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## SWAN NEWS OCTOBER 2022

**Firstly**, a reminder about our next meeting on 20th November and COVID precautions: please stay away if you have any COVID symptoms and have not tested negative and wear a mask if you feel more comfortable to do so. A flyer is attached at the end of this newsletter.

Via Erica Churchill:



### ***Micaela Cronin appointed as Australia's first Domestic Family and Sexual Violence Commissioner***

In May 2019, Micaela Cronin, Director of the Future Social Services Institute spoke to SWAN about her long-term work in the not-for-profit community sector, including as CEO of Hagar International based in Cambodia and as President of ACOSS. Micaela will begin at the newly established commission in early November. She will act as an advocate for victim-survivors and be responsible for reviewing the progress of the national plan to end violence against women and children.

Via Janet Street:

**Professor Larissa Behrendt AO** is the Director of Research at the Jumbunna Institute of Indigenous Education and Research at UTS. She is also the host of Speaking Out on ABC Radio and is also an award-winning filmmaker and has published textbooks on Indigenous legal issues and is an acclaimed novelist. Professor Behrendt will deliver the 2022 Human Rights Day Oration at the annual Human Rights Awards on Friday 9 December 5.30 – 8pm.

Follow this link for details re attending or live streaming:

<https://mailchi.mp/humanrights/commissionnewslettermarch2021-269276?e=6008aa689b>

Via Maureen Donnelly:

**Progress! Women in Justice!**

**In a history-making decision**, the High Court of Australia will be dominated by female justices, with the appointment of Jayne Jaogot to the bench. For the first time in history, there will be more females than males on the High Court bench! We also recently reported on the appointment of the first Aboriginal High Court judge, Lincoln Crowley.

Plus, an extract from Grandmothers for Refugees October newsletter:

**“Budget of failed expectations” says Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC)**

The 2022-23 Federal Budget failed to live up to the public expectations for a more compassionate and fair country for refugees and people seeking asylum. ASRC is deeply disappointed that key Australian Labor Party commitments have not been met in this budget, including increasing humanitarian intake, abolishing Temporary Protection Visas/Safe Haven Enterprise Visas and providing appropriate social services for people seeking asylum. This highlights the need for the Albanese Government to meet the public’s expectations, its election promises and repair the damage done over the previous decade in the May 2023-24 budget.

Expectations failed:

- No increase in social support for people seeking asylum
- No increase in the humanitarian intake
- Increase spending on offshore and onshore detention
- Lack of needed reform to address refugee visa backlog

The Budget did commit new funds to speed up visa processing, and funding for women on temporary visas facing domestic and family violence increased.

Read ASRC full media statement here: *ASRC’s response to the 2022-23 Federal Budget: A Budget of failed expectations - Asylum Seeker*

**NB: To share matters of interest** the deadline for next SWAN News issue is  
**1<sup>st</sup> February.**

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## **UPDATE RE SWAN HISTORY PROJECT, NOVEMBER 2022**

In the October edition of SWAN News, we told you about the progress made so far on the SWAN History Project. Here is a further update on the work that has been done so far and what's planned in the lead up to our 2023 International Women's Day meeting that is scheduled to be held on **19 March.**

In recent months a small working team comprising Judith Galey, Diane McDonald and Moz Lucas has collected contributions from a dozen or so SWAN members from across the different eras. Some insightful feedback about 'their SWAN experience' has also been received from several former guest speakers. In addition, we have compiled information about many of the young women who were awarded a SWAN Bursary, including some comments on how this encouraged them to pursue social justice-oriented career paths.

With assistance from several other SWAN members, including Erica Churchill, Vivienne Daniels and Lesley Beasley (just to name a few), we are presently reviewing archival files and newsletters (from 2000 onwards) to collate information about key events and find good photos.

We also want to acknowledge the many other SWAN members who have so generously responded to our requests for written summaries about specific actions undertaken by SWAN on a broad range of social justice issues including domestic violence, refugees and asylum seekers, racism, supporting First Nations, as well as activities that have been facilitated to help strengthen the political awareness and media engagement capability of women on the Mornington peninsula.

Once we have collected all this material, we plan to publish it the form of a small 'booklet' that will be launched at our International Women's Day meeting in March. Our guest speaker will be Jean Ker-Walsh who has extensive experience in facilitating groups that are engaged in community based social action. This will be an important occasion for us to celebrate the past and to dream about SWAN's future, exploring how SWAN can be further developed to ensure that it continues to involve and inspire women in the current context.

## **How you can help**

If you can assist us in any of the following ways, please contact Diane McDonald by Email: [dianemcdonald.consult@gmail.com](mailto:dianemcdonald.consult@gmail.com) or on her mobile: 0404 417 485.

