



Ten Forty Matrix Newsletter

June 2026

www.olderdykes.org

What's On

Popcorn at the movies

Popcorn at the movies Popcorn at the movies has shifted from once a month to flexible times and days. If you want a movie on a particular day or time, post it on the Contact email list saying you will be there at that time. And get a few others who can do that day and time.

Email me krystyna23@yahoo.com with your feedback.

Cheers
Krystyna

Dykes for Dinner Thursday 11 June @ 6.30pm

Huong Huong
228 Marrickville Road
Marrickville

Huong Huong is a well-established Restaurant in Marrickville that serves authentic Chinese and Vietnamese specialties, as well as Thai favourites. The menu is varied, with many vegetarian and gluten-free options available.

Located in the main shopping strip close to the Victoria Road end, it is walking distance from Sydenham Station, plus the 423 and 426 buses go down Marrickville Road. Parking is available on Marrickville Road or on nearby streets and Frampton Avenue has a car park.

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

Message: 0412954573

Country Lesbian Association (CLA) Sunday 28 June @ 5.30 Sydney Time

Topic still to be decided. Details to come out on Contact.

The CLA Zoom discussion group is an initiative of 10/40, organised to support older lesbians in NSW. All lesbian women, Australia wide, are welcome to our discussion. We are focussed on supporting lesbians over 40.

Afternoon events for Older Lesbians Saturday 12 September 2.30pm

Put the date in your diary. It will be a story telling day. More details to come out on Contact.

Women in the Bush

June 2026

www.womeninthebush.org.au kggiles@bigpond.com

or

skinder@bigpond.net.au Mobile: 0438 225 333

Saturday 6 June Royal NP. 5-6km medium.

Audley circuit Robertson's Roundabout with short extension along the ridge then down to the road along the Hacking River back to Audley. Contact Sylvia skinder@bigpond.net.au; mobile: 0438 225 333

Saturday 20 June Northern Beaches: Manly to North Head. Easy to medium 10km. Meet at Manly Wharf at 9.20am ferry leaves Circular Quay wharf 3 at 8.50am arrives Manly 9.15am. There are also buses from the City and Crowes Nest. Contact Joanne 0410 430 377

Saturday 27 June. Northern Beaches, Narrabeen Lagoon circuit Easy 9km. Well surfaced tracks, a flat walk. This is a delightful walk with some lovely bush remnants and views over the lagoon. Best way is to take the B1 bus from Carrington Street Stand B. Wynyard. It stops right at Narrabeen by the Lagoon. Contact Elke evesallymiriam@gmail.com;

Sylvia Kinder

Mobile: 0438 225 333

skinder@bigpond.net.au

I acknowledge the Wangal people, on whose traditional, unceded land I live.

Report on Women in the Cloud

Trying to keep pace with the rapid changes to our digital world can feel a bit overwhelming, but our March Women in the Cloud sessions encouraged us to be curious and explore.

The first session tackled the urgent topic of scams and online security. Our trainer Sally outlined some of the ways that people can be scammed online. We also shared stories during the session about scams members have fallen for like the 'emergency funds needed' scam purporting to be from friends or family, demonstrating just how convincing some of these scams can be. The website [Scam Watch](#) is an essential resource offering tips for spotting fakes, a way to report incidents and even a quiz to test your 'scam sense'.

The focus changed during our hands-on sessions to travel and AI. Sally equipped us with a digital tool kit for the modern traveler:

Communicating - Google Translate brings down language barriers and WiFi Finder ensures you're never struggling to find a WiFi connection.

Local navigation - [maps.me](https://www.maps.me) (which uses OpenStreetMaps) with its downloadable maps ensures you're never lost. AroundMe instantly spots banks, hospitals and theatres nearby.

Fast cash and other emergencies - XE

Currency helps you keep more of your money when exchanging currency while Flush solves the urgent question of finding a loo!

In the second hour we delved into the world of Artificial Intelligence. First up was a CSIRO video '[AI Explained: It's maths, not magic](#)' giving an overview of how AI finds patterns in large data sets. We then turned to real world applications and discovered AI is not just for making funny cat videos but can assist with everything from drafting emails and polishing speeches to improving healthcare and revolutionising scientific research.

To round off the session we challenged Chat GPT to write us a limerick about older lesbians:

'A lesbian elder, so bright,
Spent evenings with friends every night.
They shared stories old,
And tales never told,
And basked in the warmth of their sight.'

Sally finished up by directing us towards the [BeConnected](#) website. You'll find a large library there of useful courses, articles, tips and podcasts on all sorts of topics from online security to using transport apps.

Just for fun here's how Lumo AI rewrites the opening paragraph of this report in the style of Jane Austen:

'It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a woman in possession of a digital device must be in want of protection from the myriad deceptions of the modern age. Yet, the rapid succession of changes in our digital world can often present a burden so heavy as to overwhelm the most steady of nerves. Fortunately, the March assembly of the Women in the Cloud served to inspire a spirit of curiosity, encouraging us to explore these new territories with a courage that might otherwise have been lacking.'

