

# Matrix Guild of Victoria Inc.

Newsletter - February 2017

## 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!

The Committee of Matrix would like to wish you a happy and healthy 2017. Our first newsletter for the year is packed with news and useful information, as well as details of forthcoming Matrix events. Make a note of the Matrix International Women's Day Tea Dance on March 4th and come along to the Matrix coffee afternoons, which start again on February 2nd. As a Matrix member, you are entitled to place free personal ads in the newsletter, and we always welcome your personal stories. Happy reading!

## IWD Lesbian Tea Dance



### *The Wild Women of Armidale*

On **Saturday 4th March 2pm-6pm**, the **Leinster Grove Community Hall** will be abuzz with dancing lesbians, singing along to their favorite feminist anthems. We're very excited to announce that The Wild Women of Armidale (NSW), with bass and percussion support from some Trentham locals are coming down to perform for you.



Dance music by DJ Kerry and a scrumptious afternoon tea included. This is an alcohol-free event.

Tickets at the door:

**Members: \$7**

**Concession: \$10**

**Full price: \$15**

Even if you don't want to dance, come along, catch up with old friends or make some new ones. Please send the attached flyer around to your women friends. If they join Matrix on the day, they get in for free!

## Matrix Coffee Afternoons



### Mamma Says Café

**is the place to be on Thursdays!**

We are starting our very successful Matrix coffee afternoons again this year, but in a new venue. The previous café has closed for renovations. Come and join us on Thursday February 2nd at 12.00 noon for the first gathering of 2017, at **Mamma Says** at 120 Station Street, Fairfield. The café is on the left side of Station Street heading north, between Wingrove St and Duncan St. The nearest railway station is Fairfield, on the Hurstbridge line, accessible from Wingrove Street. *(Melways Ref Map 30, K10)*

When you arrive at the café, go through to the outdoor covered area at the rear of the café, and you will find us there. There is street parking along Station Street, but you can also park in the carpark behind the shops, which you enter from Gillies Street.

The Coffee afternoons are held every Thursday from 12 – 3 pm.

We can guarantee good company, good conversation and good food. Have lunch, or just a cuppa. Have a game of Rummio or just have a chat. Bring a friend along. It's a friendly and relaxed atmosphere and everyone is made welcome.

Check out the menu here: [www.mammasays.com.au](http://www.mammasays.com.au)

If you want more information phone Carole 0437 891 981

## Money! Money! Money!

The first LGBTI Community Grants Program for groups like Matrix has been announced. We have made it through the first hurdle and have been invited to submit a full application. We hope to be able to fund a paid position – an Office and Fundraising Manager. Stay tuned.

We also expect to be successful in an application for funding through the City of Darebin under their Older Adults Groups program. For this we need to show that most of our members are aged over 55 – that's why we've been asking you for your Year of Birth. If you haven't supplied this to us yet, could you please email Anneke at [secretary@matrixguildvic.org.au](mailto:secretary@matrixguildvic.org.au) or text or call her on 0427 482 976?

## Matrix at Pride



How often do you get hoots, hollers and applause for being an old lesbian? On Sunday 29th January Judith, Barb, Rosemary, Helene and Anneke proudly carried the Matrix banner down Fitzroy Street, St Kilda for the Midsumma Pride March.

Judith, our oldest member at 88, held the banner with one hand and high-fived as many in the cheering crowd as she could reach from her wheelchair. It was this ex-shearer's first Pride event and she loved it! But it gets harder each year to engender enough interest in carrying the Matrix banner. It seems important to me to show the world that old lesbians are a part of the LGBTI community, that we have fun together, are connected and that we love our lives. But so many of us have dodgy knees or hips, or have other groups that we'd rather march with. So this might be Matrix's last Pride march for a while...



## Matrix Volunteer Visitor Program (MVVP)



MVVP is a program in which volunteer visitors provide social support for older lesbians, whether they be in their own homes or in aged care facilities.

Our next MVVP training day for volunteers wishing to join the program is on March 25th 2017 and will be held at Clyde Street Community Centre, 64 Clyde Street, Thornbury, from 9.30am till 3.30pm.

If you would like to become a volunteer visitor, please contact Matrix at

[inquiries@matrixguildvic.org.au](mailto:inquiries@matrixguildvic.org.au) or ring **Anna Cook** on 0448002870.

## Love Blossoms in Sunshine



One of our oldest members, Judith, from Sunshine wants the world to know that she's fallen in love at 88!

She met her new partner, Nellie, in Residential Aged Care. The staff are very supportive and have offered them their own, private lounge area.

