



Ten Forty Matrix Newsletter

March 2025

www.olderdykes.org

What's On

Dykes for Dinner

Thursday 13 March @ 6.30pm

Full Moon Thai
128 Erskineville Rd
Erskineville

The menu has a wide range of choices.

[Full Moon Tai](#)

Please RSVP to Fiona
fionarimes@gmail.com

Message: 0412954573

Out and About

Sunday 9 March @ 12 noon

The Sailor's Grill
2 St Georges Crescent
Drummoyne

[Link to the bistro](#)

RSVP

Email Sharon at
biara1@optusnet.com.au

Country Lesbians Association

A Zoom event

Sunday 23 March @ 5 PM

Topic: Living in a changing world.
More details closer to the event.

CLA is aimed at connecting older lesbians, wherever in Australia you live. You don't have to live outside of Sydney to join us on Zoom.

RSVP - Email Carol at
agnodice@bigpond.com

Ten Forty International Women's Day Lunch

**Saturday 15 March
12.00 for 12.30 start**

**The Dosa Hub
86 Great North Road
Five Dock**

50 years ago, the United Nations declared 1975 as International Women's Year. We had a great year then, let's have a great lunch now. All older lesbians welcome.

To register, send your full name and phone number to Sylvia Kinder at
skinder@bigpond.net.au

Put IWD lunch in email subject.

Check out the great food on the website.
<https://www.dosahub.com.au/>

FILM GROUP - "Popcorn at the movies" Tuesday 4th March

Our next "Popcorn at the Movies" will be on Tuesday 4th March. Palace cinemas update screening sessions on Thursdays. Film selection session time & where to meet will be notified via Contact a few days before Tuesday 4th March.

This group is for anyone who is interested in having company to go to the movies and maybe have coffee or refreshments after the film. Palace Cinemas in Norton Street has \$10 tickets on Tuesdays. We meet on the 1st Tuesday of the month.

Hope to see you at the movies.

Krystyna

Queerscreen film festival,

On Demand - Lesbian films on your TV, via streaming. You can buy On Demand tickets and watch for a limited time – 28 Feb til 13 March

https://queerscreen.org.au/whats-on/location/?film_category=on-demand&film_community=lesbian

Dinner & Discussion for Older Lesbians 5 April 2025 3.00pm-6.00pm

**Location: Jimmy Little Community Centre
19 Cecily Street, Lilyfield**

A card game afternoon with Games Mistresses to coordinate different games and help beginners together with those experienced in the games.

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

For more information, contact Sylvia@



Megan Herbert

HISTORY OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 8 MARCH

International Women's Day is celebrated each year on 8 March. On 8 March 1908 women garment workers in New York went on strike, against very bad working conditions, long hours and the right to vote. This was the first strike by women. It was a very brave action, as these women needed what little money they got to feed their families. As they bravely demonstrated in the streets of New York they were harassed and attacked by men for their audacity to take political action.

In 1909 International socialist women meeting in Copenhagen, Denmark, decided to honour these brave strikers and other working women by calling for 8 March to be International Women's Day. Marches on this day were organised for 1910 in many cities. There was a famous march in Germany by women against the build-up for the First World War. In 1911 in New York despite the years of struggle for improved conditions by the women shirt makers the ten-floor building went on fire. Due to locked doors, a fire escape that collapsed under the feet of the escaping women and lack of any safety measure, 150 women died in the blaze and many suffered serious injuries. These events spurred on the growth of International Women's Day Celebrations around the world. In 1917 the International Women's Day march in Petrograd helped spark the Russian revolution.

The first International Women's Day march in Australia was held in Sydney in 1926. There were marches and other celebrations held in other Australian cities from that time. However, there was little general recognition of this special day in Australia until the rise of the Second Wave of feminism and formation of the Women's Liberation Movement in the early 1970s. This was when militant marches were held with key demands of the movement. The first major marches were held in many capital cities in 1972.

When in 1974 United Nations nominated 1975 to be International Women's Year with a pro-women government under Whitlam in Australia, and a strong active Women's Liberation Movement the whole year became a series of action-based events. International Women's Day March 8 saw huge crowds of women marching in every capital city and even smaller ones in regional centres. We celebrate 550 years since International Women's Year and commemorate 30 years since the United Nations Women's Conference in Beijing, Declaration and Platform for Action for achieving sex equality.

Today every major city in Australia holds International Day marches and celebrations, as well as many regional centres. Some of the militancy has been lost as wages and conditions for working women have improved, but there are still many problems. As a group women earn much less than men (80% of male rates of pay). Childcare is still a problem, hard to find and

expensive. Many women have only part time work that is insecure, even though they are often the main family breadwinners. Rape and domestic violence have not reduced despite years of struggle by feminists. Also, women are finding their right to their own spaces challenged and the legal system at present supports the right of men to enter a defined women's space, however in the case of the ladies' lounge at MONA in Tasmania 2024 following a tribunal decision to shut down the Ladies Lounge, an appeal to the Supreme Court of Tasmania quashed the case. This is a hopeful sign as many cases have been lost.