And then in the style of Guardian columnist Marina Hyde:

'Digital Derring-Do: How One Group of Women Learned Not to Get Scammed Into Oblivion

Trying to keep pace with the rapid changes to our digital world can feel overwhelming, unless you're the sort of person who finds joy in watching your bank account evaporate via a phone call from someone claiming to be your grandson in urgent need of emergency funds. But apparently, our March Women in the Cloud sessions inspired us with the confidence to be curious and explore, which is a lovely sentiment, though I suspect curiosity killed more than one cat before the internet invented itself.' Worth squandering the resources of our planet for?

Ruth from Websisters

More resources:

What is AI

<https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au/topic-library/articles-and-tips/what-is-ai>

Be Connected

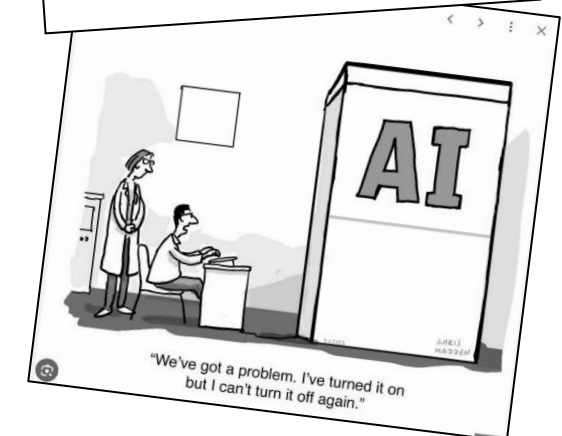
<https://beconnected.esafety.gov.au/topic-library>

► Bias & Fairness

- AI can sometimes:
 - Reinforce existing biases, leading to unfair outcomes that impact individuals and society
 - Learn from outdated or biased information, leading to unfair outcomes
- For example:
 - AI systems may make biased recommendations or decisions in areas like healthcare, recruitment or loan approvals

How to Practice Rational Skepticism
- According to Chat GPT To safely navigate an AI-driven world, adopt a "human-in-the-loop" approach: [1, 2]

1. **Verify Critical Information:** Double-check important facts, medical suggestions, or legal citations using primary, trusted sources.
2. **Test the System:** Evaluate an AI tool against your own areas of expertise to understand its specific blind spots and limitations.
3. **Use AI as a Co-Pilot:** Let AI handle the heavy lifting of sorting, summarizing, and brainstorming, but retain full human accountability for final outcomes. [1, 2, 3, 4]



Report Afternoon for Older Lesbians - Tea Dance

Saturday 11 May 2026

It was a lovely day and maybe many older lesbians had taken a walk in the afternoon. However, there was a still a group who arrived at the Jimmy Little Community Centre between 2.30pm and 3pm. The wonderful helpers had set up the tables with our white sheet table cloths. The food table had a lovely display of sandwiches, cheeses, dips, biscuits, various gluten free cakes and other tasty items. Coffee and tea were set up in the kitchen ready for the crowd. Technical skills are not my forte and although I had practiced getting the music from my phone to play on our speaker I was having problems. Luckily Sue Gee was there with her skills and soon the music was playing. Norma provided some 60s music. It provided a good background for the animated chatter as friends were greeted and afternoon tea consumed.

As everyone entered, our regular door supervisor Diann, handed out the name tags and a raffle number, with instructions not to lose it as the stubs had no names. These numbers were going to be called and some prizes were displayed on a table out the front.

Norma's dance music, a mix of 70s+ got women up dancing. This was interrupted at times to call out the drawn raffle number.

Sue Gee sang a few songs. She set up on a chair with her guitar, in the front of the hall. Sue is a talented musician and song writer. She also writes some witty lyrics about the lesbian condition and relationships. When she was asked for an encore, she pulled out her ukulele and sang one of Judy Small's songs. Judy is no longer able to sing and it was good to hear her songs from another musical lesbian.

The end of the afternoon was another set of dance music, with one of the special songs of the lesbian movement to finish, Dusty Springfield singing, *"I only want to be with you."*

Set-up and pack-up as always was done with flair by great volunteers. No event is possible without this help so a big thank you to your all.
Sylvia April 2026



Ten Forty goes to Parramatta by Ferry.



