

Ten Forty Matrix Newsletter

June 2021

www.olderdykes.org

Dykes for Dinner

Thursday 17th June, at 6.30 p.m.

Venue:

Pasha's Turkish Restaurant
490-492 King St, Newtown
Licenced or BYO (wine only).
Vegetarian options available.

RSVP: Sue Gee

suegee1@optusnet.com.au

or 0413266483 (text)

OUT AND ABOUT

Sunday 13th June at 12pm

Rasika Indian Restaurant
7 Rochester Street
Homebush. Licensed and BYO (\$2
per person. Wine only)

RSVP Sharon

Biara1@optusnet.com.au

Bookish Conversations

Sunday 20 June 4.30 PM

A ZOOM Event

Hayley Katzen and Emma
Ashmere will talk with special
guest Katherine Howell

Join us for a bookish conversation featuring another Australian lesbian author on Sunday 20 June at 4.30. This time we'll be discussing 'work' and the role it plays in fiction and nonfiction.

Katherine worked as a paramedic for fifteen years and used that experience in her series of crime novels featuring Sydney homicide detective Ella Marconi. Her crime fiction has won awards and is published internationally in multiple formats and translations.

Tell the Truth, published in 2015, was the final book in the series, and in it there's a letter:

Dear reader,

This is the final book in the Ella Marconi series - for now, at least. The last eight years of writing about Ella and her police and paramedic friends and foes have been simultaneously marvellous and exhausting, and while I will miss her, I am relieved to be taking a break.

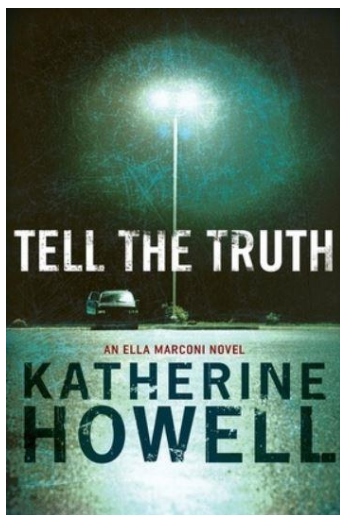
But, reader, what I will miss much more is the connection that the books and characters have built between us. Thank you for the support you've shown me, whether by reading the books, getting in touch to tell me how much you liked them, or talking about Ella in such a way that I know she's as alive in your head as she is in mine. It was you I thought about when I wrote,

trying to work out what you imagined reading, and the messages you sent about having to stay up all night to find out what happened made my day, every single time. So, thank you again.

*Cheers,
Katherine.
February, 2015.*

Join us to chat about work and its role in the books we read and write – and hear what Katherine is up to these days.

RSVP to Diann maude_au@yahoo.com
The link will be sent to you on the day of the event.



Women in the Bush

Short Walks

Thursday 10 June: Bents Basin and Little Mountain, continuing exploration of the Nepean River we will explore a lookout over the Nepean from Little Mountain and circumnavigate Bents Basin set in a lovely park. Optional easy climb but many steps to a fantastic lookout over the Cumberland plains towards Sydney City. Total 4-5km. A gem not much visited by those not living in Western Sydney. No public transport.

Contact Sylvia Mobile: 0438 225 333
email: skinder@bigpond.net.au

Thursday 24 June Marramarra N.P. Coba Ridge to Collingridge point 9km easy. Although this is a little longer than our usual short walks it is a fairly easy walk along a fire trail. There are magnificent views at Collingridge Point overlooking Brisbane Waters. No public transport. Access 9km from Galston, where we will return after the walk for a coffee in a lovely café.

Contact Sylvia Mobile: 0438 225 333
email: skinder@bigpond.net.au

Women in the Bush

Walks and Bike Ride

Saturday June 12 Garigal NP. Magazine track, Middle Harbour 11kms return. Medium. Great views of Middle Harbour from The Bluff, some step sections.

Contact Kathy 0437789038
email kggiles@bigpond.com

Sunday June 13 bike ride From Shortland Brush, Georges River N.P. Hynes Street off Henry Lawson Road, circular ride via Orphan School Creek, Western Parklands, Prospect Dam and Prospect Creek. Possible to get a train too.

