

Matrix Guild of Victoria Inc.

Newsletter - August 2016

The aims and objectives of Matrix are to:

- Promote appropriate care and support for older lesbians
- Provide some accommodation that caters to the needs of ageing lesbians who experience financial disadvantage
- Support ageing lesbians' accommodation choices
- Challenge ageism and oppose discrimination against older lesbians
- Advocate on behalf of older lesbians to governments and other relevant bodies
- Promote social contact and support among older lesbians
- Research lesbians' experience of aged care

Hello Everyone!

Two events to bring to your attention this month – the *Asylum Seekers' Comedy Benefit* and a *High Tea for LGBTI Elders*. Both sound like very enjoyable events to attend! The experiences and personal stories of older lesbians are the focus of two books and two research studies that we have become aware of, so we have included some information about them here. Don't forget the Matrix Dance in October; we will provide more details in coming months.

Matrix Coffee Afternoons

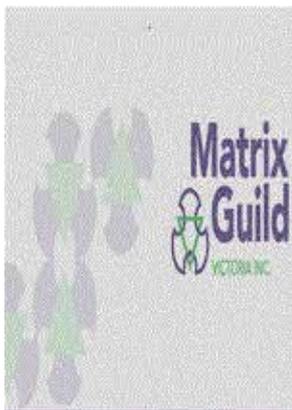
Over the Road Cafe is the place to be on Thursdays

The coffee afternoons are going really well, so we will continue them. They are held every Thursday, from 12 noon to 3.00 pm at **Over the Road Café**, on the corner of Victoria Rd and South Crescent, Northcote.

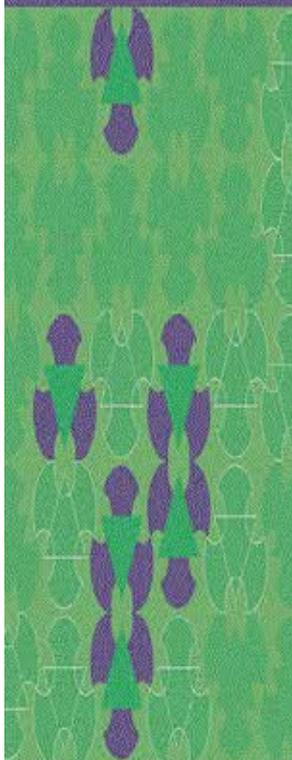
The café is opposite Northcote Nursery and only 3 minutes' walk from the Dennis railway station, on the Hurstbridge line. (*Melways Ref Map 30, H10*)

Come and meet up with new or old friends, have a bite to eat, or play a game of Scrabble or Rummio. Bring a friend along. It's a friendly and relaxed atmosphere and everyone is made welcome.

www.matrixguildvic.org.au



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If you want more information phone **Carole 0437 891 981**

Matrix Raffle!

Get your tickets to the Matrix raffle now! First prize is a two-night, midweek stay at Millduck Strawbale B&B, a lesbian operated 'Hideaway in the Hills', rated in the top 10 B&B's in Victoria. We thank Ada and Prue for their very generous donation. (See attached ad for more detail).

Second prize is a beautifully framed (76x42cm) herstoric piece of memorabilia- Julia Gillard's famous misogyny speech. Valued at \$150. Special thanks Harry Grrl for donating this.

Tickets: \$5 each: limited number of tickets sold, so your chances of winning are high!
Raffle drawn at our Tea Dance on 15th October.

To get your tickets now, deposit into our Bendigo Bank account:

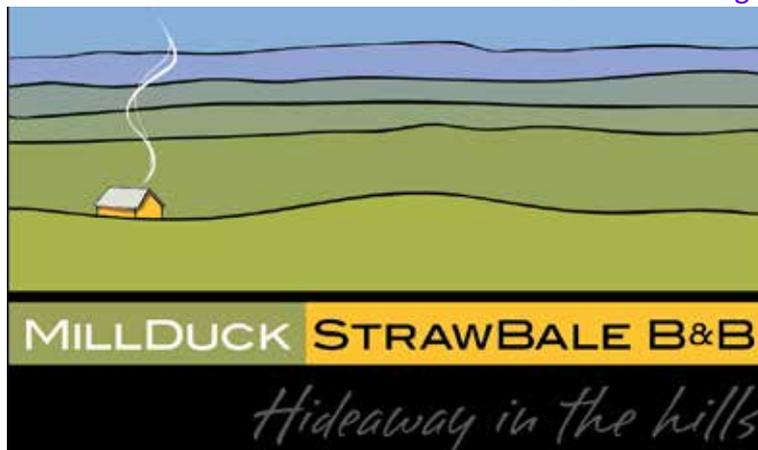
ACCT NAME: Matrix Guild of Victoria Inc.

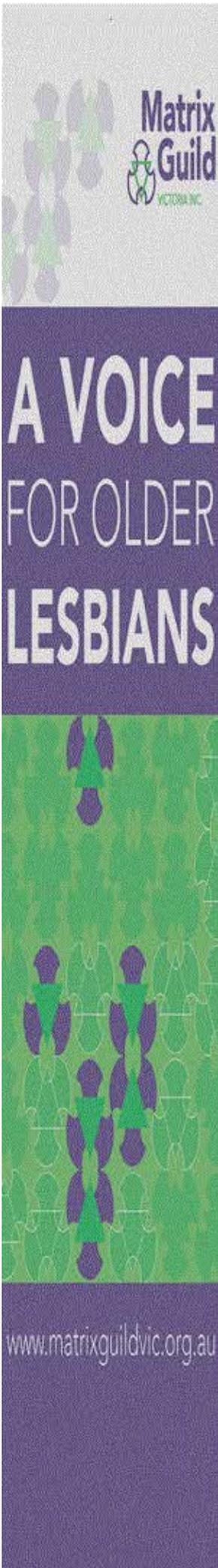
BSB: 633 000

ACCOUNT NO: 144 565 546

REF: Your name & phone Number

Call, text or email Harry Grrl on 0450 813 784 or harrygrrl@gmail.com when you make your deposit and she'll send your ticket numbers. All proceeds go to fund Matrix community events and services such as our free Volunteer Visitor Program.





First Prize 2-day stay at B & B

Two, fully self-contained, STRAWBALE units provide a secluded & peaceful retreat with views of the Sedgwick ranges that take your breath away.

This picturesque 35-acre property offers guests the opportunity to cuddle an alpaca, wander through the gardens, stroll in the granite hills, and explore the nearby goldfields towns of Castlemaine, Maldon, & Bendigo. At the end of the day, a relaxing spa, crackling fire and glass of local wine will top off your experience.

- Centrally located - 20 mins to Bendigo, Castlemaine & Maldon, (40 mins - Daylesford / Heathcote)
- Quiet, peaceful & private retreat with views (from your unit) stretching to the distant mountain range
- Double spa / wood fire / late noon checkout / Free Wifi / DVDs, etc.
- Suitable for one couple in each unit – no extra people & no pets, thanks
- Cooking facilities: microwave / convection oven, electric frypan, hotplate, BBQ
- Gardens – browse or wander to the lookout; enjoy a snooze under the willows
- Wheelchair accessible in one unit – including mobile shower chair available
- Henry's Cidery; Bress Wine, Cider & Produce; Mt Alexander Fruit Gardens; Victorian Goldfields Railway, Bendigo Attractions & Events, The Great Stupa; Maldon & Castlemaine Attractions & Events, Bendigo Art Gallery, Goldfields Track; Tread Harcourt (Cafe/Restaurant);
- StrawBale House Tours & talk on passive solar design features, free if staying 2+ nights (pre book)
- Alpacas: mingle with ... pat or enjoy a picnic in the paddock with them
- For Sale - Fleece & Alpacas – Pets, breeding stock & Show animals: MillDuck Alpaca Stud

Your Hosts: Ada Milley & Prue Walduck

Ph. +61 3 5439 6451 Mob. 0449 643 721 bandb@millduck.com.au

www.millduck.com.au

Note: If you make a booking at Millduck, please mention Matrix, as your hosts are interested to know how you heard about their B & B.

