



# Ten Forty Matrix Newsletter

March 2024

## The Big Indoor Picnic

Celebrating International  
Women's Day

**16 March 2024**  
**11.30am to 3.30pm**

**Leichhardt Town Hall,**  
**enter Marion Street**

There will be a free catered lunch to meet your dietary needs, coffee, and teas.

Just bring your own personal drinks, (a keep cup would be handy), and sense of fun.

You may like to wear green white & purple or violet (Stands for Give Women the Vote) or just purple, the lesbian colour.



## What's On

Entertainment will be provided by the fabulous The Third Voice. Three strong female voices, Gemma Turner, Clarita Derwent and Christina Mimmocchi, sing mainly unaccompanied, their voices weave, blend, caterwaul and serenade with new and pre-loved songs that will both challenge and

soothe. Check them out on their website [www.thethirdvoicetrio](http://www.thethirdvoicetrio)

Numbers will be limited to 80 to provide lots of space for physical distancing. All care will be taken to ensure we have a great time together safely.

For catering purposes, you need to **REGISTER BY 6PM TUESDAY 12 MARCH**

Email your full name and mobile number with **'I am coming to the 'Big Indoor Picnic' as the subject heading.** Please include your dietary needs which could include: none, vegetarian, vegan, gluten free, other (include details), and send to:

Sylvia [skinder@bigpond.net.au](mailto:skinder@bigpond.net.au)

Any questions contact Sylvia via email or Phone 9745 6270 or mobile 0438 225 33

Ten Forty Matrix is planning and funding this event. We are grateful to Inner West LGA for the free use of Leichardt Town Hall.

## **Dykes for Dinner** **Thursday 14 March@6.30**

At Bay Tinh  
318 Victoria Rd (near the Corner of  
Marrickville Road) Marrickville

Bay Tinh Restaurant is one of the oldest  
restaurants in Marrickville with fabulous  
Vietnamese food. There are numerous  
vegetarian, vegan, and gluten-free options  
available. It is BYO with a good selection of  
reasonably priced wines as well.

Please bring cash as paying by card  
will **not** be an option. Also, keep a record of  
what you eat as there will only be one bill.

Easy access via public transport  
(bus or train to Sydenham)

Buses M30,423, 425 and 426 all stop nearby.  
On-street parking in surrounding streets and  
nearby council car park See their website for  
details [baytinrestaurant.com.au](http://baytinrestaurant.com.au)

Looking forward to seeing you all there.  
Please don't hesitate to contact me if you  
need assistance with travel.

Please RSVP to Fiona  
[fionarimes@gmail.com](mailto:fionarimes@gmail.com)

Message: 0412954573

## **Dinner and Discussion for Older Lesbians**

Saturday 13 April  
6pm- 8.30pm.  
At Jimmy Little Community Centre  
19 Cecily Street, Lilyfield

Sand Hall will launch her third book in the  
Women's Land Series as well as talk about  
the revitalization of the land today. More  
details to come out on the Contact email list.

Contact: Sylvia; [skinder@bigpond.net.au](mailto:skinder@bigpond.net.au)  
Mobile: 0438 225 333

## **Country Lesbians Association (CLA)**

**ZOOM meeting**  
**Sunday 24 March, 5 PM**  
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? What decisions do we make when  
our health and/or our friends' health  
changes?

If you want to join us, email Diann at

[Maude\\_au@yahoo.com](mailto:Maude_au@yahoo.com)

## **Women in the Bush**

**Friday 22 -Monday 25 March**  
**Wisemans Ferry weekend at Del Rio**  
**Resort. Day only attendance possible.**

**Friday 22 March Cycle ride to St**  
**Albans and return via Webbs Creek.**  
Approx. 45km. For those staying at Del Rio,  
Cycle to Del Rio Resort. Day cyclist take  
Webb's Creek ferry over to Wisemans Ferry  
and go to car park. Meet at Wisemans Ferry  
car park 9.30am.

Contact Sylvia; [skinder@bigpond.net.au](mailto:skinder@bigpond.net.au)  
Mobile: 0438 225 333

**Saturday 23 March Walk: Historic**  
**Convict Road circuit, Wisemans Ferry.**  
**Medium.** 11km. Meet at Wisemans Ferry car  
Park 9.30am. Those staying at Del Rio Resort  
return there. Day walkers leave from car  
park.

Contact Sylvia; [skinder@bigpond.net.au](mailto:skinder@bigpond.net.au)  
Mobile: 0438 225 333

**Sunday 24 March Cycle Ride on River**  
**Road to the Colo River and return.**  
Starting point Del Rio resort 9am.

Contact Sylvia [skinder@bigpond.net.au](mailto:skinder@bigpond.net.au)  
Mobile: 0438 225 333

**Monday 25 March Possible short ride 20km along Singleton Road at Wisemans Ferry.** Depart from Del Rio Resort 9.30am. This road is on the Wisemans Ferry side of the river with some orchards. Or return home possibly via River Road Scenic drive and Tizzana Winery and Ebenezer Church.

