

Matrix Guild of Victoria Inc.

Newsletter - June 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,

This year seems to be racing by so fast, and Winter Solstice is not far away – time to bring out the winter woollies! However, you can look forward to the Matrix Spring Dance, with great guest artists and a raffle with truly fabulous prizes. If you need a fun night out that's happening soon, go along to the concert put on by the Melbourne Gay & Lesbian Chorus and shout Youth Chorus. Read the reports of the Matrix Inter-generational workshop and the Women's Co-housing initiatives in which Matrix is participating, and don't forget to send in your news items, personal stories or personal ads.

Coffee Afternoons keep on going!

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.

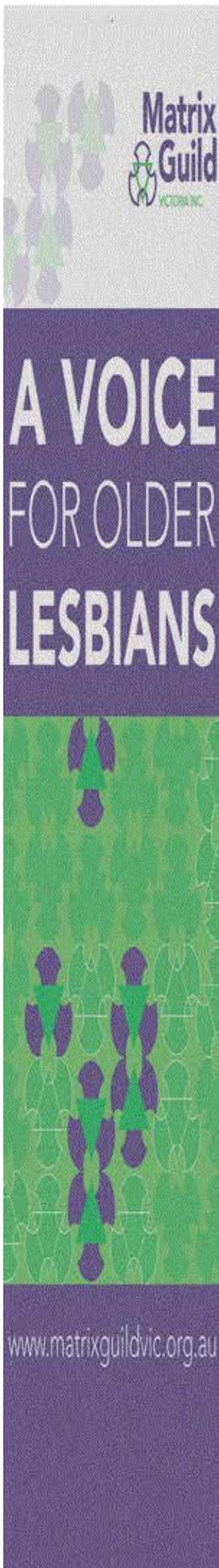
The café is opposite Northcote Nursery and only 3 minutes' walk from the Dennis railway station, on the Hurstbridge line. (*Melways Ref Map 30, H10*)

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.



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

Matrix Spring Dance Save the Date!



The next Matrix Lesbian Tea Dance will be held in the afternoon on **Saturday 15th October** at the Preston Shire Hall.

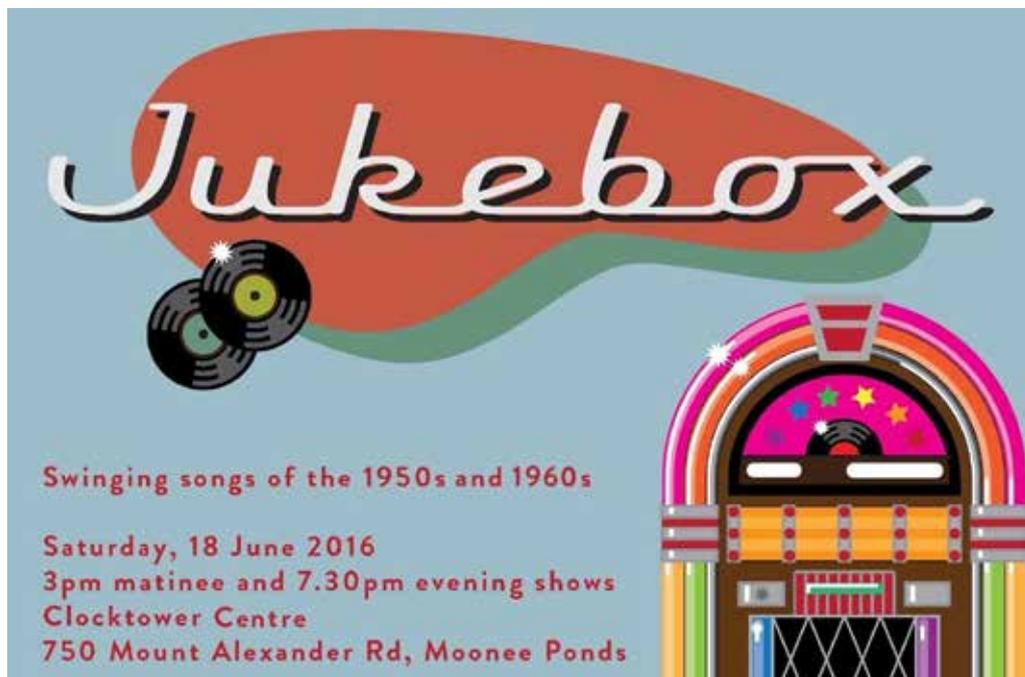
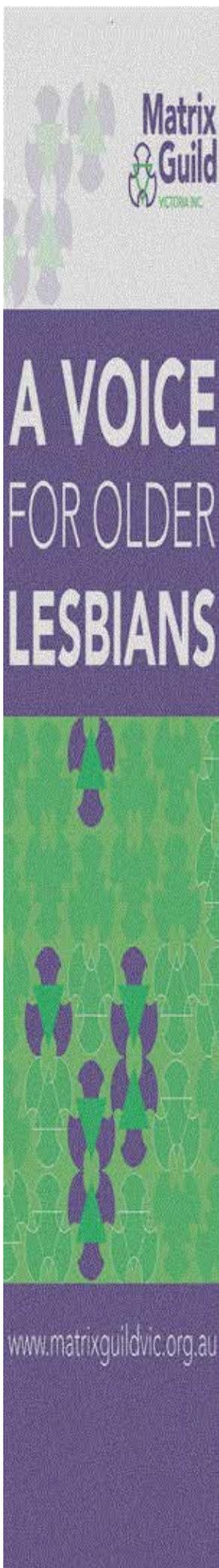
An afternoon of uplifting dance tracks by DJ Kerry including all your old favourites. Plus, live music by **Kerryn Fields & Rosie Burgess** as well as afternoon tea.

