

Matrix Guild of Victoria Inc.

Newsletter - November 2014

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 ageing lesbians' accommodation choices
- Challenge ageism and 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

Hello Everyone,

One of the things I am noticing as I collect material for the Newsletter is that more resources and supports for lesbians are becoming available all the time. You will see in this edition information about a new support service for older lesbians in Regional Victoria and an on-line data-base with links to all manner of useful resources and services. Times are certainly changing!

If you have a news item or a personal story for the newsletter, please do send it to us. We are keen to include material from the wider Matrix membership.



Victorian Surf Coast support group for older lesbians

The Surf Coast Shire has recently received some funding via the Victorian Government's Home and Community Care (HACC) program to run short term Café Style Support for lesbians over 65 and their carers on the Surf Coast (spanning the area from Torquay to Lorne, Dean's Marsh, Winchelsea, Moriac, Freshwater Creek and communities in between).

If you live in the area and would like to participate, or if you have any suggestions, Michelle Manning would love to have the opportunity to discuss this with you further. She works Mondays – Fridays from 7.45-4.30 and is available via 5261 0690 or mmanning@surfcoast.vic.gov.au.



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DocLIST Links: extensive list of resources for lesbian, bi and queer women

There's now a wonderful new resource for lesbian, bisexual and queer women on the DocLIST website. The new Links section is a table of over 600 national and state-based organisations which may be of interest to lesbian, bisexual and queer women.

Have a look at: www.doclist.com.au/links

You'll find a huge number of groups, organisations, services and other resources. Examples include community events, health services, counselling and support services, social groups, sporting groups, artistic organisations and organisations from which people can get information about legal and human rights issues. Links has been set up as a searchable table - you can search using the search box, or by using the categories. It is possible to search by state, by category, or by both at once. Multiple categories and states can be selected at once. There are brief descriptions about each organisation, and hyperlinks to each organisation's website in the table.



DocLIST itself is an on-line list of doctors and mental health professionals recommended by lesbian and bisexual women. It is a national resource administered by the Australian Lesbian Medical Association. DocLIST has been on-line since 2010 and continues to grow thanks to recommendations by lesbian and bisexual women.

Vale Matrix Games Afternoons

A BIG thank you to all the lesbians who have supported the Matrix Games Days (the 2nd Saturday of every month event). I undertook them and Margo joined me to have them regularly and we have both kept our commitment.

At the Matrix AGM in October, it was agreed by all (including Margo and me) that the games days should stop. The main reason was that participation has dwindled so low. There are 2 or 3 lesbians that still come regularly along with the organisers, but it not a growing or broadly fruitful activity any more.



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On the 2nd Saturday of November, there is a special event featuring Max Dashu and organised by Chris Sitka that has been advertised in the newsletter. We hope as many of you as possible will attend.

Thanks to all who came and enjoyed, and please continue to attend and support Matrix and other lesbian activities.

Big hugs,

Ardy

Check out the Matrix Facebook page – a message from Margo

Please “like” our Matrix Guild Victoria Facebook Page, hang out with us and keep up to date with news items and important resources for older lesbians/lesbian elders in Victoria and other states. Pass the word and explore what’s been posted to this page, from preparations for lesbian wills and funeral wishes, to lesbian doctors to visit, concerts, role models, aged care, political women and fighters, upcoming lesbian events, LGBTI infotoo much to mention! It’s all right here! Lesbians Are Lovely!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/Matrix-Guild-of-Vic-Inc/223994251013284>



A little bit of history.....
our Rainbow Flag

Source: The Australian Lesbian and Gay Archives

“If the pink triangle was the dominant symbol of the gay and lesbian movement of the 1970s and into the 1980s, the rainbow flag has become the symbol of the queer communities of the 1990s and beyond.

The flag was designed by Gilbert Baker in 1978 for San Francisco’s annual gay pride parade. Baker had a long history of political activism, opposing the Vietnam War and later in the gay movement. He was a founding member of the Sisters of Perpetual Indulgence.

He came to doubt the value of the pink triangle symbol as something created by our enemies. (It was used in Nazi concentration camps to identify homosexual prisoners) Baker wanted something that was a product of our own creative efforts and a symbol that expressed the positive aspects of the gay experience.

Our own special flag seemed to fit the bill and the rainbow's cheerfulness appealed. The vibrant colours were seen as reflecting the diversity of the community.

Baker and his volunteers whipped up twenty flags to decorate City Hall in 1978 and such was the reception that he soon moved into mass production.

Although the rainbow now appears everywhere and is widely recognised as a symbol of the queer community, its high point was probably in 1994 when a mile-long version of the flag was carried by thousands of volunteers in the Stonewall 25 parade in New York."



A national oral history project enables lesbian and gay "ordinary" Australians to tell their stories

The National Library of Australia, the Australian Research Council and several of Australia's universities are collaborating to conduct an oral history project which invites lesbians and gays all over the country to record their life stories.

