

SWAN Newsletter



Women striving for
Social Justice

Volume 14 Issue 1

March 2014

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ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE 2013-2014

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Pam Blazsanyik

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Rosemary Maughan

Speaker Co-Ordinator

Sue Weber

Minutes Secretary

June Jay

Newsletter Co-ordinator

Gwen White

Website Co-ordinator

Rosemarie Draper

Purchasing Officer

Pauline Young

Committee Member and

Raffle

Claire Chandler

Wendy Barnes

Members are
welcome to
attend Committee meetings.

Southern Women's Action Network Inc.
Reg No A0038144Z, ABN 84 41627 1331
PO Box 392 Mt Martha 3934

Mission Australia's "Youth Survey" presented by Kylee Bates



Mission Australia strives to ensure that their Youth Survey represents our National diversity—cultural, geographic and socio-economic. Among those who take part are young people in detention and teenagers who are homeless or in danger of being so.

Kylee Bates is State Director, Service Delivery (Vic/SA) for Mission Australia and is accountable for the delivery of all Mission Australia services across these jurisdictions, including a range of youth-specific programs focused on education, employment and transitions, as well as those supporting young people exiting juvenile justice or dealing with drug and alcohol addiction.

She joined Mission Australia in September 2008 and held the roles of National Program Manager, Employment Solutions and more recently the Manager of Employment Solutions across Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia.

Prior to joining Mission Australia, Kylee worked for the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet on Indigenous policy. Between 2003 and 2007, Kylee was Deputy CEO of Volunteering Australia, the national peak body for volunteering and currently serves on the board of the International Association for Volunteer Effort.

In 2012, Kylee undertook a Churchill Fellowship and travelled to six countries to examine employer-led initiatives that are increasing the employment participation of people with disabilities.

Kylee holds a Bachelor of Economics and Post Graduate Qualifications in both Law and Philanthropy and Non-profit Studies.

Judith Graley An Inspiration!

How lucky were we to have Judith Graley not only to remind us of the origins of SWAN, but also to enthuse us all with the importance of involvement with community.

Judith talked of the humble beginnings of SWAN and of the pivotal “simple occasion that someone else had organised” where she was “confronted with the idea of being involved.” It was the moment she said yes to a future of abiding commitment to social justice and to her local community, first as a Mornington Shire Councillor, then as Mayor. In 2006, Judith took this political interest further, by standing for and being elected, as a member of the Victorian Legislative Assembly for the seat of Narre Warren.

Far from presenting politics as a mine field and a den of conspiracy, Judith’s strong commitment to social justice and inclusiveness was evident as she spoke about the importance of women in government, of making alliances with a wide range of people, and the primary focus on inclusiveness of all members of the community. As she talked about the importance of listening and the “Labour Cares” program, her passion and warmth were evident. Issues are to be embraced; groups can solve problems; support groups are invaluable. But for all the challenges, what was abundantly clear was that Judith has a real passion and dedication for the work that she does. Judith’s enthusiasm for the complexity of the political process and her undaunted approach to problem solving through a philosophy of community input were glad tidings to our ears.

Judith spoke briefly about sexism and misogyny in politics, but concluded that the only way it can be changed is by women being there. “If you have women who can be there, support them.”

It was an uplifting experience . Our sincere thanks to Judith!

SWAN Committee news

Pam Blazsanjik back in action

At our recent Committee meeting we were delighted to have Pam return. The new Committee are enthusiastically working to make 2014 another excellent SWAN year.

Asylum Seeker Centre—Dandenong

Can you help? David Spitteler does an amazing job of providing some food and basic needs for Asylum Seekers and Refugees. Contact him on :- 0409416744. He is also available to speak to interested groups.

SWAN Dates for 2014

Make sure you have written these SWAN dates on your calendar for 2014. Again SWAN intends to have dynamic, socially conscious women to challenge our thinking.

**SUNDAY
18TH MAY**

tbc

**SUNDAY
20TH JULY**

tbc

**SUNDAY
21 SEPTEMBER
AGM**

tbc



Judith Graley (above),

Judith, with Heather Boudy, Rosemary Draper and Gwen White. (Right)

Photos from our November meeting



There's much to be said for challenging fate instead of ducking behind it.

Diana Triffing

Many thanks to

SECRET GARDEN

Who supply us with our beautiful flowers



SWAN Scholarship 2014

Our SWAN Scholarship for 2014 is registered with Graduate Women Victoria and is now on offer to Tertiary students who may wish to apply. As you will notice, it has now become known as the SWAN Scholarship. After discussions at the November meeting, it is to be offered more widely to deserving students including indigenous, refugee and disadvantaged women generally.

If you wish to contribute, Donation Forms will be available at the March 16th meeting OR go the website www.gradwomenvic.org.au

SHARE TABLE

If you would like to speak to any item you have placed on our Share Table please speak with The Facilitator before the meeting.



SUNDAY 16TH MARCH

KYLEE BATES

- Kylee Bates is State Director (Vic/ SA) for Mission Australia
- Kylee's current position with Mission Australia enables her to speak on the need for and lack of equal opportunity
- Prior to joining Mission Australia, Kylee worked for the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet on Indigenous policy.
- In 2012, Kylee undertook a Churchill Fellowship and travelled to six countries to examine *employer-led* initiatives that are increasing the employment participation of people with disabilities.

This and That

SWAN Website news

Check it out at:-

swanwomen.org.au

Here is the [Victorian Women's Trust](http://www.vwt.org.au) site with the download link for "A Stitch in Time."
<http://www.vwt.org.au/initiatives-25.html>

International Women's Day

Each year International Women's Day (IWD) is celebrated on March 8. The first International Women's Day was held in 1911.

Women's equality has made positive gains but the world is still unequal. International Women's Day celebrates the social, political and economic achievements of women while focusing world attention on areas requiring further action.

Inspiring Change is the 2014 theme and encourages advocacy for women's advancement everywhere in every way.

Join the celebrations in your area.

Visit:- unwomen.org.au

SWAN sincerely thanks

Judith Graley for printing and facilitating distribution of the newsletters and, Mornington Council for provision of a comfortable and convenient location

**Venue: Meeting Room
Shire Offices,
Queen Street,
Mornington**

9.30AM — cost \$8

**Bookings no longer required.
Please feel free to arrive at future meetings
without confirming your attendance.
Pauline Young, our Purchasing Officer, will
provide delicious goodies for us all.**