



creativewomyn.net

Creative Womyn Down Under Mardi Gras News & So Much More! 22 January 2014

Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Highlights

Happy New Year Sistas ! The biggest festival in Sydney's LGBTQI calendar begins in a couple of weeks. Friends have contacted us about some of the fabulous events which may be of interest to our creative womyn readers. Happy reading and happy Mardi Gras ! Find all the festival news at <http://www.mardigras.org.au/> We look forward to seeing many of you out and about next month. **In other news below**, while waiting for Mardi Gras to begin, you can catch our good friend Melinda Kelly aka DJ Kelly Chrome in her first gig, at the Dykes on Bikes Annual Bike & Tattoo Show, Saturday 1 February, Hampshire Hotel, Camperdown. The 21st Mardi Gras Film Festival is on from 13-23 February. We have two double passes to win courtesy of QueerScreen – more information and how to enter at the end of this newsletter.

There is still time to enter the Women on Boards Art Prize, exhibiting in Darlinghurst. Works with artist statement can be delivered to the TAP Gallery from Friday 28 February to 3 March. Lesbians over 40 have until 4 March to enter photographs for the Imogens competition. This year the two categories are "Rainbows and other symbols" and "Lesbian Life". Read about what the movers and shakers in the Nowra NSW region have collaborated on to produce an amazing series of Shoalhaven International Women's Day events. Now onto the Mardi Gras highlights!

Women in Mardi Gras

Sunday 2 February from 2pm-5pm

Lord Roberts Hotel, Rooftop Terrace, 64 Stanley Street, East Sydney

The Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Women's Committee is once again inviting all volunteers, members, festival participants, staff, board members, both past and present, to celebrate and encourage the involvement of women in Mardi Gras. This is your opportunity to hear about the current opportunities for women to become involved in your organisation. There will be some short talks from those already working on this season's events, as well as highlights of the festival for female identified members, volunteers and supporters.

It's a great way find out how to join in, meet new friends, say 'Hi' and meet the women who are putting on your season this year. There will also be some great entertainment throughout the afternoon including a DJ set from [DJ Amanda Louise!](#) Come along for 5 minutes or spend the afternoon. Bring a friend or two and find out just how fun and rewarding it is to be a part of Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras. Keep posted on the facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/events/204414633092233>

Lemons with a Twist

Friday 7 February from 6pm – 9pm

Slide, 41 Oxford St, Darlinghurst, NSW

This superb monthly event is the jewel in the [Sydney Gay and Lesbian Business Association](#) (SGLBA) crown, running for more than 12 years, it provides the perfect mix of early networking leading to exuberant socialising later in the evening. With delicious canapés, a well-stocked bar, fabulous prizes and a great crowd of regulars and their guests, Lemons isn't just a great place to party, it's also the perfect event for making new friends and connections that will last a lifetime. Entry: SGLBA Members Free, Non-Members/Concession Price \$15

Fair Day

Sunday 9 February from 10am - 730pm

Victoria Park, Corner City Road and Parramatta Road, Camperdown, Sydney

Fair Day is the biggest and best-loved community event of the season, as Mardi Gras takes over Victoria Park for a picnic in the sun with 70,000 of our closest friends. A full day of live performances on the main stage, community stalls, kids activities, entertainment, fabulous food, plenty of opportunities for retail therapy and of course the world famous Doggywood for our pampered pooches.

Margie Fischer and Vitalstatistix present THE DEAD ONES

18-22 February 2014, Seymour Centre

Written and performed by Margie Fischer

Directed by Catherine Fitzgerald

Designed by Kathryn Sproul

Margie Fischer's solo show explores memory, death, family and the power of objects through storytelling and photography from a Jewish lesbian perspective. After everyone in her family died, Margie was left to clear out their house. She became fascinated by what is left when loved ones die and documented her feelings and the processes involved. **The Dead Ones** explores her family stories through the object left behind.

Part theatre, part slideshow, part wake, part homage to William Yang, a deeply moving personal journey into Margie Fischer's family that has resonance for us all. Margie Fischer is a writer, performer, founder and former Artistic Director of Feast, Adelaide's Queer Festival. Her solo show, **The Gay Divorcee**, exploring lesbian divorce and separation for everyone was a critically acclaimed hit nationally.

