

# Matrix Guild of Victoria Inc.

## Newsletter - May 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!

We have two big events coming up early in May - the Women's Co-housing Forum on Sunday, May 7th and the bus trip to the Cranbourne Botanic Gardens on Saturday, May 6th. Details of both are in this month's newsletter, and there is still time to book. In June, Matrix is having a film and discussion evening, and Dyke Divas are holding a winter concert - do put these dates in your calendar. Don't forget, personal ads are free to members, and we are always looking for articles and news items to include. Happy reading!

## Matrix News and Events



### Cohousing and Co-ownership Housing Forum

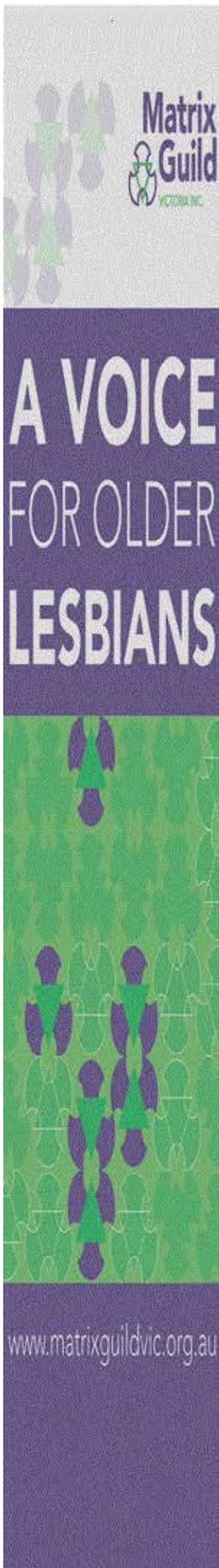
**12:45pm – 5:30pm Sunday 7th May 2017**

**FREE LUNCH at 12:45pm**

**VENUE: In Northcote**

A VOICE  
FOR OLDER  
LESBIANS





If you'd like to do something proactive and positive to create secure, affordable housing with lots of social connectedness, come along to the FREE Women's Housing Forum, organised jointly by Matrix Guild of Victoria and Women's Property Initiatives, sponsored by the City of Darebin.

Cohousing is a way of living in a more affordable way, with a lighter footprint on the earth and with like-minded neighbours; it began in Denmark and was exported to the English-speaking world by Charles Durrett and Kathryn McCamant.

Hear about:

- living at Murundaka Cohousing Community, an all-rental co-operative model in Heidelberg
- Urban Coup's experience of setting up two owner-occupied Co-housing groups in Melbourne
- Meriam Salama's Henry Project and Co-ownership models in WA
- Christie Walk, an established, urban Cohousing group in Adelaide
- WPI's innovative project that aims to house low income women over the age of 55, who have a lump sum to contribute towards property, in conjunction with WPI.

Come along if you'd like to be part of a Cohousing Community of Women - as an owner or as a tenant and/or if you'd like to find out more about Co-ownership options.

Delicious lunch provided by the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre's Catering Service.

**Bookings essential by 3 May 2017 at <https://www.trybooking.com/272701>  
No computer? Phone 0427482976**

## Murundaka Cohousing Community



Murundaka Cohousing Community, in Heidelberg Heights is an all-rental housing co-operative, established by Common Equity Housing in 2011. There are 20 households in the community, with 35-40 people living there, ranging in age from babies to seniors.

Murundaka is a Wurundjeri word meaning 'A place to stay or live'. Kaz, one of our members lives there and is very enthusiastic about what a great place it is to live.

If you'd like to learn more about cohousing and see what it's like to live in a cohousing rental co-operative, register here for their next tour.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/murundaka-tour-may-2017-tickets-33888241643>

## Hello Bus Trippers!



Not long now until we go to the beautiful Cranbourne Gardens, so I am just confirming the final arrangements.

**Date: Saturday, May 6th**

**Departure place:** The car park next to the Northcote Aquatic & Recreation Centre, 180 Victoria Road, Northcote. (Melways Map 30 J8)

**Departure time:** Please arrive at 9.45 am ready for a prompt 10.00 am departure. Those requiring car parking may park in the Aquatic Centre car park up the far end (away from Victoria Road) in unrestricted car spaces. (other spaces are 2 hour parking) For those arriving by train, Dennis Station on the Hurstbridge line is the nearest station. There is a train from Flinders St arriving at Dennis at 9.22 am, which would be the best one to catch. There are trains arriving from Hurstbridge direction at 9.11 and then at 9.31 am. There is a bus that travels along Victoria Road which goes past the Aquatic Centre, but you will need to check the Internet for details of its route. If transport is problematic, ring me (Rosemary) on 0416268108 to see if I can assist.