Contact Sylvia Mobile: 0438 225 333
email: skinder@bigpond.net.au

Report on Dinner and Discussion for Older Lesbians held on Saturday 10 April 2021

Jacqueline Buswell: An evening with a poet and poetry

Nineteen women arrived at the Jimmy Little Community Centre with their evening meals and greeted old friends and introduced friends to others. As always Diann was at the door to welcome arrivals and provide name tags and record details for our COVID Safe plan. Although restrictions are more relaxed, hand sanitizer was available, tables were still cleaned with disinfectant and shared food not permitted. We were able to use reusable cups for the provided coffee and tea. Early arrivals helped with putting up tables and chairs, getting set up and packing up is always a team effort.

Following our pleasant conversations, evening meals and acknowledgment of country we settled down to hear Jacqueline Buswell talk about being a poet and some of her poetry.

Jacqueline began by reading an Aboriginal poem about the creation by Baiame, the sky spirit. by Oodgeroo Noonuccal (Kath Walker) (1920–1993), black rights activist, poet, environmentalist, and educator.

Jacqueline talked about how she makes a poem. Sometimes a phrase or idea might run through her mind. Sometimes it is a theme such as news items, her father's meat block, or social issues. Or she may follow a form such as a sonnet, sestina or pantoum.

She did say some of her poetry reflects her life experience, with autobiographical themes but with added imagination and poetic licence.

Jacqueline grew up on her family sheep property 'Riverton', located on the Murrumbidgee River between Wagga Wagga and Narrandera NSW. Beautiful country and quintessential Australian. Is this early rural environment the secret to producing great poets? Some of her poetry, particularly the section *Bedrock*, in her latest book of poetry *'Sprinting on Quicksand'*, reveals her childhood life, riding, working as a roustabout during shearing and soaking up the life and nature around her.

Jacqueline responded to comments and questions from the group about events in her life and their influence on her work. She is a traveller, having moved to and lived in various places. Time spent in central Wales in a women's commune was followed by travelling to Mexico, which she fell in love with and

stayed 22 years. This move came after listening to a lot of Grace Slick on Jefferson Airplane albums. She returned to Australia via more travels in New York and Italy.

Jacqueline's life in Mexico has been a big influence not only on her poetry but in her career. While in Mexico she was a journalist and thus very involved in the events and lives of Mexicans. She is a translator and continues a strong connection with the expat Mexican community and culture. She read a poem, 'The Dizzy Ones', mainly a translation of the Argentine tango *Los Mareados*, and told us about reading this poem accompanied by her English friend and musician Camilla Cantantata on the piano.

Participants asked lots of questions about the politics and events that Jacquie experienced in Mexico, and shared their experiences. Jacqueline's latest book *'Journeys – Australian Women in Mexico'*, is an anthology of poems, stories and reflections by Australian women who are living or have lived in Mexico. She co-edited this collection with Jenny Cooper and Ruth Adler, and the publication costs were met with support from the Australian Embassy in Mexico.

One of Jacqueline's major achievements is the establishment of the independent Riverton Press, named after her childhood home. The first publication was 'Me in the Middle', a book of poetry by her mother, Anita Buswell.

After Jacqueline's presentation some participants shared their favourite poet and gave reasons for their selections. There was general agreement from the feedback of great delight in hearing about Jacqueline's life and talking about poetry. Sadly, this reporter became so immersed in the evening's talk that this report is a little limited. You needed to be there!

If you are interested in reading Jacqueline's poetry, the anthology or her mother's poetry, log into the website below for more info.

Her first book '*Song of a Journeywoman*' was published in 2013 by Ginninderra Press, South Australia. Her current book of poetry is '*Sprinting on Quicksand*' Riverton Press 2020



