

Matrix Guild of Victoria Inc.

Newsletter - October 2015

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,

We hope you enjoyed the chance to kick up your heels at the Tea Dance last Saturday; read Chris's report under Social Events.

The Matrix AGM is an important date for your diary, and you will find the details under Matrix News. Thriving organisations need members who want to have their say and become involved, so join us for the Annual General Meeting, renew your membership and enjoy the chance to catch up with friends.

Wills, Powers of Attorney, Guardianships made easy!

Is your Will and Power of Attorney up to date? Is it something you've been meaning to do, but just hasn't happened?

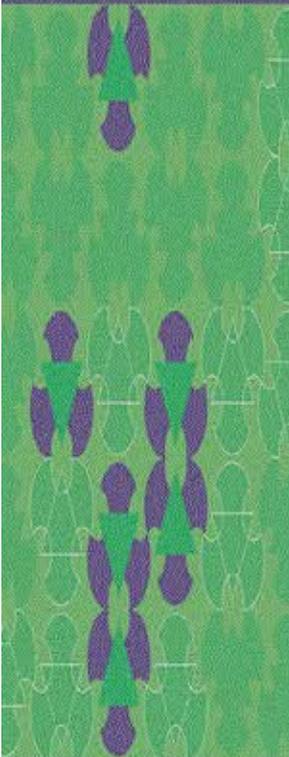


You can do it for free, in a friendly, social environment. On **Saturday 10th October, 2pm-5pm**, Matrix member, Colleen Woolley will conduct a workshop on what you need to do to get your affairs in order. Colleen has been a Justice of the Peace (JP) for 16 years and specialises in helping people organise their Enduring Powers of Attorney, both Financial and Medical, as well as Enduring Power of Guardianship. She provides all the paperwork needed and is qualified to witness documents for you.

All you have to do is determine who will act for you. Obviously, this must be someone you trust implicitly as they will have control of all your affairs. Preferably, you will have two people to act for you; say, your partner (if you have one) and a second, backup person just in case you and your partner were both crossing the road in front of that tram. Ideally, both those people would be available



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(and can also do their own Powers) at the same time as they will need to sign that they accept the responsibility. Simple Wills can also be done.

Afternoon tea will be provided.

Wills, EPOA, Guardianship Workshop (free for Matrix members, you can join on the day)

When: Saturday 10th October, 2pm-5pm

**Where: Jika Jika Community Centre
Corner Plant & Union Streets, Northcote**

Can't make the workshop? Colleen lives in Diamond Creek and you are welcome to go to her home office to complete the papers. If you are genuinely unable to make the trip, Colleen is happy to go to your home to help you complete the required forms.

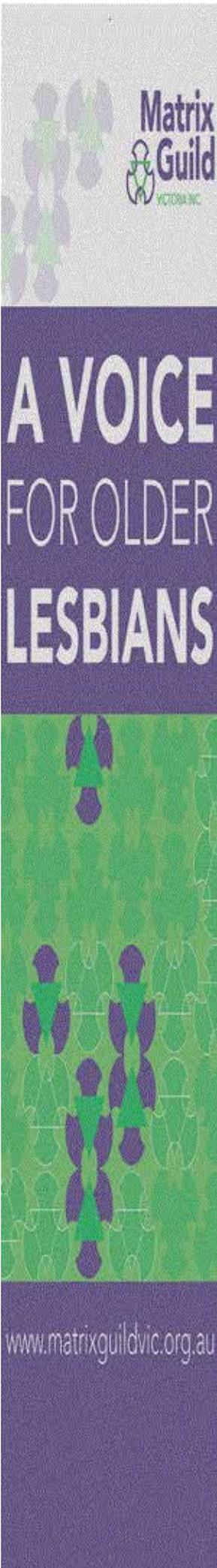
This service is available as of now. Just contact Colleen to make a mutually convenient time on 9438 5137 or email: colleenw48@bigpond.com

Lesbian Health Focus Group- Participants Needed



Some of you may have met young Annabelle and Bec at the dance on Saturday. They and two of their colleagues, Alyssa and Anne, are Physiotherapy PhD students, who as part of their doctorate are doing a project about how to engage with marginalised communities to improve the health outcomes of that group. Three of these young women are lesbian, and the fourth experienced first- hand on a placement how a dying lesbian's partner was treated very poorly by hospital staff. She resolved that she wanted to do something to improve health matters for lesbians.

They want to talk to us about how we perceive our health needs, in order to create a health promotion project that will be relevant and useful for us. Their focus group will



be held immediately after the Wills, EPOA & Guardianship Workshop:

Saturday 10th October, 5 - 6pm

Jika Jika Community Centre, Corner Plant & Union Streets, Northcote

**LET'S TALK
ABOUT IT!**
Annual General Meeting

The graphic features the text 'LET'S TALK ABOUT IT!' in large, bold, green and blue letters, with 'Annual General Meeting' in smaller blue text below it. The background is white with a faint, light blue circular pattern.

The Matrix AGM will be held at:

2:30 pm on Wednesday, 28th October 2015

Venue: Women's Health in the North

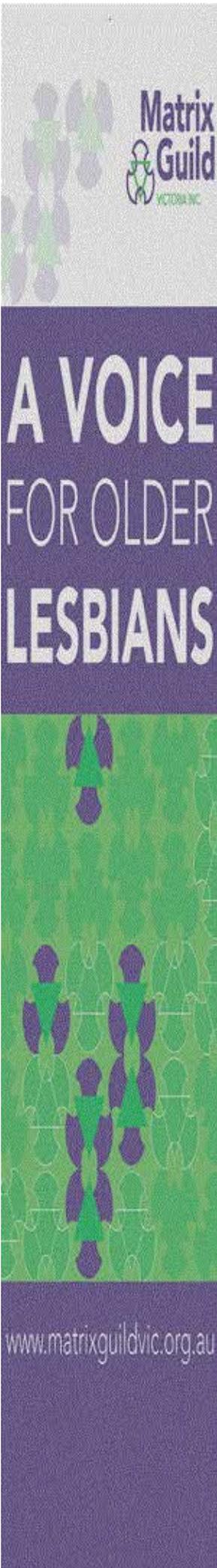
680 High St. Thornbury (corner of Raleigh St. & High St, one block north of the Normanby Ave/High St intersection).

Snacks, tea and coffee will be provided. The business of the meeting will be over quickly, so come along and stay for a cuppa and a chat afterwards. Apologies to those who work on a Wednesday, but we couldn't find a weekend day that suited the committee and we need them to attend to re-nominate. If you'd like be part of the inner core of Matrix, we'd love more members.



Membership fees DUE on 28th October

Come along to the AGM, catch up with your mates, make some new friends, bring your **\$15 or \$25 and pay your membership dues**. Matrix is only as strong as the number of members she has. If you support the things we do – lesbian housing, support, social opportunities, the Comedy Gala, research, advocacy to government and other bodies - then make sure you maintain your membership. If you want to keep in touch with what's happening, and keep receiving our marvellous monthly newsletter make sure you pay your dues.



You can renew on–line with our updated membership form or you can call and we’ll send you one.

Click here to renew:

<http://www.matrixguildvic.org.au/membership.htm>

Or call Anneke on 0427 482 976 or email: secretary@matrixguildvic.org.au to get a membership form mailed to you.



LIGHTS - CAMERA - ACTION!

ZOOM into Ballarat!

Come and see the short films on the theme of **respectful relationships** that have been produced as part of the **Zoom** short film competition. All money raised goes to **WRISC**, an organisation which supports women and children who have been affected by domestic violence. (Some of you may know **Nic Phillips**, who has made a film for this festival)

When: Wed 21st October at 7pm.

Zoom film festival tickets are only \$12/\$15 and you can purchase them online at:

<http://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/zoom-film-premiere-tickets-18641313671?aff=es2>

WRISC (Women’s Resource Information & Support Centre) exists to change the lives of women and children affected by family violence. Violence (or abuse) can take many forms and includes:

- isolating from family and friends
- controlling access to money or how it is spent
- name calling, belittling and putdowns
- making all the decisions and controlling what she does
- preventing practicing of cultural or spiritual beliefs
- intimidation
- making threats
- physically harming
- sexualised violence



WRISC believes that everyone has the right to be safe, to be treated equally and to have access to the same opportunities as everyone else. People at WRISC know that violence of any kind denies people these rights.

WRISC helps to provide safety, support, information, advocacy, children’s counselling, court support, and case management. It provides services across the Central Highlands region of Victoria, and the service is free and confidential.

Read more about the work of WRISC at their website: -

<http://www.wrisc.org.au/>

PAP smear survey



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**Have a cervix
& are
LGBTI or same sex attracted?**

Participate in an exciting new survey into the cervical screening behaviour of LGBTI and same sex attracted people in Victoria.

Completely confidential and anonymous, this online survey takes 15 to 20 minutes and will help with the development of resources and inclusive health care.

Click to take the survey

 **Cancer Council**
Victoria

 **PapScreen**
Victoria

For information:
Associate Professor Sue Dyson
The Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health & Society
Email: S.Dyson@latrobe.edu.au
Phone 01 9479 8770
Ethics approval La Trobe University: 515/115





**GAYBY
BABY**

If you missed out on tickets to the Gayby Baby documentary and you live near Ballarat, a lesbian group there are putting on a screening at the Regent on Sunday 18th October at 4:15pm. Tickets need to be purchased in advance by 11th October at:

<https://www.tugg.com/events/47683>

GLOBE Community Awards Night



GLOBE is celebrating achievement in Victoria's LGBTI community at an awards evening on Friday, October 16th at the Myer Mural Hall at 6.30 pm.

The awards highlight the work of all types of organisations that benefit or unite the LGBTI community, and recognise the outstanding work and contribution of individuals in our community.

The awards will be hosted by Hannah Gadsby.

For information and queries contact: awards@globemelbourne.com.au

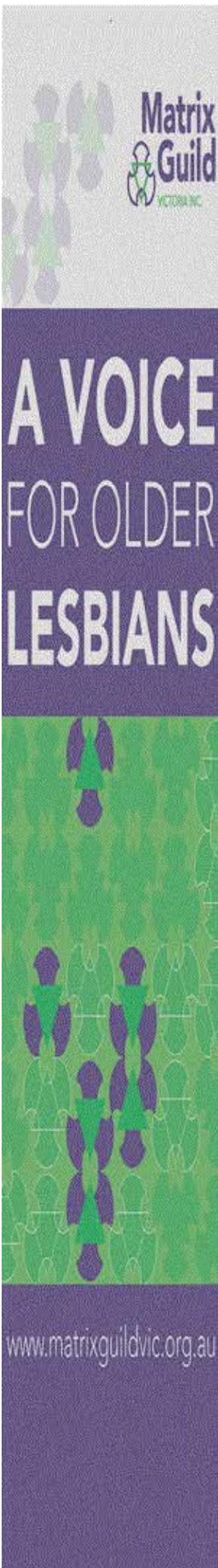


Human rights and freedoms for all?

At the recent United Nations Summit that has just been held in New York, a draft set of global Sustainable Development Goals were agreed on by the countries present. The goals include statements which address discrimination and violence against the LGBTI community.

LOTL's Annalese Davis reports: -

At an annual United Nations meeting, a dozen agencies issued a joint call imploring countries to end violence against LGBT individuals. The goals are clearly defined in The Sustainable Development Goals program. The UN outlines "ambitious targets" relating to poverty, equality, and climate change for the 193 member states. The goals pledge that "human rights and fundamental freedoms are enjoyed by all, without discrimination on grounds of race, ethnicity, colour, sex, age, language, religion, culture, migration status, political or other opinion, national or social origin, economic situation, birth, disability or other status." 76 states with laws criminalizing same-sex relationships between consenting adults have been urged to repeal the laws. The statement addresses how "violence and discrimination against LGBT individuals have far-reaching effects on society and even economic growth."



Matrix Social Events



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Social Tea Dance – a report from Chris

Matrix ran a Social Tea Dance for members and friends on the afternoon of Saturday 26th September. It was a rockin' n rollin' success. The cosy hall was packed, and the lesbians whirled around the dance floor like dervishes. Matrix's new sound system effectively pumped out the dance music under the control of our DJ Kerry. There was lots of chit chat between members who sat out the odd dance to catch their breath and catch up.

The trestle tables groaned under the weight of nibbles and cakes and snacks brought by the eager socialites of the older lesbian community. The organisers are now chewing their way slowly through the cornucopia which remained un-eaten! (Probably because everyone was too busy talking, meeting new women and dancing, and dancing, and then dancing some more)

Yes, we had slow dances for the vertically challenged - but many of us still managed a wild "Zorba The Greek" session, which the DJ mercifully ended a bit early.

We even had a few young lesbians come along. Friends of Matrix supported us; and they told us they thoroughly enjoyed themselves too! Young Cathy even joined Chris in an exhibition of Ukrainian dancing.

Yes, not only the show offs, but also the 'wallflowers' found the atmosphere friendly, relaxed and inclusive. I think we would all still be there but for the fact that some early leavers wanted to help out with some of the clean up and started putting their chairs away. It spread like a virus. "Someone is packing up; I'd better be helpful too!" Panic took over and suddenly everyone was packing up, which was a lucky thing, because after setting up, and then three hours non-stop dancing, it took us a bit longer to pack up than anticipated.

Since this event proved so popular and so superbly enjoyable we will be organising another Social Tea Dance in early March.

Chris Sitka

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The Café Crowd go “Over the Road”

Vera and Carole invite you to join us for coffee, conversation, connection and maybe a game of Rummy O each Thursday at ‘Over The Road’ cafe on Victoria Rd, Northcote. We want to create a weekly lesbian gathering place to catch up with old friends and meet new ones. Come along and join us anytime between 12 and 3pm on Thursdays, starting from October 29th.

Just turn up, or if you want more information phone Carole 0437 891 981 or Vera 0434 728 309.

“Over the Road” Café – Melways Map Ref 30 H10. Nearest train station is Dennis, on Hurstbridge line.

Come along to the October Matrix Games / Social afternoon

This will be the last of the monthly Wednesday games afternoons, so come and play your favourite games or just have a cuppa in lesbian company. Gold coin donations help fund refreshments.

When: 2.15– 5.00 pm on Wednesday 21st Oct.

Where: 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.

Questions: – call Anneke on 0499 182
911



Lesbian Comedy Gala 2016



Monica Dullard, Comedienne

Our big, annual fund-raiser is happening again on **Saturday 30th January 2016**. So save the date! Anneke and Monica are booking up another impressive line-up of women comedians, with a bias towards lots of very funny lesbian performers.

It will be held again at the Preston City Hall with the adjoining Shire Hall buzzing with a café, bar and after-show dance party. This event has proven to be the most popular event for lesbians on the Midsumma calendar, selling out in the first week in January. So don't wait for Carnival Day to buy your tix – you'll be disappointed. Tix go on sale towards the end of November, so keep an eye on this newsletter and you'll be the first to hear updates. Once again, Matrix members will get also get a substantial discount on their tickets.

Spring Gathering

For the past eleven years there has been a Spring gathering for lesbians in Victoria. It is held over what is called the Melbourne Cup weekend and is an occasion for merriment, eating yummy vegetarian food prepared by the Kitchen Crew (three of our group who have volunteered) and generally having a very relaxed time away from the city (for many of us).

This gathering is informal although there are often regular events held, such as a concert, showing of lesbian movies, market etc and lots of games (cards and so on).

This year the gathering will be held on the following dates:

Saturday 31st October (afternoon) to Tuesday 3rd November 2015 (morning)

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The venue is not far from Bendigo and is set in bushland. The accommodation is comfortable and spacious (dormitory style) and the organisers do their best to cater for those with special needs (health, diet etc). In Spring it can often be cold but there are fireplaces which we are free to use and who doesn't love gathering around an open fire. Everyone who attends helps out with whatever needs to be done to ensure a successful event.

If you would like to attend, send an email to: adekatecampreunion@gmail.com and the camp organisers will send you a registration form.

Please note that this is a private lesbian event and attendance is by invitation only.



The deadline for the next Newsletter is 27th October, 2015.

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

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