In an article in *The Conversation* earlier this year, authors Robert Reynolds and Shiralee Robinson state "The project will investigate how lesbian and gay individuals have navigated a period of extraordinary social change, and the impact of this transformation on lesbian and gay lives and cultural narratives." Attitudes to homosexuality have changed to the point where current opinion polls suggest that a majority of Australians now support same-sex marriage, and the project aims to explore the nature of this very significant change.

Lesbian and gay Australians from five different generational cohorts will be interviewed, and the resulting data will be archived at the National Library. This is the first comprehensive, nationwide project of its type, although the researchers acknowledge the excellent work on lesbian and gay oral history previously conducted by others. They specifically mention the work of the Australian and Gay Archives in Melbourne.

If you want to read more about the project, you can search online at Australian Lesbian and Gay Life Stories (www.australianlesbianandgaylifestories.org.au/index.php/shareyourstory) You may even wish to complete the on-line application to be interviewed.



The full article by Reynolds and Robinson can be found in the April 2014 edition of The Conversation. (<http://theconversation.com/learning-from-the-lives-of-gay-and-lesbian-australians-25270>)

Gatherings and Social Events

Max Dashu – Melbourne November 2014

Renowned lesbian scholar and the world expert on women's suppressed history.

Mark these dates in your diary

- Thursday 13th November
7-10 pm - Conversation with Max Dashu – a special Q&A session.
(Northcote Town Hall)
- Saturday 22nd November
2-5pm - Witches and Pagans
7-10 pm - Rebel Shamans

Further details: <http://www.suppressedhistories.net/events.html>

Lesbian Comedy Gala 2015

After an uproariously hilarious evening of women's (mostly lesbian) comedy at last year's Midsumma, Monica and Anneke are beavering away planning a bigger and better event for 2015. So make sure you're in Melbourne on Saturday 31st January for the Lesbian Comedy Gala 2015. It's THE hottest lesbian event of the year.

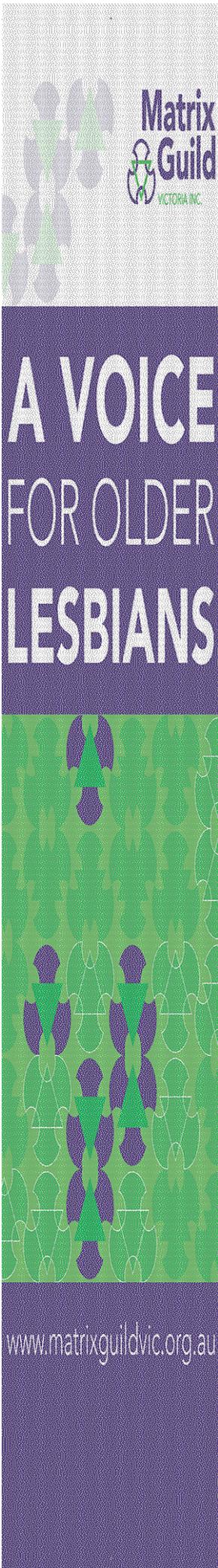


We're moving out to the Preston City Hall – which is a bit bigger – AND we're also hiring the hall next door for the (air conditioned) After Party with great dance music.

Confirmations from the comedians are coming in and it looks like we're going to have another absolutely amazing line up for you – we're just waiting to hear from Hannah Gadsby, Denise Scott and Magda Subanski.

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So far, the confirmed Lesbian Comedy Gala line-up includes:

- **MC, Monica Dullard** (her hilarious, perceptive, rapid fire stories will make you laugh till it hurts);
- **Geraldine Hickey** (brilliantly funny);
- **Shiralee Hood** (winner 'Deadly Funny' Award);
- **Catherine Deveny** (delightfully irreverent);
- **The Ukulele Ladies** (outrageously talented, no song is safe from their hilarious spin);
- **Geraldine Quinn** (this rock comedy diva will have you in stitches);
- **Lori Bell** (winner, Adelaide Comedian of the Year);
- **Bobby Macumber** (she is lively, loud, and instantly engaging);
- **Cath Jamison** (Australia's #1 female magician);
- **Kelly Parry** (comedian lezzo mum extraordinaire);
- **Kirsty Webeck** (will have you laughing out loud);
- **Denise McGuinness** (Deadly Award Winner 2014).

Angela and Karen, of **Angela's Kitchen** will be selling scrumptious food. We'll also have a bar, selling cold and hot drinks. **Doors open for food and drink at 6pm**, so plan to come early for dinner and/or a drink, to meet up with your mates and secure a good seat.

Warning: this show contains a lot of lesbians, and occasional gay friendly comedians! Tickets go on sale towards the end of November. Current Matrix members will get a big discount off the ticket price, so don't forget to renew your membership, due on 11 October.

