



Ten Forty Matrix Newsletter

September 2023

What's On

Dykes for Dinner

Thursday 14 Sept@6.30

The Garden, Wests Ashfield Leagues
for 20 on 14/09/23 Thu 6:30 pm.
See more (menus, etc):

<https://holmanbarnesgroup.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/SL-CateringHQ-TheGarden-WinterMenu.pdf>

West's Ashfield is a short walk from Summer Hill or Ashfield stations. Disability parking available in the carpark area downstairs.

Please RSVP to
suegee1@optusnet.com.au
or message 0413266483

Dinner and Discussion for Older Lesbians

**Saturday 2 September 2023
6pm-8.30pm**

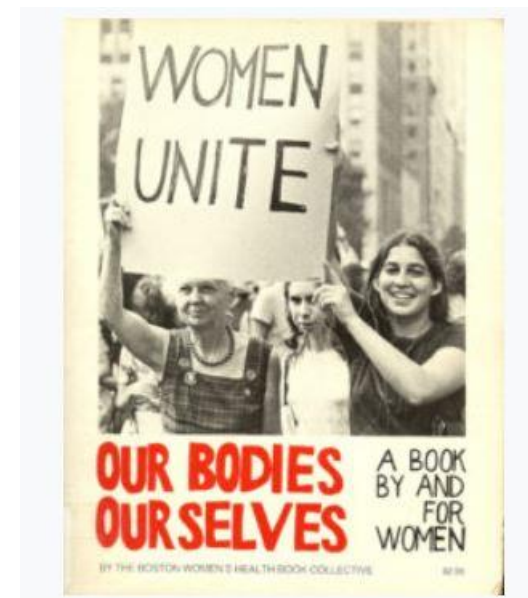
Looking back, Looking forward

**Location: Jimmy Little Community Centre
19 Cecily Street, Lilyfield**

Bring a plate of food to share and your own drinks. Coffee, tea, cups, plates and cutlery are provided.

What were the books you remember from your early days as a Lesbian / Feminist? What sort of reading do you prefer these days?

Early days for you might be the 1970s or the 1980s, or possibly later. Did you read lesbian fiction? Or the feminist political books or magazines of the time? Did they make an impact on you? Come and join us in the discussion and share a meal.



If you have any books you want to give away, please bring them, but please take them back if they do not find a good home.

A Special Afternoon Tea and Performance for Older Lesbians Saturday 7 October 2023

*A free event for lesbians over 40 funded by Ten
Forty Matrix Inc*

Location: Jimmy Little Community Centre
19 Cecily Street, Lilyfield
Time: 2.00pm-5.00pm

Park in local streets

Bring some items for afternoon tea to share and your
own drinks. Coffee, tea, cups, plates and cutlery are
provided.

Older Women's Network Theatre Group Perform NOT DEAD YET!

*Straight from their success at the
Adelaide Fringe*

"A death defying show"

"Ageing and raging"

Help them get to Lismore and maybe the
Edinburgh Fringe by bringing your spare coins for
donations.

Program

Welcome 2pm – 2.15pm

Performance 2.15pm – 3.15pm

Short Q&A 3.15pm – 3.45pm

3.45pm-4.45pm Afternoon tea

*Please register to attend as we hope for a large
crowd. Send your full name to:*

*skinder@bigpond.net.au citing Registration for
OWN Theatre Group 7 October. Add names of
friends who are coming with you. Queries mobile:
0438 225 333*



The Voice 2023

The Four Parts of the Constitutional Amendment	
Recognition	In recognition of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples as the First Peoples of Australia:
Guarantee	There shall be a body , to be called the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice;
Purpose	The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice may make representations to the Parliament and the Executive Government of the Commonwealth on matters relating to Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples;
Detail	The Parliament shall , subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws with respect to matters relating to the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice, including its composition, functions, powers and procedures.

Find out more at www.yes23.com.au

<https://www.yes23.com.au/voice>

Faith Bandler 1918 – 2015.

*As we move closer to the referendum for **The Voice**, it is interesting to look at the work and life of Faith Bandler, a leading campaigner for Aboriginal rights from the 1950s through the 1980s. In her adult life, Faith became best known as the charismatic speaker and broadcaster, who advocated a YES vote in the 1967 referendum, which was overwhelmingly successful, with more than 90 per cent of Australians agreeing to end constitutional discrimination against Indigenous peoples.*

Here are some of her Quotes re the 1967 Referendum:

‘People in Australia have to register their dogs and cattle, but we don’t know how many Aborigines there are.’

