

Ten Forty Matrix Newsletter

October 2020

www.olderdykes.org

Dykes for Dinner

Thursday 8 October 6.30 PM

Exotic Indian Curries, 97 Smith Street, Summer Hill.

Table for 12 booked in Robyn's name.

Sue is having surgery on her foot on 22 September and will be on crutches for 6 weeks. Home visitors will be very welcome!

RSVP: Robyn before 2 Oct
rob.43@hotmail.com
or text: 0418 449 877

What technology have you come across that has helped you feel connected?

Saturday 10 October 4.30 PM

This is a Ten Forty zoom session about technology. We can share what has worked for us during COVID days. What apps have you been using, what areas would you like help with?

RSVP to Diann
maude_au@yahoo.com
I will send the link on the day.



Hayley Katzen, author of Untethered, in conversation with Niki, on zoom.

Saturday 17 October 4.30 PM



When South African Jewish academic, Hayley Katzen, moves to a remote Australian cattle property to live with her farmer girlfriend, she hopes, at last, to find home.

But this is no happy-ever-after tree change. Lecture halls, law reform

and the arts are replaced with castrating calves, shovelling manure, fire-fighting and anti-gas blockades. In a place that attracts people who live by their own rules, Hayley must confront her limitations and preconceptions to forge her own identity.

Set in the unpredictable beauty of the Australian landscape, and told with Hayley Katzen's compelling candour and rigour, *Untethered* charts one migrant's search for home. Part love story and part off-the-grid adventure, *Untethered* is a powerful reminder that home can be found in many forms – in love, in family and friends, in ideologies and political movements, in landscapes and communities, and ultimately, in ourselves. *Untethered* is Hayley's debut memoir. (text from the back cover)

Here is a link for more information about Hayley and the book, from *HerCanberra*

<https://hercanberra.com.au/life/people/five-minutes-with-author-hayley-katzen/>

RSVP to Diann

maude_au@yahoo.com

I will send the link on the day.

Tune into the Big Indoor Picnic

Your Ten Forty Matrix Committee is planning a safe event to enable us to actually meet face to face, at a free indoor picnic. We still have a few places left!

**Saturday 31 October 11.30am for 12 noon–3pm
Leichhardt Town Hall**

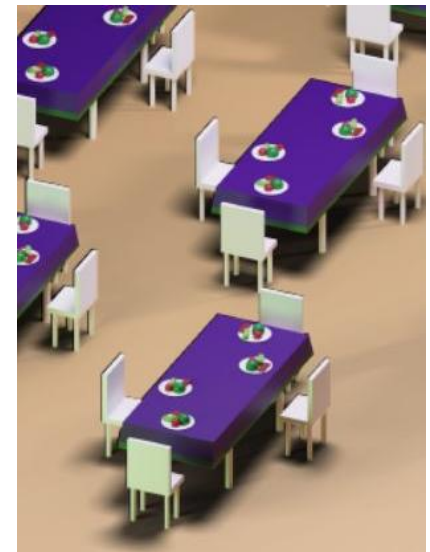
We will provide the entertainment and individual lunches to meet your dietary requirements. You just need to bring your own drinks and your sense of fun. Numbers will be limited to provide lots of space for safe physical distancing. We have a COVID Safe plan and all care will be taken to ensure we have a great time together safely.

If you would like to attend please email your full name and mobile number with 'I am coming' as the subject heading to Chris Fox chris.fox6@gmail.com

Your name will go on our booked register and you will receive more information in the coming weeks. If this event has to be cancelled due to COVID restrictions we will move it to another date or come up with another exciting plan.

Any questions contact Sylvia Kinder:
Phone 9745 6270 or mobile 0438 225 333
Ten Forty Matrix is planning and funding this event.

We are grateful for the assistance of a Mental Health Month grant from WayAhead – Mental Health Association NSW



Visit to the Coal Loader, Waverton

Pearlie turned on a perfect Spring day for ten women who visited the Coal Loader Sustainability Centre at Waverton on Wednesday 2nd September. Starting with coffee and treats at the Grumpy Baker Café, we wandered a short distance down the road, taking a quick look at Berry's Bay to the east, and across to the centre which overlooks Ball's Head Bay to the west.

