

Archive No. 128

Sheril Berkovitch - Lesbiana

The first issue of the lesbian magazine, Lesbiana, was produced in March 1992 by the co-editors, Pat Longmore and Sheryl Berkovitch, to replace the defunct lesbian newspaper, Labrys. Lesbiana provided a monthly forum of news, book, play and film reviews, articles, information, group notices, ads, letters to the editor and other matters of relevance to the lesbian community with eleven issues a year, including a double issue for December/January.

After Pat Longmore died in June 1992, Sheril was the sole Editor till issue no 38, August 1995, when she handed over to Jan Campbell who took over as Editor with issue no 39, in September 1995, and built the magazine into a small business venture till issue no 89, April 2000. Jan sold Lesbiana to Jude Dennis who became Editor in May 2000.

Lesbiana grew bigger and slightly glossier over the years but essentially the magazine continued to provide a necessary source of information for lesbians about a whole range of health, cultural, social, economic and political issues, provided a forum for ideas and discussions on a wide range of topics, enabled groups to publicise fundraising events and functions, included a contact list of current lesbian groups and was financially supported by lesbian businesses which were able to advertise at reasonable rates.

Without prior warning, Lesbiana suddenly stopped production with issue 130 March 2004.