

# Matrix Guild

---



# Newsletter

May 2008

Matrix Guild for lesbians over forty years of age.  
We are committed to support, appropriate care and alternative lifestyle options for the older lesbians.  
Matrix is non funded and relies on fundraising and financial donations, which are  
Tax Deductible.

\*\*\*\*\*

## 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.

+++++

One way you can support Matrix is to buy a  
*Coming Home: Interviews with Women who Came Out After 40.*

Edited by Elisabeth Speller

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

**Coming out stories from older lesbians.**

**\$11 a copy.**

\*\*\*\*\*

**MATRIX AND RESEARCH:**

*Determining Strategies to Enhance Aged Care Services  
Provided to GLBTI Seniors*

**Matrix Guild has once again applied to the Reichstein  
Foundation for another grant: Stage Two of the Research  
Program we commenced in 2007.**

**Matrix has received a further \$20,000**

In late 2006 we received a grant from the Reichstein Foundation to conduct Stage One of this Program entitled *Exploring the Experiences of Non-Heterosexuals in Aged Care Aged Care Services*. These consultations 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 of aged care services to meet the needs of this group

Additionally, while interviewees provided consensus on the need to educate aged care service providers around GLBTI issues they were unsure how change could occur.

It therefore became apparent that Stage Two of the Program needed to determine 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. The Stage One Report, which is complete now, will be will be dovetailed with the Stage Two Report and both will be available for the public in late 2008.

We will keep you up dated as to Stage Two and the release of the Reports.

**Partnerships with other groups involved with the Project.**

Those on the committee are representatives from: Matrix Guild; Vintage Men Inc., a social and support group for mature gay and bisexual men and their friends; A 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; Admissions Officer Brotherhood of St Laurence; Victorian Gay & Lesbian Rights Lobby; Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria; The ALSO Foundation; Women’s Health East; Women’s Health in the South East; Women's Health West; A Consultant Geriatrician and Australian Lesbian Medical Association; School of Health Sciences (OT Program) University of South Australia, and Expert Advisor to the Steering Committee.



# HOME BASED SERVICES

## SERVICES FOR SENIOR LESBIANS

Matrix Guild's *Home Based Services* incorporate

### ★ Health, Counselling, Home Care, and Maintenance.

Matrix Guild facilitates qualified practitioners for you.

- ★ 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, are qualified in one of these areas and would like to be considered for the service send your resume to Jane Kent at the email address below.

★ **Now is your chance to become involved in a unique service.**

0438 411 441 - [jkent6@bigpond](mailto:jkent6@bigpond)

---

## Matrix Guild's Managing Committee

meets 6.30 pm the 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday of the month in St Kilda -

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

to get venue new details - 0438 411 441.

Come and meet more lesbians.

@@

### **An Introduction to the New ALSO LESBIAN CEO LYN MORGAIN**

It has been suggested that it might be valuable to introduce myself to the membership of Matrix- thank you for the kind invitation- I have provided a bit of an overview of my personal, professional and therefore I suppose, political interests and expertise.

At the present time, as the CEO of The ALSO Foundation, the only Foundation of its type in the country I fulfil a leadership role in the Lesbian, Gay Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex community (LGBTIQ).

I am strongly committed to strengthening ALSO through the promotion of inclusion, diversity and equity. Seeking and promoting the opportunity to work with and learn from the breadth of this, our shared community.

My professional life I am proud to say was initiated and nurtured in feminist women's domestic violence collectives in the 80's. This has given me strong grounding in

grass roots community action and the role of lesbian community in this.

Since that time I have been actively involved in services and sectors promoting social equity for the last 25 years. I have expertise in issues related to homelessness, chemical dependency, mental health and violence and childhood trauma. As well as, community planning, health impact assessment and social benefit measurement and development of contemporary public policy frameworks.

I have held senior leadership roles in the 'not for profit' sector for many years (as for example EO of the YWCA of Australia and Executive Director of the ACT Council of Social Service) and been involved in work related to the measurement of disadvantage, poverty, quality of life and latterly community capacity, connectedness and social cohesion.

In this role and my former role as co convenor of the Victorian Gay and Lesbian Right Lobby, I have developed a detailed knowledge of the context of social exclusion of LGBTIQ people. Pertinently but not limited to, the 58 separate areas of law identified by HEREOC that still discriminate against those in same sex relationships and the changes required to legislative schemes to remedy this.

