

# SWAN newsletter



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

Volume 7 Issue 1

March 2007

*Special points of interest:*

- 2007 Meeting dates p2. March meeting details p4.
- Tenth Anniversary p3
- March speaker p1.
- Bookings **please** for March meeting p1.
- 2008 Centenary of Women's Suffrage p3.
- Gwen Wilson's report p2.
- This and That p2.

## ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE 2006-2007

**Facilitator**  
Susan Blackburn-Mitchell  
**Secretary**  
Janice Gray  
**Treasurer/Speakers**  
Jeannette Ransom  
**Committee Members**  
Heather Boundy  
Rosemarie Draper  
Jenne Hally  
Margaret Hall  
Phyllis Goodwin  
Jeannette Ransom

Members welcome to attend  
Admin meetings



## Sue Cowden—March Speaker Safe Mothers and Babies

SWAN is proud to present as our first Guest Speaker for 2007 Ms Sue Cowden, Special Projects Manager, Australia, for the United Nations



Refugee Agency, UNHCR. Sue will be speaking about the reproductive health program working for safe lives for mothers and babies. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was established on December 14, 1950 by the United Nations General Assembly. The

agency is mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. It strives to ensure that everyone can exercise the right to seek asylum and find safe refuge in another State, with the option to return home voluntarily, integrate locally or to resettle in a third country.

In more than five decades, the agency has helped an estimated 50 million people restart their lives. Today, a staff of around 6,689 people in 116 countries continues to help 20.8 million persons.

### *Asylum Seekers Resource Centre Winery Luncheon*

Lunch with complimentary glass of wine and cellar tastings.

Bookings essential \$40 per person. Join us for a relaxed afternoon of fine dining and wining with the Hick-inbothams, family winemakers since the early 1920s. All proceeds to the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre.

### **HELP WANTED**

**KITCHEN CO-ORDINATOR  
AND ASSISTANTS**

*Would you be prepared to join a roster to arrive with the committee at 8.30am to help with our catering?  
Or even be the co-ordinator in charge of this roster?*

*Please see Susan at the next meeting.*





November speaker  
Marilyn Lake

## Gwen Wilson's report...

When Professor Marilyn Lake began her address by thanking SWAN for the opportunity to speak at such an auspicious occasion her audience immediately realized that it was to hear a vibrant, sophisticated and articulate speaker. Addressing the topic *Australian Values* Professor Lake said that the White Australia Policy, dating back to 1901, and the ANZAC militaristic tradition that grew out of the Gallipoli campaign 1915 were seen as central to ideas about Australian values. There were factors other than these two concerns, however, that significantly affected how Australian values evolved. Professor Lake developed five points to support her view. Chronologically they were: **1901**, the naming of the *Commonwealth* of Australia. While the term had connotations of republicanism for some, it also represented the idea of sharing the 'common wealth' for the good of the people. **1907** — the Harvester judgement when H.B. Higgins, president of the Commonwealth Arbitration Court, laid down a minimum wage for all adult males working under Commonwealth awards — a lesser amount was calculated for women workers! **1908** — the introduction of the old age pension was an expression of sharing the 'common wealth' and has long been regarded as representing Australia's progressive social attitudes of the time. **1912** — introduction of the Maternity Bonus to assist women to acquire the services of a doctor or midwife, but was not extended to Indigenous women! **1967** — referendum enabling the Constitution Alteration (Aboriginals) Act entitling Indigenous Australians to be counted on the census and in the determination of electoral boundaries. Professor Lake made the point that the values enshrined in these examples should be commemorated and cemented in the public memory, otherwise they will be lost. In passing, she referred to the inspiring work of women activists such as Vida Goldstein and Jessie Street. She also said that while she was wary of nationalism she valued international civil rights. Gwen Wilson

### SWAN VENUE

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

*It's a good feeling to see how our operation has grown. Now our staff can do their jobs and you can see the impact we are having.*

Eusebe  
Hounsokou  
UNHCR  
Dhafur,  
Sudan  
2006

### THIS and THAT

The incoming committee of SWAN would like to express a special thank you to all outgoing members, many of whom have been founding members of SWAN and whose passion has had a direct effect on the success of SWAN amongst women in the Mornington Peninsula community over the last ten years

If you were amongst the happy audience celebrating our tenth anniversary in November you may have wondered about the small gifts given to long-standing members of the committee. We would like to express a HUGE thank you to member **Fran Rule**, a gifted artist in glass, who designed and made beautiful individual brooches as an expression of our thanks. Fran also designed the SWAN logo all those years

ago! *Thank you Fran.*

If you missed out on a copy of 'Pen Portraits' our publication celebrating the stories of SWAN women over the last ten years, we have a few copies left so please speak to a committee member at the March meeting.

**2007 Bursary winners are to be announced at the March meeting.**

### SWAN dates

**SUNDAY 18 MARCH**

**Sue Cowden**

**SUNDAY 20 MAY**

**Mary Dalmau**

**SUNDAY 15 JULY**

**Tara Anderson**

**SUNDAY 16 SEPTEMBER**

**TBC**

**SUNDAY 18 NOVEMBER**

**TBC**

**RSVP**

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



## SWAN celebrates! -- 10 years

A huge thank you to all who participated in our Tenth Anniversary Luncheon in November. All agreed that Professor Marilyn Lake was a most appropriate guest for this special occasion. The luncheon proved to be a wonderful opportunity to thank our founding 'mothers' and to spread the word about the aims of SWAN. In short to celebrate our achievements over ten years. Thanks to all who assisted on the day, and especially to those who supported us with their presence.



