



Ten Forty Matrix Newsletter

December 2023

What's On

Dykes for Dinner

Thursday 14th December @6.30pm

At Aperitivo
163 Norton Street
Leichhardt

For our last gathering this Year, D4D are returning to Aperitivo in Leichhardt. Aperitivo is an Italian Restaurant specialising in pasta and pizza. They use seasonal produce and pasta is prepared on-site. Risotto, meat and seafood options plus gluten-free options are available. Wine can be purchased by the glass and bottle.

Parking is available in the car park behind the Leichhardt Town Hall and buses go along Norton St.

See their website for details <https://aperitivo.com.au/>

Please RSVP to Fiona Rimes

fionarimes@gmail.com

Dinner and Discussion for Older Lesbians

The next Dinner Discussion will be on **7 February 2024**. Put the date in your diary.

**Topic: What exactly is Humour?
How can we express humour in a way that suits us.**

Keep your eye out for more details on our Contact email list.

Bring a plate of food to share and your own drinks. Coffee, tea, cups, plates and cutlery are provided.

Country Lesbians Association CLA

The next Country Lesbians Association Zoom session will be at 5 pm on Sunday 28 January 2024

Topic:
What do lesbian women hope for in community? Have our ideas and wishes changed as we've grown older? What is achievable and what will we accept?

If you want to join us, email Diann at Maude_au@yahoo.com

A Statement from Indigenous Australians who supported the Voice referendum

Recognition in the Constitution of the descendants of the original and continuing owners of Australia would have been a great advance for Australians. Alas, the majority have rejected it.

This is a bitter irony. That people who have only been on this continent for 235 years would refuse to recognise those whose home this land has been for 60,000 and more years is beyond reason.

It was never in the gift of these newcomers to refuse recognition to the true owners of Australia. The referendum was a chance for newcomers to show a long-refused grace and gratitude and to acknowledge that the brutal dispossession of our people underwrote their every advantage in this country.

For more than six years, we have explained to our nation why the Voice was our great hope to achieve real change for our families and communities.

To the Australians who supported us in this vote - we thank you sincerely. You comprise many millions of Australians of love and

goodwill. We know you wanted a better future for Australia, and to put the colonial past behind us by choosing belated recognition and justice.

We thank the Prime Minister and his government for having the conviction to take this referendum to the Australian people at our request. We thank him for his advocacy and all parliamentarians who did the same, including members of the Teals, Greens, Nationals and independents who stood by us. We pay particular respect to the Liberal parliamentarians who bravely advocated for the Voice.

We also thank our fellow Australians from all sectors of the community, including multicultural, faith, professional, business, creative and sporting organisations. To the hundreds of thousands who took to the streets, knocked on doors and made over a million phone calls, thank you for your love and support.

Our deep chagrin at this result does not in any way diminish our pride and gratefulness for the stand they had the moral courage to take in this cause now lost. We know we have them by our side in the ongoing cause for justice and fairness in our own land.

Much will be asked about the role of racism and prejudice against Indigenous people in this result. The only thing we ask is that each and every Australian who voted in this election reflect hard on this question.

To our people we say: do not shed tears. This rejection was never for others to issue. The truth is that rejection was always ours to determine. The truth is that we offered this recognition and it has been refused. We now know where we stand in this our own country. Always was. Always will be.

Now is not the time to dissect the reasons for this tragic outcome. This will be done in the weeks, years and decades to come. Now is the time for silence, to mourn and deeply consider the consequence of this outcome. Pack up the Uluru Statement from the Heart. Fly our flags low.

Talk not of recognition and reconciliation. Only of justice and the rights of our people in our own country. Things that no one else can gift us, but to which we are entitled by fact that this is the country of our birth and inheritance.

Regather our strength and resolve, and when we determine a new direction for justice and our rights, let us once again unite. Let us convene in due course to carefully consider our path forward.

Report on Older Women's Network performance 'Not Dead Yet'

Held at the Jimmy Little Community Centre,
Saturday October 7 2023



The Older Women's Network, Theatre Group performed *Not Dead Yet* for us. As we are an aging group the title was right up our street. The Theatre Group are raising money to help them visit Lismore to perform and hopefully attend The Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Funding for the performance came from Ten Forty Matrix. We offered a free afternoon of great entertainment, and asked the audience to bring a plate to share, for afternoon tea. We had some sterling volunteers who set up the room in record time; we only had 30 minutes! They worked in the kitchen providing coffee and tea to the more than 70 women attending.

