

Matrix Guild of Victoria Inc.

Newsletter - February 2015

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,

Happy New Year to you all from the Matrix Committee! We trust that you have enjoyed the Christmas and New Year festivities, and are looking forward to a new year full of exciting possibilities.

By the time you receive this newsletter, Midsumma will have ended for another year. We hope that you enjoyed the Lesbian Comedy Gala, as well as all the other wonderful events that were on offer. We have a report of it all later in this newsletter.



Switchboard Victoria

Switchboard Victoria is the new name of **Gay and Lesbian Switchboard Victoria**, the volunteer telephone counselling service for LGBTI, questioning and queer people that has operated for over 23 years.

The inclusive new name is accompanied by an overhaul of the organisation's branding, including a new logo and updated website.

"We're excited that our new name will now finally match the valuable work we do," explains Switchboard Manager **Leanne Renfree**, who says that the name change accurately reflects the support Switchboard has provided to LGBTIQ people and their communities across Victoria and Tasmania since its inception. "Switchboard's trained volunteer telephone counsellors have always supported LGBTIQ people, as well as their friends, families, allies and health care professionals," she notes.

Switchboard will continue to provide a free, confidential and anonymous peer based telephone counselling, information and referral service to LGBTIQ people and will introduce web counselling in early 2015.

The phones are answered by trained volunteers who themselves identify as GLBTI and receive calls from a wide range of people. Some may be experiencing problems

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coming out, or in their work, in their relationships, or with family. There are also callers who simply want a referral to other community organisations and groups. Switchboard also speaks to the family and friends of people who might identify as LGBTI, and receives calls from health and welfare professionals.

This year Switchboard will also launch its new service, "Out and About", a volunteer home visiting program for older LGBTIQ people across Victoria.

Between 5:30pm and 10:30pm seven days a week, Switchboard Victoria can be reached on 03 9663 2939 in Melbourne, or 1800 184 527 in regional Victoria and Tasmania.

Find out more about Switchboard Victoria on its website [here](http://www.switchboard.org.au).

NEW Lesbian Film:

"All About E"



Part of the new wave of Australian lesbian cinema, Queer Screen is thrilled to bring you the World Premiere of this locally produced film. Part road movie, part romance, part thriller, this sexy and fun film is destined to be a lesbian classic.

E, a beautiful Sydney DJ seems to have it all. Headlining at a top nightclub, a home with her gay best-friend Matt and a world of women at her feet, but looks can be deceiving - something is missing.

When she and Matt stumble on a stash of cash, they hit the road on the run from the crooks in search of a new life and possibly a lost love. Heading for safety in the bush and to Trish, the one girl who broke her heart, E has to find the strength to face her demons, come out to her migrant family and be brave enough to admit to the world, and those she loves, who she is and what she truly wants.

Showing as part of the Melbourne Queer Film Festival at 3pm Sunday 29th March. Tickets already on sale at: <http://www.mqff.com.au>

Watch the trailer

Social support for older lesbians

We now have a new brochure, hot off the presses, to publicise the Matrix Volunteer Visitor Program. Many older lesbians may have lost touch with their community, may not have internet access and may not read the mostly gay-male focussed queer publications.





Can you help us find them? Can you help us get the word out into the suburbs, rural and regional areas by taking a small bundle of brochures to display at your GP's practice and/or local Community Health Centre? If so, please contact Anna Cook: 0448 002 870 or www.matrixguildvic.org.au

Matrix Guild of Victoria has a free visiting service where lesbian volunteers meet with older, isolated lesbians in their homes or residences for a minimum of two hours per month. Visits might also include outings to cafes, shops and other social activities. The visitors are supported by a co-coordinator, and receive induction training, some reimbursement for travel costs and insurance cover.

Do you know of any older, isolated or disabled lesbians, aged over 40, living in the country or the city, who would like to be in contact with their community and who would like regular social contact with one of our trained lesbian volunteer visitors? Do you fit into this category yourself? Visits are free.

Please contact:

Anna Cook, Co-coordinator, MMVP
E: inquiries@matrixguildvic.org.au
W: www.matrixguildvic.org.au
T: 0448 002 870

Become a Volunteer Visitor

Metropolitan and country volunteers are urgently needed to service our growing demand.

- Do you have a spare couple of hours a month?
- Do you identify as lesbian or as a gay woman?
- Would you enjoy a rewarding exchange with an older lesbian?

Our next training day for volunteers will be held on Saturday 28th March 2015 in Northcote.

For more information, please contact:

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This is what our new flyer looks like (next page)

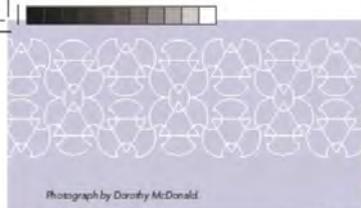
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Photograph by Dorothy McDonald.



