

SOUTHERN WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK



Newsletter

February 2024

SWAN acknowledges the Bunurong / Boon Wurrung people, the Traditional Custodians of these lands and waters where we meet, work and live. We pay our respects to Elders, past and present. In line with our commitment to social justice, SWAN unequivocally supports First Nations People in their campaigns for sovereignty, self-determination, treaties and truth-telling.

Southern Women's Action Network

Women of the Mornington Peninsula and across the Southern Metropolitan suburbs of Melbourne striving for social justice.

Fostering SWAN's Future: Next Steps

A VERY HAPPY AND FULFILLING NEW YEAR TO ALL!!!

What an exciting year ahead for SWAN! As reported in last December's SWAN News, **SWAN's focus in 2024 is to implement strategies that were identified at our workshop 'SWAN's FUTURE'** held last November at Mt Martha House. With the aim of ensuring and enriching our organisation's future, SWAN members engaged passionately with developing strategies to **'Strengthen Promotion'** and **'Broaden Diversity'**. These topics were informed by ideas expressed by members at SWAN's May meeting in 2023 and from recommendations in SWAN's history book *'When Women Meet'* launched in March 2023. At the November meeting, members broke into four groups and workshopped these four action areas:

- **TABLE 1: 'Strengthen Promotion' via Networking**
- **TABLE 2: 'Strengthen Promotion' via Publicity**
- **TABLE 3: 'Broaden Diversity' via 'Representation'**
- **TABLE 4: 'Broaden Diversity' via 'Younger Women'**

The strategies that were identified by these working groups are listed below.

HOW CAN I GET INVOLVED?

The next step is for each of these groups to meet and discuss how these strategies can be actioned. **Whether or not you attended the November future planning meeting, you are invited to join one or more of the working groups** to help shape SWAN's future.

Those who participated in the November Workshop are not restricted to the working group you were in. You may wish to move to a different group or to one in which you feel you can best contribute.

As you read through the working group action items that are listed in the four boxes below, you will see that there is some duplication. For example, both Tables 1 and 2 have nominated different but complementary actions under the heading of 'Advertising'. Similarly, actions-to-take under the heading of 'Networking and Forming Alliances' were identified by both Table 1 and Table 3.

One of the important tasks of these initial working group meetings will be to consider where there is cross-over and **suggest the best way to pool member resources and skills** in order to implement the priority actions for strengthening promotion and broadening diversity.

We encourage you to contribute to this next step to help shape SWAN's future. **You will find the name and email address of the CONTACT person for each of these initial working group meetings in the boxes below.** Please let them know if you would like to be involved and they will advise you of the meeting time and location.

THANK YOU TO THOSE MEMBERS WHO PUT UP THEIR HAND TO BE A CONTACT PERSON TO GET THE FIRST MEETING UP AND RUNNING.

Fostering SWAN's Future: Strategies

TOPIC: [STRENGTHEN PROMOTION VIA NETWORKING \(Table 1\)](#)

CONTACT: **Lyn Jones:** ljal@optusnet.com.au

WHAT TO ACTION:

- 1. Opportunities for Multicultural Conversations**
- 2. Opportunities for Intergenerational Conversations**

STRATEGIES:

- **Networking/Forming Alliances**
 - Select educational, motivational and community groups from the SWAN Voice Forum list

- Develop a SWAN Presentation Kit to adapt to
 - formal settings
 - informal settings eg. 'kitchen table' model
- Meet up with/present to Community Support Services, Disability Services
- Meet up with/present to Senior Levels in Schools
- Meet up with/present to local Multicultural Communities – Jewish, Italian, Greek
- Meet up with/present to local Men's Groups

- **Have A-Frame Corflute Signs made up**
 - To promote SWAN at Citizenship ceremonies
 - To promote SWAN at local markets (just corflutes, no tables)
 - Use with 'Pop-Ups' at Shopping Centres to regularly promote next Speaker Meeting

- **SWAN Membership Flyer**
 - Promote bi-monthly topics and coffee get-togethers on the SWAN Membership Flyer
 - Deliver Membership Flyers to *SISTERWORKS*, Dandenong

- **Promotional Speakers**
 - Reach out to SWAN Bursary Holders to talk to small groups inc students studying social justice
 - Invite young women to speak on Climate Change

- **Advertising**
 - Link Facebook & Instagram by setting up a 'business' account
 - Advertise SWAN through School Newsletters (hard copy & online), ditto at Uni & TAFE

TOPIC: **STRENGTHEN PROMOTION VIA PUBLICITY (Table 2)**

CONTACT: **Sarah Russell:** sarahrussell@comcen.com.au

WHAT TO ACTION:

