

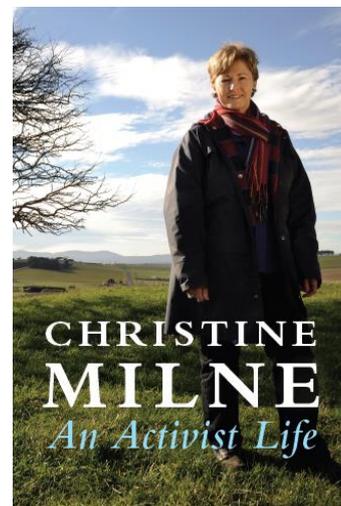
AN ACTIVIST LIFE

By Christine Milne

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“Unless you have had your integrity and honesty impugned... and faced months of uncertainty about the outcomes and the costs, you cannot imagine how hard it is to wake up every day and keep doing your job.” Christine Milne

Former Greens leader Christine Milne tells her story through 18 objects, interweaving the personal and political to recount a truly inspirational life. A famously private woman this is Christine Milne as you’ve not known her before.



An Activist Life is the story of an apparently ordinary woman – a high-school English teacher from northwest Tasmania – who became a fiery environmental warrior, pitted against some of the most powerful business and political forces in the country.

Christine Milne tells her story through the objects that have symbolic meaning in both her personal and political life, from the butter pats in her kitchen that represent her journey from a Wesley Vale farm girl to environmental and human rights activist, to the Pride t-shirt she wore walking next to her son in Mardi Gras, after years of fighting for the legal reform of gay rights in Tasmania, and the beret she donned from the Knitting Nannas as she stood with them as the leader of the Greens in opposition of coal seam gas. She describes how politics actually works: the deals, the promises kept and broken, the horse-trading and treachery involved in some of the most controversial and difficult issues of our time, including the attempts to forge a workable and effective climate change policy for Australia, and our treatment of refugees and asylum seekers.

This is a fascinating insider’s account of what it means to be a woman in politics: the sacrifices of family life and relationships, the relentless misogyny and sexism that must be endured, the gritty conviction that you must never, ever give up the pursuit of the greater good. It is her story of Australian politics and her fight to save the world, and essential reading for anyone who cares about either.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Christine Milne was leader of the Australian Greens from 2012 to 2015.

After growing up on a dairy farm at Wesley Vale, she attended school in Hobart, obtained a Bachelor of Arts with Honours in History from the University of Tasmania and began working as a secondary school teacher in 1975. Milne first came to public attention for her role in opposing the building of the Wesley Vale pulp mill on the basis of its environmental impact, and was arrested and jailed in 1983 while protesting the Franklin Dam. In 1993 she became the first woman to lead a political party in Tasmania, and led the Tasmanian Greens through a period of significant reform in the areas of gun control, same-sex relationships and economic reform and at time of considerable turmoil in the forests. She was one of Australia’s Bicentennial Women 88 Award winners, was appointed to the United Nations Global Roll 500 of Honour in 1990 for her conservation work, and was elected to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature Global Council in 2000. After finishing her decade-long senate career in 2015, she was appointed as an ambassador for the Global Greens.

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ADVANCE PRAISE

'A woman, a mother, a fighter. A heart-warming inspiration for all who want to make a real difference in this world.'

Christiana Figueres, former Executive Secretary, United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change

'Christine is a force to be reckoned with, a woman to laugh with and a great mentor. Her deep love for nature, concern for the climate and care for people is best expressed in her tenacity, hard work for decades, and little things like pots of homemade apricot jam. Read this book if you want to be inspired to back yourself and work for a better world.'

Larissa Waters, former Greens Deputy Leader

'Christine Milne is a powerful champion for the planet and a world-renowned pioneer in Green politics. She has shown the way for many of us, and continues to inspire Greens around the world. Her story is compelling.'

Caroline Lucas MP, Co-Leader, Green Party of England and Wales

'Christine Milne has always been much more than an activist. She has long been a powerful inspiration to me and countless thousands of other Australians because of her relentless fight against greed, environmental destruction, war, discrimination and political corruption. Christine Milne will never lose her humanity. She is incorruptible.'

Peter Cundall, author and previous presenter of Gardening Australia

'Christine Milne is one of the world's most important environmental voices; to have the story of where she came from and how she has fought her many battles is a great gift, one which will inspire all of us to fight harder and smarter.'

Bill McKibben, founder 350.org