

I can't exactly remember when I first met Sabine but believe it was in 2008, soon after her arrival in Australia. I know previous to then Sabine had been working at the United Nations in New York. We met because I am a member of the activist group Stop The Intervention Collective Sydney and Sabine had read one of our leaflets.

Our group was working with First Nations people of the Territory to expose how disastrous and perverse that cruel policy was. Sabine completely understood the human rights implications and joined our group straight away.

At the time we held rallies in Sydney with speakers from the Territory. We were a large group, meeting every week and we were on fire! On fire for change. Each meeting when we finished our agenda, the question came- any other business? Sabine would put her hand up. She was always thoughtful of the issues and showed such insight, happy to be a helper in the background.

So that was about 2008/9. Fast forward a decade or so. Behind us was a Sydney rally every year marking the introduction of the Intervention on June 21, a convergence to Alice Springs, several protests in Canberra, many forums mainly here at the Redfern Community Centre and sometimes other venues.

Life and other issues have caught up with many of our earlier activists and now STICS is a really small group. Now Sabine is the backbone of STICS. She is the one saying doesn't matter how small we are we have to stand up and rally for June 21, we have to keep going and somehow with the help and support of other activist groups we did keep going.

Over the years I've witnessed Sabine's determination to stand in Solidarity with First Nations Peoples and her dogged commitment to raise awareness wherever possible: To continue to organise forums through covid and whip us into shape when there's an important Senate committee to write submissions for.

Sometimes I've been the reluctant helper but somehow, I've stuck with Sabine through thick and thin because she's been a true friend and the one that wouldn't give up. She has travelled that long journey with me. She's been the person I know who really understands the deep systemic issues and who you could have a deep conversation with.

I did think it time to stop, let go about 5 years ago but we kept going. It has only been because of Sabine's ability to stay committed and take on the lion's share of work. It has been a rich journey together meeting and getting to know so many wonderful traditional owners, elders and supporters along the way. We've been encouraged and helped by other grass roots organisations- Intervention Rollback Action Group Alice Springs and cA incensed Australians Melbourne to name just two.

By Sabine's side has always been Hans who has supported Sabine to peruse her passion for human rights and been by her side all through her illness. For me it has been a wonderful rich journey full of treasured memories with my dear friend Sabine and for that I will always remain deeply grateful.