

Archive No. 96

Lesbian Festival 1991

The Lesbian Festival 1991, with the theme Lesbians – Building Dreams into Reality, was held in Melbourne, 23 – 28 January 1991. After the success of the Lesbian Festival and Conference 1990 some of the organisers were keen to have an annual LesFest in Melbourne to compliment the larger National Lesbian Festivals (the next one was held in Sydney in July 1991).

The Lesbian Festival 1991 was launched with a lesbian visibility rally in Melbourne's City Square on 20 January with speeches and music from Nice Girls Don't Spit. The six days of events started with a Gala Opening at the Myer Music Bowl with Marie Andrews giving the opening address and entertainment from the Topp Twins, Judy Small, Jacqui Reid and the Arrum Lillies.

The LesFest went on to include a line-up of events at the Footscray Community Arts Centre with workshops, plays by Amazon Theatre and Voice of the Heart, live music from Tiddas, Sticky Beat and Mojo Blues, a dog show and a Lesbians Let Loose market afternoon, amongst other things. The Summer Ball at the St Kilda Town Hall, a Wet and Wild Pool Party at the Collingwood Leisure centre and a Women's Own Warehouse Party were also included on the program along with child care and sign language interpreters.