



Ten Forty Matrix Newsletter

November 2025

www.olderdykes.org

What's On

Country Lesbians Association

A Zoom event
Sunday 30 November

Topic The best of 2025, what happened for you?

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

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

Dykes for Dinner Thursday 13 Nov @ 6.30pm

Café Jolly
165 Norton Street
Leichhardt

Please RSVP to Fiona
fionarimes@gmail.com

Popcorn at the movies Tuesday 2 December

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.

More details will be sent out on Contact.
Krystyna

Afternoon events for Older Lesbians

Change of Date:
The AGM is now to be held on
Saturday 29 November
4.30pm-8pm
Jimmy Little Community Centre,
Cecily Street, Lilyfield

Our guest speaker will be Kate Rowe, interviewed by Pearlie McNeill about her book, *How the F*ck would I know*; a memoir. Kate is a 78er. She embraced her lesbian sexuality and becomes active in the political issues of the 1970s. This interview will explore more about why she wrote the book.



Women in the cloud

Ten Forty websisters have been awarded a grant to run some IT training focused on increasing the confidence, skills and online safety of our members.

The IT sessions will be free and run by professional trainers. They will be held in March 2026 at the Older Women's Network in Newtown.

Before we lock down times, dates and the topics we want to cover, we'd like some input from you so that we can tailor the training to our members' needs.

If you would like to take up this opportunity for some free IT training in March next year, please could you complete our short survey:

<https://www.olderdykes.org/Limesurvey/index.php/134247?lang=en>

Women in the Bush November walks

Saturday 15 November: Olympic Park and Newington reserve. Walk around some aspects of these areas. Bus 526 Everton Rd. Strathfield. (next to Strathfield station). Return by train possibly from Rhodes station. Distance depends on walkers' interest. There are a number of exit points. Easy walk. Contact Sylvia; mobile:

0438225333 skinder@bigpond.net.au

Saturday 22 November: Northern Beaches Collaroy to Manly: scenic walk 11.5km Buses best as one way. Start at Wynyard B1 bus to Collaroy. Return by Ferry or bus. Medium walk some sand walking, swimming possible. Contact Sylvia; mobile: 0438225333 skinder@bigpond.net.au

TEN FORTY MATRIX ARCHIVES.

The Ten Forty Matrix archives have been sent to the Archives section of the State Library of NSW. This process was started in 1997 by Dorothy Cora and Carole Taylor who organised the sending of our hardcopy newsletters to the Library which is a requirement for publications of certain types.

Recently Sylvia Kinder assembled our sets of Minutes and other memorabilia to send to the Library. These records were curated to archives quality by Diana Gray (early member and records specialist) and Anne Stevens (archivist). In addition, our online newsletter material is to be sent to the online archives system of the Library (NED), a process which is being managed by Ruth Butler, our systems expert from Websisters.

Many thanks to all who have assisted in this work.

Jan Aitkin.

Report on COUNTRY LESBIANS ASSOCIATION ZOOM – Sunday 25th October 2025

Summary by Lavender.

Reclaim The Night was our topic – a timely one as across the country RTN events are being held in October. Discussion ranged across various aspects. Some of us reported on recent RTNs and some about past ones even as far back as 1980 (Sydney) and 1988 (Gosford), and as far away as Darwin.

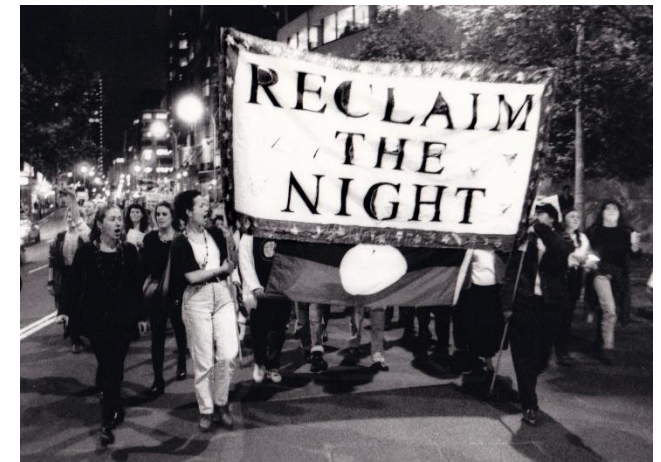
While many feminist outdoor events often include dogs, one year a woman riding a horse turned up for Lismore's RTN. The difficulties experienced by women experiencing violence in rural and remote location was of concern.

