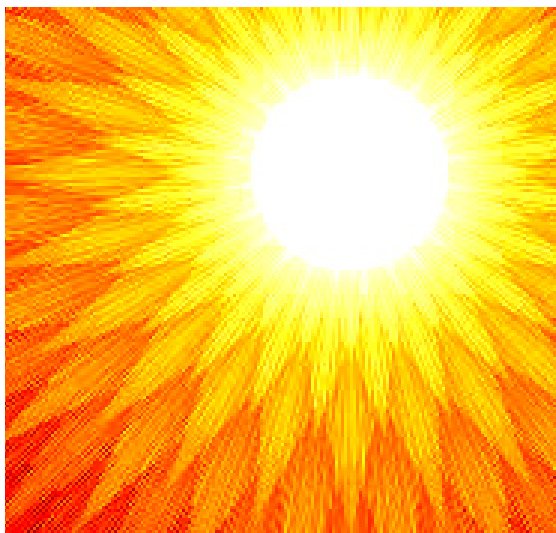
Summer Solstice Party

**Celebrate the end of another year
with Ten Forty women and friends
7pm Saturday 15 December 2018**

At Margot's, St Peters

Bring a plate of festive food to share, your own drinks, and a Lucky Dip gift – (perhaps something you'd like to receive yourself?) – with a price guide of less than \$20.

Please let Margot know you are coming or email contact@olderdykes.org



Dykes for Dinner

6.30 Thursday 13 December

Otto Noorba

79 Glebe Pt Rd, Glebe

Middle Eastern food, BYO

RSVP to contact@olderdykes.org by 9

December at latest so a booking can be made.



6.30pm Thursday 10 January 2016

Bay Tinh Marrickville

316-318 Victoria Road Marrickville

BYO wine only

RSVP to contact@olderdykes.org by 6 Jan.

Out & About

A monthly social group in the Sydney area.

For details about the February event, please email contact@olderdykes.org

For your diaries...

Friday 7 December at the Kirribilli Club (The club is above Luna Park with wonderful harbour views.)

Retiring Women has a solid core of members but new members are very welcome.

For more details contact Cheryl at contact@olderdykes.org

Saturday 17 November: Ten Forty Matrix AGM followed by a member-subsidised dinner at a local restaurant.

Contact Dorothy contact@olderdykes.org for more details.

Saturday 16 February: Social media information evening: WhatsApp, Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn, Instagram, Snapchat, YouTube, Pinterest, and so on. More details in the January 2019 Ten Forty Matrix Newsletter.

5pm Friday 29 to 4pm Sunday 31 March 2019:

a subsidised three-day weekend at Berry Sport and Recreation Centre. See p.5 for more information.

Registration forms will be sent out towards the end of 2018.

Report on Open Mic event

6 October 2018



The original idea for an open mic event for older lesbians came from musician, singer and songwriter, Sandy. The applause and cheers from the 30-strong audience, along with broad smiles and laughter

throughout the evening were an indication of just how successful her idea was.

Following an acknowledgement of Country, recognising we were meeting on the land of the Wangal people of the Eora Nation, Sandy and Barbara kicked off the program with some soft and gentle songs. Barbara gave us a great rendition of Linda Ronstadt's version of, *When will I be loved*. This was followed by the highly amusing and relevant spoof on the song *Memory*, by artist Pam. We certainly love to laugh at our memory foibles, and this song definitely hit a cord with the audience. Their bracket finished with *Wild Wild Women*.

Wendy demonstrated her wonderful blues voice – what a singer! Her clever song with complex lyrics was warmly applauded. Wendy's bracket included, *Stormy Monday*, a

lament for those who have to go to work, a cheerful spring song, and a singalong to the Janis Joplin classic, *Mercedes Benz*.

We were then treated to the talented ukulele playing of Laura, who sang a protest song called *West Connex*, and one on *Drought*. She is certainly up to date on state politics.

Annie followed with songs accompanied by her guitar, starting with Joan Baez's *Prison Trilogy*, and a song from South Australian, Mace, to which Annie had added some words, addressing the issue of detention centres. A beautiful rendition of Paul Kelly's song, *From little things big things grow* revealed the power of determination of our indigenous people and the possibilities that are open to politicians who believe in true reconciliation.