Chief amongst these are the legislative changes required to offer consistent recognition and equal treatment before the law of our families.

I am actively involved in the work being undertaken to explore and remedy the entrenched systemic social exclusion experienced by this community and elucidating the impacts this has on both this specific LGBTIQ community and the broader community. In particular exploring health inequalities, losses to individual and community economic benefit and social cohesion and the requirement to promote substantive equality and respect for diversity.

Currently I am a member of the Victorian Attorney Generals Advisory Committee on GLBTI Issues, Chair of the Campaign against Homophobic Harassment and member of the Department of Human Service HIV Taskforce.

My other great love is yoga. I live with (one of) my teenage sons and am absolutely passionate about creating a world that nurtures creativity, passion human rights and justice. I share my life with a divine gaggle of dykes, poofs, queers, transfolk grrls and bois.... and am lucky enough to have my mum around the corner.

I consider myself enormously privileged to do the job that I do and welcome any feedback or ideas that others within the community may wish to share.

*Lyn Morgain*

*ALSO Foundation CEO*

\*\*\*\*\*

**Matrix received an email earlier in 2008. It is for  
Homeshare NSW.  
It is included here for your interest.**

*There is an advertisement on page 9 of Sydney Star Observer Issue 900  
(Thu 10th January) from  
Social Ventures Australia and The Benevolent Society Australia  
that you might find of interest concerning ageing  
within the GLBQTI population.  
The advertisement reads*

Gay or Lesbian over 70?

Living or feeling alone and feeling lonely, isolated or apprehensive? If you are finding living alone difficult and you do not want to move, especially to a retirement village Homeshare may be just right for you.

Homeshare NSW provides a secure accommodation matching service for older people. It can link you with a younger Gay or Gay Friendly home sharer. As well as checking the personal details and history of the younger person to secure your safety, emphasis is placed on finding someone who will be compatible in temperament and personality. This is not a dating agency rather it is designed to provide companionship and domestic help to make it easier and more enjoyable to stay longer in your own home. In exchange you provide a free bedroom to a younger person (someone who is younger and more able than yourself).

If you are reading this and know an older person who may benefit please pass on the information. Visit [www.bensoc.org.au/ageing/homeshare](http://www.bensoc.org.au/ageing/homeshare) for more details.

The service is run by the Benevolent Society (Australia's oldest charity) with funding through the Social Ventures Australia BOOST! Fund. More info please call Thomas-Andrew on (02) 9365 6122 or email [homeshare@bensoc.org.au](mailto:homeshare@bensoc.org.au)

---

I am hoping that you may all find this information useful in projects that were undertaken in Victoria to analyse Aging issues within the Victorian GLBQTI population. I just thought that I would pass this information on to you in case none of you had seen the ad.  
Cheers, Parrish Charles Tel: 0429 406 354

---

## **SHE BAR - Women Only Events**

***2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday 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

---

CHECK OUT THIS PAGE Covers every state in Australia

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

---

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>

---

FOR PHOTOS AND INFORMATION ABOUT OUR  
EVENTS, FOR BACK COPIES OF NEWSLETTERS,  
AND FULL UPDATES OF THE MATRIX RESEARCH  
PROJECT REFER TO

THE MATRIX WEB PAGE

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

**Thanks to Pat Mitchell for designing, producing and keeping the  
page up to date.**

**Reflections of lesbians in 1950s-1960s Melbourne**

I am a La Trobe University student doing research for my fourth year History Honours thesis on women who participated in the Melbourne gay subculture in the 1950s-1960s. I would like to talk to lesbians about their memories and experiences of the camp scene, specifically regarding the venues where gay people associated during this period. I'm interested in what these venues were like, where they were located, photos, diaries/scrapbooks depicting gay venues/ spaces during the 1950s-1960s. If you're willing to be interviewed, know anyone who might be, or would like more information, please contact:

Hayley Webster

Telephone: 0409 519 216

Email: [hbotheras@students.latrobe.edu.au](mailto:hbotheras@students.latrobe.edu.au)

(please note that you will be given a copy of the interview upon completion and that your confidentiality will be protected if this is your wish.)

@@



## **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 alternative lifestyle options for older lesbians in Victoria.

Matrix Guild was founded 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 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.**

- Attend Matrix Guild fundraisers.
- Include Matrix Guild Victoria Inc as a beneficiary in your will. Phone Jane Kent on 03 9309 5896 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.

---