Matrix Spring Dance – reminder!



Saturday,

October 15th

Preston City Hall

with Rosie Burgess



and Kerryn Fields

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Other People's events

Asylum Seekers Comedy Benefit

Asylum Seekers'
**COMEDY
BENEFIT**

★ DENISE SCOTT, DAVE O'NEILL, ★
LAWRENCE MOONEY, GREG FLEET,
GERALDINE QUINN, MONICA DULLARD,
GERALDINE HICKEY & MORE TBA...

DOORS OPEN
6
PM

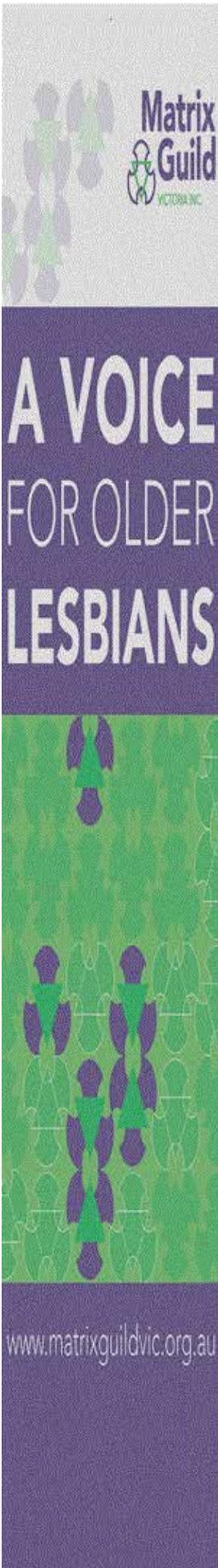
ST
KILDA
TOWN
HALL

FRIDAY
AUGUST
19
2016

TICKETS AVAILABLE
AT TRYBOOKING.COM

Monica Dullard and a group of her friends are organising this event to raise money for organisations working with Asylum Seekers. There will be a stellar line-up and a friendly community atmosphere. They would be thrilled if you could come along, and if you can't, you can still make a donation on Trybooking.com

To buy Tix or donate: Click on this UR Code:
<https://trybooking.com/Embed.aspx?eid=211216>



There are only 500 tix available. **BOOK NOW!**

The money raised will be given to Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project (BASP) and also donation to 'Refugee Legal' – defending the rights of refugees, www.rilc.org.au

Show Description: *The Asylum Seekers' Comedy Benefit* is going to be a huge community event. It will be held in the iconic St Kilda Town Hall with a dazzling line-up of comedians who are offering their support to raise money and awareness for the plight of asylum seekers. They need your help, so get your friends and come along. We can all make a difference and laugh ourselves silly as well!

Bar opens at 6pm. Food available. Show starts at 7pm.

High Tea for LGBTI Elders -an invitation



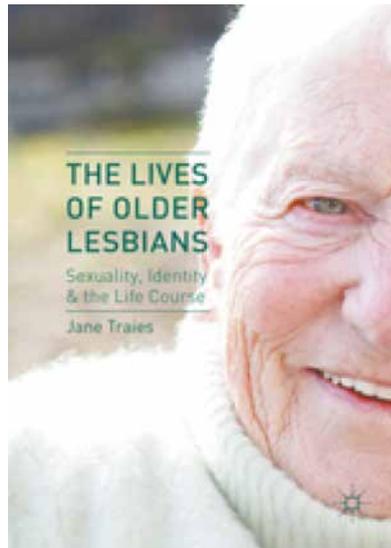
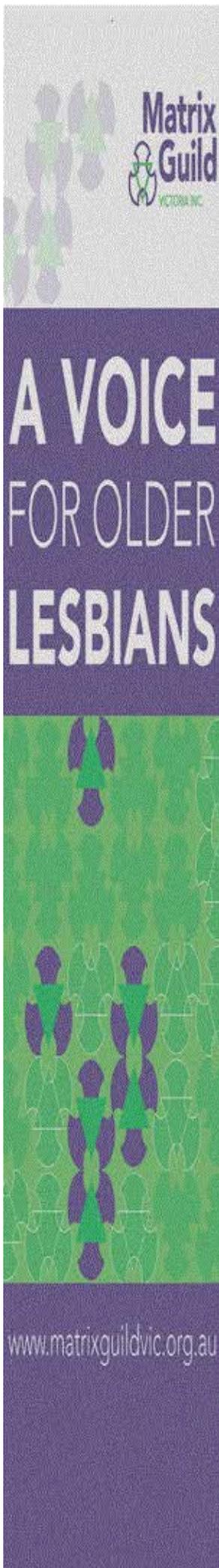
Matrix received the following invitation which you may like to consider. Could be fun!