Matrix Guild of Victoria: raising awareness of the health, housing and care needs of older lesbians.

WHO WE ARE

Matrix Guild of Victoria Inc. was founded in May 1992 by a group of lesbian feminists

- it was established by and for the benefit of lesbians over forty years of age
- the Matrix Guild is a public charitable incorporated association with Deductible Gift Recipient status

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

- to promote appropriate care and support for older lesbians
- to provide some accommodation that caters to the needs of ageing lesbians who are financially disadvantaged
- to support ageing lesbians' accommodation choices
- to challenge ageism and to oppose discrimination against older lesbians
- to advocate on behalf of older lesbians to governments and other relevant bodies
- to promote social contact and support among older lesbians
- to research lesbians' experience of aged care

ENQUIRIES

T 0427 482 976
E housing@matrixguildvic.org.au
E secretary@matrixguildvic.org.au
E inquiries@matrixguildvic.org.au
W www.matrixguildvic.org.au



A VOICE FOR OLDER LESBIANS

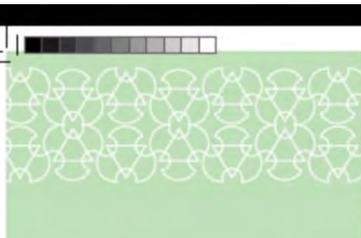
MATRIX VOLUNTEER VISITOR PROGRAM

A social support initiative by lesbians for older lesbians



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18/10/2014 8:54 pm



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Coverphotograph by Annika Deutsch.

SOCIAL SUPPORT FOR OLDER LESBIANS

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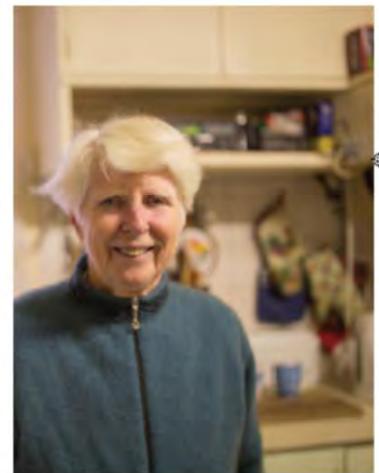
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Metropolitan and country volunteers urgently needed to service our growing demand. Do you have a spare couple of hours a month? Do you identify as lesbian or as a gay woman? Would you enjoy a rewarding exchange with an older lesbian?

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Photograph by Val's Cafe.

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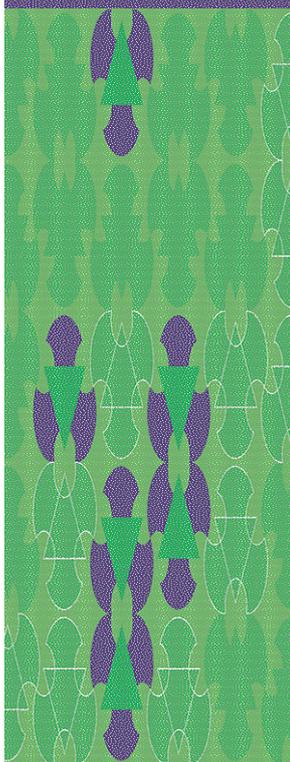
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Enduring Power of Attorney, Advanced Health Care Directives

The Office of the Public Advocate in Melbourne is offering a free seminar in February about how to ensure your views are respected when you can no longer make decisions. The details are in the flyer below. Bookings are necessary if you're interested in attending.



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Office of the Public Advocate

My Life, My Choices

Understanding what you need to know to plan for your future care

Members of the public are invited to join us for an information session on **planning for future legal, medical and lifestyle decisions.**

Date: Wednesday 11 February 2015

Times: 10.00 am – 12.00 pm

Location: Office of the Public Advocate
Level 1, 204 Lygon Street Carlton 3053



Car parking: is very limited. Short-term metered parking is available in surrounding streets and there is a car park underneath the building (\$3.50 per hr, max \$14), but spaces are limited, particularly later in the day.

Participants are encouraged to use public transport:

- **Trams** along Swanston St. towards Melbourne University, to stop-3 Lincoln Square, take Pelham Street and walk through Argyle Square towards 204 Lygon Street
- **Closest stations** are Parliament or Melbourne Central
- **A number of bus routes** travel along Lygon St.
- **Check www.pt.vic.gov.au to plan your journey**

Contact person: Lorraine Lipson

RSVP by email to: OPAeducation@justice.vic.gov.au

Phone: 1300 309 337 (local call cost)

The sessions are free but places are limited & bookings essential

Please provide details of any support required e.g. Auslan interpreter



Are you interested in participating in a research project and possibly winning an iPad or \$500?

