

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

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

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



SWAN NEWS OCTOBER 2022

Our September meeting was well attended with great interest shown in the talk given by Dr Diana Johns regarding raising the criminal age to 14 years. The campaign is urging a holistic approach that considers all the circumstances surrounding the child, a more positive approach that aims to keep them out of the criminal justice system. As described below in the SFN report, Aunty Helen Bnads complemented Dr Johns' speech. Mornington Peninsula has a First Nations facility where young offenders are encouraged to reconnect with their culture and traditional way of life.

From Moz Lucas on **Truth Telling:**

SBS have recently screened a three-part series THE AUSTRALIAN WARS produced by Rachel Perkins, now available on SBS ON DEMAND. The series provides factual and dramatised evidence of Australia's frontier wars and asks Australia's War Memorial to recognise the First Nations people who perished in these conflicts. Compelling viewing!

From Janet Street on **'The track to Treaty in Victoria - structures, process and progress'**: Register to follow this on Zoom on **Tuesday 11 October:**

<https://mailchi.mp/victorialawfoundation/latest-news-from-victoria-law-foundation-a5wnsilwj0-2032915?e=f7083ba496>

From Helen Ridgeway, our Mornington Peninsula Positive Aging Officer:

Do you know a person of any age, club, business, or an organisation who recognises, values and includes older people in our community? Nominate them for a

- **Delys Sargeant Age-Friendly Award!**

Being age-friendly means valuing the contribution older people make to our community, respecting and including older people across our Peninsula - working together to reduce ageism.

Nominate today – it's simple and easy

- **Senior Achiever Award**

For a person aged 50+ who has made a significant contribution to our local community. One special person will also be awarded Mayor's Elder of the Year Award.

- **Community Award**

For a local community organisation or club, individual of any age, or local business

Do you work with someone who encourages diversity and inclusive opportunities? Perhaps a local business or club goes over and above to include you?

- **Intergenerational Award**

*For an **individual of any age, group, business, organisation or service***

Who has created projects or activities that bring people of all ages together?

Forms and criteria are available **until 14 October**.

- online [Delys Sargeant Age-Friendly Awards | Shape our Future \(mornpen.vic.gov.au\)](https://mornpen.vic.gov.au)
- at our Customer Service Centres and libraries
- email: positiveageing@mornpen.vic.gov.au
- call 5950 1733



Celebrating an age-friendly Mornington Peninsula!

Do you know a person, club, business, or an organisation who recognises and values older people in our community?

Nominate them for a Delys Sargeant Age-Friendly Award! It's a great opportunity to celebrate the work being done by, with and for older people. Being age-friendly means valuing the contribution older people

make to our community, working together to reduce ageism and encouraging respect and inclusion of older people across our Peninsula. Nominate today!

Forms and criteria are online and at our Customer Service Centres and libraries.

- 📍 mornpen.vic.gov.au/delys-sargeant-awards
- ✉ positiveageing@mornpen.vic.gov.au
- ☎ 5950 1733

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Peninsula Advisory Committee for Elders


MORNINGTON PENINSULA
Shire



From Thalia Collard, a heads-up on a fun fund-raising evening on **20 October**. This will be the last event at the Sorrento Cinema which will be sold for redevelopment.

Money raised on this night will go towards the Peninsula Home Hospice.

Here is the link to book a ticket for this fabulous night out:

<http://www.trybooking.com/CDFYR>

To share matters of interest the deadline for next SWAN News issue is **1st November**

UPDATE RE SWAN HISTORY PROJECT, OCTOBER 2022

In the September edition of SWAN News, we told you about the progress made so far on SWAN History Project. Following is a brief update.

A small working team comprising Judith Galey, Diane McDonald and Moz Lucas has been busy gathering written and verbal contributions from SWAN members across the different eras. We are also collating feedback from a sample of guest speakers about their experience of engaging with SWAN. Further feedback is being gathered from some of the young women who received a SWAN Bursary to find out how this contributed to their careers.

Once we have collected all this material, we plan to publish it the form of a small 'booklet', with photos. This booklet 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. A delicious celebratory morning tea and lunch will be provided! Further information about this event will be in the next SWAN NEWS.

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 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?

SUPPORTING FIRST NATIONS

Annual Report

The following Report documents the activities undertaken by members of the Supporting First Nations Group (SFN) during the past year. A summary of this report was presented at the SWAN AGM: https://swanwomen.org.au/assets/222ed070ea/1_SFN-report_SWAN-AGM-2022.pdf

Youth Justice

In the September edition of SWAN NEWS, we reported that SFN and SWAN Committee members were preparing a petition in response to the most unsatisfactory letter we received from the Victorian Minister for Treaty and First Peoples, The Hon Gabrielle Williams, in response to the concerns we raised about the over representation of First Nations in youth and children in the criminal justice system. We had planned to gather signatures for this petition at the SWAN AGM. However, the government deadline for submitting a petition before the November State Election made this impossible. It was therefore decided to postpone this action until the election results are known.

Those who attended the SWAN AGM in September had the opportunity to hear from First Nations Elder Aunty Helen Bnads about the important work being done in the Southern Metropolitan region to support young Aboriginal and Torres Strait islander children and youth who are in danger of becoming victims of the youth justice system. Aunty Helen is a member of the Koorie Court that aims to address and reduce offending behaviour by including the Koorie community in the court process. It is designed "to reduce cultural alienation; strengthen accountability; divert defendants away from imprisonment; and ensure any behavioural issues are addressed".

Attached is a link to the Yoorrook Justice Commission Newsletter. You'll note that action on youth criminalisation is high on the agenda too.
<https://cust105697.au.v6send.net/v/105697/1000671/email.html?k=3kjWeW5oM3mT3gMW8Xotu9D0--Lo4lqe7Ws-kxk2arI>

An Indigenous Voice

The 'History is Calling' TV ad campaign in support of a First Nations Voice was recently released. If you haven't already seen it you can watch it via this link:

<https://www.thedrum.com/news/2022/09/27/history-calling-historic-campaign-give-first-nations-voice-parliament> This ad is about raising awareness in the lead up to the Referendum that Prime Minister Anthony Albanese has said will be held sometime in the 2023-4 financial year. It encourages all Australians to show their support for the Uluru Statement and to do our part by joining the conversation with our family and friends.

SFN – new developments

Recently SFN group members decided that after two and a half years they will move to being a less formal 'Interest Group'. This will enable more flexible participation of SWAN members who are interested in First Nations issues. We will get together quarterly to share information. Those who want to follow up specific issues will also meet to plan actions as the need arises. Our first gathering will be a pre-Xmas get-together in December. We welcome interested SWAN members to join us! Contact: Maureen Lucas on 0421 984 416 or Diane McDonald 0404 417485 for further information.

A disturbing video

Janet Street provides a link to the SBS documentary 'Vanished' about the unsolved cases of First Nations women. Joanne Anderson vanished without a trace from Mataranka in the Northern Territory, last seen on Halloween night in 2014 with her husband, mother and stepfather.

<https://www.sbs.com.au/news/the-feed/creative/vanished-the-unsolved-cases-of-missing-first-nations-women/w9fsk4m99>