



Ten Forty Matrix Newsletter

www.olderdykes.org

February 2026

What's On

Dykes for Dinner

Our first Dinner for the Year will be:

Thursday February 12th

The venue will be advertised through contact@olderdykes.org as always, so if you haven't been receiving the Contact emails, do send them an email and ask to be put on the list.

Dykes for Dinner is on the:

2nd Thursday of each month.

Make a note in your diary.

Looking forward to catching up in February.

Happy New Year
Fiona



Popcorn at the MOVIES 2026

1st MONDAY of the Month

This year Popcorn at the Movies will mainly be held at the **Palace Central** on the 1st MONDAY of the month. Palace Cinemas has changed their cheap days from Tuesday to Monday.

Palace Central is on several inner west bus routes and Central Station is nearby. It is located on:
Level 3/28 Broadway, Chippendale - opposite the UTS. It has 10 small cinemas, a small lounge, decent air conditioning and various eateries nearby.

Screening times are usually posted on Thursday. I will post the suggested the month's film on 'Contact' on Friday.

This is a drop in drop out thing. If you have other suggestions send them to Contact@olderdykes.org

Cheers
Krystyna

SCAMS AND ONLINE SECURITY

Ten Forty Matrix invites you to a discussion of Artificial Intelligence, scams and online security. Leading our discussion will be Sally Harrold from IT for Retirees.

When
Friday 6 March 2026, 10.30am – 12.30pm

Where
Marrickville Pavilion (right next to Marrickville Library)

Entry is free
Please let us know you are coming by emailing contact@olderdykes.org with your name, phone number and email address so we can plan for the right number of participants.

What's next?
After the discussion, you'll have the chance to sign up for a free hands-on training session focused on practical AI use and using your device safely while travelling. Each group will be a maximum of ten people to ensure there is personalised support.

Training session times
Friday 13 March 2026, 10.30am – 1.00pm (Apple users)
Friday 27 March 2026, 10.30am – 1.00pm (Android users)

Women in the cloud



What's On

February 2026

Country Lesbians Association

Zoom Event
Sunday 22nd February...5:30 pm
Eastern Standard Time

Topic: What's important to me?
How do I balance things I want to do?

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

**All
About
Women**



8th March

A talks festival on gender, culture and equality.

<https://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/all-about-women>

Afternoon Events for Older Lesbians

Dates for you Diary for 2026.

Name change from 'Dinner and Discussion for Older Lesbians' as we now meet afternoons.

All AfOL events are held at:
Jimmy Little Community Centre,
Cecily Street, Lilyfield

Saturday 11 April Afternoons for older lesbians.
2.30pm – 5.30pm afternoon tea provided

Saturday 30 May Afternoons for older lesbians.
2.30pm – 5.30pm afternoon tea provided

Saturday 12 September AfOL
2.30pm – 5.30pm afternoon tea provided

Saturday 21 November End of Year Event:
Annual General Meeting
Guest Speaker
Members Free Dinner

2.30pm – Arrival light refreshments
3.30pm – 4.30pm Event/speaker
4.30pm -5.30pm AGM
5.30-7.30pm Dinner

Women in the Bush

Saturday 7 February: Sydney Harbour NP. Cremorne Point to Balmoral Beach - meet at Cremorne Point at 9:10am. The ferry leaves Circular Quay wharf 4 at 09:00am. 14km medium walk. Possibility of joining the walk at Taronga Zoo wharf (ferry leaves CQ wharf 4 at 10:12am) 6.8km for those who want a shorter walk. Return to the city via bus from Balmoral Beach. Contact: Joanne 0410 430 377

Saturday 14 February: Northern Beaches Dee Why to Manly 7km. (shorter than usual walk to avoid flooded Manly Lagoon crossing) BI bus from Wynyard to Dee Why, near David Ave. Opposite Howard Rd. From Manly return via Ferry or bus. Meet at 9.30am at the Surf Club end of Dee Why Parade. Contact: Sylvia mobile: 0438225333 skinder@bigpond.net.au

For the full program:
February and March

Contact: Sylvia Email: skinder@bigpond.net.au
Ask for the program and to be put on the email list if you wish.



What's On

February 2026

AF4WR IWD Conference

5th to 7th MARCH

As some of you may know, Australian Feminists for Women's Rights (AF4WR) has taken over from IWD Meanjin Brisbane the organisation of feminist, women only IWD conferences.

