

SWAN Newsletter



Southern Women's Action Network Inc.
Reg No A0038144Z, ABN 84 41627 1331
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Volume 9 Issue 4

September 2009

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ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE 2008-2009

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Draper

Committee

Jeanine Barnden

Alana Burley



Members
welcome to
attend Committee meetings.

Joan Kirner AM –September 20 Women having a voice.



Joan Kirner co-wrote with Moira Rayner, the best-selling book *The Women's Power Handbook*, published by Penguin in May 1999. The text gives women the tools and strategies to get, keep and use their power.

Joan Kirner is perhaps best known as Victoria's first female Premier (1990-1992). Joan was elected to Parliament in 1982. Her Ministries included Conservation, Forest & Lands, Minister for Education and Deputy Premier and during her time as Premier she held the position of Minister for Women's and Ethnic Affairs. Ms Kirner was Victoria's Opposition Leader from October 1992 to March 1993. She retired from Parliament in May 1994.

Ms Kirner has accepted and continues to accept many challenges. She began her life-long involvement in education as a teacher. Her political activism within this area was as a parent at the local, state and national level. She led the charge for the representation of state school parents on the Commonwealth Schools Commission. She was a member of the School Commission from 1973-1978. In 1980 Joan Kirner was awarded an AM for her contribution to community services.

In 1986, as Minister for Conservation she developed and implemented the now internationally acclaimed Landcare program.

In March 1994 Joan Kirner began chairing the Centenary of Federation Advisory committee and held this position until the committee's Final report: "2001 - A report from Australia" was presented to the Federal Government in August 1994.

From July 1994 to December 1996, Joan was the Chair of the Employment Services Regulatory Authority (ESRA), and a member of the Board of NETTFORCE and the AIDS Trust of Australia.

In 1996 Ms Kirner established EMILY's List Australia, a political network to support the election of more progressive Labor women to Parliament. She was its Co-convenor till June 2005. Currently Joan is a member of the Board of the Museum of Victoria and has just been appointed Victoria's first Victorian Communities Ambassador. Her role is to work with Government and local communities to build stronger communities.

Ms Kirner is Matron of the Women's Circus, the Living Museum of the West, Positive Women, the Women's Electoral Lobby and Domestic Violence, Victoria. She is also a patron of the Royal Victorian District Nursing Service.

Ms Kirner writes and speaks regularly on a diverse range of topics including Landcare, education, Politics, equity for women, community activism, community development and the media.

Bea Edwards—July Speaker



Bea works as a Drug and Alcohol Councillor, working especially with the aboriginal community on the Mornington Peninsula. She sees her work as “honouring our elders and nurturing our youth”. Bea was born Toorak, and has lived in Tasmania, South Australia, Northern Victoria and Lake Tyers. At eight she was placed in a foster home, and feels she received her culture from the elders of the community. She is now an elder herself and in her time has raised twenty children who call her ‘Mum’.

The aboriginal community of the Peninsula numbers over 1300, 55% of whom are under 16. There are seven elders in the community. Many members of the community live a disadvantaged and transient lifestyle and suffer from sub-standard housing and drug and alcohol issues. There had been no specific indigenous medical services to address these needs. In the last 10 years the counselling service has grown from just Bea to ten workers who try to address the problem through education about diet, stress in lifestyle, and by changing the culture to appreciate the spiritual connection to place. After the death of Bea’s mother and a family rift she found strength and healing through painting. Her vibrant paintings expressed her grief, and her passion for life found new expression on canvas.

Bea feels that since 1967, with government recognition of the aboriginal community, education about aboriginal culture has been very important, allowing the spiritual journey to be taught and leading to rebuilding and a greater fulfilment in the aboriginal community. It is vital that this support continues, along with training for community finance, and business skills.

“I believe, very sincerely, that any woman entering the public arena must be prepared to work as men work; she must justify herself not as a woman, but as a citizen; she must attack the same problems, and be prepared to shoulder the same burdens.”

Dame Enid Lyons—maiden speech to Parliament 1943.