**Return time:** We will be back at the Northcote Aquatic Centre car park no later than 6.00 pm.

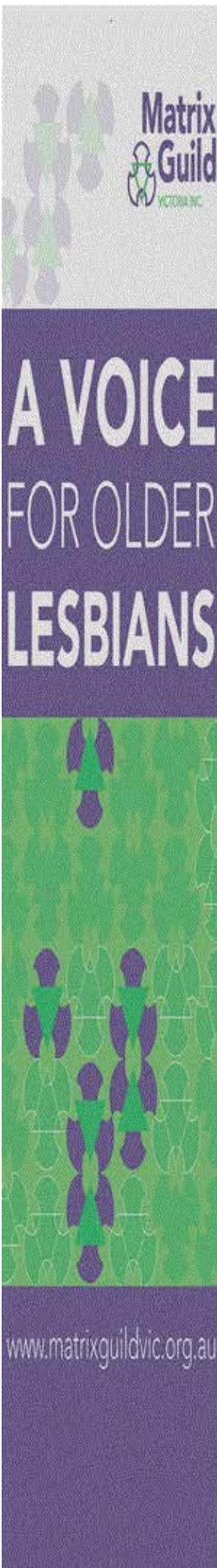
**Lunch:** You can bring your own lunch and have a picnic, or there is a café at the Gardens where you can purchase lunch. They have meals & light snacks.

We will be travelling to the Gardens in a 20 seater minibus. No alcohol may be consumed on the bus, but you can carry it with you if you want to take wine or beer for your picnic lunch. Backpacks / bags are usually stored under the seats, so avoid large bags.

The weather forecast for Saturday 6th is at this stage 20 degrees and sunny, but with some probability of showers. Bring an umbrella or a rain jacket just in case.

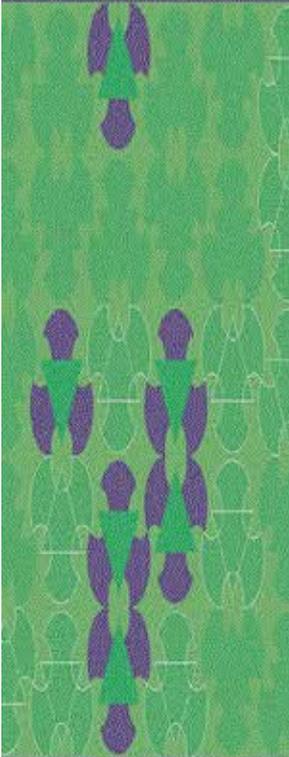
There are maps of the gardens available at Reception. Entry to the Gardens is free.

There is a motorised people mover called the Garden Explorer which drives around the Gardens every 20 minutes or so. Tickets are available at Reception if you would find this service useful.





**A VOICE  
FOR OLDER  
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[www.matrixguildvic.org.au](http://www.matrixguildvic.org.au)

Would those of you who had invited friends who are not Matrix members please communicate this information to them, or forward my email.

We did have a full bus, but we have had several recent cancellations due to illness, so if you know of other women who may be interested, please let me know as soon as possible.

With warm wishes to all,

Rosemary Wealthy  
Mobile: 0416268108  
On behalf of the Matrix fund -raising Committee.

### **Matrix Coffee Afternoons**



#### **Mamma Says Café**

**We're there every Thursday  
.....join us !**

The Coffee Afternoons are held at *Mamma Says café*, 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 (pictured) 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. Come along for some 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)

**The coffee afternoons will continue throughout May, despite the fact that attendance has been declining over recent weeks. However, we may go into recess over winter. We will keep members informed of any changes.**

If you want more information phone Carole 0437 891 981

## Gender Troubles: The Butches



This feature length documentary film by American film-maker Lisa Plourde won the award for Best Documentary at the Paris Lesbian and Feminist Film Festival in 2016, and there are screenings scheduled in many cities around the world this year. The film explores and challenges gender stereotypes through a series of interviews with women who have faced judgment and rejection because they are unmistakably lesbian and butch. The women in the film challenge assumptions about what it means to be masculine or feminine in our society, and talk about how they have learned to cope and to be who they are.

Matrix will screen this film at a film and discussion evening to which Matrix members and their friends are invited. Do come along and join with your sisters in a thought-provoking evening which is sure to produce lively discussion.