In Sydney in 2025 International Women's Day is now celebrated in many ways over a week. The Opera House festival. "All About Women" goes from Saturday 8 – 9 March. The Women's Library in Newtown event is on March 16.

Ten Forty Matrix is celebrating with a lunch on 15 March. Later in the year a bigger celebration is being planned to honour the lesbian activists of the 50 years since International Women's Year in 1975.

Sylvia



Report on The Ten Forty Matrix Annual General Meeting

Held at the Jimmy Little Community Centre, Lilyfield 23 November 2024

For many years Ten Forty Matrix Committee have tried to make the Annual General Meeting a worthwhile event for members to attend. To start the event, we have had a series of speakers, including some book launches, followed by the actual AGM, and to complete the evening a free catered meal for members attending. This report gives a detailed account of our guest speaker Zanna Thompson and some key points of interest from the AGM and dinner. Members will receive copy of the minutes of the AGM.

With help from our enthusiastic volunteers the hall was set up for the speaker and the AGM. Light refreshments were set out plus tea and coffee. Participants arrived at 3.30pm and the usual happy conversations and greetings could be heard. At 4pm everyone took their seat for the speaker event.

Pearlie McNeill gave an acknowledgement of the Gadigal and Wangal people on whose land we were having our meeting. She then introduced Zanna Thompson our speaker for the evening.

Losing My Grip – Keeping My Life

The title of Zanna's talk was very appropriate. Zanna presented as a strong, positive and cheerful speaker, despite her acquired disability which had

disrupted her exciting and active life as a singer and musician. She was born in Melbourne 1957. Her early life was spent under the strict religious rules of the Pentecostal Church to which her mother was devoted. The fear of offending God and going to hell made life difficult for Zanna and her brother. The one positive for her was the singing which was a constant in the church. She discovered her talent as a singer and pianist, which gave her joy despite the narrow strictures imposed by the Pentecostal religion and her mother.

Her love of music and her talent opened up a different world for her as she slowly threw off the religious restrictions and entered the world of a musician. She had an extensive career in many areas of music, as a backing singer for many famous singers, which she said was a demanding job. Also, she performed with her own group; Rabble Scat, and performed solo on piano and singing at various venues, some quite high class. Zanna kindly donated on each seat a CD of the 1997 Rabble Scat songs.

Zanna married and had a daughter, but music was very much her life. Life was suddenly, completely changed, with a breast cancer diagnosis. While modern medicine offered the hope of recovery, the radiation therapy triggered an explosion of severe rheumatoid arthritis. For those unfamiliar with this autoimmune disease, it is incredibly painful and the severe form often requires surgical intervention, to help the sufferer live a better life. Zanna lost the ability to play piano. With her hands and feet distorted she has trouble

with dexterity and mobility difficulty. The once, active singer and musician was partly bedridden and housebound for a few years.

Zanna's resilience stepped in and she set about building her new life. She found art and creativity still possible. Meditation, enjoying being in the water and learning to use her mobility scooter which she informed us has some tricky speed controls, together with her daily voice work have helped her to 'keep her life'. Her spirituality is now a love of nature and joy in the natural world.

Following a question-and-answer session Zanna was thanked by the audience and Pearlie. We all then moved to the formal Annual General Meeting.

Ten Forty goes to Magritte.

A small group of us went to see the Magritte exhibition on 27 January. This was a very late bid to see the Magritte exhibition at the Art Gallery of NSW and a whole three of us turned up. Really excellent and interesting show. Many appealing and indeed well-known pictures. We liked the fact that from a feminist point of view Magritte seems to have been a good bloke. He and his wife Georgette seem to have been a long lasting and happy team. He had a number of female nudes in his oeuvre but somehow, they managed to be almost clinical rather than sexy. A few pictures are attached but if you missed the show and are interested in art his work is very accessible on line. JA.



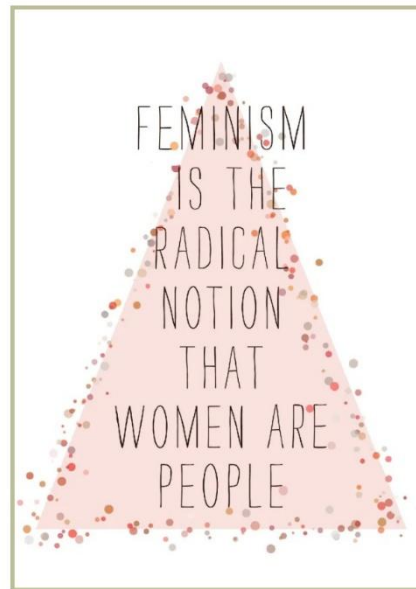
The Newsletter

We, Diann 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.

Follow us on FaceBook
[Ten Forty Matrix NSW](#)

Browse our Website
www.olderdykes.org



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 of the newsletter are available for download from our website.

Who currently does what?

Events planning: Sylvia, Diann

Contact email list: Diann, Ruth, Julie

Archives: Sylvia and Jan

Money Management: Fiona

Websisters: Jan, Ruth, Diann, Julie

Newsletter: Jacqueline and Diann

Management committee: Jan, Sylvia, Pearlie, Diann, Fiona, Jacqueline, Krystyna