## Other People's events

### Dyke Divas welcomes new members

Dyke Divas, our very own Melbourne based lesbian choir is extending a warm welcome to Matrix Guild members to come and join us. Some of you will have heard us sing at the October Matrix Guild Dance.

You do not need to be an experienced singer, just willing to give it a go. Many of our singers have not had previous choir experience. There is lots of support for singers of all levels and we have plenty of fun and laughs along the way.



Term one 2017 details:

- Eight week singing series starting Wednesday 8 Feb.
- We meet 6.30 to 8.30pm at 64 Clyde Street, Thornbury during school terms.
- Costs: \$80 for unwaged/part-waged; \$120 for fully waged.
- Visitor's first session is free, then \$15 unwaged / part-waged, \$20 fully waged.

Please note we are a private group of lesbians who enjoy singing together. We do not advertise publicly.

If you know of other lesbians who might like to join us or visit and sing with us, please ask them to contact Rachel.

Mobile 040 288 0178 (after 27 Jan.) E-mail: [rachel@rachelmorgan.net](mailto:rachel@rachelmorgan.net)

## Support the Womyn's Gathering - an Invitation from Cathy and Sue

Hi All,

You are invited to share some tea, cake and feminist discussion in support of the Womyn's Gathering! Myself and Sue Leigh will be speaking about the 2016 Womyn's Gathering and the need for women's spaces with a view to future organising.

**When:** Tuesday Feb 21, 5:30-7pm

**Where:** RMIT building 80 (Swanston Academic Building), level 9, room 6

Entry by donation. Tea will be provided and cake for sale.

For more information: [www.womynsgathering.com](http://www.womynsgathering.com)

To make a donation: <https://www.crowdrise.com/womyns-gathering-2017>

RSVP by email or Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/156543054840779/>

Hope to see you there!

*Cathy and Sue*

## Pandoras Party



PANDORAS presents ***The Retro Girls Musical Beach Party!*** LGBTIQ Inclusive Event!

**Sat 4th Feb 2017**, doors open 7pm for an 8pm start!

Kindred Studios, 212a Whitehall St, Yarraville (enter via Harris St)

Pre-Book online \$20, or take your chances at the door \$25!



BOOKING LINK; <https://www.trybooking.com/NBOT>

It will be a beautiful evening featuring a smorgasbord of fabulous entertainment including, The Retro Girls, Rodrigo Alvarado, Ronicka Serpent Dancer + more....

PANDORAS is a moment in time where women gather...a safe space...a beautiful night of entertainment..... an inclusive event for queer women and friends, a time for LGBTIQ folk to come together and celebrate their diversity!

Inclusive LGBTIQ ADULT-ONLY EVENT!!!

Enjoy outta sight burgers, brownies, barista lattes & mouth-watering salads at the Kindred Cafe, no need to book as there are many wonderful spaces to lounge about inside & out! BEAN BAGS GALORE!!

Bar shuts at 1pm.

For more info, SMS Rachel on 0417557011

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1096915043724586/>

This is a GoWest Midsumma event;

<https://midsumma.org.au/k2event/pandoras-presents>

Dance till you drop BABY!!!!

## Dementia and Love

If you've been affected by the experience of a loved one with dementia, you might be interested in the Dementia and Love symposium to be held in Ballarat in February. Lesbian couple, Anne and Edie have been the poster women for this event. If you missed them on the 7:30 report. Have a look here

<http://www.abc.net.au/7.30/content/2015/s4308652.htm>

[Dementia and Love Symposium information here](#)

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/small-acts-of-love-a-national-symposium-on-dementia-and-love-registration-29317293815>

## LGBTI Elders Dance Club returns in 2017





## BRAND NEW VENUE - THE FITZROY TOWN HALL

Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex elders and their allies are invited to our first monthly dance club event for 2017.

No dance experience needed. All are welcome.  
Delicious catering and drinks provided.  
Wheelchair accessible.

**When:** Friday 3 February 5.30pm – 7.30pm

**Where:** Fitzroy Town Hall, 201 Napier Street Fitzroy

**RSVP:** Tristan - [tristan@allthequeensmen.net](mailto:tristan@allthequeensmen.net) / 0421 572 221

Supported by Yarra City Arts and Margaret Lawrence Bequest.

