



November 2013 Edition:

“The Matrix Flyer”

Hi Everyone,

October was a really busy month for Matrix. We had our Annual General Meeting where we reflected on the last year's activities. We continue to provide presentations to aged care providers about inclusive practice and it looks as though the number of requests for these workshops is increasing. This November Newsletter brings you lots of information about future events over the next couple of months. We'll be having our usual stall at the Midsumma Carnival and planning for the Comedy Gala is well underway. Looking forward to warmer weather after the winds of October.

Gatherings & Social Events



Lesbian Speed-dating

A Matrix fund-raising event

With special guest MC. \$10 at the door.

Make it a date! Come and meet new friends or possibly a new love!
Bring your sense of adventure, fun & an open mind.

Register your interest at opentablemelbourne@gmail.com

Saturday November 9th 6.30 - 9.30pm

Loughnan Hall 57-65 Coppin St. Richmond. (wheelchair accessible)

Alcohol free! BYO: non-alcoholic drinks and cups

A combined event brought to you by Anneke and Harry

Games afternoon

Come along and join the fun at our next Games Afternoon. Here are the details:-

When: November 9th, from 1.30 – 4pm

Venue: Jika Jika Community Centre

Corner Plant and Union Street, Northcote.

How to get there: Tram - No. 86 Stop No. 27

Bus – No. 506

Train - Westgarth Train Station



**LESBIAN COMEDY GALA:
A Celebration of our Pride and Joy**

Whatever your plans are this summer, make sure you're back by 7:30pm Saturday 1st February 2014. Australia's finest & funniest gals, in a night of hilarious frivolity, will team up and tickle your gay jeans! Bring your girl, bring some pals, but don't miss out on this showcase of comic talent! This is the hottest event in Midsumma. **Warning: this show contains a lot of lesbians, and occasional gay friendly comedians!**

This is the Inaugural Lesbian Comedy Gala, held in the Northcote Town Hall, in the heart and soul of our lesbian 'hood. It's a not-to-be-missed chance to see your people on stage, in a night to remember.

The line-up includes:

- ❖ Fiona O'Loughlin (one of the most successful & popular comedians in Oz);
- ❖ Geraldine Hickey (brilliantly funny);
- ❖ Catherine Deveney (delightfully irreverent);
- ❖ The Ukulele Ladies (outrageously talented, no song is safe from their side-splitting spin);
- ❖ Monica Dullard, (her hilarious, perceptive, rapid fire presentation will make you laugh till it hurts);
- ❖ Pierre & Guido's World Famous Magic Show (clowning at its very finest);
- ❖ Geraldine Quinn (this rock comedy diva will have you in stitches);
- ❖ Lori Bell (winner, Adelaide Comedian of the Year);
- ❖ Cath Jamison (Australia's #1 female magician).....and more!

Keep tuned on our websites, JoyFM and your lesbian gossip circles as more hot comedians come on board the 'Pride and Joy' Loveboat. *Produced by Monica Dullard of MonStar Productions and Anneke and Harry from Matrix.*

A fundraiser for the Matrix Guild of Victoria, supporting affordable housing for older lesbians.

Tickets: Full \$35 & Concession \$25.

On sale 23rd November 2013 at

www.midsumma.org.au <<http://www.midsumma.org.au>> or

www.northcotetownhall.com.au

<<http://www.northcotetownhall.com.au>> or 9481 9500



M.A.D. "Women Making a Difference"

Presents

"Gather the Women"

Be inspired by a short film of women leaders and activists Dr. Jean Shinoda Bolen, Dr. Margaret Marx-Hubbard and Dr. Jean Houston, who give their views of how women everywhere can work for change and transform the world to make it more environmentally sustainable and socially just.

Hear local speakers describe how they have made a difference by supporting women in need.



Date: Saturday, November 23rd 2013
Time: 2.00 pm – 5.00 pm
Venue: St. Andrew's Uniting Church Hall (**NOTE: Change of venue**)
Cnr. Duncan and Gilles Streets, Fairfield (Melways Map Ref. 30, K10)

How to get there: Train: To Fairfield Station on Hurstbridge Line & walk along Gillies St.

Entry fee: Full \$10, Concession \$5. Pay on the day.
RSVP: Friday, November 8th (0416 268 108 /r.wealthy@bigpond.com)

Money collected at this event will be donated to the International Women's Development Agency



An Invitation from Jean Taylor

You are invited to the launch of Long Breast Press' anthology of Australian lesbians' writing

Lesbians Write On

A Celebration of Contemporary Australian Lesbian Writing.

WHEN: Sunday 24 November 2013, 2 - 4pm

WHERE: Jika Jika Community Centre, 1a Plant St, Northcote
(Melways Map 30 F10, Tram 86 stop 28, Train Westgarth station)

WHAT: We will entertain you with readings by several of the anthology's authors and afternoon tea will be available.

Please note that this is a lesbian event for women only

Reports

Games afternoon – new photos just in!



As you can see,

a good time was had by all



at the September Games Afternoon!

October Afternoon tea

The October Afternoon Tea at Jika Jika was attended by about 10 lesbians which is a record for this event. We will make more space for lesbians who want to bring cards and games in future. We will also have coffee!

More news about this event to follow in the December newsletter and an especial thank you to Carol for delicious cake.

Reports (continued)

Older Lesbians and Aged care



Anneke Deutsch, Sue Leigh and Margo van der Voort recently presented a three hour workshop, concentrating on older lesbians interacting with Aged Care services, to the staff of Community Aged Care service in Forest Hill.