### WELCOME and THANKS

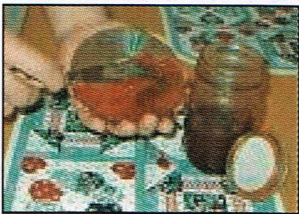
Welcome to **Heather Boundy**, the new editor/compiler of the SWAN newsletter. Thanks to all those who helped me in producing our paper over the past 6/7 years. I found it a most rewarding experience — I hope you did too! **Debbie**

### Centenary of Women's Suffrage 2008



Did you know that 2008 will see the Centenary of Women's Suffrage? The Department for Victorian Communities is seeking suggestions of ways in which the achievements of women in the community may be celebrated. The SWAN committee will be looking for an appropriate response for us, and would welcome any suggestions from our members. Please speak to Susan Blackburn-Mitchell with your fabulous ideas!

WOMEN FOR WOMEN IN  
AFRICA HAVE SOME  
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDES  
AVAILABLE FOR SALE AT \$60  
CHECK THEIR MARCH  
NEWSLETTER  
ON THE  
SHARE TABLE AT MARCH  
MEETING



### MEG MERTON'S JAMS AND MARMALADES

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

*A message of strength*

*For there is hope in two women,  
Help in three women,  
Strength in four,  
Joy in five,  
Power in six  
And against seven  
No gate may stand.*

*Sheru Tepper*



**SWAN**



# SUNDAY 18 MARCH SUE COWDEN



- Special Projects Manager, Australia for UNHCR
- Title of talk—Safe mothers and babies, the UN Refugee Agency's reproductive health program in Myanmar
- Fund-raising for the UN Refugee Agency
- Check the UNHCR website at [www.unhcr.org](http://www.unhcr.org)
- Australia for UNHCR undertakes public awareness activities to raise awareness of the UN refugee agency's role and the circumstances of the world's 20 million refugees.
- World Refugee Day is celebrated on June 20th each year



**UNHCR**  
The UN Refugee Agency

**Venue: MORNINGTON  
SECONDARY COLLEGE  
THEATRE**

**NEPEAN HIGHWAY MORNINGTON  
(opposite Bunnings)**

**9.30AM — cost \$7**

**BOOKINGS PLEASE  
RSVP BY**

**FRIDAY 9 MARCH  
JANICE 5974 4104  
[grays@alphalink.com.au](mailto:grays@alphalink.com.au)**

or

**HEATHER 5974 2303  
[heather@boundy.biz](mailto:heather@boundy.biz)**



# SWAN newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 2

May 2007

*Special points of interest:*

- 2007 Meeting dates  
1. March meeting details p4.
- SWAN Bursary
- May speaker p1.
- Asylum Seekers Resource Centre
- March Report p.2
- This and That p2.
- Breathing life into human rights p4

## ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE 2006-2007

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## Mary Dalmau – May 20 Speaker Reader's Feast Bookstore



Our second Guest Speaker for 2007 is a woman who has been highly successful in business, being shortlisted for the Telstra Business Woman of the Year in 2002. Mary Dalmau entered the book trade in Melbourne in 1976, having successfully completed Librarianship and management studies. She spent the next 11 years running two large inner city bookstores, then after a two year break in the computer industry, she was headhunted to return to the trade, developing Reader's Feast Bookstore into a highly successful business which has as its hallmarks longevity of staff tenure, innovation and enthusiasm and strategic partnerships with key literary and industry organizations. Mary is only the second woman to serve as President of the Australian Booksellers Association; has been a judge on national book design awards and the Victorian Premier's Literary Awards; and is often called upon to speak on the book trade to business, education and government audiences. She finds time to do voluntary work for local libraries, and has served on the Board of the Mercy Private Hospital. Mary will be speaking on how she navigates her way through the corporate environment with a social justice outlook. She believes it is up to each of us in all aspects of our lives to rebuild the foundations of a just and fair society.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE CHANGE OF VENUE

Please note that our May meeting will take place in our new venue - The Council Chambers, Shire Offices, 2 Queen Street, Mornington [enter via Queen St]

After much thought the Committee has agreed that for reasons of comfort and practicality this new venue will prove superior in every way to the Mornington Secondary College Hall.

Our thanks to the College for their support of SWAN over the last few years.





**March Report:  
Sue Cowden  
UNHCR**



## Safe Mothers and Babies

SWAN members were privileged in March to hear the Australian representative of the UNHCR, the fund-raising arm of the United Nations General Assembly, Ms Sue Cowden speak to us about their important work in raising millions of dollars to assist refugees in many countries throughout the world. The UNHCR was founded in 1950 as a response to the plight of huge numbers of refugees seeking relocation after WW2. Only 3% of their funding comes from the United Nations, the rest comes from donations and fundraising. The Australian arm commenced in 2000 and last year raised \$3million. Special representatives include Ian Chapple, Mark Schwarzer and Jane Turner. The Patron is Tim Fischer.

