

## Southern Women's Action Network Inc

Reg: A0038144Z, ABN. 50 089 314 052

P.O. Box 72 BITTERN 3918

Website: <https://swanwomen.org.au/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/spwswan/>

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/southernwomensaction>

Email: [swanwomen@outlook.com](mailto:swanwomen@outlook.com)

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHua3ynobWOxAUEfOPLt1yQ>

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



## SWAN NEWSLETTER MAY 2022

**WELCOME** to our new monthly newsletter which aims to inform readers of current issues and matters of interest, thereby replacing the many SWAN emails you have received in the past. If you have information of interest to our members, please ensure you let us know via email by the first of the month so that the newsletter may be collated and sent out mid-month. Deadline for next issue 1<sup>st</sup> June.

**FACEBOOK AND WEBPAGE** Don't forget to check out the photos of recent events on the SWAN Facebook page and the website for details of future meetings.

If members do not wish to be included in photos which are published on the SWAN website, Facebook page or Instagram, please advise [swanwomen@outlook.com](mailto:swanwomen@outlook.com) or at the door at a meeting. Otherwise, we will take it that you are happy to have your photo included.

**MEETING REMINDER:** Hear Judy Carroll and Katie Shafar from BRASA on **May 15** at Mount Martha House. Covid restrictions are off but feel free to wear a mask if you wish. Admission is by donation. Electronic payment available at the door.

**BURSARY FUNDS** have been low this year, but we hope to send something after May. Please use the attached form below, or the donations box at the meeting.

**NB:** As SWAN also runs a raffle each meeting with funds going towards bursary, we rely on members to donate prizes for the raffle table. Your donations are very gratefully received.

**SWAN BADGES** With a white background and our SWAN logo this badge, 70 X 45mm, is handy to wear on Reconciliation walks, Family Violence walks, Justice walks, etc. or just to wear to appropriate meetings, etc. \$3 at meetings or email us as above if you would like one posted. They come with a pin, but if you prefer a magnet and do not have a pacemaker, please let us know and we can hopefully arrange this.

### **SOCIAL JUSTICE CO-ORDINATOR**

As we continue to have many actions proposed by members, we are in urgent need for this role to be filled. Several members may like to share this task and appoint a representative to the SWAN committee.

We also need someone to post on Instagram, to update the website as required and to send an article to the newspaper prior to and/or after meetings. These tasks could be done by one, two or three members and can be done without being on Committee. Please speak to any member of Committee if you can help

## **Update on the SWAN History Project**

In recent months Marg Darcy and Diane McDonald have interviewed six of our founding members about the reasons why they established SWAN, the main things that stand out for them about the early days, examples of when SWAN was at its best and how it has changed over the past 25 years. We are most grateful to Val McKenna, Maureen McPhate, Fran Rule, Denise Hassett, Judith Graley and Debbie Roberts for their contributions. A summary of their input has now been collated. This will be circulated to SWAN members and put on the website, once it is finalised.

As part of this project, we are updating the SWAN website with Newsletters published between 2000-08. We have also developed a more comprehensive list of the hundreds of inspiring women who have been guest speakers at SWAN meetings over the past 25 years. This is a truly amazing record for a women's only, volunteer-led community organisation. One that would be very hard to beat!

But the history project is not yet finished! We are keen to gather further feedback from members who were involved in SWAN across the different eras. SWAN is a unique organisation with its focus on bringing together women of all ages and backgrounds from across the Mornington Peninsula, to learn about and discuss a broad range of social justice issues and to take action to achieve positive change in our own communities and beyond. We want others to hear about the SWAN story.

We invite you to share your own SWAN memories with us and to tell us your views on the following questions in particular:

- What is/has been the significance of SWAN in your life?
- Can you suggest how SWAN could be further developed to ensure that it continues to contribute towards building a more just and equitable world?

We can do this by phone, in person or you might like to send us your written reflections. If you would like to participate, please contact Diane by email: [dianemcdonald.consult@gmail.com](mailto:dianemcdonald.consult@gmail.com) or on her mobile: 0404 417 485.

## **GENDER GAP GLOBAL RATINGS**

Joanna Hayter, our speaker at the recent SWAN meeting, drew our attention to the World Economic Forum Gender Gap Report 2021. Some of Australia's results are very concerning and, in response, it was moved that we should encourage members to contact MPs and candidates to seek their policy on addressing these concerns.

