


1981 - 2009

SELF ADVOCACY AND INCLUSION – SPEAKING UP OVER THE YEARS

Self Advocacy History Group –
Reinforce, Chris Bigby, Paul
Ramcharan & Patsie Frawley



THE FORCEFUL TIMES

Vol. 1. No. 1 ★ A LANCEFIELD FIRST ★ April, 1981

FORCE 10: NOW A UNION!

"WE SHOULD STAND UP
FOR OUR RIGHTS."

Weekaway Camp at Bunalock was the place for the most exciting event of 1981. A union, run by mentally handicapped people was formed on Easter Sunday night. It will work to change many of the things handicapped people are unhappy and angry about, from their home to their work.

"It's alright to talk, but what we want is action," is how one person put it. People are tired of waiting and it was felt that intellectually disadvantaged people must work together and form a union, if things are to change.

"We don't want any outside organization, we want our own," was the general feeling of the meeting.

People then talked about what was

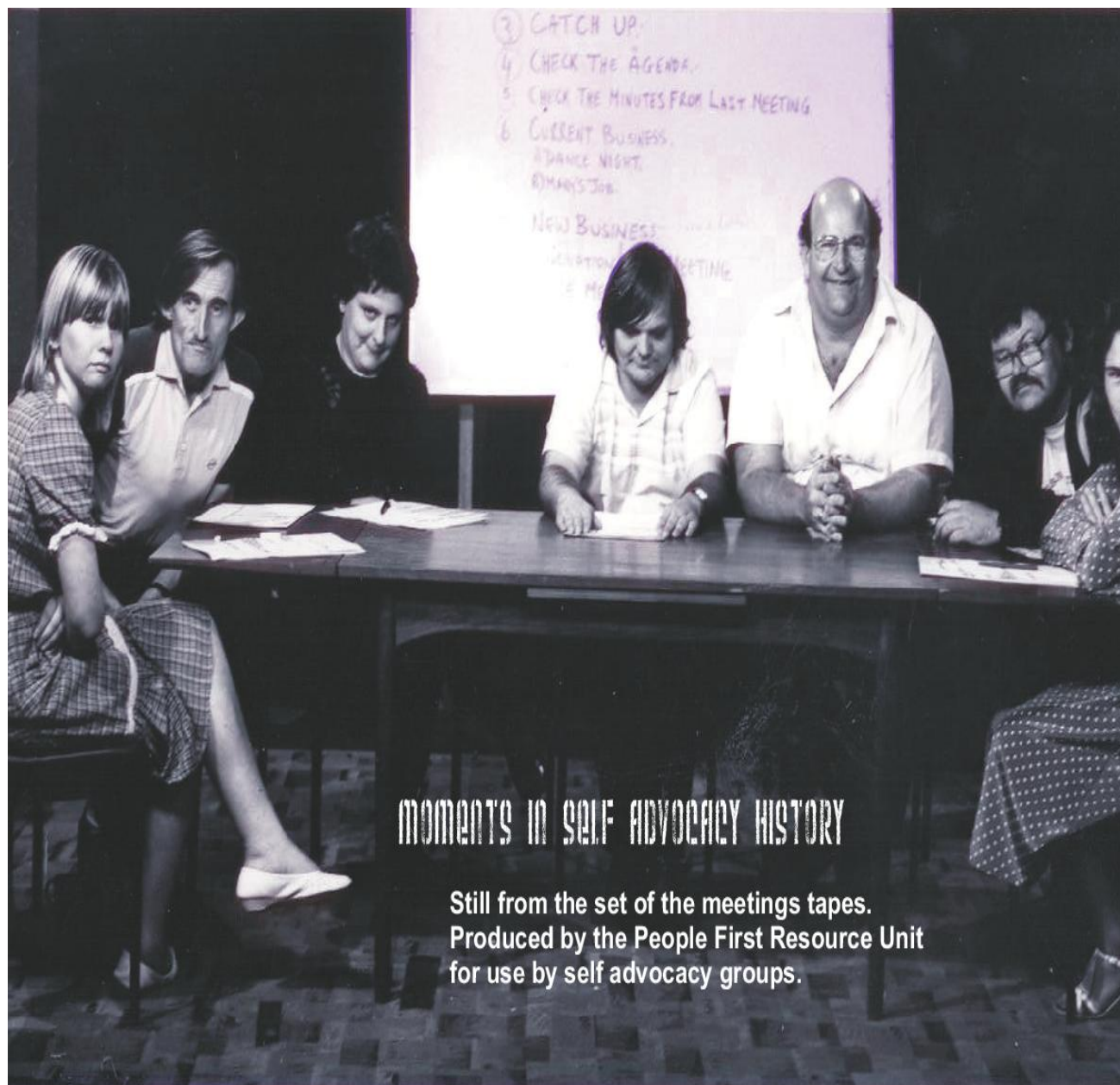
important to them. One woman wanted more small cottages built so that she could move out of the institution she has lived in for 27 years.

After Sunday dinner, a committee of people, from training centres and sheltered workshops, was elected to work on behalf of FORCE 10. The organizers of this conference will assist the committee in the work ahead of them.

WE ARE LOOKING AT NOTHING
LESS THAN A NEW DEAL FOR
ALL INTELLECTUALLY DISADVANTAGED
PEOPLE.