And of course, back in the "old days" in Sydney we'd all go off to dance at Ruby Reds lesbian bar in Darlinghurst.

There was also clear agreement that, despite the work of women for 60+ years of second wave feminism in Australia, there's continuing issues of male domination, both systemically and by individuals, and men not taking responsibility for their actions. There was strong agreement that Women Reclaim The Night was a most important event of the feminist agenda.



Reclaim the Night, also known as 'Take Back the Night', is an annual, international event which campaigns against sexual violence towards women. Traditionally, Reclaim the Night (RTN) takes the form of a rally/march where the public hit the streets after dark and join together to take a stand against sexual violence. Since the 70s, when RTN first took place, the marches fought for women's right to walk without fear of being assaulted at night.



Report of the Ten Forty Matrix Castlereagh Conference Centre Camp Tuesday 16 – Friday 19 September 2025

Ten Forty Matrix has organised a number of partially subsidised residential camps. This includes Berry Recreation Camp, 2015, 2016, 2019, 2020, and Vision Valley 2017. In addition, a number of multi day stays in Canberra over the years the last in 2024, and a stay in Newcastle 2022. Over the years our needs as a group have changed with increasing age of many members. Many have a wish for a comfortable bed not a bunk, and in some cases a room of our own. The ideal venue for a multi-day stay is a catered venue with comfortable rooms and a hall for our activities.

The Ten Forty Matrix management committee treasurer Fiona proposed Castlereagh Conference Centre a very short drive from Penrith, situated near the Nepean River and the Penrith Whitewater Stadium. The setting for the Conference Centre is rural, with lovely views of the foothills of the Blue Mountains.

The Centre met all our needs. It had comfortable cabins each with four rooms and a shared kitchen and eating area. The rooms had two single beds, with share possible and single supplement possible. The venue also had a fabulous hall for all our activities and a separate dining area. All of this was set in a well-maintained area with a history of white settlement, and thousands of years history of the Dharug traditional owners.



Views of the Conference Centre

Sadly, there was only room for two vans with power and no space for tents.

A lot of discussion and work went into planning what would happen at the camp. The important catering was to be by two of our members who do catering, Marian and Kathy. Two dinners were in the camp and one meal celebrated the last night at The Log Cabin, which overlooked the Nepean River. Lunches were also at the camp except for a terrific lunch at Lewer's Café at the Penrith Regional Gallery. Breakfast was organised in our cabins by ourselves, a great time for chats with our cabin friends. The arrangement for meals was excellent and although the caterers had to battle a kitchen with a very slow oven they turned out some amazing meals, with all dietary needs catered for. Their home-made ice-cream was very popular!

So what did we all do?

There were a number of organised events. These included a movie night in the hall, a cruise on the Nepean River in the Nepean Belle, a presentation by Leanne Tobin, artist and local Dharug resident and historian. A group guided tour of the impressive Penrith Regional Gallery and a trip to Warragamba Dam with a side trip to a look out over the Nepean River Gorge. Some women went for walks or bird watching in various places, we played cards or other games in the hall, read a book or simply socialised on the cabin verandas.



The highlight for many of us was the presentation by Leanne Tobin. Leanne used her art work to illustrate the history of the indigenous people of the area and provided the insights into what we are looking at here from years ago; what she has fought to change, and where she has succeeded.

One point she raised was the erroneous use of Eora which has a meaning different to the one commonly used.

