



Ten Forty Matrix Newsletter

www.olderdykes.org

April 2026

What's On

Dykes for Dinner

Thursday April 9th

At The Royal Hotel. 156 Norton Street, Leichhardt

Come along and enjoy an evening of dining and pleasant company at the Royal Botanica which is the dining area upstairs in the Royal Hotel for our April dinner. We will have our own private room. The Bistro-style food has all the Pub classics plus a few extras, based on recipes from Italy and Greece. Vegan and gluten-free options available. Their drinks menu covers craft beers and a large variety of wines. <http://www.theroyalleichhardt.com.au/>

Situated on Norton Street on the corner of Carlisle Street, there are buses nearby and some street parking available. Free parking is available in the Council Car Park accessible from Marion Street.



Please RSVP to Fiona Rimes
fionarimes@gmail.com or message 0412 954 573

Dykes for Dinner is on the:

2nd Thursday of each month.

Make a note in your diary.

Looking forward to catching up in April.

Fiona



AUTUMN

Popcorn at the MOVIES

Popcorn at the movies is shifting from once a month to flexible times and days.

If you want a movie on a particular day or time, you can post it on the Contact email list. And get a few others who can do that day and time.

I love feedback and welcome yours. Yes really! let's find a way for Popcorn at the movies to enjoy all types of films whenever is best suited to our availability and of course cheap tix days.

Email me: krystyna23@yahoo.com with your feedback.

I'm using a different yahoo email address to avoid spam on my usual account.

Cheers
Krystyna

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.



What's On

April 2026

Country Lesbians Association

Zoom Event
Sunday 26th April ...5:30 pm Eastern Standard Time

More details to come out on Contact.

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

Afternoon Events for Older Lesbians...

for your diary:

Saturday 30 May AfOL
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.
More details via Contact

Afternoon Events for Older Lesbians

AfOL...Dance & Fun Event

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

Location: Jimmy Little Community Centre
19 Cecily Street, Lilyfield
Delightful refreshments, tea and coffee provided

Come with your dancing shoes and willingness to have some fun.

Responding to feedback from past events that women want to dance, we have planned an afternoon event that will include a chance to dance, to carefully chosen music, and some fun activities. We will also have Sue Gee to sing some of her songs, a popular event at the last camp. So don't miss out on all the fun.

To help with catering can you let us know if you plan to come, or want more information contact: Sylvia skinder@bigpond.net.au mobile: 0438 225 333

No older lesbian who has forgotten to register will be turned away at the door!!!!



Saturday
11th April





What's On

April 2026

Ten Forty Takes to the Water: **Ferry to Parramatta.**

When: Thursday April 30.

Where: Meet at Circular Quay at Rossini's Café

Time: 9.30 am. For ferry at 10.27, Wharf 4.

Length of trip: 1 hour 27 approx.

May have to transfer... ship to buses near end of trip if water too low.



Walk: from ferry about 6 blocks to the Light Rail at Robin Thomas stop for trip to Parramatta Square. (note trams less frequent than in CBD)

At Parramatta Square: Lunch at Mamak (Malaysian)

Return trip: Ferry (need to check times to suit yourself)

OR Train to city from station very close to Parramatta Square.

Contact **Jan Aitkin:** ambrosia@bigpond.com

Women in the Bush

Contact Sylvia...

Mobile: 0438225333

Email: skinder@bigpond.net.au





Report AF4WR IWD 5th to 7th March

April 2026

Australian Feminists for Women's Rights (AF4WR)
International Women's Day Gadigal Conference
"Women's Liberation half a century down the track"



For a number of years the Brisbane Meanjin Group have held a feminist conference over the IWD Weekend. These conferences follow the Women's Liberation mode of including lesbian and heterosexual feminists. The focus of the conferences has been radical feminist discussion. AF4WR took on the responsibility to organise the conference in Sydney for 2026 and did a splendid job of attracting a wide range of exciting speakers and panels. There was a fun event, the inaugural AF4WR Sodgies award for the most misogynist remarks by public figures, with various sub categories. There were also three book launches, fabulous food, a feminist film and an optional evening dinner to close the conference. Timed to cater for the visitors The Women's Library in Newtown organised a splendid concert for Sunday 8 March.

This report is a summary as the details of the workshops and speakers, a full report requires a novella. You really had to be there, although even then more was available than any feminist can attend in one weekend.