- 1. Media Promotion**
 - 2. SWAN Members Wider Involvement**
-

STRATEGIES:

- **Advertising**
 - Create SWAN t-shirts
 - Create SWAN caps & hats
 - Create SWAN hat-bands

- **Newsletters**
 - Develop social media/IT skills via Council Volunteer Liaison
 - Expand SWAN Newsletter distribution
 - Promote SWAN activities in other newsletters eg. *PENINSULA MUMS*
 - Research newsletters of more diverse groups eg. disability, same sex

- **Letter Writing Group**
 - To be established for writing letters to the press
 - To post duplicate (possibly modified) letters on social media
 - To research use of the SWAN Member letter signature
 - To research approval of letter publication with the Committee

- **Members' Wider Involvement**
 - Conduct a Skills Audit of members re IT, letter writing, graphic arts
 - Offer ourselves as speakers at other groups
 - Identify as a SWAN Member at various meetings, when visiting Indigenous places etc.
 - Wear SWAN t-shirts, hats etc at rallies, SWAN promotional events and other community events
 - Take SWAN Banner to rallies etc.
 - Make contact with Student Unions at local unis and TAFEs

TOPIC: **BROADEN DIVERSITY VIA REPRESENTATION (Table 3)**

CONTACT: **Viv Daniels:** vivcdaniels@gmail.com

WHAT TO ACTION:

- 1. Engaging with Diverse Backgrounds**
- 2. Speakers and Topics**

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STRATEGIES:

- **Networking/Forming Alliances**
 - Contact *SISTERWORKS* Abbotsford (main office), Dandenong, Frankston
 - Contact School Principals of senior secondary schools
 - Research multicultural groups to form alliances with
 - Research gender diverse groups on Facebook to form alliances with
 - Research disability groups to form alliances with

- **Speaker Meetings**
 - Invite *SISTERWORKS* to speak
 - Invite *SISTERWORKS* to attend
 - What topics are *SISTERWORKS* interested in?
 - What social justice topics impacting women are multicultural groups interested in?

- What social justice topics impacting women with disabilities are interested in?
- What social justice topics are gender diverse people interested in?

TOPIC: **BROADEN DIVERSITY VIA YOUNGER WOMEN (Table 4)**

CONTACT: **Bonnie Einsiedel:** bonnie.einsiedel@gmail.com

WHAT TO ACTION:

1. **Utilising SWAN Speaker Meetings**
2. **Identifying Social Justice Concerns**

STRATEGIES:

- **SWAN Speaker Meetings**
 - Day and time is ok! Only 5 per year
 - Retain current format
- **International Women’s Day**
 - Encourage members to bring a younger friend and/or family member to March 2024 Speaker Meeting
 - Make this an annual occurrence
- **Daughter/Granddaughter Day**
 - Link in with Speaker Meeting on Climate Action ie. intergenerational issue
 - Make this an annual occurrence
- **Young Mums**
 - Coffee Morning get-together
 - Reach through their school newsletter
 - Reach through their Book Club
- **Speakers**
 - Invite young Climate Action speakers
 - Invite gender diverse speakers
 - Connect with students as speakers – from high school, university, post-grad

SWAN Coffee Catch-Up

Previously known as ‘**SWAN Discussion Get-Together**’, these events are quickly becoming a favourite for members to meet up and get to know one another in a relaxed and inviting

space, fuelled by good coffee (or tea!) and tempting cakes. Wherever we meet, we always engage in lively informal discussions about current social justice and environmental issues happening on the Peninsula and beyond. **Thank you so much to Erica who got these up and running last year** in August. Since then, out of our four get-togethers, attendance has grown from 5 to 15!

This year we'll continue to meet at cafés on the **3rd Sunday of these months – February, April, June, August, October, December** - in-between SWAN's Speaker Meetings. And for each Coffee Catch Up we'll be moving around to a different café on the Mornington Peninsula, to invite participation by members living in different Peninsula locations – preferably cafés with large tables! Suggestions of suitable cafés welcome!



SWAN members at Higher Ground, Mt Martha, December 2023

DECEMBER 2023

SWAN's final Coffee Catch Up for 2023 was held at Higher Ground, Mt Martha on Sunday morning December 17 as a special Christmas event. Eight SWAN members enjoyed each others' company and the café's beautiful and welcoming ambience. Melissa Kelly reported "We had a lovely time solving the problems of the world over a cuppa at the café of one of our raffle sponsors - Higher Ground". A big thanks to Bonnie Einsiedel for organising it!



SWAN members at Café DOC Mornington, January 2024

JANUARY 2024

Organised by Moz, our very first Coffee Catch Up for 2024 on Sunday morning January 21 was a huge success with 15 turning up! As you can see, we cosied around the generous-sized table within Café DOC's charming Italian Deli, at times swapping seats to enable a good chat with other members. Maureen Donnelly brought along a younger woman very interested in meeting us and finding out more about SWAN. Let's continue by inviting more young women. Inspiration and motivation reciprocated!

NEXT COFFEE CATCH UP: SUNDAY 18 FEBRUARY 10am

Join us for our next get-together at **Laneway Café, 167 Point Nepean Rd, Dromana**, and even better, bring a friend or relative - especially if they're younger! - for them to get an idea of what SWAN is about. The purpose of these meetings is for us to get to know other SWAN members as there is not a lot of time for this at the Sunday Speaker Meetings. Come along and join us!

RSVP by Wednesday 14 February to Moz Lucas: maureenfrances21@gmail.com

SWAN Committee

2023-2024

MEET OUR MEMBERS

Diane McDonald, Facilitator

"I grew up in Frankston where I was introduced to social justice action, then pursued a city-based career in the volunteer-community, international development and tertiary education sectors. In 2012 my passion for long distance walking led me to set up a small business enabling people 50+ to walk Camino trails in Portugal and Spain. I joined the SWAN Committee in 2020. Happily now, I'm a volunteer!"



Erica Churchill, Treasurer

"I grew up in suburban Perth with a younger sister and brother. Hobbies were swimming and sailing the Swan River and I had some fantastic holidays at Rottnest Island on my Dad's yacht. Later, a career in computer programming proved challenging and rewarding, raising 2 sons, and now I'm grandmother to 2 granddaughters. I joined SWAN in late 2015, have volunteered as Treasurer, Speaker Coordinator and Facilitator, and now again as Treasurer".

Vivienne Daniels, Communications Secretary

"Most of my life was given to nursing, surgical, obstetrics and ending up in maternal and child health, while bringing up 4 children. In retirement I've volunteered tutoring migrants in English and supporting them in selling their craft work. I love Zumba to keep fit, Tai Chi and being a member of a Welsh Choir. I joined SWAN in 2019".



THANK YOU

In December 2023, Committee member Vivienne Daniels thoughtfully organised a 'thank you' gift of a Chocolate Brownie Christmas Cake for SECRET GARDEN on behalf of SWAN. Secret Garden have generously donated beautiful fresh floral bouquets for guest speakers at our bi-monthly SWAN Speaker Meetings at Mt Martha House for over 15 years.

Women's Exhibition

MORNINGTON PENINSULA REGIONAL GALLERY

KNOW MY NAME

AUSTRALIAN WOMEN ARTISTS

25 NOV 2023 - 18 FEB 2024

FREE ENTRY TUES-SUN 11AM-4PM

MPRG

MPRG.MORNPEN.VIC.GOV.AU CIVIC RESERVE, DUNNS RD, MORNINGTON

PRESENTED BY NATIONAL TOUR SUPPORTERS PRINCIPAL PATRON SUPPORTED BY

NOI TSM FARRER & CO CREATIVE HOURS AFTER

In the last fifty years, in resistance to the patriarchal dominance of the art world, women artists have come to the forefront in the public domain. Celebrate women artists at Mornington Peninsula Regional Art Gallery's **'Know My Name: Australian Women Artists'**.

UNTIL SUNDAY
18 FEBRUARY

11am-4pm
Tuesday-Sunday

**Image: Margaret
Preston Flapper 1925**

Congratulations to Award Recipients!

Congratulations to **Pauline d'Astoli** and **Rosemarie Draper**, both very deserving OAM recipients. SWAN celebrated Pauline d'Astoli's OAM for services to Mental Health and other roles at our July 2023 meeting. We did not realise at the time that Rosemarie Draper also received an OAM in the 2023 King's Birthday honours list "For service to the community through social welfare organisations". Rosemarie's OAM citation includes 'Committee Member/Member, Southern Women's Action Network (SWAN), more than 10 years'. Rosemarie has previously received an award for 'Excellence in Service Delivery to Multicultural Victoria in 2004 and a 'Meritorious Service to the Community' Awards in 2012 at Government House from the Victorian Multicultural Commission. Pauline has also received Health Volunteer of the Year at the 2023 Victorian Public Healthcare Awards Gala (image below) 'Honouring excellence! Pauline D'Astoli OAM shines as Health Volunteer of the Year at the Victorian Public Healthcare Awards Gala, championing mental health advocacy' (Peninsula Health's Facebook page, 2024). **To see the huge range of community services these two inspiring women were awarded for, go to <https://www.gg.gov.au/kings-birthday-2023-honours-list>** and under the link for Medal of the Order of Australia click on the A-E surname section.