The inaugural AF4WR IWD conference will take place from 5 to 7 March in Sydney's Inner West area. (exact location to be disclosed to registrants)

All those registering for the conference become temporary, non-voting members of AF4WR for the purpose of the conference, to protect the women and our space. To do so, all participants must support the purpose and objectives of AF4WR as set out in our Manifesto: <https://af4wr.org/our-manifesto/>

Registration costs are as set out in the schedule below:

Type of registration	Whole conference	Thu eve	Fri day	Fri eve	Sat day
Early bird by Sunday 8 February	230	55	70	55	70
Early bird discount (student, pensioner, unemployed, Indigenous) by Sunday 8 February	160	40	55	40	55
Sustaining registration (including donation)	400	100	120	100	120
Full registration (from Mon 9 February)	280	70	80	70	80
Discount registration (from Monday 9 February)	200	50	65	50	65

IWD Australia Planning Group

P.O. Box 497 MARRICKVILLE NSW 1475

Email: IWD@af4wr.org.au

Web: <https://af4wr.org/>

FB, X and Bluesky: [@ozwimmsrights](https://twitter.com/ozwimmsrights)



Speakers will talk on a range of topics: the meaning of feminism and antifeminism; surrogacy; societal attitudes to mothers; lesbian culture and politics; gender critical politics and legal battles; women's spirituality; the impacts of the internet and AI; and more.

There will be book launches and evening entertainment. The conference is fully catered and wine and beer will be on sale in the evening. A special guest is Scottish feminist performance poet [Jenny Lindsay](#), who is also author of the book *Hounded: Women, Harms and the Gender Wars*.

For more information please contact AF4WR IWD Planning group at: iwd@af4wr.org.au



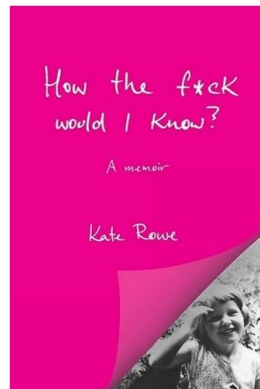
Report on the interview with Kate Rowe about her memoir “How the F*ck would I know?”

February 2026

Ten Forty Matrix AGM 29 November 2025

Kate Rowe was asked by Ten Forty Matrix earlier in the year if she would talk about her recently published memoir, ‘How the F*ck would I know?’ at our Annual General Meeting in November. As she has spent a lot of time doing book launches throughout the year she was asked if she would be willing to be interviewed as opposed to her being introduced and then speaking to her book. Kate with her usual generosity agreed. The following report is a summary of the main answers to the questions asked by her interviewer Sylvia Kinder.

Kate was asked how she came to write a memoir a task many women hope to do but never do. Kate has been invited over the years to speak at Generation Women in the over 70s team. Generation Women is a popular monthly event in which six women, drawn from diverse groups in our society, representing each generation, 20s, 30s, 40s, 50s, 60s, and 70s+, speak from their lived experience on a theme. Each event focuses on a different theme and each woman approaches the theme in a different way. As a result of her presentations Kate was frequently told she should write a book about her life. At Generation Women you have around 7 minutes to talk, so there was a lot more for Kate to write about. Over the years she had written short episodes from her life and with the encouragement she was getting felt she should try to write a book. Kate is a well-known athlete and brought the determination and thoroughness of preparation for a marathon to the writing of the book. She attended a seminar on writing but found it less useful than engaging a woman from the State Library to work with her on the writing. This was an expensive but valuable decision. The editorial costs were \$11,000. Self-publication was the only option, like so many writers she found getting published was very difficult.



These are of course costs the author pays and with returns of \$4 on a book of average price, the task is a labour of love unlikely to cover the costs. While Kate had researched some of her past for presentations at Generation Women and there were the small articles she had written, it took some time and a lot of work to piece her life together. While trips back to visit family in the UK, conversations with friends, and her own memories were a start. Kate reveals in her book the many years of drug and alcohol, together with random, casual sexual behaviour she engaged in from her teens to age 26 nearly killed her. She had a number of suicide attempts, which could easily have worked, only saved by the intervention of others. A distressing event triggered her sudden recall of the deep trauma of sexual abuse she experienced as a child. This trauma, although buried was behind all her pain and misery which taking drugs and alcohol had kept the horror of the memories repressed.

The drug and alcohol induced behaviour she was exhibiting, distanced her friends and parents who found her too difficult. This is a common problem for young people who act out. They are seen as autonomous people choosing bad behaviour that angers those around them. While often the behaviour is a signal of serious underlying trauma. Kate felt unloved by her parents and their struggles with her behaviour reinforced that. However as a recovered adult following the death of her mother aged 53 she was given some papers belonging to her mother including a letter her mother had written to a newspaper in 1971. In this letter her mother talks about an abortion she had in 1962 in UK when it was illegal in most cases. What her mother went through brings tears to any woman's eyes. For Kate it also revealed the secrets that her poor mother carried and her sufferings. Sadly she never had the chance to talk with her mother about her life, or rebuild their relationship. She did try with her father but as she says he was a mystery as he did not show much emotion. Although an intelligent, caring and anti-violence person it was hard to engage with him at a deeper level.



