

# SWAN newsletter

Volume 5, issue 1

February 2005

*Special points of interest:*

- Inaugural Bursary winner.
- List of speakers
- March meeting details
- Gwen Wilson report
- Jottings
- Comments from Carole
- Human voice of the Asylum seeker issue
- SWAN 2005 dates

## ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE 2004-2005

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

### Facilitator

Debbie Roberts

### Secretary

Janice Gray

### Treasurer/Speakers

Val McKenna

### Committee Members

Maureen McPhate

Alleyne Lacy

Jo Diplock

Judith Couacaud-Graley

Rosemarie Draper

Jenny Hally

Amy Duncan

Members welcome to attend meetings

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



## Author first speaker for 2005



In the Sept. issue of the *Age Agenda*, Dr Caroline Taylor featured in a major article detailing her encounters with Victoria's legal system as a victim of sexual abuse. Dr Taylor is the author of two books, both published in 2004: *Surviving the Legal System*, and *Court-Licensed Abuse*. Dr Taylor's sexual abuse trauma

and legal system experiences also provided the catalyst for her PhD. Dr Caroline Taylor is a member of the Victorian Law Reform Commission's Advisory Committee on sexual offences and was a key contributor to the Commission's final report also published last year.

SWAN is indeed fortunate that Dr Caroline Taylor has accepted our invitation as first speaker in the SWAN diary for 2005. We encourage you NOT to miss the opportunity of hearing and meeting her!

See back page for topic and RSVP details. Names of speakers for 2005 meetings appear on page 2. Another stimulating and challenging year for SWANers and friends!

**GUEST  
SPEAKER**

**SUNDAY  
20 MARCH**

**Dr CAROLINE TAYLOR**

**Mt Martha House**  
Cnr Dominion Rd and the Esplanade  
Mt Martha

**9.30am**  
**cost: \$7.00**  
**concessions apply**

## Congratulations Bonnie!

16 year old Bonnie Einsiedel is the recipient of the inaugural SWAN bursary. Heartiest congratulations! Bonnie has attended a number of SWAN meetings and has expressed views and asked questions in a thoughtful, clear and concise way.

In her application, Bonnie stated 'I am a sixteen year old individual with a strong sense of social justice and a passion for making a difference. I am particularly interested in the [issue] of asylum seekers and have visited Dandenong Asylum Seekers Centre...have

corresponded with three asylum seekers in detention; have sent letters to politicians...and formed a social justice group with three of my friends...' A worthy recipient of the SWAN bursary! We look forward to meeting you in March, Bonnie!



## CHALLENGING NOVEMBER ADDRESS...Gwen Wilson

*In 2004 Australia assumed the Chair of the UN Commission on Human Rights...its record as reflected in its voting pattern...has been dismal.*

*Examples of Australia's voting are cited in Anne O'Rourke's paper 'The Decline of Human Rights in Australia'.*

*Limited copies available at the March meeting.*

Anne O'Rourke's November address challenged her SWAN audience with its breadth of world-wide issues and concerns. Human Rights, attitudes to torture, sweat working conditions in 3rd world countries, the behavior of corporations, the war against terror, and genocide all received attention.

Australia, she claimed, had one of the worst records of any nation in the world in the area of Human Rights. In the period

1998-2000 the government was criticised by the six United Nations human rights treaty committees for shortcomings in its performance.

Anne argued that the sweat labor conditions in 3rd world countries are worse than former slavery in the Southern states of America in the 19 century where, at least food, clothing, and shelter were provided.

World corporations were becoming more powerful than

governments. Many violations by these companies are being filed at this time. Generally, government reaction to corporate exploitation and crime is the 'soft option'. That is, the situation must be handled with diplomacy, so as not to 'upset' the huge multinational companies — it may be bad for business and investment! Members asked many questions, all of which were well answered by Ms O'Rourke.

Gwen Wilson

Limited copies of Anne's 'The Decline of Human Rights in Australia' are available.

I know Caroline Taylor and cherish her gentleness, resilience and commitment. She is a very special person. I think anyone would be fortunate to meet her at least once in their lives.  
*Carole Ford*

## COMMENTS FROM CAROLE!

Carole Ford emails us occasionally and keeps us on our toes about important issues! Here are recent comments:

I thought some SWAN members might take action in relation to the abortion debate. The Australian Democrats have launched a petition that calls for no changes that would make it more difficult for women to access abortions. The petition asks for the Parliament to sup-

port a woman's fundamental right to safe, affordable and legal abortion. The petition can be completed online or printed out. It is available at [www.democrats.org.au/campaignspro\\_choice\\_petition](http://www.democrats.org.au/campaignspro_choice_petition).

In a letter to her local Liberal MP Carole wrote re Peter Qasim, Australia's longest serving detainee, ...W.Churchill argued that democracies find abhorrent the arbitrary imprison-

ment of people without trial...the foundation of totalitarian regimes, such action could only be excused in times of extreme danger to the nation...obviously, Peter Qasim is not an 'extreme danger'...the present Government is utilizing his statelessness as an apparent warning to potential asylum-seekers that contemporary Australia is not a haven of democracy.

See *The Age* p.15, Thursday 17 Feb for feature article on Peter Qasim.

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

## SWAN DATES – 2005

**Dr Caroline Taylor**

**20 MARCH**

Social Death & Violence Against Women

**PROFESSOR MARCIA NEAVE**

Author, Chairwoman Victorian Law Reform Commission

**15 MAY**

**20 NOVEMBER**

**STILL NEGOTIATING!**

**Trish Bolton**

Lecturer media studies Swinburne University

**17 JULY**

The fleeting & fickle nature of news

**Dr Clare Wright**

Postdoctoral Research Fellow: Women & Eureka

**18 SEPTEMBER**

**RSVP**

all meetings to either

Val 5974 3461

Maureen 5974 4096



## JOTTINGS!

Amidst all the horror of the Tsunami tragedy it was heartening to hear that the Karen people were not affected. Remember Christine from the Australia Karen Youth Project who addressed SWAN last year?

Who was it that left toys to the value of over \$100 on Val's doorstep before Christmas? We're pretty sure it wasn't Santa because it was a bit early for his run! Many thanks! The toys were passed on to the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.

Thank you to Barb Rimington for her letter of thanks to the Admin committee for 'the high caliber' of last year's speakers. Also for her suggestions regarding future SWAN meetings.

Admin member Jo Diplock has generously donated 10 of her handcrafted leadlight doves of peace for sale and/or raffling at the March meeting. See details in end column.