The Dead Ones, in association with Vitalstatistix, premiered at Feast, Adelaide's Queer Festival, was a hit at Midsumma 2013 and 2013 Adelaide Fringe.

Reviews:

'Immaculate storytelling, deeply affecting theatre, told with love and honesty' - Aussie Theatre

'A rare insight into how the mind processes loss and how people find meaning' The Australian Stage

Full Season Dates: Tuesday 18 Feb to Saturday 22 Feb 7pm-8.30pm and Saturday 22 Feb 3pm
Venue: Seymour Centre, Sound Lounge, Cleveland Street, Chippendale, Sydney, NSW, Australia
Cost: Full Price \$25, Concession Price \$20, Mardi Gras Member Price \$20 (booking fees apply).
Book online at <http://www.seymourcentre.com/events/event/the-dead-ones/>

Or phone the Seymour Centre on 02 9351 7940 02 9351 7940 FREE .

Women Say Something "Dancing On The Ceiling"

Friday 28 February 2014 from 630pm-1230am

Sydney Town Hall, 483 George Street, Sydney

Women Say Something, presented in partnership with IVFAustralia, returns to the 2014 Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras season from the sell out event at Paddington Town Hall in 2013. This year the event is being hosted at the prestigious and grand Sydney Town Hall the night before the Mardi Gras parade, where up to 1000 women will be "Dancing on the Ceiling".

This event will be celebrating the achievements of women from many diverse backgrounds in an evening of conversation, entertainment, film, fine food & wine and lavish spectacle. Expect to see and hear the unexpected. Expect to laugh, to cry, make new friends and hear inspirational stories from women who have achieved among great odds. Most importantly, leave the event feeling empowered to DO something.

This fully accessible event caters for all audiences including event only seating through to packages with fine food & wine for tables of up to 10 friends. The venue is wheelchair accessible and there

will be Auslan interpreters available. Panelists and performers will be announced in the lead up to the event through WSS social media channels so visit <https://www.facebook.com/WomanSaySomething> to ensure you stay up to date. It is the perfect start to a fabulous weekend.

Tickets start at \$30 + Booking fees

Pay What You Can Afford options are accessible by emailing womensaysomething@mardigras.org.au and are limited to 5% of capacity. Buy tickets here <http://wl.eventopia.co/event/Women-Say-Something-Reserved/214933?afflky=SydneyGayandLesbianMardiGras>

Women Film Something: Call for Entries - New Submission Date 14 February 2014

Due to popular demand, Women Film Something has agreed to extend the deadline to enter the inaugural short film competition until February 14. This creates an excellent opportunity for more women to enter and tell their story.

Women Film Something is also proud to announce an eminent panel of judges and a host of fantastic prizes. This competition seeks to encourage women to "Use Your Voice" with the creation of a five minute film. The judges will be Merryn Johns, Editor-in-chief of Curve Magazine; Jain Moralee, the Executive Director of Underbelly Arts; Kathryn Milliss, industry professional and lecturer as well as Rebecca Barry, writer and director of the internationally acclaimed I Am A Girl.

These judges will ensure that the films pass entry criteria including the Bechdel Test, and judge the best adaptation of the theme. The best films will showcase real women's stories, whether they are personal or historical, fact or fiction, funny or serious. *This competition has been borne out of an overwhelming desire that women have to use their voice and make their voices heard, and this competition provides a platform for these stories.*

Three finalists will be screened at the Women Say Something Mardi Gras 2014 event at the Sydney Town Hall on 28th February, where they will enjoy premium dinner tickets and the audience will decide the overall inaugural winner. As well as the accolades afforded by such an achievement, the winner will take home some awesome prizes including:

- 1) An Australian Cinematography Society membership and an ACS gift bag containing various ACS merchandise and a copy of THE SHADOWCATCHERS: A History of Cinematography in Australia.
- 2) The Actors Centre Australia will be providing one lucky winner with access to their on line resource. The Acting Edge is a new online resource for actors, directors and teachers.
- 3) MetroScreen will award the winner with a \$500 voucher for hiring production equipment

Women Film Something is produced independently and voluntarily. Entries close on February 14. For further information, please email info@womenfilmsomething.com.au or visit www.womenfilmsomething.com.au

The 36th annual Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade

Saturday 1 March 2014 Oxford St, Sydney from 730pm

The Sydney Gay and Lesbian Mardi Gras Parade is one of the world's largest and best-loved LGBTQI celebrations, a chance for all of the colours of the kaleidoscope to come together, to commemorate, celebrate, and communicate the universal message of diversity, equality and infinite love. More at <http://www.mardigras.org.au/parade/>

Dykes on Bikes Annual Bike & Tattoo Show & Kelly Chrome!

