

Southern Women's Action Network Inc

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Donations: www.trybooking.com/au/donate/swan



SWAN NEWS JUNE 2022

WELCOME to our monthly newsletter. We are happy to receive information of interest to our members, so 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 is 1st July.

ABOUT OUR LAST MEETING: On May 15, Judy Carroll and Katie Shafar from Bayside Refugee Advocacy and Support (BRASA), presented a very interesting talk. They spoke of how BRASA are very active in providing accommodation, food, phones, cash and many other forms of assistance to refugees living in the community. They also protest on the roadside and advocate for better treatment of refugees and asylum seekers. Katie also spoke of her experience in attempting to assist refugees and asylum-seekers in an off-shore detention facility.

The powerpoint they presented is available on the SWAN website and provides more details: <https://swanwomen.org.au/swan-guest-speakers/15-may-2022-bayside-refugee-advocacy-and-support-association/>

Learn more about BRASA by visiting the following site: <https://baysiderefugeesupport.org>

Our next meeting will again be held at Mt Martha House on July 17th. You will be receiving an informative flyer about the speaker beforehand. Admission is by donation, cash or card and electronic payment will be available at the door, or beforehand online.

HELPING THE HOMELESS Belinda Rodman, of Southern Peninsula Support, is requesting small toiletry items and non-perishable foods for the NFA (No Fixed Address) packs that are given out to the homeless at the Southern Peninsula Laundry & Shower Program (SPLaSH). Items can be dropped off Mon -Fri between 9.00 and 3.00 pm at 878 Pt Nepean Rd Rosebud.

HOUSING ENERGY SURVEY Energy use hot topic at present, and therefore you may include your thoughts on the matter in the following link:

<https://redcap.sydney.edu.au/surveys/?s=3CFKEDPNACP7YDAL>

PETITION Janet Street has forwarded the following petition which members may wish to action. The paddock in question was donated for the purpose of recreation, however, developers are also interested. You may access further information through the link:

Save the Ross Trust Paddock for Parkland: <https://chng.it/5P8YmFgGGT>

GENDER GAP REPORT

Following on Joanna Hayter's impassioned presentation at the March meeting, the last newsletter provided information to assist members to address this issue with candidates and MP's. If anyone received feedback other than an automatic response it would be interesting to hear what was said.

It is still useful to bring this report to the mind of MPs and Senators. A formal SWAN letter has been sent to the Prime Minister, the Premier of Victoria and 10 Ministers responsible for portfolios which may be able to influence some of the items where improvement is needed.

In case you don't still have the May newsletter, here are just a few snippets from the report to assist you.

Australia Gender gap position has slipped from a rank of 15th 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 50th we are behind countries such as Ecuador, Mexico, El Salvador and Zimbabwe.

In Economic Participation and Opportunity Australia has fallen from 12th in the world in 2006 to 70th 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 54th 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. Fortunately this statistic may improve considerably under the new Government.

The report is interesting to read and easily found online, but the above should provide sufficient details for you to contact your MPs, if you have not already done so, 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.

World Economic Forum Global Gender Gap Report link:

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

FACEBOOK AND WEBPAGE Photos of recent events are on the SWAN Facebook page and see the website for details of future meetings.

SWAN BADGES We still have many available at \$3 each. They are great to wear when joining in on Reconciliation walks, Family Violence walks, Justice walks, etc. 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. They will be on sale at the meetings, but we can post you one if you'd like it beforehand.

SOCIAL JUSTICE CO-ORDINATOR

We are in urgent need for this role to be filled, as we continue to have many actions proposed by members. 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

SUPPORTING FIRST NATIONS GROUP

Election Outcomes: wonderful news that incoming Prime Minister, Anthony Albanese, in his inaugural speech, committed the new government to implementing the Uluru Statement from the Heart in full. This is following five years of determined campaigning from First Nations people across the country. You will remember that in our last newsletter we reported on the views of Flinders electorate candidates on the Uluru Statement and a constitutionally enshrined Voice for First Nations people. Our task now is to hold the Labor Government to this commitment and to help combat any negative or divisive propaganda peddled by opponents. Additionally, at the time of writing, it looks like ten First Nations people have been elected! Among them is Hon. Linda Burney, a strong First Nations woman who will be the Minister for Indigenous Australians.

Uluru Statement Information Sessions entitled ‘Conversations from the Heart’ were to be held at Rye Neighbourhood house in May but postponed until modifications can be made according to details transpiring from the new government's stance. However, they will go ahead, and members will be notified in due course. For further information contact Rye Neighbourhood House on 5985 4462.

SWAN Supporting First Nations Group: next meeting Monday, July 11th at 5:15 pm. New members welcome. Contact Maureen 0423 806 525

Reconciliation Week Walk at Willum Warrain Aboriginal Gathering Place, Hastings, on Sunday May 29th drew a massive crowd of First Nations people and their allies.

NAIDOC Week: 3rd to 10th July. Stand by for details of SWAN's NAIDOC week meeting.

Did You Know? Warramunga man, Lincoln Crowley, has just been appointed as a Justice of the Supreme Court, the first Indigenous person in this role. At school, he was told by the principal that we would end up in jail because he was Aboriginal!

Book Review: Coranderrk, Barak vs the Black Hats of Melbourne, the Untold Story of how the Black Hats Destroyed Coranderrk

by Mick Woiwod, pub. 2017 Doculink, Australia. Mornington Peninsula Library holds several copies.

In 1863, after 28 years of dispossession and the death of many of the Colony's First People, the government had returned 4860 acres of land near Healesville, to the Wurundjerri people who named it Coranderrk. Upon the land, the survivors, including, it is thought some Bunurong / Boon Wurrung ¹ people, built a village of 23 slab cottages with around some 500 acres of cleared land grazed by a dairy herd, plus further paddocks devoted to wheat, oats and hops. Coranderrk developed as a very successful enterprise but enter a wealthy land-owner lobby group called the Black Hats of Melbourne, with eyes on Coranderrk and who, by devious, corrupt means, plot to bring about its cruel demise. Standing in their way had been Aboriginal Elder, William Barak, who by leading a series of deputations into Melbourne, had tried to block each move by the Black Hats to take this, their last refuge.

The book is a real eye-opener, not the least reason being the insidious way in which the Black Hats, in their desire to control the land for their own ends, had infiltrated the very organisation responsible for the wellbeing of the Aboriginal people, the Board for Protection of Aborigines.

¹ For example, Louisa Briggs, who together with her husband Jack, had escaped the Bass Strait Islands to become Coranderrk matron in 1876 and from who Aunty Carolyn Briggs Boon Wurrung Arweet elder is descended, Louisa being her great grandmother.