



The Matrix Flyer

Hello Everyone,

What a wonderful night we had at the Matrix Comedy Gala! Well done and thank you to all those women who made the evening such a success.

March is upon us, and with it come three important events: **International Women's Day** on March 8th, the **Melbourne Comedy Festival** and the **Melbourne Queer Film Festival (MQFF)**. There is some information about them below. This month Matrix is conducting a member survey, so make sure you have a say. The survey form is attached.

***Exciting news! The WORLD PREMIERE
of***

It's Who We Are

***is showing at the
Melbourne Queer Film Festival***



This film by David Muir and Kate Lefoe celebrates 20 years of the Jewish Lesbian Group of Victoria (JLGV). It is showing at MQFF on Sunday, 23rd March at 4.00 pm, together with two other Australian GLBTI documentaries.

The Jewish Lesbian Group of Victoria had its beginnings in 1992, when words like 'lesbian' and 'Jew' were still whispered, and it wasn't always safe for the women to be open about who they were. Three Jewish lesbian friends organised a workshop for Jewish lesbians which attracted a

March 2014 Edition

The aims and objectives of Matrix are to:

- promote appropriate care and support for older lesbians
- provide some accommodation that caters to the needs of ageing lesbians who experience financial disadvantage
- support aging lesbians' accommodation choices
- challenge ageism and to oppose discrimination against older lesbians
- advocate on behalf of older lesbians to governments and other relevant bodies
- promote social contact and support among older lesbians
- research lesbians' experience of aged care

phenomenal turnout, filling the room with warmth, laughter and tears of recognition and relief. The JLGV had been born!

This warm-hearted documentary charts the birth of the JLGV and its continued activities in providing a social and support network, as well as acting as a powerful lobby group initiating significant change in Jewish, feminist and LGBTI communities around Australia.

Tickets: http://tix.mqff.com.au/session2_mqff.asp?sn=OZ+DOCS+2&s=57

How did you get through it?

Most of us, at some time in our lives, have been depressed or anxious. It's difficult not to, given the lesbophobia and discrimination we have all lived through. Many of us tried to avoid this by being closeting all or some of the time, but living in hiding has its own stresses. Lesbian researchers, Catherine Barrett and Caz Whyte are currently seeking older LGBTI Australians to participate in confidential interviews. The interviews are part of a project to educate service providers about the issues associated with depression and anxiety for older LGBTI people. The project is a collaboration between The National Ageing Research Institute, Val's Café (at the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, LaTrobe University) and RMIT and has been funded by *beyondblue*. The project has been approved by La Trobe University's ethics committee. Anneke from Matrix is part of this project's advisory board.

We would like to speak with lesbians aged 65 years or more, from any state/territory who have experienced depression and/or anxiety – about their strategies for managing. Hearing about the ways in which you got through could be invaluable for others. Interviews will be conducted until June 2014.

For more information or to book an interview contact:

Dr Catherine Barrett, Val's Café P: 03 9479 8702 5297 or E: c.barrett@latrobe.edu.au

Carolyn Whyte, Val's Café P: 03 94798739 or E: c.whyte@latrobe.edu.au

Volunteer Visitor Program



The Volunteer Visitor Program is underway. A successful grant application to Lesbians Incorporated (Linc) means that we now have \$3,000 to start volunteer training. Anneke, Anna and Pat met with Meredith Butler from Carers Victoria. Part of Meredith's job is to work with the LGBTI community caring for aged members. She is keen to be kept informed of Matrix' program and may be able to offer some help with, for example, debriefing sessions for our volunteers.

A number of lesbians have expressed interest in becoming volunteer visitors to elderly, isolated lesbians at home or in aged care. Di O'Neil, who has extensive experience with volunteer visitor programs has agreed to be involved in the program, offering advice and support and help as requested. Any lesbians who would like more information or who would like to become a volunteer visitor can contact Anna on 0448002870.



Survey of Members

Attached to this issue of Matrix Flyer you will find a survey that we would like you to fill in and return.

We want to know how we are going, what we could do more of, do better or.....

