



# Ten Forty Matrix Newsletter

September 2012

[www.olderdykes.org](http://www.olderdykes.org)

## Esther's Nine Lives

**6.00 pm**

**Saturday 6 October**

**Dinner and book launch**

### Esther in discussion with Rob

Our next dinner and discussion event features the Sydney launch of Esther's book.

Esther's story begins in Chile in 1939 and reveals the many difficulties of being a lesbian in those times. Few women can have survived so many near death experiences with such aplomb. Perhaps this is what makes Esther special. Her autobiography covers lesbianism, feminism, South America, surviving persecution, indigenous cultures, migration, travel, and the spiritual regeneration offered by nature.

There will be a chance for women to ask questions of Esther.

**Mervyn Fletcher Hall, 81 Dalhousie Street (cnr Dixon St), Haberfield**

**BYO food to share and your own drinks.**

**Entry fee: \$10 fully waged, \$5 concession.**

Entry to the Mervyn Fletcher hall is in Dixon Street. There is unrestricted parking in Dixon St after 6pm.

By bus, catch the 436 or 438 buses which set down on the corner of Ramsay Road and Dalhousie Street.

## Dykes for Dinner

**Thursday 11 October**

**6 for 6.30pm**

**love.fish**

580 Darling Street, Rozelle

Mains: \$14-\$22 BYO \$2 corkage per person  
Please note: Numbers are limited to the first 12.

Book by Sunday 7 October via email

[contact@olderdykes.org](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org)

**Thursday 8 November**

**6 for 6.30pm**

**Banana Palm**

260 Arden Street, Coogee. Book

by Sunday 4 November via email

[contact@olderdykes.org](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org)

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## Social Events

**Wednesday 10 October**

**Riverboat Postman Hawkesbury River**

**Limited places available**

The Riverboat departs at 10am from Brooklyn Public Wharf and returns at 1.15pm

\$44 for Seniors - morning tea and Ploughman's lunch included.

A train leaves Central for Hawkesbury River Station at 8.45am and arrives at 9.45am. A return train leaves at 2.32. The station is right next to the Public Wharf.

By road: F3 and take the exit towards Mooney Mooney/Brooklyn Route 83. Follow signs to Brooklyn Road.

If it's raining it will be cancelled. If in doubt please check with Daniela.

To confirm you are coming, please contact Daniela by the Sunday 30 September via email [contact@olderdykes.org](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org)

## Trams Galore

**11am**

**Saturday 13 October**

Meet at the Sydney Tramway Museum which is located right next to Loftus station. The main entrance is a 75 metre walk from the station. To confirm you are coming, please book by the Monday 8 October via email [contact@olderdykes.org](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org) If raining it will be cancelled. If in doubt please check with Janne.

**Twilight picnic at Ballast Point, East Balmain**

**From 5pm on the upper level**

**Sunday 18 November**

There is free parking in Ballast Point Road and nearby. There is also a toilet. Bring food, drinks, etc. If raining it will be cancelled. If in doubt please check via email [contact@olderdykes.org](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org)

## A Night of Rights

### Reports from the Ten Forty dinner and discussion evening on 4 August 2012

The topic for the night was 'Gay Marriage: Reformist Rubbish or a Great Leap Forward?' The topic was proposed by Margot who produced a paper on the subject and moderated the discussion with help from Helen. Thanks to both for a really well balanced evening - we all tried hard to make sure every woman was heard. The fact that 34 women turned up all eager to listen and to have a say was very encouraging. Our recent survey had brought out the fact that we older dykes are keen for topical and thought-provoking discussion.

One of the main feelings reiterated by many was that marriage in the hetero tradition was not a model that we would necessarily want to emulate. There was a strong feeling that we were individuals and should be treated as such by the government and society at large, rather than as a partner, often undervalued, in a marriage. We had come a long way from the old butch-femme dichotomy and it would be retrograde to adopt traditional style marriage.

There was also a strong feeling that the rights of singles were much subordinated to the rights of 'the family' anyway, especially with regard to finances. The role of the churches was dealt with briefly - less important now that there are other formal and acceptable ways of being married. Although the opposition of churches continues to be a problem for those who value their faith.

The role of Centrelink and the havoc it has caused in our finances by treating us as couples rather than singles, was vigorously discussed. While the other changes to our rights have been made much of by government, the fact that we were given no 'grandfather' clause for same-sex couples and were suddenly treated as couples with a resultant reduction of our entitlements, was bitterly resented. No heed was given to the fact that older women in long term relationships had planned their finances on the understanding that they had always been treated as single and not financially reliant on their partner. The government could easily have applied the changes to those under

forty, and left those over forty as they were. The resultant cost to government would have been minimal. The general feeling was that all pensions and benefits should be granted on an individual basis.

Gay marriage rights would have some impact on superannuation and make it easier to leave one's super to one's partner. Otherwise the impact would be symbolic rather than financial and of course gay divorce would then be part of the equation.

However the symbolic aspect is very important. There is no doubt we have made many gains - think back to the closeted situation we all lived in as recently as 20 years ago. And once gay marriage is law it gives us proper equal status. And laws, once made, are hard to repeal. As a group we had to take on board the fact that most of us are over 40 and the feelings of young dykes on this are clearly different, judging by the pages of LOTL.

But the last word goes to those who wanted to marry their cat! This is definitely an untapped market for celebrants, luxury cat food providers and honeymoon destinations. And what will our pussies do with all that superannuation?

