

## **Archive No. 113**

### **Matrix Guild**

A couple of members of the Matrix Guild in WA facilitated a workshop at the National 10/40 Conference in Healesville in 1992 where they explained about the group they'd formed in WA for lesbians over 40 years of age in order to provide support services for ageing lesbians. This information so impressed the Victorian lesbians over 40 that they decided to form their own group along similar lines.

The first meeting of the Matrix Guild was held on 9 May 1992, with the aim of providing support, care, appropriate accommodation (including the long-mooted Old Dykes Home) and alternative lifestyle options for lesbians over 40. After the Matrix Guild was incorporated, the members ran a series of fundraisers, including wine bottlings, concerts, dinners and film nights, to finance and publicise their activities, and for quite some time considered developing and running a business to raise enough money to buy property but the project fell through.

In the meantime the group organised information forums, produced leaflets and handed them out at community events and after the Satin and Silk Balls at the San Remo Ballroom were initiated in 1994 took over the running of this annual event as their major fundraising activity.

The Matrix Guild published the Lesbian Health, Independence and Well-Being Resource compiled by Jan Gladys in November 1997 which covered a comprehensive range of lesbian resources and services in the community

In 2003, with the huge increase in property prices the Matrix Guild decided to put their accommodation ideas on hold for the time being and employed a part-time Community Development Worker to promote the needs of older lesbians by liaising and networking with government departments and community groups.

In 2004 the Matrix Guild, organised a couple of first time ever lesbian events for the Senior Citizens Week activities in March, a picnic at the Botanical Gardens and a Tea Dance at the Melbourne Town Hall in conjunction with Vintage Men, and continued to provide a visible profile for older lesbians in Victoria.