Did you know that in the last 12 months Matrix has:

- ❖ Spoken at 10 conferences/workshops about lesbian-inclusive Aged Care to a total of 1,150 people
- ❖ Had a short film published on the Australian Human Rights Commission website about discrimination against lesbians in Aged Care
- ❖ Had articles published about Lesbians and Aged Care in the National Aged Care Accreditation agency's newsletter, the Aged Care Complaints Commission website, in the LGBTI Health update zine and in LOTL
- ❖ Held monthly afternoon teas
- ❖ Held 6 games days: these will now be every month

- ❖ Held 3 large social events – *Satin & Silk Ball*, *Speed Dating* and a *Comedy Night*
- ❖ Held the inaugural *Lesbian Comedy Gala* for Midsumma 2014.
- ❖ Housed 4 lesbians in Heather's Flats at Social Housing rental rates
- ❖ Received funding for several projects – e.g. Lesbian Volunteer Visitors Program

Been involved with or networked with the following committees/organisations:

- ❖ Women's property Initiatives (Women's Registered Housing Provider)
- ❖ Urban Coup (Intentional Co-housing group)
- ❖ Long Breast Press
- ❖ Lesbians In Community (LIC)
- ❖ Lesbians Inc (LIInc)
- ❖ Coalition of Activist Lesbians (COAL)
- ❖ Jewish Lesbian Group of Victoria (JLGV)
- ❖ Carers' Link (support group for carers)
- ❖ Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria
- ❖ Val's Café (Aims to create safe and inclusive services for LGBT elders)
- ❖ Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society, Latrobe University
- ❖ Department of General Practice, University of Melbourne
- ❖ LGBTI Health Alliance
- ❖ Outrageous Aging (LGBTI Elders Well Being Project)
- ❖ Advisory Group: Improving mental health for older LGBTI Australians,
- ❖ National Aging Research Institute (NARI)
- ❖ Gay and Lesbian Switchboard (supported application for funding for a Volunteer Visitor Program)
- ❖ HACC service Development section of DHS
- ❖ Blue Cross (provider seeking to create a LGBT-specific Aged Care facility)
- ❖

So please give it a go...

We want to know!

Fill in the form or give us a ring

Matrix wants to lead with a zing!!

Email: secretary@matrixguildvic.org.au

Ph: 0419 551 027

Mail: Matrix Guild of Victoria

PO Box 99

Fairfield, Vic 3078



International Women's Day

International Women's Day is celebrated annually on 8 March to recognise women's social, political and economic achievements throughout time and across nations. To mark the occasion this year, Darebin City Council has developed a wonderful suite of free, accessible events that reflect the varied accomplishments of Darebin women.

Key events include:

- ❖ the inaugural *Molly Hadfield Social Justice Oration* on **Thursday 6 March at 6pm**, featuring brilliant speaker Mary Crooks AO (Victorian Women's Trust)
- ❖ *Celebrating Diverse Women* at the Intercultural Centre on **Friday 7 March at 6pm**
- ❖ *Recognising Women in Sports* on **Thursday 13 March at 7pm**, featuring inspiring Olympian Lauren Burns

You can find details about these and the many other events organised across Darebin in the attached brochures or on <http://www.darebin.vic.gov.au/iwd>



The **International Women's Development Agency (IWDA)** is hosting a night of celebration and conversation on Monday, March 3rd at 6.30 pm, for International Women's Day. For details see www.iwda.org.au
Book tickets now at www.acmi.net.au



Lesbian Games Day ***Saturday, March 8th***

The next Games Day will be held on **Saturday 8th March**, which as you will all know, is International Women's Day (IWD). Come along wearing women's suffragette colours of Green (**GIVE**), White (WOMEN) and Violet (**VOTE**). Bring along your stories about IWDs you have celebrated in the past, and of course, bring your favourite games such as scrabble, cards, monopoly, or chess. Women are always welcome to just come for a "cuppa and company".

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

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



The Matrix Guild Of Victoria Inc. proudly presents ***"The Satin & Silk Ball 2014"***. Featuring the awesome talent of ***WENDY STAPLETON*** performing as Doris Day with a splash of Dusty. DJ Trish will be playing your favourites and if you have any special requests please email Sharon @ matrixevents@matrixguildvic.org.au and we will ensure that your request is played on throughout the evening.

