

DURABLE DAUNTLESS

DYKES



The Matrix Guild Vic. Inc. Newsletter

October / December 2006

Matrix Guild Vic. Inc. was founded by and for the benefit of Lesbians over forty years of age. We are committed to the support of appropriate care and accommodation choices and alternative lifestyle options for the older lesbians in Victoria.

Matrix Guild is a non funded organization and relies on money raised from functions such as the Satin & Silk Ball, Denim and Leather Dance, and other events held during the year and also your generous donations, which are Tax Deductible.

By supporting these events and making donations to Matrix Guild Vic. you are in effect supporting yourself in your senior years.



One way you can support Matrix is to buy a *Coming Home Book.*

You could ring Jane and ask for one to be sent in the post .

Coming out stories from older lesbians.

\$11 a copy.

LESBIAN FILM Night

“Its In The Water”

BYO drinks, nibbles and cushion.

4th November, 8.00 p.m. start,

Footscray Library, Paisley Street, Footscray. \$5 a head.

Its In The Water will be presented along with shorts.

It was full house in 2005. Limited seating - 100 seats so book early.

Bookings 9364 7748

<p>This is a fundraiser for Matrix Guild - it was a fun night and a great success last year.</p>
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The Matrix Lesbian Picnic

**Botanical Gardens 1 October 2006
Victorian Seniors Festival**

The Matrix Guild held a picnic for older and not so older lesbians on Sunday the 1st of October as part of Senior's Week it was held at the Botanical Gardens South Yarra. It was a lovely, warm and sunny day for a picnic with eleven women turning up for the event, some coming from the country and for some this was their first contact with Matrix.

It started with a leisurely stroll through part of the gardens, the azaleas and rhododendrons looking particularly colourful and lovely. Lots of talking either about gardening techniques or what plant is that also took place. A short break was taken in the herb circle, which was showing some spring growth, which allowed us to sit back and enjoy the various scents or to wander and discuss the various herbs. We then went off to have lunch on the lawns next to the lake which even though fairly crowded was still extremely pleasant. After lunch we chatted for a while before bringing a most enjoyable day to an end.

Janette Hamilton

Matrix Committee Member

RAINBOW CARERS

The ALSO Foundation, in partnership with Carers Victoria, presented a community forum for gay and lesbian carers on the 17th October. It included presentations from Matrix Guild and Vintage Men about caring and being cared for and information about carer support services and entitlements such as pensions and benefits from Carers Victoria. A brochure was launched which highlighted the fact that Carers Victoria is a GLBTI friendly organization and ALSO, Matrix Guild and Vintage Men were listed in the brochure. Matrix guild Victoria inc. attended the forum.

Heather Birch (an ALSO representative) welcomed us all and presented with real stories by people needing care and carers. The stories were told to us by carers and those being cared for. Jane Kent and I spoke about our own personal story related to caring for a person needing care. Jane told her personal story and I told a story about professional carers: the people who step in to give the 24 carers a break.

Questions were answered and issues identified we were given an overview about Carers Victoria who presented the audience with information relating to residential care for the person being cared for and the bereavement process. This was a night worth attending and all of went away with new information and many things to think about.

Dianne Fulton

Matrix Committee Member

October 2006

The Matrix Tea

Dance

There is no doubt that the Seniors Rainbow Tea Dance, held at the Preston Town Hall on Sunday October 8th, was a great success. More than 100 seniors turned out in their finery to dance the afternoon away, led beautifully by the Dance Cats. Men and women waltzed, two-stepped, quick-stepped, jived and jiggled their way around the floor. The music was very enjoyable and created a sense of nostalgia for many of the guests as the largely forgotten sounds of the Big Bands era rang out around the room.

Afternoon tea, provided by O Jays was delicious and was very much appreciated. There were lots of lucky ticket prizes supplied by ALSO and happy winners went away with bottles of wine, mugs and other goodies.

Thank you to everyone involved in the organization of the day - The Also Foundation, Matrix Guild and Vintage Men - and especially Luke Gallagher who was an

enthusiastic Master of Ceremonies. Last, but not least, a big thankyou to all the participants, without whom the day could not exist

Anne

Matrix Committee Member
October 2006

MATRIX GUILD RECEIVES \$20,000

**From the
Reichstein Foundation.**

The monies are for a project titled: *Exploring the Experiences of Non-Heterosexuals in Aged Care in Relation to Discrimination*. After several attempts we were informed that Matrix needed to form a Steering Committee of supportive organisations.

