

# Newsletter

May 2010  
www.olderdykes.org



## Ten Forty Dinner and Discussion

### 6-10pm Saturday 5 June

Summer Hill Community Centre

**Topic: Radical Lesbian, Lesbian Separatist & Radical Feminist: What do these labels mean and are they still relevant?**

A panel presentation will be followed by questions and discussion.

BYO food to share & your own drinks.

Entry fee: \$10 fully waged, \$5 concession.

Summer Hill Community Centre is near Lackey Street, which leads from the station. There is parking near the Centre.

By train, the Community Centre is on the right hand side of the station, going towards the City.

By bus, catch the 413 bus to Junction Road, Summer Hill or the 483 to the junction of Liverpool Road and Carlton Crescent, Summer Hill.

## What's on

### Dykes for Dinner

Thursday 10 June 2010

6.30pm

Kazbah

Moroccan

379 Darling Street Balmain

Licensed & BYO \$3.50 pp corkage

Mains \$15 - \$30

RSVP via email to

[contact@olderdykes.org](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org) by

Sunday 6 June

Thursday 8 July 2010

6.30pm

Hotel Saravana Bhavan

15 the Strand, Croydon

BYO \$1pp corkage

Mains \$13 - \$22

RSVP via email to

[contact@olderdykes.org](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org) by

Sunday 4 July

### Social Events

Sunday 4 July 2010

11.30 am

Yum Cha at The Regal

Corner of Sussex and Liverpool Streets

RSVP via email to

[contact@olderdykes.org](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org) by 30

June

### Boomers + X and Y Tea Party

Sunday 16 May

3-6pm

The Red Rattler

6 Faversham St, Marrickville

Meet with other lesbian and queer women from across the generations to listen, learn and make connections over a hot drink and a sweet treat.

RSVP by 12 May to

[bxytea@gmail.com](mailto:bxytea@gmail.com)

Bring some treats to share

Gold coin donation

### About Ten Forty Matrix

Ten Forty Matrix is an informal group of lesbians over forty, many of whom have been socially and politically active in Sydney since 1987.

We enjoy discussion and debate 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.

Five years ago we established the website [www.olderdykes.org](http://www.olderdykes.org) to encourage national and international connections between older lesbians.

Ten Forty Matrix is not an organisation you have to join, but if you want to receive regular information about our activities and our bi-monthly newsletter, you need to take out a newsletter subscription.

### Newsletter subscription

The annual subscription for a hard copy of our bi-monthly newsletter is \$10 payable in January each year.

Subscriptions can be paid at Ten Forty Dinner and Discussion evenings.

To receive a free emailed newsletter, please email [contact@olderdykes.org](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org).

To receive a hard copy please email [contact@olderdykes.org](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org).



## Report from Ten Forty Matrix April meeting

### Tweet tweet facebook blog things...

Spider guided us in our recent Ten Forty exploration of the mysterious online worlds of Facebook and Twitter with a brief side excursion into blogging.

She likened Facebook to being in the middle of a huge party in that it's up to you whether you drift from group to group, get involved in a deep conversation or just watch from the sidelines. The first step is to set up a Facebook account and then to invite people you know or would like to know to be your Facebook friends.

Facebook friends stay in touch by sending messages, writing on their walls (walls are like a public message boards), commenting on friends' wall posts, sharing websites and photos and chatting online. Facebook also hosts games (including card games).

Online (and offline) embarrassment can be avoided by being careful about who can see which parts of your Facebook account, so study the account and privacy settings carefully. For example photographs of a party with friends may not be suitable for viewing by work colleagues. More detail on the ins and outs of Facebook privacy settings can be found at [www.allfacebook.com/2009/02/facebook-privacy/](http://www.allfacebook.com/2009/02/facebook-privacy/)

Of course a Facebook friend can also be 'unfriended' i.e. deleted from a list of Facebook friends. If you want to avoid family feuds but have Facebook friends you share genes with but not necessarily interests,

simply hiding them is less potentially incendiary than 'unfriending' since they won't be any the wiser.

If Facebook is a party then Twitter is velcro, exposing maximum surface area for others to connect to through lots of small messages. Each Twitter message (known as a Tweet) can only be 140 characters long which, while being ideal for transmission via mobile devices, can mean that sometimes they are abbreviated into incomprehensibility. Each Twitterer has followers (people who are receiving all their Tweets) and can follow other Twitterers (receiving their Tweets). Uses of Twitter range from the tediously banal - does the world really need to know what colour your new shoes are - to the revolutionary - an aggregate twittering on events during civil unrest or protests.

Twitter has been described as micro blogging since ordinary blogs don't have any limits on length. Blogs are articles written by one person or a group of people on, well, whatever they want to write about. Readers of the blog then have the opportunity to comment on its contents so blogging can become a rich interactive experience.

Online social interaction certainly has its limitations but has the advantage of creating opportunities to make connections with people outside your immediate milieu. Many thanks to Spider for a very informative session.

## Photos from L40



## **Brazen Hussies: A Herstory of Radical Activism in the Women's Liberation Movement in Victoria, 1970-1979** by Jean Taylor

At a hefty 770 pages *Brazen Hussies* is not for those who like to read in bed! With its abundance of extremely detailed and well-researched material, *Brazen Hussies* is also not for those who want a quick read.

Jean is to be congratulated for undertaking the huge task of documenting the history of women's activism in Victoria during the seventies, as well as Aboriginal activism and its relation to feminism.

Using written records and personal interviews *Brazen Hussies* describes the actions Melbourne women took around equal pay, abortion, employment, domestic violence and rape.