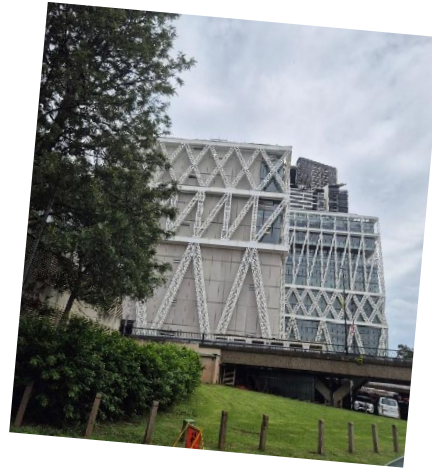
On a lovely fine Thursday 30 April 11 brave Ten-Fortiers embarked on the Parramatta Ferry, 20 minutes earlier than planned, but everyone made it. Because tide heights and times vary over the year time tables change and we wanted to do the whole trip by ferry. Otherwise, one has to tranship at Rydalmere to buses. As we got close to the Parramatta wharf, we could see what a tight fit the ferry was and how much the tide height would matter.

The trip was 1 hour 20 mins long, but really pleasant and interesting. There was an amazing number of huge unit blocks en route and one wondered why we have a housing shortage! And for those interested in fish and birds there was a gratifying growth of healthy mangroves for habitat.

After landing, we had a brisk walk uptown. For those who used to work in the area it was a surprise to see how well developed the Parramatta CBD has become. We made it to

Mamak, a Malaysian restaurant in Parramatta Square. No lunchtime bookings allowed but the staff found room for us and guided us through the menu. The food was authentic and the staff friendly and helpful. After lunch we had a quick look at the library, which is large, new and welcoming. A few of us sweet-seeking missiles found a lovely coffee and cake shop nearby and then caught the train home.

Jan



Ten Forty Games Day Saturday 30 May

The games day was enjoyed by all of us who attended. We played, Mahjong, Canasta and 500. And talked and had a lovely afternoon tea. Great work Sylvia and others who organised the event.
Diann



Vale Jools Topp 1958 – 2026

Vale, Jools Topp. (14.05.1958-23.05.2026)
Lesbians world-wide and New Zealanders of every “persuasion” are mourning the loss of country music icon, Dame Jools Topp. Jools was one half of The Topp Twins, along with her surviving sister, Lynda. Jools died of breast cancer last week, having battled it for more than 20 years.

Originally from Waikato, N.Z., the twins were brought up “running wild” on a farm, along with their brother Bruce. Encouraged by their parents, the girls started performing country music together at a very young age, developing their trademark easy harmonies. As young adults, they soon morphed into busking and singing protest songs at demonstrations in NZ capitals in the 1970’s and 80’s. Their activism included opposing the Springboks tour in 1981, support for Māori land rights, for a nuclear-free Pacific and support for the “Homosexual Law Reform Bill”. Both Jools and Lynda were out lesbians and continued to use their music to advocate for lesbian and gay rights throughout their career.

The Topp twins loved to create uniquely New Zealander characters on stage and in their TV shows. An early iteration, “The Gingham Sisters” was one of their comedy avenues to introduce lesbian themes into their act. Other characters such as “Camp Leader and Camp Mother” and “Ken and

Ken” (in which they cross-dressed) were not-so subtle, humorous ways to bring up lesbian and gay issues for straight audiences, including on television. In character, the twins lampooned themselves constantly, bantered with audience members, and dragged them up on stage to be interviewed off the cuff: their comedy routines were largely unscripted, so every performance was fresh and unpredictable. A New Zealand friend who attended a show in a small South Island town many years ago told me how one of the twins marched up to a woman in the audience, grabbed her handbag and took it up on stage and examined the contents, to the woman’s embarrassment. A memorable moment, indeed!

As well as touring worldwide, The Topp Twins made several TV series such as “Do Not Adjust your Twinset” which won them awards in NZ, and a cooking show called “Topp Country” which ran over three seasons. A documentary film: “The Topp Twins: Untouchable Girls”, directed by Leanne Pooley, was released in April 2009. It made huge box office sales in NZ and won awards at several international film festivals.

The Topp Twins published their memoir: “Untouchable Girls: The Topp Twins Story” in New Zealand in 2023. They said they wrote it while isolated in CO-VID lockdown and both were having cancer treatment.

Untouchable Girls is the title of one of their songs, about standing up for what you believe in. Other iconic and memorable songs include

Country Music, Calf Club Day, Tomboy, Nga Iwi E, Milestones, Lover, Dolly Parton, and Martina.

Jools and Lynda were made “Dames Companions in the New Zealand Order of Merit” in 2018 for their services to the music industry.

In the words of former NZ Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern, “You can’t really describe an icon, but you can thank them. Rest in peace and Love, Dame Jools Topp. With so much gratitude for all you did for Aotearoa, New Zealand”.

And so much gratitude from all of us Australians who have enjoyed the Topp Twins music, comedy and their honesty and openness about their lesbian selves.

Sue G



Top Twins and friends 1991 backstage at the Lesbian festival Opera House Concert. Photo by Diann Payne



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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.

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, Di

Newsletter: Norma, Sue and Diann

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