STW (Sharing the Wisdom) an offshoot of SWAN responsible for the highly successful envi-

ronmental forum at which ABC's Robyn Williams was guest presenter, and the popular 'Conversations at the Courthouse' has ceased. Monies will be disbursed to SWAN with the recommendation that they be used for a SWAN bursary open to women of any age. The committee, initially under the chair of Vivienne Nicholson and members including Barb Rimington, Patsy Carpenter, Grace Fraser, Val McKenna, Maureen McPhate, and Debbie Roberts did a great job!

### SPECIAL RAFFLE and SALE

proceeds to  
**ASYLUM SEEKER  
RESROUCE  
CENTRE**

**LEADLIGHT  
PEACE DOVES**  
tickets available

at  
**MARCH  
meeting.**

Items also  
**FOR SALE**  
at  
**\$20. each**

## Human voice of the asylum seeker issue

On 13 February, Val answered her phone to hear the voice of Masood — a just released Iranian asylum seeker with whom she had regularly corresponded. He was with a friend, <sup>Mahsen</sup> Mahsen, released some two years ago. To hear the joy and relief in their voices was overwhelmingly emotional, said Val.

Fran Rule, another SWANer, had also corresponded with Masood. Fran writes:

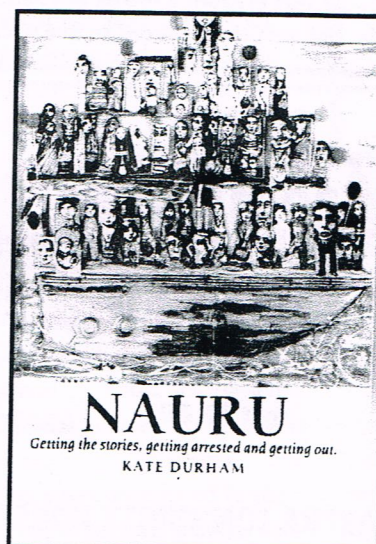
In his letters, Masood gave the impression of being a sensitive, thoughtful young man., horrified at being in detention, first at Port Hedland then in Baxter. He is full of gratitude for the Australians who support detained refugees and still trusts in God...He always ends his letters with a blessing. Once, I mentioned I was preoccupied because of the recent death/

funeral of a friend's husband. In the midst of all that was happening to him, he found time and compassion to write his condolences. Some might be brutalized by the detention experience, clearly he is not one of them! I'll take the liberty of quoting from his letter to me:

*First I have one news for you. I get visa, that is protection visa after more than 4 years...First I didn't tell to anyone because this place everyone look at each other and everyone's feeling is down. I am very sad for other people who still here from this situation and for long time...Now I just waiting for time...First I need to rest my mind because I'm very tired. This tired not for body just for my mind...*

On release, Masood did not

know whether it was temporary or permanent. Since then, however, Val has learnt that he has only a temporary visa. Both Mahsen and Masood suffer from post-traumatic stress syndrome and depression. Masood is about 27 years of age. His 'crime' was to protest against the Iranian government—hence his flight to 'freedom'!



Collection of  
non-  
perishables for  
Asylum Seeker  
Resource  
Centre  
continues  
donations can  
be brought to  
March  
meeting

Kate Durham  
travelled to Nauru with a  
BBC journalist in 2002  
Subsequent program  
shown around the world  
but not in  
Australia  
Her publication (at left)  
tells the story  
SWAN has limited numbers  
available at March meeting  
or ring  
Val 5974 3461  
\$10. plus postage



**SWAN**



# **SOUTHERN WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK**

**Dr Caroline Taylor**

**topic:  
Social Death & Violence  
against Women**

**In 1993 Dr Taylor's father was found guilty of sexually abusing his daughter and sentenced to nine years in jail. After appealing...he was granted a retrial in 1995...found guilty again, but sentence reduced to five years.**

**SUNDAY  
20 MARCH**

**9.30am  
cost \$7.00**

**MT MARTHA COMMUNITY HOUSE  
Cnr Dominion Road and the Esplanade  
Mt Martha**



**RSVP  
by**

**16 MARCH**

**to either**

**VAL 5974 3461**

**MAUREEN 5974 4096**



# SWAN newsletter



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

Volume 5, issue 2

April 2005

### Special points of interest

- Gwen Wilson report page 2
- May meeting details page 4
- SWAN dates page 2
- Jottings page 3
- Coffee Break time page 2
- Collections for Asylum Seeker Resource Centre & Women for Women in Africa page 3
- Jars needed page 1

### ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE 04-2005

The Admin Committee met during 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**  
Maureen McPhate  
Alleynne Lacy  
Diplock  
Judith Couacaud-Graley  
Rosemarie Draper  
Penny Hally  
Amy Duncan

Members welcome to attend meetings

## Professor Marcia Neave – May speaker

Over the past two years a number of SWAN speakers have referred to the work of the Victorian Law Reform Commission and, in particular, to the contribution of the Chairperson, Professor Marcia Neave. We feel very privileged, then, to welcome to the May meeting Professor Marcia Neave.

Professor Neave has a very distinguished career. She is currently on leave from Monash University where she holds a personal chair in the Law Faculty. During her time with the Victorian Law Reform Commission, the Commission has made recommendations to government about reform of the law on sexual offences and defences to

homicide. Currently, she is involved in projects relating to assisted reproduction, family violence, bail, workplace privacy and evidence.

Professor Neave was President of the Commonwealth Administrative Review Council from 1995-1999; she was a part-time Commissioner of the NSW Law Reform Commission and of the former Law Reform Commission of Victoria; a member, and later Deputy Chair, of the Australian National Council on AIDS and chaired the Commonwealth Government's Working Party on legal issues and HIV/AIDS. Even at SWAN it is rare to have a speaker of such calibre!

**GUEST SPEAKER**

**SUNDAY 15 MAY**

**Professor Marcia Neave**

**Mt Martha House**  
Cur Dominion Rd and the Esplanade  
Mt Martha

**9.30am**  
**cost: \$7.00**  
**concessions apply**

**See page 4 for RSVP details**

## URGENT REQUEST FOR JARS!

Meg Merton urgently needs glass jars suitable for her jams and marmalades. Meg's only requirements are that the jars are glass and of 500 grams or less capacity. Coffee jars are not suitable.

Meg generously donates all

proceeds from the sale of her products at SWAN meetings to a worthy cause. Meg has indicated that she would like monies raised so far, to go to Caroline Taylor's Phoenix Foundation. Remember to make a point of purchasing a sample of

Meg's delicious jams at the May meeting. The Admin Committee, at its next meeting, will organize for a cheque to be forwarded to the Phoenix Foundation.