**When: Saturday, June 17th at 6.00 pm**

**Where: Venue still to be decided. Details in subsequent newsletters**

**Cost: Free to Matrix members. \$10 for non-members. Free entry if you join Matrix on the night.**

**BYO nibbles. Tea and coffee provided.**

### **Film maker's statement**

*I felt a need to make this film because as a butch lesbian myself I have experienced so much isolation. I often felt that I was the only one like this. Growing up in a rural area I had no role models. I could not find a future for myself in the women in my life. Not in my family or at school. Not in the adults in my world.*

*So with the help of my friends, we made this film to validate other butches, most whom we would never meet, and to let them know that we know what it is like. They aren't the only ones. We have been there too and they are fine just the way they are. We don't want other butches, especially younger ones, to feel like they have to go through it all alone too.*



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

## Donations in honour of Sara Elkas



We'd like to express our sincere and public thanks to the growing list of lesbians who have made a donation to Matrix in memory of Sara Elkas:

- Margaret Dickens
- Jean Taylor
- Ardy Tibby
- Rachel Morgan
- Barb Williams
- Joan Nestle
- Anneke Deutsch
- Pat Mitchell
- Kaye Mosely
- Magda Van der Ven
- Ana Cartajena
- Wendy Polkinghorne
- Robyn Peck

It means a lot to Shoshi to know that Sara's friends and acquaintances have made the effort to remember Sara in this way.

If you would also like to honour Sara, you can do this at:  
<http://www.matrixguildvic.org.au/donations.htm>

Or you can deposit directly into our gift account. Because we are registered charity, all donations over \$5 are tax deductible.

Matrix Guild Of Victoria Inc. Gift Account  
Bendigo Bank, Preston  
BSB: 633 000      ACCOUNT NO: 144 565 637

### Thank you from Shoshi

*I'd like to thank all the Matrix members who made donations in honour of Sara, sent me condolence cards, wrote loving comments on Facebook or emailed your memories and very moving descriptions of your love for her. My heartfelt thanks to you all. I hope you understand that there were too many cards, emails and messages for me to respond to all of you individually.*

*Many thanks,  
Shoshi Goldman*

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



## Other People's News and Events

### Come sing with Dyke Divas!

*Greetings All!*

**Dyke Divas**, our very own Melbourne Lesbian Choir, is organising an 'in house' winter concert on **Wednesday 21st June**.

**Timing: 7pm to 8pm, followed by cuppas and snacks. Please arrive by 6.45 for 7pm start.**

**Venue: 64 Clyde Street, Thornbury**



This is a free event and a wonderful opportunity to come and listen to the choir. Please put this date in your diaries and we will have more details for you in the June newsletter.

We are looking for new singers. We welcome you to come along and visit us for a rehearsal, anytime. Singing with us for an evening can be a great way to check out if you'd like to join. .... and your first visit is free

You do not need previous singing experience. We have lots of fun, and this is a great place to explore group singing in a relaxed supportive setting, and to socialise with other lesbians.

Term Two dates: Wednesdays 6.30 to 8.30pm, 19/4 to 24/5 and 7/6 to 28/6 ( please note there is no rehearsal on Wednesday 31 May )

**Costs:** \$100 (unwaged, part waged), \$150 (waged) for ten sessions, then pro rata for joining part way through a singing series.

**Visitors / casual:** first session is free, then \$15 ( unwaged, part waged ) \$20 ( waged )

Contact Rachel for more details about the choir and to let us know that you want to come and visit / join us. email: [rachel@rachelmorgan.net](mailto:rachel@rachelmorgan.net) Mobile: 040 288 0178

Please note Dyke Divas is privately run for lesbians who enjoy singing together.

Looking forward to hearing from you

*Rachel*

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

## Australia's First Pride Centre Is Coming

Reprinted from LOTL magazine 20/11/2016. Authors: LOTL staff.

