

DURABLE

DAUNTLESS

DYKES



The Matrix Guild Vic. Inc. Newsletter

September 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 organisation and relies on money raised from functions such as
the 3 dances we are presenting 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.

Special Announcement

The Matrix Guild and Vintage Men have been presenting a programme on JOY 94.9 Sunday mornings from 7am to 9am for approximately 3 months.
The programme is called Sunday and the presenters are Paul and Gordon from Vintage Men and Jane and Sangita from the Matrix Guild
We are mainly presenting a music programme, very varied but hopefully catering for all tastes. There are also community announcements (Around the Traps) and the occasional interview.

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MATRIX AND RESEARCH:

Exploring the Experiences of Older Non-Heterosexuals in Aged Care

Matrix Guild has once again applied to the Reichstein Foundation for another grant: Stage Two of the Program. The following is an excerpt from the grant showing some of the themes that have surfaced from Stage One and How both stages will dovetail together.

Identification of the need for this Project, Stage Two, began with public consultations facilitated by the Matrix Guild in 1997 and 2004:

Jan Testro Gladys was contracted to conduct small groups and a survey for a *Lesbian Health, Independence and Well-being Resource*, 1997.

Lynne Bryer, Community Development, Victoria University, 2004, conducted research and consultation for lesbians, in the inner and outer metropolitan area.

These consultations included a diversity of lesbians of different backgrounds, ages, geographical areas and social strata, and clearly revealed the need to develop a Program which aimed to redress the unmet needs of GLBTI seniors in receipt of aged care services. The first step towards achieving this aim was to interview GLBTI seniors about their experiences of aged care services. Interviews, which formed Stage One of the Program, revealed a number of challenges in changing the structure and delivery of aged care services to meet the needs of this group. In particular, initial analysis of interviews revealed that some older GLBTI people:

1. Have endured discrimination for many decades and now expect discrimination to continue and feel powerless to achieve the social justice that they deserve.
2. Are prohibited from expressing themselves in a sexual way in aged care services by families and staff
3. Perceive that they re-enter the 'closet' when they enter shared aged care services
4. Feel that they re-enter the 'closet' when they invite carers into their own home
5. Respond to homophobic/transphobic comments from carers or co-residents with a reinforced belief that they needed to hide their sexual identity to be safe.
6. Have internalised homophobia/transphobia
7. Use demeaning language to describe their sexual identity
8. Perceive it would not be fair to expose their carers to their sexual identity
9. Are dependent on the good will of carers and feel vulnerable in that relationship because of their sexual/gender identity.
10. Are isolated, lonely and vulnerable
11. Are concerned that disclosing their sexual identity would 'sour' relationships with carers and lead to a lower standard of care.
12. Feel that many health professionals could 'recite a mantra' around non-discrimination whilst maintaining homophobic/heterosexist practices.
13. Had little privacy in residential aged care and consequently struggled to protect their sexual/gender identity:

- from staff who did not respect their privacy
- from cognitively impaired residents who invaded their space
- particularly when they were transsexual (and did not pass) or were cross dressers (and were clearly identifiable)
- when they were cognitively impaired

These interviews highlight a broad base of challenges to improving aged care services for GLBTI seniors. Additionally, while interviewees provided consensus on the need to educate aged care service providers around GLBTI issues they were unsure how change could occur.

To ensure that strategies for change are strategic it would be valuable to determine the perspectives of aged care service providers in Victoria. This was verified when informal approaches made to the Project Researcher, Dr Catherine Barrett, after the Project was profiled in the media. Individuals and groups including residential aged care staff, HACC workers and program directors and other community service providers expressed interest in sharing their stories and contributing towards the development of appropriate resources to support change. However, this information was not collected as it was beyond the brief of Stage One.

It therefore became apparent that Stage Two of the Program needed to involve determining the perspectives of aged care services providers. This will complement Stage One data by providing a strong foundation for leverage for change in Stage Three. It seemed that a well rounded approach required that Stage Two incorporate consultation with aged care service provider to clarify their experiences of what works and what needs to change.