The Sustainability Centre is built on the land of the Cammeraygal people of Sydney's lower north shore. They lived at Ball's Head until the early 1900s. A rock carving of a large fish, at one stage covered by a road, is now visible at the site.

The centre was opened in 2011, reclaiming for the community a former industrial site where coal from bulk carriers was loaded to smaller vessels from the 1920s to the 90s. The centre includes an education and display centre in a restored cottage, renovated with innovative sustainable building solutions.

There is an adjoining community garden and a café from which we pre-ordered our takeaway lunch. An extensive platform area was opened in 2018. We explored the raingardens built into old coal chutes on the platform, giant solar panels that rotate to follow the sun, and vegetable garden pods that are leased to community groups and individuals.

We enjoyed our tasty lunch and a good chat in the glorious sun, looking over the harbour, past Birchgrove and down the Parramatta River. From there we went to the lower level to explore one of the tunnels where trucks on rails once

transported the coal to the pier for transfer to small vessels. Official guides were not available, but Wendy stepped in to fill the bill. Wendy lives 500 metres from the Coal Loader and is a regular visitor with a good local knowledge of the facility and surrounding areas. She explained the importance of local communities engaging with authorities to preserve our limited remaining natural environments, to reclaim foreshore land, and regenerate green space, maintaining community accessibility and wildlife habitat.

Wendy





Vale Ruth Bader Ginsberg

Also known as the Notorious RBG, she died on 18th September, aged 87. She was nominated for the position of Associate Justice of the Supreme Court (USA) by Bill Clinton in 1993. She was still on the bench at the time of her death.

Any Google search will tell you a lot about this tiny woman with the ferocious intellect and the ABC has a programme about her life that can be seen on ABC iview.

To date there are more than 40,000 signatures on a US petition asking the Republicans not to nominate another judge before the election is over but Trump seems determined to metaphorically, step on RBG's neck to

put a conservative judge on that Supreme Court bench. Just like RBG asked men like him not to do such a thing. Let me explain. RBG was known for many good quotes, like this one:

“I ask no favour for my sex. All I ask of our brethren is that they take their feet off our necks.”

This quote originally came from Sarah Grimké. Sarah was born into a slaveholding family in Charleston in 1792. She died in 1873. The Grimké sisters, Sarah and Angelina, repudiated their southern values and moved to Philadelphia, where they joined the anti-slavery crusade.

This is what Sarah actually said:

“But I ask no favours for my sex. I surrender not our claim to equality. All I ask of our brethren is, that they will take their feet from off our necks, and permit us to stand upright ...”

—Sarah Grimké,

We mourn you RBG.

“Women belong in all places where decisions are being made.” RBG 2009



Vale Susan Ryan AO

Susan Ryan, a feminist icon of her time, died on 27 September 2020 at 77 years of age. She had been swimming on Friday and was taken ill to hospital and died on Sunday.

When Wendy McCarthy was asked how she would remember Susan Ryan, she said she was reminded of the T-shirt in the 1970s that said “This is what a Feminist looks like”.

Susan helped create the Women’s Electoral Lobby and as a single mother with two young children in Canberra, she decided to run for the Federal Senate with the slogan “a woman’s place is in the Senate”.

Susan, throughout the feminist debate on a structureless society, argued for change through structure. In 1975 she was elected as a Senator for the ACT in Whitlam’s Labor Government, the only woman in the Senate. She remained in Parliament for 12 years and during that time made changes to advance women.

Under the Hawke Government in 1983, she became the Minister for Education and Youth Affairs and was also given a totally new portfolio for government, the status of women. It was in these roles that her feminism shone through. She worked tirelessly to get the Sex Discrimination Act passed in 1983, and, the Equal Employment Opportunity and the Affirmative Action Act in 1986.

All this was fought for with stiff opposition; including from her own Labor Party colleagues.