A VOICE FOR OLDER LESBIANS

A national research project is currently underway examining the social connections of older Australians and what interventions work to reduce social isolation.

Research has found both in Australia and overseas that people's social connections are declining and this can lead to feelings of social isolation and loneliness. Our social networks allow us to share information, to learn, to be of value and to be valued. They are essential to wellbeing.

The research project is seeking the experiences and views of older Australians aged 65 years and over living in the community (not residential care). We wish to gain an in-depth knowledge and understanding of older people's experiences in terms of social connections, social support, loneliness and social isolation.

This research will assist service providers in developing policy and practice to improve older peoples' lives.

To take part in the study you can complete the survey online at: https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/social_connection or alternately, a paper copy of the survey can be mailed to you.

Call Debbie Faulkner to request a survey or for further information on FREECALL 1800 789 199; 08 8313 3230; or email: debbie.faulkner@adelaide.edu.au

The survey opened on Wednesday 12 November 2014 and closes on the 31 March 2015.

This is a national research project involving a number of universities and a range of partner organisations and has been approved by the relevant Human Research Ethics Committees.

All people taking part in the survey may enter into a draw to win an iPad or \$500 (first prize) or one of twenty prizes of \$100 each.

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Are you a same-sex attracted woman? Have you experienced sexism and homophobia?

If you identify as a same-sex attracted woman and are over 18 years of age, you are eligible to participate in a research study examining how women respond and resist homophobia and sexism in their daily lives.

All women recruited will be asked to undertake a semi-structured interview that will take approximately 1.5 hours. The interview will consist of two parts. First, the participant will be asked to read and describe how they would respond to imaginary situations depicting instances of discrimination targeted at same-sex attracted women. Following this, the participant will be invited to share their experiences of resisting discrimination.



The researchers aim to use the data collected in this study to inform the practice of academics and practising psychologists who work with same-sex attracted women. It will help their understanding about the unique experiences of discrimination these clients face.

If you are interested in participating in this project please email Natasha Katopodis at nkat12@student.monash.edu

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Project: Resistance strategies against sexism and homophobia used by same-sex attracted women

Dr. Janette Simmonds
Department of Education
email: janette.simmonds@monash.edu

Natasha Katopodis
email: nkat12@student.monash.edu

You are invited to take part in this study. Please read this Explanatory Statement in full before deciding whether or not to participate in this research. If you would like further information regarding any aspect of this project, you are encouraged to contact Natasha Katopodis on the email address above.

What does the research involve?

This study aims to explore how same-sex attracted women respond and resist sexism and homophobia. We hope to recruit same-sex attracted women who are willing to share their experiences of resisting sexism and homophobia. All women recruited will be asked to undertake a semi-structured interview that will take approximately 1.5 hours. The interview will comprise of two parts. First, the participant will be asked to read and describe how they would respond to imaginary situations where they experienced discrimination based on being a same-sex attracted woman. Following this, the participant will be invited to share their experiences of resisting discrimination.

Why same-sex attracted women?

There is limited research exploring the experiences of same-sex attracted women and how they respond and resist homophobia and discrimination. This research hopes to give same-sex attracted women the opportunity to tell their stories of discrimination and resistance. This information will be helpful in assisting psychology professionals who work with same-sex attracted women as well as allow for a broader academic knowledge of the unique lived experience of same-sex attracted women.

Consenting to participate in the project and withdrawing from the research

Consent will be assumed once you have sign and returned the accompanying consent form. The participants' have the right to withdraw from participation at any stage of their participation with no implications. Additionally, participants have the right to withdraw any information they have shared during the interview process.

Possible benefits and risks to participants

Participants get an opportunity to contribute to a project that serves to better understand the lived experiences of same-sex attracted women. Additionally, by telling their stories, participants may also gain further insights into their own lived experiences.



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Jewish Lesbian Group of Victoria



JLGVic will be having a screening of their film "It's Who We Are" at the Classic Cinema in Elsternwick on March 1st at 1:30 pm. This film celebrates 20 years of being together, so go along and support them. See the flyer below for full information.

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"It's Who We Are" screening!



The Jewish Lesbian Group of Victoria's film, "It's Who We Are: Celebrating 20 Years of the Jewish Lesbian Group of Victoria" is screening at the

Classic Cinema, Elsternwick

Sunday 1 March at 1.30 pm

Book your tickets at: www.trybooking.com/118142

A Q&A session will follow the screening

Our film was sold out at MQFF 2014, so this time, don't miss out!



This screening is a JLGV fundraiser and we thank you for your support

jlgvic@hotmail.com

www.jlgvic.org



Jewish Lesbian Group of Victoria

www.matrixguildvic.org.au

On a personal note.....



