

# Southern Women's Action Network

## FEBRUARY 2021 NEWSLETTER

Southern Women's Action Network Inc  
Reg: A0038144Z, ABN. 50 089 314 052  
P.O. Box 392 Mt. MARTHA. 3934

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)



### 2021 ISSUE 1

#### Points of Interest:

- International Women's Day meeting and Notice of Motion to Amend Constitution
- Tickets and Donations
- Instagram
- Change the Date Event
- Constitution
- SWAN Bursary
- Community Festival 13 March
- How to Use Zoom
- Sorrento
- Refugees
- Supporting First Nations
- Reading Recommendations
- Bursary Donation Form
- Proxy Form

#### Swan Committee:

- Facilitator: Erica Churchill
- Treasurer: Sue Parritt
- Secretary: Vivienne Daniels
- Speaker Coordinator: Melissa Kelly
- Publicity: Lauren Hunt and Marg D'Arcy
- SFN Representative: Diane McDonald

### NOTICE OF ZOOM MEETING 14<sup>th</sup> March 2021 INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY AND MOTION TO AMEND CONSTITUTION

**Speakers:** Pia Cerveri and Jodi Peskett, former Lead Organisers of the Women's & Equality Team at Trades Hall Victoria. See flyer or website for more details.

The following motion will be put at this meeting. Proxy votes will be allowed. The proxy form is included with this newsletter.

**Motion: That the Constitution on the SWAN website dated February 2021 be adopted.**

If you would like a copy of the proposed Constitution emailed or mailed to you please contact Erica on [REDACTED].

If you cannot join us on Zoom, please consider appointing a proxy so your vote is counted.

If you are unfamiliar with Zoom, it is very straight forward and detailed instructions are below. The Zoom link will be sent closer to the meeting date to all on our mailing list. If you have friends who would like to attend, please have them email [swanwomen@outlook.com](mailto:swanwomen@outlook.com) or call Erica on [REDACTED] to be added to the list.

### PLEASE CONSIDER BOOKING A TICKET

Thank you all for the fantastic support via Trybooking for our NAIDOC week meeting. Once again you can book a \$10 ticket and add a donation if you wish at <https://www.trybooking.com/BOVHI> or just make a donation at <https://www.trybooking.com/au/donate/swan>

**Contributions of any size will be appreciated.**

## Message from the Committee

Best wishes from all SWAN Committee members. We hope this newsletter finds you well and happy.

Thank you to all who have supported our suggested actions such as letter writing and the Walk Against Family Violence.

We are delighted that the new women Councillors are interested in SWAN. Maureen Donnelly and Erica met with the new Mayor, Despi O'Connor, on 8<sup>th</sup> February. We gained valuable information about how to support initiatives of Council and she assured us of support for our endeavours.

We cannot meet at Mt Martha House until social distancing rules are relaxed. Arrangements have had to change due to Covid restrictions and the Main Hall is not currently available to us. We will try to make other arrangements so we can meet face to face at the May meeting.

Remember we are always open to suggestions for speakers, topics, other ways of doing things, social justice actions, information for members, etc, etc. Email us on the email in the Newsletter heading or call me on [REDACTED]

Erica and the Committee

## INSTAGRAM



Lauren continues to make SWAN visible on Instagram. If you go to <https://www.instagram.com/southernwomensaction/> you can follow our page by clicking the blue follow button under our bio. Once we get to 100 followers we can get more information about who is following us, allowing us to improve the page.

## CHANGE THE DATE EVENT

On 26<sup>th</sup> January we catered for the Change the Date event at Willum Warrain. Thanks to the SWAN Supporting First Nations sub-committee who offered this opportunity and also arranged the bulk of the catering. This made it feasible for Willum Warrain to invite non-Indigenous supporters to attend, while the leaders were available to lead the ceremonies and talk to mob.