‘That one “Yes” on May 27 will open the door for real reform. It will tell the world at large that there is only one Australian, and his colour doesn’t matter at all.’

‘History has shown that a genuine people’s movement can move more than Governments. It can move mountains.’

It is interesting to note that the 1967 referendum was supported by all major parties with no opposing case being presented. Mixing in radical cultural circles

and working with the Australian Peace Council, Faith met the courageous Aboriginal activist, Pearl Gibbs, with whom she formed, in 1956, the Aboriginal-Australian Fellowship. This group played a key role, (at the suggestion of Jessie Street), in launching (in 1957) at the Sydney Town Hall, the petition campaign to the federal government, requesting a referendum on the sections of the constitution that discriminated against Aborigines.

The ten-year mobilisation that ensued, for which Faith provided tireless leadership was just as important to achieving the vital amendments to the Constitution as was the referendum vote in 1967.

By the 1970s, Faith was a much-loved public figure, who testified to the long history of racist oppression in Australia, providing an example of courage and grace in overcoming racism and serving as a moral beacon, attracting Australians of all backgrounds to the cause of social justice, human rights and equal opportunity for all, regardless of people’s ethnicity or skin colour, their gender or class background.

Her only regret was that she wasn’t able to achieve recognition for South Sea Islanders who had been brought illegally to Australia to work mainly in the sugar industry. Faith’s father was a South Sea Islander who could have been deported

when the new Commonwealth of Australia legislated in 1901 to expel Pacific Islanders, on the grounds that Australia was henceforth to be a 'white man's country'. He avoided deportation by marrying an Australian born woman and crossing the state border from Queensland to live in NSW.

Faith learned about her father's experience of 'kidnapping' from stories told at home in the evenings and these became the basis of her first novel, **Wacvie**, published in 1977. Her second novel **Welou: My Brother** documents, as the title suggests, her brother, Walter's life growing up in Australia as a boy torn between two different cultures. This book was published in 1984.

"Dear friends, much pain has been endured in the past, and that pain is no longer designated to hopelessness. It's time to move the process of reconciliation forward with a little more speed. That is the task. If not now, when? If not us, who?"

Faith Bandler – Faith Hope and Reconciliation Speech August 1999, Wollongong Australia

Fiona

Sam Kerr and the Matildas

Sam Kerr is the only female football player to have won the Golden Boot in three different leagues on three different continents. At 29 years old this Aussie lesbian, from Fremantle, WA, appears to have the world at her feet, literally?

In 2020 the Matilda's were defeated by Team USA at the Olympics in Tokyo, (you may remember they finished up with the bronze medal) and Kristie Mewis, from the US team, came over and embraced Sam, a consoling gesture. But it proved to be more than that. Something happened between them. They kept their romance a secret for some time and we know how hard that can be.

Despite the geographical distance between them, these rivals turned lovers, continue to defy the odds of gruelling season schedules and are, put simply, still going strong.

What interests me is the way this woman has gone to the heart of the nation and every commentator says, by way of introduction mostly, that we all love her. I marvel at those words. Have we really come that far since

2017? Or have fans compartmentalised her lesbianism? Sam the magic miracle on the field is pictured quite some distance away from the bedroom. Is it really out of sight out of mind?

Nevertheless, I'm enjoying the moment but my jaw keeps dropping as this fascination with Sam and the Matildas gathers apace. I keep hoping it won't end in tears. Maybe I've seen too many of those dreadful movies when we lesbians wound up dead or just wishing we were.

Pearlie



Report of the July Country Lesbian's Association

CLA is an association of Lesbians, regional and city based. Ten Forty set it up as an online meeting place on ZOOM during the lockdowns. We wanted to create an online space where regional women can share with city-based women. We advertise on Contact, so keep an eye out for our next zoom session.

The July Topic was Lesbian and or Feminist Songs, Bands, Singers. We made a list of the women we could think of at the time. I have included those here for you.