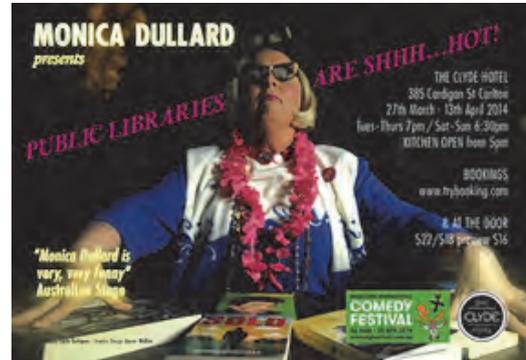
If you are looking for a wonderful night out, great ambience, wonderful company, friendly environment and fabulous entertainment this annual event is a must for your calendar. We look forward to seeing you and your friends joining The Matrix Guild to assist to raise funds for Older Lesbians throughout Victoria.

When: Saturday, 17th May 2014
Time: 7.00 pm – 12.30 am
Where: St. Kilda Town Hall, 99A Carlisle Street, St. Kilda

- ❖ BYO Food and Drinks
- ❖ Tea, Coffee and light snacks available
- ❖ Lucky seat prizes

Contacts: Anna Cook 0448 002 870 or inquiries@matrixguildvic.org.au
Sharon Stanton 0419 99 966 or matrixevents@matrixguildvic.org.au

Support the Comedians Who Supported Us



The **Melbourne International Comedy Festival (MICF)** is about to kick off (27th March – 20th April). Many of the performers who donated their time for the **Lesbian Comedy Gala** have their own shows coming up as part of MICF. If you enjoyed them at Northcote Town Hall, then book a couple of tickets and take your girl or bring a mate.

Monica Dullard: 'Public Libraries are SHHH...HOT'

<http://www.comedyfestival.com.au/2014/season/shows/public-libraries-are-shhh-hot-monica-dullard> <http://www.trybookings.com>

Hannah Gadsby: "The Exhibitionist" <http://www.comedyfestival.com.au/2014/season/shows/the-exhibitionist-hannah-gadsby>

Celia Pacquola: "Let Me Know How It All Works"

Out' <http://www.comedyfestival.com.au/2014/season/shows/let-me-know-how-it-all-works-out-celia-pacquola>

Cal Wilson: 'It Could Have Been Me' <http://www.comedyfestival.com.au/2014/season/shows/it-could-have-been-me-cal-wilson>

Catherine Deveny: 'The Troll-hunter' <http://www.comedyfestival.com.au/2014/season/shows/the-trollhunter-catherine-deveny>

Geraldine Quinn: 'MDMA: Modern Day Maiden Aunt'

<http://www.comedyfestival.com.au/2014/season/shows/mdma-modern-day-maiden-aunt-geraldine-quinn> Or if you liked her songs you can buy them at: www.geraldinequinn.com

Ukulele Ladies: Melbourne Ukulele Festival 7th March <http://www.northcotetownhall.com.au>

ALSO: Clare Bartholomew, Nicci Wilkes, (clowning flyer attached); Geraldine Hickey and Cath Jamison

An Open Invitation

This is an open invitation for all lesbians who would care to help celebrate

Jean Taylor's 70th birthday

*on Saturday 26 April 2014, 5 pm - 10pm
at Jika Jika Community Centre
on the corner of Plant and Union Streets in Northcote
(Melway's map 30 F10; tram 86 along High Street, bus 506, Westgarth train station)*

*Please bring dinner food and beverages to share; sweets will be provided
This will be a story telling evening, so bring stories to tell, sing or enact
for a fun, laughter-filled lesbian party (absolutely NO presents)*

Looking forward to seeing you there. This is a lesbian event for womyn only.

Lesbian Comedy Gala a Spectacular Success!