**Saturday 6 April Sydney Harbour N.P. Manly to North Head and return** medium 9km. Meet at Manly Wharf at 9am (ferry from Circular Quay at 08:40am).

Contact: Joanne 0410430377

**Saturday 13 April: Field of Mars Circuit.** Easy. The circuit is about 5 km but the walk can be extended along the Lane Cove Valley towards Boronia Park. Walk from Buffalo Creek Reserve via

Strangers Creek, Wallumatta Nature Reserve and Kitty's Creek. Includes caves, gullies, interesting rock outcrops, water holes and a mangrove boardwalk. Many tree species and the possibility of spotting frogs, turtles, water dragons, ducks and eels. Parking at Pittwater Road or bus 252 from Wynyard Station to High St at Pittwater Rd and walk to Buffalo Reserve.

Contact: Wendy Pryor,  
email: [wendyp57@tpg.com.au](mailto:wendyp57@tpg.com.au)

**Saturday 20 April Ku-rin-gai N.P Bairne Track** medium 11km. Meet at track head West Head Road 9am. Cars only.

Contact: Sylvia; [skinder@bigpond.net.au](mailto:skinder@bigpond.net.au)  
Mobile: 0438 225 333

**Saturday 27 April Wanda Beach to Boat Harbour Aquatic Reserve** (9.5 kms to 10 kms - 2.5 hour return easy). Meet at 10.00 am at Wanda Beach Life Saving Club House. Walking along the beach all the way. Parking at Wanda Beach, or in side streets. Swimming at Wanda Beach on return (patrolled area) and lunch in picnic areas. Note, not advisable to swim in unpatrolled areas along the way. Sunscreen and hat advisable. Weather check in.

Contact: Christine Woodland  
(Chris) [cawoodland2@gmail.com](mailto:cawoodland2@gmail.com) Mobile 0457 843 986. Landline 9553 6524

**Sunday 28 April Bike Ride: From Prospect Reservoir Picnic area, circuit via Western Sydney Park, Orphan School Creek, returning via Guildford/Prospect canal track.** Approx. 42km all on bike tracks. Medium.

Contact Mary Harris mobile: 0427 556 167  
email: [maryha303@gmail.com](mailto:maryha303@gmail.com);

## **Report on the outing to the Rameses exhibition at the Australian Museum, 21 February 2024.**

Twelve of us booked in for the 11am/11.15am entry time to see the Rameses exhibition.

It was important to limit the 10/40 numbers early on, when it became clear that if you'd booked the day you'd learned about the exhibition, you could be 2 or 2 and 1/2 hours ahead of someone who booked a few days later. Not easy then to proceed through the exhibition as one group.

We met in the foyer, and, as is often the case with our events, we came from near and far, some of us making a huge physical effort due to recent or chronic health issues to be there, and it is therefore commendable that no one cancelled. What an intrepid lot we really are.

The exhibition was impressive; well curated and gave the impression of being underground, maybe even in a newly opened tomb ... the dim, strategically placed, lighting casting an eerie glow in corners and crannies.

Most of the people around us were of a similar age and therefore it was surprising that there was so little seating provided anywhere. Could the museum staff really not be aware of the huge numbers of older people who visit the museum every year?

We met in the kiosk type Cafe afterwards, and almost every woman had something to say about the small size of the jewelled bracelets. How old were the women who wore this jewellery or maybe they were children?

If you make a circle with your thumb and forefinger that's roughly the size of these bracelets.

Beautifully crafted, exquisitely designed, all the jewellery was beautifully displayed, lustrous gold necklaces that, in particular looked so splendid you could imagine they might have been worn last week or even yesterday.

This was a very enjoyable 10/40 event and I thank everyone who attended for their positive feedback.

Pearlie

**Report of Dinner and Discussion for  
Older Lesbians  
Held 10 February 2024  
It's Time for Lesbian Feminists to Have a  
Good Laugh**

Is it true that feminists have no sense of humour? An insult often thrown at us in the past when we objected to sexist comments made to us. Pearlie led an evening of discussion and fun to put this myth to bed.

The evening opened with our splendid dinner provided of course by all the 13 who attended. The cheerful conversation and laughter as friends met already was a challenge to the myth of feminist being humourless. Then we had an acknowledgement to the Gadigal/Wangal people of the land we were meeting on.

Pearlie welcomed everyone and asked us, 'What part has humour played in your life before COVID, during COVID and after?'

There was general agreement that having a good laugh helped mental health. Some had a preference for black humour.

Political humour often in the form of cartoons was also seen as a way to deal with difficult issues. Humour was seen as about survival, laughing at some of our worst experiences, taking the sting out of them.

When we'd gone around the circle answering that question we got together in the centre of the hall, with two balls, throwing them around, instructed by Pearlie to do something silly when we caught the ball or threw it. We really did feel silly and full of fun.

Pearlie then set up a workshop in groups. The context was that we were lesbians living in Italy and had joined a convent as a job lot, worried about persecution and ill health as we got older. As in a true case in a convent near Milan in Italy, our urine was to be collected and used in IVF processes,

collected from the convent by a tanker lorry once a week.

We knew this, we were told, because of a letter from the Vatican.

