

Reference Number: **2016.0003**

Collection/Series Title: **LESBIAN NETWORK**

Creator	Lesbian Network Collective
Creator's Activity/Occupation	Feminist collectives
Creator's Historical Note	
<p>The idea for a national lesbian quarterly magazine was first suggested at the lesbian workshop during the Women and Labour Conference in Brisbane on 14 July 1984. The response was immediate and enthusiastic and a collection was taken for contributions to help finance it. The first issue of the Lesbian Network was produced from Sydney and came out in Spring 1984. Lesbian Network quickly established itself as an essential means of communication between lesbians on a national basis and was produced, printed, sold and distributed on a strictly lesbian and women [womyn, wimmin] only basis, mainly by subscription, four times a year at the Summer and Winter Solstice and the Autumn and Spring Equinox. Each edition included articles on every issue of interest to lesbians as well as poetry, short stories, reports from conferences and festivals, reviews, letters, interviews, photos of events, advertisements from lesbian businesses, community listings, interstate news, favourite recipes and a comprehensive list of contact-lesbians from every state. Lesbian Network was a lesbian community-based magazine, affordable, accessible, easy to read and full of information. The reports from state representatives about what was happening elsewhere in the country certainly helped break down the tyranny of distance between lesbians, especially those isolated in country areas. The Sydney lesbians published Lesbian Network until issue 40 Winter Solstice June 1994, the 10th anniversary edition. A collective in Adelaide took over production with issue 41 Summer Solstice December 1994. Lesbian Network issue 60 Autumn 2000 announced that the responsibility for publication was moving to a collective based in Melbourne. Issue no 61, Spring 2000, came out in a completely different format with a glossy cover. The community listings and contact-lesbians had been brought up to date but the state news, a round-up from round Australia, was missing. The editorial emphasis was on good quality articles that were sought rather than unsolicited as had been the policy in the past. The Melbourne-based Lesbian Network continued with this format and editorial policy for seven issues altogether until issue 67 Spring 2002 when the collective retired. A new collective of five lesbians based in Victoria announced they were prepared to take over, nevertheless it was twelve months before Lesbian Network issue 68, December 2003, was finally posted to subscribers. This issue was followed by issues 69, Autumn 2004, and 70, Winter 2004. There was a hiatus until three lesbians in different states took over for Lesbian Network Issue 71 Autumn 2005, which belatedly celebrated 20 years of the Lesbian Network. This issue also announced that it was for lesbians only, not for women only as in previous issues. Issues 72 to 76, Winter 2005 to Winter 2006 followed before Lesbian Network ceased production.</p>	
Date Range of Collection/Series	1984-2006
Size/Extent	6 Volumes (0.32m)
Access Conditions	Access: Closed

Scope and Content of Collection/Series

Lesbian Network, Issue 1, 1984-Issue 76, 2006

This set of six volumes was compiled from issues contributed by donors to the Victorian Women's Liberation and Lesbian Feminist Archives. Separate issues were bound in 2011 into two sets, one to be kept in Victoria.

This is collection number 150 of the Victorian Women's Liberation and Lesbian Feminist Archives

Collection Category**This document dated**

7/01/2016

To request access to records on the list below via the University of Melbourne Archives Reading Room, quote the Unit/Box reference in full.

Unit/Box	Item Number	Title	Date Range	Description
2016.0003 Unit 1	2016.0003.0001	Lesbian Network Issues 1-10	1984-1986	Issue 1, Spring 1984 to Issue 10, Summer Solstice 1986.
2016.0003 Unit 2	2016.0003.0002	Lesbian Network Issues 11-22	1987-1989	Issue 11, IWD [International Women's Day] 1987 to Issue 22, Summer Solstice 1989.
2016.0003 Unit 3	2016.0003.0003	Lesbian Network Issues 23-34	1990-1992	Issue 23, Autumn Equinox 1990 to Issue 34, Summer Solstice, December 1992.
2016.0003 Unit 4	2016.0003.0004	Lesbian Network Issues 35-45	1993-1995	Issue 35, Autumn Equinox 1993 to Issue 45, Summer Solstice, December 1995.
2016.0003 Unit 5	2016.0003.0005	Lesbian Network Issues 46-59	1996-1999	Issue 36, Autumn Equinox, March 1996 to Issue 59, Summer Solstice, 1999.
2016.0003 Unit 6	2016.0003.0006	Lesbian Network Issues 60-76	2000-2006	Issue 60, Autumn 2000 to Issue 76, Winter 2006.

End of List