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## **Matrix Lesbian Picnic**

Part of the  
Victorian Seniors Festival

Come and meet us. Bring your lunch and come for a nature ramble and rumble through the Botanical Gardens ending with a picnic.

**Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October**  
Botanical Gardens South Yarra  
11.00 am for walk and 12.30pm for lunch  
Visitors Centre, Botanical Gardens Entrance Burwood Avenue (Beside the Shrine), South Yarra  
Melways Ref: 2f 12K

Telephone number: 0438 411 441

# The Dusty Dance

All we can say is that this was a fitting good-bye from Gail and Lillian, who after five and a half years are passing the mantle on to others to carry, and what a night it was the Fitzroy Town Hall looked magnificent, thanks to the direction and hours of work put in by Michelle in making and designing the table and stage decorations and the work carried out all Friday afternoon by Michelle, Marion, Gail and Lillian with the finishing touches done on Saturday with thanks to Di, Jane, Anne, and Sangita, who along with the others put in their time.

Almost three hundred wonderful women turned up many of them really dressed for the occasion, with some surprising array, Cher was there with Sonny, and Kathy McG. In a dress, yep we did not recognise her at first, Janis Joplin and several "Dustys" and some of the most interesting 60s gear you have ever seen in all it was most colourful, we all boogied the night away to some of the best sixties songs you have ever heard, DJ Kim outdid herself in the selection of songs, and a lot of there sang along with the music, great job Kim.

Then came the highlight of the evening: Wendy Stapleton singing the Dusty Springfield hits as only she can, it was fantastic, Wendy held the audience in the palm of her hand as she gave us the most memorable of performances of Dusty.

Lillian and Gail would like to say thank you to all of you, who have by coming to the Matrix Guild dances, supported us and most of all the Matrix Guild, we have enjoyed our time doing this and will miss the buzz that comes when it all comes together, we wont miss the late nights and headaches when things go crazy, but we loved that too, all we ask is that you support all of the Matrix Guild functions, as you have in the past and Matrix will support you in times of need, so in closing we say See you at the Velvet and Lace Ball on the 20<sup>th</sup> of October at the Caulfield Town Hall.

Lillian Bishop  
Matrix Guild Committee.

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## SENIORS TEA DANCE

The Seniors Tea Dance presented by ALSO, State Trustees, Matrix Guild and Vintage men is on Saturday 13th October at the Coburg Town Hall 90 Bell St between the hours of 1pm-5pm. The theme is "Over The Top" and people are encouraged to dress colourfully. Once again the wonderful Ajay's are sponsoring the event with their delicious catering. Tickets are still only \$13.00.

## 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 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.**

0438 411 441 – [jkent6@bigpond.com](mailto:jkent6@bigpond.com)



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### Swing By the Bay

#### Wayward Women Walkers Fundraiser Dance

Popular DJ. Door Prizes. Raffle - Tickets \$25 per person

SATURDAY 1<sup>st</sup> December 2007. 7.00 p.m. to midnight

Parkdale Yacht Club - Melways Ref 87 B10

Limited Tickets - Don't Miss Out

Cheque to Wayward Women Walkers Inc

(with self address envelope) to:

"Swing by the Bay", C/- WWW Inc., PO Box 1219, Glen Waverley 3150

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### Matrix Guild's Managing Committee

meets 6.30 p.m. 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.**

**Come and meet more lesbians.**

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### *Under the Radar'* – a forum for GLBTI disabled people.

#### **Tell your story in your own words**

Access Plus Victoria, in collaboration with The ALSO Foundation, Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria and Gasworks – Art of Difference Program is organising a forum, on raising the awareness within the disability and gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and intersex

(GLBTI) communities of Melbourne, of the social, recreational, leisure and cultural needs and opportunities for GLBTI disabled people.

The forum organisers would like to invite GLBTI disabled people to share their stories with the audience and to participate in the workshops during the forum. Each speaker will talk for five to seven minutes. Please submit an outline of your story for consideration. We are asking for personal stories relating to the following subjects:

1. Your experiences of growing up as a GLBTI disabled person.
2. Difficulties in accessing sport, recreation, leisure, cultural and social needs in the disability sector and/or in the GLBTI communities.
3. Your opportunities for meeting sport, recreation, leisure, cultural and social needs for CALD, GLBTI disabled people.
4. What needs to change and how you think it will happen.