Following the acknowledgment of country, *The Theatre Group* was invited to perform. They were 13 performers, mostly in their very senior years, and proved conclusively that they were, indeed, not dead or dying.

Such energy and vitality, as they sang and danced through a wide range of comedic, serious and feminist political sketches.

They covered issues like older women's homelessness, being ignored and dismissed as aged women, and included positive songs about ageing. The electric piano accompanist gave a virtuoso performance. (Please note the group needs another back up pianist, can you help?)

The group writes the work together, using some original songs with changed words, as well as original material. Costumes are designed by them, and there were many



changes of costume during the performance. They brought their own screens to do the quick changes! The laughter and joy in the audience was enough proof that the performers had provided a stimulating afternoon of entertainment, the thunderous applause confirmed it.

Following the performance and the long, loud applause, the Theatre Group gave a Question-and-Answer Session. There were many questions and thanks for their outstanding work.

Many thanks go to the volunteers. Thanks also to our generous audience who donated over \$300 to the Theatre Group. We wish the Older Women's Network Theatre Group every success in Lismore and hope that they make an enormous impact at the Edinburgh Fringe Festival.

Sylvia



Report: Ten Forty Matrix Annual General Meeting 2023

Members invited to Annual General Meetings do not (usually) consider this event a huge priority in their social calendar. Many AGMs can be boring or sometimes full of angry debate. Not so Ten Forty Matrix's AGMs. We have 88 members currently, and an attendance of a quarter of those members ensured we had a good turnout. An AGM gives members or a group or organisation a chance to check that those elected to manage the affairs of the group have done so according to the constitution of the group.

Guest Speaker

The evening started with Wendy Pryor, a long standing Ten Forty Matrix member, giving an excellent talk about her research into her family history. She selected the story of Hannah Moore from her many interesting ancestors. Hannah was born in Ireland around the early 1800s. She married David Moore, a love-match marriage. David worked for a wealthy landowner and the family lived in relative comfort. For some reason David stole some items from his employer and was sentenced to deportation. He escaped and got work on a ship heading to the American Colonies. This ship ran aground and he returned to his family. Again he was caught

and transported to Australia. Sadly, Hannah became pregnant during his short visit, but could not say he was the father for fear of being accused of harbouring a convict. In fear of anyone believing she had been immoral with another man, she fled with her children to a nearby town. Her eldest son was able to get work training horses, despite this the family were in great poverty.

David was always determined to bring his family to Australia and after many years was able to return to Ireland, find them, and get them safely to Australia, where they settled in Wollombi, NSW in 1837. David died in 1845.

Destitute, facing starvation, Hannah agreed to marry James Pryor, a twice widowed man, who was a free settler. She may have been saved from starvation but her life now became painfully complicated. Her son Thomas, married with children, was a notorious drunk, wife beater, and prone to violence for which he spent periods in Maitland Gaol. His 17-year-old daughter Susanna came to live with her grandmother Hannah and James Pryor.

Susanna became pregnant to James who was by then in his early 60s. Despite court cases against him and a year in jail, he and Susanna remained together and had in total 7

children. Susanna spent her final years in Leichhardt, Sydney, a much loved mother, as noted in the obituary written by her children. This is of course a brief account of this fascinating story. Wendy answered a number of questions from the audience and talked about the difficulty of getting to the stories of women. She always had to start with the records of the men, found in newspaper reports, prison records, and other documents.

Women's lives of struggle have always been marginalised, and marriage was often the only way for women to survive, particularly if they had children.

Feedback from participants indicated this presentation was very well received. Wendy has many more family stories of great interest.

Annual General Meeting

Following a short break, the formal part of the Annual General Meeting took place and a committee of 8 were elected; Pearlie as Chair, Jan as Deputy Chair, Fiona as Treasurer, Wendy as Secretary, and committee members; Sylvia, Diann, Jacqueline, and new to the committee Dori. Details of the meeting will be sent out to all members. It was a short and efficient meeting.