Being an Open Mic night the audience was encouraged to come up and perform.



Zan took up the challenge and sang a few great songs accompanied by her own guitar playing.

Throughout the night Wendy, well known for her skills as a comedic Mistress of Ceremonies, introduced the acts and added to the enjoyment of the night by telling some very funny jokes. At the end



of the evening Wendy took up her guitar and sang a song of dire suffering based on the song, *I've been everywhere*. Called *I've had everything doc*, the list of diseases went on and on:

how did she remember them all? The audience responded with a demand for an encore. When has an MC been asked for an encore? She then sang, *I've Been Everywhere*.

Sylvia

Thank you...

This was the final event for 2018 of Dinner and Discussion for Older Lesbians, a sub-committee of Ten Forty Matrix. A big thank you to active members of the Planning Group – Diann, Orsolina, Wendy F., Wendy W and Sylvia – and to all those who have attended and contributed to making these bi-monthly events so successful. The planning group has some exciting events on the drawing board for 2019, so watch the Ten Forty Matrix newsletter for information and notices in Contact to plan your involvement in 2019.

True Stories of Bold Women

BRAZEN HUSSIES is a theatrical and television documentary bringing together archival footage, photographs and headlines with personal in-depth interviews. BRAZEN HUSSIES reveals how a diverse group of activists were ridiculed in the media, faced scorn and resistance at home and were sometimes arrested in their fight to make great social change. This film will inspire its audiences to question gender equality today and realise that the personal really is political and that individual actions can create lasting change.

Dear Ten Forty Matrix

Thank you very much for your generous contribution (\$2000) to our BRAZEN HUSSIES film project! Your support is invaluable in bringing this important and timely story to the screen.

We're currently in development of the project, and also are filming some time-critical interviews with key women. We hope to edit the film late 2018 ready for release in 2019.

Please follow us on Facebook: brazenhussiesfilm and Twitter: Brazen_Hussies to help spread the word.

Thanks again for your encouragement and support.

Catherine, Andrea, Philippa & Bonny

Telling Stories

The Ten Forty Matrix Planning Group organised a very enjoyable Story Telling event on Saturday 25 August at the Michael Maher Room in Haberfield. The idea was to read our own stories, or read stories written by others.

After an acknowledgment of the Wangal people of the Eora Nation, around thirty women settled down to hear a rich variety of stories. The first two were from Pearlie, one about a dystopian future she wrote in the 1970's, which bore a strong resemblance to the *Handmaid's Tale*, the second was based on Pearlie's childhood spent in a working class area of Sydney and revealing the religious prejudices of children at that time.

The next story was from Caroline, *Letter to My Younger Self*, which was an interesting self-reflective narrative, again dealing with aspects of a Catholic education. Following a short intermission for coffee, tea and a delicious selection of cakes, Viviane read her dystopian story, *The Perfect Companion*, about a health robot. Anne gave us a window into her health recovery, explaining how, while recovering from cancer, she turned a health scare into a golden opportunity to write a story about her teenage self and her first lesbian experience.

Laura graced us with an animated reading from a children's picture book, *Room on the Rock*. This remarkable book reads one way as a rejection of refugees, using seals as narrators.

Reading the same words starting at the back of the book it becomes a message of welcome.

Krystyna read us an informative and interesting submission she had written in an effort to preserve the Migrant Hostel at Benalla. The audience were keen to learn more about her many years living in the hostel. Sylvia then read two short and amusing stories about her childhood: *The Red Shoes* and *The Star*, and Jan finished the afternoon with *Sisters in Grime*, a tale of many twists and turns.

It was a wonderful afternoon, and we hope to offer it again next year.

Sylvia

Wollongong by the Sea

Wednesday 26 September 2018

Undaunted by the weather forecast of "cloudy with rain and a promise of more to come", we took our umbrellas and raincoats and joined ten women on a train from Central to Wollongong. On arrival we boarded the right bus and eventually arrived at the stop closest to the Novatel café for a refreshing and much-needed coffee.