Saturday 1 February 2014 from 1pm
Hampshire Hotel on Parramatta Rd, Camperdown

Mel Kelly aka DJ 'Kelly Chrome' has landed her first gig spinning discs at the Dykes on Bikes annual Bike & Tattoo Show. Kelly Chrome will be delivering an eclectic mix of electro, pop, rock, RNB, 80's and other musical brews designed to make you groove. Kelly, who has previously dabbled in stand up comedy is excited to feed her long term passion for music through this new creative outlet. The sets will occur between t-shirts getting wet, bikes getting judged and ink laden skin being revealed. More at <http://www.dykesonbikessydney.org.au/events/>

Women on Boards Art Prize

Monday 3 – Sunday 16 March 2014
Winners announced Saturday 8 March
[TAP Gallery](#), 46 Burton St, Darlinghurst NSW 2010
Hours: 12pm – 6pm 7 days a week

The Women on Boards Art prize for a female artist exhibiting in any medium is presented in the week of International Women's Day (8 March) each year. In 2014 we will celebrate the fifth year of the prize inviting works in any medium around the theme: "Women voice and vision: reflections on Australian society today".

The Award: The Women on Boards prize was established by Ruth Medd, Chair of Women on Boards, and Lesley Dimmick, Director of the TAP Gallery in Darlinghurst Sydney to identify and assist emerging female artists to achieve recognition and success

In 2014: The \$2,500 major cash prize is provided by Women on Boards. The runner-up award for 2014 is being provided by Carolyn Barker AM, CEO Endeavour. The Emerging Young Artist award is being sponsored by The College of Arts and Social Sciences at the Australian National University. Thank you to our sponsors. Female artists must be 26 years old or less at 1 January 2014 to be eligible for the Emerging Young Artist award. Please contact Ruth Medd at ruth.medd@womenonboards.org.au if you are interested in supporting the WOB Art Prize.

How to enter your work: No registration is required. There are no restrictions on the types of work submitted for the prize. The Tap Gallery manages the acceptance of your work.

Works with artist statement can be delivered to the TAP Gallery from Friday 28 February to 3 March. If you reside interstate and want your work returned to then include the return cost when you send your work. The winners will be announced on Saturday 8 March at the TAP Gallery where the exhibition will run from 3 -16 March 2014. More details visit <http://www.womenonboards.org.au/events/art-prize/>

Imogens

A photography competition for lesbians over forty

The competition opened on Sunday 1 December 2013 and closes 5pm Tuesday 4 March 2014 Australian Eastern Daylight Time. There are two categories – Rainbows and other symbols and Lesbian Life. Prizes will be awarded for each category. First prize: \$200.00, Second prize: \$100.00, Third prize: \$50.00. Entries will be on display and prizes awarded to the winning Imogens at Haberfield on Saturday 22 March 2014.

Some of the Competition Terms and Conditions

The competition is open to women over forty who do not rely on photography as their main source of income. Entrants must be a resident of Australia, with an Australian mailing address, to be eligible to win a prize. Entry is free. Each entrant is allowed one entry only in each category and each entry must be accompanied by a completed entry form. Photographs can be in colour or black and white and can be taken with any type of camera. All photographs must be accompanied by a brief title of 5 words or less, and an explanation of how the photograph fits the theme in 25 words or less.

All photos must be entirely the entrant's own work, and by entering the competition, each entrant warrants that she is the exclusive owner of the photographs, including any copyright of the photographs. Copyright of each photograph remains with the photographer. A panel of three judges will assess all images, and the judges' decision is final. An email announcement naming finalist photographs by title will be made following the closing date of the competition. Queries about the competition can be emailed to imogen@olderdykes.org. Details and entry form available at http://www.olderdykes.org/whats_on/sydney.html

Shoalhaven International Women's Day Festival South Coast NSW

A whole month of events from February to March featuring music, women's wellness, awards, a high tea, art exhibition, a dance and to start the festival we have a fun TRIVIA night as a fund raiser. Come and share the fun! a huge success last year. Check out these amazing events and head to the Shoalhaven area to participate.