*Jan*

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## Dates for your diaries

### Dykes end-of-year dinner

**Thursday 13 December**

**6 for 6.30pm @ Finola's**

Balmain Bowling Club, 130 Darling Street, Balmain

### Ten Forty Matrix Solstice end-of-year party

**Saturday 15 December 7pm St Peters**

### The Edna Ryan Awards

**Friday 9 November 2012 at Sydney Trades Hall.**

**For bookings <http://www.ednaryan.net.au/bookings>**

# The Political Persecution of Australia's First Female Prime Minister

By Anne Summers AO Ph.D

2012 Human Rights and Social Justice Lecture

University of Newcastle

31 August 2012

Her Rights at Work (R-rated version)

<http://annesummers.com.au/speeches/her-rights-at-work-r-rated/>



Anne Summers

The above link contains the unexpurgated R-rated version of my speech. Be aware it contains confronting images and language. If you are easily offended, you may prefer to read a **Vanilla version** from which the images and video links have been removed. Those with strong stomachs can also explore the Appendix of supplementary information. I have compiled this material, not to titillate nor to reward the people who have generated it, but because I felt it was important that we ordinary citizens and voters be aware of the obscene and offensive material that is circulating about our prime minister and our governor general. As

I say at the end of the speech, we have to stop this and each of us as individuals can say: It Stops with Me.

© Anne Summers 2012

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## The Three Rs: Rights, Roadblocks and Resilience - A Challenge to Ageism

The Three Rs forum was organised by the Older Women's Network of NSW Forum and held at the NSW Parliament House on 16 August, 2012. The idea of the Forum grew out of our experiences as older women. We know from experience that we are either ignored thus made invisible or we are identified as a problem with the potential to

inflict all sorts of dire effects on younger generations. But we are, in part, the products of our history. For some it's been lucky, for others fraught with difficulties or everything in between. As women we share the consequences of our biology and the discrimination this has attracted which for many, now means an inevitable slide into poverty as we age.

But, we are resilient, we represent the new age of old age! We strive to be healthy and engaged.

To be an inclusive and 'fair' society, governments must recognise the great diversity that we represent, the obstacles that limit our capacity to continue to contribute to our own wellbeing and that of society. We need a commitment from them to ensure that policies and programs are both gender and age specific, that they are not, in effect, discriminatory.

This Forum addressed some of those impediments and devised Strategies for Change to chart our course to a more positive future, and celebrate the resilience of all women.

*Dr Sonia Laverty,*

*Chairperson, OWN NSW*

Forum Presentations available for download:

- The Hon Susan Ryan AO, Age Discrimination Commissioner: **AHRC Rights Resilience Roadblocks**. Also for the **Power Point Presentation**.
- Denele Crozier, Executive Officer, **Women's Health NSW: Rights, Responsibility, Respect**. Also for the **Power Point Presentation**.
- Professor Barbara Pocock, Director, Centre for Work and Life, University South Australia: **Economics, well-being and working women: Rights, Road Blocks and Resilience** Also for the **Power Point Presentation**.
- **OWN NSW INC: Strategies for Change**.
- **OWN NSW INC: 3RS Opening Titles**. Also for the **Power Point Presentation**.

For more information, please contact the OWN NSW Coordinator. Tel: 02 9247 7046 Email: [info@ownnsw.org.au](mailto:info@ownnsw.org.au)



**Do you want to live in a good society rather than just an economy? Do you want the decisions made at the top to be fair and sustainable? Then you should join our Dinner Party network.**

Sharing some food and a good talk continues an Australian tradition – exchanging ideas, talking about the world and how to improve it. It also puts discussions back into home and community spaces where we all can feel comfortable. The network is an informal group of people looking for ideas for social changes so we need your ideas for making Australia a better place to live in. All you have to do is hold a dinner party, then tell us what was said!

Invite your friends around to share ideas on the kind of society you all want to live in and how you think we can get there. This is our way of hearing from a wide range of people who feel their views are not being heard in the media or via major political parties. If you have ideas for what makes a good society, here's the forum to share them with more people.

The process is easy: keep a record the ideas and discussions and send it to us. To find out more, please go to

[www.thedinnerparty.net.au](http://www.thedinnerparty.net.au) and register. We will then send you what you need to start your guests talking about the society they would like to live in.

Once you send in your ideas, we'll collate and promote them. This will encourage more public conversations about how to make a good society work better. We hope to encourage better policy making and action. You will get feedback too!

If you want to see more informed public debates about the futures we want, contribute your views. We hope to change the limited current political agendas by publicising and advocating shared views about what makes a good society.

Lots of different people, talking over food, will provide the food for thought we all need to make Australian society even better.

*Eva Cox,  
Convenor*

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## About Ten Forty Matrix

Ten Forty Matrix is an informal group of lesbians over forty, many of whom have been socially and politically active in Sydney since 1987.

We enjoy discussion and debate on the issues we face in work, life and at home, and hold regular fun events to keep us in touch with the lighter side of life.

Ten years ago we established the website [www.olderdykes.org](http://www.olderdykes.org) to encourage national and international connections between older lesbians.

Ten Forty Matrix is not an organisation you have to join, but if you want to receive regular information about our activities and our bi-monthly newsletter, email [contact@olderdykes.org](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org) and ask to be put on our mailing list.

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## Newsletter

To receive a free emailed newsletter, please email [contact@olderdykes.org](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org)

The web edition and back copies of the newsletter are available for download from our website [www.olderdykes.org](http://www.olderdykes.org)

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## Who currently does what?

Events planning: Cheryl, Daniela, Diann, Frances, Gillian, Helen, Krystyna, Rob, Wendy

Contact listing in LOTL: Jan

Utilities box: Sylvia and Wendy

Money Management: Esther

Websisters: Jan, Ruth, Dorothy, Diann, Helen, Margot, Sandy

Newsletter: editing and layout Ruth and Dorothy

If you would like to become involved in any of the above, or have some ideas about social events and/or topics for our bi-monthly dinner and discussion evenings, please email [contact@olderdykes.org](mailto:contact@olderdykes.org)