LGBTI Elders and their allies are invited to join Victoria's Commissioners, Advocates and Regulators for an afternoon of High Tea, movement and fun. Presented by Alice's Garage and All The Queens Men, the event kicks off with afternoon tea and then continues as we create history – moving together as a human collective in a new move that celebrates LGBTI Elders. At the event we will create a video message of support for LGBTI Elders. You are invited to contribute to the message with your own words, movement, images or text. This event is part of the Victorian Seniors Festival.

- Date: 7th October 2016
- Time: 2pm – 3.30pm
- Venue: Melbourne Town Hall Richmond Room, Melbourne Town Hall Swanston Street
- Cost: FREE event – bookings required
- Bookings: Catherine Barrett
- Email: catherinebarrett13@gmail.com
- Phone: 0429 582 237

The Bookroom

The focus is on Older Lesbians in these two publications



The Lives of Older Lesbians

Sexuality, Identity & the Life Course

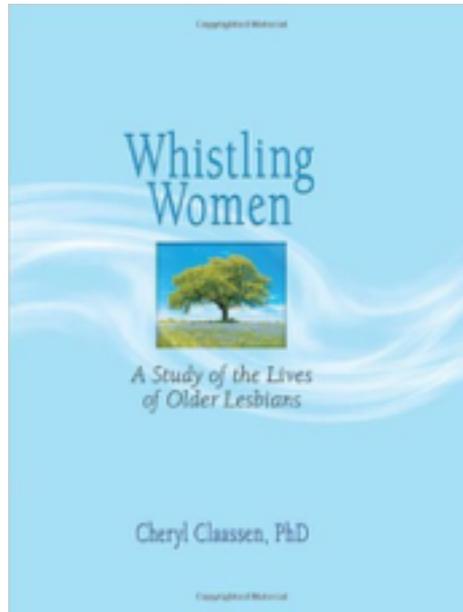
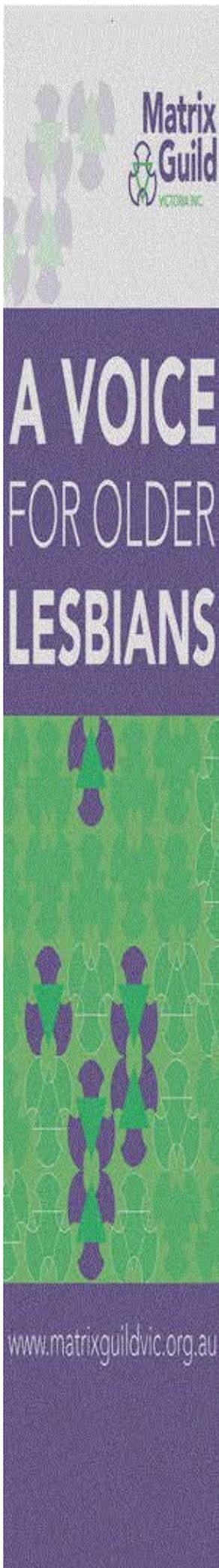
Author: Traies, Jane

Although this recently published book is based on UK research, it will almost certainly have relevance for our issues here in Australia, and for Matrix members. We would welcome your comments on this book should you choose to read it.