Erica asks:

If other members have received awards, please let us know.

Rosemarie reminds us:

'Anyone can nominate anyone else they want to for an Australian Honour. SWAN members should consider nominating other women they know who they feel deserve recognition for the things they do.'



HISTORIC APOLOGY

Participate in this significant moment! The Premier of Victoria Jacinta Allen will make a formal apology in Parliament to Victorians who experienced **historical abuse and neglect as children in institutional care** before 1990. This will be live streamed on the Parliament website on **Thursday 8 February at 11.30am**. This is an important day for First Nations People from the Stolen Generations and the wider community. <https://www.vic.gov.au/apology-live-stream>

Supporting First Nations

You are invited to attend the launch of the **'Connection to Country Exhibition'** at **BALUK ARTS** on Thursday 15 February (NB not 8 February as previously advertised) commencing at 11.00am. **Morning tea provided.** 5 Davies St, Mt. Eliza <https://balukarts.org.au/>

January 26: Our Survival Day – 'Keep Surviving'

Held at **The Briars**, Mt Martha on 26 January, **Our Survival Day** is coordinated by **Our Songlines** a 100% Aboriginal-owned and woman-led organisation passionate about making Indigenous culture accessible to First Nations and allies, in a supportive, safe environment. The all-inclusive event was created as an alternative to Australia Day, **with a focus on Indigenous education, cultural entertainment, food and sustainability.** This year, several SWAN members attended including (left to right) Diane Johnstone, Marilyn Hoban, Aunty Deb Mellet and Diane McDonald. Diane Johnstone writes:





“I was fortunate to attend the gathering for ‘Our Survival Day’ with Marilyn Hoban. I was impressed with how well it was organised and appreciated all the work involved in making it a success. The many tents were filled with displays of Indigenous artwork, clothing and books you could purchase and also information about different groups delivering services. Children and adults could participate in hands-on craft and art activities. The large stage had entertainers performing during the day with the performance of Christine Anu being a highlight. There were plenty of options for food and drink with an emphasis on sustainability to minimise rubbish.

The Briars at Mt Martha was a beautiful setting, the weather was fine and sunny and people of all ages attended to celebrate the enduring contribution our First People have Australia. It was great to meet and speak with people who were there from different organisations and of course to meet up with others members of SWAN.

Congratulations to all concerned in organising such an enjoyable day.”

Diane Johnstone, January 2024

January 26: Change The Date Event, Willum Warrain



‘Change The Date’ at Willum Warrain, January 2024

Erica Churchill reports: “The **Change the Date** event at Willum Warrain in Hastings was very well attended. All seats in the large room were filled and those standing filled the verandah outside. Every speaker, both Indigenous and non-Indigenous, was enthusiastically applauded which indicated huge support for changing the date. At least 12 SWAN members were present, two of whom spoke in favour of the change and one to advertise the **Sheena Watt** event.” See flyer with details below, including a link to learning more about the **First People’s Assembly**.



CONVERSATION WITH SHEENA WATT MP

AND TOM
MCINTOSH MP

6.00PM 16 FEBRUARY 2024
RYE COMMUNITY HOUSE
27 NELSON ST RYE

- How to be good allies post referendum
- The Government's perspective on the progress of treaty and how we can support it
- What consideration is given to UN Declaration of Rights of Indigenous People



Register here:

<https://www.trybooking.com/CONFX>



Support justice for First Nations People by:

Attending Our Survival Day at the Briars 26 Jan
<https://www.oursurvivalday.com/>
Attending Willum Warrain Change the Date 26 Jan 9.30am
Learning more about the First People's Assembly
<https://www.firstpeoplesvic.org>

Womin Djeka Annual Event

Entry by donation, onsite parking \$5, no need to register.

More information: womindjeka.balnarring.ngargee@gmail.com



BALNARRING PRESCHOOL
PRESENTS

.Womin Djeka.

