

DURABLE

DAUNTLESS

DYKES



The Matrix Guild Vic. Inc. Newsletter

June 2007

**Matrix Guild Vic. Inc. is 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 is a non funded organization and relies on money raised from functions
such as
the 3 dances we have in 2007
(Feb. Masked Ball, August Dusty Springfield 1960s Dance, and the Oct. Velvet
& Lace Ball) and other activities.**

**We also ask you for generous financial donations, which are
Tax Deductible.**

**Support Matrix and you are in effect supporting yourself in your
older years.**

Wendy Stapleton as

Dusty Springfield

Dress up to the Sixties Theme

4 August 2007

7.30 p.m. - 12.00 p.m.

Bookings 9364 7748

This is a fundraiser for Matrix Guild.

FITZROY Town Hall

BYO Drinks - Tea and Coffee Supplied
\$40 conc. \$50 full

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. 0348 411 441

Matrix Guild's Managing Committee

meets 6.30 pm the 3rd 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 3rd Tues. before you come - 0438 411 441.**

Come and meet more lesbians.

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The Matrix Committee of Management
Invite you to

The Glamour Event
of the Year

VELVET and

LACE
Ball

20 October 2007

7.30 p.m. - 12.00 p.m.
Caulfield Town Hall

BYO Drinks - Tea and Coffee Supplied
\$40 conc. \$50 full

Bookings 9495 6177
0400 812 333

sangita@satyananda.net

GET IN FAST WITH YOUR BOOKINGS
This Event is a fundraiser for Matrix Guild.

MATRIX AND RESEARCH:

Exploring the Experiences of Older Non-Heterosexuals in Aged Care

My name is Catherine Barrett. In March this year I was employed by the Matrix Guild as a Project Researcher for the Matrix Guild/Vintage Men Project: *Exploring the Experiences of Older Non-heterosexuals in Aged Care*.

My background is in aged care and sexual/sensual health. I have worked as a unit manager in nursing homes, a researcher with the National Ageing Research Institute and a quality assessor with the Aged Care Standards and Accreditation Agency. I recently completed my PhD exploring quality improvement in health care. My interest in sexual health in aged care developed over a decade of managing nursing homes. During this period I noted that older people were perceived as asexual and that sexual expression was often perceived by staff as a 'problem'. Working with a group of colleagues, I assisted in the development and implementation of Australia's first sexual health policy for residential aged care and conducted a number of studies exploring: the needs of residents; the attitudes of staff and the processes involved in changing practice. These experiences and skills have assisted in the current Project.

The Project responds to growing concerns about the needs of non-heterosexual recipients of aged care services. These concerns are highlighted in publications by Dr. Jo Harrison (2004)*. In her evaluation of the issues, Harrison notes that the past two decades in Australia has seen widespread socio-political reforms challenging the general perspective of heterosexual experience as the only view of the world. Despite these reforms there remains an assumption of heterosexuality in aged care. Such an assumption fails to create a climate in which older non-heterosexuals are prepared to disclose sexual or gender identity, life history or care needs. This failure to disclose results in a cycle in which health professionals are unaware of their non-heterosexual clients and their particular needs.

To achieve appropriate change in the provision of services to older people, in line with the general changes in society, the Matrix Guild and Vintage Men have outlined a four-stage program. The current project is the first stage of the program. The project will explore the experiences of non-heterosexuals in aged care in order to create an in-depth understanding of the issues affecting this group. Further stages include responding to the research findings and lobbying for change.

To facilitate an in-depth understanding of the issues, 20 non-heterosexual recipients of aged care services will be interviewed. These interviewees will include recipients of aged care services in nursing homes, hostels, in their own homes and in many other locations, such as a community or day care centre or medical service. We have advertised widely for interview participants over the past month and to date have had a limited response (with three people interviewed). However, we have also been contacted by a number of lesbian and gay male health professionals who want to share stories about the experiences (both positive and discriminatory) of older non-heterosexuals in aged care. These health professionals report that the aged care recipients are too disempowered to share their stories.

With the need to recruit a further 17 participants, we need to reach out to the Matrix Guild networks. Many of you may know an older person who has a story to share. Others may know people who have contact with older people who are willing to display the project poster and tell people about the project. Please help us to ensure this project report is as powerful as it can possibly be.

Catherine Barrett

Harrison, J (2004). Towards the recognition of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex ageing in Australian gerontology. PhD Thesis. School of Health Sciences, Division of Health Sciences, The University of South Australia.

THE NEW MATRIX WEB PAGE

www.matrixguildvic.org.au

Seniors Health & Well Being Festival

The ALSO Foundation will be holding a GLBTQ Senior's Health & Well Being Festival on 18th July 2007(9:30am-4pm) at the Melbourne Town Hall, to promote health and well being amongst Seniors in the GLBTQ communities. Services from community organisations, businesses and government will be available to promote support services, medical services, health and recreation activities throughout Melbourne in a fun and GLBTQ safe environment. Examples may include yoga classes, aromatherapy, osteopathy, GLBTQ sports and recreation groups, travel agents, seniors groups, government services and much much more!!

