

SOUTHERN WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK



Newsletter

May 2024

SWAN acknowledges the Bunurong / Boon Wurrung people, the Traditional Custodians of these lands and waters where we meet, work and live. We pay our respects to Elders, past and present. In line with our commitment to social justice, SWAN unequivocally supports First Nations People in their campaigns for sovereignty, self-determination, treaties and truth-telling.

Southern Women's+ Action Network

Women of the Mornington Peninsula and across the Southern Metropolitan suburbs of Melbourne striving for social justice.

SWAN aspires to be a supportive community for all self-identified cis or transgender women and for those who self-identify as non-binary or gender non-conforming. We are committed to encompassing greater gender diversity in our membership, practices, social justice actions and in the terminology that we use.*

* cis: a person whose sense of personal identity and gender corresponds with the sex assigned to them at birth
<https://www.hrc.org/resources/glossary-of-terms>

SWAN NEWS Notice

NEW DEADLINE DATE

We've moved the deadline date forward so you get the month's news at the start of each month. Also check out Diary Dates near the end of this newsletter – to keep you informed on what's happening in our area.

CONTRIBUTION END DATES

May 29, June 26, July 24, August 28, September 25, October 23, November 27.

We appreciate all contributions to SWAN NEWS and encourage members to provide information about events, activities and causes, including photos (as long as those photographed have given permission, and the photograph's author and/or source is included).

SOUTHERN WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK



The Hon.
Harriet
Shing
MP

**SWAN's Next
Guest Speaker**

**Minister for Housing
Minister for Water
Minister for Equality**

Committed to building an equitable future for us all.

The Hon. Harriet Shing MP is a member of the Legislative Council of the Victorian Parliament. She has represented the wonderfully diverse Eastern Victoria Region since her election in 2014.

Prior to her election, Harriet has worked as a senior policy adviser, lawyer, and industrial relations specialist in private, public, and not-for-profit sectors, including as a trustee director on the board of the industry superannuation fund Vision Super. Harriet currently serves as the Minister for Housing, Water, and Equality and was formerly the Minister for Regional Development from 2022 to 2023. She has also served as the Parliamentary Secretary for Creative Industries, Digital Government, Equality, Water, Emergency Services, and Mental Health.

VENUE
Mt Martha House
466 Esplanade
(Cnr Dominion Rd)
Mt Martha

For women interested in deepening their knowledge of community issues and promoting action for social justice.

SWAN thanks our raffle sponsors for their generous donations:


**Blackbird Cafe and Farrells
Bookshop in Mornington**

Gratefully accepting donations:

www.trybooking.com/au/donate/swan



9:30am | SUNDAY 19 | MAY | 2024

 Thanks to **Secret Garden** for donating the beautiful flowers for our guest speaker

 spswan

 www.swanwomen.org.au

NEW SWAN MEETING FORMAT

In response to member feedback, we are trialling two simple changes to our meeting format:

- 1. MORE MEMBER DISCUSSION:** In addition to hearing a stimulating guest speaker, we want to allow more time for members to discuss their social justice concerns, actions being taken and how others can become involved. This will be the focus of the second half of the meeting, after the Refreshment Break.
- 2. REFRESHMENT BREAK:** To welcome you and facilitate a smooth start to our meeting, tea, coffee and biscuits will be available on arrival. At 11am, we'll take a 15 min break. A selection of sweet and savoury snacks, tea and coffee will be provided.

Please arrive as usual at 9.30am for registration before our meeting commences at 10am. During this pre-meeting timeslot and also in the Refreshment Break you are encouraged to have a chat with people you don't know, especially those new to SWAN.

We aim to finish around 12pm to give ample time for packing up the hall by 1pm. If members wish to continue their discussion about a social justice issue, they could move to the back of the hall for about 15mins then assist with packing up. Some may arrange to meet offsite for further discussion.

