

Archive No. 10

Kathy Gill / Kathy Ellenborn / Anu Sand (1949 -)

I was born in a Yorkshire (England) coal-mining town in '49, I grew up there in an extended Irish-descent, catholic, working class family.

From leaving home at 18, I had male-stream jobs, was het & travelled and worked in different countries.

At 34, I came out as a Lesbian, full of wonder, into the Melbourne Wimin's Liberation Movement. The wimin's building in North Melbourne became my 2nd home.

Collective-working, non-violent action training & all the other new-to-me politics, skills & ways of thinking & being & working with a-mazing radical dykes - was so exciting, transformed me into a Lesbian Feminist activist.

International Wimin's Peace day for nuclear disarmament, on 24 May '83, was the 1st event I helped organise.

I got involved with Wimin's Liberation Switchboard, a consciousness-raising (CR) group, Wimin Against Violence and Exploitation (WAVE), IWD-organising. In Wimin for Survival, I was part of organising the bus to Pine Gap for the wimin's peace camp, & later the Victorian travelling peace bus as part of Sound Wimin's actions in December '84.

Back in London, there were no end of lesbian feminist groups, conferences, fundraisers, discos, plays and the like. I identified as Lesbian Separatist & changed my 2nd name to acknowledge my mother.

In my 40s, I moved up north to a market town with a lively dyke community & more campaign & issue groups & networking including a Dyke Separatist gathering over a winter solstice. I re-named myself, Anu from Irish goddess, Sand from beautiful beaches.

Now at 60, my love of 14 years - Sorrel - lives nearby & I've become more activist again. I'm involved with wRite-On Dykes (supporting wimin worldwide), organising a music event as a fundraiser for Wimin in Tune (WIT) music festival in Wales & am part of Labrys Trust - setting up a community phone line for older dykes.