

# Ten Forty Matrix Newsletter

April 2021

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

## Dykes for Dinner

Wednesday 13 May 6.30 PM

Venue: TBA

Please RSVP to Sue Gee:

[suegee1@optusnet.com.au](mailto:suegee1@optusnet.com.au)

or

0413255483 (text)

## Dinner and Discussion for Older Lesbians

Saturday 5 June 2021

Location: Jimmy Little Community  
Centre 19 Cecily Street, Lilyfield

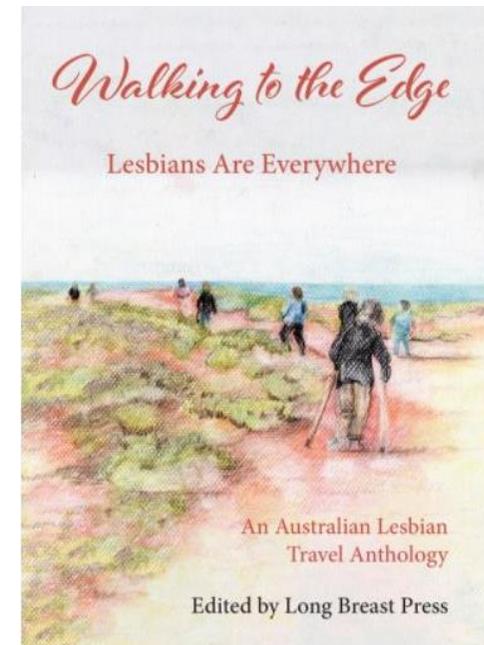
6pm-8.30pm

## The Travel we've done and what we want to do!

This will be an evening of talking about what we have missed so much for the last 18 months, travel! A panel of women who have contributed to the Australian Lesbian travel anthology book, ***Walking to the Edge***, will talk a little about what they wrote. There will be time for questions and a chance to hear about any interesting event in your own travel history. Books will be available for sale.

Now is the time to start fantasising about your next travel adventure, while thinking of past journeys.

Watch Contact for more details and the list of women on the panel.



## A Short Walk

Thursday 22 April: Dharawal N.P.

One of the newest National Parks. Hidden away south of Campbelltown is a lovely park with a great lookout over O'Hares Creek, and a short walk to an Indigenous Women's site; Minerva Pool. Approx 4-5km. Another pool is possible but a bit steep.

Coffee at the wonderful Art Gallery Café in Campbelltown and a possible visit to gallery open to 4pm.

No public transport. (train to Campbelltown for lift pick up at 9.30am departs 8.34 Central, please contact to arrange)

Contact Sylvia Mobile: 0438 225 333  
email: [skinder@bigpond.net.au](mailto:skinder@bigpond.net.au)

## Report

### An evening with Poet

### Jacqueline Buswell

#### Dinner and Discussion for Older Lesbians

April 2021

Our second Dinner and Discussion of the year called on the talent of one of our members. **Jacqueline Buswell** is an acclaimed, published poet; hiding behind her work as a Spanish translator and enthusiastic ballroom dancer.

Jacqueline talked about being a poet and shared some of her thoughts on writing poetry. She read a little from her second published volume of poetry, 'Sprinting on Quicksand'. A volume which reveals aspects of her interesting life and thoughts.

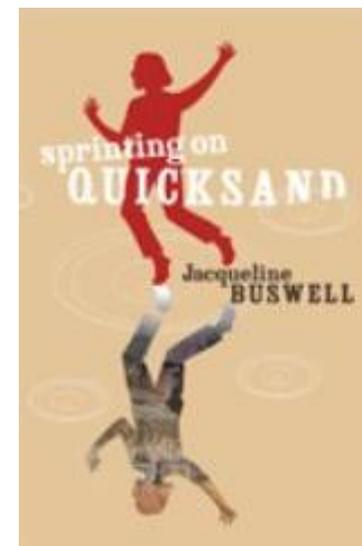
There were 19 of us there for the evening. We asked Jacque questions about her life and work. Some women shared their poetry or a poem from one of their favourite poets. The evening was very well received.

For a look at more of Jacqueline Buswell's work check out Riverton Press, her independent publishing site. She has a blog there with more of her poetry.

<https://www.rivertonpress.com/>

listen to one of her poems here.

<https://www.rivertonpress.com/just-dancing/>



## Raise Our Voices A one day choir

We were awarded a \$500 grant by ACON to organise a choir event for both beginners and experienced choristers. For those who have never sung before it is was a wonderful experience to find their voices. One woman had been told to "stop singing badly, deliberately" when she was in primary school. She only recovered three years ago when she reluctantly tried a choir. Christina Mimmouchi was the choir leader. She was very experienced and well known to many.