Dinner

The evening concluded with our catered dinner, prepared by Samantha, of all courses catering. She is a lone worker and will be catering again for our next Big Indoor Picnic, Saturday 16 March 2024. There was a big mixture of warm and cold foods, and some delicious small cakes.

Thanks

As always nothing goes smoothly without our fabulous members who all pitch in to help set up and pack up, too numerous to name individually. In particular, a big thank you to Krystyna who took the acting chair role for the election of the committee part of the meeting. Also, to Sue who not only went with Fiona to collect the trays of food from our caterer, and also did a great job in the kitchen, heating up several dishes and sorting out the trays.

A big thank you to the work of the committee through 2022-2023 and best wishes for the coming year 2024.

Sylvia November 2023

Report of our Katoomba outing

The Bowery Kitchen and Bar in Katoomba is a delightful place to meet for lunch. On 21st September, sixteen of us arrived in good time, sat at a large long table, bathed in rays of sunshine, talking up a storm and delighting in the food and service provided.

Some of us had arrived by car from Sydney, and two local women met those of us coming by train and ferried us to the restaurant. We were all in fine form and there was a lot of laughter.

Some of the women stayed overnight and enjoyed a game of pool.

I want to thank Kay for doing the research lunch with me and thanks too, to Lynn, who suggested the venue. It was a good day out.

Pearlie



Katoomba table

The women play snooker
Coloured balls clink and scatter across red
The women laugh, and sometimes roar
There are hoots of admiration
at certain poses on the cue
and quieter mutterings about chalk
On irregular beats, a heavy clunk:
a defeated ball rolls out of play
The women are making music

Jacqueline, September 2023





Sally Ride

Two competing tennis players, Sally and Tam, met on a tennis court one day. It was obvious they were passionate about the game, and soon they realised they were passionate about each other. Twenty-seven years later, in 2012, Sally died of pancreatic cancer.

Sally Ride was an astronaut, the first American woman in space and the third woman worldwide to travel in a spaceship. After Sally died just a few words in her official obituary mentioned her partnership with another scientist, Tam O'Shaughnessy.

Only then did the broader society learn that these two were lesbians. Their families and friends had known all along but there was a reason for the secrecy. These two scientists; lesbians and lovers, feared what might happen if their corporate sponsors found out,

especially after they had set up their science education company; **Sally Ride Science**.

Born in 1951, Sally studied at Stanford university, graduating with a Doctor of Philosophy in Physics in 1978. That same year, she was selected as a *mission specialist astronaut* with Nasa. Completing her training in 1979, she then served as the ground-based Capsule Communicator for the second and third Space Shuttle flights and also helped develop the Space Shuttle robotic arm and became a specialist in its use.

It was June 18th, 1983 when Sally, one of five crew, boarded the shuttle Challenger, for a six-day mission in space. Included in her list of duties was operating the robotic arm. In 1984, again, on Challenger, Sally Ride went on her second space flight.

A structural failure of the external tank in 1986 caused Challenger, after ten successful flights, to disintegrate in just 73 seconds.

The following year Sally left NASA to join the faculty at the University of California, as a professor of physics and director of the California Space Institute. The Sally Ride Science company began in the mid 1980s, intended as an education and information organisation. It was relaunched as a nonprofit entity, with Tam as the Executive Director, in October 2015.

Personal papers and various items, including Sally's microscope and telescope, and the baseball bat her grandfather customised for her, were donated to the Smithsonian Air and Space Museum, Washington D.C. after her death.

Sally's role in NASA was extensive and worth a look online. So too, the science education work done by Tam O'Shaughnessy.

Pearlie

Vale Dale Spender

1942 - 2023

Spender was a woman of ideas who liked to upset men, unnerve them a little. Her role as a feminist, she said, was to "redress the imbalance" of equality in society. A self-described campaigner for social justice, she saw feminism as a job that had brought her some pain, some achievements and some serious fun.