Stray Dags

Stray Dags
Lets Have a Party

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=O-1mDDyJom4>

Indigo Girls –
Closer to Fine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HUgwM1Ky228>

Fran Kelly - was in a
band called Toxic Shock

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=FRYIWZpxBOw>

Jan Cornall & Elizabeth
Drake
Better than Het

https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=pHQ50RI7w_Y

Judy Small –
You don't speak for me
Album Let the Rainbow
Shine

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DEzt1B2Oo9A>

https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=-J3z6Z5yG1U&list=OLAK5uy_k-B7VLq9AYafpXusn4FG09GOnwFv_Kplw

Margret Roadknight –
The girls in our town

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ttLJ4lTrux0>

Robyn Archer –
That old soft screw

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LvJWfBeWax0>

The Ovarian Sisters –
Beat Your Breast

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=otJ-SUmWCdI>

Alex Dobkin:
Love and Politics

<https://youtube.com/watch?v=Imr3ZYa0Aaw>

Kristy Apps
In This Town
Marie Wilson - You can't
keep a good girl down

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2GzbTukT4y4>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LhYB_YUIzZM



The Topp Twins
Untouchable Girls

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=1UrJS7-sPEY>

Janis Ian
I'm Still Standing

https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=82BccfHgJcw&list=OLAK5uy_maJ_1rbxxDcRT8yL6AsUMQ32QvfljGXno

Teagan & Sarah 'Closer'

https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=WcZM2SUz0xE&list=OLAK5uy_n940vhNg-X8HxHYvvLRQS4SxjIWkuz7NM

Joan Armatrading
Into the Blues

https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=buToj7xvFNU&list=OLAK5uy_nKOdHuga60e7V8KV1EWy7wkTj-0TJNqUA

Dusty Springfield 'I only
want to be with you'

<https://music.youtube.com/watch?v=BOaTGTXhimk>

Melbourne : Women's
Electric Band

Adelaide: Foreign Body

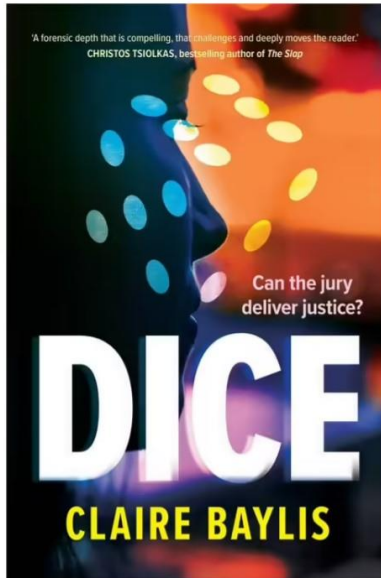


Dice

By Claire Baylis

Book review

Published by Allen and Unwin



Claire Baylis is a New Zealand writer. She has also worked as a jury researcher. It was this work perhaps that motivated her to write a novel that is best described as a courtroom drama. Four boys have been charged with multiple sexual offences against three teenaged girls. It is up to the jury to work out, from the evidence presented, what actually happened and what decision to make. Guilty? Not guilty?

The story is told through the point of view of each juror as the court case unfolds.

You might remember that back in 1971, one George Cockcroft, writing under the pseudonym Luke Rhinehart, published a novel entitled *The Dice Man*. The story features a psychiatrist who makes his decisions with the aid of a dice. Will I go upstairs and rape my neighbour or settle down and watch a bit of TV? You get the picture. So it's no coincidence that Claire Baylis has used the title *Dice* for her novel.

This is not a comfortable read but it is a gripping story. You won't be surprised at some of the things that are said in the jury room by some of the male jurors but the forensic nature of the writing makes this a compelling narrative.

Pearlie



Vale Betty Hounslow

1951 – 2023



We pay tribute to Betty Hounslow, a social advocate and 78er, who died on 27 July 2023.

She fought for women in refuges, gained the first funding to meet their childcare needs through Marrickville Women's Refuge in 1977 and lead the lobby for gay and lesbian immigration rights.

Betty's work also contributed to community legal centres, women's refuges, Indigenous health programs and overseas aid and development, including a stint in Cambodia working for the UN on human rights issues. She served as Executive Director of ACOSS from 1994 – 2001, during the early Howard Government years.

She also worked at the Public Interest Advocacy Centre and later served as the Deputy CEO of the Fred Hollows Foundation.

She contributed enormously to the sector through her work on the boards of APHEDA-Union Aid Abroad, Rape and Domestic Violence Services Australia, the Asylum Seekers Centre and the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID).

She was driven by an unwavering commitment to social justice and was a campaigner for social reform throughout her life. In 2003 she was awarded the Justice Medal for her commitment to improving access to justice for socially and economically disadvantaged people. And again in 2013, Betty was awarded a Member of the Order of Australia for her decades of unique and energetic work on behalf of low income and disadvantaged people throughout Australia.

