

Matrix Guild of Victoria Inc.

Newsletter - May 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,

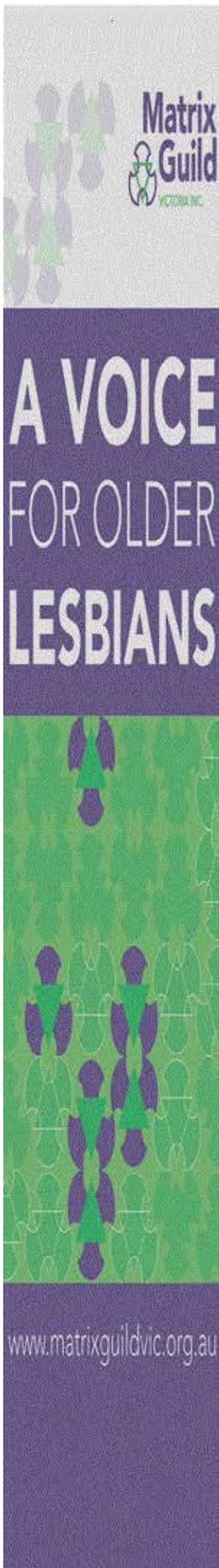
We have lots of good stuff to read in this newsletter. With the days certainly getting chillier what could be better than curling up in a warm space and finding out the latest lesbian news.



World Ovarian Cancer Day - May 8th (ovariancancerday.org)

Ovarian cancer has the lowest survival rate of all gynaecologic cancers, and is characterized around the world by a lack of awareness of symptoms and late stage diagnosis.

May 8th, 2013, was the first World Ovarian Cancer Day. On this day, ovarian cancer organizations from around the world united to educate their communities about ovarian cancer and its symptoms. For women living with the disease, and their



families and friends, World Ovarian Cancer Day has built, and will continue to build a sense of solidarity in the fight against the disease.

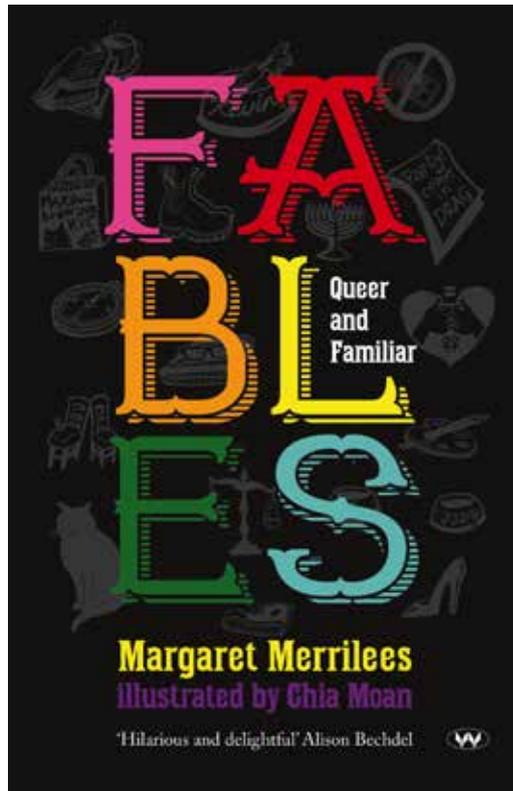
Unlike more common cancers, there are significant challenges as the disease has been largely overlooked and underfunded to this point. Symptoms which are similar to those of less serious illnesses, the absence of an early detection test, and the resulting late diagnosis and poor outcomes means there are few survivors of the disease to become advocates.

Symptoms are often misdiagnosed, as they can be confused with symptoms of other less severe illnesses, particularly gastrointestinal complaints.

The idea of a Global Awareness Day for Ovarian Cancer was put forward and embraced as an important joint international action creating a powerful momentum.