A fundraiser for Matrix Guild, supporting the lesbian elders' volunteer visitor scheme.



Lavender Ladies

Lavender Ladies is a social walking group for older lesbians. The group is friendly and welcoming to newcomers, and women may choose to come along just for the lunch if they are unable to walk.

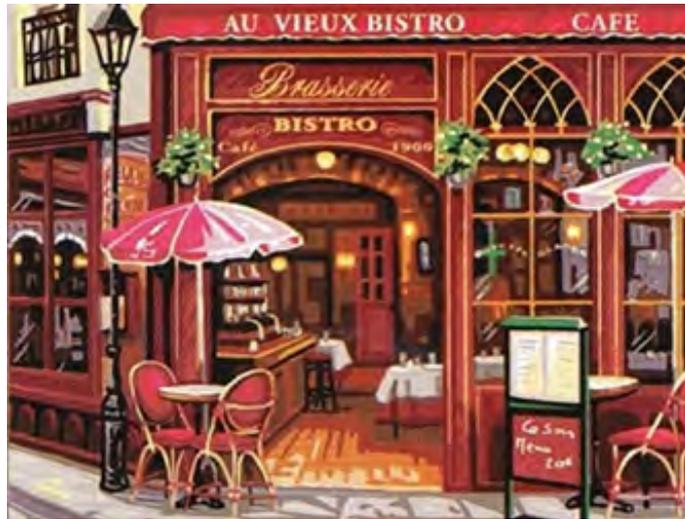
Here are the dates for the last two walks for the year.

Sunday, November 2nd - walk in Warrandyte area, followed by lunch at a local nursery/cafe

Sunday, December 7th - walk in Viewbank parklands, followed by lunch at Rosemary's Viewbank home

If you would like to attend one or both of these events, please contact Rosemary Wealthy on 0416268108 or e-mail r.wealthy@bigpond.com.

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Most of us enjoy chatting with old friends and meeting new ones, especially over a scrumptious lunch! Next year MAD (women Making a Difference) is hosting occasional Sunday lunches for older lesbians to socialise, so come along for a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon. The venues will be inner-city restaurants.

Women attending the lunches will be invited to make a donation to support the education of girls in developing countries. More information about this will be given at the first lunch.

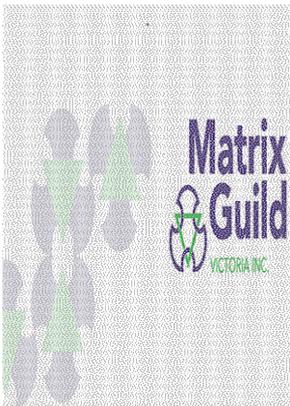
The first gathering will be on January 25th, during Midsumma of course! Details will follow in the December Newsletter. Matrix members and friends are cordially invited.

Watch this space!

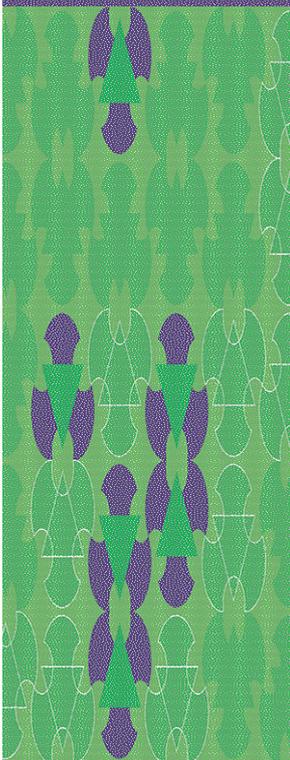


Membership Fees Due

This year, we're introducing special perks and discounts for members. If you're a paid up, full member, you'll get up to \$15 off your ticket price for the Lesbian Comedy Gala! Since membership is still only \$25 full and \$15 it's well worth becoming a member. Membership fees are now overdue. If you have renewed already, thank you! If not, please make sure you renew your membership today. If you've changed your email address or any contact details, please email Linda at membership@matrixguildvic.org.



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au or post us your current details.
You can renew by EFT to:

Matrix Guild of Victoria Inc
Bendigo Bank, Preston
BSB: 633 000
ACCOUNT NO: 144 565 546
Ref: Your name
(So we know who the money's from)

OR

By cheque/money order, posted to:
Matrix Guild of Victoria,
PO Box 99, Fairfield, Vic, 3078

OR

Just visit our website for details and to download a membership form: <http://www.matrixguildvic.org.au/membership.htm>

OR..... call Anneke and she'll post you one: 0427 482 976.

Please don't forget to renew – the more members we have, the more powerful we are as a lobby group.

The deadline for the next Newsletter is 28th November.

Please send news items and short articles to Rosemary at r.wealthy@bigpond.com

Anneke Deutsch Matrix Guild of Vic Inc secretary@matrixguildvic.org.au