The book also outlines lesbian history and activism, and focuses on groups, individuals and organisations as diverse as Daughters of Bilitis, the Women's Christian Temperance Union, the Council for the

Single Mother and her Child, the Women's Circus, Truganini, the Springbok Rugby Tour, the Communist Party of Australia, Germaine Greer and the Union of Australian Women.

Through this history, Jean weaves her own personal journey – from young conservative mother of two at the beginning of the 1970s to radical lesbian activist by the late 1970s. I identified with her story, as I imagine many older lesbian readers will.

At the recent Sydney Feminist Conference Jean told me that it took her ten years to research and write *Brazen Hussies*. She is planning to write and publishing further books about the lesbian and feminist experience in Victoria during the 1980s and 1990s.

*Brazen Hussies: A Herstory of Radical Activism in the Women's Liberation Movement in Victoria, 1970-1979* is published by Dyke Books Inc. and is available from Dyke Books Inc., PO Box 168, Brunswick East VIC 3057 and also from the Feminist Bookshop, Sydney.

Dorothy

## **Dreams**

*Across the vast waters flies*

*Dreams settle into the night sky*

*Drifting into the Dawn*

*On and on dreams fly*

*Like crystal dust they settle*

*Into the Ice shelf*

*Only to be reborn thousands*

*Of years later*

*In the form of Icebergs*

*Dreams drift*

*Until they are pushed towards  
the edge of the ocean*

*Where the Ice meets the warm  
waters*

*Only to break off from there great  
mass they roll death roll*

*Winds rage pushing and grind-  
ing over the bottom of the great  
ocean*

*Burys that are hundreds of miles  
wide and as deep*

*Once again dreams will be  
released*

*Into the vast oceans to wonder  
with the tides*

*All will be re born re lived*

*By others in time*

*Time that will repeat it self all  
over again*

By HCG 24.4.2010

© Butch Now and For Ever



---

## **The C-Word: A Story About the Effects of Cancer** by Jean Taylor

*The C-Word* is an honest and sometimes confronting account about how Jean deals with her partner Maureen's diagnosis of ovarian cancer, treatments and, finally, her death. The book is written in diary format over a period of almost three years.

Jean writes about her feelings of loneliness, bewilderment and fear, and also her calm when

facing the reality of Maurs' imminent death.

Throughout the book Jean is critical of the shortcomings of our public health system.

As a result of her experiences, Jean set up a Lesbian Cancer Support Group.

Contact Dyke Books Inc. (above) to buy a copy of *The C-Word*.

## Feminist Conference

Quite a few Ten Forty members were among the 400 plus attendees at the feminist conference on 10 and 11 April.

First off was a Welcome to Country followed by an energetic and entertaining performance by the Older Women's Network Theatre Group.

Two panel topics: Why is Feminism Relevant? and Power Inequity: Why aren't we there yet? stimulated really great debate and discussion.

Thirty workshops were on offer over the two days, including:

Feminism 101 – a whirlwind tour of the history of western feminism from Mary Wollstonecraft to the present.

In Refiguring Femme-inist Futures we explored such questions as, Is it just a matter of costume or is femme also a performance? Is femme actually radical and subversive, exaggerating in order to mock and bring into question the way women are socialised about what is and isn't attractive? Can one be old and femme?

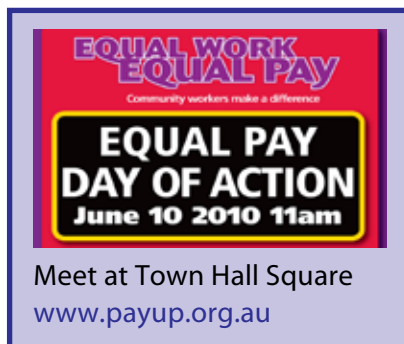
At Feminist Publications and Blogging a panel covered past print publications, eg *MeJane* and *Refractory Girls* and more recent forays into online blogging and electronic publishing. Feminism and Plastic Surgery explored ways that feminists

have engaged with cosmetic surgery in the past, and how they might do so in the future, especially around genital surgeries and non-invasive procedures such as Botox.

A publication called *F* includes stories, ideas, analyses and critiques and was launched at the conference.

Eva Cox's article in *F* is well worth a read. She looks at how feminism is fragmented and trivialised and makes a number of suggestions about how we might find common ground.

*F* is available from the Feminist Bookshop for \$5.



## Books for sale

*Revising Aging: Empowerment of Older Women* edited by Jenny Onyx, Rosemary Leonard and Rosslyn Reed is a collection of writings that explore the prevailing social, political, economic and discursive contexts that have shaped the experience of ageing for women. Cost is \$18 (incl. postage) from [rosslyn.reed@yahoo.com.au](mailto:rosslyn.reed@yahoo.com.au)

## Lesbian Short Stories



[www.readtheselips.com](http://www.readtheselips.com)

Read These Lips is about collating new lesbian short writings and creative works into e-anthologies and providing them free to readers on the internet.

We don't just bring together stories that are already out there; we source for new talent, encourage established writers to participate, and accept multi-genre short fiction, that we compile into e-books.

## A trick question!

During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, "How do you determine whether or not a retiree should be put in an old age home?"

"Well," he said, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the retiree and ask him or her to empty the bathtub".

"Oh, I understand," I said. "A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No" he said. "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"

---

## Ten Forty Matrix

### Who currently does what?

Bookings, liaison, and general contact: Jan

Utilities box: Sylvia and Wendy

Money Management: Esther

Website management: Jan, Ruth, Dorothy, Diana, Robyn, Spider, Kate, Diann and Rosemary

Newsletter: editing and layout Ruth and Dorothy

Photocopying: Judi

Mail-out: Esther

If you would like to become involved in any of the above, please email

[contact@olderdykes.org](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org)