The AF4WR team had organised an opening plenary on Thursday evening, with Jenny Lindsay to talk on her book *Hounded*. Patriarchy in the form of Trump deciding to have a war with Iran meant that Jenny was unable to fly from the UK to attend. The excellent film of the beginnings of the Women's Liberation Movement in USA 'She's beautiful when she's angry' was organised at the last minute.

A delicious array of food for our evening meal followed as we greeted friends and met new women. It was hard to estimate numbers but the Burwood venue had around 80 or more feminists of all ages.

Friday started with a special guest Leili Golafshani in conversation with Bronwyn Winter. She has been in Australia for 23 years and has master of international relations. The change from our speaker held up by the war, to a speaker with knowledge of these Middle Eastern wars was seamless. The suffering of the ordinary Iranians and the specific oppression of women were signals for the current uprising amongst the young people of Iran. The regime responded with thousands of demonstrators killed, imprisoned, tortured and executed. Khomeini with terminal cancer did not hide and when killed by Israeli fire became a martyr, which was a more positive way for him to die than natural causes, according to the cultural and religious of Iran.

The rest of Friday consisted of three sessions of two parallel workshops. These were Feminism and anti-feminism, presented by a panel of 5 excellent speakers. The legal landscape of genderism by Megan Blake and TERF training, by the Feminist Legal Clinic. A radical feminist analysis and critique of the women's spirituality movement, by Spider Redgold was paired with Sonja Black and her solid arguments for single sex aged care. CoAL's panel report on current and future work, the work with the UN, puberty blockers, and the important support for lesbian refugees, was paired with Renate Klein, Anna Kerr and Catherine Lynch, discussing 'Whither Surrogacy in Australia.'

The day was interspersed with interesting book launches, and finished with the hilarious SODGIES awards. There were some worthy nominations for the most disgraceful misogynist remarks.



This was enjoyed while dinning on another fabulous spread. There was a terrific bar provided by the hard working volunteers, to quench our thirsts!

Saturday continued with two sessions of parallel workshops. Lesbian lives in the age of the alphabet soup had three speakers on different aspects, Sheila Jeffreys spoke on our gay brothers? The question mark indicates the sexist language used in gay pornography raised this question. Deborah Staines, argued for reclaiming lesbianism, and Carole Ann gave some interesting research results from the Lesbian Club Survey. A full panel discussed the Women's Liberation movement and Women's Spirituality. The final workshops were, Feminism, social media and AI, with Anne de Hugard and Susan Hawthorne, paired with the workshop, Untouchable mothers, by Donna Johnson and Janet Fraser.

Margot Oliver gave a presentation on, 'The future of Women's Spaces,' and then the closing plenary and raffle draw concluded the conference.

It is some time since I have had the opportunity to have such wonderful, discussions and thought provoking ideas presented from a radical feminist perspective. I have pages of notes and only wish my brain could retain all the discussions in detail there was so much to absorb. Each of the workshops deserves a full report of its own. As there were papers presented it is hope these will later become available for those unable to attend.

A huge thanks goes to the brilliant organisation and efficiency of registration, provision of coffee, tea and stronger beverages as well as delicious food for lunch and dinners. Three cheers to AF4WR. Put a note in your calendar for next year as AF4WR are doing IWD again, the date will be obviously near International Women's Day March 8.

Sylvia Kinder March 2026

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



Report of Mardi Gras 2026 Event: Lesbians are Lovely

April 2026

This event was co-presented by the UNSW Centre for Ideas and Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras.

Held at the Carriage works Redfern Tuesday 18 February 2026

Hosted by journalist, Mon Schafter, with panellists; Kate Rowe, lesbian activist and 78er, Kath Ebbs, actor and Jackie Turner, Trans activist.

It was with some trepidation that a small group of older lesbian feminists attended this event. There was already negative comment about the use of a photograph in the advertising, which was from the 1970's of four young Victorian lesbians holding hands in front of a large graphic on a brick wall, declaring, Lesbians are Lovely. This was a very four, three are still alive and active lesbian photo as to the names or the photographer. It Victorian Heritage. This was the first item of this event was co-presented by UNSW Centre one expects that planning and research would. The model of most panels discussing sensitive, membership of the panel to ensure all points past ABC program Q&A had a balanced panel. This was not the case with this event. All panellists appeared to mostly agree with each other and rarely challenged a comment made by each other. This of course is not necessarily a negative if there is a person giving a talk about an issue, but with three panel members and a chair having the same or similar views it was obvious that a discussion of the issue of lesbian spaces was going to be one sided or limited at best. The promotion for the event contained the following text;



radical promotion of lesbians at the time. Of the feminists. There was no attribution with the is in fact listed as, Photo by Ponch Hawkes, poor research done for this event. Considering for Ideas in collaboration with The Mardi Gras, have been of a higher standard. and controversial issues is a balanced of view are expressed, even if contentious. The and also had a balanced political audience too.