We looked at the discrimination that we may have experienced throughout our lives and how this might affect our experience of Aged Care services. We tailored the presentation to the audience - in this case having a Community Care focus. However, we also regularly speak to Residential Care service providers. We supplied a copy of our booklet "We Live Here Too: A Guide to Lesbian Inclusive Practice in Aged Care" to all participants as well as other printed resources. You can view the content of this booklet at

http://www.matrixguildvic.org.au/docs/booklet_WeLiveHereToo.pdf

The workshop was interactive with participants breaking into smaller groups and working through a case study or scenario which they later discussed with the larger group. We find that personal stories convey the ideas and experience of discrimination in a far more powerful way than a lecture laden with statistics. But we utilise both formats in an attempt to present information in different ways to accommodate varying learning styles.

If you know of any Aged Care services who would like to learn about how to provide lesbian-inclusive care, please contact Anneke on 0427 482 976. Sue, Anna and Anneke would also like to welcome Margo, who has volunteered to join us in this important work.

Matrix News



LGBTI Aging Strategy may be under threat

On October 4th the Sydney Morning Herald's Federal Political Reporter, Daniel Hurst, wrote an article which is of concern to the LGBTI community. The article discusses possible threats to the previous government's LGBTI Aging Strategy and reversal of recent legal changes which prevented faith-based aged care providers from discriminating against members of the LGBTI community. Read Daniel's article below. Some strong representation to your local MPs may be necessary.

"Tony Abbott's Aged Care Minister has refused to reveal the future of a federal strategy to ensure gay and lesbian residents are treated with respect, including \$2.5 million earmarked for "sensitivity training".

The government is also tight-lipped on whether it will move to reverse recent legal changes that banned faith-based aged-care facilities from using a religious exemption to discriminate against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and inter-sex residents.

It is unclear whether this reluctance signals changes or simply reflects a continuation of Mr Abbott's clamp-down on public comments by ministers.

The former government's national LGBTI ageing strategy included sensitivity training for the aged-care workforce and expansion of a community visitor scheme to address LGBTI social exclusion.

Advertisement

The Assistant Minister for Social Services now in charge of aged care, Mitch Fifield, declined to say whether he endorsed the strategy or whether LGBTI people faced discrimination and prejudice in aged-care provision.

In a one-sentence response to Fairfax Media questions, Senator Fifield's spokeswoman said the assistant minister had sought a briefing on the issues and would be "working through them".

Attorney-General George Brandis declined to answer a simple question about whether the Coalition would keep or overturn Labour legislation in June limiting the religious exemption for discrimination in the provision of aged care.

The Coalition opposed the bill in the Senate at the time but suggested before the election the changes were here to stay.

The Greens' spokeswoman on legal affairs, Penny Wright, said it was "hugely concerning" that ministers were not answering basic questions about "legal protections for some of the most vulnerable Australians".

Read more: <http://www.smh.com.au/federal-politics/political-news/aged-care-minister-mitch-fifield-silent-on-future-of-sexuality-sensitivity-training-20131003-2uxg2.html#ixzz2giRVkLgf>

"The L Wing" - A play about older lesbians

A Moreland based emerging writer and director is creating a short play for Melbourne's Gay and Lesbian Midsumma Festival 2014. Belinda Bannerman is one half of the creative duo that completes *Ladymullet Productions*, and her 30-minute play set in a Lesbian Nursing home is currently in development.



As part of the development process, Belinda is looking for Matrix Guild volunteers who would be prepared to have a general discussion about issues related to older lesbians, love, sexuality, and aging. Having previously worked in Aged Care, Belinda has a keen interest in stories about older people and making space for more public representation of these often hidden members of our community

She will be coming to the 19th November meeting to talk briefly about her project and meet potential volunteers. If you are interested she is looking for support and/or participation in the following ways; a one off small group informal discussion, and production assistants. (lighting, stage managing, costume sourcing, front of house) Presently casting roles have been filled, but there may be a small role, which is still being finalised. If you can't attend on the 19th, but are interested, Belinda can be contacted via email on bel_kc@hotmail.com, or 0448-226-449.



Support for Women's Refuges

A small group of women from our community have recently got together to explore ways to support women escaping from domestic violence situations, and to this end they are collecting goods needed by **Victorian Domestic Violence Crisis Service**.

Matrix has given permission for a collection box for donated goods to be placed at forthcoming Matrix events, so you might like to make a donation.

Here is a list of items the **Domestic Violence Crisis Service** need for the refuges.

- toiletries (deodorant, soap, shampoo, toothpaste / toothbrushes, toilet paper, sanitary items etc)
- non-perishable food items (e.g. tinned or packet food)
- new socks & underwear (women and children)
- new towels, fitted sheets, pillowcases, doona covers, mattress protectors (single beds)
- baby clothes (new)
- First Aid supplies

All donations will be delivered to the collection point for distribution to the refuges.

The collection box will be at the following events:-

- ❖ Matrix Games afternoon on Saturday, November 9th
- ❖ Matrix Afternoon on Saturday, Saturday, December 14th

The deadline for the December Newsletter is 29th November. Please send news and snippets (we don't have room for stories and poems, sorry) to Rosemary at r.wealthy@bigpond.com

That's all until next month. Have a great November!



Sue Leigh Matrix Guild of Vic Inc
04 6648 0331
matrixevents@matrixguildvic.org.au

Rosemary Wealthy Matrix Guild of Vic Inc
0416 268 108
r.wealthy@bigpond.com