In response our two groups made up a lot of jokes. Some examples below:

Problems with incontinence generated the following:

Watch your Pees and Qs.

Taking the piss, you're a wee girl, recycle incontinence pads through the mangle.

This little piggy went wee. wee, wee, all the way home.

I have a wee habit, I am weely worried, easy peesy weezy.

What do weee think about urine.

**A tongue twister:**

We weely, weely want to wee, but want not to wet ourselves with wee, weeing feels like halloweens on Weesday.

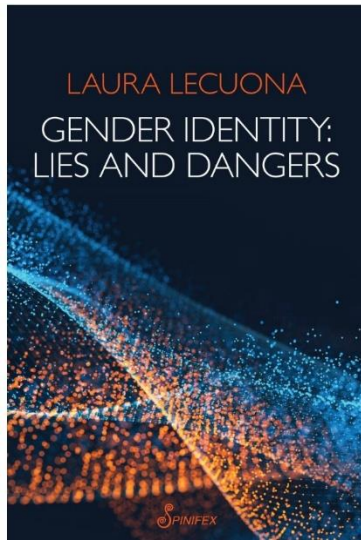
**Poetry by Wendy P**

We twenty old nuns of Milan  
Were forced to piss in a can  
Now with our dirty habits  
You'll be breeding like rabbits  
And you'll barely have need of a man.

Sylvia



## Books: Gender Identity: Lies and Dangers by Mexican feminist writer Laura Lecuona



Spinifex Press held an online book launch in February of the book *Gender Identity: Lies and Dangers*. This book was written in Spanish by Mexican feminist writer Laura Lecuona, who then translated it into English.

In her book, Laura Lecuona reviews the origin of the current uses of the key term gender and explores the main theories of transgenderism. It is seen as an important contribution to discussion of gender and identity, especially as it includes narratives from the non-English-speaking world, namely, from Mexico and Spain.

Book launcher Bronwyn Winter gave a succinct and rapid summary of the volume,

and it sounds very interesting, though it was hard to catch a lot of what was said. Fortunately, for those interested, the launch can be seen online by contacting Spinifex Press.

Among other things, Laura spoke about members of the medical sector in the transgender world for what she called their “light-hearted approach” to mastectomies and other body-changing surgeries. She gave one example of a doctor who was cautious and discriminatory about recommending surgery while he worked in public health, and then threw such caution to the winds once he became a private surgeon.

Laura is of the opinion that there is no such thing as the “wrong body”. She spoke of several feminist authors such as Rebecca Reilley-Cooper and Somer Brodribb and also mentioned an early Italian feminist essay by Elena Gianini Belotti, published in English as *Little Girls* in 1975. Somer Brodribb’s *Nothing Mat(T)ers, A Feminist Critique of Postmodernism* was republished by Spinifex Press in 2022.

We also heard of several recent incidents in Mexico of political conflict around transgender and feminist debate, the most significant one for Laura was when this book was withdrawn from circulation at the Guadalajara Book Fair following protests by members of the trans community.

Jacqueline

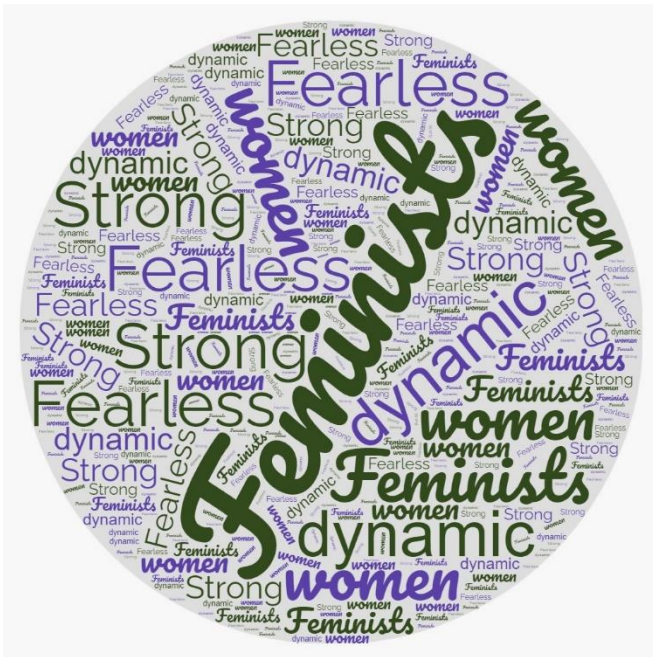
- I am not a robot
- I’m not robot *MYSELF*, but I’m not judging those who are...
- Define robot
- I’m not a robot, but I know you are, so this feels a bit hypocritical
- I reject the binary assumptions underlying this statement
- I’m not a robot, but I’m willing to convert



## 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.



## 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](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org)

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

### Who currently does what?

**Events planning:** Sylvia, Wendy

**Contact email list:** Diann, Julie

**Archives:** Sylvia and Jan

**Money Management:** Fiona

**Websisters:** Jan, Ruth, Diann, Julie

**Newsletter:** editing and layout Diann, Jacqui

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