

Archive No. 20

Hinerangi Ferrall-Heath (9 March 1939 –)

Hinerangi Ferrall-Heath was born on the South Island of Aotearoa (NZ) of Ngati Whatua descent on her mother's side and Ngai Tahu on her father's. She trained and worked as a psychiatric nurse in Dunedin and arrived in Australia at the age of 25.

Hinerangi studied at the Footscray Institute of Technology and graduated with a BA in 1985. During her years in Melbourne she was actively involved in student politics and in WLM activities. She was an active member of the Women's Liberation Switchboard and Women for Survival.

Hinerangi's involvement with Women for Survival included an active participation at the Pine Gap Women's Peace Camp in 1983 where she was one of the 111 Karen Silkwoods arrested for trespass; and the Cockburn Sound Action in 1984 where she was arrested for stealing government property. That is, the badge of a policeman who was allegedly hitting women as they climbed over the fence during a protest for which she went to court in Perth in 1985 and was acquitted of all charges. She also attended the Women for Survival Conferences in Adelaide in 1984 and Melbourne in 1985.

Hinerangi attended the Witches and Wild Women's Gather-ins in Adelaide in 1985 and Wauchope in 1987 and the National 10/40 Conferences at Lake Cullulleraine in 1987 and in Sydney in 1988 and 1989 (where she celebrated her 50th birthday).

Hinerangi moved to Sydney in 1987 and worked at the Rape Crisis Centre. She eventually went back to live in Aotearoa (New Zealand) where she enrolled to study in Dunedin and has been actively engaged and living within the Ngai Tahu community on the South Island for the past few years.