

Archive No. 41

ROUGE

The first issue of ROUGE, a national Australian feminist newspaper, was put out by the Sydney collective in June, 1979, to fill the gap left by the demise of Mabel two years previously.

Autonomous editorial collectives in each state undertook the responsibility of collecting articles, printing and distributing their version of Rouge (with the same newspaper format) every few months. Each issue of Rouge included articles, poems, short stories, letters, graphics, interviews, photos and news items of interest to feminists round Australia and while it had a national flavour it very much reflected the interests and current concerns of the feminists in that particular state.

Some of the issues covered in the numerous articles included the Sydney Anzac Day women's march and cenotaph protest, the Women's Cultural Palace in Melbourne, the Darwin Women's Festival, Female Genital Mutilation, the Question of Aboriginality in the Northern Territory, the August Budget, Conversations with Lesbians and the issue of incest.

The second issue of Rouge was organised and published by women in the Northern Territory in August 1979. The third Rouge, September 1979, was produced by the Canberra Collective; the fourth (undated) by Melbourne feminists; the fifth was published by Tasmanian feminists sometime in 1980; and the seventh from Brisbane, Queensland (undated).

Issue no. 8, June / July, 1980, came from Perth; issue no. 9, October, 1980, was published in Sydney; issue no. 10, December 1980 / January 1981 came out of the Northern Territory; and the eleventh and final issue was published by the Canberra, ACT collective in March 1981.