Australia Gender gap position has slipped from a rank of 15<sup>th</sup> in the world in 2006 to a rank of 50 in 2021. Meanwhile New Zealand has risen from rank 7 to rank 4 in the world in the same time. At 50<sup>th</sup> we are behind countries such as Ecuador, Mexico, El Salvador and Zimbabwe.

In Economic Participation and Opportunity Australia has fallen from 12<sup>th</sup> in the world in 2006 to 70<sup>th</sup> in 2021. Some of this is due to other countries improving, but our progress in closing the gap slipped from 71.8% in 2018 to 70 % in 2021. The worst result in this category was Estimated Earned Income which is 31,100 International dollars for women and 67,800 for men (International dollar has parity with US \$).

In Political Empowerment we are ranked 54<sup>th</sup> in the world and are only 21.8% of the way to closing the gap. Worst in this category is women in ministerial positions with 26.7% women to 73.3% men and women in parliament with 31.1% women and 68.9% men.

The report is interesting to read and easily found online, but the above should provide sufficient details for you to contact your MP and candidates drawing their attention to this report and seeking their policies to improve our Gender Gap standing and any other gender issues you are concerned about. The lead up to election is a particularly opportune time to bring such issues to their attention.

World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Report link:

<https://www.weforum.org/reports/global-gender-gap-report-2021/>

### IDAHOBIT

Mornington Peninsula Shire staff and community members identifying as LGBTIQ+ and their allies are invited to come together for our annual Rainbow Flag Raising event to acknowledge the history of IDAHOBIT, show support for LGBTIQ+ people globally and raise awareness for the need to combat discrimination.

IDAHOBIT is the international day against LGBTIQ+ discrimination: a day to grow visibility, educate on inclusion, and change the world for our lesbian, gay, bi-sexual, transgender, queer/questioning and asexual residents, community, friends, family, allies and colleagues.

**Mornington Peninsula Shire rainbow flag raising event: *Tuesday 17 May, 11am***

***Flagpoles outside Rosebud Shire Office (92 Besgrove Street, Rosebud)***

***Speeches and a performance from comedian Geraldine Quinn in the Yawa Aquatic Centre (50m walk) to follow. A light lunch will be provided.***

**Please register for this FREE event [here](#).**

Here is the website link listing all IDAHOBIT celebrations across the Mornington Peninsula and Frankston: [IDAHOBIT - Mornington Peninsula Shire \(mornpen.vic.gov.au\)](https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/ida-hobit)

**ACTION:** Rosemarie Draper has passed on this URL for SWAN members:

<https://action.choice.com.au/page/103253/petition/1?ea.url.id=5871496>



[Sign the Open Letter to Save Sorry Business](#)

I've just signed the open letter calling on the incoming government to support First Nations peoples affected by the Youpla (ACBF) funeral fund collapse and #SaveSorryBusiness. Add your name too!

[action.choice.com.au](https://action.choice.com.au)

## SUPPORTING FIRST NATIONS GROUP

Forthcoming Events at Willum Warrain Aboriginal Gathering Place:

Cultural Forum                      Wed. 18th May 7:30—9pm

Reconciliation Walk              Sun. 29th May 11am

Address:                              10 Pound Road, Hastings.              Enquiries: 0403 528 034

### Reconciliation Week

The theme for Reconciliation Week 2022 is 'Be Brave! Make Change!'

In line with this theme, Rye Neighbourhood House is hosting two sessions entitled: 'Conversations from the Heart'. The first of these discussion forums focuses on 'The Uluru Statement from the Heart'. The second session discusses Constitutional Enshrinement, Referendum and what we can do to support First Nations People to achieve it. The dates are **Monday 23 May and Monday 6 June between 4-6pm**. For further information contact Rye Neighbourhood House on 5985 4462.

Good News: Blacks Camp Road, Somerville has been renamed Worwong Avenue, the name endorsed by the Bunurong Land Council.

### Flinders Electorate Candidates' Responses to The Uluru Statement from the Heart:              1.

Surbhi Snowball, Labor: *I support the Uluru Statement from the Heart in its entirety. I also support a referendum that would enshrine a First Nations Voice in the Constitution. I think we need to decolonize Australia. Also, reparations are important. The land was never ceded.*

2. Sarah Russell, Voices Independent: *The most important thing is to listen to First Nations people. Of course, I am committed to the Uluru Statement from the Heart and a constitutional First Nations Voice. I also think we have to have truth-telling federally, as is happening in Victoria.*

3. Despi O'Connor, Independent: *I support and commit to enshrining a First Nations Voice in the Constitution. I hope to be the Minister that makes it happen.*

4. The Greens: (policy statement) *The Australian Greens have always supported Truth, Treaty, and Voice and our policy continues to back these three elements, but a 'Treaty first' approach is essential to ensure that sovereignty is recognised. NB The Greens have recently announced that they would not oppose a referendum to enshrine a First Nations Voice in the Constitution.*

5. Zoe McKenzie, Liberal: made a commitment to reply to the poll but had not done so at the time of writing. It is important to note the Prime Minister, on 2 May, made an announcement ruling out a constitutionally enshrined Voice.