Please bring suitable jars to the May meeting.





## Standing ovation for Caroline Taylor...Gwen Wilson

A subdued hush prevailed as Dr Caroline Taylor unfolded the story of her personal suffering as the victim of her father's sexual abuse until the age of 15 when she courageously escaped and went immediately to the police. Caroline spoke highly of the police who continued to help and support her over a period of time — even attending the presentation of her PhD.

Questioning of women victims in court; presentation of certain evidence; and the legal system

itself are sorely in need of challenge and reform, Caroline said and cited examples in support of her claims. The system's bias against women victims of sexual and domestic violence, she labels 'Court Licensed Abuse'. The experience leaves the victim shattered — a 'social death'. Caroline asked 'how can you ever see yourself as whole when the mirror in which you look is fractured?'

The misogynist system works against reporting and disclosure, resulting in low conviction

rates for sexual and domestic abuse. Despite her experiences, Dr Caroline Taylor said she is optimistic about reform which is underway in some areas. She herself is working with Commissioner Christine Nixon on the reporting of sexual crime. Despite her experiences, Caroline said that 'a caged bird can still sing and while we are influenced by experiences we are not defined by them.' Dr Caroline was given a spontaneous standing ovation.

Gwen Wilson

Dr Caroline Taylor  
author of:  
*Surviving the Legal  
System  
and  
Court Licensed Abuse*

## Between meetings – have a coffee break!

Over the years, many SWANers have suggested they would like to get together between official meetings. After the emotional March meeting many said they felt a need to talk to others and share thoughts/feelings.

In response, the Admin Committee took up the idea of a Coffee Break — a gathering

between official meetings when SWANers can come together with in an informal and friendly environment.

Val McKenna has kindly offered to host the first, of what we are sure will be many more, Coffee Break mornings!

If you would like to attend the first of the coffee breaks make

a note of the date: **Wednesday 15 June at 10.00am**. Val lives at 6 Cornwall Crescent, Mt Martha. There is no cost involved, but Val would appreciate a telephone call if you intend coming along. Jo Diplock has offered her home for the next coffee break get together in August.

Val McKenna — 5974 3461

### SWAN COFFEE BREAK

- Exchange ideas
- Develop friendships
  - Debrief
- Pure enjoyment!

Val McKenna's home  
6 Cornwall Crescent  
MT MARTHA  
WEDNESDAY 15 JUNE  
10.00am  
NO COST

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

## SWAN DATES – 2005

**Professor  
Marcia Neave**  
Chairperson Victorian Law Reform  
Commission  
**15 MAY**  
topic:  
**Women and law reform**  
Will refer to abolition of provocation defence clause

**Trish Bolton**  
Lecturer media studies Swinburne University  
**17 JULY**  
The fleeting & fickle nature of news

**20 NOVEMBER**  
**STILL NEGOTIATING!**

**STILL NEGOTIATING!**  
**18 SEPTEMBER**

**RSVP**  
all meetings to either  
**Val 5974 3461**  
**Maureen 5974 4096**



## Jottings

Many thanks to SWAN secretary, Janice Gray, for procuring the use of an efficient public address system for the March meeting. We are still waiting for a decision as to whether or not we will receive funding to purchase a system of our own!

Agreeing that 'Friends of the ABC' needed all the support it could get, the Admin Committee agreed to renew SWAN's annual subscription (\$50.00)

Val McKenna has received two invitations to speak to groups

about the Asylum Seeker issue, which she has accepted. Perhaps we could develop a list of SWAN women prepared to give talks/presentations to local groups on topics in areas of their expertise.

SWAN has purchased copies of Dr Caroline Taylor's two books. *Surviving the Legal System* which will be retained as a SWAN resource. It will soon be available for borrowing. The other title — *Court Licensed Abuse* — will be raffled. All

proceeds will be donated to the Phoenix Foundation. See this page for raffle details. In a letter of thanks to SWAN, Caroline said:

'I was extremely impressed with the women from SWAN and have told others about this amazing, diverse, active and inspirational group of women. I came away...with a renewed sense of hope and vitality having spent a morning with such gentle and committed women. I hope our paths cross again at some stage.'

## Women for Women in Africa and Asylum Seeker Resource Centre Still in need!

We still read and hear in the media about the work of Pamela Curr for the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and the people who are incarcerated in Australia's Detention Centres. SWAN has supported the work of Pamela Curr and the Centre since she addressed SWAN last year. Susan Blackburn-Mitchell has done, and continues to do, hard work in collecting and delivering SWAN donations to this cause. If you feel you would like to support the Centre please bring items to the May meeting or, you can ring Susan on one of the numbers given on this page. We are told that the Resource Centre would be grateful for:

- Sanitary napkins (no meds please)
- Shampoo, conditioner, soap, moisturizer
- Toilet paper
- Cloth nappies.

Here is ONE way in which you can assist asylum seekers — and without too much effort! Many thanks to all those who have given so generously.

Margaret Ryan, founder of **Women for Women in Africa** and who also visited SWAN last year continues to support the women and children in the Kibera slum of Nairobi in Kenya. As you will remember, Kibera is a hillside shanty town which evolved as approximately one million people drifted into the city seeking work, and a

better life for their families. As squatters, they have no rights, but pay rent without any security of tenure or guarantee of a future. They live in shanty houses of tin and mud with no water, electricity or toilet facilities...described as one of the worst slums in the world.

**Women for Women in Africa** see education as the answer to the needs of the children. SWANers can donate exercise books, pencils and other school materials. Bring items to SWAN or again, contact **Susan Blackburn-Mitchell**. You can find out more about WWIA by contacting Marguerite Ryan on 0438 747 101 or you can write to Marguerite at 62 Denbigh Rd Armadale 3143.