MEET OUR MEMBERS: SWAN Catering Group

A wonderful team of SWAN women provide delicious refreshments for attendees of our Sunday Member/Speaker Meetings. Enjoying a cuppa and a snack together is a great way for participants to interact. The efforts of the Catering Team in organising, setting up and cleaning up afterwards are always appreciated. Thank you!



L – R: Fran, Helen, Lynn and Jodie

Fran Rule, Catering Coordinator

“Raised in Edithvale, I worked in drawing offices before going overseas and returning to become a qualified Secondary School teacher. After retiring from full-time work, I studied Art and Design, and also became involved in Community affairs, including SWAN. A founding member of SWAN, for the last few years I have been specifically involved with our catering.”

Helen Corcoran, Catering Team Member

"I have lived in Melbourne most of my life, have three children and four grandsons. My employment was for the main part in the tennis world. Now retired, I volunteer with Grandparents and Kinship Carers Victoria, Frankston Meals on Wheels, and Edithvale & Seaford Wetlands. I enjoy aqua-aerobics on a regular basis, gardening and reading. I joined SWAN about 6 years ago."

Lynn Carpenter, Catering Team Member

"Born and bred in the New Forest, United Kingdom, I moved to Melbourne 20ish years ago for love. I loved working as a nurse until I had to admit I couldn't fight the system. Married but not wanting children, I've had a succession of indoor cats. Having joined SWAN around 2005, I was on the Committee during its transitional phase. For now, I'm very happy in the background in the kitchen."

Jodie Kewley, Catering Team Member

"I grew up in Hampton and have lived on the Peninsula for over 30 years. A former social worker, I invest much time in 'The Red Hill Muesli Company' – a small business that I and my husband created in 1993. I am the author of two novels and numerous short stories, many of which have been successful in short story competitions, the latest being the 2023 Mayor's Award. When not working or writing, I like to read, cook, travel, hike, and do cryptic crosswords. I have been with SWAN for more than 10 years."

Donations instead of Gifts

Are you celebrating a special birthday this year? All birthdays are special, I hear you say and I agree! **Have you thought about suggesting a donation to SWAN in lieu of gifts?** This is a way to support our work and actions and especially to ensure the continuation of our Education Bursaries to women who are studying and experiencing hardship or disadvantage.

If this interests you, please direct gift-givers to our website: swanwomen.org.au They should then click on the **'Donate to SWAN'** tab and follow the instructions. In order to keep track of donations, it would be helpful if the gift-giver could forward an email to: swan.women@outlook.com and in the subject heading enter **'Birthday Donation'**. In the body of the email, record date and amount of donation. Alternatively cash donations can be given to SWAN Treasurer Erica Churchill.

* Please note donations made to SWAN are not tax deductible.

SWAN Coffee Catch-Up

On Sunday 21 April, our latest Coffee Catch-Up was held in the beautiful relaxing grounds of Sages Cottage Farm at Sages Café, a social enterprise café using ingredients grown onsite and employing adults who are differently abled, through Wallara's educational programs and employment pathways. For this Catch-Up, 13 SWAN members enjoyed one another's company, making connections and sharing personal stories – all to the tune of bellbirds ringing in the background. Some members also explored the heritage surrounds and nature walks.

Suggestions were made for future catch-ups in Rosebud and Hastings. These catch-ups are becoming a valued event as there is little time and opportunity at our Member/Speaker Meetings to engage with members, new and established. Come along and join us!



SWAN members at Sages Café, Baxter

FUTURE CATCH-UPS:

To invite participation by SWAN members living in different Peninsula locations, for each Catch-Up, we are moving around to a different café on the Mornington Peninsula – preferably cafés with large tables! Please let Moz know of your café suggestions. Check out each month's SWAN NEWS for details of our other Coffee Catch-Ups in June, August, October and December this year.