IWD TRIVIA NIGHT

Saturday 22nd February 2014 7.00pm

Fun fundraising night. Dress Theme – "Sporty Girls". Prizes to be won. Supper provided. BYO drinks and nibbles. Organise tables of eight or just sit anywhere. Zany approach to trivia questions. Venue: School of Arts Annexe, Berry Street, Nowra

Cost: \$15.00 or concession \$10.00 Contact: Moira Lawry: 0416 293 281 0416 293 281 FREE

IWD ART EXHIBITION

Launch Friday 28th February 2014 6pm

Exhibition open: 28 February - 28 March 2014 from 9.00am – 7.00pm. Theme – "Out and About". Artworks to be delivered to ENNC- 2/80 Park Rd East Nowra on Monday 24 February between 8am and 3pm. Come and see the array of wonderful artworks on show and recognise the talent of local women in our community. Wine and nibbles provided at launch.

Venue: University of Wollongong, Shoalhaven Campus
George Evans Drive, West Nowra

Cost: Free Contact: Marg McHugh 4422 0103

IWD AWARDS

Saturday 1st March 2014 1.30pm – 4.00pm (Ceremony commences at 2PM)

The International Women's Day Awards give appreciation and recognition to women for their work and creativity throughout the Shoalhaven community.

Venue: Meroogal Historic House,
Cnr West and Worrigeer Streets, Nowra

Cost: Free Contact: Nicole or Cheryl 4421 8150

POSTER EXHIBITION

4 March to 4 April, Launch Friday 7 March 2014 6-8pm

A Personal Journey - political posters of the '70s, '80s and '90s

Venue: Squid Studio, 12 Princes Highway, (opp Repco)Nowra, Park Stockland green

Contact: squidinkle@gmail.com, www.vennsquidink.com.au

Cost: Free

IWD BUSINESS BREAKFAST AND AWARDS, ULLADULLA

Friday 7th March 2014 8.30am - 10.30am

Come and join other women at a breakfast to celebrate International Women's Day and recognise local women for their services to the community

Venue: Ulladulla & Districts Community Resource Centre
78 St Vincent's Street, Ulladulla

Cost: Free. Contact: Maria Mitchell 4454 0477

IWD HIGH TEA – Nowra School of Arts

Saturday 8th March 2014 3.00pm – 5.00pm

Guest speaker Lesley Mackay talks about the impact of IT on women.

Come and experience an age old tradition of “High Tea”, where you can elegantly sip on a variety of teas and eat scrumptious cakes and nibbles, while listening to the enchanting sounds of Moira’s harp. Come dressed in your finery to add to the atmosphere!

Venue: Nowra School of Arts, Berry Street, Nowra

Cost: \$10.00 includes pot of tea and range of cakes and delicacies

Contact: Women’s Health Centre 4421 0730. Bookings essential (limited tickets at the door)

GIRLS GET ACTIVE

Wednesday 12 March 2014

This event is for Years 8, 9 and 10 girls.

Venue: Nowra Showground

Contact: Jodie Quinelle 4429 3456

WRITER’S NIGHT

Friday 14 March, 6pm

Come, read and listen. Tea, coffee and cake available for purchase.

Venue: Our Bookshop and Cafe, Queen Street, Berry

Contact: Andrea 4465 1240

WOMEN’S WELLNESS FESTIVAL

Friday 21st March 2014 1.00pm - 7.00pm

Stalls and workshops from 1.00pm -5.00pm, Entertainment from 5.00pm - 7.00pm

Venue: TAFE Illawarra, Bomaderry Campus, Cnr Beinda and Princes Hwy

Cost: Free

Contact: Tracy Lumb 4421 0730

Details: Family friendly event

WOMEN’S DANCE NIGHT

Saturday 22nd March 2014 7.30pm - 11.30pm

Come and enjoy live music from Which Witch, and Cider Jam and dance till you drop.