The inaugural Lesbian Comedy Gala was an amazing night, raising \$9,027 for Matrix. I think we created an evening that will be etched in the memories of many, many lesbians. Well done to everyone involved! There was a big crowd hanging out in the cool of the plaza during interval, repeating the bits they found most hilarious to each other. There was the flood of lesbians flowing past me at the end of night with huge grins on the faces. There was the camaraderie in the crowded Green Room, with the performers chatting, clowning about and enjoying the CWLA's delicious homemade spread. They felt very spoiled and well looked after. *"I had an absolute ball! I would happily have paid to be part of this. How many gigs do you have where the audience give cuddles after the show?"* said Kelly Parry, one of the performers. *"I wish you continuing huge success with it and thanks for giving me the chance to be part of something so fabulous. I'm being hassled in the nicest way by the other million people who missed out on tix. Congratulations!!"*



Monica checked with almost everyone, individually, that they were happy, had everything they needed and then went out on stage as the MC, got everyone laughing uproariously and kept the energy building throughout the night! Guido the clown (AKA Nicci Wilkes) said *"Thank you for a fabulous night. What a hoot. Thanks for looking after us so wellYou were bloody hilarious."*

Jean, although an experienced performer, had never stage-managed before. But she's very careful and particular and she knew what the performers needed. She had a handle on everything, keeping them lined up and ready to go on stage, keeping Sarah on sound informed and even acting as security when her friend (embarrassingly) ran on the stage to kiss Hannah's feet! Sarah, the tech from NTH worked quietly and efficiently in the background, ensuring a

seamless transition between performers and their sound requirements. Anita, an experienced lighting woman, wrestled with the rusty old follow spot on the balcony to make sure that the performers were beautifully illuminated. Margo drew on her own performance and crewing experience to get the props on & off stage when they were required and was amazing in keeping track of Liz's FM transmitter which needed to be transferred between each speaker. Harry worked hard through the afternoon setting up & checking tickets at the door with her usual good humour. Nic designed multiple versions of a brilliant flyer and poster, agreeably making changes as new performers came on board. Linda, my most wonderful partner, kept me on track, focussed and unobtrusively filled in the gaps when I'd forgotten to do something, not just on the day, but for many days preceding the gala. Di, Jane, Sim, Sue, Marg, Dot and Jacqui of the mythical CWLA, spent the previous days baking, shopping and preparing delicious nibbles for the crew and the performers. And then they hosted the performers and crew with generosity and goodwill, eagerly providing wardrobe assistance when required. I think the audience were unsure as to whether the CWLA was a real organisation, which they needed to respect and take seriously, or whether it was just a bit of fun. Let's keep them guessing!

Everyone's work was thoroughly appreciated by the performers, as Nicci said: '*...and thanks to the CWLA ladies for their fine catering and all the other folks who helped make it such a wonderful (night).*' Performers and crew donated their time. So thank you, thank you, thank you!

Here's what one lesbian said who just managed to get a ticket at the last minute: *"It was a FANTASTIC night in many ways: the excellent line-up, the fantastic signers and the crowd-watching/catch-up opportunities. Having been "out of the loop" of events like this, it was a much-appreciated opportunity, and I'll be eagerly booking my tickets WAY ahead of time next year."* I think she probably speaks for several hundred members of the audience. If you weren't there, you can still see the show. We had it professionally recorded. I'll let you know soon when we'll be showing the film.

So next year, keep Saturday 31st January free and get in quick to buy your tickets. We'll have a larger venue, but given the numbers of lesbians who missed out, we expect to sell out again way before the event. We're already planning another exceptional line up of very, very funny performers. Watch this space.

Anneke Deutsch, co-producer

The deadline for the April Newsletter is 29th March. Please send news items and short articles to Rosemary at r.wealthy@bigpond.com

Anneke Deutsch Matrix Guild of Vic Inc
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0416 268 108
r.wealthy@bigpond.com



MEMBERS SURVEY

Is the cost of membership of Matrix Guild , \$15 concession p/a and \$25 full p/a

too high
.....

too low
.....

or about right?
.....

How clearly does our organization explain our goals?

very well
.....

reasonably well
.....

not at all well
.....

How clearly does our organization explain how your contribution will be spent?

very well
.....

reasonably well
.....

not at all well
.....

How likely are you to attend our fundraisers or social functions?

not likely
.....

some events
.....

not at all
.....

MEMBERS SURVEY

What do you like most about Matrix Guild?

What do you like least about Matrix Guild?

What improvements could be made to Matrix Guild?

Would you like to have more involvement with Matrix as a volunteer?

What recommendations do you have for Matrix Guild's future focus?

Any other comments