Chloe Shorten, The Guardian
Read more about Dale Spender

<https://archive.md/aholg>

Vale Jan Shaw

5 Feb 1939 – 20 Aug 2023



I have known Jan for the last thirty years and to me she became a very special friend. She was always there to chat to on the phone and she was a “rock” for me during Covid times. She and I had a ritual lately of me going to buy Portuguese cakes and coffee from Sweet Belem in Petersham and sharing it we two on her front veranda. I will really miss those times.

Jan was a 78er having marched on the 24 June 1978 in the first Mardi Gras. She was a member of 10/40 Matrix. Jan married at a young age and had two girls whom she supported as a single mother. She loved fishing, snorkelling and tennis. In the 1960s

She was affectionately called “Mrs Shaw” by the other women because she had two daughters. Jan loved going to Reverse Garbage where she could buy objects which she could potentially make sculptures. She had an **ideas** book in which she would document all the ideas that came to her for her works. It was amazing how much she could collect and store in her flat.

Jan also loved the outback and went on numerous camping trips with a group of women to outback WA, NT, SA and up to Pajinka (Cape York). At night after travelling all day and pitching our own tents, if Jan needed perking up, I would give her some whisky and then all would be rosy again!

Jan identified herself through sculpture. Having grown up near the sandstone cliffs of Rosa Gully, Vacluse and with her father and grandfather owning the sandstone quarries in Epping, sandstone was in her blood. Jan studied art at the Sculpture Centre and later taught sculpture there for 3 years and at All Saints College, Bathurst from 1980 to 1987. She was a well-recognised Australian sculptor of sandstone but also created paintings. Jan considered her work as a process of revelation or a metamorphosis. She created through emotion and instinct, permitting the sandstone piece, and her understanding of its variables, to take the lead in navigating her aesthetic.

Jan entered many exhibitions from 1974 onwards, and has won numerous awards including the Sculpture Society’s, and the David Latham Memorial Prize for Sculptural Excellence in 2013. Jan completed major commissions and was very proud of two Donnybrook stone carvings, *Nanarup Dreaming* (12 tonnes) and *Earthly Star Watcher* (3 tonnes) for a private patron in Western Australia. Her works may be found in Macquarie University, Gosford, Cowra, Northern District Cemetery plus many private collections here and overseas.

Jan was a true friend. She was supportive, generous, compassionate and funny, she could write and quote poetry, was often a peacemaker in community and women’s housing and a contributor to the community. Jan was very practical and knew how to fix anything. My last excursion with Jan was helping her fix a broken door on a community library as she felt the library was very important for the local community.

Jan leaves behind a void that can’t be filled. Her legacy lives on in the sculptures and art work she created, the love she shared and the wonderful memories of her that are shared.

Rob

CAMP:
*Australia's pioneer
 homosexual rights
 activists*
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 \$49.95 plus postage

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CAMP is back



A Historical Triumph for Equality: A Review of the book: "CAMP Australia's Pioneer Homosexual Rights Activists"

by Robyn Kennedy and Robyn Plaister

"CAMP Australia's Pioneer Homosexual Rights Activists" by Robyn Kennedy and Robyn Plaister is a remarkable exploration of the pioneers who played a pivotal role in the fight for homosexual rights in Australia. This captivating book delves into the history of the Campaign Against Moral Persecution (CAMP) and sheds light on the struggles, triumphs, and personal stories of those who championed equality during a time of social oppression.

The authors, Kennedy and Plaister, have done an outstanding job of meticulously researching and documenting the formation and growth of CAMP, which emerged as a pioneering activist group in the 1970s. The book provides readers with a comprehensive understanding of the historical context, political climate, and prevailing prejudices faced by homosexuals and documents the difficulties for women fighting both sexism and heterosexism during that era. The book is illustrated with many original photographs from those times. Through a combination of personal anecdotes, archival material, and interviews, the authors breathe life into the courageous activists who fought for the rights and acceptance of sexual minorities.

One of the book's strengths lies in its ability to humanise the activists and showcase their unwavering determination in the face of adversity. Kennedy and Plaister paint vivid portraits of these unsung heroes, highlighting their struggles, sacrifices, and personal growth as they challenged societal norms. By providing a window into their personal lives, the authors successfully evoke empathy and enable readers to appreciate the magnitude of their achievements.

