

Summary



Joy Tindall: the femme fatale of Falls Road A case study of female activism in the Dandenong Ranges in the nineteen-seventies and eighties

Joy Tindall was a remarkable woman in a variety of ways--many of them good though some others rather less so. She was a woman full of contradictions. Although well-known during her lifetime, thirty-five years after her passing it has become quite difficult to find sufficient details about her life, her attitudes and many of her actions. What we know is that she was handsome, complex, intelligent, committed and strongly focused on the cause of women, but that she was also impulsive, full of prejudices, and undisciplined. That ultimately led to her imprisonment and a premature death.

An activist on behalf of women, Joy was one of the founders of a women's refuge in the Dandenongs--one of the earliest in Victoria. Unfortunately her commitment, which at times was inappropriate and excessive, led her to step 'over the line' and to kill a man in the belief that her action was justified.

This investigation is based on the limited evidence of her life and activities that can be found in the public domain. Numerous gaps remain owing to the lapse of time since her death in 1990, as well as the reticence of relatives, friends and public and legal agencies.

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