

## **Archive No. 129**

### **International Lesbian Day**

Someone announced at the final plenary session Lesbian Conference 1990 in Melbourne that as 8 October had been designated as ILD by a women's conference in South America then ILD perhaps needed to be celebrated in Australia.

The first ILD to be celebrated in Melbourne was held at the Collingwood Town Hall on 13 October, 1990, with musicians, market stalls and readings during the afternoon and a women's dance with live bands in the evening.

On 20 October 1990, the ILD rally was held in the City Square with speakers and the band Nice Girls Don't Spit followed by a march around the city streets with banners.

ILD celebrations were held in Melbourne on or around the 8 October for another couple of years to promote lesbian visibility, provide a forum for lesbian information, discussion and entertainment and to make a show of lesbian solidarity.

In 1991, the ILD women's dance was held at the San Remo Ballroom on the evening of 4 October. The ILD rally was held the following day in the City Square on 5 October with Nice Girls Don't Spit and speakers and a march around the CBD afterwards. (A very similar event, the Lesbian Visibility Rally, was held to launch and publicise the Melbourne Lesbian Festival 1991 in the City Square on 20 January 1991, with Nice Girls Don't Spit, speakers and a march afterwards).

The third ILD rally and march was held in the City Square on 10 October, 1992, as part of the Lesbian Festival 1992, with speakers, performers and an open mike.

Due to lack of energy and interest there have been no organised ILD activities in Melbourne for a number of years now, although ILD activities have continued from time to time in other states.