India has accepted countless Burmese refugees who are relocated in New Delhi. However, the best India can offer is a hopeless environment with 'NO RIGHTS FOR REFUGEES' status. 80% of refugees worldwide are women and children.

One special project supports reproductive health in Burma, Nepal and in Chad, where over 200,000 refugees from Dharfur have been relocated. As babies are born in primitive conditions, the UNHCR aims to offer a compact survival package for use during birthing. The package contains:- a plastic sheet for hygiene purposes, a small instrument to cut the umbilical cord, a plastic swaddling rug to encircle the babe, then place it at the mother's breast to be feeding. The cost of each package is a mere \$2.60!

The SWAN Committee has agreed to fund 100 of these birthing kits through the UNHCR on your behalf.

### SWAN VENUE

Remember our  
Change to  
Shire Offices  
Queen Street  
Morningside.

*Safe birthing  
kits from  
UNHCR cost  
only \$2.60  
each and  
encourage a  
clean birth  
environment  
for refugee  
women in  
crisis  
situations. Use  
in Nepal has  
cut infant and  
maternal  
death rates  
dramatically.*

### Jean Hailes Foundation for Women's Health

Where to seek help for family depression - with more than 300,000 Australians experiencing depression, and only a small number seeking help, health professionals are calling for women, especially rural women to take the lead and seek out support. Help can be as close as a phone call.

[www.jeanhailes.org.au](http://www.jeanhailes.org.au) or  
beyondblue help line 1300 22  
4636

## THIS and THAT

### Meeting Starting Time

You are invited to meet at 9.30am for a cuppa and bite to eat before our meeting starts. Check out the Share Table for latest news on local and international events, buy some of Meg's wonderful jam and chat with other SWAN members. Many thanks to those who have offered to help with the kitchen and setting up. The kitchen facilities at our new

venue will make it much easier to serve Morning Tea. The temperature of the room is also easier to control, which should make our meetings more comfortable for all. Come along and check it out for yourself!

Car parking is available in the area on the corner of Queen and Vancouver Streets (familiar to those who use the Morningside Library)

## SWAN DATES

**SUNDAY 20 MAY**

**Mary Dalmau**

**SUNDAY 15 JULY**

**Tara Anderson**

**SUNDAY 16 SEPTEMBER**

**Dr. Lesley Cannold  
(under negotiation)**

**SUNDAY 18 NOVEMBER**

**Collette McInerny**

**RSVP**

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



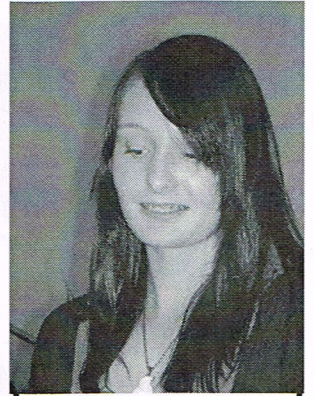
## SWAN BURSARY



Jacqui Holland  
2006 SWAN  
Bursary Winner

We were delighted to announce the winners of the 2007 SWAN Bursary for Young Women at the March meeting. Our worthy recipients are Stella Thurbon, a Year 12 student and School Captain at Mornington Secondary College, and Ellie Brown, a Year 12 student at Padua College. Both girls displayed a keen interest in matters of social justice, especially as they impacted on the lives of young people on the Peninsula, and are eager to gain skills, especially in public speaking, which may benefit them in the future. We wish them both well with their studies this year and look forward to hearing from them later in the year.

A former winner, Jacqui Holland, recounted how she used her Bursary to complete a course in *Outstanding Leadership* and thanks SWAN for their support and interest. Jacqui presently works with the Greater Dandenong Community Health Service.



Stella Thurbon, Winner  
2007 SWAN Bursary.

### RSVP

Your reply assists us with catering, but if you should forget to RSVP please don't let that stop you coming along to SWAN.

Your participation is the most important thing!

## Asylum Seekers Resource Centre

The ASRC is the only organization in Australia that never turns any asylum seeker in need away. This year our 700 volunteers will care for more than 3000 people seeking asylum, providing over 215,000 hours of assistance, offer more than 20 direct aid, health and advocacy programs and remain a place that people can turn to in time of crisis. A gift of \$50 will provide food for a family of asylum seekers for two weeks. To support the work of ASRC contact 9326 6066 or check their website

[www.asrc.org.au](http://www.asrc.org.au)

SWAN has recently donated \$250 to the ASRC.

### MEG MERTON'S JAMS AND MARMALADES



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

### WANTED

Two new committee  
Members.

If you are interested in  
joining the SWAN Committee

Please speak with Susan  
Blackburn-Mitchell

At the next meeting.

Only five committee meetings  
a year.