Catering and entertainment will be provided, and the seating area provides an opportunity to meet new people and build your networks. Try out a yoga class, massage, or just sit back and enjoy the entertainment!

The Melbourne Town Hall is an all access facility, including wheelchair access. If unsure please feel free to contact us and we can investigate any special requirements.

We are now accepting requests for operating a stall. If you are interested in promoting your group or organisation please email projects@also.org.au with a description of what services you offer.

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



Dance Cats

Hello Dance Cats & Kittens out there..

I'd just like to let you know about an exciting upcoming event.

Dance Cats Annual Ball is coming up on **7/7/07**, and this year's theme is **Gangsters and Molls**. It's going to be a great evening with a **free glass of champagne** on arrival, sumptuous **3 course buffet meal** and music to dance the night away. Drinks will be available at reasonable bar prices (no BYO). The evening will be **hosted by** the fabulous **Luke Gallagher** and expected to be fantastic!

Bookings need to be made by June 30th but tickets are selling fast so get your friends together and book soon.

Hope you can make it ☺

Kind regards,

The Dance Cats Committee

1/3 Hodgson St Fitzroy 3065

PO Box 1514 Collingwood 3066

www.dancecats.com.au

9417-6072 / 0418-671-157 www.ashepherdstouch.com.au

For Prizes donated to our February
Masked Ball
the Matrix Committee
Thanks the following organisations.

•PelicanSands

PelicanSands is a traditional style bed and breakfast within easy walking distance of the beach. PelicanSands offers five individually themed rooms built to inspire romance and intimacy for you and your partner. Choose from the Romeo and Juliet, Romance, Bali Hai, Arabian Nights, or India rooms. Each room has Queen size beds and ensuite including spacious corner spa. Let us spoil you with our attentive service, cooked breakfasts and pampering spas.

149 Pt Richards Road

Portarlinton

Victoria, 3223

Ph: (03) 5259 1995 Mobile: 0409 424 462

info@pelican-sands.com.au

•Hares Hyenas BOOKSHOP

63 Johnston St. Fitzroy 3065 Victoria Australia

www.hares-hyenas.com.au - 9495 6589

•Rainbow Warehouse, She Bar, the
Melbourne Queer Film Festival and the Bendigo
Queer Film Festival.

An ALSO Update

To view information about The ALSO Foundation please visit our website:

www.also.org.au

ALSO FOUNDATION STRATEGIC PLAN

The ALSO Board has over the past months been undertaking discussions with members, friends and other stakeholders (even some detractors) about the progress of the organization, its strengths, weaknesses and areas for growth and development. Along the way we have learnt a great deal. There is much about the organisation which makes us proud and some pointers on how we could improve.

One of the key themes which has emerged in discussion is improving our communication and utilizing collaboration more to ensure we involve those who have

an interest in our shared goals. It is wonderful to be able to call on such strength and support- we are fortunate indeed to have so many friends committed to like goals.

We are delighted now to be able to offer for comment our first draft strategic plan 2007 to 2010. This is the result of much discussion within the organization at board, member and network level and follows from an extensive board visioning process which examined roles, opportunity, resources and responsibilities. We are looking now for feedback before we finalize the document in a months time.

You may send written feedback to lyn@also.org.au or call and speak with one of us directly. Your comments need not be extensive, unless you feel so inclined, we are really aiming to get a feel for whether you feel we are on track or have perhaps missed some critical issues. You will note that in very many cases we are committed to working with others and these groups, networks have also identified their interest in working with us to further their goals.

Once we have finalized direction we will of course develop some milestones and measures which will aid us in evaluating and reporting on progress in due course.

Thank you for your continued commitment and interest in the organization. I look forward to working with you to progress many of these important activities and objectives. Please click here to download the .pdf <http://147.202.41.181/discover/news/documents/StrategicPlanV32-7.pdf>

LESBIANS in Community (LIC)

Disability resources

We have acquired, through donations, a number of disability aides, which we would like to make available to others for loan. So far we have a commode, a raised toilet seat, a shower chair, a walking frame, bed raisers and a frame to help get out of bed. If you, or any lesbian you know, has need of any of these aides they are available for borrowing. Similarly, if you have any you are no longer using and would like to donate them, please contact us. We would particularly like a set of ramps.

LIC on 5966 2053



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



Other ACTIVITIES Around Town

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>

SHE BAR - Women Only Events

2nd and 4th Sat. every month

Fun and friendly atmosphere with regular live acts, female DJs and special events.

BENDIGO HOTEL 125 Johnston Street, Collingwood.

www.shebar.org - Call Sharon & Andrea 0419 992 066

&

RECOVERY

1st Sun. each month

LIVE acts. BENDIGO HOTEL

Womyn and Friends. \$10 - 5.30 - 11.00 pm.



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 9th 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.
- Include Matrix Guild Victoria Inc as a beneficiary in your will. Phone Jane Kent on 03 9347 2532 or 0438 411 441 for information on how to go about it.
- Become a financial member.

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 benevolent services.

Application/Renewal Matrix Guild Membership

Yearly fee period from Annual General Meeting (Aug/Sept)

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: