

SWAN newsletter

Volume 6, issue 1

March, 2006

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



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ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE 2005-2006

The Admin Committee met February 28 to organise the March meeting and to discuss plans for coming events..

Facilitator

Debbie Roberts

Secretary

Janice Gray

Treasurer/Speakers

Val McKenna

Committee Members

Judith Couacaud-Graley

Maureen McPhate

Alleyne Lacy

Jo Diplock

Rosemarie Draper

Amy Duncan

Jenne Hally

Heather Boundy

Annabel Fegan

Lydia Pereira



Members welcome to attend Admin meetings

Tracee leads the way for 2006!



Tracee Hutchinson, SWAN speaker March, 2006

SWAN members are in for a treat during 2006, celebrating ten wonderful years of SWAN! Heading an impressive line-up of speakers is Tracee Hutchinson, broadcast journalist, presenter and producer in radio and TV for twenty years. She's worked onscreen for every TV network except Channel 10, straddling the chasm between SBS World News, Today Tonight and Getaway. She also broadcast extensively throughout Australia for ABC radio — initially at JJJ where she was a key presenter for five years, launching the national Triple J network with the first broadcast from Melbourne in 1989. Tracee has presented daily programs at 702/ABC Sydney, 774/ABC Melbourne, 8DDD in Darwin and 2NR in Lismore.

Tracee was Program Manager at 3RRR.FM in Melbourne from June 2002-April 2005 and still presents a weekly Tuesday morning program called *'the word'*, focusing on social justice, politics and environmental issues. Her career highlights include covering the resump-

tion of nuclear testing at Mururoa Atoll and filing, under tear gas and stun grenades from a burning Tahiti airport, for SBS TV World News; hosting the opening and closing ceremonies of the 2000 Paralympic Games from Sth Australia for ABC radio and 'discovering' *silverchair* in a national demo competition for the SBS TV music show *'nomad'* in 1994. Tracee Hutchinson is also the author of two books: the Australian music anthology *'Your Name's on the Door: 10 years of Australian Music'*, based on a radio series she produced and presented for JJJ; and *Rock Chefs for Mirabel*, a rock and roll cookbook with proceeds directed to the Mirabel Foundation. Tracee made her performance debut in a sell-out season of her one-woman show *'I Forgive Catriona Rowntree'*, at the **Melbourne Fringe** Festival, September 2005. Tracee writes a weekly column in the Opinion Page of the *Saturday Age* and, despite twenty years in the media, she remains a committed idealist! (Source: Tracee Hutchinson)

GREAT LINE-UP OF SPEAKERS FOR 2006

Thanks mainly to the efforts of Val McKenna — SWAN Committee member responsible for speakers as well as Treasurer — we have an impressive line-up of speakers to mark a decade of SWAN activity on the Mornington Peninsula.

Included in the list are: **Anne Manne**, writer and social commentator who has written widely on feminism, motherhood, childcare, family policy, fertility and related issues; **Sushi Das**, columnist and feature writer for *The Age*, where she has been for ten years in various roles including Victorian news editor, transport editor, letter editor and state politics reporter; and

Continued page 2

GWEN WILSON REPORT...



Lauren Wimetal, November 2005 speaker. 'Young, community-minded, committed and clever — what a combination!'
Gwen Wilson

The many questions put to Lauren Wimetal at the conclusion of her address were a measure of the interest aroused in her SWAN audience. Using computer technology and a large screen, statistics relating to the health and welfare of the people of East Timor were provided by Lauren and made clear the immensity of the needs of the people and the challenges facing those who, like Lauren, offer their help.

War and invasion accounted for the largest per capita genocide of the 20th century, and,

as a result of the scorched earth policy some 67,000 houses were destroyed on this island only 500 kilometers from Australia.

Current life expectancy is 55 years with TB the greatest killer mainly because of poor nutrition, inadequate/poor housing and lack of sanitation. The number 2 killer is Malaria accounting for 10% of child deaths. It is estimated that 42% of children are undernourished. Only 23% of children attend school on a regular basis. Fortunately, there is a low rate of HIV/AIDS among

the population and for the time being, at least, there appears to be no increase. Also, contraception advice/programs are offered. Lauren, and other doctors from nations around the world who work at the clinic can see up to 300 patients a day.

Despite its many problems the island is a very beautiful place: towering mountains, beautiful beaches and plains. Lauren concluded by saying that the Australian Foundation for peoples of Asia and the Pacific welcome financial assistance to support their cause. *Gwen Wilson*

impressive line-up of speakers...cont'd

Professor Marilyn Lake who is professor in History at La Trobe University, where she currently holds a Professorial Research Fellowship. In 2001/02 she held the Chair in Australian Studies at Harvard University; she also held Visiting Fellowships at Stockholm University, the University of Western Australia and at the Australian National University. Professor Lake has published many academic and newspaper articles on subjects ranging from republicanism to sexuality and is the author of ten books. She will be guest speaker at the very special November celebratory meeting.

Make sure you enter SWAN meeting dates in your diary NOW. We're convinced you won't want to miss any! Negotiations are still under way for one more speaker to complete the list!



Professor Marilyn Lake

**SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER
CELEBRATE 10 YEARS OF SWAN!**

**MEG MERTON'S
JAMS
and
MARMALADES
on sale
at
MARCH
MEETING**

Meg needs small glass jars suitable for jams — please bring to meetings

SWAN DATES – 2006

TRACEE HUTCHINSON
Being an idealist & working in the media
SUNDAY MARCH 19

SUNDAY 21 MAY
Venue:
Mornington Secondary College
Nepean Highway, Mornington

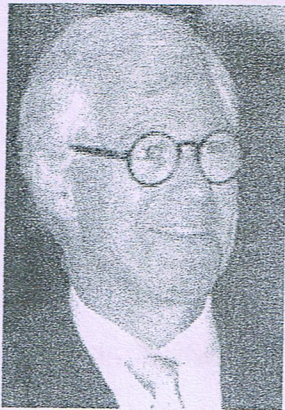
SUNDAY 16 JULY
Venue:
Mornington Secondary College
Nepean Highway, Mornington

SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER
Venue:
Mornington Secondary College
Nepean Highway, Mornington

PROFESSOR MARILYN LAKE
19 NOVEMBER
**10 anniversary
CELEBRATION!**

TRACEE HUTCHINSON
ANNE MANNE
SUSHI DAS
PROFESSOR MARILYN LAKE

SWANers at WRITERS FESTIVAL moved by call for a BILL OF RIGHTS



Julian Burnside, QC

Jane Sullivan (*The Sunday Age, Extra Books*, Feb. 26 p.16) was right — it was a delight to step into the peaceful garden surrounding the old Como colonial mansion and enjoy 'things literary' as presented by Readers' Feast bookstore, the University of Melbourne's Writing Centre and the National Trust. As Jane further comments, however, not everything we heard was pleasant! Writer and former UN officer in Afghanistan, Phil Sparrow told of his harrowing experience in witnessing the public stoning of an allegedly adulterous woman — the stones had to be collected and thrown again three times before she died. Who says women of the world have equality? And, any complacency that might have remained was dispelled by a trio of inspiring speakers on the subject of Global Justice. Former Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, Julian Burnside QC and human rights campaigner, and Brendan Kilty SC and acknowledged human rights worker in Ireland and various countries throughout

the world. This trio of inspiring orators explained the undermining of Australia's civil rights in the anti-terror legislation when pressing their case for an Australian Bill of Rights. We were equally exhilarated and dismayed! Exhilarated to hear such informed and skilled speakers courageous enough to speak out and show leadership in the face of these deep concerns; but equally dismayed on hearing the scary details of the anti-terror legislation. At the conclusion Brendan Kilty asked all those present to go home and write a letter to Australia's news editors — it was up to us he said! Val and Maureen wrote the letter below. The letter was addressed to **Letters Editor, Sydney Morning Herald GPO Box 506 Sydney NSW 2001**. We hope you too will write in a similar vein. If you wish to read/learn more about the need for a Bill of Rights for Australia type in *New Matilda* at Google and you will find plenty!

Dear Sir: It is distressing that many Australians place the economy so high on their priorities, yet ignore the fact that we have a government gaining more and more control over our lives. There has been little discussion about the repressive anti-terror legislation and the Australian Labor Party is 'wedged' successfully by the Prime Minister into supporting, with minor amendments only, its passing. Imagine a member of your family missing for seven days and on return, being unable to offer any explanation as to where he/she had been because to do so may lead to a five year jail term. Would you feel that you lived in a free and democratic society — or a police state? Doesn't this emphasise the need for a Charter of Human Rights? We must have a full, public discussion with the Opposition in a position to prove that they are a real opposition. (Signed Val McKenna, Maureen McPhate)

FRIENDS of LOSPALOS – can YOU help?

This is a call to ask whether any of you would be able to help in some proposed fundraising events as we are trying to increase our 'bank' of possible helpers! First, however, some advance information: **May 12, 2006 'An evening with Kirsty Sword Gusmao'**. Kirsty Sword Gusmao, First Lady of East Timor, will spend an evening with people who are interested in helping East Timor on Friday May 12. This major fundraiser will be held at Toorak College, Mt Eliza from 6pm to 10pm. Further information will be released in due course, but I hope that you will mark this event in your diary.

Helpers: As part of the Diggers Club Harvest Festival, the Heronswood Homestead at Mt Martha will be open for inspection for two days — Saturday April 1 and Sunday April 2. This heritage house is also open on Cup Day, and for the last two years, through the generosity of Penny and Clive Blazey, Friends of Lospalos has benefited from entry proceeds. Penny and Clive have decided to open it to the public again for the April Festival, and once more, East Timor will benefit — if we can get enough willing helpers to assist us on either of those days. **If you can help, please contact me (Fran Rule) on 9787 7015 or Diana Mellors on 9787 6217.**

SWAN member, Beryl Brett, died peacefully at home with her family on 29 January. Beryl was born on 27 December 1922, married Rollo and had three children the eldest of whom is the well-known historian and political commentator, Dr Judith Brett. On behalf of her brother and sister Judith led the celebration of Beryl's life. As was said of Beryl: 'Don't be sad that I have gone, but rejoice that I have been.' Beryl was a keen supporter of SWAN and attended many meetings. SWANers have happy memories of Beryl and extend condolences to her family.

Maureen McPhate.



Maureen, Debbie, Val and Amy at the Como Writers' Festival.

Can you assist the Friends of Lospalos IN FUNDRAISING special efforts?

Contact
FRAN RULE
9787 7015

or
DIANA MELLORS
9787 6217
for further information

SWAN

SUNDAY



MARCH 19

TRACEE HUTCHINSON



- **COLUMNIST**
- **BROADCASTER**
- **AUTHOR**
- **PERFORMER**

WILL SPEAK ABOUT

**BEING AN
IDEALIST
AND WORKING IN
THE MEDIA**

VENUE

**MORNINGTON
SECONDARY
COLLEGE THEATRE**

**NEPEAN HIGHWAY
(opposite Bunnings)
MORNINGTON**

**9.30AM — cost \$7
refreshments included**

RSVP BY

16 MARCH

VAL 5974 3461

or

MAUREEN 5974 4096

SWAN newsletter

Volume 6, issue 2

May, 2006

Special points of interest:

- Meeting dates p2.
- May speaker details p1 and p4.
- November meeting arrangements p1.
- Gwen Wilson report p2.
- A 'must' on your reading list p2.
- Human Rights p3.
- Friends of Los Palos p3.
- Bursary recipients p3.
- May meeting details p4.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE 2005-2006

The Admin Committee met Tuesday 18 April to organise the May meeting and to discuss plans for coming events..

Facilitator

Debbie Roberts

Secretary

Janice Gray

Treasurer/Speakers

Val McKenna

Committee Members

Judith Couacaud-Graley

Maureen McPhate

Alleyne Lacy

Jo Diplock

Rosemarie Draper

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TOPIC A FIRST FOR SWAN – *Mental illness and the road into politics*

Kaliopel Paxinos (Kali for short and, we're advised, pronounced 'Kelly') is of Greek origins. Her CV recently emailed to us is so colorful and lively that we print it here in full!

The title of my talk is *The trauma of mental illness and the road into politics*. My background is as follows: I was born in Australia seventy-eight years ago. My parents migrated from the island of Ithaca, home of the Greek Ulysses legend. My marriage was arranged in the traditional Greek way. Five children, eight grandchildren and three great-grandchildren are an example of the multicultural land that Australia has become today. For sixteen years I was part of the staff at Swinburne Technical School as a Teacher Aide and interpreter. In 1985 my youngest son was diagnosed with Schizophrenia. This was the trauma that mental illness brings to the family. For the past twenty years I have been involved in this complex illness. The face became the incentive focus groups that bring to the attention of government the problems that closing of psychiatric hospitals have emerged since the person with the illness learnt of the stigma attached to mental illness especially within our culturally diverse people. During all these years I have worked in various ways to assist people who experience mental illness. Presently I work as Carer Consultant in the North West Area Mental Health Service. I am also involved in many educational programs relating to the training of clinicians, and carers; and speaking to secondary and tertiary students. I have witnessed first-hand the results of insufficient funding and an inefficient mental-health system. Because of these important issues I have chosen to make a political stand and will represent the People Power Party at the next Victorian elections!

Kali Paxinos

SUNDAY MAY 21

SWAN

presents

KALI PAXINOS

Topic:

MENTAL ILLNESS and THE ROAD INTO POLITICS

We need YOUR input!

The Admin Committee wants to know **your** feelings about extending the November 10th anniversary celebratory meeting with a short afternoon program — perhaps in the form of a panel

discussion. Presently, the usual morning session, but including lunch, has been arranged. Special guest-speaker is Professor Marilyn Lake. Before opting for an afternoon session we need

to know if sufficient SWANers are interested. Please let us know if YOU would attend or remain for this session. Ring Val or Maureen or indicate at the May meeting. Many thanks!

Val — 5974 3461
Maureen — 5974 4096

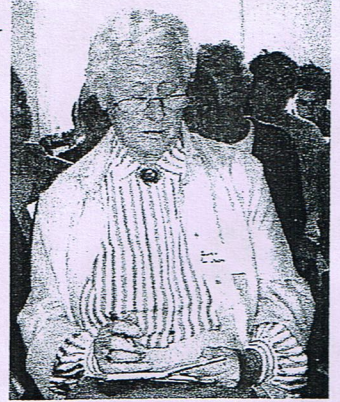
Gwen Wilson reports...



Tracee Hutchison
Speaker at SWAN March
meeting

In a wide-ranging and inspiring presentation Tracee Hutchison addressed the subject of *being an idealist and working in the media*. Tracee's comments and analyses are based on extensive and widespread experience in the electronic and print media. In introducing Tracee Val McKenna congratulated her on surviving in an area where women are somewhat marginalized and standing up for what is right rather than what is merely popular is hazardous. Tracee is passionate about environmental concerns and despaired about attitudes and policies relating to state forests/wildlife and on a national level, found Australia's approach to global warming unacceptable and ignorant of the facts. Tracee quoted environmentalist/historian Tim Flannery as claiming that the most significant threat to planet Earth today is global warming! Tracee's insistence on committing herself to the ethos of the ABC which she and others were convinced was threatened caused her to resign but this action has undermined new opportunities of employment. Tracee answered questions about, and commented on, issues as wide-ranging from the war in Iraq to the PM's admission of lack of knowledge/memory about highly significant matters. Despite the seriousness of the material, Tracee's presentation was full of humor and much laughter!

Gwen Wilson



The ever-reliable Gwen Wilson, taking notes for her regular newsletter report.

WHAT ARE OTHER

SWANers READING?

If you've read
something you'd like to
recommend to others
send your comments
to Debbie at
debronrob@bigpond.com

or ring

5775 1845



A must on your reading list... Lyn & Diane Carpenter

Emergency Sex (And Other Desperate Measures) by Heidi Postlewait, Kenneth Cain and Andrew Thomson is a collection of true stories from a war zone. These three writers participated in the global peacekeeping work of the United Nations and crossed paths in Cambodia. As their stories interweave through the years, from Rwanda, Bosnia and Somalia to Haiti, the trio reveal a world of witnessed atrocities, fears and desperate loneliness. While the collection is both harrowing and daunting it nevertheless manages to be most entertaining

My Forbidden Face by Latifa is a young woman's account of how her life and that of her family changed when the Taliban took over Kabul, Afghanistan. Latifa, born into an educated middle-class Afghan family in Kabul in 1980, dreamed of one day becoming a journalist; her father was an importer/exporter and her mother a doctor. When Taliban soldiers seized power in 1996 Latifa, just 16 years old, became a prisoner in her own home. Her school closed down and her mother was banned from working. This book is raw, real and thought-provoking and should be prescribed reading for school students as a means of learning about the reality of life for women in oppressed societies.

Lyn & Diane Carpenter

MEG MERTON'S
JAMS
and
MARMALADES
on sale
at
MAY
MEETING

Meg needs small glass jars
suitable for jams - please
bring to meetings

SWAN dates 2006

SUNDAY 21 MAY
KALI PAXINOS

*The Trauma of Mental Illness
and the road into politics*

SUNDAY 16 JULY
Dr Anne Manne

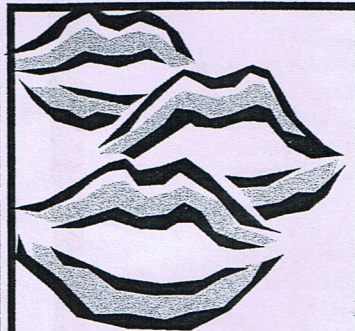
Mornington Secondary College
Nepean Highway, Mornington

SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER
Venue:

Mornington Secondary College
Nepean Highway, Mornington

SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER
Professor Marilyn Lake
Venue:

Mornington Secondary College



TELL YOUR FRIENDS ABOUT SWAN

Human Rights Act for Australia...

New Matilda, the online alternative news source has now launched its *Human Rights Act for Australia website*. The banner headline proclaims that Australia is the only Western country without a national human rights act or equivalent. The website is part of *New Matilda's* campaign to change that situation. The colorful and informative site provides a copy of the draft Bill, information about the campaign itself, Human Rights resources, special events, Human Rights articles from various sources as well as general media coverage of the campaign. The Human Rights Act for Australia website can be found at www.humanrightsact.com.au If you don't have personal access to the web and you're interested in this vital campaign, then try your local library — it will be well worth the effort!

And, speaking of Human Rights, Susan Blackburn-Mitchell has reminded us that Mornington Peninsula Shire will conduct a **Human Rights Forum on Wednesday 3 May** — hope you receive this item in time! The forum commences at 7.30 at the Peninsula Community Theatre, corner Wilson's Road and Nepean Highway, Mornington. Speakers include Professor Haddon Storey and the evening will be chaired by Terry Laidler. (Contact Erin Nixon at 5950 1685).

Susan has also advised that she will continue to collect donations for the *Asylum Seeker Resource Centre* and *Women for Women in Africa*. Their needs, however, have changed slightly. The Resource Centre no longer requires clothes, but needs personal use items such as shampoo and skin care items or household cleaning products. Women for Women in Africa are in need of pens, pencils and erasers.

DONATIONS
ACCEPTED
at
MAY MEETING
for
ASYLUM SEEKER
RESOURCE
CENTRE
they require:
personal use items
household cleaning
Products
WOMEN FOR WOMEN IN
AFRICA
require:
pens, pencils, erasers
Susan Blackburn-Mitchell
will arrange for delivery
to their respective
destinations!

Friends of Los Palos



Kirsty Sword Gusmao, First Lady of East Timor

The Mornington Peninsula Shire and the Mornington Peninsula Friends of Los Palos, East Timor Community Committee have organized an evening to fund-raise for scholarships to enable young people of Los Palos to continue their education — the key to meeting the challenges of rebuilding which the newly independent nation faces according to East Timor's First Lay, Kirsty Sword Gusmao.

This special event, *An Evening with Kirsty Sword Gusmao*, is planned for Friday 12 May from 6pm to 10pm at the Mary Herring Hall, Toorak College, Old Morning Road, Mt Eliza. Tickets cost \$35.00 which includes finger food and entertainment. Or, you can choose the later starting time of 7.30pm at a cost of \$25.00 for the entertainment only. If you are interested in attending you need to act quickly as an RSVP is required by 5th May. Many SWANers are staunch supporter of the Friends of Los Palos and will want to attend this event. See next column for booking details. Or, you can book by phone at 5987 3078. Source: *Mornington Peninsula Friends of Los Palos*.

An Evening with
Kirsty Sword Gusmao
FRIDAY 12 MAY
Tickets available
from
Peninsula Visitor
Info Centre
359 Nepean Rd
Dromana
or
'phone 5987 3078

SWAN Bursaries awarded

The 2006-2007 SWAN Encouragement Bursary recipients were announced at the March meeting.

Two Bursaries were awarded in the youth section and one in the open section. The lucky recipients in the youth section were **Amelia Travers** and

Chloe John.

In the open section **Jacqui Holland**, a 'regular' at SWAN meetings was the worthy recipient.

Each bursary is worth \$300 to fund courses chosen by the awardees to enhance their ability to participate in commu-

nity activities and/or social justice issues at the local, state, national or international level.

We look forward to hearing from Amelia, Chloe and Jacqui during our forthcoming meetings and offer our warmest congratulations on their success.

Special thanks
to
Gwen Wilson
Maureen McPhate
Lyn Carpenter
Diane Carpenter
Susan Blackburn-Mitchell
for their
contributions to this
issue of the
SWAN newsletter

SWAN

SUNDAY



MAY 21

KALI PAXINOS

TOPIC: THE TRAUMA OF MENTAL ILLNESS AND THE ROAD TO POLITICS

- Kali was born in Australia of Greek parents 78 years ago.
- Worked as Teacher Aide and interpreter at Swinburne Technical School for 16 years.
- Youngest son diagnosed with Schizophrenia in 1985.
- Involved in researching aspects of this illness for some 20 years.
- Works as Carer Consultant in North West Area Mental Health Service.
- An advocate for those with mental illness as well as their families.
- Will represent People Power Party in Victoria's next elections.

VENUE

**MORNINGTON
SECONDARY
COLLEGE THEATRE**

**NEPEAN HIGHWAY
(opposite Bunnings)
MORNINGTON**

**9.30AM — cost \$7
refreshments included**

RSVP BY

21st MAY

VAL 5974 3461

or

MAUREEN 5974 4096

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July 2006

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- July speaker details p1 and p4.
- November meeting arrangements p2.
- We are not islands, comment by Kathleen Van Der Weerden p2.
- Gwen Wilson report p2.
- The Booklist p3.
- This and That p3.
- July meeting details p4.

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Jo Diplock

Rosemarie Draper

Amy Duncan

Jenne Hally

Heather Boundy

Annabel Fegan

Lydia Pereira



Members welcome to attend Admin meetings

Author of 'challenging book' July SWAN speaker



'Challenging', 'not afraid to tackle the difficult issues', and 'compelling' are words and phrases common to the many reviews of Anne Manne's book published in 2005 under the title of *Motherhood: how should we care for our children?*

Anne, who lives just outside Melbourne is a writer and social commentator who has written widely on feminism, motherhood, childcare, fertility, and family policy. Articles on these topics written by Anne have appeared in newspapers such as *The Age*, *The Sydney Morning Herald*, and *The Australian*. Longer essays have appeared in various magazines while her commentary on fertility and

family policy was published in the Monash University journal *People and Places*. Before becoming a fulltime writer Anne taught in the politics departments of Melbourne and Latrobe Universities. Her recent book looks into controversial issues relating to feminism and motherhood; the debates over institutional early childcare; problems of reconciling work and family life; the crisis of fertility; and the impact of globalizing capitalism on 'the changing landscape of childhood'. Anne proposes new and different directions for family policy. Anne Manne, however, cannot be said to have shut herself away in the corridors of academia or researching the hours away in dimly-lit libraries. Indeed Anne spent ten years outside the paid workforce raising her two children and caring for the needs of her family. Anne Manne and her husband Robert, have contributed greatly to public debate on a range of vital community and national issues. Who would want to miss the July SWAN meeting?

Motherhood: how should we care for our children?
Anne Manne's book presents compelling arguments for an inclusive maternal feminism.



NOTICE of ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It's hard to believe, but it's 'that time of the year again' — the Annual General Meeting is upon us! The AGM occurs immediately before the September ordinary meeting. Experience shows that twenty minutes is all that it takes! All positions will be declared vacant and nominations will be called for. Already, indications suggest that there will be no difficulty in filling the vacated positions on the Admin Committee. Nomination forms and further details will be available at the July meeting. If you wish to nominate for the Admin Committee please

pick up a form at the July meeting; executive positions are decided by the Admin Committee. If you are unable to attend the July meeting and require a form, please contact Maureen at 5974 4096.

SWAN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17
9.30am — nomination forms available July meeting



Kali Paxinos will stand for parliament after experiencing the effects of insufficient funding for mental illness resources and support.

KALI PAXINOS draws record SWAN audience!

Gwen Wilson reports...

A record 90 SWANers attended the May meeting to hear a passionate, but level-headed address by Kali Paxinos. She told how her experience of coping with, and supporting, her son who was diagnosed with schizophrenia as a young man in 1985 led her to stand for parliament as a member of the People Power Party at the next state election. Kali shared with us her feelings of deep despair at the changes in her son as he struggled with his illness: screaming for hours, haunted by delusions and noises, and rejecting his parents. Medication resulted in him shuffling around the house in a zombie-like state. In seeking advice/assistance about how to support her son in his illness, Kali was told that she was being an 'over protective Greek mother' and to 'just act as usual'. In many instances, mentally ill people are not given the respect to which they are entitled by the community and the medical profession. Kali went on to point out the difficulties faced in a multicultural society in dealing with aspects of mental illness: language is the major difficulty both in procuring a diagnosis and in follow-up treatment and support. She maintains that interpreters are underused — an area in which Kali herself is heavily engaged. Emergencies caused by disturbed behavior often precipitate family crises — shortage of mental health nurses and staff means that police are often involved. Kali instanced a case where the family concerned was horrified, not just by the condition of their family member, but by the arrival of three police cars! Kali made the point that money can be found to fund wars and attack the drug problem, but promises of increased budgeting for improvement in mental health services, resources and support continue to be unmet. SWANer Rosy Buchanan MP, responded at a personal level to Kali's talk praising her commitment and offering her personal thanks to Kali for her positive contribution to this area of need.

Gwen Wilson

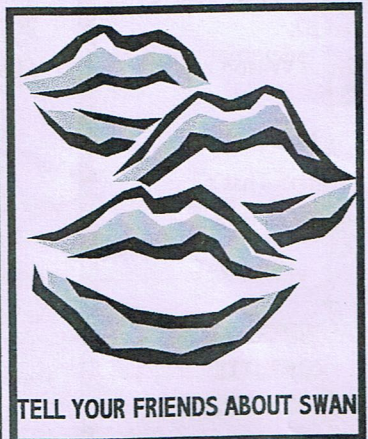
SWAN DATES – 2006

SUNDAY 16 JULY
Anne Manne
Mornington Secondary
College, Nepean Highway
Mornington, 9.30am

SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER
SUSHI DAS
2006 BEST COLUMNIST AWARD
Mornington Secondary
College, 9.30am

SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER
10th ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATORY
MEETING

Professor Marilyn Lake
Venue:
Mornington Secondary College
see next newsletter
for final details



Contributors to this issue: Gwen Wilson, Kath Van Der Weerden, Helen Luxton, Maureen McPhate, Val McKenna, Debbie Roberts

None of us are islands...Kathleen Van Der Weerden

During question time at the May meeting, Kathleen asked if she could make a statement — it was thoughtful and showed great insights. We asked Kathleen if she would share it with everyone, so here it is: Kali Paxinos brought some fresh ideas in her talk about mental illness. Rightly so, disability services and professionals in the community services sector have focused on encouraging the independence of people with disabilities over the past 30+ years. This is a worthy and important goal, but it narrows the focus onto people as units in isolation rather than recognize and acknowledge people in relationship to others: family, partners and so on.

Kali spoke practically of her son, who was diagnosed with schizophrenia, and their *interdependence*. She relies on him for meals most nights of the week, household bill management and maintenance of the veggie garden. In return, he relies on her for emotional support and encouragement, among other things, I'm sure. Imagine a society where interdependence is recognized and valued. Phew! It allows us the humanity to be vulnerable rather than a constant assertion of independence, strength and confidence.

Kathleen Van Der Weerden

WHAT ARE OTHER

SWANers

READING?

If you've read something you'd like to recommend to others

send your comments

to Debbie at

debronrob@bigpond.com

or ring

5775 1645



MEG MERTON'S

JAMS

and

MARMALADES

on sale

at

JULY

MEETING

Meg needs small glass jars suitable for jams — please bring to meetings

SWANers thoughts on BOOKS...

Helen Luxton recommends: *Dry Water: Diving headfirst into Africa* by Tammie Matson published earlier this year. This wonderfully inspiring book tells how Tammie, at fifteen, goes on safari with her father to Africa and falls so in love with the place that she determines to return. I learnt much from this volume and went every inch of the way with the author. I do hope Tammie keeps writing! Years ago, at a low ebb in my life, Robyn Davidson's *Tracks*, an account of her journey across Australia with camels, also inspired me. WOW! It's amazing what women can do! In a different vein, *The No.1 Ladies Detective Agency* by Alexander McCall Smith, is the first of seven books about an enchanting character called Precious Ramotswe, Botswana's only (and finest) female private detective. The volumes offer a captivating portrait of an exotic world as Precious solves her cases. She brings a genuine goodness that we don't read about enough today — it touches the heart and brings pleasure to the reading.

Maureen McPhate commends *Slave* (biography, Virago 2004) by Mende Nazer and Damien Lewis. A true story, it tells of a young Sudanese girl kidnapped when twelve and sold into slavery and worked for many years under extremely harsh conditions. In Spring 2000 she was passed, like a parcel, to a relative in London where she was virtually imprisoned. Eventually she managed to contact other Nuba exiles and, with the help of British journalist, Damien Lewis, escaped to freedom. Her experiences in applying for asylum in England were traumatic but eventually successful. The book provides first-person insight into the modern-day slave trade. Mende Nazer, currently studying English and an activist for human rights, intends to become a nurse. Mende received the Madrid-based Coalition Against Racism (CECRA) International Award for European Human Rights, 2002. Damien Lewis, award-winning writer and film maker works in world disaster areas and his films appear on the BBC, Channel 4, CNN and the ABC.

Debbie Roberts asserts that Robert Manne's *In Denial: the stolen generations* and *The Right* should be mandatory reading for all Australians. And, if you think Australian History is boring to read, then get a copy of Stuart Macintyre's *A Concise History of Australia*. Suffice to quote from page 296: At the beginning of the twentieth century investigators came [to Australia] to learn of the Australian achievement; now we take our signals from credit ratings agencies in New York. Australians are followers rather than leaders, and careless of their earlier achievements.

Bursary winners



At left are Amelia Travers and Chloe John, winners of SWAN Youth Encouragement Bursaries. Later this year Amelia will attend a 'Space Camp' with 25 other students from around the world. Jacqui Holland, winner of the open age Bursary will attend 'Strengths in Action', a workshop for women run by the Deakin Management Centre, Geelong.

THIS and THAT



It seems that Tanberg (*The Age*) and Val McKenna are again in partnership as the cartoon at left shows! (*The Age* 13 April 2006)

Have you heard about the magazine, *The Monthly*? Launched in May last year, the June issue includes an essay by Alfred W. McCoy, an American professor of history and author of *A question of torture*, examining the punishment of David Hicks at Guantanamo Bay. *The Monthly* claims only Australia's best writers light up its pages. They include: Don Watson, Helen Garner, Robert Manne and Margaret Simons amongst others. More info can be found at www.themonthly.com.au

Thanks to SWANers who made helpful suggestions at the conclusion of the May meeting. They included ideas about the need for a lectern, more space for the 'share table' and improved lay-out for tea/coffee facilities. We will do our best to implement these positive proposals.

During her talk Kali Paxinos referred to the book:

Recovered Not Cured by Richard McLean;

Played music from: Concerto de Aranjuez, by Joaquin Rodrigo, played on guitar by Narisso Yepes. Kali played the second movement. (Also available played by John Williams); Quoted Greek childhood song: My sweetest little moon, Shine brightly So we can see to walk.

DONATIONS
to
WOMEN FOR WOMEN
IN AFRICA
and
ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE
CENTRE
STILL ACCEPTED
at
SWAN MEETINGS

COMING EVENT
SUNDAY
AUGUST 27
11.30 to approx 3pm

ISLAMIC
FASHION PARADE

Presented by SWAN in
conjunction with Mornington
Peninsula Shire and Young
Muslims of Australia

The Admin Committee apologizes to those who felt the cold at the May meeting. The heating was turned on, we're investigating what didn't happen!

SWAN



SUNDAY

JULY 16

ANNE MANNE



- Writer and Social commentator
- Articles published in *The Age* and *The Australian*
- Formerly taught in the politics departments of the University of Melbourne and Latrobe University
- Spent ten years outside the paid workforce raising her two children and caring for her family
- Her book, published last year, acclaimed as 'challenging' and confronting the tough issues
- Anne and her husband Robert contribute significantly to community debate on vital issues

TOPIC

The invisible heart: women, family, work and the care penalty

VENUE

**MORNINGTON
SECONDARY
COLLEGE THEATRE**

**NEPEAN HIGHWAY
(opposite Bunnings)
MORNINGTON**

**9.30AM — cost \$7
refreshments included**

RSVP BY

13 JULY

VAL 5974 3461

or

MAUREEN 5974 4096

amcpbate@bigpond.net.au

Website: debronrobbigpond.com

SWAN newsletter

Volume 6, issue 4

September 2006

Special points of interest:

- Meeting dates p2.
- September speaker details p1 and p4.
- November meeting arrangements p2.
- SWAN donations p2.
- Gwen Wilson report p2.
- The Booklist p3.
- Happy Faces at Sept. meeting p3.
- Women for Women in Africa p3.
- AGM details p1.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE 2005-2006

The Admin Committee met Monday 7 August to organise the September meeting and to discuss plans for coming events.

Facilitator

Debbie Roberts

Secretary

Janice Gray

Treasurer/Speakers

Val McKenna

Committee Members

Judith Couacaud-Graley

Maureen McPhate

Alleyne Lacy

Jo Diplock

Rosemarie Draper

Amy Duncan

Jenne Hally

Heather Boundy

Annabel Fegan

Lydia Pereira



Members welcome to attend Admin meetings

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



Award-winning columnist September speaker

As a columnist for the *Age* newspaper over the past eleven years, Sushi Das has written on many topics including: race relations, culture, feminism, work/life imbalance and other gender-related issues. During her years at the *Age* Sushi has worked in a number of roles and in various capacities. These include time as state news editor; feature writer; acting opinion editor; transport editor; court reporter; and act-



joining the *Age* Sushi with Australian Association took her tertiary education (Hons) in Political Journalis- m — a ca- extremely successful as Award for the Best Col- earlier Quill Award for 1999.

Sushi's family back- lived in London for 28 Australia in 1991. Pres- bourne with her partner earlier this year! Sushi Das is a member of the Melbourne Press Club Committee as well as being on the Advisory Board of the Centre for Dialogue at La Trobe University. SWAN is delighted that Sushi accepted the invitation to address our meeting on Sunday 17th September, we feel sure you will want to take the opportunity of hearing this young and talented columnist address such a topical and important topic as **Racism: the issue that won't go away!**

state political reporter; ing letters editor. Before Das worked as a journal- ciated Press. She under- tion in the UK with a Economy. Later, in Aus- a Post-graduate Diploma reer which has proved represented in the Quill umnist in 2005 and an Transport reporting in

ground is Indian, but she years before moving to ently she lives in Mel- and baby daughter, born

SEPTEMBER – Annual General Meeting

Have you remembered that September is the date for the Annual General Meeting? In the past, twenty minutes is all that has been required to complete the procedure. Nevertheless, to ensure that we don't encroach upon the speaker's time and that we finish the ordinary meeting promptly, we will try to start proceedings perhaps ten minutes earlier — that is, around ten to ten! Indications are that sufficient nominations will be received to full the six core-

**SWAN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SUNDAY SEPTEMBER 17
nomination forms available from Debbie
at 5775 1645
or on the day of the meeting**

committee places. The Constitution allows for an extended committee of non-core members. If you would like a nomination form please ring Debbie at 5775 1645 and one can be forwarded to you. Or, you can get a nomination on the day of the meeting



Motherhood: how should we care for our children?

Written by Anne Manne
published by Allen & Unwin.

Unseen, unpaid, unrecognized!...Gwen Wilson's report


Social commentator and author, Anne Manne, addressed an almost capacity audience at the July meeting. Enlarging on the intriguing title of her talk *The Invisible Heart: women, family, work and the care penalty*, Anne referred to the work of a number of feminists in relation to her own theories and attitudes to women's contribution to the 'public world'. Anne asserts that the work of women, particularly in caring and supportive roles such as mothering, looking after families (including the elderly and infirm) and bringing up children is both unseen and unpaid and, therefore, not valued by society because it is not 'productive'! It can't (or isn't) counted in dollars and cents! Anne provides a fascinating example near the end of her book. She says 'There was an irony...My *writing about* family work — the realm [called] the invisible heart — was valued far more than the family work *I did*.' I recommend Anne's Book!



SWAN VENUE
Having trouble with the stairs? Try using the side aisles — it's easier. New venues are still being considered.

THANKS ARE IN ORDER...
To members who brought along gifts to the July meeting suitable for raffle prizes at future meetings.
And to Barbara Van Ernst for facilitating the setting up of a SWAN blog site — more details at September meeting!

WHAT ARE OTHER SWANers READING?
If you've read something you'd like to recommend to others send your comments to Debbie at debr@nrob@bigpond.com or ring 5775 1645



SWAN DATES – 2006

SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER
SUSHI DAS
2005 BEST COLUMNIST AWARD
Mornington Secondary College 9.30am (Opposite Bunnings)
Cost \$7.00 refreshments included

SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER
10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATORY MEETING
Professor Marilyn Lake
THIS MEETING INCLUDES LUNCH
Make time in your diary!



MEG MERTON'S JAMS and MARMALADES on sale at SEPTEMBER MEETING
Meg needs small glass jars suitable for jams — please bring to meetings

Money for jam...and a lot of effort!

Meg Merton's untiring efforts in making luscious jams and marmalades for sale at SWAN meetings has raised just on \$500 this year. Consequently SWAN has been able to make a generous donation of \$500. to Peninsula Carer Council Inc. as recommended by Kali Paxinos. Many thanks to Meg for her generosity of time and commitment — we all benefit from enjoying the delicious produce and from the satisfaction of being able to assist such wonderful groups and organizations.

Over the past four years SWAN has been able to assist various causes to the extent of \$4600. Contributions include membership of Friends of the ABC and donations to Community Radio; Women for Women in Africa; The Phoenix Foundation and the Peninsula Carer Council Inc. So, if you have any small glass jars suitable for jams/marmalades please bring them along to the September meeting — we wouldn't like Meg to run out of containers!

The booklist...

Beth Sjogren, quoting Noam Chomsky, says that *Growth Fetish* is very much a 'book for our time'. Beth adds that the volume, published by Allen & Unwin and authored by Clive Hamilton, CEO of The Australia Institute, ANU, is a 'heavy duty' read, but well worth the effort! Back-cover spiel claims that for decades political leaders and opinion makers have touted higher incomes as the way to a better future. Economic growth means better lives for us all. But after many years of sustained economic growth and increased personal incomes we must confront an awful fact: we aren't any happier. This is the great contradiction of modern politics. Clive Hamilton argues that the opposite is the case: growth fetishism and the market society lie at the heart of our social ills!

Val McKenna recommends *Freedom Next Time* by John Pilger. This book, says Val, is the antidote to easy comfortable thinking, to smugness and to ignorance. A truly great journalist, Pilger's book is a 'must'! Copies are available from the Mornington Library.

Val also commends *The Ethics of What We Eat* by Peter Singer and Jim Mason. Val comments that this outstanding book shows how market forces drive farmers to cruel practices. The day may soon come when we will return to a more ethical treatment of animals. The book suggests ways in which consumers can influence the ways in which animals, as part of the food chain, are treated.

Debbie declares that while it takes a while to 'get into' the Miles Franklin Award book *The Ballad of Desmond Kale* is, as claimed by The Australian Book Review, '...a rollicking good read'!

ISLAMIC FASHION PARADE

THANKS
to

JENNE HALLY
JO DIPLOCK
GAIL PRICE

and
other

SWAN MEMBERS

who assisted
in the
organisation of
this

SPECIAL
EVENT

Update from Women for Women in Africa



According to their newsletter, *Women for Women in Africa* has now completed the necessary procedures to be known as the *Women for Women in Africa Foundation* which is a major step forward for the organization and for women in Africa themselves. An unedited letter from one of the girls from Kibera currently being sponsored for her education at a secondary school concludes by saying "I really thank you for the support you have given me. I thank you a lot for everything. As for me I promise to work hard. I will never forget you removed me from my deep problem and my mum and I are so grateful. As noted elsewhere, SWAN

has made a donation of \$100 to Women for Women in Africa. \$350 enables a girl or boy to attend a Secondary Boarding school for a year; \$50 buys shoes, books, clothing/lunch for a school year. ANY donation makes a difference! (Contact 0438 747 101; ma.ryan@bigpond.net.au)

DONATIONS
to
WOMEN FOR WOMEN
IN AFRICA
and
ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE
CENTRE
STILL ACCEPTED
at
SWAN MEETINGS

Picture Gallery – September meeting



Happy faces at the July SWAN meeting. Above left Rosy Buchanan MP and a long-time SWAN member; Admin Committee member Jo Diplock; the tireless Meg Merton; SWAN secretary Janice Gray; SWAN member Lyn Carpenter and at left, SWAN foundation member Judith Coucaud-Graley with speaker Anne Manne and SWAN member Barbara Van Ernst.

THANKS TO THOSE
WHO
CONTRIBUTED
TO
THE SEPTEMBER
EDITION
OF
THE
SWAN
newsletter:

Gwen Wilson
Beth Sjogren
Val McKenna
Debbie Roberts

SWAN



SUNDAY 17 SEPTEMBER SUSHI DAS



- AWARD-WINNING COLUMNIST with *THE AGE*
- HAS WRITTEN ON WIDE RANGE OF ISSUES: race relations, culture, work/life imbalances, gender issues.
- HAS WORKED IN A NUMBER OF CAPACITIES INCLUDING: State News Editor, feature writer, acting opinion page editor, transport editor, state political report and court reporter.
- AWARDS INCLUDE: QUILL AWARD BEST COLUMNIST 2005 and QUILL AWARD TRANSPORT REPORTING 1999.

TOPIC

RACISM: THE ISSUE THAT WON'T GO AWAY!

**Venue: MORNINGTON
SECONDARY
COLLEGE THEATRE
NEPEAN HIGHWAY
(opposite Bunnings)
MORNINGTON
9.30AM — cost \$7
refreshments included**

**RSVP BY
14 SEPTEMBER
VAL 5974 3461
or
MAUREEN 5974 4096
amcphate@bigpond.net.au
or
Debbie: debronrob@bigpond.com**

SWAN newsletter

Volume 6 Issue 5

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



October 2006

Professor Marilyn Lake – NOV SPEAKER

Special points of interest:

- 2007 Meeting dates p2.
- October meeting details p4.
- Islamic Fashion Parade p3.
- November speaker p1.
- Bookings essential for Nov meeting p1.
- Congrats to Aussie women authors p3.
- Gwen Wilson's report p2.
- This and That p2.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE 2006-2007

The Admin Committee met Monday 2 October to organise the November meeting and to elect executive positions.

- Facilitator**
Susan Blackburn-Mitchell
- Secretary**
Janice Gray
- Treasurer/Speakers**
Val McKenna
- Committee Members**
Heather Boundy
Rosemarie Draper
Jenne Hally
Wendy Clipsham
Margaret Hall
Phyllis Goodwin
Jeanette Ransom
Lyn Wilks



Members welcome to attend Admin meetings



SWAN is fortunate indeed to have as guest speaker for our special 10th Anniversary celebratory meeting Marilyn Lake, Professor in History at La Trobe University Melbourne where she currently holds a Professorial Research Fellowship; she is also Adjunct Professor, Humanities Research Centre, at the Australian National University, Canberra. In 2001-2002 Professor Lake held the Chair in Australian Studies at Harvard University, USA. Professor Lake is also a Fellow of both the Australian Academy of Humanities and the Australian Academy of Social Sciences and has held visiting Fellowships at Stockholm University, the University of Western Australia and the Australian national University Canberra. She has published many academic and newspaper articles on subjects ranging from republicanism to sexuality, as well as authoring ten books, including *Getting Equal: the history of feminism in Australia*, and *Faith Bandler, Gentle*

Activist, which won the Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission Award for Non-fiction. Her work has also been chosen for inclusion in a range of international anthologies. Over the past 12 months a number of articles by Professor Lake have appeared in the *Age*, under titles such as: *White Australia rules: racial violence in Sydney should surprise no-one: Xenophobia is older than the Federation*; and *Costello's ruse evokes echoes of the White Australia Policy*. In arguing for a more comprehensive and sophisticated understanding of the past Professor Lake has stated that 'women's history cannot be fruitfully written without reference to men; neither can men's history be properly written without reference to men's relations with women.'

Sources: www.waterfront.tas.gov.au/aboutus/about_index.html; and www.women.vic.gov.au/ (Office of Women's Policy)

LET'S CELEBRATE! — SWAN 10th ANNIVERSARY
NOVEMBER 19 — 2006

BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL for Nov meeting

SWAN 10th anniversary celebratory meeting will include lunch at the conclusion of the meeting at 12 noon which will be catered for. Bookings are therefore *essential* in order to notify caterers. Please note that the cost has been altered to **\$7.00 — including lunch**. The change has been made possible through the financial success of the Islamic Fashion Parade, thanks to the support of the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council. **Members who have paid their \$20 will receive refunds on the day of the meeting.** VMcK

BOOK NOW!
SWAN
10TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATORY MEETING

Val 5974 3461
or
MAUREEN 5974 4096
Cost \$7.00

Gwen Wilson's report...



September speaker
Sushi Das

'Denial and exploitation are the twin aspects of racism.'