*The Centre will display the Labor Government's continued investment in services for LGBTI Victorians.*

*It has been announced that the Andrews Labor Government is investing \$15 million in Australia's first Pride Centre. Recognizing the significance of the project, Major Projects Victoria has taken on the Pride Centre, bringing extensive project knowledge and management at the ground level.*

*Equality Minister Martin Foley said, "The Pride Centre is long overdue and will attract people from across Victoria, Australia and the world."*

*The Centre will*

- serve as a hub for LGBTI groups and organisations*
- showcase LGBTI culture and history*
- bring together health and support services*
- provide community spaces.*

*Long standing LGBTI advocate Jude Munro will serve as Chair of the Board for the Centre, which will be bigger than San Francisco's LGBTI Community Centre. Munro will be joined by a team of high-calibre Directors who will bring experience across governance, community engagement, fundraising and the delivery of major infrastructure projects.*

*Rowena Allen, the Gender and Sexuality Commissioner stated, "We have a fantastic Pride Centre team, who will develop a progressive community space to support and celebrate LGBTI Victorians, and ensure our organisations are sustainable for the future."*

### Do you have a spare room to rent?

**I NEED A ROOM  
TO RENT**

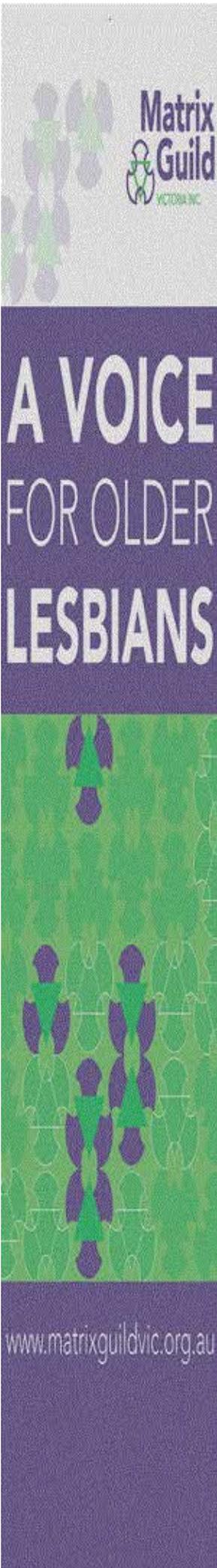
*"I am a quiet, very clean, non-smoking and non-drinking woman. I am in my mid 40's.*

*I am studying part time (1.5 days a week) the rest of the week I look for work in disability and aged care. I am a bookkeeper by profession, but I am studying to change this career.*

*I am looking to rent a room, preferably in a house with other non-smoking mature women. I can afford to pay up to \$130 per week and I'm hoping to find somewhere to live in the next few days. Ideally it would be in the Northern suburbs as that is where I've applied for work, but I'll also consider any possibilities.*

*Thank you,*

***Josephine Cohen: 0433 647 202 or busyppl@hotmail.com***



## Toyota Corolla For Sale

The car is a 2000 Toyota Corolla automatic with 185,900 on the clock. It is bottle green with a grey interior. Some paintwork is peeling off but it is mechanically very sound. Service book available – \$1,600 negotiable. Registered till 25th JULY.



Please contact Shoshi Goldman on: **mobile 0409 224 024** or **rosgoldman@optusnet.com.au** if interested.

These little cars were very soundly made and run for years.

## Wills, Powers of Attorney, Guardianships made easy!

*Is your Will and Power of Attorney up to date? Is it something you've been meaning to do, but just hasn't happened?*

Matrix member, Colleen Woolley has made herself available, free of charge, to help members get their affairs in order. Colleen has been a Justice of the Peace (JP) for 17+ years and specialises in helping people organise their Enduring Powers of Attorney, both Financial and Medical, as well as Enduring Power of Guardianship. She provides all the paperwork needed and is qualified to witness documents for you.

All you have to do is determine who will act for you. Obviously, this must be someone you trust implicitly as they will have control of all your affairs. Preferably, you will have two people to act for you; say, your partner (if you have one) and a second, backup person just in case you and your partner were both crossing the road in front of that tram. Ideally, both those people would be available (and can also do their own Powers) at the same time as they will need to sign that they accept the responsibility. Simple Wills can also be done.

Colleen lives in Diamond Creek and you are welcome to go to her home office to complete the papers. If you are genuinely unable to make the trip, Colleen will consider going to your home to help you complete the required forms.

This service is available as of now. Just contact Colleen to make a mutually convenient time on 9438 5137 or email: **colleenw48@bigpond.com**

WILLS  
POWERS OF ATTORNEY

(Financial and Medical)

CONVEYANCING

Family Law Financial Agreements

*20% off for Matrix Members  
Home Visits may be possible*

Marilyn Nuske BA, LLB, GradDip AT

*Solicitor*

Tel: 0400 784 754

Email: [marilyn@oceanlegal.com.au](mailto:marilyn@oceanlegal.com.au)

[www.oceanlegal.com.au](http://www.oceanlegal.com.au)

The deadline for the next Newsletter is 25th May, 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)  
or 0427 482 976