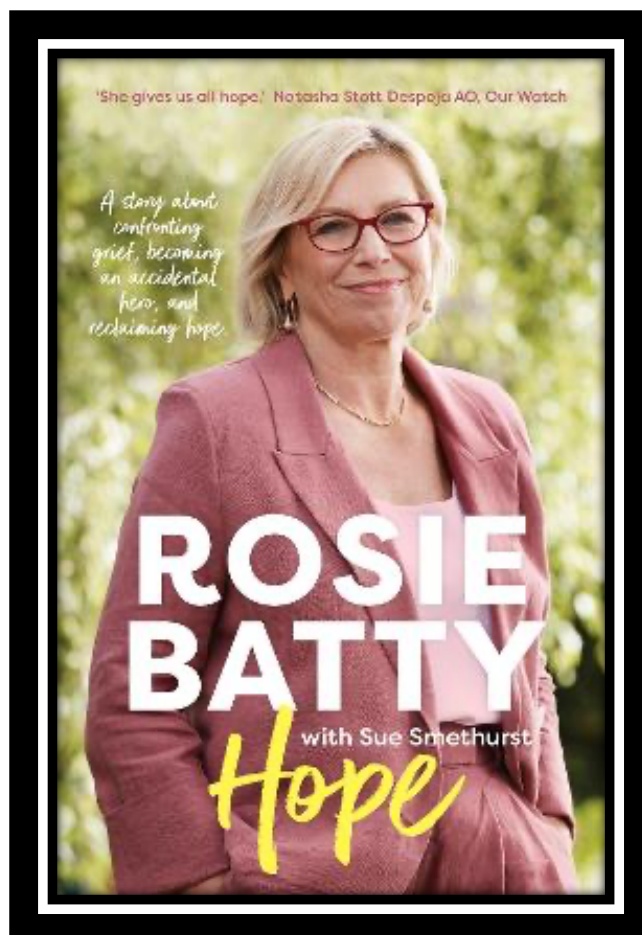
REMEMBER THERE IS NO CATCH-UP IN MAY. Next Catch-Up: SUNDAY 16 JUNE in Rosebud, venue to be decided. Check your in-box and June's SWAN NEWS.

RSVP Moz Lucas by Friday 7 June: maureenfrances21@gmail.com

Family Violence Campaigner Rosie Batty in conversation

Wednesday 29 May,
6.30pm, 'The Studio' at
Peninsula Community
Theatre, Mornington

Rosie will be discussing her new
book **'Hope'** with Sue
Smethurst. To book tickets:
[rosiebatty:wednesday 29 may -
Farrells Bookshop](http://rosiebatty:wednesday29may-farrellsbookshop)



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smart
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GROUP

FUNDRAISING FOR
Clothes4U Inc
Rosebud Boutique

MEDIA PARTNER
Peninsula Magazine

THE ORIGINAL PRELOVED POP-UP MARKET
3RD MAY FRIDAY
6PM - 8PM

FUNDRAISER EVENT FOR CLOTHES 4U.ING

RENT A STALL • PRE-LOVED FASHION • SILENT AUCTION •
WINE & FINGER FOOD • FUNDRAISING FOR WOMENS CHARITY

VENUE: MT ELIZA SCOUT HALL, 4 RANELAGH DR, MOUNT ELIZA
TICKETS \$20PP INC WINE ON ARRIVAL
BOOK: WWW.SMARTBUSINESSSOLUTIONS.COM.AU/EVENTS

SWAN MEMBER SURVEY 2024

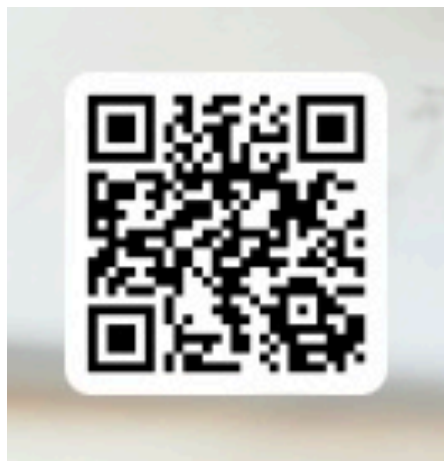
Recently – on April 18 - we sent a survey to all SWAN members. We've received a fantastic response to this short questionnaire already! Thanks to all those who have contributed.