We also attended their Smoking Ceremony and Yarning Circle along with many non-Indigenous supporters whose presence was greatly appreciated by the many Indigenous members present.

The Mayor and 2 other new councillors spoke as well as a Frankston Councillor. It was a great honour for us to be included and a very spiritual occasion.

More details at:

[https://issuu.com/westernportnews/docs/wpn\\_3rd\\_february\\_2021?fr=sYTEwZTEwNTQ3MDA](https://issuu.com/westernportnews/docs/wpn_3rd_february_2021?fr=sYTEwZTEwNTQ3MDA)

## CONSTITUTION

The SWAN constitution is very out of date and needs to be updated based on the current Model Rules.

The current constitution, a proposed constitution from 2013 which was never adopted, and the proposed new constitution are on the following website.

<https://swanwomen.org.au/about-us/swan-current-model-rulesconstitution/>

The proposed constitution was not adopted at the recent AGM as there was concern over the provisions for becoming a member. This has been dealt with in the updated version. We had included changes to make most meetings “social events” so as not to have to pass minutes at the start of each meeting. We have now realised that the Model Rules require minutes of these meetings to be passed at the AGM so no additional procedures are required at the start of Sunday meetings other than the AGM. This will mean that motions for action on issues raised by the speaker or on other issues can be put at any of our Sunday meetings. The references to “social events” have now been removed.

We have also added an additional purpose to make clear that advocacy for Social Justice is included.

The re-revised proposal is now on the website above.

The following is a summary of the main changes we have made to the Model rules provided by Consumer Affairs Victoria. These changes are shown in red below and on the proposed constitution.

Summary of changes from the model rules with explanations of the reasons where needed.

4. The purposes of the association are

- Provide a forum for women of all ages and backgrounds to gain knowledge of and discuss social justice issues.
- Promote women’s active involvement in the community.
- Support organisations which assist and empower women.
- Advocate for social justice.

### 8. Who is eligible to be a member

Any **woman** who supports the purposes of the Association is eligible for membership.

### 9 **Application Eligibility** for membership

- (1) **A person who is eligible to be a member and who attends a General Meeting of the association and completes the contact details form is considered to be a member of the Association and, subject to rule 13(2), is entitled to exercise their rights of membership from the time of completing the contact details form.**

(Comments: No set entry fee and immediate membership - necessary so that we can get insurance via the Shire for our meetings and also to ensure we don’t exclude anyone who cannot afford a set amount)

2. Changed "his or her" to "their".
3. Don't need to issue receipts for the donations at the door.
4. On winding up - assets must be given to ~~a body that has similar purposes to the Association~~ one or more charities supporting social justice and which are not carried on for the profit or gain of ~~its~~ their individual members.
5. **Bylaws**  
**The Committee shall have the power to recommend bylaws provided that such bylaws are not inconsistent with this constitution. To come into force, a special resolution detailing these must be passed at a special general meeting.**

If you would like a copy of the proposed Constitution posted or emailed to you please contact Erica on [REDACTED].

### **SWAN Bursary**

We are again supporting a bursary via Graduate Women Victoria.

This will be for a disadvantaged or previously disadvantaged, female, Masters student whose study and career plans focus on human rights/social justice issues at the local, national or international level.

Further detail on how to donate is at the end of this newsletter and donations of any size will be very much appreciated.

Once we can meet face to face a donation box will be available at meetings.

### **Be thankful**

every chance you get. Not because life has been easy, perfect, or exactly as you had anticipated, but because you choose to be happy and grateful for all the good things you do have and all the problems you know you don't have.



MyPositiveOutlooks.com

## BUNDJIL'S NEST PRESENTS

### COMMUNITY FESTIVAL • FAMILY FRIENDLY

#### Womin Djeka Balnarring Ngargee (festival) Vision Statement

For the Womin Djeka Balnarring Ngargee (Festival) to be an event where the community can gather to share, begin conversations and walk with First Peoples.

**SATURDAY 13th MARCH 2021  
11:00 AM --7:00 PM Gates open at  
10am**

**BALNARRING BEACH,  
ROBERTSON PARK AND CAMPING  
RESERVE**

**ENTRY BY DONATION**

**WELCOME TO COUNTRY •  
ENTERTAINMENT  
FOOD STALLS • CRAFT STALLS  
CULTURAL WORKSHOPS •  
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES**

2021 Entertainment program  
Amos Roach, Djirri Djirri Dancers,  
Ganga Giri, Jess Hitchcock, John  
Wayne Parsons, Jalgany, Kee'han,  
Madi Collville-Walker, Neil Murray,  
Wala Connections

**More information and possibly  
registration at  
<https://balnarringfestival.com.au/>**

#### **How to use Zoom**

You need access to a web browser such as Chrome or Safari on a computer or iPad or smart phone. On a desk top it will help if you have a camera but you can join without this.

5 minutes or so before the meeting is due to start, click on the link from the meeting notice. You should see a message "Launching Zoom". Just wait a few minutes. Click "Open Zoom" when asked and you should be in the meeting. No need to download anything first.

If for any reason the link does not work, go to zoom.us in your browser click "Join a Meeting" then enter the meeting id and passcode from the meeting notice.

You will need to ensure your computer/tablet sound is turned on. If you move around the Zoom screen you will see controls to mute your microphone and turn off you video if you wish. It will be a good idea to be muted most of the time. If you are muted, you can hold down the space bar to speak.

If you move the cursor to the top of the screen you will see controls for Full Screen and also for Gallery View which lets you see a selection of people in the meeting on screen. Whoever is speaking (or making a noise) will appear on screen or be highlighted. Full screen will be best when our guest speaker is presenting.

Please use the Chat process to record your name for the attendance list in the minutes.

If you would like a practice session before the meeting, please call Erica on [REDACTED].

## SORRENTO

What does the word 'Sorrento' evoke to you? Historic buildings, beautiful beach, the ferry to Queenscliff...? I came across this signage yesterday about how from the end of the eighteenth century, the way of life of the Bunurong / Boon Wurrung was affected by the arrival of Europeans.

From the end of the eighteenth century, this way of life was affected by the arrival of Europeans. Boonwurrung people came into contact with sealers and they saw ships and sailors from the explorations of Murray, Flinders and Robbins.

Violence soon followed. The sealers abducted Boonwurrung women from the coastline and introduced diseases with such shocking results that populations began to fall. The first recorded frontier clash in Victoria between Aboriginal people and the British occurred close to this place on 14 February 1802. Men from John Murray's *Lady Nelson* fired on and killed Boonwurrung men who tried to resist their landing.

Relations between the 1803-4 settlers at this site and the local people were marked by suspicion. Boonwurrung men and women were wary. Collins made little attempt to treat the people with kindness and friendship. He was concerned that they might threaten his settlement.

The Collins settlement is of great importance to Boonwurrung people as a symbol of the British invasion of Victoria. In this way, it is also a symbol of the tragic consequences - population decline, the loss of the land and damage to an ancient heritage - suffered by the people in the years that followed.

A longer version of this history can be found at

<https://localhistory.kingston.vic.gov.au/articles/499>

Neither of these articles may be authenticated history, although the article via the link has a long list of references. However it is reasonable to accept that they are not far from the truth.

## REFUGEES



If you would like to advocate for Refugees we suggest you join Grandmothers for Refugees. You can join online as a Grandmother or as a FROG (Friend of Grandmothers for Refugees). There is no cost to join and there are many suggested campaigns with background reading.

<https://www.grandmothersforrefugees.com/join-us>

---

## Supporting First Nations

SWAN's Supporting First Nations sub-committee has been most active since the last newsletter! Our social justice work in relation to Indigenous people comprised both local engagement and broader advocacy. Please contact us if you would like to know more about any of the items below or are interested in joining the group.