Following a short walk along the beach to the restaurant for lunch, three local women and three women who had arrived by car joined us. 'Diggies' doesn't normally take bookings, but did this time they agreed to seat sixteen of us in a room with an ocean view.

The menu listed all day breakfast items and light luncheon selections and catered for most tastes including vegetarians as well as a decent selection of wine by the glass. The wait staff were lovely and provided us with our orders quickly and without fuss. Our meal was followed by cheesecake topped with raspberries and edible violas but not before we sang happy birthday to Marion and then another round for Sylvia's 70th birthday.

After lunch, we strolled along the beach, chatting and enjoying each other's company before arriving at the bus stop in time to connect with the Sydney train.

It was a wonderful day maintaining our friendship with women from the Blue Mountains, the Illawarra and from many parts of Sydney. Thank you Pearlie for organising all the details and making it possible to enjoy our lesbian sisters' company.

Krystyna



Edna Ryan Awards

making a feminist difference

Pearlie has been successfully nominated for an Edna award in the category of ARTS: CREATIVE FEMINISM.

Let's celebrate with her on:

Friday 16 November 6:00 pm – 9:00 pm

Trades Hall Building 4-10 Goulburn Street (cnr Dixon), Sydney. Conc: \$25, Full price \$35 Book tickets at www.ednaryan.net.au

Pearlie has been involved in the wide variety of feminist activities over many years, but the activism she is best known for involves spreading feminist knowledge through literature.

In 1979, along with feminist, Marie McShea, Pearlie set up a small travelling book business, using a VW campervan, emblazoned with the business name, WomenWrite Pty Ltd. Their aim was to drive on a regular basis, along the east coast, between Brisbane and Melbourne.

Granted permission by the NSW Department of Education, they set up in school playgrounds, university quadrangles, refuges and sometimes in women's living rooms; selling books, running workshops; talking with teachers, lecturers, students,

community groups - sharing information, creating a network of support. WomenWrite was an attempt to address the need for writings by Australian writers, especially women, in an era when most books available came from either the USA or the UK.

Facing rising costs for vehicle repairs and petrol, WomenWrite made its last trip outside Sydney in August 1981. Later that year Pearlie left for England, hoping for time to write. She began teaching Creative Writing workshops, in nearby Barnstaple, in 1982.

Following a period of activism against Greenham Common, Pearlie's activist writing life took off in England and in Europe until she returned to Australia in the early 90s.

Pearlie was awarded a Master of Creative Arts from the University of Wollongong in 1996 and in 2008 completed her Doctorate of Creative Arts.

Clearly Pearlie has led a very active feminist life. Her own writings have contributed to the canon of feminist writing. The explosion of such writing in the 1970s to the present day has enabled many women to analyse their lives and become more confident and assertive.

Focus On Friendship

A Fun Weekend in Berry for Older Lesbians
Organised by Ten Forty Matrix



Kayaking near Berry Sport and Recreation Centre

5pm Friday 29 to 4pm Sunday 31 March 2019

Ten Forty Matrix invites you to our 'Focus on Friendship Weekend', where you can make new friends and join in a wide range of fun activities – both active and passive. This is a subsidised weekend camp that will appeal to regional older lesbians and those who have limited funds to enjoy a weekend away. We particularly encourage those who have not participated in any of our previous events or activities to come along. Ten Forty Matrix 'regulars' are also invited to attend.

Accommodation: Bunk style accommodation in comfortable rooms with bathrooms nearby. You will share with one or two women using bottom bunks only.

Meals: Breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as morning and afternoon tea. The venue caters for special dietary needs.

Location: Berry Sport and Recreation Centre is located 140km south of Sydney and about 2km from Berry. It is fully accessible.

<https://sportandrecreation.nsw.gov.au/sportandrecreation/facilities/berry>

Activities: These will include swimming (solar heated, open air pool), kayaking, archery, board and card games, bush walking, group discussions, workshops, and much more.

Subsidised and affordable: The cost includes accommodation, activities and all meals.

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