**Hold Hands on a Tram**

**A Victorian Senior’s Festival Event celebrating**

**Lesbian Herstory & Resistance**

**LESBIANS CONVICTED OF OBSCENE BEHAVIOUR**

In his 2016 apology for the historical treatment of gay men, Premier Daniel Andrews told the story of two lesbians who were convicted with obscene behaviour for holding hands on a tram[[1]](#footnote-1). Following his apology Premier Andrews urged community members to ‘hold hands on a tram’ as a gesture of support to challenge homophobia.

This focus on lesbian’s historical experiences of discrimination is important. LGBTI histories are often viewed collectively – but older lesbian’s experiences of homophobia were compounded by patriarchal views – and yet these women found ways to resist and survive.

**SENIORS FESTIVAL EVENT**

* This celebration of lesbian history and resistance will trace the steps of the two women who were charged – a group of lesbian elders will board a tram from the Melbourne CBD and travel to Port Phillip Council for afternoon tea and to share their stories of resistance.
* The event recognises the historical experiences and resilience of older lesbians. It also acknowledges societal change - including the announcement of a Pride Centre in Port Phillip.
* Date: Wednesday 11 October 2017; 1– 4 pm; Tram #16 (CBD) to the St Kilda Town Hall
* The project team will send a call out to lesbians nationally to record older lesbian stories of lesbophobia and resistance.

**CALL FOR HISTORICAL INFORMATION**

* The project partners are calling for information about the historical experiences of older lesbians
* If you have any information – including records of the 1976 Tram incident, please contact the project team.

**PROJECT PARTNERS**

This event is presented by Alice’s Garage (part of the Celebrate Ageing Program) and The Social Photographer in partnership with Switchboard Victoria. This event is part of the City of Port Phillip Seniors Festival and is supported by the Victorian Seniors Festival.

**WEBPAGE**: [alicesgarage.net/tram](https://alicesgarage.net/tram/)

**CONTACT PROJECT TEAM**

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1. Minutes of the Equal Opportunity Advisory Council show this event took place in 1976 [↑](#footnote-ref-1)