"This first picture, I purposely have given it the title Ngunnawra. Ngunnawra is seen country. Ngunnawra, you've probably heard the word Eora as a nation.

That is a myth. With the Aboriginal language, and Darug language in particular, we have prefaces and suffixes that change the meaning of the word. So, Nara, or Nora, means country. So, Yora is from this place, from this country.

You can see how the translation changed. Whitefellers asked, where are you from? Eyora, we're from here. Oh, you're Eoran, right? And then it starts. Then they put it in concrete, they put it in bronze plate, and then we've got something we can't erase."

Leanne Tobin



Leanne shared the story of her own family. Her art was very emotive She linked the paintings so well to her stories.

"My mother, her ancestry was Maria Locke and Yarramundi, who was a tribal elder. He and his father, Gomebeeree, met with Governor Phillip first off in 1791. Maria Locke became the first woman in the Native Institute that he set up in the early 1880s.

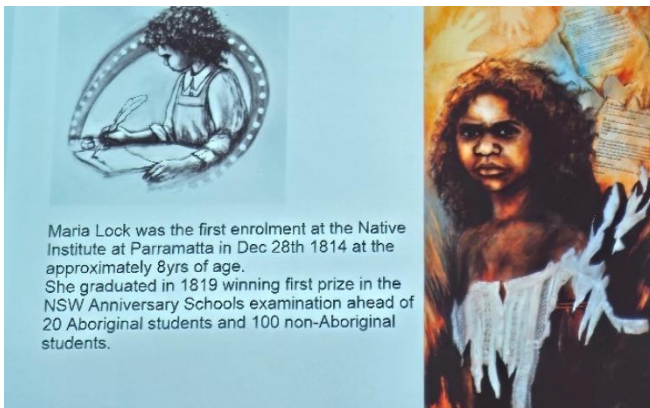
My mother did not know of her Aboriginal ancestry, but she knew as a kid her dad would take her out to Lapa to see relatives. Mum didn't find out. She was 58. My grandmother died with a secret. She didn't tell her. This is why this is such a big story for me.

The silencing of my mother, not knowing the secret, my grandmother, who kept the secret, and the enormity of the story.

Marie Locke became the first Aboriginal woman to learn English language so fluently that she won a prize at the Native Institution. She topped the exam between white and black. She was Yarramundi's daughter.

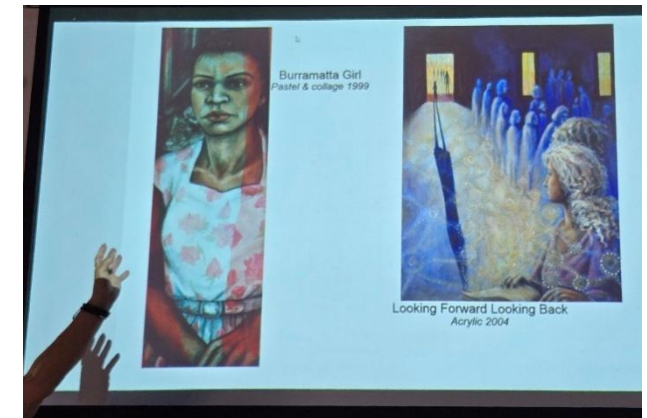
All along here are massacre sites and when I got here that wind that came up could have caused this place a lot of sadness and it's got a lot of cover - up...."

Leanne Tobin



"This beautiful painting you may recognize is actually this country here. I've actually done this painting first in the morning, you know, that early morning light where the Aboriginal women would have gone out to collect the dew and the nectar. It was a time of coming out very early in the morning, putting your feet on country. They are part of the country. You can't see them separate to country."

Leanne Tobin



"Barramatta girl. This is a representation of my mum. On her shoulders, a possum. Possum is our totem. It has always been there. She didn't know, and she hid away. She dressed very immaculately. My grandmother and her sisters all got the fur coats and the hats. They scrubbed and worked their guts out. You know, my grandmother was married to an Irish man who was drunk and used to bash her. She had to leave and then she came back for the kids after. We're talking the 1940s. It was a very volatile time. Mum was born in Parramatta. Where the Albion Hotel is, there was a terrace house. and mum was born in 1933.

