



# Ten Forty Matrix Newsletter

August 2026

[www.olderdykes.org](http://www.olderdykes.org)

## What's On

### Dykes for Dinner

**Thursday 13th August @ 6:30pm**

The Royal Hotel  
156 Norton Street  
Leichhardt

<https://www.theroyalleichhardt.com.au/>

Please RSVP to Fiona  
[fionarimes@gmail.com](mailto:fionarimes@gmail.com)  
Message: 0412 954 573

### Afternoon Events for Older Lesbians

**Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September @ 2:30 pm**

#### Storytelling.

Afternoon tea provided

More details to come out on Contact.

### Country Lesbians Association

**A Zoom event**

**Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> August @ 5:30 PM**

Topic: Lesbian Erasure.  
More details to come out on Contact.

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.

### 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. Get a few others who can do that day and time.  
Email me... [krystyna23@yahoo.com](mailto:krystyna23@yahoo.com) with your feedback.

Cheers  
Krystyna

### Ten Forty goes to the Art Gallery of NSW

**Wednesday 5 August 2026**

**Event: Archibald, Wynne & Sulman Exhibition 2026**

**Time:** 10.30 am for coffee and catch-up, then on to the exhibition

**Where:** Café on lower ground floor: far LHS as you face out

**Cost:** \$30, or \$27 concession.

**Lunch:** Same place if you care to stay, 12 pm.

**Guided Tour:** Noon & 2 pm – included in ticket price.

**Bus:** 441 – Departs from York St side of QVB (Stand D) **Train:** 10 mins walk from St James & Martin Place stations.

Contact Sue Goodman Ph: 0414 506 793  
[sueg793@gmail.com](mailto:sueg793@gmail.com)

**Please send me your mobile details so we can look out for you.**

## What Lesbian Culture and Why Do I Value It?

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### *A Collection of quotes from our Country Lesbians' Association - June Zoom*

Report by Lavender

"To me what it means is that sense of belonging, and like movies, seeing your life reflected in those movies . . . shared histories".

"I honestly think it's made a difference to me being a feminist, being a feminist lesbian. Now, I find it perfectly familiar and wonderful being with other feminist lesbians, less so with non-feminist lesbians".

"A lot of it is not having to second think everything you say, because it might have another meaning".

"I like lesbian culture because, yeah, I feel really included, I feel like I belong. I feel there's a kind of shared understanding of what that culture is and how we operate within it. I just find a lot of heterosexual society and conversation just really boring".

"Having places where I could go and meet other lesbians. In short, lesbian culture is a very big term and I'm a bit selective about where I sit in that umbrella of lesbian culture".

"I see lesbian culture as this sort of swirling ball of fire that's moving across our universe and it's picking up - letting sparks off and picking up more fire as it goes! It's ideas,

it's music, it's getting together, its community, it's resistance to heteronormativity, and of course it's our sexual pleasure."

"Our affection for women is our culture. It's this dynamic thing, even when there's times when stuff goes a bit slow. When I feel down in the dumps, I just say to myself - look, that ball of fire is moving, rotating, going through all dimensions, and it's collecting us all up on some level".

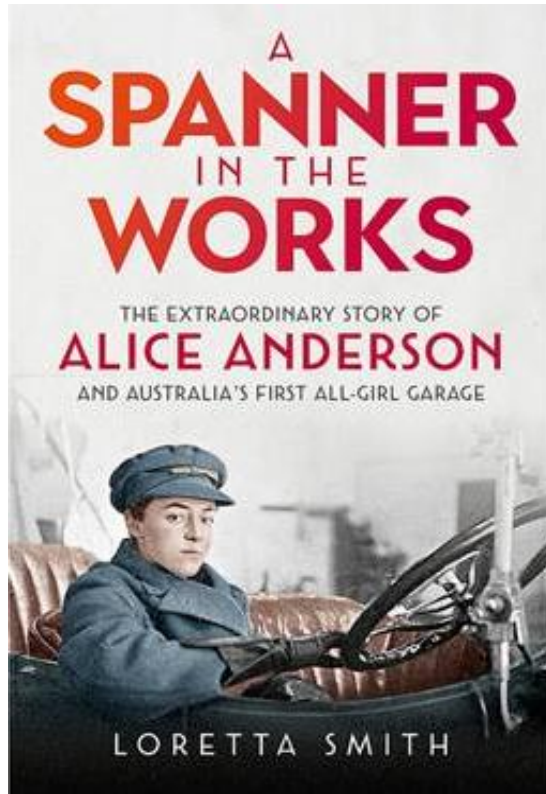
"Lesbian culture has become small and restricted in many parts of the world and in many of our cities and spaces, but I still cling to whatever remains and that is where I belong. So no matter what happens, I know where I belong. So I'll just say that about how much I value it. Yeah!"

"In a lesbian group, it's just like being a teenager again, except now with wisdom and money and education and maturity. So it's pretty cool. It's that sense of being at home and freedom.

Now the thing I'm interested in understanding better is lesbian erasure. I hear about it a lot, but want to learn more so I can pick it where I see it happening and try to guard against."



## BOOK REVIEW... *A Spanner in the Works*



I was fortunate to attend a book launch of *A Spanner in the Works* back in 2019. Fortunate because this amazing story reads like it must be fiction. The heroine, Alice Anderson, is a real-life superwoman. There are plenty of photographs in the book which prove she is real and show her garage in action. There are also 45 pages of notes, a bibliography and an index to the book, so the reader has no trouble in finding proof that Alice Anderson was real. No fictionalised wonder woman but a well-researched heroine and trail blazer.