Engagement with local First Nations People:

- SFN members supported the events held by *Willum Warrain, Aboriginal Gathering Place* at Hastings over 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> January by attending, liaising with organisers and catering for the morning tea. Thanks to all those who helped and supported Willum Warrain members' mourning of colonial invasion and taking pride in survival and openness to reconciliation, across the themes of 'Change the Heart' and 'Change the Date'.
- Also on 26<sup>th</sup> January, SWAN supported *Nairm Marr Djambana, Aboriginal Gathering Place* at Frankston by attending / volunteering at the Briar's 'Our Survival' Event, co-organised by *Our Songlines*. One of the highlights was the powerful lyrics of Indigenous musician, Mitch Tambo, in condemnation of violence against women.
- Just before the end of 2020, SFN made a submission, in support of *Willum Warrain's* expansion, to the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council Master Plan process.
- We are working on a Truth Telling kit which will aid SWAN members to further challenge ignorance and racism in respect of First Nations people.
- Liaison with MPSC *Warringinee Group Team* Leader, Deb Mellett continues in response to specific requests for support, and will no doubt be heightened as we begin to encourage action on the Shire's Reconciliation Action Plan.

Advocacy supporting broader Indigenous issues:

- Following SWAN's NAIDOC week event with speaker, Teela Reid, on The Uluru Statement From the Heart, we have written letters lobbying politicians at all levels, including letters to all local councillors in support of the three pillars of The Statement: Voice, Treaty and Truth-telling. We have also been busy building alliances with new Mornington Peninsula women councillors. We plan to build the momentum this year in many practical ways, particularly involving SWAN members in the truth-telling action mentioned above.
- Letters from SWAN members in support of truth-telling about our colonial past and respect for the ancient culture first occupying this land, certainly dominated the local *Letters to the Editor* page of the Mornington News in the two weeks late January to early February!

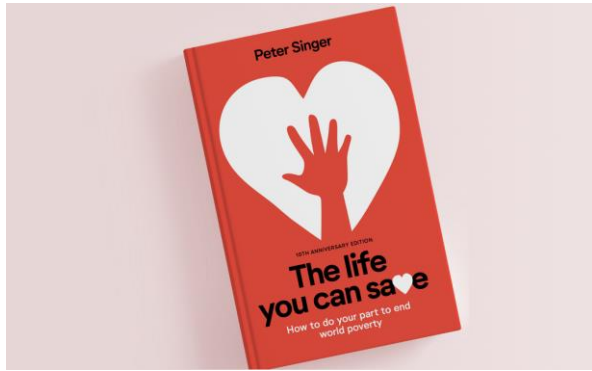
Still at the broader level - but especially relevant to SWAN as a women's group - a new report, *Wiyi Yani U Thangani (Women's Voices)*, was released in December 2020 by the United Nations Human Rights Commission. It can be reached online by searching by the name of the report, or: <https://humanrights.gov.au/our-work/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-social-justice/publications/wiyi-yani-u-thangani>

Upcoming Events and activities of interest:

- March 13<sup>th</sup>: Womin Djeka Event at Balnarring Beach <https://balnarringfestival.com.au/>
- March 27<sup>th</sup>: Willum Warrain's 7<sup>th</sup> Birthday Event at Hastings.
- Currently screening at Rosebud Cinema: *High Country*

For more information: Maureen: [REDACTED], Diane [REDACTED]

## Reading Recommendations



This book is available as a free download from

<https://www.thelifeyoucansave.org.au/peter-singer/>

Also SWAN has two copies to lend out. Call Erica on [REDACTED] if you wish to borrow one.

In 2009, Peter Singer wrote the first edition of *The Life You Can Save* to demonstrate why we should care about and help those living in global extreme poverty, and how easy it is to improve and even save lives by giving effectively.