The first meeting of a Steering Committee was on 23/6/06. It now involves

1. Jane Kent, CDW, Matrix Guild Victoria Inc.
2. Paul Busey, President Vintage Men Inc., a social and support group for mature gay and bisexual men and their friends;
3. Dr Ruth McNair, General Practitioner, The Carlton Clinic and Senior Lecturer, The Department of General Practice, University of Melbourne, Member Australian Lesbian Medical Association Committee and Member Ministerial Advisory Committee on Gay and Lesbian Health;
4. Lola McHarg Admissions Officer Brotherhood of St Laurence;
5. Barbary Clarke, Victorian Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby;
6. Anne Mitchell, Director Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria;
7. CEO The ALSO Foundation;
8. Heather Birch, ALSO's Senior Project Advisory Committee and Community Development Committee of The ALSO Foundation;
9. Lesley Walsh, CEO Women's Health East;
10. The Women's Social Health Advocate (with a focus on lesbian and same sex attracted women) Women's Health in the South East;
11. Joy Free, Researcher, Women's Health West (lesbian interest in a program focus not specific role);
12. Dr Rosie Crone, Consultant Geriatrician and Australian Lesbian Medical Association ;
13. Dr Jo Harrison, School of Health Sciences (OT Program) University of South Australia, and Expert Advisor to the Steering Committee

Groups that are supporting the project with resources and in-kind support

- Victorian Council on the Ageing;
- Equal Opportunities Commission Victoria;
- Women's Health Victoria.

The Office of the Public Advocate have yet to confirm resources and support for the project.

Initially Matrix was applying for financial assistance to research case studies of only lesbians but it became increasingly obvious to the newly formed Steering Committee in the first meeting that we needed to open it up further than just for lesbians. The Reichstein CEO, who also attended the first meeting, informed us that we would have a good chance of successfully obtaining monies beyond this first grant. The meeting decided that if we were to apply for further funding beyond this application to

1. lobby governments to change legislation and training modules
2. then apply again for even further monies to police service providers to comply with legislation

then our chances of success with government and service providers would be considerably more successful if the project was for GLBTIs and not just lesbians. An Emergency Meeting with the Matrix Guild Committee was called for ratification of this decision and the Committee agreed to extend the project beyond being for lesbians only and to work closely with Vintage Men in relation to gay men involved the project. The Matrix Committee will monitor the progress and manage the project so that lesbians are highlighted in the research and that their discrimination and needs are clearly defined and separated from those of gay men, transsexuals, bisexuals and intersex people. The number of lesbian case studies will be a priority for the Matrix Committee and it is likely that there will be more lesbian case studies represented in the research than those of other cohorts. A brief description of proposal:

Matrix Guild, in collaboration with Vintage Men, a consumer support group for gay and bisexual senior men, has received Reichstein Foundation monies for the 1st stage of a project that will provide evidence, from several case studies, of discrimination against lesbians, gay men, bi sexual, transgender and intersex people in aged care facilities and their own homes. The project will involve the employment of a researcher to compile the case studies.

This project is the first of three projects, which will together form a significant project with the aim to leverage governmental change to service provision and the training of health workers.

Matrix will call another Steering Committee meeting for November, to start to work on a contract for a researcher and to advertise the position in late 2006.

Matrix WEB PAGE: <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~matrix/welcome.htm>

We need to keep it updated with current Matrix Activities.

Does anyone have skills in the area? Contact jkent1@vtown.com.au or 0438 411 441.

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# Goodbye Satin and Silk

## Social Secretaries Report For Matrix AGM

Due to the increase of the cost of the San Remo Ballroom the **Satin and Silk** is no more, to have continued on with this we would have had to increase our door price by at least 50% and that is out of the question, so we have made the decision to close this chapter of a very successful fund raiser while it holds a good feeling and memory of the last fourteen years of this event has been running. But next year will be the start of

### **Matrix Masked Ball.**

This event will be held in Midsumma. The first **Masked Ball** will be at the Northcote Town Hall, and then each year we will move to other areas so you may all have the opportunity to attend. The new venues will be smaller so we will only be able to accommodate 300 - so you need to book very early as there will be no door sales, but rest assured the evening will be as good as, if not better, than the **Satin and Silk Ball**. You know the drill, ring Gail and Lillian 9364 7748 or Di 9798 7435.

And the Matrix Guild Victoria Inc. Committee would like to say a big thank you to all of the lesbians who have supported the fundraising events during the last fourteen years, and we ask and hope you will continue, as without your support we will not be able to function and if that should occur, who will be there to support and be the voice for the older lesbian's in our community, not forgetting that as much as we don't want to face it we are all getting older.

### **Lillian Bishop and Gail Hume**

Matrix Committee Members  
September 2006.