Sushi Das, speaker at the September meeting impressed members with her ability to take on the issue of racism in our society. In her earlier years in London she experienced hate, humiliation and knew what it was like to be called 'wog' and the suggestion that she and her friends should go back to their own country. Real Estate people refused to deal with her claiming that 'her kind' do not look after property.

There are two aspects to racism: **denial** and **exploitation**. Our Prime Minister, claimed Sushi, subscribes to both! He denies an apology to the Australia's Indigenous people (common knowledge) and his exploitation is represented in playing up fear of terrorism for political purposes. Howard's recent statement to 'adopt Australian values or go somewhere else' is a form of paranoia. Australia's Prime Minister is elected to lead the country, not to foster prejudice which is dangerous when we are in great need of national cohesion. The race issue has become bigger, not diminished and has become a political time bomb. Sushi Das' plea was for the issue of racism to be taken seriously, not only by politicians, but also by us, the people!

Gwen Wilson

SWAN VENUE

Having trouble with the stairs? Try using the side aisles —
HAND RAILS available

REMINDER

As lunch is provided at the November gathering coffee and biscuits only will be available before the meeting!

'The White Australia Policy has been officially buried but true "Aussies" are still assumed to be white'

Marilyn Lake
The Age
15 Dec 2005

An amendment to the AGM Minutes was made after an incorrect announcement that the Islamic Fashion Parade held in August incurred a loss. We are pleased to announce that the event made a handsome profit of \$1918. We apologise to Jenne, Jo, and Gail and all those who worked hard to make this event a success. SWAN would also like to thank the Mornington Peninsula Shire for its sup-

THIS and THAT

port which included a grant to fund the event. vmck

Those retiring from the 2005-2006 Admin Committee congratulate the newly-elected committee and those holding executive positions. SWAN is in capable hands! Long-standing committee members who retired were Maureen McPhate, Judith Couacaud-Grayley, Amy Duncan, Alleyne Lacy, Jo Diplock and Debbie Roberts.

The new committee was most generous in its thanks to retiring members.

Susan Blackburn-Mitchell is the newly elected Facilitator; Heather Boundy, Assistant Facilitator; Janice Gray remains Secretary and Val McKenna remains Treasurer and is responsible for speakers. Already, the speaker list for next year looks promising!

MEG MERTON'S
JAMS
and
MARMALADES
on sale
at
NOVEMBER
MEETING

Meg needs small glass jars suitable for jams — please bring to meetings

SWAN dates

SUNDAY 19 NOVEMBER
10th ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATORY MEETING

Professor Marilyn Lake

BOOKING ESSENTIAL
Lunch included
9.30am cost \$7.00

Dates — 2007
Sunday 18 March

Sunday 20 May

Sunday 15 July

Sunday 16 September

Sunday 18 November



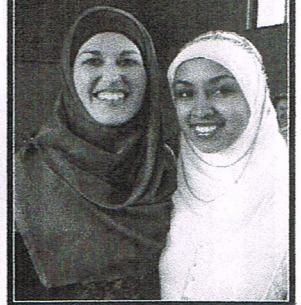
BOOK NOW
to
CELEBRATE
10
FABULOUS
SWAN
YEARS
Val 5974 3461
Maureen 5974 4096

'Hijabs, hummus and humor'... says *Herald-Sun*



The catchy quote above was the opening line of the *Herald-Sun's* report on the SWAN Islamic Fashion Parade held on Sunday 28 August. The words succinctly sum up the purpose of this cross-cultural experience: an opportunity to gain insights into Australian Islam and to debunk some of the myths that abound about the lives and customs of Islamic women; to share a delicious lunch together in a sense of sisterhood; and all this with much laughter and humor. SWAN Admin members Jenne Hally and Jo Diplock worked closely with Gail Price from the Mornington

Peninsula Shire in organising, promoting and staging this moving event, a highlight in the calendar of SWAN special events over the years. Preparation necessitated Jenne and Jo going to the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal to gain an exemption from Victoria's anti-discrimination laws for permission to stage a women-only event. That the event was sold out weeks before the great day indicates increasing community demand for opportunities to learn about other cultures. At the conclusion of the parade discussion time provided a range of interesting questions with honest and good-humored answers! The beautiful Islamic women models admitted to having 'bad scarf days' and shared the 'inside information' that Tie Rack scarves make very attractive hijabs! Saara assured us that just because they wore head scarves, Islamic women were not timid — for instance, she proposed to her husband! Saara also volunteered that the question most asked was, 'what do you do with all those layers during childbirth?' 'We take them off!' she replied with a smile. DR



SWAN congratulates Aussie women authors...



Kate Grenville (left) and Maria Hyland are the first Australian women to have been shortlisted for the Booker Prize: Grenville for *The Secret River* and Hyland for *Carry Me Down* — both authors were given excellent chances of becoming the fourth Australian winner and the first Australian woman to win a Booker Prize. Even so, a woman took the honors! Indian author Kiran Desai was awarded the Booker for her novel *The Inheritance of Loss*. Hearty congratulations to these women from SWAN.

The Secret River deals with the early days of European settlement along the Hawkesbury River, north of Sydney. The major character is loosely based on one of the author's ancestors, a waterman on the Thames who is transported for thieving. The tale that follows is riveting! DR

DONATIONS
to
WOMEN FOR WOMEN
IN AFRICA
and
ASYLUM SEEKER RESOURCE
CENTRE
STILL ACCEPTED
at
SWAN MEETINGS

2006 A YEAR OF BRILLIANT SWAN SPEAKERS!

A posy to Val McKenna Admin Committee member responsible for engaging such fabulous speakers for the SWAN 2006 meetings. Interesting and stimulating presentations were given by Tracee Hutchison, Kali Paxinos, Dr Anne Manne, Sushi Das, and Professor Marilyn Lake — speaker at the November Celebratory meeting. What a year!



Thanks to those who
contributed to this issue of
the SWAN newsletter:
Gwen Wilson
Val McKenna
Janice Gray
Debbie Roberts

SWAN



**SUNDAY
19 NOVEMBER**

PROFESSOR MARILYN LAKE



- Professor in History, La Trobe University, Melbourne
- Adjunct Professor, Humanities Research Centre, at the Australian National University, Canberra.
- Has held the Chair in Australian Studies at Harvard University.
- Regularly publishes newspaper and academic articles on subjects ranging from republicanism to sexuality.
- Author of ten books including *Getting Equal: the history of feminism in Australia*, and *Faith Bandler, Gentle Activist*.

TOPIC:

AUSTRALIAN VALUES

**Venue: MORNINGTON
SECONDARY COLLEGE
THEATRE
NEPEAN HIGHWAY MORNINGTON
(opposite Bunnings)
9.30AM — cost \$7
Lunch included
BOOKINGS ESSENTIAL
(for catering purposes)**

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