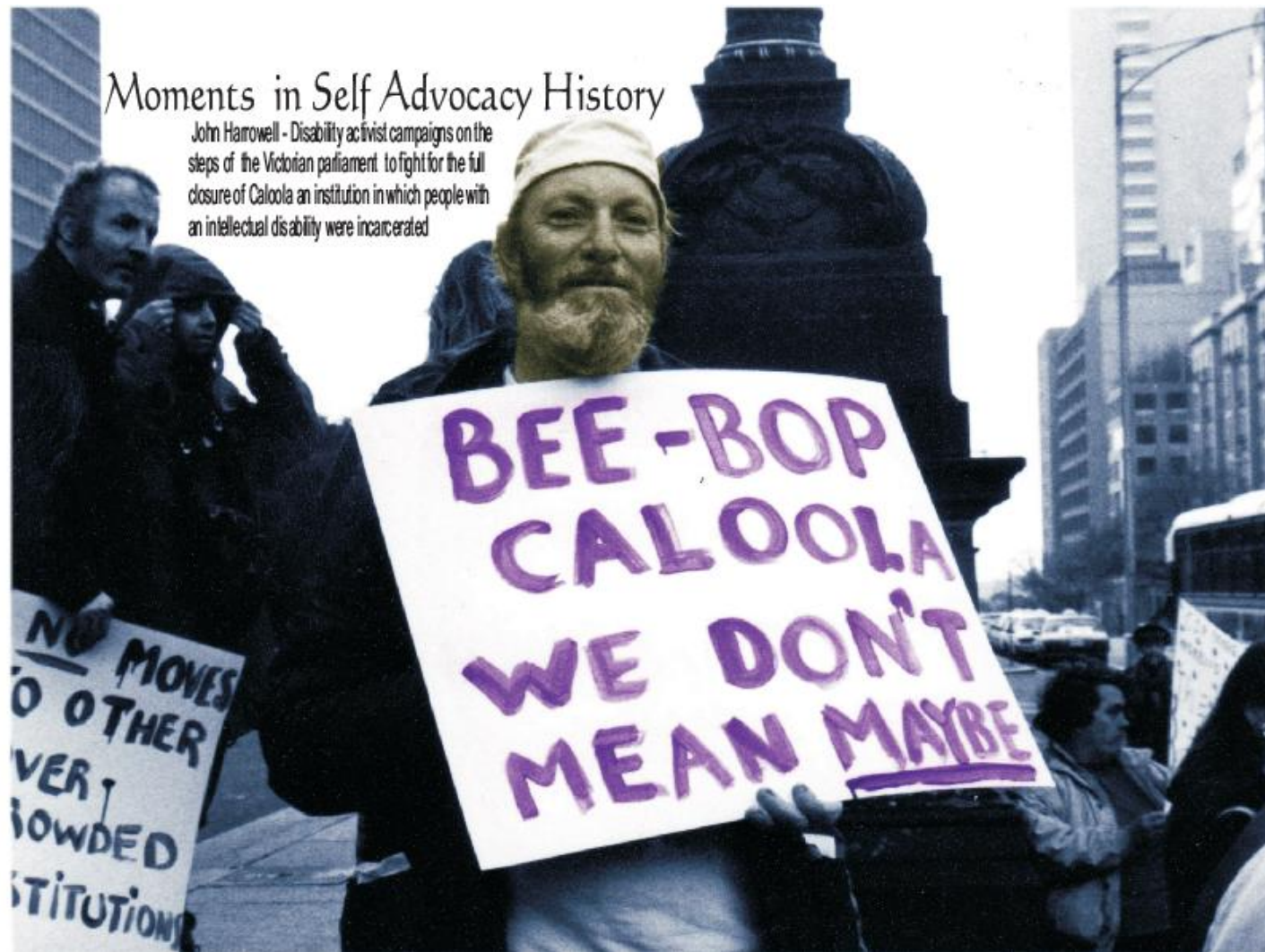
Getting together and sharing our stories – we used to go on camps and let everyone talk about the things that were important to them – People were included in deciding what we worked on – making decisions together about what to do and how to do it

SELF ADVOCACY AND INCLUSION – SPEAKING UP OVER THE YEARS



Getting information in ways you can understand it and working with other people so they get the information too - **Inclusion through knowing how to run meetings and participate in meetings, speak in public, knowing about your rights**

Self advocates have been involved in **campaigns** about closing institutions like Janefield, Caloola, Mayday Hills in Beechworth and Kew . This year Reinforce is campaigning to close Colanda: **The right to live in the community is a right that self advocacy fights for – inclusion is living in the community**



Moments in Self Advocacy History

John Harrowell - Disability activist campaigns on the steps of the Victorian parliament to fight for the full closure of Caloola an institution in which people with an intellectual disability were incarcerated



MOMENTS IN SELF-ADVOCACY HISTORY

Radical action led to self advocates squatting in a house in Drummond St and demanding it be used to house people with a disability.

They won all of their demands!

Self advocacy has used lots of different ways of being heard – early on self advocates joined together and did things like squatting in houses to get community housing, demonstrating on parliament steps, talking to politicians. **Inclusion is being able to speak out like other people in the community - being political**

DES MCINTOSH - 5TH Stand Asia Pacific
Mental Retardation conference Melbourne
1981



Being included by speaking to government, academics, service providers and other self advocates at conferences, meetings and forums:

Inclusion is having a voice and being heard – Self advocacy has given people a voice