Responses to this survey will assist the SWAN Committee with forward planning.
Filling in the survey should take around 10 minutes of your time.

If you have not yet provided input, please do so as soon as possible.
Closing date for all feedback is 10 May.

To complete the survey on-line, simply open the link here, or scan the QR code.

[Fill | SWAN Member Survey 2024
forms.office.com](https://forms.office.com/Forms.aspx?ID=91111111-1111-1111-1111-111111111111)



Please complete all questions. Brief feedback will be fine.
Once you have finished simply press the 'SUBMIT' button that is located at the end.

Members who cannot readily access emails have been sent a hard copy of the questionnaire by mail and can return their input by post.

YOUR INPUT WILL HELP TO FURTHER STRENGTHEN THE VALUABLE ROLE THAT SWAN IS PLAYING IN OUR COMMUNITY

THANK YOU

Mornington Peninsula Women's Shelter Community Forum

Women's homelessness and domestic violence are reaching crisis levels on the Mornington Peninsula. Join us at a special community forum where you can learn how Women's Community Shelters (WCS) is working at a grassroots level to find a solution. Together with the local community, we plan to open a new shelter, 'created for the community, by the community.'

The forum is an opportunity to find out more and get involved. Whether it's becoming a board member, assisting in the property search, donating time, resources or skills, or joining the fundraising effort – there are numerous ways for you to contribute and help support more women and children at risk.

Hear from our expert speakers as they shed light on the urgent need for a new crisis shelter and the positive impacts it can have on the local community.



Annabelle Daniel OAM,
WCS CEO, Chair DVNSW &
Member of Coercive Control
Taskforce



Peter Hunt AM,
WCS Founder and
Board Member



Cr. Sarah Race,
Mornington Peninsula
Shire Council



Lisa Holt, Principal,
Rosebud Secondary
College



Tracy Meyer, Detective
Senior Sergeant,
Somerville Family Violence
Investigation Unit

WE NEED HELP WITH

- Finding a property
- Shelter set up and operational costs
- Board Members
- Fundraising
- Developing community and corporate partnerships
- Lobbying Government

Join Us

Wednesday
8th MAY

7.00pm – 9.00 pm



Rosebud Secondary College (Auditorium)
245 Eastbourne Road Rosebud VIC

SWAN Women for Housing Justice

Some members of SWAN have formed a sub group of SWAN recently named **Women for Housing Justice**. Our focus is to develop an advocacy program to address the urgent and shocking state of homelessness especially amongst older women on the Mornington Peninsula.

In coming days you will receive a package of sample letters, contact lists and a fact sheet. Please take the time to look at these materials and send the letters off to your local councillors and federal representatives.

Every day the housing situation in our local community worsens. Women's lives are at risk. This is the first step in our advocacy program Your letter can make a difference and the more letters received can make an even bigger difference.

If you would like to share some information or let us know your views please email Erica Churchill who is kindly keeping our meeting minutes churchill.eric@gmail.com

Judith Graley, Belinda Rodman, Susan Blackburn, Erica Churchill, Susan Hillman-Stolz and Lynn Carpenter.



SAVE THE DATE: Refugee Week 2024

FILM EVENT: 'Journey Beyond Fear'

Q&A includes SWAN's Rosemarie Draper OAM,
Robyn Hughan, Director & Co-producer,
and Steve Warne, Co-producer

Peninsula Cinema Rosebud, 16 June, 2pm

Bookings: via the cinema and upcoming weblink from the producers – to be published in June's SWAN NEWS

URGENT CALL TO ACTION: GRANDMOTHERS FOR REFUGEES NEEDS YOUR HELP – MAKE AN IMPACT IN ONE HOUR

WHEN

Grandmothers for Refugees invites you to a zoom **Calling Party** on **Wednesday 1st May @ 11am AEST** and again on **Wednesday 8th May @ 11am AEST** to contact ALP and Independent Senators to vote to "**Stop Labor's Entry Ban and Deportation Bill**". The Bill is currently the subject of a Senate inquiry which is due to report on the 7th May and then to be debated in the Senate mid-May.