The Choir took place at the Older Women's Network in Newtown. 15 women attended. It was hailed as a success by all. A Zoom event happened the evening of the following day. That was not as satisfying as the face to face, but it was still enjoyable.



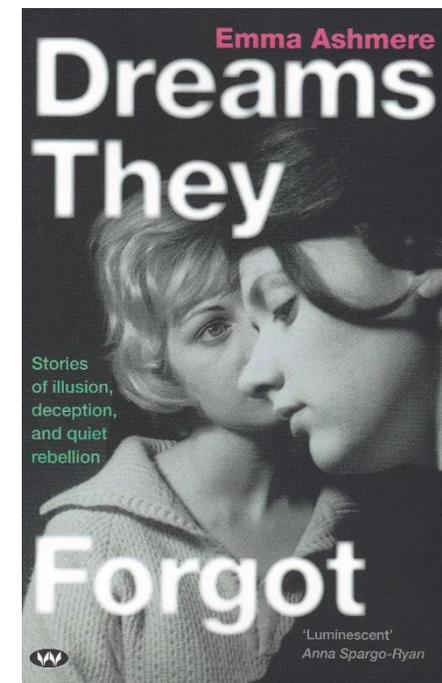
## Report on our Bookish Conversations with Emma Ashmere

We had our third bookish conversation hosted by Hayley Katzen in February. Hayley was in conversation with the author Emma Ashmere. This was a Zoom event. Women from Northern NSW and from broader Sydney took part.

Hayley and Emma discussed Emma's books, starting with Emma's latest collection of Short Stories, *Dreams They Forgot* and went onto to discuss Emma's other works. It was a fabulous conversation, lively and informative. The conversation drew out many aspects of Emma's writing process and insight into her life experience as a writer. The session lasted almost two hours with audience participation.

We are planning a fourth Bookish Conversation once again hosted by Hayley. This time Hayley will be in conversation with the author Katherine Howell.

Niki 2021



## Report

### All About Women: Opera House 7 March 2021

The All About Women Festival held at the Opera House in Sydney held its ninth event on Sunday 7 March. The most significant aspect of this festival is the opportunity to see and hear ideas from feminists from around the world and, of course, Australia. The curators of the Festival work hard to make this a diverse and inclusive event each year

2021 was run at 75% capacity with international guests live online. The most popular events were in the Joan Sutherland theatre. The bookshops had limited supplies and lacked the buzz and volume of participants as in previous years. Space to view books and leaf through them was not permitted. The noisy, happy chatting, crowded nature of previous events was lacking. In previous years I bumped into women I knew and many I hadn't seen for some time. This year I did not see one single woman I knew.

There was also a digital and visual exhibition on the lives of Korean Women forced into prostitution by the Japanese army in Burma. These women suffered further British Government imprisonment in India following the end of the war. Korean troops had been part of the forced labour of allied troops on the Burma Railway and the women were seen as allied enemies.

One of the innovations that COVID restrictions enabled, was the method of asking questions of the speakers, both present and on-live streaming. Getting into the wifi and then the site 'slido', and indicating the event you were at gives you access to asking questions on-line. You could see the questions others were asking. If you liked a question you could vote for it, encouraging good or popular questions to come to the top of the list. This proved an effective communication method.

I attended four events. *Men who hate women*, based on a book by Laura Bates. She spoke about the content of her book and also the project that led to her making a study of men's online groups that target women in very negative ways.

These online hate groups are not only misogynist but also racist. Their hatred spills over into direct action against women in many forms. They lobby politicians for 'men's rights', publicise false data about rape and violence to women, as factual. In the most extreme cases members murder innocent women out of hatred, following directives from the most violent online sites. 100 women have been murdered by such men in the last ten years (recorded that is). What is even worse is the grooming of young men who come into contact with their websites. The way young men locate these websites often starts with a modest search, for example 'how to get a girlfriend' or 'why don't women want sex with men anymore'. Because of the algorithms used in such online searches they are often shown other sites they may be interested in. These lead to more sites and so on.

The grooming does not happen overnight but just as terrorists work slowly to recruit, these sites do the same, quite deliberately.

*White Feminism*, a book by Koa Beck, was not what I expected. Beck is a former editor of *Vogue*, *Jezebel* and *Marie Claire*. Not exactly your average feminist magazines. Here lies my problem with her analysis of current feminism as white. In my opinion, she was talking about what many of us in the 1970s called, 'liberal feminism'. Women who subscribed to this theoretical feminist position (often not knowingly), did fight for many of the rights we of the more radical theoretical positions did. Many of these women were positioned within mainstream middle management or even more powerful roles. They were often married to men in similar positions with financial assets that made them part of the capitalist society.