Additionally, the book meticulously details the various strategies employed by CAMP and its members to advocate for change. The authors

shed light on both the successes and setbacks faced by the movement, providing a balanced and nuanced portrayal of the challenges encountered along the way. This approach allows readers to gain insight into the complex nature of social activism and the resilience required to effect lasting change.

Overall, "CAMP Australia's Pioneer Homosexual Rights Activists" is a commendable work that sheds light on a crucial chapter in Australia's homosexual history. Robyn Kennedy and Robyn Plaister have crafted a compelling narrative that pays homage to the brave individuals who dared to challenge societal norms and fought for the rights and recognition of sexual minorities. This book serves as both a testament to the progress made and a reminder of the ongoing struggle for equality. It is an essential read for anyone interested in homosexual history, social justice movements, or the transformative power of activism.

The book has just been republished. It is 288 pages, full colour including archival photographs and 35 portrait photos.

Purchase costs

| Number of copies | Postage & packaging |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|
| 1 copy @ \$49.95 | \$16.20 |
| 2 copies @ \$49.95 (\$99.90) | <u>\$23.90</u> |
| 3 copies @ \$49.95 (\$149.85) | <u>\$23.90</u> |

To order your copy please email pridepublish@gmail.com with: Name, Postal address including postcode and Number of copies

You will be invoiced for the total cost. We request payment via direct deposit as specified on the supplied invoice.

CAMP is not available through bookshops. As the reprint is a smaller print run, we encourage you to place your order early.

Are you a good driver

Many of us have reached the age where our licence is an annual review type situation, requiring from the age of 75, a ticked box from our doctor and maybe our optician or ophthalmologist as well. By 85 it's a driving test every two years.

We know driving requires a number of skills and a recent article in the SMH made me wonder how well any of us might do if we were applying for a driving licence for the first time?

One rule mentioned in the article was that when stopped at lights, both hands must stay at the ten to three position on the steering wheel. To **not** do so in an *Instant Fail*. Same with that tired elbow leaning on the window ledge or the centre console. In other words, hands must be on the wheel all the time, unless changing gears or using the handbrake.

In NSW a driver must score 90% or higher and record no "fail items" to obtain a licence. That's not a huge margin of error.

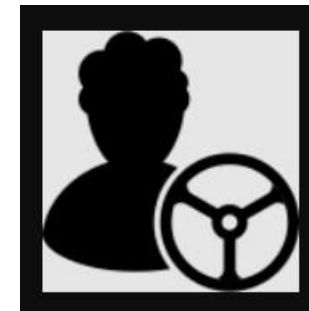
Things to watch out for are not completing over-the-shoulder-checks, relying on the side and rear vision mirrors, and not being alert to blind-spots when merging with traffic.

Testing assesses you on six key areas of driving – speed management, road position, decision making, hazards and response to hazards, and car control issues. Also parking. Three manoeuvres are the maximum, also we are judged on closeness to kerb, and the distance between the car in front and the one behind.

We may have developed sloppy habits over decades on the road, and that sloppiness can have consequences.

So maybe we all need to think about the difference between what we believe is good, safe driving, and what actually, that is?

Pearlie



The Newsletter

We, Diann, Pearlie, and Jacqueline, hope you have enjoyed reading the newsletter.

Please keep giving us your feedback and let us know topics of interest you feel need to be shared in the newsletter.

**“Feminism has fought no wars.
It has killed no opponents.**

**It has set up no concentration
camps, starved no enemies,
practised no cruelties.**

**Its battles have been for
education, for the vote, for
better working conditions, for
safety in the streets, for child
care, for social welfare, for rape
crisis centres, women's refuges,
reforms in the law.**

**If someone says, 'Oh, I'm not a
feminist', I ask, 'Why? What's
your problem?’”**

Dale Spender

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. 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

contact@olderdykes.org

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

Who currently does what?

Events planning: Sylvia, Diann, Wendy

Contact email list: Diann, Julie

Archives: Sylvia and Jan

Money Management: Fiona

Websisters: Jan, Ruth, Diann, Julie

Newsletter: editing and layout Pearlie, Diann, Jacqui

Management committee Jan, Sylvia, Pearlie, Diann, Fiona, Wendy, Jacqui, Dori