

Matrix Guild of Victoria Inc.

Newsletter - September 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 have put the date for the Matrix dance in your September calendar. Come along and dance away the winter blues! Read on for all the details. This month we talk about several initiatives related to equality and empowerment for the LGBTI community – the recent **Marriage Equality Rally**, the new documentary film **Gaby Baby**, and the youth initiative **Wear it Purple**. The times they are a'changin'.....

Matrix Social - A Chance to Dance!



Finally a chance to dance with lesbian friends! If you like to kick up your heels come along for a casual and friendly afternoon. It's also a chance to catch up and chat.

Afternoon Tea Dance and Social for Matrix members and friends

When: Saturday 26th September 2.30 pm till 5 pm

Where: Clyde Street Community Hall 64 Clyde St. Thornbury (Melways Ref 30 J6) Near Bus Route 250 & 251.

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LESBIANS





RSVP: No bookings required but please reply to give us an idea of numbers. RSVP to chrisitka@fastmail.com.au by Friday, September 18th

Price: Matrix members –\$5 Not a member? Join Matrix on the day for FREE entry! Full price for non-members - \$10 Concession price for non-members - \$7

Refreshments: Matrix will provide some nibbles, but it would be much appreciated if you can bring a plate of something yummy to share. Tea and Coffee supplied.

Note: Council regulations forbid alcohol on premises.

Gaby Baby

..there's more than one way to make a family!



Gaby Baby is an Australian-made film about same-sex families. It is a living, moving portrait of four kids – Gus, Ebony, Matt and Graham – whose parents all happen to be gay. As they each wrestle with the challenges of oncoming adolescence, the outside world wrestles with the issue of marriage equality, and whether or not kids like them are at risk. The film raises the question “What is a 21st century family?”

What the reviewers say.....

“Exceptionally inspiring and genuinely heart-warming.” – Scene creek

“A tender, intimate and unmissable look into the personal lives of families who are needlessly politicised.” – Benjamin Law, author

“Powerful and moving. (I’ve) yet to show it to an audience that hasn’t been left emotional by the film’s end” – Nashen Moodly, Sydney Film Festival Director

Gaby Baby has been nominated for Best Australian Documentary at the AACTAs. Preview screenings in Sydney and Melbourne received rave reviews. The film is to be launched in Melbourne at 6.30pm on September 2nd at the Cinema Nova and will be followed by a Q & A session with the film-makers. Regular screenings commence in Melbourne on September 3rd. The film is also being launched in Bendigo at the Star Theatre on September 6th, followed by a Q & A. Check out the website here: <http://thegaybyproject.com/about-the-film/>

Come along to the Matrix Games / Social afternoons

The Matrix Games and Social afternoons are back at Jika Jika Community Centre. Below is a list of the dates for the rest of the year. The heater will be on, so come along on **Wednesday 21st October at 2:15pm** for some lovely lesbian company, play a few games if you feel like it and have a hot cuppa. Entry: gold coin donation to help pay for the snacks and hot drinks.

Westgarth train station is almost across the road from the centre or there's plenty of parking in the surrounding streets.



- **Wednesday 21st October, 2-5pm, Jika Jika Community Centre, Small Hall, cnr Plant and Union Streets, Northcote**
- Wednesday 18th November, 2-5pm, Jika Jika Community Centre, Small Hall, cnr Plant and Union Streets, Northcote
- Wednesday 16th December, 2-5pm, Jika Jika Community Centre, Small Hall, cnr Plant and Union Streets, Northcote

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

Questions? Call Amanda (facilitator) on 0434 870 549 or Anneke on 0427 482 976

Lesbian Comedy Gala 2016



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, 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.

Marriage Equality Rally in Melbourne ...were you there?



(Photo: The Age, August 16, 2015)

If you were passing the State Library in Melbourne on the afternoon of Saturday, August 15th, you would have witnessed the strength of support for marriage equality in our city.

A report in The Age the next day said:-

"Days after a majority of government MPs voted to maintain the Coalition's position against legalising same-sex marriage, thousands of people gathered in the CBD to take part in the city's biggest marriage equality demonstration yet. Speaking at the event, Opposition Leader Bill Shorten reiterated his promise that if Labour won the next election, he would introduce a bill to legalise marriage equality within the first 100 days of office.

"This week Mr Abbott and his right-wing Liberals broke the heart of the nation," Mr Shorten said. "They are holding Australia back. It should not be the case that people are treated as a second-class citizen merely because of who they love... Why is Mr Abbott so stuck in the past that he's worried about who someone else marries? Get a life!"

Read more here:

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/thousands-rally-for-samesex-marriage-20150815gizr8a.html>

Presentation to OT Students



Penny Abrahams gave a presentation to Monash University Occupational Therapy (OT) students in August. Penny let them know about what the world is like from an older lesbian perspective, what kind of services we might prefer and how to use inclusive, rather than heterosexist language.

Thanks Penny for volunteering to help with this speaking engagement!

Wear It Purple



Wear it Purple is the initiative of a group of young people who believe that no one should be subject to “bullying, belittlement or invalidation” because of their gender or sexual identity. They want all “rainbow young people” to be safe and able to thrive in their own environment.

The group state on their website that they see their role as six-fold:-

EDUCATE society about sexuality and gender diversity

CELEBRATE diversity

ADVOCATE by being the voice of rainbow young people

EMPOWER rainbow young people to be active in their environments

CHALLENGE harmful social cultures

SUPPORT rainbow young people to show them they are not alone

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August 28th – “Wear it Purple Day”

The **Wear it Purple** group want rainbow young people everywhere to be proud of who they are, so they have nominated Friday, August 28th as a special day when individuals, workplaces and schools can wear purple to show their support for diversity.

How wonderful that young people are driving change in this way!

Read more.....<http://www.wearitpurple.org>

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 (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.



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

Could you be a Volunteer Visitor?



Growing older brings its joys and challenges. It can bring feelings of loneliness and isolation. It might bring more interaction with services and family and they may or may not be lesbian friendly. Some older lesbians miss the company of their peers. Matrix has a visiting service where a lesbian volunteer meets with an isolated older lesbian in her home for a minimum of two visits per month.

The visitors are supported by a coordinator, covered by insurance and receive a small travel allowance to cover their costs.

Would you consider volunteering?

Do you know someone who would like a visitor?

If there's enough interest, we will be running another training day for any lesbians interested in becoming a part of this program on Saturday 12th September 10am-4pm. These days are held every 6 to 12 months.

The training is free and is provided by a very well respected, experienced social worker. Lunch, tea and coffee provided.

For more information contact Anna Cook on inquiries@matrixguildvic.org.au or on 0448 002 870



The deadline for the next Newsletter is 27th September, 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

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