*Friends of Los Palos*

*Tales from East Timor*

*Friday 29th June*

*Mornington Peninsula*

*Community Theatre at 7.30pm*

*Forum including Victorian Consul-*

*General for East Timor, Money*

*Manager Kevin Bailey.*

*Supper provided by Salvation*

*Army Burnt Toast Café.*

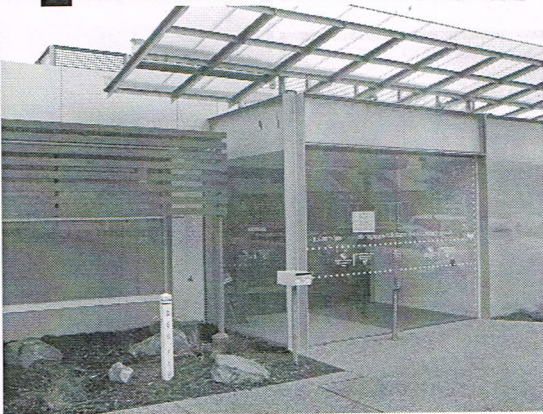
*Enquiries 5974 8337*



**SWAN**



# SUNDAY 20 MAY MARY DALMAU



New Venue, Council Chambers  
2 Queen Street, Mornington.

- General Manager Readers ' Feast Bookstore
- Judge Victorian Premier 's Literary Award
- Finalist, 2002 Testra Business Woman of the Year
- Member of Board Mercy, Private Hospital
- Advisory Committee for local council library initiatives.
- Topic: How do you keep social justice alive in the workplace?

**SWAN - Southern Women's Action Network**

A meeting of women on the Mornington Peninsula with special  
interest in issues of human rights and social justice.

All women welcome.

**VENUE**

**Council Chambers  
Shire of  
Mornington Peninsula  
2 Queen Street,  
Mornington**

**(Queen Street entrance)**

**BOOKINGS PLEASE**

**RSVP BY**

**FRIDAY 18th.May  
JANICE 5974 4104**

**grays@alphalink.com.au**

or

**HEATHER 5974 2303**

**heather@boundy.biz**

### Breathing Life into Human Rights

Are you passionate about human rights? Do you want your voice to be heard?  
As part of Law Week, the Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commission is holding  
a workshop about the importance of human rights and their relevance to young people

**When?** 14th. May 10am—12pm

**Where?** Victorian EO & HR Comm., Level 3/380 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne

**Bookings?** Ariella Markman, 9281 7195 ariella.markman@veohrc.vic.gov.au



# SWAN newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 3

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



July 2007

## Tara Anderson—July Speaker From Empathy to Action

*Special points of interest:*

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- Bookings **please** for July meeting p1.
- This and That p2.
- Meg's jams p3.
- Mary Dalmau's favourite books p4.
- July meeting details p4.



Tara is a 20 year old woman who has seen difficult times growing up with a mother who has mental illness. Throughout her developing years she witnessed her mother's struggles and did the little that she could to try to alleviate them. Tara's experiences have led her to working with families affected by mental illness, the children within those families, and the broader community.

Tara is studying Law at the University of Melbourne and works part-time as a Carer Support Worker in outer eastern mental health services. She is a current sitting member of the National Youth Roundtable, the Federal Government's peak youth body. Tara also works at combating stigma through SANE, Australia's Stigma Watch and Sane Speaker Program. In her spare time she is a volunteer case worker at the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre in Melbourne! We look forward to hearing about her passion for social justice for the mentally ill.

### ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE 2006-2007

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Heather Boundy  
Rosemarie Draper  
Margaret Hall  
Phyllis Goodwin  
Jeanette Ransom  
**Newsletter Editor**  
Heather Boundy

Members are  
welcome to  
attend  
Committee  
Meetings.



*Happy Birthday!*  
*The ABC turns 75 this year.*

Send a birthday card to the ABC via the Treasurer. Tell him how much Aunty means to you, and ask him to pass it on to the ABC with a present of adequate funding so that the ABC can remain commercial-free. Post to:-  
The Hon Peter Costello, Treasurer,  
Parliament House, Canberra 2600.

*Thanks Helpers!*  
*KITCHEN CO-ORDINATOR*  
*AND ASSISTANTS*

*Thanks to those who have offered to assist with the preparation of Morning Tea—and the clear-up afterwards! Many hands make light work.*





## Mary Dalmau

Mary Dalmau delighted SWAN members at our May meeting with stories of her family, her life in business and her very eclectic interests in social justice. Mary's father arrived in Australia as a Catalan tomato grower from Spain in the early 1900s. After setting up a market garden in Keilor he purchased land in West Brunswick, where many members of the family have lived since 1910. One of seven children, Mary believes it was the women who ran her family. Her active, independent mother had grown up in a family of ten children, of Irish descent, with another ten cousins living next door! Mary was raised to be hopeful and to celebrate the worth of every person. After training in Librarianship at RMIT she took a part-time job in the Myer bookshop. This led to jobs with Angus and Robertson, and setting up computer libraries in companies such as Shell. When NSW bookshop, Dymocks, decided to set up in Melbourne, Mary was appointed as Manager of their flagship store, Readers' Feast, with strong beliefs that a bookstore should be a part of the community, a fair workplace, helpful to customers and to recruit broadly for a broad mix of employees. Mary has many wonderful stories of lives that may be changed through small acts of kindness, or by a good listening ear and a warm place to rest. Mary has been able to use her position to support a number of interesting community programs including *Listen today, give tomorrow* a program for providing audio books to the Braille Library; running forums on political issues; a Social Justice Festival in the legal precinct, supported by Julian Burnside, QC and Brendan Kilty, QC; and taking an exhibition of Ned Kelly memorabilia on exhibition to James Joyce House in Dublin. Don't miss her list of ten favourite books elsewhere in the newsletter. (p4)

**"Research shows that there are high rates of emotional distress among pregnant women and new mothers. Early intervention can assist prevention."**

**Beyond blue Newsletter, June 2007.**

### THIS and THAT

#### Vale—Val Ward

SWAN members were saddened to learn of the death of Val Ward on 17 June 2007, aged 86 years. Val came to Australia from Estonia and trained as a librarian. She was highly regarded and admired for her command of language and articulate expression of view on an exceptional range of topics, including an appre-

ciation of opera. Val's social conscience led to her energetic and conscientious involvement in many community organisations, such as Neighbourhood Watch, the Australian Labor Party, and, not surprisingly, SWAN. We appreciated her concern for human rights and valued her friendship. We will miss her very much.