Pay at door, BYO Drinks and nibbles.

Venue: Nowra Showground Pavilion

Cost: \$15.00 or \$10.00 Concession,

Contact: Marg 4422 0103

Details: Women only event

WOMEN’S PERFORMANCE NIGHT

Friday 28th March 2014 from 6.00pm, performance commences at 7.30pm.

This - women only - event is loads of fun and an excellent opportunity for women to perform for the first time. Meals will be available for purchase, come at 6pm to eat and mingle and BYO drinks. If you wish to sing, dance, read poetry, fire twirl or entertain in any way ring Caz.

Venue: Tomerong Hall, Tomerong

Cost: \$10.00 or \$5.00 concession, Pay at door.

Contact: Caz 0413 466 430 0413 466 430 FREE

Details: Women only event

Please let Creative Womyn Down Under know of any International Women’s Day events you would like to share on our website, facebook page and next newsletter. Email gabrielle@creativewomyn.net

21st Mardi Gras Film Festival in Sydney – Two Double Passes to Win!

This February, 13- 23, the 21st Mardi Gras Film Festival is on, brought to you by Queer Screen. They have programmed the best LGBTIQ films from around the world including five World Premieres, fascinating queer docs, a range of Australian productions, films straight, from the Sundance and Berlin Film Festivals, ground-breaking shorts, retrospective screenings and even a Rainbow Kids Disney classic. Check out all the film times and details at

<http://queerscreen.org.au/mgff/>

QueerScreen are offering Creative Womyn Down Under readers the chance to win one of two double passes: One for **BORN NAKED** and one for **CAMP BEAVERTON: MEET THE BEAVERS**. To enter the drawer, email gabrielle@creativewomyn.net by 4pm Wednesday 29 January with the name of the film in the subject line that you would like to win tickets to see. Please include your name and phone number in the email so we can contact the winner, which will be drawn late on the Wednesday afternoon.

Born Naked

Thursday 20 February, 9pm
Event Cinemas 10, 500 George Street Sydney
Spain | Director Andrea Esteban | 83 Minutes

Andrea and Paula, aged 23 and 25, lead us through their personal experiences and the reality of young lesbians of their generation in Madrid, London and Berlin. Travelling through these three cities, we will meet diverse individuals and a range of organised groups, all of which describe their proposals and attitudes towards their sexual orientation. With a riveting and edgy style, Born Naked introduces us to young people who refuse to be labelled by society and a generation which fights for its right to reinvent itself.

Camp Beaverton: Meet the Beavers

Monday 17 February, 7pm
Event Cinemas 10, 500 George Street, Sydney
USA | Director Ana Grillo & Beth Nelsen | 62 Minutes + Short Film

Every August, Nevada's Black Rock district plays host to Burning Man, an experiential arts festival based on radical self-expression and self-reliance. The Beavers are a close community of queers, lesbians, bisexuals, transgendered and straight women engaged in open communication and exploring their personal and sexual boundaries.

In 2012, filmmakers Beth Nelsen and Ana Grillo took part in the week long camp, living within the community and getting to know its members. The result is a fun, positive and intimate documentary on life as a Beaver at Camp Beaverton, where the filmmakers invite you to "meet the Beavers." The resulting film became the Special Jury Prize Winner at the 2013 Gay de Cinema Festival in Rio de Janeiro, and is bound to win a place in your heart too!

THANKS ELENA!

We had a fabulous afternoon of amazing, original music by [Elena B Williams](#) in December. Thanks to Elena and everyone who joined us for that special house concert. Elena is currently on tour, so you might catch her at a gig near you. Keep up to date on Elena's "The Rose" EP Australian Tour via facebook here <https://www.facebook.com/events/317547848387032/>

Elena's next gig is on Victoria's Phillip Island, Purple Hen Winery 96 McFees Road, Rhyll this Friday 24 January 6pm-8pm. Bring a picnic and come and enjoy a great summers evening of live music by Elena. Visit www.purplehenwines.com.au for details.

Stay creative, and if you are in Sydney enjoy the rainbow festive season,

Gabrielle Journey Jones
& Georgina JD Abrahams

Creative Womyn Down Under

Connecting Womyn and Creative Expression

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