HOW

What is a Calling Party? You simply log into the zoom link we will send you and have your phone at the ready. We will send you some brief talking points and a list of Senators' contact details with the zoom invitation. We will start our hour-long action at 11am AEST with a briefing on the current state of play and some tips for making powerful, effective phone calls to make the politicians sit up and listen. We'll each then spend around 30 minutes calling Senators (who will be voting on the Bill mid May), before coming back together to debrief and celebrate.

WHY

Labor is proposing a law that would:

- * send to jail anyone who does not go along with being deported, even if to severe danger
- * allow the Immigration Minister to cancel someone's refugee status
- * allow the Immigration Minister to place a ban on anyone coming from a country if it does not cooperate with Australia over deportations.

This puts tens of thousands of people living in the community at risk.

**To join a Calling Party, simply email:
info@grandmothersforrefugees.org
and type 'yes 1st May' or 'yes 8th May' or 'both' in the subject line**

*In solidarity,
Grandmothers for Refugees, Executive Committee*



Supporting First Nations



**NAIRM MARR
DJAMBANA**

GATHERING BY THE BAY

Reconciliation week @ Nairm

Monday 27th May, 2024

10am- 11.30am

Flag Raising

Welcome to Country & Smoking Ceremony

Dancers

Delicious Morning Tea

Nairm pop up shop

Thursday 30 May, 2024

Community Lunch

12.00am - 1.30pm

**32 Nursery Avenue
Frankston**

**For more information contact
Nairm on 9783 1521 for more information**

**NOW MORE
THAN EVER**

**All
Welcome**

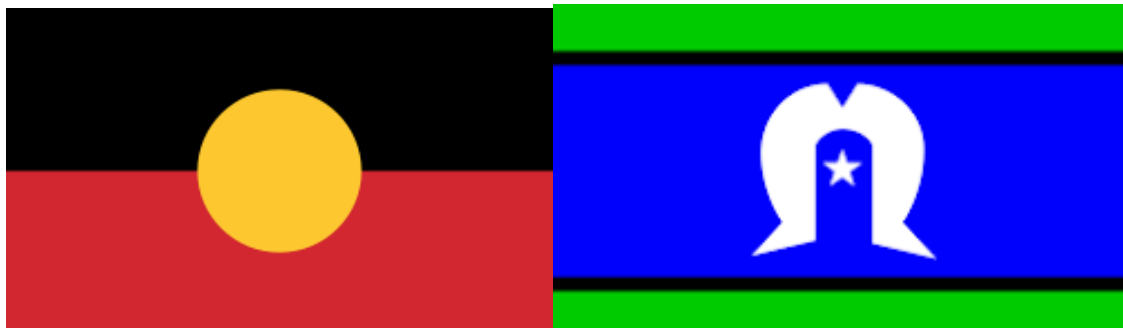
NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 2024 27 MAY-3 JUNE #NRW2024 RECONCILIATION.ORG.AU



NATIONAL RECONCILIATION WEEK 27 MAY – 3 JUNE, 2024

“The #NRW2024 theme, Now More Than Ever is a reminder to us all that, no matter what, the fight for justice and the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will – and must – continue.”

Source: Reconciliation Australia, reconciliation.org.au



SWAN’s Advocacy in Support of the Victorian Treaty Process

In early April, SWAN sent a letter to the Victorian Liberal and National Party MPs in our region to convey our deep concern that the LNP had withdrawn its support for the Victorian Treaty process. A copy of this letter was circulated to all SWAN members. We also encouraged members to express their personal views on this matter.