#### SWAN in Action

Over the last few months the SWAN committee, on behalf of members, has made donations to the UNHCR for the purchase of Birthing Kits; to the Asylum Seekers Resource Centre and to Friends of the ABC. You can continue to assist by bringing donations of canned and other non-perishable foods and toiletries to SWAN meetings.

### SWAN dates

**SUNDAY 15 JULY**

**Tara Anderson**

**SUNDAY 16 SEPTEMBER**

**Dr. Lesley Cannold**

**SUNDAY 18 NOVEMBER**

**Colette McInerney**

#### Venue:

**Mornington Shire Meeting Room, Queen Street, Mornington.**

#### Meeting Time:

**9.30am Morning Tea  
10.00am Meeting starts  
COST: \$7 per head**

#### RSVP

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



1300 224 636

www.beyondblue.org.

au



## SWAN moves to Mornington Shire Council Chambers



Our May meeting was our first in the newly renovated Council Chambers at 2 Queen Street, Mornington. All present agreed that the venue was very amenable with its seating on one level, larger kitchen, heating and PA. Tell your friends about our new venue and join us at 9.30am for a cuppa before the next meeting on July 15th.



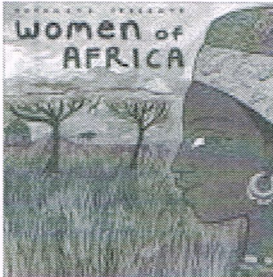
Mary Dalmau of Readers' Feast Bookstore, our May meeting Guest Speaker.

### RSVP

Your reply for our next meeting is always welcome, but if you forget, or decide to bring a friend, don't worry! Your participation is the most important thing.

Janice [grays@alphalink.com.au](mailto:grays@alphalink.com.au) 5974 4104  
Heather [heather@boundy.biz](mailto:heather@boundy.biz) 5974 2303

### Women for Women in Africa



Marguerite Ryan has written to SWAN thanking us for our support and reminding us that 100% of all sponsorship funds are sent direct to Nairobi to be used for education. Skill training for women with no formal education gives them dignity and hope, and promotes better health and the opportunity to care for their families.



### MEG MERTON'S JAMS AND MARMALADES

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

### NEWSLETTER ITEMS

News and information for the SWAN Newsletter is always welcome. Please contact Heather (5974 2303) or [heather@boundy.biz](mailto:heather@boundy.biz) if you have any contributions.

Many thanks to  
The Secret Garden in  
Mornington for their beautiful  
bouquets presented to our  
Guest Speakers.



### Commonwealth Carer Resource Centre

*Do you help out in a family where  
someone has an illness, disability,  
alcohol or drug problem?  
It is easy to get help and support by  
contacting*

[www.carersaustralia.com.au](http://www.carersaustralia.com.au)

Or

1800 242 636

[www.carersvic.org.au](http://www.carersvic.org.au)



# SWAN



**Sunday  
15th. July  
9.30am**

# Tara Anderson



- Working with families with mental illness.
- Carer Support Worker.
- National Youth Round Table
- SANE—Stigma Watch and Sane Speaker Program
- PATS—support group for young people who have a parent with mental illness.
- Legal case worker at Asylum Seeker Resource Centre.
- Student of Law at University of Melbourne.
- 

## **TOPIC: From Empathy to Action**

### **Mary Dalmau's Favourite Books**

For those of you who are keen readers, here are Mary's favourite books of the moment—add them to your reading list!

*The bone people*—Keri Hulme      *The South*—Colm Toibin  
*Shadow of the wind*—Carlos Ruiz Zafon

*The once and future king*—T.H.White      *Lies of silence*—Brian Moore

*The great world*—David Malouf      *Credo*—Melvyn Bragg

*Behind the scenes at the museum*—Kate Atkinson

*The secret history*—Donna Tartt      *The eight*—Katherine Neville





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- Community event p1.
- Tara Anderson report p2.
- This and That p2.
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**Newsletter Editor**

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## Leslie Cannold—September Speaker Pregnancy Counselling: the importance of transparent advertising.



Dr Leslie Cannold

Dr Leslie Cannold is a bio-ethicist, researcher, writer, commentator and Fellow at the Philosophy Department at the University of Melbourne, and Honorary Senior Lecturer at the Centre for Gender and Medicine at Monash University. Leslie is a member of the ethics panel of the Infertility Treatment Authority, the statutory authority responsible for administering Victoria's Infertility Treatment Act 1995 and President of Reproductive Choice Australia, a national coalition of pro-choice individuals and organisations that in early 2006 played a key role in removing the effective ban on RU486 and is currently campaigning to prohibit Pro-life Crisis Pregnancy Centres from engaging in deceptive and misleading advertising. Leslie is a board member of Family Planning Victoria (FPV) and a member of the National Playing Healthy Council, an advisory and strategic body offering guidance on issues to do with childhood obesity. She also is the Chair of the FPV ethics committee.