Report on the interview with Kate Rowe about her memoir “How the F*ck would I know?” ...cont.

February 2026

Despite recovering from her addictions working on the traumas of her earlier life took considerable years of therapy, a further traumatic experience did not throw her back into addictions but took its toll on her life. Despite this Kate’s explanation for how she became an active lesbian feminist is that she was always politically aware. When she became involved in Campaign Against Moral Persecution (CAMP), which was founded in 1971 to fight for the rights of homosexual men and women, she found a sense of belonging. She got strength from like-minded people. Kate is a proud 78er and was active in all CAMP campaigns and actions.

Kate has bravely written an honest ‘warts and all’ book. There is a lot of other questions the book can answer, how did a young woman from a poor working class family get to migrate to Australia? How did a woman with such shocking early life trauma get herself together to become a lesbian activist, a champion athlete, get married politically and gain a University Degree? You will need to read the book to get the answers, some will surprise you.

Sylvia Kinder



Report on Ten Forty at the Art Gallery

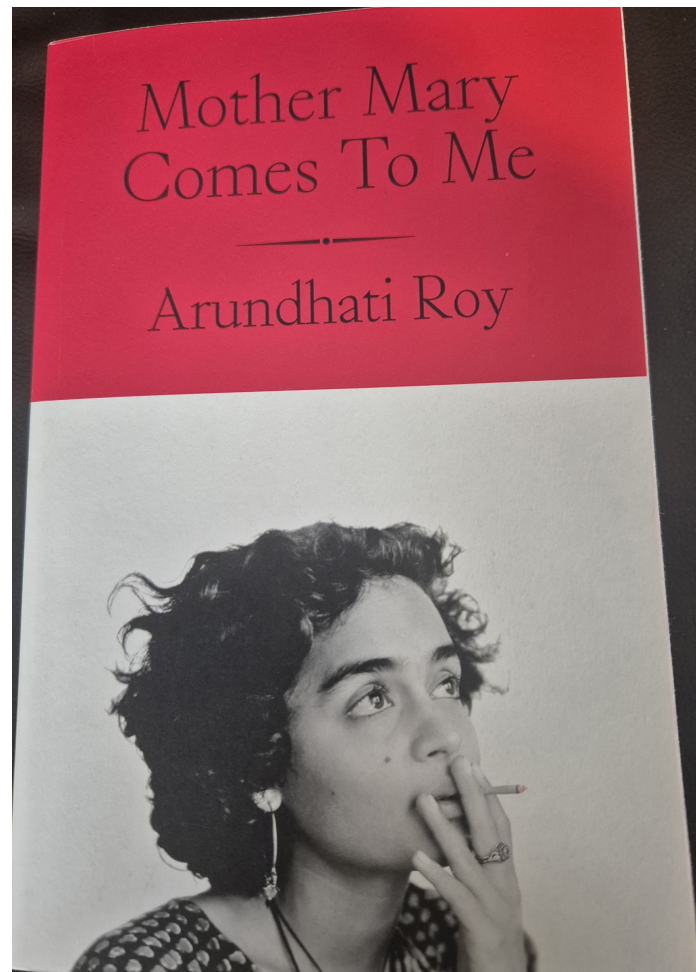
Dangerously Modern: Australian Women Artists in Europe 1890-1940.

This turned out to be a really splendid exhibition, so good as to be worth a second visit but it closes on 15 February 2026.

A large number, about 22 of us, gathered for the traditional coffee and chat before embarking on our visit to the show which was really very extensive and detailed. In fact most of us went round the rooms a number of times because there was so much to take in.

Notable for some of us was the fact that many of the women, mainly of middle class means, had gone overseas to ‘find themselves’. And maybe they found lots of company! But they produced some really excellent work which compared very well with some of the better known works by male contemporaries. There were a few paintings of women reading and this could indicate that women were now more able to have access to education. All in all the exhibition was an interesting slice of our history and there were splendid photographs as well lining the exit walls. A good day out, with a pleasant lunch and some new women with us.