## Matrix Midsumma

### **Masked**

### **Ball**

**17 February 2007**

7.30 p.m. - 12.30 p.m.

at the

**Northcote Town Hall**

189 High Street Northcote

BYO Tea and Coffee Supplied

**\$30 conc. \$40 full**

**Bookings 9364 7748**

**300 limited - no door sales.**

## Matrix Guild's Managing Committee

meets 6.30 pm the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month at

Betty Day Centre  
67 Argyle Street, St Kilda  
(Melways 58, C9).

Parking in streets nearby or Stop 33 St Kilda Road, tram  
routes 3 and 67 or Stop 27 Chapel Street on tram routes 78 and 79. .

You are most welcome to attend and contribute. Ring to check if  
meeting is still on 3<sup>rd</sup> Tues. before you come - 0438 411 441.

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# *Services For Senior*

## *Lesbians*



★ *Matrix is for and by lesbians over forty years of age.  
We are committed to appropriate care and alternative options for older lesbians.*

★

★ Matrix Guild's *Home Based Services* incorporate

★ **health,**

★ **counselling,**

★ **home care**

★ **maintenance**

★ **qualified practitioners.**

- ★ If you are a senior lesbian and/or a disabled lesbian and you want a qualified lesbian to assist you in the above areas for affordable rates (means tested) give us a call.
- ★ If you are looking for contracted work, qualified in one of these areas and would like to be considered for the service send your resume.
- ★ **Now is your chance to become involved in a unique service for senior lesbians.**

★ 0438 411 441 - [jkent1@vtown.com.au](mailto:jkent1@vtown.com.au)



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**POSITIVE AGEING**  
**OLDER LESBIANS & GAY MEN**  
**Have your Say!**

Council of the Ageing (COTA) and Municipal Association of Vic. (MAV) and Gay and Lesbian Health Vic. (GLHV) invite you to join us for a conversation about growing older in your community and what local councils can do to plan for an ageing community and to promote age friendly communities that create opportunities for seniors to live active, socially connected lives now and in the future.

**Many local councils are currently developing Positive Aging Plans, intended to develop strategies .**

- Protecting vulnerable older people;
- Support services - including Home Care;
- Recreation and health promotion opportunities;
- Housing and safer communities;
- Public transport;
- Lifelong learning
- Employment and volunteering

**WEDNESDAY 8<sup>th</sup> November**

**9.30 p.m. 12 noon. Morning Tea is Provided.**

**Ground floor, 215 Franklin Street**

**RSVP Mary at COTA 9655 2125**

**More Information Nikos at GLHV 9285 5204**

[n.thomacas@latrobe.edu.au](mailto:n.thomacas@latrobe.edu.au)

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## ***GLBT Seniors Activities***

The ALSO Foundation has received funding under the Victorian Government's Go for your life program to promote and provide a range of activities to gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender seniors. Seniors Summer Fun will provide a wide range of both social and recreation activities for GLBT seniors and their friends.

The Seniors Summer Fun program will commence in November with a lunchtime launch being held at the Toorak Bowls Club on Sunday the 29 October 12 noon – 4 pm. Lunch will be provided and everyone is invited to participate in casual bowls and learn more about the program. To register your interest or for more information contact The ALSO Foundation on 03 9827 4999 or email: [seniors@also.org.au](mailto:seniors@also.org.au). More information is also available on the website: [www.also.org.au](http://www.also.org.au) and on the attached

flier.

Committed and enthusiastic people are sought to be actively involved as volunteers to be actively with our activities through the months of November through to February. Walking groups, lawns bowls, dance and fitness classes are currently some of the activities being set-up. After initial screening, training and ongoing support is offered to all volunteers. These are extremely important roles and we are looking for leaders in the GLBT community to get involved. To obtain further information regarding these volunteer positions please contact Ben Ladbrook at The ALSO Foundation 9827 4999 or [ben@also.org.au](mailto:ben@also.org.au)

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#### **NEWS FROM VGLRL**

##### **TRIBUNAL DECISION CONFIRMS TAX DISCRIMINATION**

Following a decision last month in the Administrative Appeals Tribunal that denied a same-sex couple capital gains tax concessions upon property division, the VGLRL has issued a media release calling on the Howard Government to remove discrimination against same-sex couples in Commonwealth legislation.

The Tribunal's decision confirmed previous decisions that same-sex couples are not treated on a like basis to mixed-sex couples when it comes to tax and superannuation laws.

The effect of the decision means that same sex couples are subject to capital gains tax on property settlements after their relationship breaks down, in contrast to heterosexual de facto couples who qualify for relief under relationship breakdown laws.