### Community Event Trafficking and Sexual Servitude October 26th. Benton Community Centre, 5.30pm

SWAN, Good Shepherd, Amnesty International and New Hope are sponsoring a community event to highlight the plight of trafficking of women. The evening will include speakers from Australian Federal Police and Childwise and will have an international, national and local focus. A panel session will conclude the evening. For details contact Susan Blackburn-Mitchell on 5970 5705.

**Thanks helpers!**  
KITCHEN CO-  
ORDINATOR  
AND ASSISTANTS  
We are always happy to  
accept offers of  
assistance in setting up  
for Morning Tea and in  
cleaning up afterwards.  
Thanks to our regular  
helpers!





## Tara Anderson—an inspiring young woman.

It is not often that our wonderful speakers receive a standing ovation, but at our July meeting, Tara Anderson, who spoke passionately about life with a mother suffering from mental illness, certainly did. Tara was finding it hard to hold back the tears, as were many members of the audience. It was clear that many of us are touched at some time in our lives by family or friends needing respect and understanding as they deal with mental health difficulties. An only child, Tara was born in a psychiatric institute whilst her mother was receiving treatment for schizophrenia. Her mother's constant battle with this illness over the years has meant that Tara spent much of her childhood moving between grandparents and home to her parents when her mother was having a less stressful period. Never hiding her illness her mother would speak openly about it, volunteering in the school canteen when she could. Tara spent many nights at home as her mother's carer whilst her father worked a night shift, becoming anxious and stressed herself at the lack of community support for her father and herself. Constant stigma, myths and misunderstandings about mental illness seemed to be a common response. By Year 10 she was finding it difficult to cope when a friend eventually arranged for her to speak to Youth Services. Tara is now a Peer Facilitator in a program set up especially for teens dealing with mental illness in their families. Tara intuitively feels the pain of others in need and has responded by becoming involved in legal aid for asylum seekers, the Human Rights Law Program, Headspace—a National Youth Roundtable, SANE and the Mental Illness Foundation of Victoria. Thank you Tara!

July Speaker—  
Tara Anderson

**SWAN VENUE**  
Mornington Shire  
Offices, Queen Street,  
Mornington. [Parking  
opposite library]

*For a list of  
books and  
resources on  
mental  
health issues  
contact*

**SANE.**

[www.sane.org](http://www.sane.org)

Or

*Helpline :*

1800 18 SANE

*Mental illness  
affects 20%  
of  
Australians  
at some time  
in their lives.  
SANE  
factsheet.*

### THIS and THAT

#### Red Cross Market

Support the work of Red Cross at the Community Market to be held at Mornington Masonic Hall on Saturday 8th. September from 8.30am. Trash and treasure, plants, produce, books, furniture. Many community groups represented.

#### Choir of Hard Knocks

If you have followed the success of this inspiring choir you may like to attend their concert on Monday 8th. October at the Frankston Cultural Centre. Tickets available from the theatre.

#### Newsletter Items

News and information for the SWAN newsletter is always welcome. Please contact Heather (5974 2303) or [heather@boundy.biz](mailto:heather@boundy.biz) if you have any articles which you would like to contribute.

### SWAN Dates

SUNDAY 18 NOVEMBER

**Colette McInnery**  
FRIDAY 26 OCTOBER  
BENTON COMMUNITY

Speakers for 2008  
to be  
announced  
soon!

CENTRE FROM 5.30PM  
COMMUNITY SEMINAR ON  
TRAFFICKING OF WOMEN

SUNDAY 16 MARCH  
**First 2008  
SWAN meeting**

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

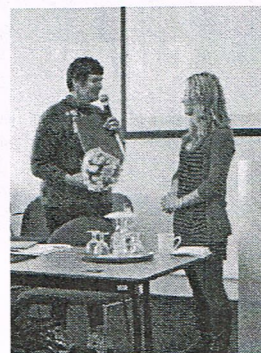


## SWAN meets Tara Anderson

Tara believes in the power of personal stories to effect change. She believes that information about mental health issues should be part of the health curriculum in schools.



Bonnie Einsedel, also a law student and former SWAN bursary winner, meets Tara before the meeting.



Georgie Stubbs thanks Tara for sharing her story with SWAN members.

## SWAN Annual General Meeting

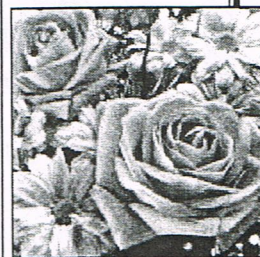
The AGM of SWAN will be held prior to our September Meeting and will be chaired by Gail Price, Community Officer with the Shire of Mornington Peninsula. If you would like to nominate someone to the committee of SWAN please fill in the form included with this newsletter and present it at the next meeting. SWAN Committee positions are for a period of twelve months and new members are always welcome.