Or at:  
ma.ryan@bigpond.com.au



\$220.00  
forwarded to  
ASYLUM SEEKER  
RESOURCE  
CENTRE  
proceeds from sale of  
leadlight doves by  
Jo Diplock

# SWAN



### SPECIAL RAFFLE

3 TICKETS for \$1.  
Dr Caroline Taylor's book

*Court Licensed Abuse*

all proceeds to  
**PHOENIX  
FOUNDATION**

founded by  
Caroline Taylor  
to assist child victims of  
sexual abuse to  
gain an education

### DONATIONS

to  
**ASYLUM SEEKER  
RESOURCE CENTRE**

OR  
**WOMEN for  
WOMEN in AFRICA**

contact  
**SUSAN**

**BLACKBURN-MITCHELL**

Home 5975 7349

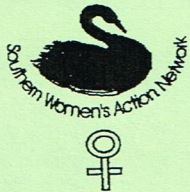
Work 5979 7600

OR

04144 253 345



**SWAN**



# **SOUTHERN WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK**

## **Professor Marcia Neave**

- Chairperson of the Victorian Law Reform Commission
- Holds a personal chair in the Monash Law Faculty
- President of the Commonwealth Administrative Review Council 1995-1999

**topic:**

**Women and law reform**

**SUNDAY**

**15 MAY**

at

**9.30am**

cost \$7.00

**MT MARTHA COMMUNITY HOUSE**

Cnr Dominion Road and the Esplanade  
Mt Martha

**RSVP**

by

**11 MAY**

to either

**VAL 5974 3461**

**MAUREEN 5974 4096**



# SWAN newsletter

Volume 5, issue 3

June 2005

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



## Special points of interest:

- Gwen Wilson report page 2
- Trish Bolton — topic a first for SWAN! Front page
- July meeting details page 4
- SWAN dates page 2
- Jottings page 2
- Have you read?
- SWAN support for domestic violence seminar front page
- From Welfare to Poverty page 3

## ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE 2004-2005

The Admin Committee met during June to organise the July meeting and to discuss plans for coming events..

**Facilitator**  
Debbie Roberts  
**Secretary**  
Janice Gray  
**Treasurer/Speakers**  
Val McKenna  
**Committee Members**  
Maureen McPhate  
Alleyne Lacy  
Jo Diplock  
Judith Couacaud-Graley  
Rosemarie Draper  
Jenny Hally  
Amy Duncan

Members welcome to attend Admin meetings

## Fleeting & Fickle nature of news – Trish Bolton

Trish Bolton is currently enrolled in a PhD at RMIT University. Her thesis explores the role of online alternative media and is titled *An exploration of the potential of online alternative media to enhance democracy and citizenship, and to effect political, social and cultural change*. Trish's research area qualifies her to speak in an informed and insightful way on matters pertaining to political, social, environmental and other important issues and how they relate to modern media in Australia today

Currently, Trish lectures in Media Studies at Swinburne University and teaches a writing subject to Masters students.

SWAN members will also be

interested to hear that Trish Bolton is also part of a X-media working party set up by **Friends of the ABC** in response to the likely relaxation of cross-media rules after July 1 this year. Trish said that she can '...imagine SWAN members are all too aware that media is critical to our democracy and to our culture. It also has significant influence on the lives of women, sending messages to our daughters about being women, and indeed, to the men with whom we interact...' Trish will refer to these matters in her address to SWAN at the July 17 meeting.

Trish Bolton is the first speaker to put before SWAN the challenges and role of current online media!

## SWAN supports Domestic Violence seminar

SWAN has supported the Mornington Peninsula Shire in organizing its Domestic Violence seminar to be held on Tuesday 28 June from 9.30am to 3.30pm at the shire offices, Corner Main and Queen Streets, Mornington, Phil Cleary (author

of *Just Another Little Murder* and a supporter for the release of Heather Osland on compassionate grounds) will chair the meeting. Speakers include Leigh Gassner, Assistant Commissioner of Victoria Police, Anne Goldsbrough, Magistrate, Family

Violence Court Initiative and Roseanne Hepburn, Indigenous Family Violence support worker. The day will provide opportunities for discussion, networking and will present recent research on the health and economic costs of family violence.

**GUEST  
SPEAKER**

**SUNDAY  
17 JULY**

**Trish Bolton**  
lecturer  
media studies  
Swinburne University

**Mt Martha House**  
Cur Dominlon Rd and the Esplanade  
Mt Martha

**9.30am**  
**cost: \$7.00**  
concessions apply

Further information: Erin 5950 1685 before June 21



## May Meeting report...Gwen Wilson

Special Effort  
Raffle  
in support  
of  
Dr Caroline Taylor's  
Phoenix Foundation  
won by  
Rosy Buchanan  
Proceeds  
to be  
Forwarded to the  
Phoenix Foundation  
which assists  
in the education  
of child  
victims of domestic  
violence and abuse

Professor Marcia Neave explained the function of Law Commissions across the world: they are independent bodies separate from the political process and investigate aspects of the law and make recommendations about possible changes. In Victoria, such recommendations should reflect community attitudes and are arrived at after community consultation. Professor Neave summed up her personal philosophy of the Law Reform Commission's task as 'we want

to hear what people think'. Assisted Reproduction; Law of Provocation; and sexual offences were the examples of investigation discussed.

Assisted Reproduction, Professor Neave said, was a complex but important facet of present society. Federal Law takes precedence over state, but in its considerations, the Law Reform Commission held that the well-being of the child should be of paramount importance. The Law of Provo-

cation allowed killers to be charged with manslaughter instead of murder. Again, this is a complex area of law and many matters have to be taken into consideration. The Commission's recommendations are not always accepted, but it is the democratic right of those in the law to say that 'the Commission has got it wrong!'

In thanking the speaker, Margaret Hall said that it was good to hear the truth and forget the media hype!

Gwen Wilson

## Jottings...

By the time this copy of the newsletter is read, the first of the bi-monthly get-togethers will have been held at Val McKenna's home.

Over the years, we have received many requests for an opportunity to get to know other SWAN members in an informal way. Here is your opportunity! The next gather-

ing will be in August. Details will be announced at the July meeting. But, if you are not there, please ring Val and she will provide the necessary information.

SWAN continues to collect appropriate items for the **Asylum Seeker Resource Centre** and **Women for Women in Africa**. Susan Blackburn-

Mitchell kindly organizes for delivery to the collection depots. Suitable items include: non-perishable foods, toiletries, toilet paper, cloth nappies, travel cards (all day if possible). Exercise books, pencils and other school materials are urgently required by the **Women for Women in Africa** collection.. Your gift can make a difference!

### SWAN COFFEE BREAK

- Exchange ideas
  - Debrief
  - Make friends
  - Pure enjoyment!
- 10.00am  
NO COST  
next gathering  
in  
August  
Ring Val for details  
5974 3461

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

Meg needs small glass jars  
suitable for jams

## SWAN dates

### Trish Bolton

- Lecturer media studies  
Swinburne University
- Occasional freelance writer
- Member X-media working party to  
respond to likely relaxation of cross media  
rules

**SUNDAY 17 JULY**

**Topic:**

*The fleeting & fickle nature of news*

**Dr Clare Wright**  
**18 SEPTEMBER**

**CANCELLATION!!**  
FURTHER DETAILS SOON

**20 NOVEMBER**

**Details to come**

**RSVP**

**for  
all**

**meetings**

**Val 5974 3461**

**Maureen 5974 4096**

**4 days before event date**



## Have you read...?

At the May meeting a member suggested we table a list of books currently being read by SWANers. It seemed a pity to keep such good news to only those who are able to attend meetings. So, here are some titles presently being enjoyed. Many of us are reading, or have just finished reading, Marion Maddox's *God Under Howard: the rise of the religious right in Australian politics*. This is a fascinating and easily-read book of which David Marr has said 'an eye-

opening exploration of the real politics of Australia.' The title may sound dry, but I found this book difficult to put down (Debbie). Arundhati Roy's book *The Ordinary Person's Guide to Empire*, is recommended by Val McKenna. As the blurb on the back says '...Roy opens our eyes, like no other writer can do, to the problems that our increasingly divided world is creating, highlighting the growing disparity between the world's rich and poor.' Roy focuses mainly on

the intense period leading up to and beyond the attack on Iraq. Roy successfully deconstructs the US government's arguments for going to war. In quite a different vein, but equally hard to put down are: *Lilla's Feast* by Frances Osborne and *Daughter of Midnight* by Arun Gandhi. The first tells of the life and experiences of a woman interned by the Japanese in China during WW2. The latter is the biography of Gandhi's wife and recommended by Gwen Wilson.

responding to  
**Family Violence**

presented by  
**Mornington  
Peninsula Shire**  
Tuesday 28 June  
9.30am—3.30pm  
Shire Offices  
Cnr Main and Queen Streets  
Mornington

Chaired by  
**Phyl Cleary**  
with guest speakers

RSVP  
**Erin Nixon**  
5950 1685

## From 'welfare to poverty'!

At SWAN's May meeting, Susan Blackburn-Mitchell pointed out the devastating effects of the Welfare to Work package just announced in the 2005-06 Federal Budget.

According to the Council of Single Mothers and their Children (CSMC) rather than taking single parent families into work, this policy will push them further into poverty. As Susan has said to SWAN, such parents and their families require supportive strategies, not coercion.

CSMC claims children have a

right to be parented in a stable, nurturing environment, but the government's new policy will erode single parents' ability to do this. 'Our children must not be left...uncared for or at home alone!' says CSMC.

The current breaching system will be replaced with a suspension-based system from 1 July 2006. Instead of incurring a breach, if a parent does not comply with their participation requirements, their income support payments will be suspended by Centrelink until they do comply.

Parents applying on or after 21 July 2006 for income support will be financially disadvantaged in many aspects, as will existing parents who go off payments for 12 or more weeks. **The table below compares notes on just a few of the changes.** For a comprehensive analysis visit CSMC website: [www.csmc.org.au](http://www.csmc.org.au) or ring that organization on 9654 0327.

**CSMC RALLY**  
SUNDAY JUNE 19  
State Library Victoria  
328 Swanston St Melb  
1.00pm

	Prior 1 July 2006 *	On or after 1 July 2006
Type of payment	<i>Parenting payment single</i>	<i>Newstart Allowance</i>
Current payment amount	Up to \$476.30 per fortnight	\$432.00 per fortnight
Income test	\$146.60 + \$24.60 each additional child per fortnight	\$62.00 per fortnight
Taper rate	40 cents in the dollar	Over \$62—\$250: 50 cents in dollar Over \$250: 60 cents in dollar

Fr Laurie Pearson  
gave his  
permission  
to  
print and distribute  
copies  
of his  
letter to  
  
Immigration Minister  
Amanda Vanstone

**DONATIONS**  
to  
**ASYLYM SEEKER  
RESOURCE CENTRE**  
or  
**WOMEN**  
for  
**WOMEN in AFRICA**  
contact  
**SUSAN  
BLACKBURN-MITCHELL**  
Home 5975 7349  
Work 5979 7600  
or  
04144 253 345



**SWAN**



# **SOUTHERN WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK**

## **TRISH BOLTON**

- Lectures in Media Studies, Swinburne University
- Teaches a writing subject to Masters students at Swinburne
- Member X-media working party set up by *Friends of the ABC* in response to likely relaxation of cross-media rules after July 1, 2005.

**topic:**

***The fleeting and fickle nature of news***

**SUNDAY**

**17 JULY**

at

**9.30am**

**cost \$7.00**

(concessions apply)

**MT MARTHA COMMUNITY HOUSE**

Cnr Dominion Road and the Esplanade  
Mt Martha

**RSVP**

by

**13 JULY**

to either

**VAL 5974 3461**

**MAUREEN 5974 4096**



Southern Women's Action Network

# SWAN newsletter

Volume 5, Issue 4

August 2005

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

## The remarkable Elleni Bereded-Samuel

### Special points of interest:

- Heather Osland's release page 2
- SWAN dates page 2
- SWAN Encouragement Bursary winner, Bonnie Einsiedel page 3
- Author of *Court Licensed Abuse* thanks Rosy Buchanan page 3
- Here and There page 3
- September meeting full details page 4

### ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE 2004-2005

The Admin Committee met September 1 to organise the September meeting and to discuss plans for coming events..

#### Facilitator

Debbie Roberts

#### Secretary

Janice Gray

#### Treasurer/Speakers

Val McKenna

#### Committee Members

Maureen McPhate

Alleyne Lacy.

Jo Diplock

Judith Coucaud-Graley

Rosemarie Draper

Jenny Hally

Amy Duncan

Members welcome to attend Admin meetings

As Kate Legge related in *The Weekend Australian* of June 11/12, 'Elleni Bereded-Samuel arrived in Melbourne 10 years ago with her husband, one mattress, a small child, another on the way and a gift, also in its infancy, for building bridges between refugees low on hope and possibility.'



Elleni Bereded-Samuel has a psychology degree and speaks several languages and her husband has a PhD in irrigation engineering. The couple are energetic and enthusiastic in their efforts to help other Africans make good in their new homeland.

Co-ordinating a storytelling project drawing on the experiences of women from

the Horn of Africa countries such as Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan was Elleni's first job in Australia. When these women first came together there was a

great deal of suspicion, unease and resistance. It took Elleni three sessions just to convince these women not to talk about the war and the killings back in their homeland. Through Elleni's perseverance, commitment and skills, bridges are being built and many fractured lives are being repaired. After only three months members of the group are eating together and learning to respect their differences. Don't miss the opportunity to hear the remarkable Elleni Bereded-Samuel.

## Shire Domestic Violence forum successful

That the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council Domestic Violence forum was booked out with a waiting list highlights the importance of this issue to the local community.

SWAN-sponsored Phil Cleary, author of *Just another*

*little murder* (relating to the murder of his sister) facilitated the day with great skill and compassion.

ACCESS Economics' presentation highlighted the economic costs of DM: lost work days; Health problems and property damage. Key-

note speakers, including Leigh Gassner, Assistant Commissioner of Victoria Police and Anne Goldsbrough, Magistrate, also made significant contributions. We applaud MPSC and Linda Wimetal for tackling this urgent community issue.

Judith Coucaud-Graley

**GUEST SPEAKER**

**SUNDAY  
18 SEPTEMBER**

**ELLENI  
BEREDED-SAMUEL**

**Mt Martha House**  
Cnr Dominion Rd and the Esplanade  
Mt Martha

**9.30am  
cost: \$7.00**

**see page 4  
for RSVP details**



# Heather Osland released

22 July 2005



Val and Heather on the morning of Heather's release from Tarrangower Prison

*I now look forward to re-building my life with my family and getting to know and spend time with my grandchildren. However, my fight is still not over. I will be seeking the right to information through the courts as to why my petition of mercy was not granted.*

Heather Osland

On July 22, Heather Osland was released from Tarrangower prison after serving nine and a half years of her fourteen and a half year sentence for the killing of her husband Frank.

In writing about Heather's case, Mary Crooks, Executive Director of The Victorian Women's Trust, states that 'for well over a decade, Heather and her children experienced a vile regime of domestic terror that was a cruel mix of psychological, physical, sexual and emotional abuse. During this time, police were often called to the Osland home and professionals were presented with the physical evidence of Frank's brutal attacks — yet no action was taken against him. Heather tried to leave this barbarous regime several times, but each time [her husband] hunted her down.'

Mary Crooks has declared that Heather's case epitomizes the public failure so far to significantly address domestic violence in Australia. In support of her claim, Mary Crooks says 'We know that a national sur-

vey of women's safety (ABS 1996) reported that 1.2 million Australian women had experienced some form of violence in a domestic relationship. And, we know that in a 1997 survey of 1000 young Australian men aged 18-25, a third agreed there were some situations where it was 'ok for a male to force a female to have sex...and, more importantly as evidenced by Heather's experience, we know of the failure of the state to protect her not only through the 13 years of abuse but by the subsequent moral failure to show her compassion and grant her mercy.'

In her appeal to the High Court in Canberra in 1998, Heather's legal representative, Dr Jocelyne Scutt presented a clear picture of the abuse Heather suffered and the effect of that abuse on her family. In explaining to the court 'the battered woman reality' she compared Heather's life to 'being locked in a closet and to a hostage situation.' Dr Scutt clearly indicated 'that this case [was] not asking for women in Heather's situation to be ex-

empt from murder laws or for women generally to be given special treatment. Rather, that the laws of self defence and provocation be open to women's experiences as well as men's.'

On her release, Heather herself said 'The legal system must change. I understand that there are current changes underway so that women who find themselves in a similar situation as mine, will not have to endure what my family and I had to endure. If these changes to the law are made, it will mean my incarceration has not been in vain.' Heather expressed her gratitude to all who supported her throughout her ordeal.

Source: Heather Osland support group web site <http://home.vicnet.net.au/~rhog/releasesstatement.htm>



Heather with a presentation from SWAN

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

Meg needs small glass jars suitable for jams

## SWAN DATES

**ELLENI  
BEREDED-SAMUEL  
SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER**

- An Ethiopian woman officially recognised for helping resettle African refugees in Australia.
- Ellemi Bereded-Samuel has a psychology degree and speaks several languages.

**SUNDAY  
18 SEPTEMBER**



**RSVP  
for  
all**

**meetings**

**Val 5974 3461**

**Maureen 5974 4096**

**4 days before event date**



## SWAN tradition in capable hands!

As a means of fostering young women's involvement in social justice issues SWAN initiated an Encouragement Bursary enabling the recipient to enrol in a course of her choice to develop relevant skills. Bonnie Einsiedel (pictured right) was the beneficiary of the inaugural bursary.

Bonnie, a 16 year-old student at Peninsula School (and a regular SWAN attendee) hopes to study law and work in the area of human rights. She recently attended a World

Vision Global Politics Seminar in Melbourne and is co-running the Forty Hour Famine World Vision Project.

Bonnie used the SWAN Bursary to fund an intensive course in French at the Alliance Francaise as she believes a sound knowledge of that language will prove beneficial in her future career.

Recent major issues covered in the print and electronic media such as problems relating to the Iraq war, Australia's Intelligence gathering and assess-

ment; the treatment of asylum seekers; family violence; and the need for open and informed debate in Australia's media are all matters of public importance that have been tackled by SWAN! AS Trish Bolton and other speakers have stated, a robust democracy depends upon informed and open debate — and community involvement. SWAN Encouragement Bursary winner, Bonnie Einsiedel, augurs well for the future. Keep up the good work, Bonnie!



**Bonnie Einsiedel**  
recipient  
**SWAN inaugural**  
**Encouragement**  
**Bursary**

## Dr Caroline Taylor – thanks Rosy Buchanan

The following is a copy of an email sent by Caroline Taylor to SWAN:

Dear Janice  
I hope this email finds you well. I just wanted to let you know that I was alerted the other day to a speech that one of your members, Rosy Buchanan, made in parliament in May about my work. I was deeply touched by

this...I am delighted that Rosy went to the effort of saying something in Parliament about my work. I have passed it on to our Vice Chancellor at the university so that he can see the impact of my work, especially as I am only on contract and am trying to get tenure which is very hard these days. I think of the SWAN ladies often and tell others about this wonderful

group of women. With love and warmest wishes  
Caroline.

Referring to Caroline's book, *Court Licensed Abuse*, Rosy said that it is a powerful and insightful book that should be 'mandatory reading for every legal professional and every MP in the country.'

The full text of Rosy Buchanan's comments can be read in VICHANSARD for House of Assembly 17 May 2005.

## HERE AND THERE!

**Gwen Wilson** was in hospital on the date of Trish Bolton's address to SWAN. Therefore, there is no 'Gwen Wilson Report!' We are pleased to announce though, that Gwen is recovering well. Copies of Trish's brilliant address will be available at the September meeting.

Most SWANers know of the work done by **Susan Black-**

**burn-Mitchell** in collecting SWAN donations for Women for Women in Africa and the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. Most of us, however, are not aware of the work she does with NILS (No Interest Loans Schemes) started in Victoria by Good Shepherd Youth and Family Service 25 years ago. Susan, a Good Shepherd Micro-credit worker,

says 'as a loans worker I often see people who feel they are not managing their income well, but it quickly becomes apparent it's not bad management that's the issue. They actually do a fantastic job with a very limited income.' The full story appears in *Network*, newsletter of the Rural Women's Network. To get on the mailing list contact:

[rural.women@dvc.vic.gov.au](mailto:rural.women@dvc.vic.gov.au)

Anyone seeking information about family violence issues can contact the Mornington Peninsula Domestic Violence Service on 5971 9454 Monday to Friday 9am - 5pm



**DONATIONS**  
to  
**ASYLYM SEEKER**  
**RESOURCE CENTRE**  
or  
**WOMEN for**  
**WOMEN in AFRICA**  
contact  
**SUSAN**  
**BLACKBURN-MITCHELL**  
Home 5975 7349  
Work 5979 7600  
or  
**04144 253 345**  
or  
bring your donations  
to September meeting



**SWAN**



# **SOUTHERN WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK**

## **ELLENI BEREDDED-SAMUEL**

- **An Ethiopian woman officially recognised for helping resettle African refugees in Australia.**
- **Elleni Bereded-Samuel has a psychology degree and speaks several languages.**
- **Elleni Bereded-Samuel co-ordinated a storytelling project drawing on experiences of women from Horn of Africa countries: Eritrea, Ethiopia, Somalia and Sudan.**
- **The women with whom Elleni worked had suffered deprivation, famine, physical and mental abuse, neglect and years in refugee camps.**
- **There was suspicion and resistance when these women from differing countries came together – the Eritreans, for example, had fought the Ethiopians with more than 100,000 casualties.**

**TOPIC:**

**Elleni will speak about her experiences in building bridges between women from Horn of Africa Countries who have settled in Victoria and assisting them to mend their fractured lives**

**SUNDAY**

**18 SEPTEMBER**

at

**9.30am**

cost \$7.00

**MT MARTHA COMMUNITY HOUSE**  
Cnr Dominion Road and the Esplanade  
Mt Martha

**RSVP**

by

**14 SEPTEMBER**

to either

**VAL 5974 3461**  
**MAUREEN 5974 4096**



# SWAN newsletter

Volume 5, issue 5

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



October 2005

## YOUTH TAKES THE SPOTLIGHT AT NOVEMBER MEETING!

### Special points of interest:

- New meeting venue, pp 1 and 4.
- November speaker details pp 1 and 4.
- Special guests at November meeting p2.
- Gwen Wilson report p2.
- This and That p3.
- News from Marguerite Ryan — *Women for Women in Africa* p3.



### ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE 2005-2006

Members listed below were elected to the new Admin Committee for the year 2005-2006 at the September Annual General Meeting. At the time of printing office-bearers have not been elected.

Judith Couacaud-Graley  
Val McKenna  
Maureen McPhate  
Janice Gray  
Alleyne Lacy  
Jo Diplock  
Rosemarie Draper  
Amy Duncan  
Jenne Hally  
Debbie Roberts  
Heather Boundy  
Annabel Fegan  
Lydia Pereira



Lauren and the family of a Timorese man with tuberculosis

Lauren Wimetel is 23 years old and grew up on the Mornington Peninsula, attending Woodleigh School. She is a final year medical student at Monash University and will begin her internship at Monash Medical Centre in January next year.

As part of her final year, Lauren chose to do a volun-

teer international elective in East Timor.

For one so young, Lauren has achieved much and is active in the community: she is a member of the Medical Subcommittee of the Mornington Peninsula Friends of Los Palos; she is a volunteer interpreter as a fluent Tetun speaker — an East Timorese

native language — to many Australian community groups, in particular, a group of Australian medical students who organize for East Timorese to come to Australia for life-saving medical treatment; and is a member of IGNITE, the Monash University International Health Group among other things!

In keeping with the emphasis on youth, Lauren will be introduced by SWAN's inaugural Community Encouragement Bursary recipient, 17 year old Bonnie Ensiedel. It's inspiring to have such young women address SWAN. Don't miss supporting the efforts of these two young women who both want to make a positive difference to our world!

## NEW MEETING VENUE for November 20

SWAN November meeting is a significant one — a time of 'endings and beginnings'!

The Admin Committee is enthusiastic about our new meeting place: **Mornington Secondary College Theatre** (opposite Bunnings on Nepean Highway). The

September Annual General Meeting saw the end of a long and happy association with Mt Martha Community House.

Our new location, however, offers more space, improved seating and a generally more comfortable environment.

We look forward to feedback from members and hope it will be positive! Nevertheless, please let us know if you think we need to make any further adjustments or arrangements. **Remember to put the new address in your diary!**



## AN INSPIRING ADVOCATE...Gwen Wilson



Eleni Bereded-Samuel at the September meeting, Mt Martha House.

*'With encouragement, Swan Hill has become a centre for refugees. This is a fine example of diversity at work.'*

Eleni Bereded-Samuel

When Eleni Bereded-Samuel addressed the September SWAN meeting she proved what a wonderful advocate she is for immigrants from the Horn of Africa countries.

This quietly forceful, but charismatic Ethiopian woman, works to build bridges between people who come from countries that have experienced many forms of unrest: violence, killings and hatred. On arrival in Australia these people are in a state of confusion and shock, but must somehow learn to adjust as they are unable to return to

their homelands.

Eleni's work with these people entails setting up a range of group activities — including a small business plan to grow/sell hydroponic lettuce; sewing groups; and outings to various venues that assist these people to learn about Australian expectations such as law and order and other aspects of Australian life. The scope and breadth of her work is enormous but Eleni's undoubted skills in relating to people were soon obvious to her listeners!

Many of these Horn of Africa

people are tertiary educated often with multiple degrees, but are unable to find employment appropriate to their skills because of language difficulties. Through her various networks, however, Eleni is often able to solve this problem.

Eleni Bereded-Samuel has just been appointed as a Commissioner to the Victorian Multi-cultural Commission. The appointment recognizes her work and offers the opportunity for even further positive outcomes! Eleni urges us all to be sensitive to the needs of these people.