For more info on ovarian cancer see link: <https://ovariancancer.net.au/awareness>

Mag Merrilees Book Reading

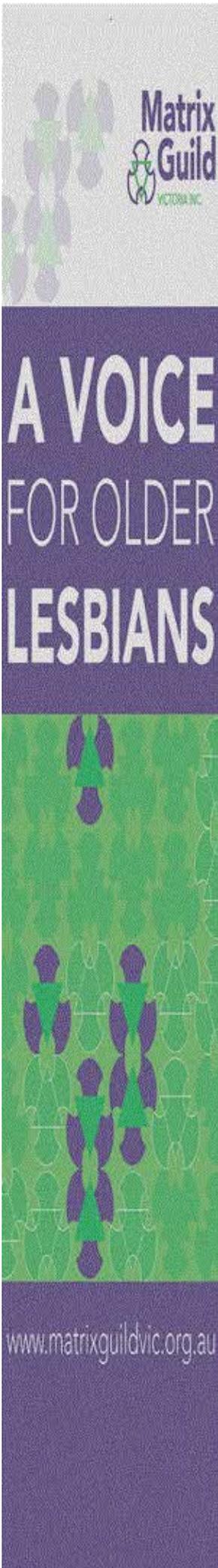


Support Adelaide lesbian feminist author when she reads from her hilarious book. Fables Queer and Familiar is about lesbian activist grandmothers. Mag will be at the Wheeler Centre as part of 'The Next Big Thing'

When: Monday, 11 May 6.15-7.15 pm
Where: The Moat, 176 Little Lonsdale St, Melbourne

<http://www.wheelercentre.com/events/may-spotlight-on-south-Australia>

www.margaretmerrilees.com



Games and Social Afternoons Are Back!



We've had a number of requests to reinstate the Matrix social afternoons. We stopped them at the end of 2014 due to declining attendance. Since almost all participants weren't working, we've decided to change the day from the weekend to a Wednesday to see if this suits more women. It's also the date that suits our new volunteer Social Co-ordinator, Amanda. **Please note the change of venue** – Jika Jika was already booked out.

The next Games Day will be held on Wednesday 6th May at noon. Bring your favourite games such as scrabble, cards, mah-jong, or chess. Women are always welcome to just come for a "cuppa and company". A gold coin donation helps fund the tea, coffee and biscuit supplies. If you don't have transport, let us know and we might be able to put you in touch with someone coming from your area.

When: 12pm – 2:45pm

Venue: **Oldis Gardens Community Room.** 2 East St, Northcote (In the Oldis Gardens, off Westarth st, about 5 minutes walk from the station.)
(Mel. Map 30, F11)

How to get there: Tram - No. 86 Stop No. 27. Bus – No. 506. Train - Westgarth Train Station.

Contacts: Amanda: 0434 870 549 or Anneke: 0427 482 976.

Special General Meeting: reminder

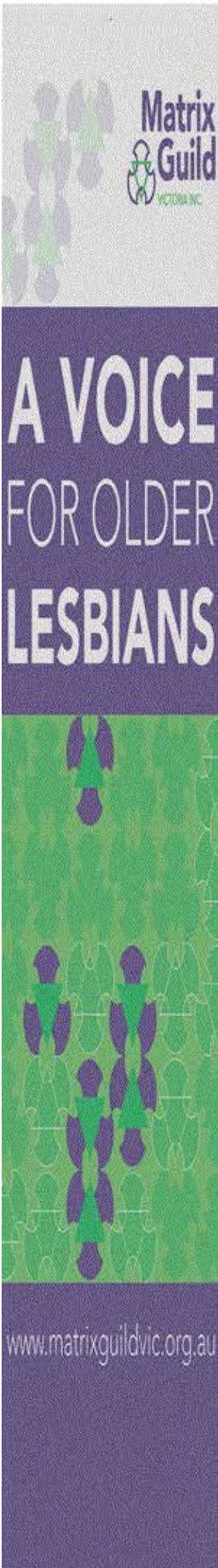
Matrix is holding a Special General Meeting (SGM) in order to make some changes to our constitution. We need to comply with the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 and also clarify the criteria for membership. You will have received the details of the proposed changes in separate correspondence. If you can't attend and would like to vote, you can use the attached Proxy voting form and email it to secretary@matrixguildvic.org.au or post to PO Box 99, Fairfield, 3078.

Only one proxy per attending member is permitted under our constitution.

The SGM will be held:

Wednesday 20th May – 1pm
Women's Health In the North (WHIN)
680 High St
Thornbury 3071

WHIN is on the corner of Raleigh and High streets, one block north of the Normanby Ave intersection.