She was born in that terrace house. The reason being that Aboriginal women were not allowed to have their babies in hospitals. I had to tell my mother about that at 90. You know, really hard stuff."

Leanne Tobin

There were 33 women registered for the camp, including day visitors. When it came to the traditional concert on Thursday night, to be performed by those present, it was a total surprise to find we had a full program of talent that lasted for 90 minutes. We had a choir, some comedy, stories, music, and much more. For me one of the most entertaining items was a performance by Viviane, backed by the choir and audience participation, of *The Ovarian Sisters, Beat Your Breasts*. What talent we have amongst Ten Forty Matrix members.



Talking to those present I personally discovered some activities and places I still want to visit that they enjoyed, The Fire Museum, a delightful bushwalk and more. I am delighted that Ten Forty Matrix is planning a return camp in September 2026. Keep your September diary free and watch out on Contact for the date.
Sylvia

The Koorabung project.



The Koorabung, a beautiful vintage 35ft timber vessel, custom built in 1928, in Sydney Harbour has been generously **donated** to Dharug peoples by Lesley Laing (the current owner) who became sole owner of the boat when my cousin, Aunty Chris Burke, passed away in 2016. Lesley is part of the Arirangu Kids Foundation.

We are now raising funds to resurrect this old 100 -year -old boat. We can then begin doing cultural mapping and it will become a floating classroom for women and children honouring Chris's legacy.

The Koorabung is a functional boat. At the moment it's going through massive repairs, and it's had the hull redone, and we're just

working on getting the top redone and we've modified it a little bit so it can carry 30 to 50 people. All the copper nails have been replaced with brass silicon -tipped screws, 3 ,000, it's very expensive, but we've been very blessed. There are a lot of beautiful people coming around to try and help get this up.

We will be doing cultural mapping along the river and basically inviting people to come along who want to care for country, working with other organisations. We have big dreams.

Leanne Tobin

There's a GoFundMe page for the Koorabung if you want to help. We are in dire straits trying to get it happening. There's only a few of us working together at the moment.

The purpose of this restoration and project is:

- To promote Dharug presence in a contemporary setting.
- To conduct cultural mapping of the Dyarubbin and the Lane Cove/Turrumburra River.
- To reconnect Dharug people with the Dyarubbin and the Lane Cove/Turrumburra River; and to educate them about the past and what happened to our people.

- To educate others of Dharug history
- To help to highlight the importance of caring for Ngurra/Country and preserving our waterways.

See more information on the Koorabung go to the [gofundme](https://www.gofundme.com/f/rescue-aunty-chris-boat-the-Koorabung) page.

<https://www.gofundme.com/f/rescue-aunty-chris-boat-the-Koorabung>



Painting by Leanne Tobin

SNIPPITS from my MAY/JUNE 2025 DIARY

It's wet. Cold. Frequently I have to solve my internet problems. Thank goodness for my friend Leanne at Lawson, the Springwood library with their WiFi and the Digital Literacy Foundation Guy who can be booked to visit my unit on a Tuesday morning.

As of this morning, I am being forced to install WINDOWS 11. Damn! Here's hoping I can book in for this Tuesday.

In May Otto set himself the task of raising, hopefully around Two Hundred Thousand Dollars for the Leukaemia Foundation, along the Nepean River Pathway 8km Loop for ONE THOUSAND KILOMETERS. His grandfather had died of a rare form of the blood cancer last year. With 31 days in May, Otto's thinking was he had allowed himself time for Mental/Physical Glitches.

Glitch 1: Excruciating Left Foot Pain at the end of week 1 and 120km! A week later he resumed his attempt, POSITIVE & DETERMINED.