"...fifty years since the rallying cry "Lesbians are Lovely!" was sprawled across walls, bodies and picket boards in the fight for recognition and liberation.

This talk will reflect upon the many developments since that time, ask whether we are making space for all lesbians, and consider the ways we can celebrate every part of our community."

Community is also a contested concept. Many lesbians, gays and bisexuals no longer feel they have a place in the community they built over many years, as it now has a series of letters that have little connection to the struggles of those whose sexual orientation was negated by society for so long. Gender identity has nothing to do with sexual orientation. The lesbians active in the Women's Liberation Movement in the 1970s-80s always saw themselves as autonomous, but would liaise with campaigns in support of other disadvantaged groups, gay men, indigenous people, and campaigns for specific women's rights issues like abortion, rape and domestic violence with our heterosexual sisters. Over 50 years this has changed a lot. This was not discussed on the panel. In the 70s and early 80s in spaces like Ruby Reds some of the butch and femme behaviour there was used as examples of past problems in the lesbian community, rather than left over behaviours by a formerly oppressed group of older lesbians. The new younger lesbians of the 1970s did not behave like that at lesbian and women's events, butch and femme were in fact frowned upon by these radical lesbian feminists. There was very little clear talk about the changes over the 50 years from many lesbian spaces to basically none that are lesbian only our cities, like Sydney and Melbourne.



By spaces I mean actually buildings, clubs, on specific nights at some locations set aside for lesbians or rooms set aside for the sole use of lesbians. Now there are private, carefully advertised to subscribers, lesbian only events. They have no set space and cannot hire one in any of the Pride Centres funded by tax payers in local or state governments, unless anyone, who believes they are entitled to attend the event, is allowed entry. Lesbian spaces were never easy to establish in the past for a number of reasons, women had far less money than men to spend on alcohol which was the main income earner for clubs. Also less likely to go out as often as men since many women had domestic responsibilities or simply couldn't afford to. Maintaining such spaces as Women's Liberation Centres (established from 1970) which were meeting places for all women including lesbians, was expensive and required constant fund raising, usually through dances which were important spaces for all women as well as lesbians. As older lesbians we lived that history as did one panellist Kate. There were other older lesbians in the audience as well who shared my concerns about the panel 'talk'. Firstly, it was Sydney centric which did need to be acknowledged, life for lesbians was always very hard in Brisbane, for example.

The panellists did not appear to have notes and seemed to speak 'off the cuff', although the chair had prepared questions. There were some mundane questions, 'when did you first become aware you were a lesbian' the biological male on the panel trans-activist Jackie Turner claimed to want to be a lesbian when in primary school!

The panel used the word 'queer' frequently during the talk. In response to this a lesbian present in the audience said, 'that not all lesbians feel comfortable or accept being referred to as queer.'

The panel response was this was an umbrella term for the LGBTIQ community. Which means everyone in that community loses their individual sexual identity and is queer. Was this a dismissal of the point raised? Of course.

'The Soup' is also contested with the increasing return to LGB as the defining

label for those whose sexual attraction is not heterosexual. TQ and the un-noted in the soup, non-binary, are gender words not sexual orientation. Intersex refers to 1.7% of the general population born with physical sex characteristics—including chromosomes, gonads, hormones, or genitals—that do not fit typical binary definitions of male or female bodies. However, this is biological not gender or sexual orientation. So not all Intersex people fit into a community of non-heterosexual people. Have they ever wanted to be in this 'soup'?

In their talk the panellists continually conflated gender with sex and despite their professional credentials seemed to think the two words mean the same. Kate was the only panellist who recognised that there is a group within the Trans community that is violent and expressed strongly she would have nothing to do with them or their ideas. It is from this group that attacks both physical and legal have been made against lesbians seeking to express their views and establish their own spaces.