**NB:** If you missed it in March, you may find Craig Foster's address to the National Press Club of particular interest before you cast your vote on Saturday: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Up5i3QymWhU>

Here are the contact details for Flinders and Dunkley should you have questions for them before voting:

**Candidates for Flinders (as at 14 April 2022)**

**Liberal:** Zoe McKenzie, [zoe.mckenzie@vic.liberal.org.au](mailto:zoe.mckenzie@vic.liberal.org.au) [0429 227 501](tel:0429227501)

**Labour:** Surbhi Snowball, [surbhi.labourforflinders@gmail.com](mailto:surbhi.labourforflinders@gmail.com) 0460 722 714

**Greens:** Colin Lane, [colin.lane@vic.greens.org.au](mailto:colin.lane@vic.greens.org.au)

**Liberal Democrats:** Chrysten Abraham See contact form on website:  
<https://www.chrystenabraham.com.au/contact>

**One Nation:** Cyndi Marr, [flinders@vic.onenation.org.au](mailto:flinders@vic.onenation.org.au) 0412 912 214

**Independent:** Sarah Russell, [sarahrussell4flinders@gmail.com](mailto:sarahrussell4flinders@gmail.com) or  
Contact form on website <https://www.sarahrussell.com.au/contact>

**Independent:** Despi O'Connor, Complete form on the website: [teamdespi.com.au](http://teamdespi.com.au)  
0418 178 917

-

-

**Candidates for Dunkley (as at 14 April 2022)**

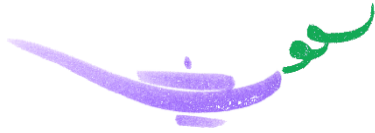
**Liberal:** Sharn Coombes, [Sharn.Coombes@vic.liberal.org.au](mailto:Sharn.Coombes@vic.liberal.org.au) 0450 720 480

**Labour:** Peta Murphy, [peta.murphy.mp@aph.gov.au](mailto:peta.murphy.mp@aph.gov.au) 9781 2333

**Greens:** Liam O'Brien, [liam.obrien@vic.greens.org.au](mailto:liam.obrien@vic.greens.org.au)

**Untied Australia Party:** Adrian Irvine, [Dunkley@unitedaustraliaparty.org.au](mailto:Dunkley@unitedaustraliaparty.org.au)

**Liberal Democrats:** Damian Willis, [damian.willis@ldp.org.au](mailto:damian.willis@ldp.org.au)



## GRADUATE WOMEN VICTORIA

### Donations to SWAN Bursary 2022

Funds to support the SWAN Bursary in Graduate Women Victoria's Scholarship Program are held by Australian Communities Foundation.

Donations to Graduate Women Victoria Donors Fund with Australian Communities Foundation are tax deductible.

#### To make a donation online

Go to the Australian Communities Foundation website:

[https://australiacf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create?funit\\_id=1120](https://australiacf.fcsuite.com/erp/donate/create?funit_id=1120)

In the space for notes, write "SWAN Bursary"

Follow the prompts to pay using credit card or direct debit.

A receipt will be issued to your email address.

#### To mail a donation

Fill in the details below and post with cheque made out to Australian Communities Foundation to:

Australian Communities Foundation  
Level 6, 127 Wellington Parade  
East Melbourne VIC 3002

I request this donation to Australian Communities Foundation be placed within the Graduate Women Victoria Scholarship Donors Fund (tax-deductible) to support the **SWAN Bursary**

..... (signed)

*Donations are tax deductible. A receipt will be issued. Please provide contact details:*

Name: .....

Address: .....Postcode.....

Phone: ..... Email.....

See <https://gradwomenvic.org.au/scholarships> for more information about the Graduate Women Victoria Scholarships. Note that for the Swan Bursary preference will be given to a student whose study and career plans focus on human rights/social justice issues at the local, national and international level.