THIS and THAT

Bea Edwards Exhibition

SWAN July guest speaker, Bea Edwards, has an exhibition opening at Whitehill Gallery, White Hills Road, Dromana on September 19th. Bea has sent an invitation to SWAN members attend the opening where some of her aboriginal paintings will be on display.

Asylum Seekers Resource Centre

In times of uncertain financial future the work of the ASRC is more vital than ever. Often it is asylum seekers, refugees and other newcomers who bear the brunt of frustrations with the economic downturn. SWAN is still making a collec-

tion at each meeting of non-perishable goods and toiletries that may be useful to families being assisted by the ASRC. Donations may be left at the Share Table.



PACE - Peninsula Advisory Council for Elders is a group of seniors from across the Shire interested in helping Council respond to issues affecting seniors in our community. For more information or to become involved please visit the Shire website at www.mornpen.vic.gov.au

SUNDAY 15 NOVEMBER
tbc

RSVP
for all meetings to:
Heather—9787 8532
Heather—5974 2303

July SWAN Meeting



At our July meeting we were delighted to be entertained by SWAN bursary recipient Chloe John, who sang for us and explained how she is using singing and performing in choirs as a way of increasing her self-confidence and expressing her interest in people and the world.

SWAN Facilitator Susan Blackburn and Speaker Co-Ordinator Anne Johnston chat with Bea Edwards after the July meeting.



SWAN Annual General Meeting

Nominations are called for new committee members to assist with the planning and running of SWAN meetings. The following members will be leaving the committee after many years combined service. Our thanks for all of this hard work will be expressed in the final newsletter of the year

Facilitator—Susan Blackburn

Treasurer—Janice Gray

Speakers' Convenor—Anne Johnston

Committee Member—Jeanine Barnden

It will be clear that this is a huge hole in our committee and some 'new blood' will be very welcome—indeed necessary. Nomination forms are included with this newsletter. Please consider the role that you could play, and don't hesitate to ask a friend to nominate you! The retiring committee members are happy to assist the new committee in the transition. Let's build on the wonderful work that SWAN has done over the last eleven years!

SHARE TABLE

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

TIME FOR A SMILE

Those who jump off a bridge in Paris are in Seine!

Dijon vu — the same mustard as before.

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?

Condoms should be used on every conceivable occasion.

Time flies like an arrow.

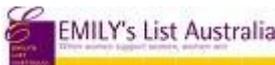
Fruit flies like a banana.



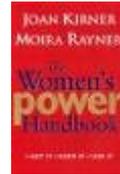
*If all the **human beings** on the planet were to die tomorrow, Most of the trees and other living creatures are likely to survive, if not flourish.*

*If all the **trees** on the planet were to die tomorrow, Most if not all of the humans would die shortly afterwards*

SWAN



SUNDAY 20 SEPTEMBER JOAN KIRNER



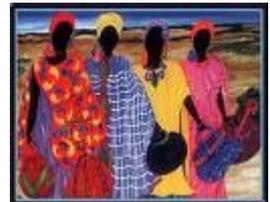
- Victoria 's 42nd Premier and first female Premier 1990-1992
- Began her political activism in school parent groups
- Member of Schools Commission 1973-1978
- Awarded AM in 1980 for services to the community
- Joan establishes Emily 's List—a political network aiming at encouraging progressive women to represent Labor in government
- Appointed as first Victorian Communities Ambassador
- Played a leading role in the Landcare movement

Women for Women in Africa

Many of you will remember a past SWAN speaker, Marguerite Ryan, from Women for Women in Africa who support the education of women and children in some of the poorest areas of Kibera, Nairobi and Kenya. Marguerite and Leonida Kwamboka will be joining Janice Gray and interested



SWAN members for morning tea at Janice's home in Mount Martha on Saturday 17th. October at 10.00am. If you would like to meet these interesting women and hear about their work please ring Janice on 5974 4104.



**Venue: Meeting Room
Shire Offices, Queen Street,
Mornington
9.30AM — cost \$7**

**BOOKINGS PLEASE
RSVP BY
FRIDAY 13 March
HEATHER PHILLIPS 9787 8532
heatherphillips4@bigpond.com
or
HEATHER BOUNDY-5974 2303
heather@boundy.biz**