

**Pride History Group Oral History Interview with Jan McInnies and Margaret Cummins**

Interviewer: Sandra MacKay and Rebecca Jennings

Date: 17 November 2008

Location of interview: Leichhardt

Reason for interview:

Restrictions: NONE



Time	Summary	Keywords
0.34	<b>JAN:</b> How Clover started: met another couple through an ad in Nation Review. Started going out together.	Clover
1.23	Went to Capriccios together, went upstairs, bouncer said 'if you're straight we don't want you, if you're a lesbian we don't want you' – when they questioned this the bouncer got aggressive, pushed down the stairs.	
3.08	Sat in shock downstairs, and decided there to start a club for women only (July 1971)	
3.26	Advertised in the Nation Review for single ladies 'camp'	
4.11	Chose the name Clover because there were 4 of them who started the club – four-leaf clover	
4.19	'Clover single ladies recreational club', 'single' as in not married.	
4.53	Decided to interview everyone; ladies wrote to them, then visited them and interviewed them, wanting to check they were 'decent' ladies. Had a meeting at Epping, built a committee	Epping
5.44	1974, 75, decided they'd got enough people, so had their first dance	
5.53	Had been meeting in different people's homes. Sharing ideas on what to do, where to go, started up a newsletter, built to parties in homes, but getting too big	
7.20	First dance was in Chatswood Chase Dispensary Hall Reel to reel tape with music on it (broke) 100 women – felt marvelous, mind-blowing	Chatswood
8.33	Then decided needed club rooms: Got a place above the commune store, which was then in Willoughby, at Crowsnest. Small place, built a bar (Friday nights) had a ticket system, people did BYO, did a newsletter	Willoughby, Crowsnest
10.43	Getting bigger and bigger, had committee, AGM, President, Secretary etc. with meetings the first Tuesday of every month	
11.09	Had to leave that place, put everything into storage	
11.16	Committee called an extraordinary AGM to disband Clover, but managed to prevent that and took over the committee again.	
11.59	found new premises in North Sydney, there after work every day, painting, building a bar, flowers, grand opening in April.	North Sydney
12.35	Needed money to pay rent; had a grand opening, free membership for first year, made money on the bar.	
13.27	Sold alcohol through ticket system, which people got when paid to enter, and this made money	

14.00	Saturday night functions – a lot of work, also made money through raffles.	
14.37	People from all walks of life came to Clover	
15.35	The feminists didn't like them that much, wanted them to follow a political agenda – but they were a social club	
15.53	The name was changed to Clover Business Women's Club	
17.02	Also had married women coming	
17.13	Did BBQs, car rallies on the weekends	
17.45	Went to Polys every year as well (even won one year)	Polys
18.55	Clover was friendly, social, welcome	
19.55	Did make money, but that went back into the club; had \$30-40k in the bank at some point; ran free events for members.	
20.44	Only time they had trouble was when moved too close to Dawn O'Donnell's place. Too close. Tried to come in one evening.	Dawn O'Donnell
23.05	At North Sydney had music on a record player	
23.35	At Drummoyne, Margaret (Cummins) was President, had a DJ with turntables etc. flashing lights, disco stuff.	Drummoyne
23.50	Then Clover had its own women's band in the 90s. Performed at the club. Played a bit of everything.	
25.00	Would occasionally get international visitors, Jan was first contact, and would go out and have coffee with someone new, esp if shy, tell them what to expect at Clover.	
25.30	Had guys telling their girlfriend to go to the club looking for a threesome	
26.10	So many people would walk halfway up the stairs, and then leave. Too scared.	
27.00	<b>Margaret:</b> met people from the club in her coffee shop in Rozelle, and was then invited to come to the club.	
28.50	Did Clover well; had great functions	
31.00	Did a trip to Rodd Island in bicentenary year, committee got dressed up in period costume, BBQ; <b>Jan:</b> Had champagne breakfasts in the park. Anzac Day- gambling, 2-up, gaming tables	
37.37	Used to go to Curry House, in George Street, downstairs. Mainly women – drag shows. Early 1970s.	Curry House
39.00	Club events, theatre workshops, shows.	
40.20	Clover lasted 30 years. Until 2002.	
41.55	Had an accountant, had a constitution.	
42.35	Even became incorporated as Clover Women's Club	