This unique book sheds new light on the most invisible members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) community. Hidden from view by a combination of prevailing cultural assumptions and their own unwillingness to be seen, older lesbians have been consistently under-represented in both popular culture and research. This ground-breaking study, based on an unprecedentedly large research sample of nearly four hundred lesbian-identified women between the ages of 60 and 90, offers a fascinating insight into the lives of older lesbians in the UK. Drawing on data from a comprehensive questionnaire survey and illustrated with vivid personal testimonies, it explores both the diversity and the distinct collective identity of the older lesbian community, arguing that understanding their past experience is crucial to providing for their needs in the future.

Reprinted from Palgrave Macmillan UK, Publisher (2016)
<http://www.palgrave.com/fr/book/9781137556424>

The Author: Jane Traies is a Research Associate at the Sussex Centre for Cultural Studies and a member of the Sussex Centre for Life History and Life Writing, University of Sussex, UK.



Whistling Women

A Study of the Lives of Older Lesbians

Author: Cheryl Claassen, PhD

Publisher: Haworth Press Inc., NY 2005

Claassen's book tells the personal stories of forty-four lesbians over sixty who grew up during the Depression and World War II. The book explores issues of family background, coming out, marriage and relationships, work, lesbian politics and retirement.

Dr. Claassen is a Research Professor in Anthropology, with a PhD from Harvard University.

Editorial Reviews

"Any reader will come away with broadened vision and deepened understanding of the issues facing older lesbians." -- Linda Garnets, PhD, Affiliated Professor (psychology, women's studies, LGBT studies), UCLA

"Fascinating—these are the stories of the lives of 44 lesbians with decades of experience to share." -- Ellen D. B. Riggle, PhD, Associate Professor of Political Science and Associate Director of Women's Studies, University of Kentucky

Collecting older lesbians' stories

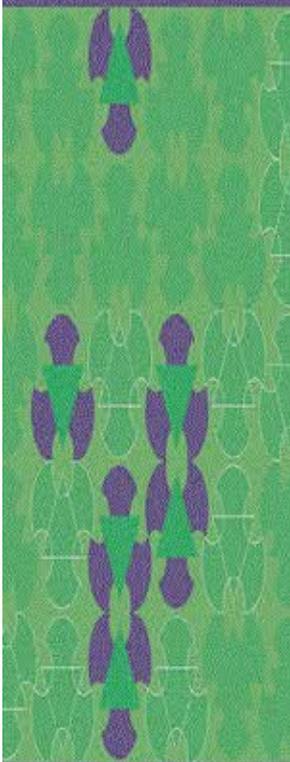
In both Australia and overseas, there is increasing interest in collecting the personal stories of older lesbians.

In March of this year, for example, Leeds Beckett University in the UK held an event to highlight the Invisibility of older lesbians in popular culture. The organiser of the event, Professor Rachel Dixey, brought together lesbians over 60 to share their experiences, and debate questions of identity, similarities and differences in experiences of being a lesbian, love and happiness in old age. Read more here <http://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/news/0316-event-to-share-experiences-of-older-lesbians/>

Here in Australia, researchers at UNSW, Australian National University, the University of Western Australia and Deakin University are seeking volunteer research participants to learn about the experiences of two different generations of LGBTI people growing up in Australia: specifically, those born in the 1970s and 1990s.



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The study aims to examine what was happening politically and socially during the two different time periods, particularly around LGBTI issues and how this affected young people's experiences.

Currently, researchers are looking for members of Sydney's LGBTI community who were born in the 1970s. **There will be additional studies during September in Melbourne and other Regional towns.** More information about the study: <https://queergenerations.org/about-the-study/>

Source: LOTL 13/7/2016

<http://www.lotl.com/News/Queer-Generations-Study-Sydney-Participant-Call-Out-1315/>

The deadline for the next Newsletter is 27th August, 2016.

Please send news items and short articles to:

Rosemary Wealthy at r.wealthy@bigpond.com
0416 268 108

Anneke Deutsch Matrix Guild of Vic Inc. at secretary@matrixguildvic.org.au
0427 482 976