Jan A



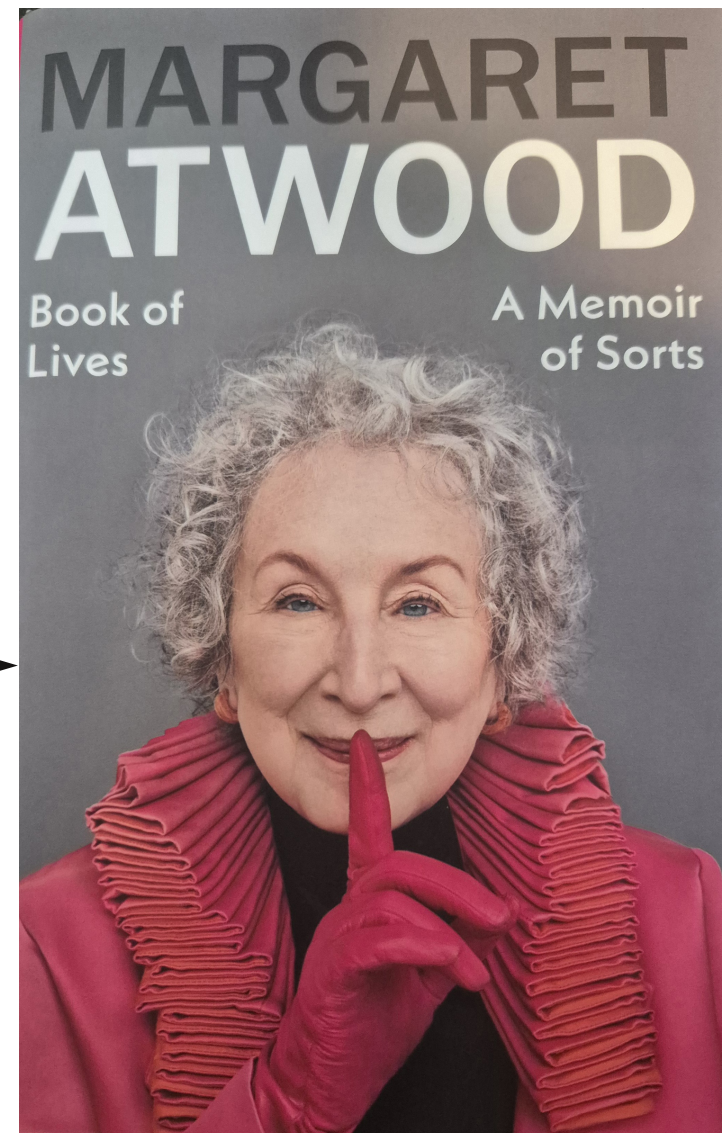
Here are two recent books which are a very sustaining and easy read if you like the memoir format.

The first is [Mother Mary Comes to Me by Arundhati Roy](#), the celebrated author of *The God of Small Things*. Roy had a extremely fraught relationship with her mother who was in many ways a feminist way back. Roy explains that she was motivated to write this account only after her mother had died and she was surprised about the intensity of her emotional response. On the way through she records a great deal about Indian politics in which she was heavily involved and aspects of life in India which are not what you get in guidebooks. A wondrous life.



The second is [Margaret Atwood: Book of Lives: a Memoir of Sorts](#). At 599 pages complete with illustrations (often her own) and an index this is a large book with relatively small print. To be read slowly. Atwood is disarmingly frank about her life and the book is filled with her wry humour which makes material which could be banal into a bit of fun.

Jan A





'Lesbians are Lovely' event at The Carriageworks, Tuesday 17 February

<https://carriageworks.com.au/events/lesbians-are-lovely/>

The diverse panel for this event is likely to present various conceptions of lesbian space that may or may not accord with our own.

In the promotional blurb, they 'ask whether we are making space for all lesbians, and consider the ways we can celebrate every part of our community'.

Personally, I would like to reframe this question. I presume that 'our community' refers to their queer community. It is a community that I can respect, though I do not consider myself to be part of it. I do not want anyone to 'make space' into which I can assimilate. The implied expectation that all lesbians should do so strikes me as an arrogant effort to cancel the space of my own community, to silence us, and to render us invisible within their framework.

Rather, I would like to ask how their community can leave space, that is otherwise rapidly disappearing, so that lesbians like myself and my friends can exist safely and respectfully alongside the queer community without necessarily being part of it. I maintain that we all need spaces to celebrate our own culture and to have our own voices heard in a climate of intelligent and healthy debate. I plan to attend in the hope of asking this reframed question of the panel. Some women may wish to attend for similar reasons or for their own interest.

Wendy



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 and Di F

Newsletter: Diann, Norma and Sue

Management committee: Jan, Sylvia, Pearlie, Diann, Fiona, Sue, Wendy, Krystyna

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

Browse our Website: www.olderdykes.org