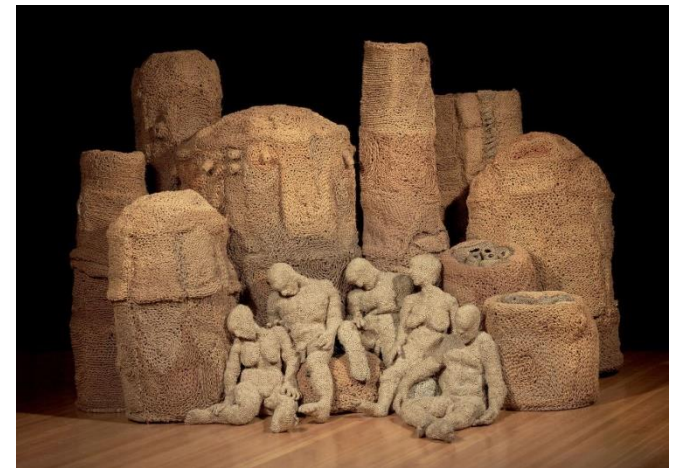
<https://www.rivertonpress.com>

Sylvia

Know My Name **Part II**

At the NGA from June 12

Fabulous Exhibition
Definitely worth seeing.



Pioneers of Protest and Change

A book about CAMP

2020 was the 50th anniversary of CAMP Inc (Campaign Against Moral Persecution), one of the first national Homosexual Rights organisations in Australia.

The Pride movement in Australia started well before the first Mardi Gras in 1978. In 1970 the national network known as CAMP (Campaign Against Moral Persecution) was founded in Sydney. The momentum of CAMP quickly spread to other States, fuelling the first LGBTQI rights marches and political campaigns for changes to oppressive laws and systems.

Now, 50 years later, some of the original members of CAMP NSW, Robyn Plaister, Robyn Kennedy and Peter de Waal, are compiling a book of newly commissioned professional portrait photographs of CAMP members across Australia, together with their personal stories of the impact CAMP had on their lives at the time. Our book is called **Pioneers of Protest and Change** in recognition of

the vital role played by CAMP activists in beginning a social movement that continues to this day.

In recognition that the early Pride movement was driven as much by woman as men, the book features equal representation of both. We are covering about 34 people ensuring at least half are lesbians.

We hope through these voices, to reflect the conditions in society for homosexuals at that time, the headiness of the times; and reflect the political protests, friendships and changes that made society more inclusive of homosexuals.

We are making good progress with the book with all photos having been taken by a professional photographer and interviews completed and transcribed.

Thanks to ACON and individual donations, we have been able to make a great start to meeting production costs but additional funds are needed to match our ambitions for this unique project! We hope you agree that the contribution of the people who started

the Pride movement in Australia is worth commemorating. All donations welcome and please share this fundraiser to your friends. **Everyone who donates \$100 or more will get a special mention in the book! Donate \$150 or more for a special mention and a free signed copy of the book!**

Please share the fundraiser with your networks and, of course, if you can contribute to it please do! This is the link to the fundraiser:

<https://gofund.me/665dd6ae>



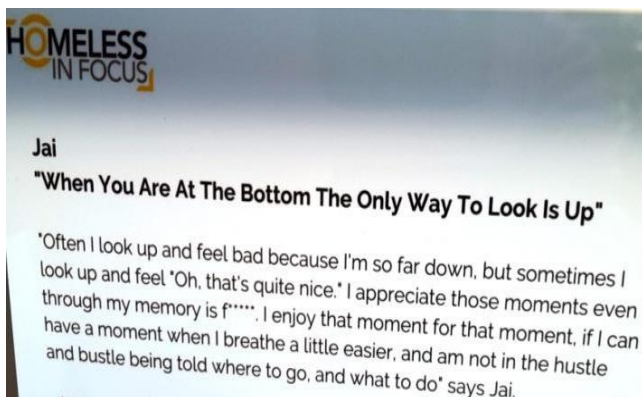
Review of *UNSEEN 2021*

A multimedia project about homelessness

It was a cold windy Sunday morning. Well nourished, senses refreshed I'm ready to enjoy my CBD time. Calendar-wise, this was my best chance to see UNSEEN. There is no intercity train track work this weekend, so getting to Martin Place is easy. UNSEEN is a multimedia project sharing the experiences of women and homelessness.

There but for ? U C K it could be me.
? is L for lesbian attraction. Actually,
? is FL for feminist lesbian love.

I meet Jai. Living proof that it's still a hard journey to survive for LGB women. We share stories from our experience, lots of similarities. Jai is enjoying her participation with this project and that she has made it to the age of forty, she explains.



Until December 2021, the mobile tiny house, unseen car, invisible couch, and public exhibition of photos - obtained after guidance on taking good photos with supplied disposable cameras - is making visible a broad range of homeless women and their stories.