Relief from intense thought and discussion came with the session featuring Isobel Allende. She was addressing some of the issues raised in her autobiography *'The Soul Of a Woman'*. I enjoyed her open, honest talk.

If my stress for the day was over I was wrong. Listening to the energetic Kate Crawford talk, (*How Smart is Artificial Intelligence*), brought me right back to the dangerous control men have on technology, and, in particular the

developments in AI (Artificial Intelligence). Crawford is full of energy and knowledge and is Australian! She is not only into technology but is also a musician and composer. Feminist work, in particular fictionalised work by writers like Margaret Attwood, warns us about the dangers of AI and Crawford pointed out its weakness and ease of abuse. She did have some hope for improved ethics in the area of AI and if there were more women like her working in the field her hopes might come true.

You can still get information on the speakers and download podcasts here <https://www.sydneyoperahouse.com/festivals/all-about-women/digital.html>

Sylvia 2021



## Book Review

### A Spanner in the Works

by Loretta Smit

It is not unusual for writers to discover or more correctly recover, stories of women who were trail-blazers and trend setters often against all odds. The life of Alice Anderson born 8 June 1897 and died Friday 17 September 1926, was full of adventure and entrepreneurship. Alice was very well known in her short life and has been brought back to existence by Loretta Smith's well researched, page turning book.

Alice's early life was essentially middle class. Her family were close friends with the Monash family and other well-known Melbourne families of the day. Due to her father's erratic employment and investments, the family was constantly thrown into different situations, and ended in genteel poverty in rural Victoria. Despite this Alice learned a lot from her engineer father, so much so her developed knowledge of mechanics enabled her to open a large car repair and chauffeuring business, and much more besides.

She was a prolific writer in motoring magazines, giving driving tips for women as well as a range of advice on the care of cars. Her focus was always women.

She had a garage built in Kew, Melbourne, to her specifications and staffed it with women, the first business of its kind in Australia. She ran a driving school for women and a chauffeur service for those who could afford it. She did all this by herself with the support of women friends.

To obtain financial support for a business as a woman was hard enough in the 1970s, to pull it off in the early 1920s was a strong indication of Alice's powers of persuasion, and her great negotiating skills.

Alice was always described as boyish, petite, full of charm and attractive. She also wore the uniform of a chauffeur, or overalls and was rarely seen in any other clothing but pants. Many of her close friends were intellectuals and known lesbians. Nothing is known about Alice's personal relationships. As a business woman in a man's area she

would have understood the importance of keeping her personal life secret. She did suffer some unpleasant hostility from other "male" garages in the area.

Alice was an excellent horse rider and great at hunting rabbits to help feed her family during her father's down times.

She invented, but sadly did not patent, the trolley idea for sliding under a car to work on it. She came up with a number of inventions for making car repair work easier. She also introduced the idea of day trips; driving people to beautiful picnic spots, and later longer trips interstate.

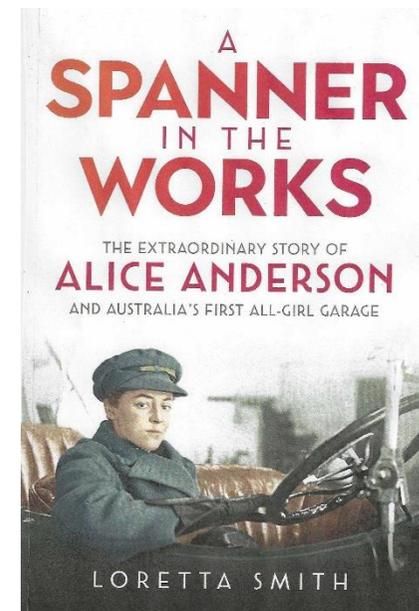
Alice was known as a kind and supportive woman, helping her sisters financially to attend school and university, teaching women how to become mechanics and being an active member of the famous Lyceum women's club.

Alice loved adventure. Her most famous road trip occurred in 1926. Driving a Baby Austin she set out to prove that the smallest car off a production line could successfully make the 1500-mile-plus journey on and off road from Melbourne to Alice Springs.

Less than a week after her return, Alice was fatally shot in the head at the rear of her own garage. She was twenty-nine years old. How did this happen?

The author posits a number of theories based on interviews and a coroner's report. A good discussion point. In any case, Alice Anderson is back in the history of Australia.

Sylvia 2021



## The Newsletter

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

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

Follow us on FaceBook

[Ten Forty Matrix NSW](#)



Messages from the 80s  
They could be from today.

## 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](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, 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