

SWAN newsletter

Volume 8 Issue 1

March 2008

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ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE 2007-2008

Facilitator

Susan Blackburn-Mitchell

Assistant Facilitator

Rosemarie Draper

Secretary

Chris Blakey

Treasurer

Jeannette Ransom

Speakers

Jan Flavin

Committee Members

Margaret Hall

Marilyn Godley

Phyllis Goodwin

Kathleen Van Der Weerden

Janice Gray

Heather Boundy



Members
welcome to
attend Committee meetings.

Southern Women's Action Network Inc.

Reg No A0038144Z, ABN 84 41627 1331

PO Box 392 Mt Martha 3934



Jenny Warfe—March Speaker Blue Wedges

About Jenny and her interest in Blue Wedges:-

“Blue Wedges was started in 2003 when a resident of Black Rock, Rod Bryant, decided that channel deepening sounded like a bad idea for the Bay. He called a meeting of various community groups with interest in matters pertaining to Port Phillip Bay. He had heard of our local group at McCrae and invited my brother, Len, and I to the meeting. At this first meeting I agreed to co-ordinate communications with the groups and a big public meeting was held. Since then Blue Wedges has grown to over 65 community and business groups. Many of our supporters are qualified in disciplines such as science, medicine, economics which has allowed us to seriously critique the Port of Melbourne's plans for the Bay. The channel deepening was first mooted by government over 10 years ago and its costs have increased at least ten fold to over \$1billion. During that time the popularity of the project has plummeted from being the flagship project on Victorian Government's *Leading the Way* 2004 policy statement to the poisonous plan for the Bay that it really is in 2008.” Jenny was born in a small local hospital across the road from Dromana beach. Her mother told her that the nurse who delivered her had sand on her feet because she had just returned from walking there. Jenny herself spent all the warm months of her childhood on that same beach, playing in the curve of its bay with her brothers and a brood of cousins while the aunties knitted and chatted in deckchairs nearby. That beach was the edge of her world, the landscape of her childhood dreaming. Now she works an 80 hour week trying to avert what she sees as an environmental disaster.



My dress, my image, my choice.

First time in Frankston.

A 'women only' event showcasing a fashion parade, superb cuisine and the opportunity to meet amazing women who are passionate about making a difference in today's world. Come and experience the lives of Australian Muslim women first hand. Be part of the change in creating a more harmonious and respectful Australian society.

Date: Friday March 7th

Time: 7.30pm

Place: Frankston Arts Centre

Cost: \$15

Bookings: Box Office

9784 1060.



November speaker
Merle Mitchell

Report on November Meeting

Merle Mitchell was a welcome Guest Speaker at the November SWAN meeting where she spoke of her involvements as an active local lobbyist in the Springvale and Dandenong communities. Merle commended SWAN on being an excellent example of people coming together to exchange ideas and network on the community level. She talked about her idea of community development as a 'bottoms-up' experience, with six steps which can be successfully used in putting community development into action.

1. Meaningful consultation—ask the community to become involved e.g. public meeting, and importantly get back to them with the decision making to enable true consultation.
2. Flexibility and the willingness to take a risk.—respond to need, don't always conform with the status quo.
3. Develop the potential of people. Many who start as volunteers gain the confidence to become paid workers. Give practical experience where possible.
4. Maintain the grassroots involvement. You can provide a professional service while still being flexible and responsive in ways appropriate to the community.
5. Build advocacy in to service delivery—participate in action which will bring about a more equitable society.
6. Network and help others to establish other small community organizations.

It wasn't until 1962 that indigenous women and men gained the right to vote. The 1967 Referendum gave indigenous people citizenship and for the first time counted them in the Australian census.



THIS and THAT

Welcome to Country

In the spirit of respect SWAN acknowledges the people of the Boonerwung, members of the Kulin nation and the language groups on whose land we meet. We acknowledge our gratitude that we share this land today; our sorrow for the cost of that sharing; and our hope that we can move to a place of justice and partnership together.

Pray for Burma Day, the Scots Church, Melbourne, Saturday 8th March 2008.

Christian Solidarity Worldwide is calling for Christians and churches around the world to devote the first week of March to keep watch and pray for Burma, which remains under one of the most brutal regimes in the world. Civilians are regularly used as human mine-sweepers, bullet shields and forced labourers. Children are

abducted and sent to the frontline. Villages are burnt down, paddy and livestock destroyed. Many others in Burma are suffering through economic hardships and deprivation. Join the many communities and churches in Burma in praying for the suffering and the displaced. If you cannot attend at Scots Church please join in prayer from where you are.