## A message from Liz Smith..... on your bike!

Let me tell you what I think of bicycling. I think it has done more to emancipate women than anything else in the world. It gives women a feeling of freedom and self-reliance. I stand and rejoice every time I see a woman ride by on a wheel...the picture of free, untrammelled womanhood. - Susan B Anthony,

The **Melbourne Sustainable Living Festival** runs 4-28 February. Attend a fun and interactive bike maintenance workshop run by a lesbian! Learn all the important basics to help keep your bike running smoothly. Georgie will demonstrate how to do safety checks, set your bike up effectively, adjust the brakes, change a tube, repair a puncture and clean the chain. All your smooth bike running needs addressed! Georgie is a friend of Matrix member Liz Smith, also a bike enthusiast.



**When:** Wed 15 Feb 6:30 pm - 8:30 pm OR

**Where:** Sat 25 Feb 10:00 am - 12:00 pm

**Cost:** \$10

**Venue:** Alma Road Community House, 200 Alma Road, St Kilda.

**Bookings:** <http://www.slf.org.au/?s=bike+maintenance>

## New Moves High Tea



If you'd like to see the video from the extraordinary New Moves High Tea, part of the Victorian LGBTI Senior's Festival, have a look at the link below. Check out the dancing senior public servants, commissioners, as well as some familiar faces from our membership. Here it is: <https://youtu.be/VI18m6yMIQo>

## Beautiful Lesbians Are Everywhere

A few Matrix members have been photographed for the *Breastscreen Victoria LGBT Beautiful Women Campaign*. The aim is to encourage us to have regular mammograms. The media response has been quite extraordinary. The story about the Campaign has been picked up by several media outlets, resulting in a potential readership of over 10 million readers and rising rapidly.



Here are a couple of links showing pictures of local lesbians including Barb and Anneke. For those who speak Italian, you can read how Vanity Fair, Italy, has picked up the story!

Vanity Fair Italy (13/1/17): LGBTI: le foto delle donne per prevenire il cancro al seno (Alessia Arcolaci): <http://www.vanityfair.it/news/foto/17/01/11/beautiful-lgbti-women-cancro-seno-foto>





Buzz Feed (9/1/17): Photos of older LGBTI women celebrate breaking beauty norms (Lane Sainty): [https://www.buzzfeed.com/lanesainty/beautiful-lgbti-women?utm\\_term=.jmyyqagLN#.hqbwKDL1E](https://www.buzzfeed.com/lanesainty/beautiful-lgbti-women?utm_term=.jmyyqagLN#.hqbwKDL1E) (read this article for great overview of difference between LGBTI women’s use of breast screen compared to other women)

*When was your last breast screen?*

## The Sexual Health & Ageing, Perspectives & Education (SHAPE) Project

Whilst discussion of sexual health is routine in general practice for younger adults, this is not the case for older patients. However, research has found that many older people would value the opportunity to discuss sexual health. This pilot project is designed to explore the challenges in undertaking these conversations, as well as collecting ideas on the ways these challenges might be overcome. We welcome your views, regardless of whether you are currently sexually active or not. All responses remain completely confidential and participants will not be able to be identified in any way.

The SHAPE Project was designed by the School of Population and Global Health, in conjunction with the Department of General Practice, the University of Melbourne and the National Ageing Research Institute, as the first step to understanding this important issue in Australia. Please contact Sue Malta on [smalta@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:smalta@unimelb.edu.au) or (03) 9035 7737 to find out more details.



Chillout is soon to be with us and this year the Daylesford-based Festival is celebrating 20 years of “queer country pride”. The emerald is the 20th anniversary gemstone, so this year’s Festival has a green theme. Head up to Daylesford for a weekend of great entertainment, a dance party, dog show, games, demonstrations, retail and community stalls and all-round good fun.

## Artist seeks volunteers for project on theme of lesbian elders

I'm a local artist making a new body of work about lesbian elders, aging, challenging stereotypes and creating an archive of Melbourne-based lesbians. I'll be creating both a documentary and series of portraits with a lesbian feminist focus. I would love to include you, or someone you know, in my work. Please get in touch for more info: [lj.lever@hotmail.com](mailto:lj.lever@hotmail.com) or 0474 756 263. Time requirement of 1-2 hours. Thank you.

*Louise Lever*

A VOICE  
FOR OLDER  
LESBIANS

The deadline for the next Newsletter is 25th February, 2017.

Please send news items and short articles to:

Rosemary Wealthy at [r.wealthy@bigpond.com](mailto:r.wealthy@bigpond.com)

Anneke Deutsch Matrix Guild of Vic Inc. at [secretary@matrixguildvic.org.au](mailto:secretary@matrixguildvic.org.au)  
0427 482 976



[www.matrixguildvic.org.au](http://www.matrixguildvic.org.au)