Read the full media release on the Lobby's website at [www.vglrl.org.au](http://www.vglrl.org.au)

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##### **HAVE YOU BEEN DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BECAUSE YOU CAN'T PROVE YOUR RELATIONSHIP?**

In the last edition of the VGLRL newsletter we asked for real-life examples of discrimination. Your individual stories can help the Lobby argue for improved relationship recognition.

\* Have you been asked to produce proof that you are in a de facto relationship with your same sex partner for insurance or superannuation?

\* Have you had to argue the point to be included as next of kin in a hospital when your partner was sick?

\* Was it impossible to obtain full and equal division of property when you split up from a long term partner because you didn't live together?

If you've had these or any similar experiences, we'd like to hear your story. We will keep your information confidential, and will not identify you by name.

For more information, call Gerard on 0415 223 211 or [click here](#) to send an email.

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**Over & Out** - now looking for people Over 50, Gay, Lesbian, Bi, Trans, and interested in photography?

This article appeared in an earlier Matrix Newsletter but the deadline for participants has been extended and the age of 60+ has been dropped to 50+

Sasha Cunningham 03 9415 9819 [admin@midsumma.org.au](mailto:admin@midsumma.org.au), fax: (03) 9415 9817

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#### **CALL FOR ENTRIES**

##### **MELBOURNE QUEER FILM FESTIVAL**

**M a r c h 1 5 - M a r c h 2 5 , 2 0 0 7 ,**  
The Melbourne Queer Film Festival invites submissions to its 17th Film Festival in 2007. Each year the Festival screens over 120 features, shorts, documentaries and experimental films from Australia and all around the world over 11 days. The Festival is Australia's largest queer film festival and screens at 3 premier Melbourne venues including the state of the art Australian Centre for the Moving Image to audiences of over 20,000.

Films and videos can be of any length and should be of interest to the gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgendered communities.

There is over \$8000 in the cash prize pool including the jury voted City of Melbourne Award for Best Australian Short Film (\$2000), and the Audience Awards for Best Feature (\$5000) Documentary (\$500), and Best International Short film (\$500), Best Australian Short, as well as the Selector's Choice Award for Best Film screened at the Celluloid Casserole (\$500). Submissions should be provided on DVD, VHS tape, in either PAL or NTSC format. Please include supporting material, such as a brief synopsis, stills (can be emailed), and reviews, wherever possible. THERE IS NO ENTRY FEE.

Entries should be submitted on the official Entry Form which is available via email at [info@melbournequeerfilm.com.au](mailto:info@melbournequeerfilm.com.au) or from our website -

<http://www.melbournequeerfilm.com.au> - or by contacting the Festival office. Deadline for entries is December 8, 2006. Melbourne Queer Film Festival, 6 Claremont Street, South Yarra, 3141, VIC. Tel 61-3-9827 2022 Fax 61-3-9827 1622

[E:info@melbournequeerfilm.com.au](mailto:info@melbournequeerfilm.com.au)

[www.melbournequeerfilm.com.au](http://www.melbournequeerfilm.com.au). Lisa Daniel - Festival Director

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## **DOG MINDING**

- \* Have your dog minded by caring lesbians.
- \* All doggie needs catered for in a relaxed, natural environment.
- \* Indoor accommodation, daily walks, individual attention.

**All enquiries to LIC on 5966  
2053**



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# Dance Cat's Studio News

## Dance Parties!

Come for the practice, to get some exercise, socialise or just to see what goes on.

### **Beginner's class - Cancelled until further notice.**

It seems the cold weather has made the numbers dwindle of late – unfortunately. So, I'd like to re-start the class with a long list of keen students who are committed to staying until the end of the year – I need 20 names! Past or present students are welcome. Please call or e-mail to add your names to the list. I anticipate that committing until the end of the year will allow most of you to move up to Intermediate Class. I'm very sorry, if I've disappointed anyone. To discuss anything – please contact me, Anny.

**\* Package deals are still available at the usual prices. Please speak to Anny, Greg or Arthur if you want to discuss private lessons, or your dancing in general.**

## **Midsumma Dancesport Comp '07..**

We have secured the Melbourne Town Hall for February 10<sup>th</sup> 2007. Please keep it free and check the DC's foyer for further info and events lists. This venue is air-conditioned. Yay!!

*Please don't hesitate to call or e-mail - I'm always happy to discuss your dancing issues.*

*Stay gorgeous, keep smiling..* **Anny - Mama Cat.**

Dance Cats - 1/3 Hodgson St Fitzroy 3065

PO Box 1514 Collingwood 3066

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

9417-6072 / 0418-671-157

NB: The events and registration forms for the 2007 Midsumma Festival competition are out!