SWAN Dates

SUNDAY 16 MARCH

Jenny Warfe

SUNDAY 18 MAY

Pam Warr

SUNDAY 20 JULY

Belinda Jakiel

SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

Centenary of Women's Suffrage in Australia Brunch

SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER

Di Bowles

RSVP

**for all meetings to:
Janice—5974 4104
Heather—5974 2303**

Centenary of Women's Suffrage

2008 sees the centenary of votes for women in Victoria, and many events will be happening around the State and locally to celebrate this important occasion. The first petition to the Victorian government was presented in 1891 with 30,000 signatures. After nineteen attempts the Women's Suffrage Bill 1908 was finally passed! This petition is still held by the Public Records Office. By looking up the following website it is possible to check for individual names on the petition:-

<http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/WomensPetition/>

Check with your local Information Centre for local events to celebrate the Centenary:-

Women's Health and Harmony Day

A day to celebrate women and to raise awareness of the valuable contribution women make to the local community will be held on Monday, 17th. March from 10.30am to 2.00pm at the Brotherhood of St Laurence Community Hub at 26 High Street Frankston. An Information and activity day focused on providing for women across all cultures, and especially for those from culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds.

There is no cost.

Refugee Realities

How would you survive as a refugee?

Refugee Realities is an interactive experience aimed at putting you in the shoes of a person displaced by war.

Over the three weeks of the event, 22 February 13 March 2008, thousands of visitors will view the exhibitions or participate in the simulation event. Participants, under guided supervision, will don the skin of a refugee, flee their village, traverse a hostile landscape and cross the border into a refugee camp in a safe country, where they will experience the challenges of camp life, while trying to find safety and a lasting solution. You can explore real humanitarian supplies and equipment and hear first hand the stories of people who have been displaced.

Organised by Oxfam Australia in collaboration with a range of other humanitarian organisations, such as the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and Australian Red Cross, this project aims to educate about and raise awareness of the issues confronting refugees and internally displaced persons.

**GasworksArtsPark, 21 Graham Street, Albert Park
22 February - 13 March 2007**

Meg's Jams

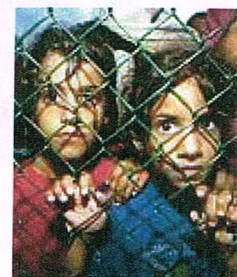
Meg is always thankful for small glass jars suitable for jams—please bring them along to meetings. Support our fund-raising by buying a jar of jam for a special friend.

Share Table

One of the features of our meetings is a *Share Table* which gives members the opportunity to share news and information about local groups and events of interest. If you would like to add material to the Share Table please speak with a committee member on arrival at the meeting.

Colours of Suffrage

Purple, white and green are the traditional colours of female suffrage, later adopted by feminists. Emmeline Pankhurst adopted purple for dignity and self-respect, white for purity and green for hope and new life. The colours also explain the acronym Give (green, Women (white) the Vote (violet).



Archivist

SWAN is looking for a member who may be interested in reviewing our history, storing some historical material and keeping archives of our special group. Please speak with Susan or Chris if Interested.

SWAN



SUNDAY 16 MARCH JENNY WARFE



- Co-Ordinator of Blue Wedges Coalition
- Audiologist by profession
- Passionate resident of the Mornington Peninsula

"There wouldn't be any change in society if people didn't challenge things. We'd still be sending kids up bloody chimneys!"

TOPIC: Why I believe in the importance of local community action.

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

9.30AM — cost \$7

**BOOKINGS PLEASE
RSVP BY
WEDNESDAY 12TH.MARCH
JANICE 5974 4104
grays@alphalink.com.au
or
HEATHER 5974 2303
heather@boundy.biz**

SWAN Newsletter

Volume 8 Issue 3

July 2008

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



Belinda Jakiel National Indigenous Employment



Belinda Jakiel, one of the most active indigenous leaders in our country, was born and raised in Ballarat and is a descendant of the Wotjobaluk people and the country of Poland. Belinda is national project manager of the Indigenous Employment Program with the AFL Sportsready. She is also a qualified teacher, a former elite athlete and an ambassador for *beyondblue* and *Go for your life* initiatives. Her professional experience involves extensive work with young people, Indigenous communities and high-risk groups. In July 2006 she was rewarded for her work promoting indigenous issues with a Sir Douglas Nicholls fellowship for emerging leaders, a program for indigenous Victorians advancing the legacy of the famous Aboriginal pastor and sportsman after whom the award was named.

Special points of interest:

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ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE 2007-2008

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Jan Flavin
Newsletter
Heather Boundy
Committee Members
Marilyn Godley
Janice Gray
Margaret Hall

SWAN and Burma

Committee member, Rosemarie Draper has been in the news recently through her involvements with the Burmese community in Australia. Our thoughts have been with families affected by the devastating Cyclone Nargis, and their relatives left in life-threatening situations. For information on local actions that can support the people in Burma affected by cyclone Nargis as well as other support that can be provided to the Burmese communities in Burma and Australia please go to:

www.australiaburmanetwork.org or www.burmacampaignaustralia.org.au Correction from last newsletter: The website address for the Burmese SWAN group, the Shan Women's Action Network is: www.shanwomen.org At the next SWAN meeting, a selection of 'Stand By Burma' t-shirts will be on sale for the special price of \$30.

SWAN COMMITTEE

With the SWAN AGM coming up in September, and a number of members retiring, the committee would like to advise that the following positions will become vacant:- Secretary, Treasurer, Members Secretary, and committee members. We would love new volunteers!