Vale Jude Jackson 1940 – 2015

By Sara Elkas

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Jude was born on 23rd March 1940 and grew up in Richmond. She attended Camberwell Girls High School and afterwards Burwood Teachers College. She taught in primary schools in country towns and later at Collingwood High School.

In the 1970s she married CSIRO scientist Ted Jackson and they moved to a property in Harcourt where they planted a vineyard. Jude worked as CEO of Women's Health in Bendigo and later as CEO of the Bendigo Community Preparation Program. Jude and Ted separated in the early 1990s.

In 1992 Jude met Magda Van De Ven and they started a relationship that lasted 22 years until she died. They had a mutual interest in travelling that took them to Europe (especially the UK and Netherlands) and India. On their return to Australia they acquired a motor home and became members of CMCA, a camping organization.

Jude was a political activist going way back to May 1970 when Jim Cairns as chair of the Vietnam Moratorium led an estimated 100,000 people in a "sit-down" demonstration in the streets of Melbourne.

Jude and Magda were founding members of Matrix Guild of Vic Inc. and also members of the Matrix "Business Group" that attempted to establish a business that would give Matrix a financial base to realize its vision of the "Old Dykes Home". As Jean Taylor remembers, Jude organized a fun day at her vineyard filling bottles with wine to sell with all profits going to Matrix.

My personal memories of Jude are of the vividness of her blue eyes and her continuing interest in my personal news as well as the general goings on in the world. Like me she was an avid reader.

In her final years Jude had a number of major health problems that worsened in the last 12 months of her life. She passed away peacefully at the Knox Hospital on New Year's Day 2015.

Jude is survived by her partner Magda and her brother Dennis.

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Lesbian Comedy Gala - A Roaring Success!

Six Hundred lesbians flocked to the Preston City Hall on Saturday night and enjoyed an hilarious night of women's (mostly lesbian) comedy. Angela, Karen and their staff from Angela's Kitchen provided over 300 delicious Spanish and Greek meals as Queen Beaver band with their warmed up the crowd in the adjacent Shire Hall. The young bar tenders supplied hot and cold drinks with good humour and efficiency. Then our loveable MC, Monica Dullard kicked off the night with her hilarious routines. Denise Scott, Hannah Gadsby, Bobby MacCumber, Lori Bell, Geraldine Hickey, Denise and Dawn McGuinness were crowd favourites. The hall was full of lesbians with aching sides, the atmosphere was celebratory and positive – what a great night!

But it didn't end there, about 200 stayed to dance and chat into the wee hours at the After Party in the Shire Hall. The CWLA, Linda and I were last to leave at 2am.

The evening raised about \$23,000 for Matrix's charitable activities such as our new Volunteer Visitor Program. The money will also ensure that we have the money to meet any capital expenses that may arise with our affordable housing – Heather's Flats. This is by far the most successful fundraiser we have ever had! Thanks so much to our Sponsors, City Fertility, Jetts Fitness, Northcote, Darebin City Council and Selador Wines. The Hallkeepers, Gabby, Rebecca and Joanne looked after every detail and were a pleasure to work with.

Behind the scenes it was a lesbian-only crew who made it all happen so seamlessly. Thanks so much to all the performers, to Monica for her superb MC ing, the Auslan Interpreters, the volunteer tech crew, the volunteer door women, the bar and security staff, Merryn, the sound tech, and to the CWLA who baked and hosted the performers and volunteers with true country hospitality. And thank YOU for coming along and being such an appreciative, enthusiastic and supportive audience!

Anneke Deutsch, Co-producer



Posthumous OAM Australia Day Award Lesley Hall

The late Ms Lesley Maria HALL of Thornbury Victoria was awarded an OAM on Monday 26th January

For service to people with a disability through a range of executive roles:

- Chief Executive Officer, Australian Federation of Disability Organisations, 2008-2013.

- Assisted in foundation of Disability Resource Centre (DRC) and Women with Disabilities Feminist Collective, 1981; Board Member of DRC and Women with Disabilities Network.
- Member, Disability Advisory Committee, Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission.
- Chairperson, Arts Access Victoria, 2010-2012; Board Member 2008-2012. A scholarship has been created in her name in 2014 to honour the significance of her work.
- Former Board Member, Melbourne Workers' Theatre, 1988-2002.

Awards/recognition include:

- Recipient, Prime Minister's National Disability Award, 2013.
- Admitted to the Victorian Honour Roll for Women, 2014.

www.itsanhonour.gov.au

Lesbians Who Lunch

MAD (women Making a Difference) would like to thank all those women who attended the fund raising lunch on Sunday January 25th. Together with donations of women unable to be present, we raised nearly \$600, which will be forwarded to PLAN INTERNATIONAL for the campaign in support of the education of girls across the world.



The deadline for the March Newsletter is 26th February, 2015.

Please send news items and short articles to Rosemary at r.wealthy@bigpond.com

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