The life of Alice Anderson, 8 June 1897 to Friday 17 September 1926, although short was full of adventure and entrepreneurship. Her death at age 29 is also a mystery, murder or accident?

Loretta Smith has written a fascinating, page turning story which not only tells the life story of Alice Anderson but gives us a picture of the conditions for women in Australia in the early years of the twentieth century.

Alice was born into a middle-class family in 1897. Australia was about to be an independent nation and women would have the right to vote. Many first wave feminists were ready to fight for more women's rights.

In 1885 Karl Benz completed the construction of his single-cylinder, three-wheeled Benz Patent-Motorwagen. But the major entry of everyone's car was in 1908 when Henry Ford introduced the Model T, revolutionizing the industry with mass production via assembly lines. Alice was age 11 so she grew up in the era of the car. Her father was an engineer by profession. Two factors which influenced Alice's future as a motor mechanic.

Her long-suffering mother, Ellen Mary, had six children. Alice was the third child in her family. When Alice was young, her father and John Monash, later of military fame, set up an engineering company together which was successful for a number of years. However, it soon became clear that her father a brilliant man of ideas was not a good businessman. Whilst the

company originally prospered following Anderson's work in developing reinforced concrete to build bridges, by 1900 unforeseen circumstances led to a break-up of the company and Anderson, known as JT, took his family to work in Dunedin, New Zealand. Sometime later following the death of JT's brother in an industrial accident while working for JT, he decided to return to Belfast, Ireland via England, where time was spent with family. It was while in the UK that Alice would have become more familiar with cars and began riding bicycles.

It became clear that the family were descending into genteel poverty. Finding it difficult in getting work in Ireland, JT decided to return to Australia. They lived in a shack, once a holiday shack, in rural Victoria. Alice helped feed the family by learning to hunt rabbits, learning how to use a rifle, and urged her mother to get a cow and she learnt how to milk it. The children's education was erratic due to constant moving and limited finances. They had a variety of governess, home schooling, and inadequate rural schools.

At age 15 Alice wanted to go to school and with limited resources her mother managed to send her to a boarding school in Melbourne, but Alice was a day boarder living with family friends. She was a keen student and gained much from the progressive girl's school. Later she learned bookkeeping which was going to serve her well. At this time her father was constantly away doing surveying roads for local rural shires. When Alice completed school at age 17, she went to work with her father.

Her father when visiting Melbourne saw the luxurious Hupmobile car and put a deposit on it. He soon realised he could not afford to pay the rest. Alice was turning 18 and he gave her the car saying she could have it if she could afford to pay the rest of the money for it.

Her father established a transport service, The Black Spur Motor Service Co. between Healesville and Alexandra, and employed Alice as the bookkeeper. She became interested in driving and the mechanics of motor vehicles. She learnt to take an engine down and put it together again and got her driving licence.

By the time she was 20 she founded Miss Andersons's motor service, and alone, with no other help, grew the business into an all-women motor garage. She was also an adventurer and did some long-distance driving on Australia's rudimentary roads. Many young women became mechanics working in her garage and her business thrived.



Then came the real 'spanner in the works' for Alice. Friday 17 September 1926 Alice wanted to return a revolver lent to her for extra protection on one of her expeditions. The story was she accidentally shot herself when cleaning it.

A bullet stuck in the colt revolver had somehow been activated. Whatever the truth, Alice Anderson was dead from a bullet to her head. So many men are heralded for less achievements than Alice Anderson she was a true superwoman. The book has much more about this fantastic woman so be sure to read her story.

Sylvia Kinder July 2026



## Wuthering Heights

Today, 25th July under a sunny blue sky, 670 women and many men danced the Kate Bush choreography to her song Wuthering Heights.

Three intrepid dancers Sylvia, Kathy and Kathy came early to Sydney Park, soon joined by the crowd in red dresses. After the performance to the Song running up that hill the 670 people did just that. Then posed for a group photo. This is an annual fun event, a fund raiser for the Women's Legal Service.

Sylvia



## Downsizing .... downsizing

Among my tea things and packets of coffee is an ordinary small metal tea pot perfect to brew one cup. I smile when I use this tea pot. It was my mum's. I kept it when I helped her downsize her flat. She was surprised I wanted it but laughed when I recounted how shocked I was that she stole it from the hospital kitchen she worked in when she retired. She also would have been surprised but, I think, very pleased that the pillowcase she took as a memento from the camp we lived in for 17 years was many years later donated to the small exhibition of migrant's objects either brought from their homeland or used by the residents of that camp.

After 25 years I was downsizing from a two-bedroom house with loads of living area, sheds and garden to a two-bedroom unit, lovely patio and lock up garage.

What to keep, what to gift, what to donate and what was just stuff I didn't need or even want any more or had stored in a place and closed the door?

I gave away furniture pieces to friends or donated as much as I could to charities, council pick up took unusable or unwanted stuff and packed up what I needed that would fit into my unit.

Although I thought I was ruthless, I'm still donating or giving away various things such as rugs or kitchen items. But not the little metal tea pot.

Krystyna T



## Lesbian Visibility

Lesbian feminists worked hard in the past to promote the rights of women and to create spaces for lesbian women. Lesbian visibility became more accepted and ok in the 80s and 90s. Today, sadly, both terms, lesbian and feminist, seem to have become dirty words, words to be erased, or redefined.

We are supporting older lesbian women. They deserve support as much as any other group in the alphabet soup. Really what we are asking is for a bit of support to do our job, support our part of the community.

Ten Forty



## 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](http://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](mailto: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, Di

**Newsletter:** Diann, Norma and Sue

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