The idea for the forum came about through discussions regarding the rising incidences of discrimination, exclusion from their chosen activities and a lack of social opportunities for GLBTI disabled people. Research into the aspirations of disabled people indicates that agencies and community groups may not cater for the diversity of sexualities.

Friday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2007 9:00am to 3pm. Gasworks Theatre foyer, Gasworks Arts Park, 21 Graham Street, Albert Park

If you are interested in telling your personal story, or would like more information regarding the forum please contact The ALSO Foundation Ph: 03 9827 4999 Wendy Bainger 0417 688 562

Email: [wendyb2@dodo.com.au](mailto:wendyb2@dodo.com.au)

People interested in speaking on the panel are encouraged to register *prior* to 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007.

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## **Willing Up and Keeling Over**

Willing Up and Keeling Over: A Lesbian Handbook of Death Rights and Rituals has been published by the newly-established Long Breast Press Inc and contains all the information Lesbians need to know when we or our loved ones are nearing the end of our lives. It covers everything from the writing of wills, 'Where There's a Will There's a Cuppa', to all the other very necessary legal aspects because it's, 'Better Safe Than Sorry'. There's also information about taking care of 'Our Furry and Feathered Friends' as well as advice on 'How to Plant a Lesbian' in the most caring and imaginative way possible.

Copies of Willing Up and Keeling Over are available from Long Breast Press PO Box 168 Brunswick East 3057 for \$20 a copy plus postage (\$5 for 1 copy, \$9 for 2 - 7 copies) or at Hares & Hyenas, 63 Johnston Street Fitzroy.

## LESBIANS in Community (LIC)

21<sup>ST</sup> - 24<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER

REST, RELAXATION, REVITALISATION & FUN

1. Spring Equinox Ceremony/campfire
2. Workshops in –Meditation & Massage
3. Photographic Competition/display
4. Art activities (mosaic, banner painting, weaving, sculpture)
5. Walk to the falls
6. Bird spotting/ treasure hunt
7. Music & jamming
8. Table of treats
9. Recipe swap/share

**ALL ACTIVITIES FREE – DONATIONS TO LIC WELCOME**

ACCOMMODATION \$5 PER NIGHT (B.Y.O. Bedding)

BRING FOOD TO SHARE **OR** \$7 Per day, food provided

**HIGHLIGHTS\*** FRIDAY NIGHT: CEREMONY & CAMPFIRE

(B.Y.O. Musical Instruments) GALA SHED OPENING. SATURDAY NIGHT:

WIZZ BANG TRIVIA NIGHT & RAFFLE (B.Y.O. Silver coins)

BOOK NOW FOR ACCOMMODATION AND NUMBERS: 5966 2053

[lesbiansincommunity@yahoo.com.au](mailto:lesbiansincommunity@yahoo.com.au) BYO THE FOLLOWING EXTRAS: Treat to share, digital camera & accessories to load onto computer, binoculars/bird book, favourite recipe, massage table & oils, walking shoes, torch/candles, one amazing fact for the 'Trivia Night,' the words to one song you like & several copies to hand around.

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## Other ACTIVITIES Around Town

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CHECK OUT THIS PAGE Covers every state in Australia

<http://www.SameSame.com.au>

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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 - Women Only Events

2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.shebar.org) - Call Sharon & Andrea 0419 992 066

& RECOVERY - 3rd SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH 6.00-11.00PM....PLEASE

NOTE CHANGE OF DATES

LIVE acts. BENDIGO HOTEL

Womyn and Friends. \$10 - 5.30 - 11.00 p.m.

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# THE NEW MATRIX WEB PAGE

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

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**Come and meet more lesbians.**

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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.
- 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.

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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 benevolent services.

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## **Application/Renewal Matrix Guild Membership**

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

Full membership: \$20 waged / \$15 concession

Organisation membership: \$50 (or donation)

Send to: The Secretary, PO Box 99 Fairfield, Vic 3078

Name:

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

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: