

FOR FEMINIST ACTIVITY IN THE COMMUNITY

A COMMUNITY ACTIVISM AWARD

Jeannie Sotheran is an unsung leader in the lesbian community who uses her humour, generosity and organisational skills to bring women together every Tuesday night for LESBIAN OPEN HOUSE, a Sydney lesbian social and discussion group, meeting at The Women's Library in Newtown.

She produces *The Loop* email newsletter, two websites, a very active Facebook group (with more than 1400 members), even a *Queer Idea* zine in 2002, as well as a weekly radio programme on Eastside Radio which ran for over a decade – ensuring that conversations, networks, friendships and community can expand and develop.

Jeannie has maintained an unbroken service to the community. Her leadership and long-term commitment to LESBIAN OPEN HOUSE, over the last fifteen years has provided a safe space for women to freely discuss a wide range of issues and experiences.

This continuity and the shared social capital and accumulated herstory is enormously valuable.



JEANNIE SOTHERAN

THE 2015 EDNA RYAN AWARDS 23 OCTOBER 2015