The letter was sent to the following members of the Legislative Assembly: John Pesutto, MP, Victorian Leader of the Opposition; Peter Walsh, Leader of the National Party; Chris Crewther, MP Mornington; and Sam Groth, MP Nepean. It was also sent to three members of the Legislative Council, Eastern Region: Melina Bath (Nat) and Renee Heath (Lib), with a similar letter sent to Jeff Bourman (Shooters, Fishers and Farmers Party).

To date SWAN has not received any replies. However, Maureen Donnelly, who drafted the original letter, received an email from Peter Walsh, in essence: “*The Liberals and Nationals are committed to closing the gap and improving the lives and well-being of Indigenous Victorians. We do not believe that treaty is the best way to deliver these outcomes*”. Maureen has provided Peter with a considered response, reiterating key points from her letter.

Public Hearings of the Yoorrook Justice Commission

The Yoorrook Justice Commission is the first formal truth-telling process into historical and ongoing injustices experienced by First Peoples in Victoria, established jointly by the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria and the Victorian Government - but operates independently of both. Yoorrook is led by five Commissioners, of whom four are Aboriginal, and three are Victorian First Peoples. The Commissioners bring a vast range of information and experience about First Peoples' knowledge, land rights, history, law, systemic disadvantage, trauma and healing. The truth-telling process is looking into matters related to land, sky and waters; the criminal justice system; and the child protection system. Yoorrook will deliver its final report in 2025.

You can access videos of current and past hearings via the following link:
<https://yoorrookjusticecommission.org.au/public-hearing/>

Emma Donovan in Concert

Tuesday, 14 May 2024 | 08:00 PM - 09:40 PM Frankston Arts Centre



Source: Frankston Arts Centre

Witness the talent of ARIA-nominated, award-winning Indigenous singer and songwriter Emma Donovan and her band. Join us for this incredible concert where she will share stories, providing an understanding of Country and community.

Bookings: <https://artscentre.frankston.vic.gov.au/Whats-On/Season-Shows/Emma-Donovan-Songs-Stories-and-Soul-from-Family-and-Country>



Our Weaving Kits

Give the perfect Mother's Day experience

"No one deserves peace like a mother does. Choose from our beautiful array of colours and experience this beautiful process with your mum or bestie with our 20% off discount code: FORHER"

Our Weaving Kits are ethically created and lovingly prepared. We are 100% Aboriginal owned to provide you with authentic experiences and products. Weaving is a mindfulness practice that allows the weaver to disconnect from everyday worries and reconnect to ancient Aboriginal practices."

More info and to order, click on the link above: 'Our Weaving Kits' or go to oursonglines.com