*It is very hard to believe that this day has finally arrived. It has been a very long and difficult time of having lived and survived two nightmares. The first nightmare lasted thirteen and a half years, of living and surviving the fear of Frank's violence and abuse. This second nightmare has been prison, which lasted nine and a half years. The legal system must change. I understand that there are current changes underway so that women who find themselves in a similar situation as mine, will not have to endure what my family and I have had to endure. If these changes to the law are made, it will mean my incarceration has not been in vain.*

From Heather Osland's statement at the time of her release.

## SPECIAL GUESTS AT NOVEMBER MEETING

During her many years of incarceration, **Heather Osland** was supported by SWAN in various ways. Val McKenna visited Heather many times offering her personal support and as a link to Heather's many SWAN supporters. Heather expressed the wish that one day she would be able to attend a SWAN meeting — that wish will come true for Heather at the November meeting, which, all being well,

Heather will attend.

Another special guest will be **Morag Loh**. Morag addressed SWAN in 2002, speaking about Australian attitudes to migration (especially Asian migration). Writer, teacher, activist and curator and organizer of the extremely successful photographic exhibition entitled *Nothing on a Plate* which was highly praised by SWAN members who at-

tended, Morag had requested our support for a new project in progress called *The New 3Rs: Rights, Responsibilities and Respect*. The Admin Committee was pleased to accede to Morag's request.

At the November meeting, Morag will briefly outline details of the new project and why it is worthy of SWAN support. In its letter of recommendation, SWAN said that the project's focus is both topical and timely. The electronic and print media are crammed with social justice, citizenship and civil rights/responsibilities issues demanding our attention. The preparatory community discussion groups organized by Morag and her working committee have allowed wide community involvement and participation in this project.



Val McKenna, Heather Osland and Amy Duncan at UAW meeting



## NEWS FROM MARGUERITE RYAN – Women for Women in Africa

*SWAN received the following newsy email from Marguerite Ryan, initiator and organizer of Women for Women in Africa whom SWAN members have generously supported since Marguerite addressed SWAN in 2004. We thought we'd like to share it with you!*

...I am leaving for Nairobi on 11 October. I am taking up the STA Travel Grant and am really looking forward to my time in Nairobi. I will be there until 19 October and from there I am having a few days in Mauritius before returning to Melbourne. My mother was born in Mauritius so it's a return to my roots which I really enjoy.

I will spend most of my days in Nairobi in the Kibera slum visiting the women that we have been able to help set up their small business and going to the schools that we have been able to support. Brighton Grammar Junior School continues to help the Baraka School and it will be great to see the improvements there. I believe that there is a whole new classroom now furnished with desks!

I will also visit a Women's Empowerment Centre that we have supported and I believe that wonderful work is being done there. I have not been there before so that should be very interesting.

Our main challenge this year is to fund a house or centre for the Jitahidi Project. This is the Centre attended by street children; children living with HIV/Aids or children from the poorest homes in the slums — these children have no hope of attending a primary school without some form of preschool education. The children attend Jitahidi in the mornings and then later the women come and learn skills too...We have spent the past 10 months trying to get funding for this house and now we have succeeded with grateful thanks to some wonderful people. While I am in Nairobi I hope to finalise negotiations on a house and set up a Committee of Management for the project.

Sponsorship of students continues to grow. We now have about 50 primary students and

28 secondary students sponsored. This means that these children are receiving an education that they had no hope of getting. For some it might just be part sponsorship, we might buy their uniforms or books or provide funds for their lunch but for most it is full education. All those who have sponsored children have received photos or letters about their children. St Scholastica's Burwood have sponsored 7 children.

Over the past 12 months, not including the \$150,000 received for Jitahidi, we have raised almost \$50,000 for women and children...all this money, the whole 100%, has been sent to Nairobi and is accounted for...so now our bank account is very low.

Thank you again for your wonderful generosity. We could not do anything without our friends and I know just how much it is appreciated in Nairobi. I will get in touch on my return and let you know exactly what is happening...I will take you all to Nairobi with me!

Marguerite Ryan

MARGUERITE RYAN  
CONTACT ON  
0438 747 101

**DONATIONS**  
to  
**ASYLYM SEEKER  
RESOURCE CENTRE**  
or  
**WOMEN for  
WOMEN in AFRICA**  
contact  
**SUSAN  
BLACKBURN-MITCHELL**  
Home 5975 7349  
Work 5979 7600  
or  
**04144 253 345**  
or  
bring your donations  
to November meeting

*Women for Women in Africa, an organization assisting the extremely poor community of Kibera in Kenya. Schooling costs \$10 a year for each child. Most cannot afford to attend because of inability to pay for necessary books etc. You can help with a gift/parcel of schooling requirements or a cash donation.*

Email contact: Janice Gray (secretary) grays@alphalink.com.au  
Debbie (newsletter) debbronrob@bigpond.com

## THIS and THAT

**RSVP**

**for  
all**

**meetings**

**Val 5974 3461**

**Maureen 5974 4096**

**4 days before event date**

**Worth reading!**

*The Kite Runner*, by Khaled Hosseini. A moving tale of 12 year old Amir who desperately tries to win the local kite flying competition.

*There where the pepper grows*, by Bem Le Hunte. An unforgettable story of a search for refuge and a plea for tolerance. Polish refugees flee Nazi occupied Poland and find refuge in Calcutta — so very relevant to today's world!

**LAUREN WIMETAL**

**SUNDAY 20 NOVEMBER**

at

**NEW VENUE**

**MORNINGTON SECONDARY  
COLLEGE THEATRE**

**Nepean Highway**

**(opposite Bunnings!)**

**9.30am — \$7.00**

**MEG MERTON'S  
JAMS**

and

**MARMALADES**

on sale

at

**NOVEMBER**

**MEETING**

Meg needs small glass jars  
suitable for jams



**SWAN**

# **SOUTHERN WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK**



**YOUNG MEDICO**

**LAUREN WIMETAL**

**SUNDAY 20 NOVEMBER 2005, 9.30am**



- Final year medical student at Monash University. Begins her internship at Monash Medical Centre January 2006.
- As part of her final year, Lauren chose to do a volunteer international elective in East Timor.
- Long standing interest in, and involvement with, East Timor.
- Volunteer interpreter as a fluent Tetun speaker (East Timorese native language) to many Australian groups
- Wide involvement in community groups related to health and East Timor.

## **NEW VENUE!**

**MORNINGTON SECONDARY COLLEGE THEATRE**

**NEPEAN HIGHWAY**

**(opposite Bunnings)**

**MORNINGTON**

**9.30AM — cost \$7**

**RSVP BY 17 NOVEMBER**

**VAL 5974 3461 or MAUREEN 5974 4096**