Members are welcome to attend Committee meetings.



Pamela Warr–May Report



May Speaker
Pamela Warr

At the May meeting of SWAN we were privileged to hear from Pamela Warr—for many years the Director of the Salvation Army Missing Persons Bureau. Pamela proved to be a warm, interesting speaker who was able to share with us some of the traumas of families separated by natural disasters, illness and family breakdown. She began her talk with a look at the history of the Salvation Army and its social justice focus. Did you know that it was George Booth, the founder of the Salvation Army, who set up the first factories for making safety matches? Prior to this time matches were made using lethal phosphorus, and it was frequently young and poor girls and women who made and sold the matches, and who were often stricken with “phossy-jaw” a terrible disease caused by phosphorus poisoning. Similarly SAO biscuits were originally made to support the work of the Salvation Army, with SAO standing for Salvation Army Officer. All funds from the sale of these biscuits went to support the “Sally-Annies”. The work of the Salvation Army in looking for missing persons commenced in the mid-nineteenth century when anxious parents, living in the country, lost track of daughters who left for the big cities, especially London, to find work in stately homes. Many of these girls, some as young as twelve and thirteen, fell easy prey to procurers. From those small beginnings the Salvation Army now has Missing Person Bureaus in 123 countries around the world. Pamela told us of some of the families she has assisted over the years, sometimes reuniting brothers and sisters who had been apart for decades. In all cases the permission of the missing person, once found, must be received before a reunion can take place. One of Pamela’s most treasured possessions is a painting presented to her as thanks for finding a long lost brother.

THIS and THAT–SWAN AGM

A great opportunity for all interested SWAN members to be involved in the organisation of your Network. Our AGM is coming up in September and all current committee members' positions are up for grabs, some of the current members will be finishing their terms of office and we're looking forward to replenishing the committee for 2009. We invite you to come along to our next committee meeting on Monday 11 August in Mornington 7.30pm to see what's involved. Some of the roles need basic Word and Excel skills – Publisher skills would be warmly welcomed too, not to mention energy and enthusiasm! If you'd like more information on what's involved in being a member of the organising committee or would like to observe a committee meeting please give Chris a call on 5977 2889 or email c_blakey@optusnet.com.au

SWAN dates

SUNDAY 20 JULY

Belinda Jakiel

SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER

**Centenary of
Womens' Suffrage**

SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER

Di Bowles

**Suggestions welcome for
Speakers for 2009**

RSVP

**for all meetings to:
Janice—5974 4104
Chris— 59772889**

*2008 marks
100 years
since
Victorian
women won
the right to
vote—let's
make it a
year to
remember.*

*- Maxine
Morand,
Minister for
Women's
Affairs.*



Thank You



Pamela Warr is given a vote of thanks by SWAN member Barbara Godfrey.

*A special thank you to Mornington Florist **Secret Garden** for the beautiful floral arrangements which they provide for our guest speakers.*

PEN PORTRAITS

The committee would like to print an updated edition of our document, Pen Portraits, which details the life stories of some of our members. We would like to invite members to contribute stories about their involvements with community over the years. Every story is special and important! Yours too! Please contact Susan or Heather.

Beyond Blue—Depression in Older People

Depression is not a normal part of ageing.

BeyondBlue's research shows that it is a commonly held view, among people of all ages, including older people, that as we age we experience accumulative losses and that it is normal for people to become depressed as they reach later life.

Grief and loss is not depression, although the symptoms can appear similar. The most important message about depression and older people is that **depression is not a normal part of ageing.**

Some people, especially older people, consider depression to be a weakness of character and not a health problem, so they don't talk about how they are feeling. Learning about the signs and symptoms of depression is a good start to understanding. For further information see *Beyond blue* Fact sheet 17—Older people and Depression.



REFUGEE GOODS COLLECTION

At each meeting a collection is made of items suitable for use by refugee families in our community. Goods such as soap, shampoos, detergent etc are always welcome. Please leave your donations with a committee member.

SHARE TABLE

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

A message of strength

For there is hope in two women,

Help in three women,

Strength in four,

Joy in five,

Power in six

And against seven

No gate may stand..

Sheru Tepper

SWAN



**SUNDAY
20 JULY**

BELINDA JAKIEL



- National Project Manager of Indigenous Employment Program with AFL Sportsready
- Ambassador for "Beyond Blue" and "Go for your life"
- Recipient of Sir Douglas Nicholls Award for indigenous leadership
- Former elite athlete
- Boardmember of VICHealth



**Venue: Shire of Mornington
Meeting Room**

Queen Street, Mornington

9.30AM — cost \$7

[Parking opposite Library]

BOOKINGS PLEASE

RSVP BY

FRIDAY 11 JULY

JANICE 5974 4104

grays@alphalink.com.au

or

CHRIS 5977 2889

C_blakey@optusnet.com.au

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR.

As I will be on leave, there will be no September SWAN Newsletter. A simple flyer will be circulated to members with details of our special September meeting celebrating the centenary of women's vote in Victoria.