Decrease Thyroid Cancer Risk

On Wednesday, Dr. Oz had a show on the fastest growing cancer in women, thyroid cancer. It was a very interesting program and he mentioned that the increase could possibly be related to the use of dental x-rays and mammograms. He demonstrated that on the apron the dentist puts on you for your dental x-rays there is a little flap that can be lifted up and wrapped around your neck. Many dentists don't bother to use it. Also, there is something called a "thyroid guard" for use during mammograms. By coincidence, I had my yearly mammogram yesterday. I felt a little silly, but I asked about the guard and sure enough, the technician had one in a drawer. I asked why it wasn't routinely used. Answer: "I don't know. You have to ask for it." Well, if I hadn't seen the show, how would I have known to ask? We need to pass this on to our daughters, nieces, mothers and all our female friends. I hope you pass this on to your friends and family.

Free holiday offer for Matrix Members

A lesbian run, rural accommodation business has made a very special offer of free 3-night, midweek stays for lesbians living with cancer or other life threatening illness. If you have a partner, she can of course come too! Or bring a friend with whom you don't mind sharing the queen sized bed! Your holiday will be in a self contained, passive solar, straw bale self-contained unit. Situated on a 35 acre alpaca farm, with magnificent views over granite hills. Includes daily breakfast provisions and a noon checkout. Only 80 minutes drive from Melbourne.

If you'd like to take advantage of this wonderful offer, please get in touch with Anneke on 0427 482 976 or at housing@matrixguildvic.org.au We have a limited number of these holidays available, so if you're interested, let us know and we'll put you in touch with the owners so that you can book dates that suit you. This offer is only open to Matrix members who are living with cancer or other life threatening illness.

Free LGBTIQ Legal Services

Fitzroy Legal Service (FLS) are a community legal centre providing free legal help to Victorians, located at 124 Johnston Street, Fitzroy.

They are offering free services to the LGBTIQ (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, inter-sex and queer) community.

In late 2012, FLS set up an LGBTIQ Legal Advice Clinic in response to community demand for specialist legal advice for legal problems affecting LGBTIQ communities. The Clinic runs every Thursday evening and lawyers can provide advice and referral for most legal matters, with specialist lawyers available to provide assistance in discrimination and family law matters.

To make an appointment to see a lawyer at the LGBTIQ Legal Advice Clinic, please call (03) 9419 3744 during business hours. For more information, go to http://www.fitzroy-legal.org.au/cb_pages/lgbtiq_legal_advice.php

Bush Lemons

On the last Friday of the month, Central Victorian Lesbians have been meeting for dinner. About 16 of us met at the Radio Springs Hotel in Lyonville in February for a fantastic meal. Our numbers grew in March when we met up for drinks and dinner at the Railway Hotel in Castlemaine. In April, we're gathering in Hepburn. For more details or if you'd like to come, email Mez at bushlemonscv@gmail.com

Parenting in Australia: a woman's perspective

Are you a mother aged between 60 and 85? Would you be willing to be interviewed about your life experiences for a history of parenting in Australia?

Miranda Francis is a history PhD student supervised by Professor Katie Holmes from the History Department, La Trobe University. Her oral history research project is focused on mothering and the way women shape their stories of mothering within the context of their life story. It is based on life history interviews with women between the ages of 60 and 85. She hopes to use these women's stories to explore some of the continuities and changes in women's lives in the second part of the twentieth century. Miranda particularly wants to speak to lesbian mothers, including those who lost custody of their children due to their sexuality.

If you are interested in assisting with this research and can spare a morning or afternoon for an interview, please contact:

Miranda Francis

Phone: 0421 853 011

Email: mkfrancis@connexus.net.au

Rainbow Women's Help Seeking Research project

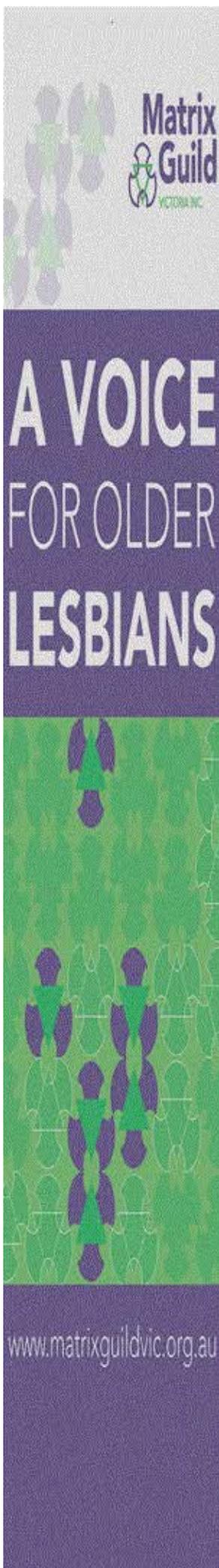


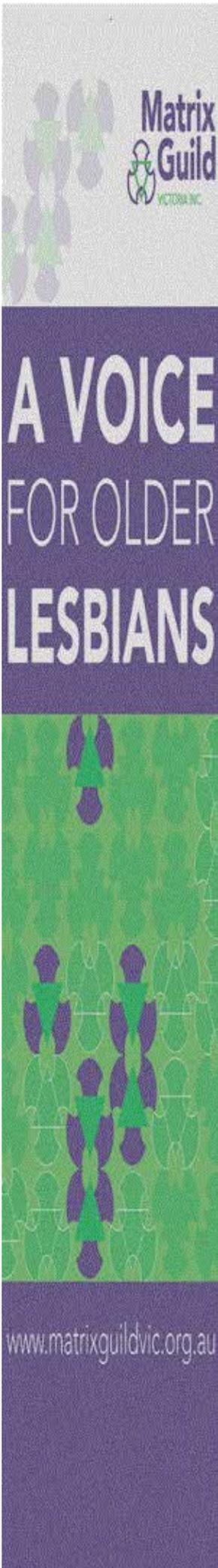
The Department of General Practice, University of Melbourne is currently undertaking a study exploring help seeking behaviour amongst lesbian, bisexual, queer, same-sex attracted, trans and gender diverse, and intersex women. The study has been funded by beyondblue, the National depression and anxiety initiative.

We are looking for women at least 18 years of age who live in Australia to complete an anonymous online survey that will take approximately 15 to 20 minutes.

The findings of the survey will be used to provide recommendations for improving health-related resources for LBQTI women, including information about mental health.

The web address for the survey is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/rainbowwomenhelpseekingstudy>





The Chief Investigator of this project is Associate Professor Ruth McNair from the Department of General Practice, at The University of Melbourne.

If you have any questions about the research please do not hesitate to contact Ruth on: 0419 120 663 or at: r.mcnair@unimelb.edu.au

”Stand up and be counted!
The battle for LGBT equality has not yet been won.”



So says Dr. E J Rosetta in the April edition of LOTL magazine. She argues that we should not be complacent and stay silent when it comes to gay equality. We should not be “back seat gays”. She believes that far too many members of the LGBTI community are sitting back and enjoying the hard won rights that we now have, while refusing to openly acknowledge their sexuality. Dr. Rosetta states that although we may strongly believe that labels are unnecessary, we need to “wear our colours, and ours is that rainbow flag”. We must stand up and be counted as proud members of the LGBTI community, so that those who come after us don’t need to.

Read more <http://www.lotl.com/News/We-Still-Need-LGBT-Labels-Heres-Why-414/>

What do YOU think? Do you agree with Dr. Rosetta’s argument?

Direct your Property Management Fees to Help Women



Property Initiatives Real Estate - Australia's first full-service, social enterprise real estate agency - has opened for business.

Matrix partnered with Women's Property Initiatives (WPI) to create the first affordable housing for older lesbians in Australia - Heather's Flats. Now WPI is leading the way with another exciting development. This new service is based on a social enterprise business model, which means that all profits generated by Property Initiatives Real Estate will go to its not-for-profit partner organisation, Women's Property Initiatives (www.wpi.org.au) to develop affordable homes for women and children at risk of homelessness.