- a) Are willing to **share your own SWAN memories** with us, either in writing your or by telling us in person?
- b) Do you have any **good quality photos of SWAN people and/or events** that we could copy to include in the history booklet?
- c) Do you have any 'special' **SWAN related memorabilia** or documents that you think might interest us to record in the booklet or to display on the Share Table at the March meeting?
- d) Do you have **any suggestions** concerning the content of this booklet or that might help us when planning the March meeting

### **SAVE THE DATE!**

This significant SWAN meeting will be held on:  
**Sunday 19 March 2023 at Mt Martha House** (where it all began!)

Further information will be provided in the February edition of SWAN NEWS.

# Are we ageing well?

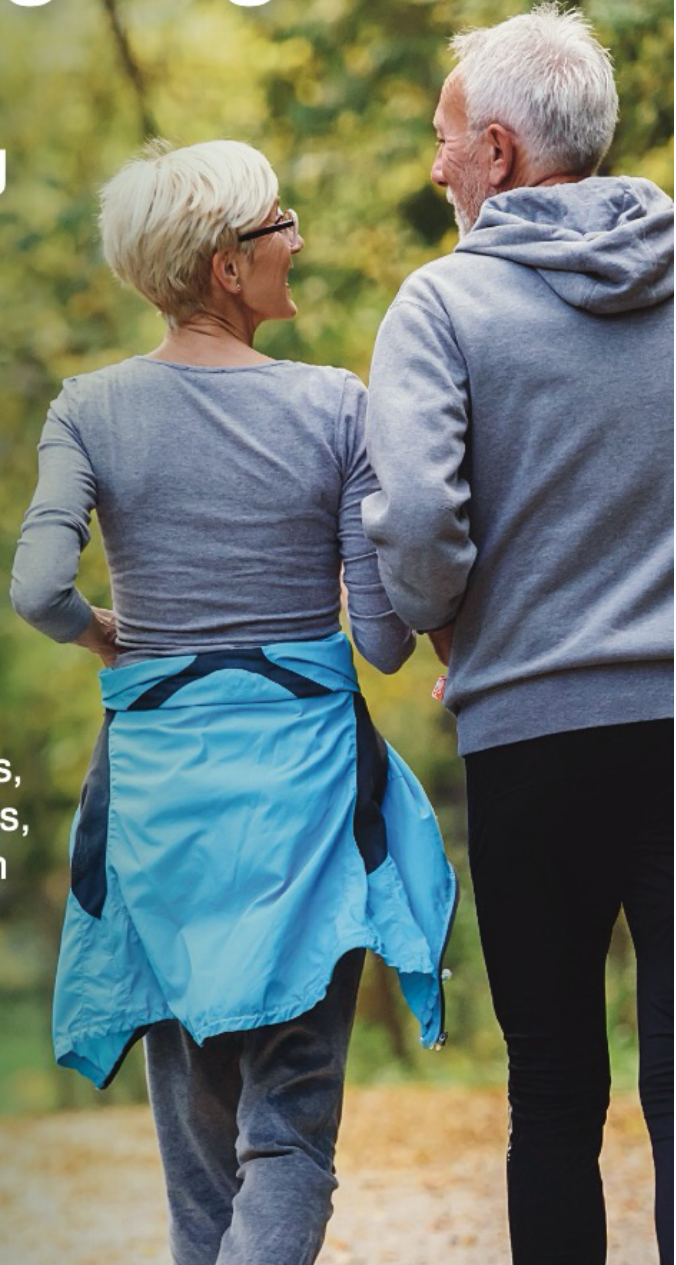
## Join our Positive Ageing Community Summit!

Thursday 24 November  
10am – 2pm

Peninsula Community  
Theatre, Wilsons Road,  
Mornington

We're inviting older  
people, caregivers,  
families, local businesses,  
clubs, groups, academics,  
and everyone in between  
to share your local  
experiences of ageing.

**Guest speaker:**  
**Mr Gerard Mansour**  
Commissioner for  
Senior Victorians



Book your **free** tickets  
over the phone or online:

☎ 5950 1765

🌐 [mornpen.vic.gov.au/ageingsummit](http://mornpen.vic.gov.au/ageingsummit)



**MORNINGTON  
PENINSULA**  
Shire

*Arrive by 9.45 to register and grab a cuppa. **\*Bookings essential***

## **SUPPORTING FIRST NATIONS**

### **Voice, Treaty and Truth-telling**

MEETING with Federal Government MP for Flinders Electorate, Zoe McKenzie.

Recently Erica Churchill, Moz Lucas and Diane McDonald had a very productive half hour meeting with Federal MP for Flinders, Zoe McKenzie (via the electronic communications platform 'MS TEAMS'). The purpose was to introduce SWAN and to hear Zoe's views on the Uluru Statement from the Heart, and in particular, the Enshrinement of an Indigenous Voice to Parliament. Zoe has prior knowledge of issues associated with constitutional change having been a legal advisor during the Referendum on the Republic (1999). She has also worked on Indigenous Policy making.

Zoe plans to meet with local First Nations groups to hear their views on the Uluru Statement from the Heart and the upcoming Referendum on an Indigenous Voice to Parliament. She is also keen to hear the views being expressed by her broader constituency. Zoe has yet to form her own opinion on these reforms and looks forward to more detailed information being released by government over the coming months. She emphasised her sense of responsibility in this important history-making process stating that *'The time has come for getting it right'*, so that Indigenous Australia is not left behind yet again.

Zoe has already visited Willum Warrain and would appreciate SWAN's assistance to connect with other First Nations groups. She would also be interested in liaising with SWAN once the Community Education campaign begins in the lead up to the Referendum.

### 2022 BOYER LECTURE presented by Noel Pearson

Indigenous community leader, lawyer, academic and land rights activist Noel Pearson reflects on 'Who we were and who we can be' in his 2022 Boyer Lecture. Watch it on iView at: <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/boyer-lecture-2022-noel-pearson>

### JUST RELEASED: From the Heart Community Education Resource

In the lead up to the upcoming Referendum to constitutionally enshrine an Indigenous Voice to Parliament, the 'From the Heart' Campaign Team have developed an on-line educational resource. It aims to help inform and enable all Australians to participate confidently in this historic vote. This valuable resource is a useful tool to assist SWAN members in their discussions with family and friends and can be shared more broadly within our networks.

[https://www.fromtheheart.com.au/education/#/lessons/qOTpAOerIVHb0gVYqtFtLTg\\_b\\_PwAiCQ](https://www.fromtheheart.com.au/education/#/lessons/qOTpAOerIVHb0gVYqtFtLTg_b_PwAiCQ)

## RECONCILIATION VICTORIA: Survey of Victorian Election Candidates views on Voice, Treaty and Truth

The research findings show that 33% of the 234 Victorian Lower House candidates and MPs who were invited to participate in this survey, responded. The greatest number of responses was received from candidates in Kororoit, Shepparton, Northcote, Hawthorn and Brighton. No response was received from Hastings. Responses were also received from candidates in seven of the eight Legislative Council regions. But no candidate from the South-Eastern Metropolitan region (that includes Frankston district) and only one candidate from Eastern Victoria (that includes the district of Mornington) replied.

The key findings show that support for the Uluru Statement from the Heart and a constitutionally enshrined Voice to Parliament was high, with 86% and 85% of candidates respectively agreeing they/their party supports these items. Notably, many Liberal and National Party candidates indicated a neutral stance (neither agree nor disagree) however. Candidates across all parties indicated support for Truth Telling, 'respectful relationships' and Treaty. Source: Reconciliation Victoria 2022 Victorian state election *Where do you Stand?* Survey Report, p:9. You can access the full report here:

<http://www.reconciliationvic.org.au/act/federal-election-victorian-reconciliation-survey-2022>

## A MESSAGE for First Nations allies from 'The Track to Treaty in Victoria' webinar (10/10/22)

First Nations speakers, including Sue-Anne Hunter, Commissioner from the Yoorrook Justice Commission, urged non-Indigenous allies as 'the other 97%' to back the Victorian Treaty process and stressed that allyship is absolutely necessary for Treaty success for Victoria.

## Some heart-wrenching truths captured in the Yoorrook Justice Commission Interim Report (June 2022)

*'Mummy's eldest sister, Aunty Ruby Muir ... did not know the full story about why she was adopted into our family until she was dying in her 90s, when she was living in a nursing home in Mooroopna. For her entire life, Aunty Ruby believed that she was sent to Cummeragunja because her mother had given her away. On her deathbed, she was asking, "why did my mother give me away?" [We] found out that there had been a massacre of Aunty Ruby's family in Barkindji country, near Mildura. Aunty Ruby, Uncle Charlie and Uncle Billy were found in a water tank. The whole family had been massacred. The children were hidden in the empty water tank, to protect them. The welfare or whoever at the time gathered*

*up the children and put them onto a paddle-steamer, and the children were brought down to Cummeragunja.* 'Aunty Fay Carter (page 26).

*'I was taken from my Mum and placed in a series of homes to be raised as a white person. Nobody every taught me love. I was never raised in a loving situation, never held. I can't remember ever being held as a child, as a baby.'* Uncle Jack Charles (page 27).

## **Youth Justice, Systemic Racism and Climate Change**

### A LEADER IN REFORM

The United Nations and 33 of its member states have challenged Australia to raise the age of criminal responsibility - currently 10 years of age! The Northern Territory Government is taking the lead, currently putting forward legislation to raise the age to 12. And once a network of alternative systems and support services have been stepped through and expanded, raising the age further to 14 or higher. **Tune into** ABC's Radio National (RN) program '**SPEAKING OUT**' broadcast by First Nations' woman **Larissa Behrendt** speaking with **Chansey Paech**, First Nations man and the NT's Attorney General and Minister for Justice leading the way on this much awaited key reform. Chansey also addresses questions about family and domestic violence and sexual violence, as well as the current Northern Territory Treaty process in relation to the Uluru Statement from the Heart.

**To Listen:** Go to <https://www.abc.net.au> search Radio National Speaking Out, click on '*NT Government puts forward Legislation to raise the age of criminal responsibility*'. Broadcast Sun 30/10/22.

### *The Indigenous Trilogy*

This masterful play presented in three separate Acts, explores issues facing young Indigenous people, family and systemic racism whilst poetically intertwining First Nation Creation Stories. Playwright Glenn Shea's personal experience working with children within the criminal justice system and his lived experience as a Stolen Generation child have informed this powerful story. See it at 'La Mama' Nov. 8-27. <https://lamama.com.au/whats-on/>

### A REASON TO CELEBRATE!

First Nations people from Boigu, Poruma, Warraber and Masig in the Torres Strait Islands have won their case against the Australian government, with the United Nations ruling that Australia's failure to protect them against the impacts of climate change has violated their rights. (Koori Mail, 5/10/22 p:1)



## **Liaison with First Nations Peoples within MPSC**

### A RECONCILIATION ACTION Plan Update from Mornington Shire Council

We have recently been able to establish that the officer who is responsible for the Reconciliation Action Plan co-ordination is Julia Young, Mornington Peninsula Cultural Heritage Advisor. This role is very broad with First Nations culture and heritage being just one part, alongside responsibility for the many historical societies in the shire. The role also includes, as you would expect, liaison with Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association and Bunurong Land Council (BLC). Julia is not indigenous herself. She acknowledges that the Warringineer team's cessation has left a gap and may be open to recommending a dedicated Council Aboriginal Liaison position.

Contact details for Julia Young, Cultural Heritage Advisor Mornington Council:  
tel 0421 979 731 [julia.young@mornpen.vic.gov.au](mailto:julia.young@mornpen.vic.gov.au)

### A NEW CEO at Bunurong Land Council

Roy Monaghan has been appointed to replace outgoing CEO, Dan Turnbull.

An open invitation from Willum Warrain Aboriginal  
Gathering Place (Pound Rd, Hastings)

To their 'Big Mob Cook-up' get togethers which are held on the last Friday of the month from 11am to 1pm. Details: Karsten 0403528034.

### SUPPORTING LOCAL First Nations Businesses

As we approach the Xmas Season you might be interested to consider purchasing some of the goods and services that are available from local First Nations organisations. **Baluk Arts** located at 5 Davies St. Mount Eliza has a range of artworks made by Indigenous artists, including paintings, jewellery, books and cards. Check out their on-line shop at:

<https://balukarts.org.au/shop/>

If you are looking for high quality, reasonably priced food with a difference you'll find it at Nairn Marr Djambana Aboriginal Gathering Place. **'Djambana Catering'** is an Indigenous social enterprise that offers customers both standard menu items and food made with Indigenous inspired ingredients. <https://www.djambana.org.au/catering/> or call 9783 1521 and ask to speak with the catering staff.



Photo Credit: Daryl Gordon

# Sarah RUSSELL



**SWAN's Next  
Guest Speaker**

## *"Exploring issues in the Aged Care sector"*

Dr Sarah Russell trained as a critical care nurse before completing a Bachelor of Arts (Hons) and a PhD at the University of Melbourne. She has been the principal researcher at Research Matters since 1999. Her work has focused on public health, mental health, ethics and aged care. In 2012, Sarah's parents moved into an aged care home. Although staff treated her parents with respect and love, Sarah observed the systemic failures in the aged care system. She began Aged Care Matters in 2016. Sarah has published 75 opinion pieces and numerous letters to The Age. Her persistent advocacy over the last six years for some of the most vulnerable people in our society has won her widespread respect for her independent analysis.

## VENUE

Mt Martha House  
466 Esplanade  
(Cnr Dominion Rd)  
Mt Martha

For women interested in deepening their knowledge of community issues and promoting action for social justice.



## SWAN'S FINAL ACTIVIST EVENT OF THE YEAR

We would love as many members as possible to attend.

Gratefully accepting donations:

[www.trybooking.com/au/donate/swan](http://www.trybooking.com/au/donate/swan)

9:30 AM | SUNDAY 20 | NOV | 2022



Thanks to Secret Garden for donating the beautiful flowers for our guest speaker



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