Lesbian organisations support the human rights of all people and that includes those who have transitioned. There was no discussion on the panel concerning the current issues of great significance to the future of lesbian and heterosexual women's rights to define any space they want to establish for biological women only. I refer here to the ongoing legal appeal by Sall Grover against the ruling in favour of biological male Tickle who wanted to access a woman only chat group organised by Sall. As Tickle is not biologically female but Trans gender the membership was discontinued. This issue has become international news. Also not discussed was the Victorian Lesbian Action Group's ongoing legal battle for the right to meet as lesbians, in particular to hire a space for this purpose in the Victorian Government \$50million funded Pride Centre in Melbourne. LAG have a comprehensive available website listing the many times lesbians have applied for exemption to have lesbian gatherings, from a small meeting in one room to a festival. All have been refused, appealed and again refused. Meanwhile on their website is a list of gay male, trans-gender, religious, male sporting and other groups that have been given



Report of Mardi Gras 2026 Event: Lesbians are Lovely ...cont

April 2026

exemptions but never lesbians. This does appear to be discrimination against lesbians who are biologically women.

Quote from LAG website:

"The irony is that we can now legally marry, but can't legally assemble in a single-sex space."

None of these significant changes over the last 50 years were raised by the panel, nor the effect this is having on the lesbian community, including a growing number of younger lesbians, who have no place to go except mixed male - female events, but who want lesbian only spaces. What we have lost are local lesbian bands playing at large lesbian dances (all States), Lesbian meeting places which were often in Women's Liberation Centres, now also gone, and also gone lesbian magazines and Newsletters, including Lesbians on the Loose, in its form that informed on what was on for lesbians. For the less politically active lesbians, although to me a serious loss itself is the Clover Club 1972-2002 providing 30 years of social life for lesbians in Sydney. Founded by four lesbians refused entry to a gay club in Oxford Street. The social club provided a safe, friendly space in the club rooms as well as social events and excursions and many dances for lesbians. There was a passing throw away comment, mentioning this major lesbian club. As most of the panel would not have heard of this club being too young, it was more of an indication of a lack of preparation and research for this event.

Recent research done by younger lesbians working at university level has shown how many of the younger lesbians are seeking the sort of community and lesbian spaces that existed 30-50 years ago. The new Australia wide Lesbian Club is providing a way for lesbians of all ages to make contact in a safe environment. This was not mentioned by the panel nor the reasons for its foundation. The Lesbian Club provides national ZOOM discussions, information about lesbian gatherings and events around Australia and some of the larger cities have a group which organises face to face events. Membership is carefully screened for obvious reasons. This should not be needed, it should be easier to reach out to those lesbians who are looking for such a club. Members of the panel did briefly mention past misogyny from the male gay community and even some today as well as violent behaviour from some

sections of the Trans community. The desire to establish a club in Oxford St, for young gay men 18-35 was attacked by the "Queer Community" firstly for naming it after a song by a lesbian about working in a mixed club, then for its target group. I thought it was an excellent idea knowing how some young gay males felt alienated by some aspects of the older community. It appears no one has the right to mix with their chosen 'tribe.' The plea from many lesbians is to have our own spaces when we want them, to respect that other groups have a right to their own spaces, and that community is built by respecting the wishes of all its members not negatively labelling and abusing some of that community, particularly those who spent their adult lives fighting for the rights won today.

By Sylvia Kinder February 2026

Please note this writer does not define a person as a lesbian if they are not a biological woman or use the term lesbian for women who prefer to define themselves with a gender adjective, these adjectives and unnecessary pronouns are not used by this writer.

References:

Lesbians on the Loose, magazines have many adverts for lesbian events and information about lesbian only groups.

Website: Lesbian Action Group (LAG), has full details of their attempt to gain exemption to have a one off lesbian only meeting in the Pride Centre, Melbourne. Also the photograph used in the advert for the Lesbians are Lovely is detailed with acknowledgement on this site.

Website: The Lesbian Club (TLC), has information about the organisation and who can join, biological women who identify as lesbian.

Kinder, Sylvia, History of Clover Club 1772-2002, Lesbians on the Loose, 2002

Appendix

1. The First lesbian political organisation in Melbourne, Australia, providing space for lesbians to meet was established in early 1970, called the Daughters of Bilitis (DOB). Founded by Francesca Curtis and Phyllis Papps. A documentary exists and there is other information on the internet.
2. Historical information about lesbian groups exists in the many magazines, and newsletters, particularly Lesbian Network.