

Pride History Group Oral History Interview with Katy O'Rourke

Interviewer: John Witte

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Restrictions:



Log	Summary	Key words
0000	Katy was born in Melbourne on 26/8/52. The family lived in Malvern Road Prahran East.	Melbourne
0115	She remembers living in one house with her parents and the house next door was owned by her great aunts. Her parents divorced when she was 2. K describes the house.	
0320	Her mother's parents owned the Chevron Hotel in Melbourne.	Chevron
0400	Being a builder's wife was hard for her. Her aunts next door lent a hand raising K. Her mother dressed her in blue, because she hated pink.	
0540	After her parent's divorce, her mother went to live with her mother who lived with her mother who owned a large house in Dandenong Road St Kilda. K didn't see much of her father because it was a very acrimonious divorce. It was to do with K's birth which was traumatic for her mother.	
0755	K recalls seeing her great aunts on a regular basis and saw her father a bit more. She enjoyed rattling about in her grandfather's builder's workshop with her father. She was allowed to use the tools. She was 4 – 6 yo.	
0920	After her great grandmother died, the large house was sold and they rented a flat in Elwood. She went to Elwood Primary. She was unhappy and was ahead of the other children in reading and writing.	Elwood
1040	They moved to Toorak because her mother wanted a good address. Went to Toorak Central School and was happier there. Had a lot of friends she enjoyed playing with. She loved competing and "had to be the best". K was upset she couldn't play boys sports. She could play as well as the boys.	Toorak
1335	Going into High School. In 5 th grade moved to Melbourne Church of England Girls Grammar School. Went to their primary school first and was bored. She was moved up a grade and did better. Then went to their senior school, Merton Hall. She was aware that she was leading a privileged life, but knew her mother and grandmother were not very wealthy. Was doing well in 2 nd form, when her mother and grandmother decided to move to Sydney to be closer to K's aunt, who was married to the managing director of Caltex, lived in Double Bay and for K's health. K suffered bronchitis when she lived in Melbourne. And her mother was offered a good job in Sydney which didn't eventuate.	Church of England Girls Grammar School Merton Hall
1723	K had been booked into Kambala, an exclusive private girl's school in Rose Bay. To get by they subsisted on her grandmother's pension and lived in a horrible little flat. Her mum worked in L'Officiel for a bit, but then opened up a sandwich business with a gay male friend, Doug they had known in Melbourne. K describes how her mother was ripped off and lost money in a financial crash. K hated Kambala. The girls were all affecting interest in boys, clothes, make-up at age 13 and K felt like a fish out of water.	Kambala
21:00	But she made friends with Susan Cooke who came from another school.	Susan Cooke
2133	K was interested in doing things. Explore the world around her. She was always interested in Science and French and English, Art and Geography. She was focused on doing Science at uni from an early age.	

2330	Was depressed when Susan left in 5 th form. Scraped through school. Got a good Science pass and went to Sydney university to study science.	Sydney University
2450	The first week at univ was very exciting. She had bought a motor bike. People were so different from one another. Different classes of people and there was no rigid divide, or so she thought.	
