**100 Years of Love – Media Release**

Alice’s Garage[[1]](#footnote-1) is proud to launch a new project – 100 years of love; celebrating the lives and loves of three lesbian couples living in Ballarat, who have been together for almost 100 years.

**The need**

* The celebrations recognise lesbian’s historical experiences
* This is more than the absence of same sex marriage; historically, same sex relationships were not valued or respected - so same sex couples who fell in love could not celebrate their relationship in the ways that heterosexual couples could/and can
* The three couples created safe and valuing spaces for themselves – surrounded by family, friends and their local community
* The 100 Years of Love Project celebrates the lives and loves of the three lesbian couples – and pays tribute to the families, friends and community that supported them
* The project will provide the couples with the opportunity to celebrate their relationship and will raise awareness in the community of the experiences of older lesbians – and the importance of community support.

**What the project will do**

* Three celebrations will be held in Ballarat – each couple will shape their own celebration.
* The celebrations will document the support of family, friends and community
* The celebrations will be filmed – and the film disseminated to raise awareness of the importance of valuing and respecting same sex relationships – and particularly the importance of this in rural areas
* On 13th July the first celebration will be announced
* The remaining two celebrations and couples will be announced later in 2017

**First celebration – The Circle of love: Edie Mayhew and Anne Tudor**

*When we got together 33 years ago we kept it pretty quiet. It was a very different world back then. You didn’t tell people you were lesbian. We were in love – but we’ve never formally celebrated our love with family and friends because we didn’t feel it was okay to do so. Now that time is running out for us we want to celebrate with the people we love.*

* As part of Victorian Senior’s Festival – Alice’s Garage is pleased to partner with the City of Ballarat and Edie Mayhew and Anne Tudor to present ‘The Circle of Love’ a celebration of the 33rd Anniversary of Edie and Anne
* A film produced from the celebration will be launched at MADE in October as part of Victorian Senior’s Festival

**More information**

* Catherine Barrett, project coordinator: 0429 582 237
* Anne Tudor: 0428 685 166
* Webpage: https://alicesgarage.net/100years/

1. Alice’s Garage is a National program empowering LGBTI elders and promoting healthy LGBTI ageing. The self-funded program was established in 2016 by Dr Catherine Barrett [↑](#footnote-ref-1)