Before this time, Susan Ryan said, “It was not unlawful to sack women who married or became pregnant, or just because they were women, maternity leave was scarcely available. Women could not get home loans. Girls’ education was

restricted and fewer girls got into higher education. Much of our community thought all of this was OK.”

Later as Minister for Education, she helped lift Year 12 retention rates; in 1983, 3 out of 10 stayed to the end of year 12 and by 1996, 9 in 10 stayed. This helped girls in particular, to stay till Year 12. Susan continued to be groundbreaking and was Australia’s first Age Discrimination Commissioner in 2011, and Disability Discrimination Commissioner in 2014. She maintained her dedication to feminism and human rights and throughout her later years. Just a few weeks ago she was a guest on the ABC’s *The Drum*.

Susan will be sorely missed by many of us, however the foundations she has laid remain and will continue to help women advance.

Rob

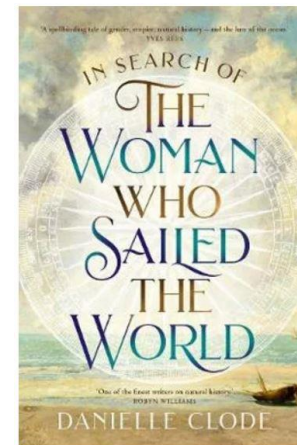
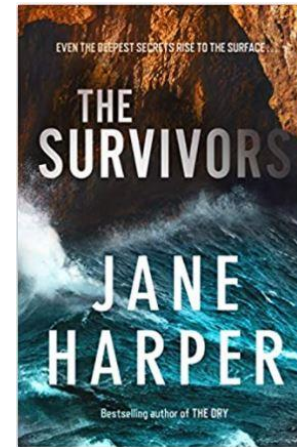
Talking Books

For those of you who are fans of Jane Harper's crime fiction books, all set in Australia, you will be pleased to hear her fourth novel, *The Survivors*, was launched last month. In my opinion this author gets better with each book she writes. I'm really looking forward to this one.

You might also like *The Woman Who Sailed the World*. Danielle Clode tells the story of a French ship that set sail in 1776, to circumnavigate the world in search of botanical samples, among other things. On board was a 36-year-old woman, disguised as a man. Jeanne Barrett proved to be a hard-working tough sailor, risking shipwreck, scurvy, disease and violence on what was, at times, a perilous journey.

Another one I mention here, for those of us who liked Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, is *The Mother Fault* written by Melbourne writer Kate Mildenhall. This futuristic novel is also reminiscent of 1984. I haven't read it yet but hope to soon. A warning though, there's a bit of grizzly in this one.

Pearlie



The Newsletter

We, Diann and Pearlie, hope you have enjoyed reading our monthly issues of the newsletter. As our Zoom sessions have increased in number and variety, and we are doing more creative things in these sessions, it seems a good time to drop the newsletter back to the more usual pattern of bi-monthly issues.

Covid-19 has affected all our lives in many ways but fortunately, we have learned along the way how to establish good contact within our 10/40 group and beyond. On line communication will never truly replace face to face contact but we're a wily bunch and we well know how to solve problems and face challenges. Our network of older lesbians remains strong and proud, despite this bloody virus.

Our next issue of the newsletter will appear in December. Please keep giving us your feedback and contributing whatever items of interest you feel need to be shared in the newsletter.



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[Ten Forty Matrix NSW](#)

About Ten Forty and Older Dykes

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 <http://www.olderdykes.org> encourages national and international connections between older lesbians. Ten Forty is not an organisation you have to join, though members do get some discounts. If you want to receive regular information about our activities and our bi-monthly newsletter, visit our website and put yourself on our email list.

Newsletter

The newsletter comes out on our email list. If you do not receive it, email us at contact@olderdykes.org

The web edition and back copies of the newsletter are available for download from our website.

Who currently does what?

Events planning: Sylvia, Diann, Wendy

Contact email list: Diann, Niki

Archives: Sylvia and Pearlie

Money Management: Loretta

Websisters: Jan, Ruth, Diann, Pearlie

Newsletter: editing and layout Pearlie and Diann