2550	<i>Sexual identity?</i> She had been aware of gay people from an early age. Her mother had lesbian and gay male friends. Listening to Noel Coward was normal. At 16 she thought she must be a lesbian because she noticed she was attracted to other girls. K went to women's college at Sydney University and knew she was a lesbian because she was living close to other women and was attracted to some of them.	Sydney University
2739	K heard there was a gay (liberation) group off campus – at 33a Glebe Point Road. She thought CAMP was very social and not political. “I don't know why I thought it was important to be political.”	33a Glebe Pt Road
2810	K was very interested in the student politics at Sydney Univ. They had talked about sex, politics and religion at the family dinner table. She was quite left leaning despite her mother and grandmother being small l liberals. They voted for the Liberal Party. She sided with the left wing groups which was gaining control over the Student's Representative Council. So Honi Soit was more left leaning. The right had control over the Union. “And I scanned the fine print trying to find any information about gay groups, gay politics. I'd read <i>The Female Eunuch</i> . I read Altmann's <i>Homosexual; Oppression and Liberation</i> when it came out. Altmann had a name for himself at Sydney Uni.” He was teaching Politics there. They were over in the Merewether Building. She would bump into them in the SRC building.	Sydney University Student's Representative Council <i>Honi Soit</i> <i>Female Eunuch</i> <i>Homosexual</i> Dennis Altmann
3015	<i>The Moratorium?</i> K was not aware of the Vietnam war until late on. Not involved. She had a friend who went to the Springbok demo in Bondi Junction and told her how violent the police were. She went to student blockades at the university.	Moratorium Springbok demo
3150	<i>Women's Liberation at Sydney Uni?</i> She thinks it took a while to get off the ground. She remembers Germaine Greer coming onto campus. Women's politics had kicked off by then. Greer read an obscene poem, something to do with the anti-obscenity laws. Madame Lash also appeared at the university. Women's House in Alberta Street was starting. Women in the Arts Facility were forming women's studies groups and women's liberation groups about then.	Germaine Greer Madame Lash Women's House
3400	Remembers going to both Sydney Gay Liberation rooms in Glebe Point Road 67 and 33a. Went to mixed meetings with very few women. Then went to women-only meetings. “Although I understood misogyny, it didn't gel.”	67 Glebe Point Rd
3500	Misogyny? “I guess they (gay men) weren't that inclusive. And maybe there were good reasons. Maybe they didn't know any lesbians or women they wanted to involve ... I know it was an uphill battle to get women involved. And it was very exciting when women would turn up”.	Misogyny
3535	The anti-obscenity business with <i>Tharunka</i> . She had moved out of Women's College at the end of first term in Second Year and moved into a shared house in Chippendale. And then into 10 Australia Street Camperdown. “Fabulous 8 bedroom house. Terry Rolfe, Terry Batterham, Pat Fiske, Margaret, Richard (had a Norton motorbike).	<i>Tharunka</i> Chippendale 10 Australia Street Terry Rolfe; Terry Batterham; Pat Fiske, Margaret, Richard
3633	<i>Did it style itself as another Gay Liberation House?</i> Sort of. It was open to everything. Pat Fiske and Margaret were not lesbians. People would gather at Australia Street and proceed on to other places. Always something going on. Pat Fiske was doing sound recording and had lots of people around her and she took lots of photographs.	Pat Fiske

	The boys would have people around in the large lounge room. Perhaps they were meeting. Official meetings down in Glebe.	
3838	“There seemed to be some power struggles going on there. About how it ran and so forth. By that stage I was leaning away from there and more to Honi Soit and the university campus group.”	
3900	The university gay liberation group was started by the Glebe group. They put ads up and people at uni in the Glebe group sought out other people to join.	
3927	“We would organise social events. That’s how we did it. Recruited people by having parties. We’d book rooms in the Manning and have these fantastic parties. I don’t know whether everybody was just there to pick someone up or get to know people.”	Manning Room
4015	<i>Why set up a uni group so close to the Glebe Group?</i> K believes the Glebe group was perhaps Marxist and very politically correct and not quite sociable enough for the needs of members. Not sure.	
4100	The Manning was an institution. A fabulous women only space after having to survive a male dominated science faculty which was oppressive and condescending.	Manning Room
4120	She struggled with her best subject, chemistry and failed it in the second year. She did well in Botany. She got a mentor, a lesbian Carolyn Bensall a North American who saw K struggle and coached her. Remembers Peter Valder (a Botany lecturer) in the background. He was not out but people knew he was gay.	Carolyn Bensall Peter Valder
4250	Carolyn had a scuba diving accident and drowned. It was devastating.	
4330	This was at the start of her third year. (1974) It was too much for K. She struggled and dropped out. Got more into taking drugs.	
4400	She attended political events. She went to the Lesbian Camp out at Minto. Remembers the homosexual conferences.	Lesbian Camp Minto
4500	In her household there was a strong antagonism to the Festival of Light. It was anti-homosexual. There was a big rally in Hyde Park of the FoL. Remembers going with Terry Rolf and Terry Batterham, Terry Bell. They were provocative. Terry Rolfe wore a provocative pair of hot pants. And others wore skimpy clothing. K had a black dress without the lining, zippered at the front held together with a gay liberation badge and nothing underneath. Dunlop volleys painted silver. The police protected them – a first in K’s experience.	Festival of Light Terry Rolf Terry Batterham Terry Bell
4800	Consciousness Raising was excruciating. “At the same time it was amazing to hear people’s stories and talking about their own lives ... You didn’t have to talk. But we’d go around the room. If you felt like you could speak then you would. Occasionally somebody would ask you a question. No one would take over ... “	Consciousness raising
4900	What was the purpose of CR. “It seemed to have its own purpose really. It wasn’t like it was contrived I don’t think. But it certainly opened us up to one another. And gave us a better understanding of one another. But it also gave us a very good understanding of what our society was like. Like for instance, my family was completely tolerant of my sexuality. It never was an issue. Being gay wasn’t a bad thing as far as my family was concerned on my mother’s side who were the people I lived with. But to hear stories from other people of how their parents had reacted. How their parents had behaved toward them, for me was just shocking. And how devastating you could see it was for those people and how it had changed their lives and how coming to Sydney or Sydney University had opened all these doors of opportunity for them and then they were struggling to see where they fitted into the world. Because they’d come from one world and now here they were in another world. And also the world was open to change at this point. Vietnam and that kind of mass demonstration, politics had empowered people. People wanted to change a lot	Consciousness raising

	of the things that were wrong with our society. I have to say when I found out how gay men were treated by police, that I was shocked to the core”	
5130	<i>How did you cope without de-briefs?</i> “We didn’t have the resources to cope with that my god, we didn’t have it, anything. We made ourselves all completely open and vulnerable and then we had nothing ... We clung on to one another. We took one another home to bed or to the pub or whatever we could ... that was all we had.”	
52:25	<i>Do you remember any preparations for Gay Pride Week 1973?</i> K remembers lots of meetings. They wanted to get as many people as possible involved from all the universities and the gay organisations. Not sure how they did it. There was publicity in the university newspapers. Posters were put up around the place. K painted banners. Thinks Paul Foss, Terry Rolfe were pretty instrumental in it. It was a very 33a Glebe Pt road thing. <i>Other gay groups?</i> They were aware of CAMP. It was seen as a social group and not a political consciousness. “I think we were very judgemental of CAMP and very unaware of any social intervention that they did and denigrating of the role that they played.” K was oblivious of the other social groups like the Pollys. They were men’s clubs and K’s experience with bars had been “disenchanted” and so rarely went to a gay pub or club.	Gay Pride Week Paul Foss, Terry Rolfe CAMP Pollys
5600	K thinks she may have gone to many of the Sunday and weekday events of Gay Pride Week, but can’t remember. K went to the Sat demo from Australia Street and caught a bus down Parramatta Road as a group. Carried a banner on the bus.	
10000	“I’m pretty sure the police told us we weren’t allowed to march. And I think we all decided ‘well bugger you’ we are going to march anyway ... We did divide and go on to the footpath around the police. And then we went back behind them on to the road. I don’t think they were expecting that. And I certainly can remember going down Pitt Street amongst the stopped cars. And shouting very loud in the narrow canyon of Pitt Street, ‘ho ho homosexual’ and ‘2,4,6,8 gay is just as good as straight’ and encouraging passers by on the footpath to join in. And some of them did ... “	Pitt Street
10200	“I actually remember the time we went to the cenotaph. We laid a wreath at the cenotaph and that was when the police arrived outnumbering us. There must have 60 police or more in paddy wagons everywhere rounding people up. But yes, that colonnade along the outside of the post office was a great defence against the police. Because it gave you somewhere to hide and something to run behind ... I think we realised that we were provoking the police, but we didn’t really understand what they were going to do to us.”	Martin Place Cenotaph
10315	<i>The wording used when laying the wreath?</i> In memory of all the lesbians and gay men “who served and died in the wars and the prisoner of war camps.” There was reference to the concentration camps. K recalls the discussion during preparations “it started off with the people who died in the prisoner of war camps and then someone chimed in and said well what about all the gay service men and women and that’s how we started off”.	
10355	<i>Was anyone aware of another commemoration at the Cenotaph on the same day?</i> I don’t think so. “I don’t think anybody told us. If they’d told us perhaps we would have been more respectful and chosen another day or another time. Perhaps that explains their extraordinary aggression towards us. But they were so violent. It was truncheons out and hell for leather. They’d grab a hold of you and that wasn’t enough. Then they had to beat the absolute shit out of you and then throw you in the paddy wagon. And once we had seen what they were doing, well of course evasion was primary. And everyone just ran for their lives.”	Cenotaph

10450	"I remember running through the colonnade ducking in behind the colonnade and weaving about there were lots of people there. Not all of them were demonstrators."	
10510	"I think I remember Terry Bell in his blue denims and blond curly hair and he was a target." "They would pick a target, you know, and they'd go for you." <i>Maybe the organisers?</i> "Perhaps".	Terry Bell
10600	Afterwards, "I don't think we knew where they were taken really. There was a bit of panic afoot because nobody knew, because it was in the city they could have been taken to anywhere."	
10646	"We went back to Glebe Point Road and organised bail."	33a Glebe Pt Road
10835	<i>After GPW what did you do?</i> K still lived at Australia Street, then moved out and lived with one woman and had an affair with another at the same time. K was still studying.	Australia Street
10940	Started off the year at uni through to first semester and dropped out and deferred for a year. Probably up to motorbike number 2 or 3 and seeing lots of women on her motorbike, smoking lots of grass and listening to Led Zepplin, David Bowie.	Led Zepplin, David Bowie
11030	There were a lot of lesbian households in Glebe at that time (4 – 6), young university students. Lived at 5 Wigram Road, with a gay man called Frank. Over the road lived Mim Loftus and Suzanne and Therese and a gay man. The women moved to Johnson Street Annandale. Glebe was close to Sydney Uni and the city, the markets, cheap food and walking distance to anywhere or ride a bike.	Glebe Wigram Road Mim Loftus Suzanne Therese Johnson St Annandale
11435	There lesbian events in Leichhardt Town Hall and Balmain town Hall over a decade or more. They were quite big 100-200 women.	Leichhardt Town Hall Balmain Town Hall
11541	Remembers meeting Heather through the Leichhardt bus depot people. Met Merrill Patchett (Mez Egg), Christina Gibson,	Merrill Patchett (Mez Egg), Christina Gibson
11624	Had dropped out of uni and got a job on the buses. Wanted a job as a driver, but they weren't employing drivers. "I reckon there was about half a dozen (lesbians at Leichhardt Bus Depot) that I knew of. And the rest seemed like normal people."	Leichhardt Bus Depot
11705	K recalls the Bex powder vending machine at the depot. After a trip people would go over and take a Bex.	Bex powders
11845	<i>Women's bands.</i> "That all started down at the Haymarket. There was some project that was in the Haymarket. The Women's Warehouse. 75,76. I know my girlfriend that I hadn't met who called herself Liz O'Wheel (Liz Mortiss) she was involved down there. She was involved with the Freeda Stares, which was a comedy tap dancing troupe who dressed in hilarious costumes and they practised their tap routines, they had the proper tap shoes and Jeannie Malone (not sure) who was the one who took them under her wing and tried to teach them to tap dance, and some of them took it seriously and they rehearsed, and I can remember after I got involved with Liz going along watching these performances and thinking this performance could have been quite good except for the timing and the music. And after I don't know how many, I said 'Look Liz I can't stand it any longer just let me do the music' and took charge of the music so there could be a cue and they'd know the music would come on and they could start."	The Women's Warehouse Liz O'Wheel/Mortiss Freeda Stares Jeannie Malone
12021	After Leichhardt Depot, was on a benefit and sold grass. Tried going back to uni the following year, K had lost her ability to concentrate and didn't feel she fitted in. Then applied for a pension and got on to a pension and absolved her to deal with anything. Feels this was a big mistake. Mixed with others on drugs, started using heroine. Didn't deal with the reasons of why she was unhappy. Her relationships weren't very	

	good. Had no idea how she should be behaving in relationships or understanding other people. It didn't get any better until she got into trouble with the police.	
12414	Lived in a house in Westmoreland Street, Glebe. On to motorbike 5 or 6. Got into Sydney Tech to do automotive engineering. But the bastardisation from staff and students was bad. K was the only woman. Worked with Doc Kelly in his motor cycle workshop in Regent Street for 2 years. His customers were Hells Angels. Started selling drugs to them and socialised with them. Got involved with "Honest John", who robbed from the rich and sold to the poor "for a price they could afford". K drove the truck while he robbed the houses and then joined him. He was caught by the police. K and Honest John fell out and he dobbed her in for a stolen motorbike.	Westmoreland St Doc Kelly Regent Street Honest John
12755	K got a suspended sentence. Her probation officer pushed her to go to Univ of New England to get out of the scene to finish her degree in 1976. Failed after taking heroin again. Her girlfriend was also taking heroin. She was caught breaking into a doctors surgery. This time she was sick with the drugs. She met a lawyer Chris Murphy who got her out of a lot of trouble. Went before Murray Farquhar. She got a 2 years suspended sentence.	University of New England Chris Murphy Murray Farquhar
13115	K overdosed at a friend's house in Glebe and was resuscitated. She homeless and was raped and fell pregnant. In August 78 she went to a doctor and requested to go on rehab. Went to Odyssey House at Minto. This saved her life and she was off the drugs for good.	Odyssey House Minot
13305	When they organised the first Mg K wanted to go, but she knew that if she appeared it would mean gaol. She went to Taylor Square and wished them luck and went home. She knew what was going to happen. She had no trust of the police. Darlinghurst Police were corrupt and beat up homosexual men on beats.	Darlinghurst Police Mardi Gras
13713	Was out at Campbelltown for nearly 2 years. Then sent to NY by Odyssey House for their junior executive training programme. Densen Gerber made a mockery of K at a group event (in Sydney) She tolerated it. (homophobia) When she went to NY. She found the facility corrupted. People were taking drugs, not being fed and people weren't getting the treatment they needed. She "encountered" Densen Gerber about the state of the programme. It took months to be heard. She was her psychiatrist. She didn't like K being a lesbian. She offered her a transsexual operation twice. K kept her anger to herself. Another Australian arrived and backed up K. There was a marathon encounter group with the whole house about how the programme was being run (which K was supposedly in charge of). 2 days later the place was searched by police and drugs were found. They were suspicious when Jean Rhodes wanted to come to visit. They wouldn't let her come to visit because K had had a relationship with her.	Campbelltown Densen Gerber Homophobia New York Jean Rhodes
14321	They started to talk about putting K back into the programme because she had admitted having an attraction to another woman in the programme. She left and went to live with her friend Jennifer in London. Got a job in a building co-op in London. Worked as a roofer for Islington Community Housing Association. Worked for a few years and got involved in the Women's Motorcycle Workshop. They ran a self help group and maintenance classes for women and went off on rides together.	Jennifer Islington Community Housing Association Women's Motorcycle Workshop
14620	Went back to Australia to her daughter Maddy who was in foster care there. Her daughter stayed with her foster parents until the parents divorced and she came back to live with K in a shared house in Petersham. K told Maddie that she was her mum.	Maddy Petersham
14757	Then moved in with K and her girlfriend Liz Mortiss in a house they bought together in Camperdown. Some of time lived off supporting parents benefits and repairing cars, bikes etc. Later worked at Inner City Cycles in Glebe with Liz.	Liz Mortiss Camperdown Inner City Cycles

15000	<i>Dykes on bikes.</i> There was a group of women who rode motor bikes in the 70s and they met at a pub and go away for runs at the weekends once a month. Remembers Mace, Di Minnis, Lesley Pantlin going on them. K thinks she called themselves “Dykes on Bikes”, but did not have colours or badges. Unaware of the Roos or SPMC.	Dykes on Bikes Mace Diane Minnis Lesley Pantlin
15130	After coming back from London in 81/82, started running a motorcycle maintenance class for women at Rozelle CYSS? in Darling Street. It was popular. Got back in touch with the Dykes on Bikes. The Dykes on Bikes had formulated themselves quite separately as a group and had their colours by then. They socialised at a pub in Leichhardt on the corner of Balmain Road, at the top not far from Balmain Town Hall.	Rozelle CYSS Darling Street Dykes on Bikes
15320	Went to some of their meetings at the pub. A large group. Serious drinkers. Didn't get involved. Thinks they had already been involved in the Mg parade. Thinks it was a different group, but involved some of the same people from the 70s. Formed as a like minded group, for fun.	Mardi Gras
15750	Stayed in Sydney until 98/99, then moved to Melbourne and opened a bicycle shop in West Melbourne for 3 years. Got involved with a group “Bent Cranks” Had been peripherally involved before that with the gay bicycle group Sydney Spokes with Kate Rowe. Also involved with Western Sydney Mountain Bike Club. K had learned how to create bike frames and created a mountain bike frame. Inner City Cycles sponsored Matthew De Belin. He got K to start riding mountain bikes at 38. Got involved and was on the committee and went to NSW and Aust Cycling Federation meetings and became a Commissaire . Good to get girls involved. Women's groups formed to have their own outings at their own pace.	Melbourne Bent Cranks Kate Rowe Western Sydney Mountain Bike Club Inner City Cycles Matthew De Belin Cycling Federation
20200	Got sick in Melbourne and had to sell her business. Hep C treatment made her feel worse. Moved up to the Blue Mountains and bought a cottage and lived by herself and recuperated for a couple of years. Saw a shrink and “started to kind of put down the weapons of war that I'd been carrying around in my personality for a number of years which I think were a result of all the injustices that I'd seen as a young woman involved in women's and gay politics and in society. And to just try to chill out ... When you've got a virus like that that can affect your health and energy, and make you susceptible to other viruses, you have to kind of think as a whole person not just 'I'll eat healthy food', but also your state of mind needs to be healthy. I think I've kind of been at war with the world since I was a young girl, basically for being a woman, and been very angry at the injustice of having my interests and talents and being a woman and being, having to deal with a lot of prejudice and I decided with the help of various professional people to let go of that”.	Blue Mountains
20430	Met some nice women in the Blue Mts. Wanted to be in a relationship. Got on to an internet site and met a woman on the internet and decided to meet her. Came to Scotland and met her and got on very well. Then moved to Scotland.	Blue Mountains Scotland
20604	Met David McDiarmid in a flat in Elizabeth Bay Road, Elizabeth Bay. A tall block with an old lift. Lived in a flat with Joan Carter. On the opposite landing lived David McDiarmid, Terry Bell, and another man Mark. People were into marijuana, hash, pills – speed, mandies, LSD. David was doing paintings.	David McDiarmid Elizabeth Bay Road Elizabeth Bay Terry Bell, Joan Carter Mark Marijuana, hash, speed, mandies,
20803	First venue was Chez Ivy in Oxford Street, Bondi Junction. She was young and hadn't met any lesbians. “It looked a bit like a tropical island or something at the bar. You went in and the bar was on your right as you walked in and then on your left was	Chez Ivy Butch/Femme

	<p>the dance floor, with tables along the far side. And all the guys were standing along the bar. And all the girls were sitting in their butch and femme couples and groups at the tables on the far side of the dance floor. And so I walked in the door and went 'What the hell' to myself and I thought, 'butch and femme you know, this really exists!' The women had suits and ties on or these frilly dresses and make up and dolled up hair ... I felt I had two left feet and stumbled across to the bar and got a drink and a guy befriended me and said hello and eventually I thought I should go over and make an attempt to talk to the lesbians who'd started dancing at this stage and I walked towards to where they were and all the butches came towards me and I said "fuck, I'm not into this ... and I just left". Had a couple more goes coming back but thought she couldn't do this.</p>	
20950	<p>When she lived in Elizabeth Bay, she had heard stories about what had happened at the Rex (Hotel). Women were not allowed in the Rex Hotel, full stop, ever. Specially not in the bar. "One day on one of my probably more stoned moments, I said to Mark, because I was always getting mistaken for a man everywhere, all the time, and I thought well, if they think I'm a man, then I could probably go into the Hotel and nobody would notice. And I didn't think it right through at the time which was kinda funny. Anyway I went in with Mark, but I didn't hang right next to him. I just let him go and cruise around ... I just kind of followed him around the room at a few paces. And just absorbed the atmosphere of everyone in their denim and leather and hair and sweat, beards and beer and thought, 'OK'. And cigarette smoke ... after a while I noticed this guy was following me and I went up to Mark and I said 'this guy is following me' and he said, 'we'll just leave'. So we went outside and he came to ...I turned around to the guy and I said, 'I'm not a man you know' and the guy says, 'I don't care'... We just ran".</p>	Rex Hotel
21220	<p><i>Women drinking in a public bar.</i> It was common practice that women would not be service in a public bar or in a saloon bar. Women would only be served in the Ladies Lounge. In the public bar and the saloon bar, you could stand or sit. Whereas in the Ladies Lounge you had to sit down at tables. And the beer always cost more, more than in the Saloon bar. "an American woman called Shirley had gone over to Manly and she had been refused service in a public bar. And she came to our group (gay lib women's group) as a lesbian and she told us how she had been spoken to and that she wouldn't be served. I believe she was told that by another woman ... and we said this is unjust, what can we do about it. We decided that we would gather up a couple of our friends and go on mass to the pub in Manly and walk up to the bar and demand service ... we turned up at the Hotel, which was unfortunately right opposite the Police Station. In we went and demanded our service and the bar maid was getting ready and she had already poured one beer and she is getting to serve us and an older woman came into the bar and basically said no you can't, they have to leave. Told us to leave. And we said we weren't going to leave until we've had a beer please. She persisted and must have rung the police. Who then ... came in the door and basically grabbed the first woman they could see and dragged her out of the bar by the hair. That was terrible and unwarranted ... It was just intimidating. Dragged her out and terribly violently and threw her into the back of a police car in the street. So we all rushed out and followed of course ... and of course the police were trying to grab others and arrest them at that stage and I can remember going around to the far side of the police car and actually dragging her of the other side of the car and then saying just saying let's run away. Then we realised other people were getting arrested. And I know they had Penny Short and they took them across to the police</p>	Ladies Lounge Saloon Bar Shirley Manly Penny Short

	station and so we all stormed into the Police Station en masse foolishly just being attacked by them and demanded to know what we had done wrong to be set upon.”	
21720	There was some resistance to women in women’s liberation. It did not want to be seen as a lesbian movement. “Unfriendly and uninclusive towards you, anything you went along to”.	
21800	People like Joyce Stevens was very inclusive and she was not anti-lesbian. Others felt threatened.	Joyce Stevens
21850	<i>The setting up of women’s groups in the gay movement.</i> Some men were very political. Most were encouraging and support you to do things. “There was a bit of deference going on there which I don’t think lesbians were getting within the women’s movement at that time. But I think later when the women’s warehouse kicked off, lesbians were involved in the grass roots of that. I think that helped a lot of lesbians.”	
22029	“The Women’s Health Centre in Leichhardt was a big deal. A really big deal. So were Rape Crisis Centres and also Women’s Refuges. There were a lot of lesbians involved in Women’s Refuges as well, in Sydney. They did give lesbians something to get their teeth into ... wasn’t just dances and parties and that sort of stuff it was something that would benefit the community as a whole.”	
22255	The SRC at UNE was very socialist and the editor of the student newspaper was Stephen Broadbent. There was a woman President, Vice President and Treasurer of the SRC for 2 years in a row. The women’s collectives were very active. The SRC was active and tried to improve the situation for students. They had a fund raising gay parties one of which K invited Sylvia and the Synthetics to come.	University of New England Sylvia and the Synthetics
22515	Gaby Antolovich came up in her role as the women’s officer for the NUS and gave support to the collective and encourage them to come down to get involved in Melbourne.	Gaby Antolovich
22550	Went to the first and second National Homosexual Conference. People went along unprepared to the workshops whatever you fancied. Not sure if they achieved anything in particular except introduce people to one another.	National Homosexual Conference
22706	Enrolled in a visual arts course at the Sydney College of the Arts and has a degree in visual arts, majoring in glass. Got involved in the SRC. Got elected onto the College Council as a student representative and as a student representative on the Senate.	Sydney College of the Arts. SRC Senate (University)
22945	Mardi Gras has always been important and has participated whenever she could. “The parade is an absolute triumph. I believe it has changed Sydney and Australia and the World for the better. I think that one little Mg has improved things for society enormously and I think that having that parade is such a privilege and I really love it. So joyful ... (changed society by) acceptance of homosexuals and lesbians and brought everyone out of the closet and we weren’t the devil incarnate as people had been saying for decades. Various church groups and politicians had been making out gays were criminals and people can see that now for what it is. People can see us as just being other normal people like them ... Watching the police join in. For me that was extraordinary that the police could change so much in NSW from the bunch of criminal hoods and thugs and absolute perpetrators of violence ... “	Mardi Gras
23344	“It shows how hard a lot of people worked how much a lot of people gave, but how open and warm Australians really are.”	