



*February 2014 Edition:*

## *“The Matrix Flyer”*

Hi Everyone,

Well, summer has arrived with a vengeance! We hope that you are managing to stay cool and enjoy the last of the Midsumma activities. We are all looking forward to the **Matrix Comedy Gala** on Saturday, February 1<sup>st</sup>. This event is completely SOLD OUT, so congratulations to the organisers. The next major Matrix fundraiser is the **Satin and Silk Ball** in May, so watch for more information in the forthcoming Matrix newsletters.

### ***Gatherings & Social Events***



### ***Lesbian Games Days On the second Saturday of the month***

The **Lesbian Games Days** have proved to be very popular and a lot of fun, so we've decided to make the 2nd Saturday of **every** month a Games Afternoon. Please bring your favourite games: scrabble, mah-jong, monopoly or a deck of cards. Of course, if you'd rather just sit and chat, that's fine too. Come and enjoy some lesbian company in a relaxed, quiet space.

The next Games Day will be held on **Saturday 8th February**.

The **March 8th** Games Day coincides with International Women's Day (IWD), so come along wearing your suffragette colours and celebrate. Although I've considered myself a feminist for many years, I have only just discovered the origin and significance of the green, white and violet. These colours start with the same letters as the slogan **GIVE (Green) WOMEN (White) the VOTE (Violet)**. If you have other stories about IWD herstory, or IWDs you've celebrated, bring them with you on 8th March.

A gold coin donation helps fund the tea, coffee and biscuit supplies. If anyone would like to come, but has trouble getting there, please let us know and we might be able to put you in touch with someone coming from your area.

**When:** 1.30 – 3:30pm on the second Saturday of the month.

**Venue:** Jika Jika Community Centre. Cnr Plant and Union Sts. Northcote. (Mel. Map 30, F11)

**How to get there:** Tram - No. 86 Stop No. 27. Bus – No. 506. Train - Westgarth Train Station.

**Contacts:** Ardy Tibby: 9387 6610 or Margo van der Voort: 0407 672 757



# Sold Out

## Lesbian Comedy Gala

This event proved to be the hottest show at Midsumma! It was the first to sell out, a few days before the festival opened with Carnival Day. We apologise to any of you who missed out – we know there are hundreds of you because of the level of inquiry at Midsumma Ticketing and at the Northcote Town Hall. Next year, we'll book a larger venue, so keep an eye on this newsletter, because this is where there'll be the first announcement of the 2015 Lesbian Comedy Gala. We plan to have all your favourite comedians back next year. If you have any requests of who you'd like included in next year's line up, give Anneke a call or a text on 0427 482 976. We've invited Miriam Margolyes and Magda Subanski - we wanted Sharon to MC in her netball outfit, but she hasn't responded yet.....



## Satin and Silk Ball ~ save the date!

This year, Sharon Stanton is back organising another wonderful extravaganza for you and a great fundraiser for Matrix. So make sure you put **Saturday 17th May, St Kilda Town Hall** in your diaries for the 2014 Satin and Silk Ball. Wendy Stapleton will be performing as the legendary Doris Day and the event will be interpreted by Auslan Stage Left, so please let all your deaf dyke friends know. Consider getting a table together.

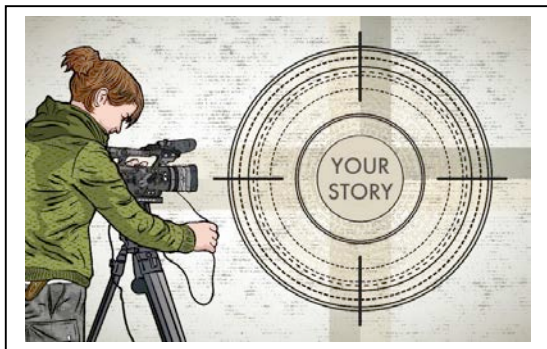
## Matrix News



### ***Are you a Carer and a Lesbian?***

Recently, Anna, Pat and Anneke met with Meredith Butler, the new LGBTI Project Officer at **Carers Victoria**. They provide free education sessions and counselling to anyone caring for a partner, parent, friend or other adult. Meredith is tackling the job of making their organisation's services more appropriate for lesbians.

The definition of 'Carer' is very loose. You don't have to living with the person for whom you care, or provide care all day, every day, or be on a Carer's Benefit. You might be part of a roster, caring for a lesbian friend who is sick. Carers Vic will assist Matrix in setting up a Lesbian Carer's support group. Do you know anyone interested in participating in this free group, or are you a carer yourself? If needed, respite care can be arranged to free up your time to attend. Please contact Anna on 0448 002 870 or at [inquiries@matrixguildvic.org.au](mailto:inquiries@matrixguildvic.org.au) to register your interest.



### ***Short documentary film***

Inspired by the Jewish Lesbian Group's film and with the help of Catherine and Caz from Gay and Lesbian Victoria, Matrix has secured some funding to make a short documentary about the lives and experiences of older lesbians.

We will use the film in our work educating Aged Care service providers about the needs of older lesbians. The staff at these places usually tell us that they don't have any lesbian clients, but since 11% of the population isn't "het", we know that they do, but that many of us are still closeted, or go back into hiding when interacting with institutions. The staff can't understand why this would be, since so much has changed in the last few years and we have recognition of our relationships in many areas of law.

The best way to explain to them how life was for us when it wasn't safe or wise for us to be out at work, to our families or our doctors is for us to tell our stories. We need to describe for them why some of us married men when we knew we were attracted to other women, and how hard life was for a butch woman who chose not to succumb to the heterosexual norm.

So if you're over 65 (the older the better!) and prepared to be interviewed to be part of this film, please contact Anneke on 0427 482 976 or at [housing@matrixguildvic.org.au](mailto:housing@matrixguildvic.org.au) The film

will also be used as part of the curriculum in Lesbian and Gay history month in the Safe Schools program.

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**The deadline for the March Newsletter is 26<sup>th</sup> February.** Please send news items and short articles to Rosemary at [r.wealthy@bigpond.com](mailto:r.wealthy@bigpond.com)

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