Fields' warm personality and striking voice (reminiscent of Toni Childs) meld perfectly with her alt-country and roots stylings. Her songs are laced with rockabilly and soul. Rosie Burgess' folk and blues sensibilities and energetic bass rounds out the sound. Tickets at the door: \$5 members, \$7 concession, \$10 full.



Other Events.....

The Melbourne Gay and Lesbian Chorus & shOUT Youth Chorus presents



Get ready to rock and roll in your pedal pushers as MGLC celebrates the fabulous fifties and swinging sixties with 'JUKEBOX'.

You will be tapping along to classic hits by The Beach Boys, The Four Seasons, Elvis Presley, The Shirelles and many more!

Both choirs will be supported by live five-piece band.

Musical Direction by Drew Downing (MGLC) and Jaclyn Lanera (shOUT)

Shows at 3:00pm and 7:30pm	Adults	\$30
	All Concession & Students over 13 years	\$20
	Children 12 and under	\$ 5

Limit of 10 tickets for single on-line purchases.

Children older than 18 months require a ticket.

The show will run for approximately 2 hours and 20 minutes including interval.

Call 9243 9191 to purchase tickets

It's On for Young and Old: Intergenerational Workshop Day

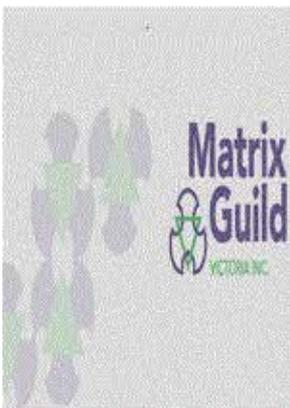
On Saturday May 14th Matrix hosted a very successful inter-generational workshop day for lesbian activists. We had a great turn-up with a good mix of young and old. It was pretty much an even spread of lesbians in their 20s and those of us in our 60s and beyond, with a few in the mid decades.



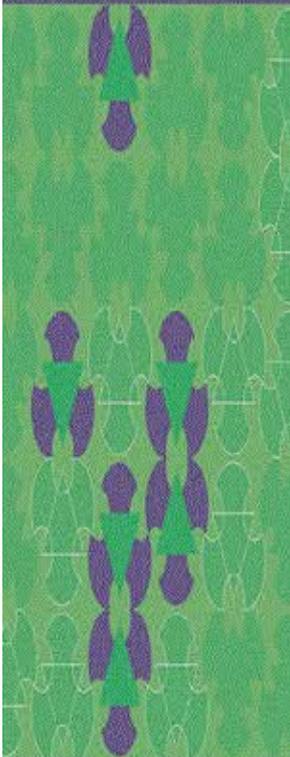
We started with a panel discussion which included Cathy, Shannen and Yolanda who are all in their 20s, Chris and Carol (60s) and Liz (in her 40s), all talking about their experience of feminist activism. After a delicious lunch break, where we all continued chatting with each other, we created an 'age line' after which we broke into small groups, and later reconvened for a large group discussion and plans for the future.

New links and friendships were forged between the generations and we all got to learn more about what activist projects we all have been, and are currently, involved in. We all agreed that by meeting together we can inspire and spark each other. We talked about the different organising methods used by the various generations (e.g. social media versus gathering round the kitchen table) and how our experience can benefit and inform each other.

Through holding this workshop, we recruited many new members and associate members (which is open to younger lesbians) thus strengthening our organisation now, and for the future.



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Many thanks to Meg for mediating the panel and large group discussions so ably. Also to all the committee members and their friends who helped set up the venue, manage the food, clean and pack up. Having younger lesbians moving chairs, tables and boxes is a definite boon for the aging organisers amongst us!

We all agreed that it would benefit us all to hold more meetings and discussions. So keep a look out for subsequent plans. Let us know if you would like to organise one. Many of the younger women are also keen to attend Matrix social events. So see you all then!