If you'd like me to forward you a copy, please just ask and it shall be done. The date is Sat

10th Feb from 3pm - 10pm. The venue is the 'main room' at the Melbourne Town Hall!!

Yippee!! It's an air conditioned venue - thankfully.. This event should be huge, well at least the venue is. Ha ha..

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## **Other ACTIVITIES Around Town**

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### GAY & LESBIAN COMMUNITY EVENTS CALENDAR

For a comprehensive list of upcoming events visit the Gay & Lesbian Community Events Calendar at <http://www.glcec.20m.com>

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### **SHE BAR - [www.shebar.org](http://www.shebar.org), 0419 992 966. Women Only Events**

With the growth of shebar we require a larger venue and preferably with a stage for our DJ and Guest Artists. Commencing from May 27th, SHEBAR will now solely be operating from "The Woodlands Hotel" 84 - 92 Sydney Road COBURG. Our new permanent playground @ The Woodlands has some wonderful features..

\*\*\* Timber Dance Floor

\*\*\* Beautiful Open Fire

\*\*\* Large Beer Garden with a serene surroundings

\*\*\* Pool Tables in Front Bar {smoking area}

\*\*\* Drinks @ Bar Prices

\*\*\* Low Cost meals from 6.00 - 8.00pm

On Sat 27th May SHEBAR will feature the brilliant talent of Diva Michelle Parsons and DJ Rifraf will be spinnin' your favorites from 70's - today. Please email any requests through, and we can organize to play them on the nite for you. For dinner reservations please call 9384 1122 or feel free to join the SHEBAR table.

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LYNX - [wendy\\_k@hotmail.com](mailto:wendy_k@hotmail.com) , 8707 4635 - Interesting Websites from LYNX  
[www.outnproudmelb.com.au](http://www.outnproudmelb.com.au) - [www.groups.yahoo.com/group/lesconnectmelb](http://www.groups.yahoo.com/group/lesconnectmelb)

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## ChillOut

The Palais Hepburn Springs is ChillOut's major entertainment partner during the annual festival over the Labour Day Long Weekend in March each year. The 2007 ChillOut Festival runs in Daylesford and Hepburn Springs between 9 – 12 March. <http://www.chilloutfestival.com.au> - [www.100percentkylie.com](http://www.100percentkylie.com). The Palais, 111 Main Rd Hepburn Springs. Ph (03) 5348 4849. [www.thepalais.com.au](http://www.thepalais.com.au)

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### Frangipani Holidays

Wholesale travel operator that supports gay and lesbian community.

Holidays and airfares on all budgets from all states.

Darwin 0889423333 fax 08 89 42 33 44 [frangipani2@bigpond.com](mailto:frangipani2@bigpond.com)

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## Matrix Guild Victoria Inc

A voice for older lesbians



Matrix Guild was founded by and for the benefit of lesbians over forty years of age. We are committed to the support of appropriate care and accommodation choices and alternative lifestyle options for older lesbians in Victoria.

Matrix Guild was founded on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1992 by a group of lesbians and it was incorporated in September 1992. The visions and aims of these women were to raise money to assist and aid older/ disabled lesbians.

### Matrix Guild Statement of Purposes

The Guild is established for the public charitable purposes of the relief of poverty, helplessness and suffering of women, and in particular lesbians, by without limitation providing home based services and accommodation to aged, disadvantaged and disabled women.

As an incidental and ancillary purpose, the Guild may provide training and education to home care providers on issues relevant to caring for lesbians to increase the sensitivities of the carers and the standard of home care to lesbians.

**Do you want to support Matrix? Here's what you can do.**

- Organise and/or attend Matrix Guild fundraisers.
- The Satin and Silk Ball and the Denim and Leather Dance are fun events. Watch out for publicity.
- Include Matrix Guild Victoria Inc as a beneficiary in your will. There are already a handful of lesbians who have done this. Phone Jane Kent on 03 9347 2532 or 0438 411 441 for information on how to go about it.
- Become a financial member.

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**If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to Matrix Guild**

You will receive a receipt  
 From Matrix, with our ABN number on it, that states  
 The receipt is for a tax deductible gift  
 For Matrix Guild Victoria Inc. benevolent services.

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**Application/Renewal Matrix Guild Membership**

Yearly fee period from Annual General Meeting (September)  
 Full membership: \$15 waged / \$10 concession  
 Organisation membership: \$30 (or donation)  
 Send to: The Secretary, PO Box 99 Fairfield, Vic 3078

Name:

Address:

Phone:

This is a renewal / new membership.

I agree / do not agree to my name and details as listed above being made available to Matrix Guild members.

Signature:

Date: