

Matrix Guild of Victoria Inc.

Newsletter - September 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,

Spring is here, and I am noticing all the colourful blossom in parks and gardens. The wattles are superb, and the birds are busy nest-building. It's a lovely time of year!

When you read the newsletter, I hope you will be impressed by the number of positive projects and initiatives that are in progress, all of which relate to making life better for the LGBTI community. We encourage you to participate where you can.

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. Even being lesbian friendly isn't really enough. Some older lesbians miss lesbian company. Matrix is planning a visiting service where lesbian volunteers will meet with isolated older lesbians in their homes or residences for a minimum of two hours per month. The visitors will be supported by a coordinator and receive induction training. They will be covered by insurance and will receive a small travel allowance for visits.

Do you know someone who would like a visitor?



Would you consider volunteering? Our first training day will be held in Northcote on Saturday 20th September 10am-4pm. Lunch will be provided and the training is free.

For more information or to register for the day, please contact Anna Cook on inquiries@matrixguildvic.org.au or on **0448 002 870**

A VOICE
FOR OLDER
LESBIANS

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Gatherings and Social Events



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**.

This 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 your favourite lesbian musicians. Confirmations from the comedians are trickling in and it looks as though we're going to have another absolutely amazing line up for you.

Tickets go on sale towards the end of November.

Matrix Games Afternoons

Second Saturday of the Month

The next Games Day will be held on **Saturday 13th September** and the following month on **Saturday 11th October**. Bring your favourite games such as scrabble, cards, mah-jong, 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 you don't have transport, 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

Matrix is on Facebook

Go to our Facebook page for more information on lots of things. 'Like' our page to be kept up-to-date: **Matrix Guild of Vic Inc. Facebook page**

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Lavender Ladies

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Do you enjoy a leisurely Sunday stroll with friends? Do you enjoy catching up with friends over a relaxed lunch? If so, then *Lavender Ladies* might be for you! Read on.....

Lavender Ladies is a social walking group for older lesbians. It began in 2008, and has been going ever since. On the first Sunday of each month, one of the women in the group organises and leads a walk, which is always followed by lunch at an inexpensive cafe somewhere nearby. *Lavender Ladies* is not an incorporated organisation; it is a friendship group which started with a mere handful of women, and now has a mailing list of nearly 50.

The original purpose of the group was to have some healthy exercise in the company of friends, but over the years the group has also become an avenue for women to meet and socialise. Walks are generally one to one -and -a half hours in length. The locations vary from suburban park lands to beaches to bush walks just outside Melbourne. This year we had one of our walks in Anglesea, and another in the rainforest at Warburton. However, the majority of the walks are in suburban Melbourne.

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.

If you are interested in learning more about *Lavender Ladies*, please contact Rosemary Wealthy on **0416268108** or e-mail r.wealthy@bigpond.com.

The deadline for the next Newsletter is 28th September. Please send news items and short articles to:

- Rosemary at r.wealthy@bigpond.com
- Anneke Deutsch, Matrix Guild of Vic Inc. at secretary@matrixguildvic.org.au