Chris Sitka

Co-housing for Older Women



A Matrix Co-housing initiative has been taking shape. It's still early days, but Matrix has been meeting with Jeanette Large, CEO of Women's Property Initiatives (WPI), and Trish O'Donohue, CEO of Women's Information Support & Housing in the North (WISHIN). Anneke from Matrix says: "Our discussion is wide ranging at the moment, looking at many options including funding ideas like whether we can attract super funds into financing the building of several co-housing developments. We may look to partnering with councils like Moreland or Darebin who are working to address the shortage of affordable housing in their shires. They are motivated to facilitate such housing by providing council land."

The plan is to start with a half day forum, targeted at older women to explain co-housing and to gauge the level of interest. Co-housing is a term used to describe clusters of houses or apartments where the residents plan what they as a group want as individual, private space and what facilities they'd like in terms of communal space.

The group manage the running of their 'village' and ownership is structured conventionally as strata title. Shared things might include: a common house with an

industrial kitchen where residents may share a few meals a week. This building may also house a couple of guest rooms with en suite so that not everyone has to replicate a spare room for visitors; music, yoga or art rooms; a wood and/or metal workshop space. Common gardens might be permaculture-inspired, with veggies, fruit & nut trees and chooks. Solar power and hot water, waste water management systems are made affordable through sharing the costs of infrastructure.

The possibilities are endless, determined by the ideas and desires of the co-housing group. There's a sweet spot of about 30-40 households, which provides enough volume for the group to build generous shared infrastructure. Our intention is that WPI would act as the developer and in exchange for this work, they would retain about 6 of the flats/houses to lease as long term, affordable accommodation to women who can't afford to buy in, but who share the ideals of the group. Co-housing is a very affordable way to live. It also provides the opportunity to build community and address social isolation. With more and more of us ageing as single women, having good women neighbours with whom we can have reciprocal supportive friendships could help create a joyful and enriched old age. An important aspect of co-housing is that the whole group needs to be comfortable with incoming members. To see how some women in the UK have done it, have a look at Older Women's Co-Housing. (OWCH). <http://www.owch.org.uk>



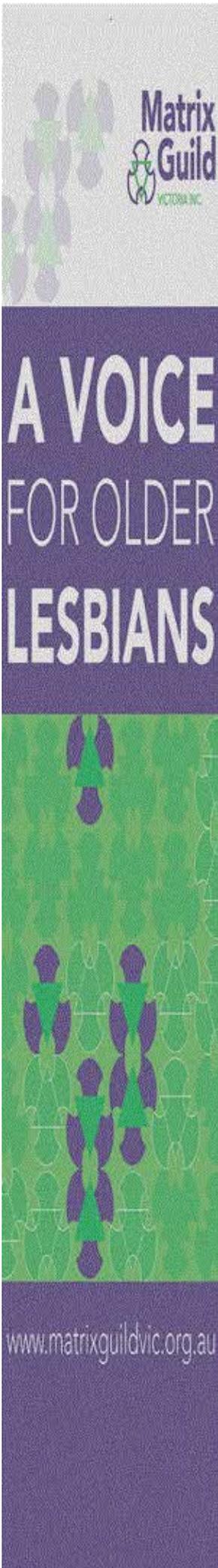
Older Women's Co-Housing Project, North London

Win Win Win!