One week every month UNSEEN can be experienced as it tours various areas. It was at Martin Place in May. You can see the images and videos from the activation at <https://unseen.house/unseen-car/unseen-car-2/>.

Women's Electoral Lobby is supporting UNSEEN as part of their broader campaign for Women and Homelessness. Look out for WEL's Women and Homelessness initiated NSW's Parliament exhibition in August. Hopefully constructive housing programs will be initiated in the near future.



For more info, or to get involved check out www.homelessinfocus.com.au and be part of the conversations that inform and improve social policy based on lived experiences.

To donate or volunteer and SUPPORT UNSEEN - [donate today](https://unseen.house/support-unseen/calendar-of-events/) - volunteer [here https://unseen.house/support-unseen/calendar-of-events/](https://unseen.house/support-unseen/calendar-of-events/)

Let's get on with shaping a better future.
Kaye



Review The Monthly - May issue 2021

Unlike the budget handed down by the Coalition government in May, falsely touted as the 'the women's budget', the May issue of 'The Monthly' is all about women's points of view, about recent happenings in Canberra and the nation more broadly, around sexual assault and sexual abuse.

I buy this magazine regularly but the cover for this issue, with big type and the words

**I
Believe
Her**

certainly grabbed my attention. Those three words refer to the woman who can no longer speak for herself.

Yes, Kate Manne's article entitled 'How To Lose Her Voice' focuses attention on that other Kate, you know the one, who took her own life last year, soon after contacting the police to advise she would not be continuing her complaint against a certain senior member of

Parliament, which she had initiated in February 2020.

Kate Manne's well thought out, well-written, article, is heart-rending and personal, and begins with words from that other Kate's diary, that she wrote in February, 1989.

"How can I tell this tale? Who to? ...

What did I do? I said NO - I said NO"

Interspersed with the text are two single pages, again with just three words on each.

**I'M WITH HER
ENOUGH IS ENOUGH.**

The article is too complex to do justice to the style and approach here so I leave it to you to seek it out, but I simply want to quote a few words that jump out at the reader. Kate Manne wrote:

"We owe it to her to listen. We cannot give her back her voice. But we can recognise she had one."

Strong stuff in deed!

Other contributors in this issue include Jess Hill, her comment piece addresses the scourge of domestic violence, Rachel Withers, a short history of the Coalition's 'women problem' with the punchy heading From Abbott to Zumbo, and Bri Lee, in her article, draws on the campaign by Chanel Conto, that exposed the prevalence of sexual assault among schoolchildren.

But there was one other female contributor, Greens Senator, Mehreen Faruqi, (you probably know already that she is the first Muslim woman to sit in an Australian Parliament), who I feel deserved a larger platform in this issue of the magazine to explore and detail her experience.

In the second paragraph of her two page article entitled 'The Moment Of Reckoning' she writes:

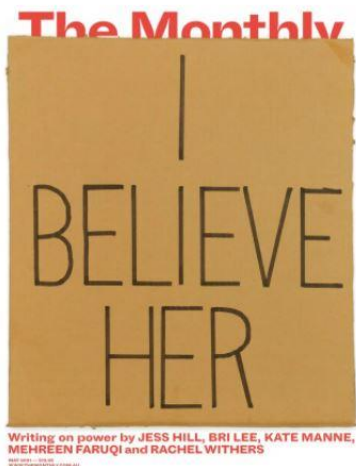
"Let me be clear. I'm so thankful that parliament is having its reckoning. I'm glad women MPs and staff, past and present, are speaking about the discrimination, harassment, abuse and violence they've endured. They - we - deserve justice. But we must pose the

question: would these experiences have come to light if they did not affect the privileged? Stories of women who are for the most part, white and upper class are in the spotlight. We must include the stories of women of colour in parliament and the community who are ignored by the media and political establishment.”

Describing just a few of the ways she has been treated by her parliamentary colleagues, both racist and sexist, Faruqi writes with passion and clear-sighted verve. I hope we can read more of her writings in this magazine and others, in the future.

Pearlie

MAGAZINE



LGBTQ elderly let down by inquiry.

Claire Allen wrote an Opinion piece in the SMH 13th April.