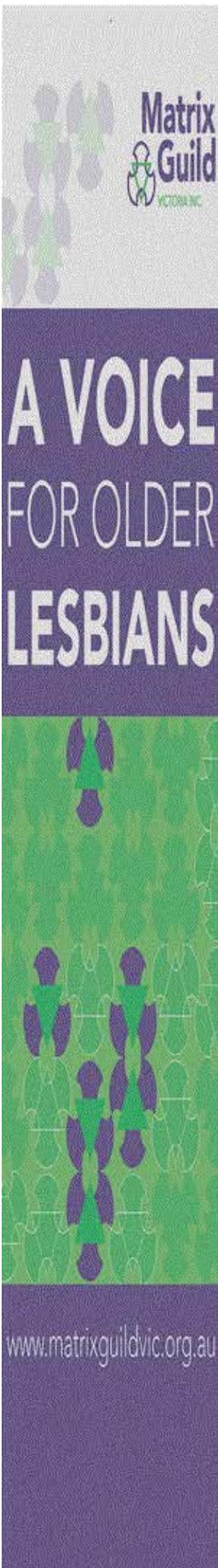
Start making a difference today - engage Property Initiatives Real Estate as your property management specialists. They make it easy for you to switch doing all the work for you. There's no need to change your current tenants. It will cost you nothing to contribute to more affordable housing for women.

Property Initiatives Real Estate is a for-profit real estate agency, where ALL the profits go to Women's Property Initiatives, a not-for-profit organisation that builds and provides affordable rental housing for disadvantaged women-headed households. They provide residential real estate services across inner-Melbourne including sales, leasing and property management, targeting an eight-kilometre radius from our CBD location.

Property Initiatives Real Estate's professional team is headed by Jeanette Large, CEO, and Kristie Looney, Business Development Manager. Property Initiatives Real Estate will maximise the return on your investments, at the same time enabling you to contribute to the society in which you operate.

Whether you are looking to buy, sell, lease or rent contact Property Initiatives to discuss how they can best meet your needs.

Contact Kristie Looney
Business Development Manager - Licensed Estate Agent
+61 3 9663 3275
enquiries@propertyinitiatives.com.au



Inaugural Rainbow Flag Raising Ceremonies

FOOTSCRAY: You are invited to the inaugural Rainbow Flag raising in recognition of International Day Against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia.

Date: Friday 15th May 2015

Time: 3.30 to 4.30pm

Venue: Town Hall, Cnr Hyde and Napier St, Footscray

Meet at the Flag poles in front of the Town Hall in Napier Street. Following the Flag raising, enjoy a delicious afternoon tea and entertainment featuring Yana Alana in the Reception Room. Supporting and acknowledging IDAHOBIT is one step forward in strengthening human rights for everyone. It symbolises Maribyrnong City Council's support for, and commitment to, reducing the barriers faced by GLBTIQ people in our community.

Inaugural Rainbow Flag Raising for IDAHOBIT

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Catering by social enterprise UCAN Catering supporting people with disability.



Corner Hyde and Napier Streets, Footscray 3011
Postal Address: PO Box 58 Footscray VIC 3011
Tel: 9688 0200 Email: email@maribyrnong.vic.gov.au
www.maribyrnong.vic.gov.au



TIS: 131 450



NRS: 133 677 or 1300 555 727
www.relayservice.com.au



www.matrixguildvic.org.au



The Mayor and Councillors of Moreland City Council invite you to



Rainbow Flag Raising Ceremony

The event celebrates the International Day Against Homophobia and Transphobia (IDAHO), which commemorates the decision of the World Health Organisation to remove homosexuality from its list of mental disorders and celebrate Gay Lesbian Bisexual Transgender and Intersex activism.

2015 IDAHO theme is GLBTI Youth. We will celebrate this theme with YGLAM, a Performing Arts Project run by Merri Community Health Services for same-sex attracted and gender diverse young people aged between 14 and 25.

The event is a great opportunity to challenge homophobia and transphobia and to celebrate diversity.

WHEN Thursday 14 May 2015
TIME 3 – 4 pm
WHERE Coburg Town Hall Foyer
90 Bell Street, Coburg

Language Link

廣東話 9280 1910
Italiano 9280 1911
Ελληνικά 9280 1912
عربى 9280 1913
Türkçe 9280 1914
Tiếng Việt 9280 1915
हिन्दी 9280 1918
普通话 9280 0750
ਪੰਜਾਬੀ 9280 0751

All other languages
9280 1919

RSVP to civicevents@moreland.vic.gov.au by Wednesday 6 May 2015.
For further information contact Mihaela Stefanovic on 9240 2436.

Please advise if you have any dietary or disability access requirements.
moreland.vic.gov.au



The deadline for the April Newsletter is 28th May, 2015.

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

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

A VOICE
FOR OLDER
LESBIANS

www.matrixguildvic.org.au