## Asylum Seekers Collection

Many thanks to members who have been bringing donations of non-perishable goods to be distributed to needy families through the Asylum Seekers Resource Centres. A collection is made at each of our meetings for items such as canned and dried food, tea and coffee and toiletries. Your donations are most welcome!



Our beautiful gift bouquets are kindly donated by Mornington Florist, The Secret Garden.



## MEG MERTON'S JAMS AND MARMALADES

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

## Headspace

National Youth Mental Health Foundation.

120 groups across Australia working on creating new models for delivering mental health services to young people. For further information check out

[www.headspace.org.au](http://www.headspace.org.au)



**SWAN**



**SUNDAY  
16 SEPTEMBER**

**LESLEY CANNOLD**



- Writer, commentator, ethicist, researcher
- Board member, Family Planning Australia
- Author 'What, no baby?' - a journey into the world of contemporary women who choose marriage, children and a career; and 'The abortion myth' on women's right to control her own body.
- Looking at a more positive approach to childhood obesity.
- Presenter to Productivity Commission Review that Australian citizens are entitled to protection from misleading and deceptive advertising.

**THANK YOU GAIL!**

Over the years SWAN has appreciated the support and assistance of Gail Price, Community Liaison Officer with the Shire of Mornington Peninsula. Gail's friendly smile and unwavering commitment to the SWAN cause have been much appreciated by us all. We will miss you Gail, and wish you well in your new appointment with the City of Yarra.

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

**BOOKINGS PLEASE  
RSVP BY  
MONDAY 10TH. SEPTEMBER  
JANICE 5974 4104  
grays@alphalink.com.au  
or  
HEATHER 5974 2303  
heather@boundy.biz**



# SWAN newsletter

Volume 7 Issue 5

November 2007

*Special points of interest:*

- November speaker p1.
- SWAN Website p2.
- 2008 Meeting dates p2. November meeting details p4.
- Thank you, Gail Price p3.
- September meeting report
- This and That p2.
- Green Energy p4.

**ADMINISTRATIVE  
COMMITTEE  
2007-2008**

Facilitator  
Susan Blackburn-Mitchell  
Assistant Facilitator  
Rosemarie Draper  
Secretary  
Chris Blakey  
Treasurer  
Jeannette Ransom  
Speakers  
Jan Flavin  
Committee Members  
Margaret Hall  
Marilyn Godley  
Phyllis Goodwin  
Kathleen Van Der Weerden

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



## Merle Mitchell—November 18th. Social Service in your Local Community



Merle Mitchell is an active lobbyist in the local communities of Springvale and Greater Dandenong. From early beginnings in planning of kindergarten facilities, her interests grew to include being a member of the steering committee which set up the Springvale Community Aid and Advise Bureau, Springvale Neighbourhood House, and many self-help groups like the Springvale Indo-Chinese Mutual Assistance Association. Her contributions to the City of Greater Dandenong have been recognized by the introduction of an annual human rights lecture in her name. Merle has also served as a board member and President of both the Australian and Victorian Councils of Social Service. She has been involved in policy development and advocacy on a range of issues affecting low-income people, including social security and taxation issues and has served on a number of senior government advisory groups at the national and state levels. Merle has a particular commitment to ensuring services are relevant and accessible to people of non-English speaking backgrounds. She has recently been appointed as chair of the new Ministerial Advisory Council of Senior

### Support for Democracy in Burma

Burma is ruled by one of the most brutal military dictatorships in the world. For decades the Burmese regime has fought off pressure—imprisoning elected leader Aung San Suu Kyi and democracy activists, wiping out thousands of villages in the provinces, bringing miseries from forced labour to refugee camps. Global leaders are gathering now in New York for the annual United Nations summit. In speeches and press interviews, we need them to show Burma's military junta how grave the consequences will be if they crush the protesters with violence this time. To sign the emergency petition supporting the peaceful protests in Burma, it'll be delivered to UN Security Council members and the UN press corps all week go to [http://www.avaaz.org/en/stand\\_with\\_burma/tf.php](http://www.avaaz.org/en/stand_with_burma/tf.php)



# Leslie Cannold—September Report



September Speaker  
Dr. Leslie Cannold

## Film Night Fundraiser

### *Jammed*

Australian movie inspired by the exploitative world of trafficking.

Sorrento Cinema.  
Proceeds to Child Wise . Details Susan Blackburn Mitchell  
0414 253 345

*Truth in advertising is the basis of informed consent and individual choice, and these principles, core to our liberal pluralist democracy, must not be traded away.*

Dr. Leslie  
Cannold

Our September Guest Speaker, Dr. Leslie Cannold, gave us plenty of food for thought with her provocative expose on the ethics of advertising, especially in relation to reproductive choice, and the importance of checking the credentials of those espousing a point of view. Does the author or speaker have a bias or conflict of interest which may colour their position? Have they disclosed all relevant credentials to their audience? Is it a deliberate ploy when credentials are not readily available? Is there any paternalistic intention to manipulate the reader? As an example Leslie showed us posters sent by Pregnancy Counselling Australia for display in all GP's waiting rooms which give the impression of being a client-centred service, but which could be seen as deceptive and misleading if the reader is not aware of the pro-life bias of this group.

What can we do about this problem? Dr. Cannold suggests that as informed members of society we ought to be more skeptical about the qualifications of so-called 'experts'. Expect journalist to do their homework and report on the credentials of their subjects. Do some research ourselves—e.g. 'google' to get some background information, and write to newspapers requesting more information about credentials. Beware of 'astroturfing'!

**Astroturfing** is a term for formal public relations campaigns in politics and advertising that seek to create the impression of being spontaneous, grassroots behaviour. Hence the reference to AstroTurf (artificial grass) is a metaphor to indicate fake grassroots support.

## THIS and THAT

**SWAN Website** The committee has begun work to develop a website to promote SWAN and its activities to members and the community. It is a work in progress but you can access information about events, photos, links to other community organizations, newsletters etc. Rosemarie Draper would appreciate suggestions and input on [primrose2@aapt.net.au](mailto:primrose2@aapt.net.au)

Go to

<http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/swan1/index.html>

"I've actually thought a lot recently about whether you can combine being an activist with being an analyst. And I think it's quite difficult. I also think it's important to try to do it, because activism without analysis becomes, you know, mouthing of rhetoric, and analysis without activism is without a soul, somehow." Dennis Altman from an interview with Ramona Koval.

## LISTENup! To Aboriginal and Islander voices.

The Northern Territory Emergency Intervention Bills show there is a crisis in Aboriginal policy formation and implementation, and rolls back advances made in self-determination and land rights. LISTENup! Is a coalition of concerned organizations seeking a better response to Aboriginal and Islander needs.

<http://listenupaustalia.org>

## SWAN dates 2008

SUNDAY 16 MARCH  
  
tbc  
SUNDAY 18 MAY

Pam Warr

SUNDAY 20 JULY  
  
Belinda Jakiel

SUNDAY 21 SEPTEMBER  
  
tbc

SUNDAY 16 NOVEMBER  
  
Daina Bowles

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



## September Meeting



On behalf of SWAN Leslie Cannold was thanked by Annabel Fegan who expressed the feelings of all present who felt challenged by Leslie to **never stop asking questions!** We were dared to provoke people, challenge people, to ask who, why, with what purpose; try to become skeptical about the information we are given and above all—demand answers! Leslie also made us reflect on the 'controlling' aspect of the 'paternalistic' message we receive on many occasions.

'Experts', authorities are telling us that they know what is best for us—often questioning women's intelligence, our choices and our decisions.



### DIGITAL NEWSLETTER

If you would like to assist us in saving costs and are happy to receive your newsletter by email in future, please email Chris Blakey on [c\\_blakey@optusnet.com.au](mailto:c_blakey@optusnet.com.au) and we will forward future newsletters to you via email.

### SWAN Thanks Gail Price



At our September meeting SWAN took the opportunity to say a big thank you to Gail Price for her support and assistance over the last few years. In her position as Community Development Officer with the Shire of Mornington Peninsula she was instrumental in assisting SWAN in procuring the Shire Offices for our venue, in copying of our newsletter, and in support of many of SWAN's special events. In her thank you speech, Gail acknowledged Judith Coucauld-Graley's role in ap-

pointing a Community Development Officer during her year as Mayor. We wish Gail much happiness in her new position with the City of Yarra.

### MEG MERTON'S JAMS AND MARMALADES



Meg apologises that she has been unable to attend the last couple of meetings, but will definitely be back in November. An opportunity for you to stock up on your jams for Christmas.

Watermark Australia is a community-based initiative, instigated by the Victorian Women's Trust, launched in 2004 and culminating in the publication of a public document in July 2007—*Our Watermark: Australians making a difference in water reform*. Copies can be obtained from Liz McAloon at [liz@watermark.org.au](mailto:liz@watermark.org.au) 1300 749 756

### APOLOGY

Our listed speaker for November, Colette Mlnnerny sends her apologies, as she had to go to Canada unexpectedly. We hope to invite her to join us in 2008.



**SWAN**



**SUNDAY 9.30AM  
18 NOVEMBER**

**MERLE MITCHELL**



Merle Mitchell as a Chair of the Ministerial Advisory Council of Senior Victorians.

***EASY BEING GREEN—JACQUI HOLLAND***

About 2 years ago I reviewed my electricity consumption at home and switched from coal to 100% solar power. At the time, I discovered that many electricity providers offer a range of green options such as combination packages of coal, wind and solar. After making the switch to solar power and receiving subsequent bills, I have been surprised to find that the cost in my household worked out to be about 8 cents extra, per person, per day.

In April, I proudly read in the Mornington Leader (10/4/07) that Mornington Secondary College is planning to be the first solar-powered school in Australia led by students who have formed a group called *Eco Warriors*. The article states—*Eco Warriors last year proposed to the School Council to switch their energy supplies to (Origin) Green Energy, making it possible for the school to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from 60,000 tones a year to zero.*

Congratulations to the *Eco Warriors* at Mornington Secondary College. It is terrific to see green energy being taken up, as we all confront issues of climate change, drought and green house gas emissions.

Jacqui Holland, October 2007.

**Venue: Shire Offices**

**Queen Street, Mornington  
[parking opposite library]**

**9.30AM — cost \$7**

**BOOKINGS PLEASE**

**RSVP BY**

**Monday 12th. November**

**JANICE 5974 4104**

**grays@alphalink.com.au**

or

**HEATHER 5974 2303**

**heather@boundy.biz**

*Accepted  
M  
3/11/07*