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

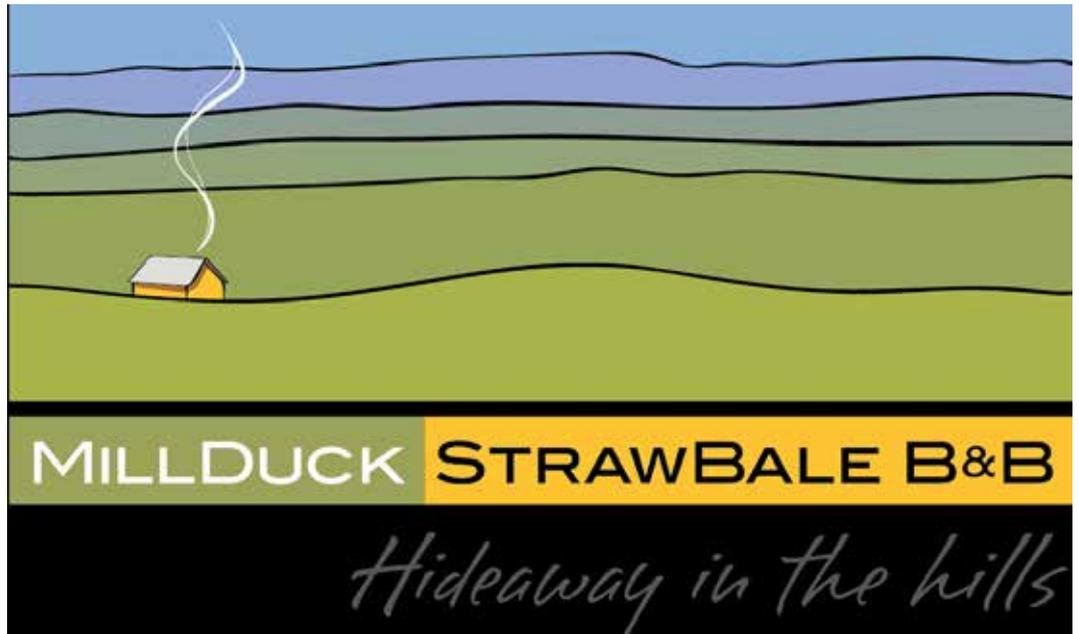
ACCOUNT NO: 144 565 546

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 Cider; 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);

Showcasing women's creative writing

Matrix newsletter has a new feature. In each addition we will include a link to a piece of lesbian creative writing, which will be posted on our web site for you to read.

This month's feature is an article by Chris Sitka titled "*An Australian Bush Garden*" It is an amusing story about how difficult it is to keep wild creatures out of a vegetable garden in a bush location.

If you have a piece of writing which you would like to post on the Matrix web page send it to: treasurer@matrixguildvic.org.au for consideration. Very long articles will not be accepted. Also please be aware your writing will be accessible to the general public when they look through the Matrix web site.

The web address is: www.matrixguildvic.org.au



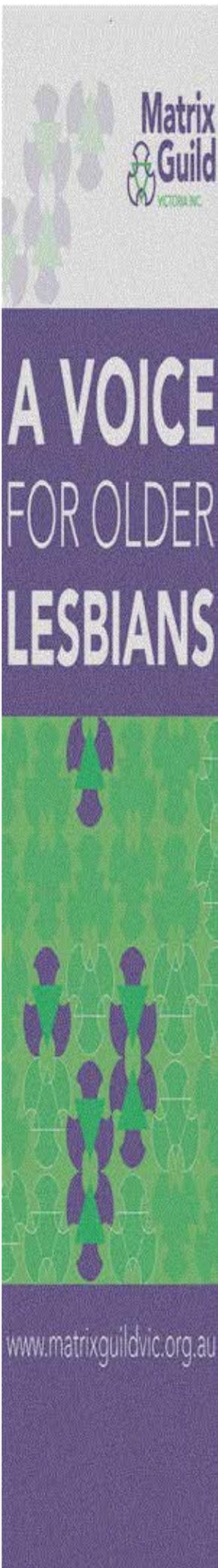
Filmmakers Looking for Lesbian Subjects

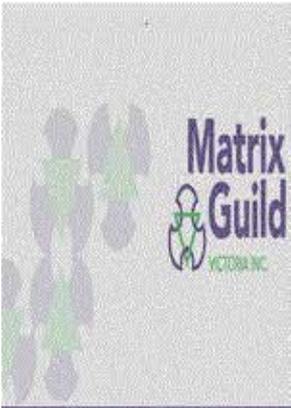
The Federal Dept of Health has tasked Screencraft to produce a series of case study film clips about home care. The purpose is to inform consumers, their families, friends and carers about what My Aged Care now includes, how to access the services and to allay any fears.

They would like to include a Matrix Guild of Victoria home care case study amongst the 7 case studies they'll be producing.

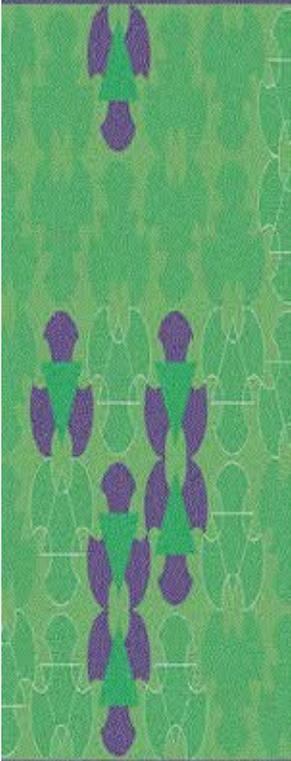
They will be interviewing the clients about their experiences, and will need to film the home care worker with them – perhaps out at the shops with them; at the local seniors club; basically showing how the home care person is helping them continue living a full life. They will also be filming in the home but the key is showing that a person doesn't have to be bed ridden in order to access these services.

Do you know someone who receives a Home Care Package and would be prepared to be filmed? Or do you receive one yourself? They would like to film between 6th and 10th June.





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See attachment for the questions they'll be asking.

If you can help, please call Angie Miller at Screencraft on **02 6239 7400** or **0409 994 904**

The deadline for the next Newsletter is 27th June, 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