She wrote :

“Despite the advocacy of generations before us, the commission’s final report acknowledges the aged care system is not well equipped to provide care, that is non-discriminatory and appropriate for people’s identity and experiences.”

Quoting directly from the report:

“Across the aged care system, staff are often poorly trained in culturally safe practises, with little understanding of the additional needs of people from diverse backgrounds.”

Commenting further Allen continues her critique:

“The commission heard detailed submissions and testimony about all forms of elder abuse. Yet none of its 148 recommendations mentions LGBTQ people.

The commission also missed an opportunity to tackle assumptions that older couples will always be made up of a man and a woman ...”

<https://www.smh.com.au/national/lgbt-q-elderly-face-abuse-but-the-royal-commission-let-them-down-20210306-p578es.html>

So now we know. But then, we already did know, didn't we?

Pearlie

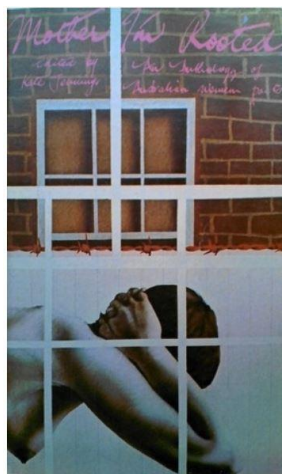
Kate Jennings Remembered

Kate Jennings was born on 20th May, 1948. She was living in New York, and was just short of her 72nd birthday, when she died, on 1st May, 2021.

It has been said that she wrote with a brilliant, angry, funny pen. I think she had a lot to be angry about. We all did. Kate moved to New York in 1979.

I remember back in 1975 when she published that memorable poetry collection, *'Mother, I'm Rooted'*. I was envious of all those writer/poets, 156 of them to be exact, who'd had a poem or two included in that book.

It seems fitting then to reprint here the first two paragraphs of her introduction in that ground-breaking anthology.



"Without at the time suspecting that our mode of writing and thinking was not what was called feminine, we had a vague impression that authoresses are liable to be looked on with prejudice." Charlotte Bronte, 1850. Nothing much has changed. Women, let alone women writers, are still "liable to be looked on with prejudice". It is a common fallacy that in all the fields of creative activity, women writers have had a fair go. But it's the same old story. A woman writer has to be ten times better, ten times more persistent, and so much stronger than any male with equivalent talent to overcome the usual obstacles to reach publication. A quick glance at the lives of successful women writers (and at the criticism directed at their work) will support this statement. And another quick glance at the little magazines, the quarterlies, the reviews, contemporary in this supposed period of 'liberation'. The literary world is for the most part controlled by a small backslapping, backbiting group of men and a few male-identified women whose, as my dad would say, blood isn't worth bottling (Sitting tight on my anger here, and incapable of the finesse of Bronte's understatement).

The motivation behind this book is feminist. I'm using the word feminist in its broadest sense. "Feminism is simply a belief in the full humanity of woman and her right to define herself." (See the admirable introduction to RISING TIDES, an anthology of American women poets.) At first the book was conceived as a neat anthology of already known women writers, each with their individual poetical statement. But I asked the publishers if I could advertise around and try and reach women poets Out There, women poets of all sizes and shapes, most of whom would never be able even to do an Emily Dickinson. Within the space of two months, I had received over 500 replies, manuscripts ranging from one poem to one hundred. The anthology slowly metamorphosed into a political statement. It became a collective statement about the position of women in Australia. It also became unabashedly, on my part, an attempt to question the standards of what is supposed to be good and bad poetry in the prevailing literary hegemony." Kate Jennings

The Newsletter

We, Diann and Pearlie, hope you have enjoyed reading the newsletter.

Please keep giving us your feedback and whatever items of interest you feel need to be shared in the newsletter.

Follow us on FaceBook

[Ten Forty Matrix NSW](#)



Created by Tjanpi Desert Weavers, this is part of the ancestral story of the Seven Sisters Dreaming. From the Know My Name exhibition at the NGA

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. However, 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 at 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, Wendy

Contact email list: Diann, Niki

Archives: Sylvia and Pearlie

Money Management: Fiona

Websisters: Jan, Ruth, Diann, Pearlie, Niki

Newsletter: editing and layout Pearlie and Diann