In the decade since the first book's publication, dramatic progress has been made in reducing global extreme poverty. However, millions still live on less than \$1.90 a day, and there is yet much to be done

The 10th-anniversary edition of *The Life You Can Save* aims to inform, inspire and empower as many people as possible to act now and save lives.

### **And a laugh from Denise Hassett**

I was in the "six item express lane" at the Supermarket quietly fuming. Completely ignoring the sign, the woman ahead of me had slipped into the check-out line pushing a cart piled high with groceries. Imagine my delight when the cashier beckoned the woman to come forward looked into the cart and asked sweetly, 'So which six items would you like to buy?'

Wouldn't it be great if that happened more often?



*"Take courage when you read this book. You'll need it. Winch asks big questions of this country. Is the answer within us?"*  
**Bruce Pascoe**

**Winner of the 2020 Miles Franklin Literary Award  
Shortlisted for the VPLA.  
Winner, Book of the Year, People's Choice, Christina Stead Prize for Fiction at NSW Premier's Literary Award.  
Shortlisted for the Stella Prize.**

Tara June Winch is a Wiradjuri author, born in Australia in 1983 and based in France.

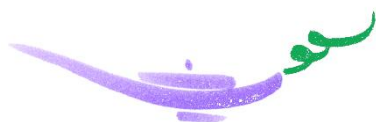
The yield in English is the reaping, the things that man can take from the land. In the language of the Wiradjuri yield is the things you give to, the movement, the space between things: baayanha.

Knowing that he will soon die, Albert 'Poppy' Gondiwindi takes pen to paper. His life has been spent on the banks of the Murrumbidgee River at Prosperous House, on Massacre Plains. Albert is determined to pass on the language of his people and everything that was ever remembered. He finds the words on the wind.

August Gondiwindi has been living on the other side of the world for ten years when she learns of her grandfather's death. She returns home for his burial, wracked with grief and burdened with all she tried to leave behind. Her homecoming is bittersweet as she confronts the love of her kin and news that Prosperous is to be repossessed by a mining company. Determined to make amends she endeavours to save their land - a quest that leads her to the voice of her grandfather and into the past, the stories of her people, the secrets of the river.

Profoundly moving and exquisitely written, Tara June Winch's *The Yield* is the story of a people and a culture dispossessed. But it is as much a celebration of what was and what endures, and a powerful reclaiming of Indigenous language, storytelling and identity.





## GRADUATE WOMEN VICTORIA

### Donations to SWAN Bursary 2021

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: <http://www.communityfoundation.org.au/donate>

Click on “Donate to a fund” and enter “Graduate Women Victoria in the search box.

Select “Graduate Women Victoria Donors Fund Name” and click on “Support this Fund” to make a tax-deductible donation.

In the space for comments, write “SWAN Bursary ”

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

A receipt will be issued to your email address. No credit card fees are incurred for online transactions.

#### 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 or international level.



## APPOINTMENT OF PROXY - March 14 2021

Please print clearly

I \_\_\_\_\_ being a member of the Southern Women's Action Network, hereby appoint

\_\_\_\_\_, a member of Southern Women's Action Network, as my proxy to vote and speak on my behalf at the General Meeting to be held on 14 March 2021 and at any adjourning of that meeting.

My proxy is authorised to vote on the following Motion: That the Constitution on the SWAN website dated February 2021 be adopted.

My proxy is authorised to vote:

As she sees fit

As I have instructed her

Please cross out the option which does not apply.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

PERSON APPOINTING PROXY

Some Rules re Proxies: See Governing Rule 19 for full details

- Appointment of proxy must be in writing and signed by member making appointment.
- Any form, signed by the member, which clearly identifies the person appointed as the member's proxy may be used.
- Completed forms should be sent to the Secretary no later than 10 am on Saturday 13th March i.e. at least 24 hours before the commencement of the meeting.

Secretary email: [swanwomen.org](mailto:swanwomen.org)

Secretary address: P.O. Box 392 Mt. MARTHA. 3934