AUNTY BEA EXHIBITION

NATURE'S DREAMING
18/04

'NATURE'S DREAMING' at BALUK ARTS

Ongoing from April 18, throughout May

Featuring watercolours and acrylics by Aunty Bea Nambooka Edwards

BALUK ARTS: 5 Davies St, Mt. Eliza <https://balukarts.org.au/>

OPEN: Tuesday – Friday, 10am-5pm
Saturday 10am-3pm

Dates for your Diary



- **FRIDAY 3 MAY, 10 – 11.30am:** *'Grandmothers for Refugees, Dunkley meeting'*, Frankston Library, 60 Playne St. Frankston.
- **FRIDAY 3 MAY, 6 – 8pm:** *'Fashion for a Cause'*, pop-up market fundraiser for Women's Charity, Mt Eliza Scout Hall, 4 Ranelegh Dr, Mt Eliza. Tickets: \$20 inc wine on arrival. Book: www.smartbusinesssolutions.com.au/events
- **WEDNESDAY 8 MAY, 11am – 'Grandmothers for Refugees Calling Party'** via zoom. To join, reply to: info@grandmothersforrefugees.org and type 'yes 8th May' in the subject line.
- **WEDNESDAY 8 MAY, 7 - 9pm:** *'Mornington Peninsula Women's Shelter Community Forum'*, Rosebud Secondary College Auditorium, 245 Eastbourne Rd. Rosebud.
- **TUESDAY 14 MAY, 8 – 9.40pm:** *'Emma Donovan: Songs, Stories and Soul from Family and Country'*, Frankston Arts Centre, 27-37 Davey St. Frankston.
Book: <https://artscentre.frankston.vic.gov.au/Whats-On/Season-Shows/Emma-Donovan-Songs-Stories-and-Soul-from-Family-and-Country>
- **FRIDAY 17 MAY, 10.30am:** *'SWAN & Younger Women Group meeting'*, at Flower Girls Café, 66 Main St. Mornington.
Contact: Bonnie Einsiedel bonnie.einsiedel@gmail.com
- **SUNDAY 19 MAY, 9.30am - midday:** *'SWAN General Meeting with Guest Speaker'* The Hon. Harriet Shing MP, Mt Martha House, cnr Dominion Rd & The Esplanade, Mt Martha.
- **MONDAY 27 MAY, 10 – 1.30pm:** *'Reconciliation Week Event at Nairm'*, Nairm Marr Djambana, 32 Nursery Rd. Frankston. More Info: 03 9783 1521
- **WEDNESDAY 29 MAY, 6.30 - 8pm:** *'Rosie Batty in Conversation: Hope'*, The Studio at Peninsula Community Theatre, 91 Wilsons Rd. Mornington. Book: farrells.com.au
- **THURSDAY 30 MAY, 10.30am:** *'SWAN Diversity Group meeting'*, at Beleura Café, 85-87 Beleura Hill Rd. Mornington. Contact: Viv Daniels vivcdaniels@gmail.com
- **THURSDAY 6 JUNE, 2pm:** *'SWAN Promotion Group meeting'*, at Sarah's.
Contact: sarahrussell@comcen.com.au
- **SUNDAY 16 JUNE, 10 - 11.30am:** *'SWAN Coffee Catch-Up'*, Rosebud café venue TBC.
Bookings: RSVP Moz Lucas by Friday 7 June maureenfrances21@gmail.com

Contact Us

SWAN News Editor:
Moz Lucas

SOUTHERN WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK



[OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER](#) aims to inform readers of current issues and matters of interest.

[NEWLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS](#) If you have information of interest to our members, please ensure you let the editor Moz Lucas know via the email below.

Deadline for our next issue Wednesday 29 May 2024

FACEBOOK AND WEBPAGE Recent events and photos may appear on both the SWAN Facebook page and the website, as well as details of future meetings.

PHOTO/VIDEO PERMISSION Please advise swanwomen@outlook.com or at the door at a meeting if you do not wish to be included in photographs or videos, otherwise we will take it that you are happy to have your photo included.

CONTACT

Postal: PO Box 72 BITTERN VIC 3918

Email: swanwomen@outlook.com

Website: <https://swanwomen.org.au/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/spwswan/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHua3ynobWOxAUEfOPLt1yQ>

Donations www.trybooking.com/au/donate/swan

Our Sponsors

- * Blackbird Café: 2D Empire St Mornington (03) 5976 8632 blackbird-café.edan.io
- * Bodhi & Me Florist: 5A Bay Rd Mt Martha (03) 5916 1270 bodhiandme.com.au
- * Cape Merchants: 96 Ocean Beach Rd Sorrento (03) 5984 4641 capemerchants.com.au
- * Farrells Bookshop: 143 Main Street Mornington (03) 5975 5034 farrells.com.au
- * Higher Ground Café: 5/5 Howey Rd Mt Martha (03) 5974 4733
- * Rosebud Book Barn: 891 Point Nepean Rd (03) 5986 6770 info@rosebudbookbarn.com.au
- * Secret Garden: 81 Main Street Mornington (03) 5975 0977 secretgardenflowers.com.au
- * SiSCo Pizza Restaurant: 2113 Point Nepean Rd Rye (03) 5985 3967 melgow3@gmail.com
- * Zen Living: 70 Main St Mornington (03) 5975 1013 zenlivingmornington.com.au

Southern Women's Action Network Inc. Reg: A0038144Z, ABN. 50 089 314 052