Balnarring Ngargee

THIS IS AN
**ALCOHOL
& DOG
FREE
EVENT**

SATURDAY 2ND MARCH 10AM - 5PM

ENTRY BY DONATION • COMMUNITY FESTIVAL • FAMILY FRIENDLY
HONOURING AND CELEBRATING FIRST PEOPLES CULTURES

EMU PLAINS RESERVE, COOLART ROAD BALNARRING

ENTERTAINMENT • FOOD STALLS • CRAFT STALLS • CULTURAL WORKSHOPS
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES • CARING FOR COUNTRY • LOCAL GATHERING PLACES

WELCOME TO COUNTRY 12 NOON

MITCH TAMBO
CHARLIE NEEDS BRACES • PLUS MORE TBA

WORKSHOPS STARTING FROM 10AM • YIDAKI MEDITATION
• CREATE A DILLY BAG • WAYAPA • OCHRE PAINTING
WEAVING • STORY TELLING • INDIGENOUS GAMES
MAKING BUSH ANIMALS • GRASS AND STRING DOLLS • GUIDED WALKS

ONSITE PARKING \$5 AND ENTRY BY DONATION
FESTIVAL WILL BE RUN IN LINE WITH PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS // ACCESSIBLE EVENT

      

We acknowledge Been Warring peoples as the traditional custodians of the land on which the festival is being held and recognise the continuous relationships they have with the land, waterways, sky, creatures and plants. We recognise the strength of First Peoples in maintaining their cultures over thousands of years. We pay our respects to Elders past and present. We welcome and acknowledge all First Peoples from across Australia.

Please contact us if you require any support to access the festival.

FOR MORE DETAILS CONTACT:
womindjeka.balnarring.ngargee@gmail.com [facebook.com/Bundj2018](https://www.facebook.com/Bundj2018) [instagram.com/womindjekabalnarring](https://www.instagram.com/womindjekabalnarring)

Dates for your Diary



- **THURSDAY 8 FEBRUARY**, 11.30am: *'Historic Apology'* by the Victorian government to Victorians who experienced historical abuse and neglect as children in institutional care before 1990. Live streamed: <https://www.vic.gov.au/apology-live-stream>
- **THURSDAY 15 FEBRUARY**, 11am: *'Connection to Country'*, exhibition launch, Baluk Arts, 5 Davies St. Mt. Eliza. Info: <https://balukarts.org.au/>
- **FRIDAY 16 FEBRUARY**, 6pm: *'Conversation with Sheena Watt MP'*, Rye Community House, 27 Nelson Rd. Rye. See flyer for registration details.
- **SUNDAY 18 FEBRUARY**, 10 – 11.30am: *'SWAN Coffee Catch-Up'*, Laneway Café, 167 Point Nepean Rd, Dromana. RSVP by Monday 12 February to Moz Lucas: maureenfrances21@gmail.com
- **UNTIL SUNDAY 18 FEBRUARY**, 11am – 4pm Tuesday to Sunday: *'Know My Name: Australian Women Artists'*, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery, Civic Reserve, Dunns Rd. Mornington. Free entry. Info: <https://www.mprg.mornpen.vic.gov.au/>
- **SATURDAY 2 MARCH**, 10am – 5pm: *'Womin Djeka Annual Festival'*, Balnarring Ngarrgee, Emu Plains Reserve, Balnarring. Entry by donation, onsite parking \$5. Info: womindjeka.balnarring.ngargee@gmail.com

Contact Us

SWAN News Editor:
Moz Lucas

SOUTHERN WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK



OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER aims to inform readers of current issues and matters of interest.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS If you have information of interest to our members, please ensure you let the editor Moz Lucas know via the email below by the first of the month.

Deadline for our next issue 1st March 2024

FACEBOOK AND WEBPAGE Recent events and photos may appear on both the SWAN Facebook page and the website, as well as details of future meetings.

PHOTO/VIDEO PERMISSION Please advise swanwomen@outlook.com or at the door at a meeting if you do not wish to be included in photographs or videos, otherwise we will take it that you are happy to have your photo included.

CONTACT

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Email: swanwomen@outlook.com

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

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

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

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

Our Sponsors

- * Blackbird Café: 2D Empire St Mornington (03) 5976 8632 blackbird-café.edan.io
- * Bodhi & Me Florist: 5A Bay Rd Mt Martha (03) 5916 1270 bodhiandme.com.au
- * Farrells Bookshop: 143 Main Street (corner of Barkly St) Mornington (03) 5975 5034 farrells.com.au
- * Higher Ground Café: 5/5 Howey Rd Mt Martha (03) 5974 4733
- * Rosebud Book Barn: 891 Point Nepean Rd (03) 5986 6770 info@rosebudbookbarn.com.au
- * Secret Garden: 81 Main Street Mornington (03) 5975 0977 secretgardenflowers.com.au
- * SiSCo Pizza Restaurant: 2113 Point Nepean Rd Rye (03) 5985 3967 melgow3@gmail.com
- * Zen Living: 70 Main St Mornington (03) 5975 1013 zenlivingmornington.com.au

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