

## Pride History Group Oral History Interview with Sally Colechin

Interviewer: Digby Duncan

Date of interview: 24 November 2008

Location of interview: Unknown

Reason for interview: Lesbian social scene

Restrictions: None



Time	Summary	Key words
0030	Born in Sydney in 1958. Aware of same-sex attraction at age 10.	
0100	Came out and lived with first girlfriend aged 18.	
0115	Social life – Patches, Chez Ivy, Ruby Reds, possible the Sussex.	Patches; Chez Ivy; Ruby Reds; the Sussex Hotel;
0145	Ruby Reds, passing Judy Stone on the stairs.	Judy Stone;
0255	Patches. Boys taking amyl. There weren't many women there. Feeling that bars was where you could feel comfortable.	Patches; Amyl Nitrate;
0430	Women's Warehouse – became involved in 1979.	Women's Warehouse;
0445	Had gone to meeting of a lesbian feminist group that met at Women's House in Regent Street. Heard about women who rented a warehouse in Chinatown.	Women's House;
0505	Photographed a few shows that were on at the Warehouse.	
0512	Involved in setting up and running the theatre/restaurant on the top floor with Sarah and a couple of others. Long working hours and amazing food.	
0600	Restaurant had ten tables. It covered costs	
0640	Cabaret at the Warehouse. Photographed a Women's Action Theatre piece about menstruation. Jane Cornell and Elizabeth Drake. Also "Failing/Falling in Love Again". Bands also performed there and there were self-defence classes, political discussion groups.	Women's Action Theatre; Jane Cornell; Elizabeth Drake; "Failing, Falling in Love Again";
0755	The perception was that the Warehouse was primarily lesbian compared to Women's House which was primarily feminist venue with some lesbians.	Women's Warehouse; Women's House;
0820	The offices there included feminist film workers and some women film makers.	
0850	Was this an alternative to the bars? Closeted women would have felt more comfortable at the bars but others would go to the warehouse in preference to the bars.	Bars;
0935	Operated for 18 months or two years.	
0940	This was the period when Sally was most separatist.	
1010	Performances. There was little quality control, but it was an opportunity to perform. The response from the audience was never negative.	
1110	House parties. There was a warehouse near Royal Prince Alfred Hospital that held parties. They weren't legal. Another was a live-in warehouse in Chippendale.	Royal Prince Alfred Hospital; Chippendale;
1215	Parties in people's homes.	
1255	For Sally, going out was about the quality of the music. These days it is about meeting friends and having a conversation.	Dance Music;
1400	Cricketer's Arms 1978 – 1979. This was a small venue.	Cricketer's Arms;
1448	First experience of feminism was Amazon Acres Farm.	Amazon Acres;
1525	Sussex Hotel. Su Goldfish DJ'd there in 1981. Stella ran the Sussex Hotel.	Sussex Hotel; Su Goldfish;
1635	Date of birth 17 May 1958. Grew up on the North Shore. Parents had a shop a Fairlight. Swam competitively at Manly. Then moved to Neutral Bay and went to Cremorne Girls High School. Then moved to live with first girlfriend in Bellevue Hill. Art	Fairlight; Neutral Bay; Cremorne Girls High School; Bellevue Hill;

	and English were favourite subjects.	
1740	Went to East Sydney Technical College rather than Law School.	East Sydney Technical College;
1815	First Mardi Gras. Exhibited at Watters Gallery in 1978. Majored in photography.	First mardi gras; Watters Gallery;
1835	Was involved in Gay Film Fund meetings at Digby Duncan's in Balmain and Colette Mann's in Camperdown. Fundraisers at the Co-op.	Gay Film Fund; Digby Duncan; Colette Mann; Filmmakers Co-Op;
1920	The film screenings put on by the Gay Film Fund were an important opportunity to see films that you would not be likely to see and support women film makers of a "feminist consciousness or lifestyle."	Gay Film Fund;
1940	<i>Blatant</i> lesbian magazine that came out of lesbian feminist discussion group. Discussion about lesbian separatism. Every Sunday night at Women's House and from that the group put together a booklet that supported lesbian feminism and lesbian separatism. Put together through Everywoman Press in Chippendale. A one-off publication.	<i>Blatant</i> ; Everywoman Press; Chippendale;
2115	Politics. Involvement in demonstrations went to a Women's Right to Choose demo in Hyde Park, International Women's Day. Went to these while at school. After a march saw a notice about a meeting to discuss a women's mountain farm. Natalie and her went and for the first time saw women being affectionate with each other and then went to Amazon Acres.	Women's Right to Choose; Hyde Park; International Women's Day; Amazon Acres;
2240	June 1978 <i>Remembering Stonewall Rally</i> was followed by a mardi gras that evening. In the afternoon helped organise a political discussion with Wran Government representatives.	Remembering Stonewall Rally; Wran government;
2315	Religion. Did not have a religious background, but a strong spiritual sense of the earth and the environment.	
2430	Health. 1993 a friend was dying of AIDS.	AIDS;
2510	Sally was on the back of the truck in 1978 mardi gras. After the 1998 20 <sup>th</sup> anniversary, she collapsed at the Mg party. At Prince of Wales hospital the staff assumed that the woman with her was her girlfriend and she was under the influence of drugs.	Prince of Wales Hospital; Mardi Gras Party;
2610	Getting older would be happy to live in an area with a lot of gays and lesbians.	
2730	At the time of the interview Sally was living in the Blue Mountains with her partner. The reason for living there was getting a house and land and it was close to her work.	Blue Mountains;
3100	Discrimination at work teaching at Nepean. Sense there was discrimination in the workplace and that her relationship with her partner was ranked lower than heterosexual couples with children. Discrimination has changed over the years still not equal.	
3250	Relationship with family. Grandfather was concerned that she would neglect her family. Avoided coming out to her mother and then when she did her mother has not been incredibly accepting of her sexuality. Relationship of her partners with her mother vary.	Coming out;
3520	She grew up with grandparents, mother and brother. The family left her father when she was three. Father was racist, sexist. Grandfather was an accepting curious man.	