Diann



Vale Robyn Delmege

1 December 1940 - 3 June 2023



Robyn Delmege was born in Chatswood but lived her early years in Maroubra. She was one of 6 siblings. She attended Sydney Girls High School which I am sure gave her a good start in life.

Robyn was an active member of Ten Forty Matrix. A character who, once met, would not be forgotten. She loved vibrant colours, and was renowned for the purple and green strips in her hair. Her sense of humour and fun personality also made her memorable.

Robyn admired Tina Turner for her strength and energy. She would make her friend, Dori, wait in queues for hours to make sure they

had front row tickets to all her concerts. The year that Tina was performing "Simply the Best" for the NRL Grand Final, Robyn entered a competition to win two seats for the final. Entrants had to say why they should get the tickets. She put together an entire album and entered it. Not only did she win that competition, but she also won 12 of Tina's CDs. Sadly, both she and Tina died this year, Tina aged 83, Robyn 82, both following some years of ill health. Was she hoping to catch up with her in the afterlife?

Like so many of us older lesbians, family was very important to Robyn. She cherished her five daughters. And left a legacy of 10 grandchildren and 7 great grandchildren. This of course meant that Robyn spent many a weekend with the Sydney-based grandchildren babysitting, and taking them out for adventures.

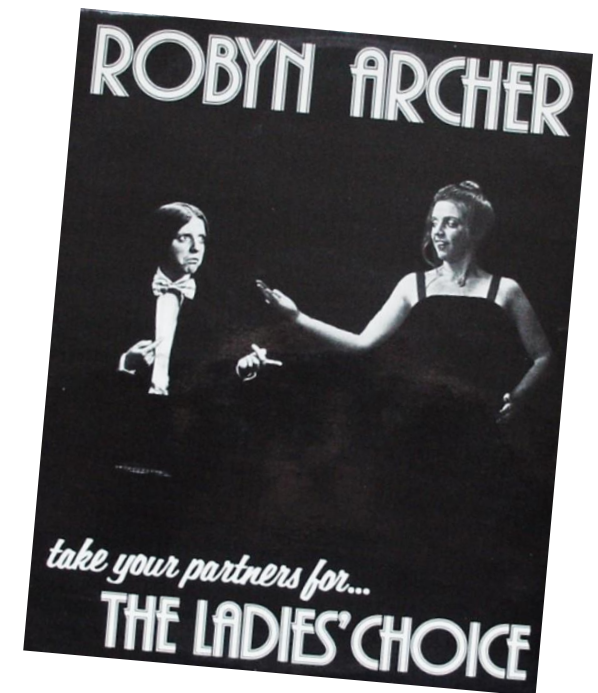
Robyn was ahead of the Vandyke scene as she loved her mobile homes mainly because they helped her to maintain connections with her far-flung family and friends. Those vans also allowed her the freedom and independence to have the kind of travel adventures she really enjoyed. These vans also allowed her to visit without imposing on hospitality. She was able to travel to places like the Great Ocean Road, Tasmania and Alice Springs, in comfort.

Robyn loved her numbers and was a bookkeeper by profession. Many of her jobs over the years involved some aspect of working with numbers. Her home was also a location some years ago for a number of Ten Forty Matrix Christmas parties, and jolly affairs they were.

Her hobbies were playing Bridge and Scrabble, doing Crossword puzzles, and reading Maeve Binchy books. Her favourite eats were Ice cream, Lobster Mornay, Smoked Salmon, Darrell Lee Licorice, and Stuffed crust pizza. Not forgetting a glass of Bacardi and Pepsi.

Robyn was one of kind. She was definitely a character. She was also a loving mother, and a loyal and genuine friend.

Silvia and Dori



The Newsletter

We, Diann, Pearlie, 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.



Debra Cheetham at the 2011 Lesbian Concert in the Opera House

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

The web edition and back copies are available for download from our website.

Who currently does what?

Events planning: Sylvia, Diann, Wendy

Contact email list: Diann, Julie

Archives: Sylvia and Jan

Money Management: Fiona

Websisters: Jan, Ruth, Diann, Julie

Newsletter: editing and layout Pearlie, Diann, Jacqui

Management committee Jan, Sylvia, Pearlie, Diann, Fiona, Wendy, Jacqui