Otto and I had recently started playing chess, on a Thursday morning, at my Buckland Retirement Village newly opened, heritage listed, **Boiler Room Café**. Warm inside, if wet.

Glitch 2: 50mm of rain. So, after our chess games, he went to his local gym, and completed 40km on the treadmill.

The next week delightfully sunny, after our chess with coffee time under the elm tree, stiff and sore he completed another 40kms!
COULD THIS CONTINUE?

He did. And became a local legend, after making Front Page, and page 5 of the Blue Mountains Gazette. A photo shows others joining him for the final 8km loop.

My friend Leanne is a chorister in 'Crowd Around'. Mostly sings Bass. Occasionally Alto. So, needs to change position for particular songs. She is referred to as BISECTIONAL. Another member is TRISECTIONAL. I enjoy these choristers' humour, as well as their harmonies.

Casseiopia (S'wood Arcade Coffee Shop), is a great place to catch up with other locals, and challenge my mind with the Sydney Morning Herald's Puzzles Page. I'm able to get it photocopied at the Neighbourhood Centre. I try and attempt all BUT the Cryptic Crossword. Google is my Assistant with David Astle's Quick Crossword.

Is David Astle having a joke at Peter Dutton (former Australian Leader of The Opposition)

Clue: Generous, Progressive (7) (Letters)

Answer: Liberal Me: Ha! Not so.

Other Clues:

Swapped (5) Begin - Start-Onset

Full (of food) (5) - Sated (Dan's Word)

NOT IN MY VOCABULARY

Font (7) Courier - Me: SO...APT!!

IF a google lead yields 'Dan Word' possibilities, then I usually have a quick suitable solution, and I may be able to extend my vocabulary.

For Example: Plant Fibre from Agave (5)
Answer: Istle

The Puzzles Page allows me an hour plus of entertaining concentration down the Cosmic Rabbit Hole with Google.

Kaye P



TEN FORTY MATRIX INC.



Annual General Meeting Saturday Saturday 29 November 2025

4.30pm – 8.00pm

Jimmy Little Community Centre, Cecily Street,
Lilyfield

Program

Please note all lesbians over 40 are welcome to this event, only members can vote at the AGM. The dinner is free for members. Non-members wishing to enjoy the guest speaker are most welcome. They may also attend the AGM and the dinner for a small cost if registered.

4.30pm Arrive. Coffee/tea and nibbles

4.45pm-5.45pm Welcome and acknowledgement of country, and guest speaker

Kate Rowe will be interviewed by Pearlie McNeill about her book, *How the F*ck would I know; a memoir*

Kate has been busy with lots of book launches, but this interview by Pearlie, who has also written a memoir of her own early

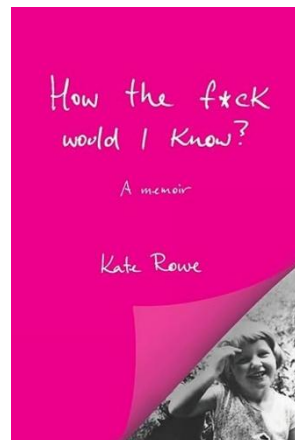
traumatic childhood will be different to a book launch. Kate's early struggles caused her to flee to Australia as a "Ten Pound Pom" in the 1970s, Kate didn't expect her demons to follow her. It took facing her truth to break free of the drugs and alcohol that had controlled her since her teens in a desperate attempt to escape the shadow of sexual trauma.

Kate embraced her lesbian sexuality and becomes active in the political issues of the 1970s. Later tackling ten Ironman events, and learning ukulele, amongst many activities show how Kate changed her life. This interview will explore more about why she wrote the book and her life.

5.45pm short break

6.00pm-7.00pm Annual General Meeting.

7.00pm- 8.30pm, a delicious, end of year, meal is being catered by, Sam of All Courses Elite Catering <https://www.allcourses.com.au> Paella Catering, for all members **free**.



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.

Who currently does what?

Events planning: Sylvia

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

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

Browse our Website: www.olderdykes.org