

# SWAN Newsletter

Volume 10 Issue 2

May 2010

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## ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE 2010

### Facilitator

Carol Morse

### Secretary

Marilyn Godley

### Assistant Secretary

Lynn Hart

### Treasurer

Barbara Godfrey

### Speaker Co-Ordinator

### To be advertised

### Membership Secretary

Heather Phillips

### Newsletter Editor

Heather Boundy

### Public Officer

Barb Godfrey

### Website Co-ordinator

Rosemarie

Draper

### Committee

Gwen White

Pauline Young



Members are welcome to attend Committee meetings.

Southern Women's Action Network Inc.

Reg No A0038144Z, ABN 84 41627 1331

PO Box 392 Mt Martha 3934



## Morag Loh—May Speaker Social Justice and the ABC

'Morag Loh is a writer and curator of photography whose work has dealt mostly with the experiences of immigrants to Australia and the lives of women and children. In her books of oral testimony, general and scholarly history, her stories and picture books, Australians of diverse backgrounds, women, men and children, are represented as integral to our society's development. The large photographic archive, Building A Country, compiled for the State Library of Victoria, documents something of the presence in Victoria of eight immigrant communities and their descendants. The exhibitions resulting from it and others dealing with Chinese migration, women's journey towards equity and children's perceptions of rights and responsibilities, have travelled widely in Victoria and interstate. Morag has also served on ministerial and Australia Council committees on the arts and multicultural issues at state and Federal levels. Her concerns have always been equality of opportunity and representation for all Australians.

The ABC: It's Ours, Independent and Free, the small travelling exhibition to which she will speak briefly on May 16, was undertaken with photographer John Werrett for Friends of the ABC. It supports the belief that the ABC, with its responsibility to inform, entertain and educate all Australians, is one of the most important of our national institutions, should remain in public hands and be well funded in order to represent us all to ourselves and to the world. I



## Mornington Peninsula Shire—Housing Officer

Sabra Lazarus' discussion of homelessness on the Peninsula, focused our concern on the Shire's proposal to abolish the position of Housing Officer. At our last SWAN meeting, many of you signed the petition requesting that this position be retained due to the dire need for action on the Mornington Peninsula. Happily, recent communication from Peter Sibly at the Shire, confirms unofficial approval for the continuation of the Housing and Social Justice position. He extended his gratitude for the support.

Thank you to all those SWAN members signatories.

## Debby Maziarz – March Speaker

The applause was heartfelt and joyous when Debby Maziarz shared her story at the March SWAN meeting. It was an uplifting account of determination, resilience, inspiration and social action.

Debby's hyperactivity and vivid imagination led to a frustrating childhood and a guilt-ridden, out-of-control adolescence. She carried a deep sadness for the pain that she brought to her parents and others. At 16, in a last ditch effort to be allowed to remain at school, she made a bargain with them to become involved with ..."something". Eventually she discovered the Melbourne Women's Circus, run by Donna Jackson, where 'at last' she felt valued and safe.

Debby reminded us of the importance of mentors. From Donna she learnt to channel her wide variety of skills from impressive imagination, vision and leadership to business management and entrepreneurial initiatives. Her part-time youth work and developing circus skills evolved into Westside Circus with a \$1 million a year turnover. Her aim of "empowering dis-spirited, troubled youth" and providing challenge and inclusion for people from diverse social and cultural backgrounds engenders hope and a positive view of the world.

That she involves 400 inner city families each week and 8000 participants in 80 circus projects each year, is truly remarkable.

We were inspired and humbled. One woman, so much joy!

You can support Debby's work through [www.westsidecircus.org.au](http://www.westsidecircus.org.au)

Book a show, organize a workshop, sponsor a participant, join a class

**A mother is a person who, seeing there are only four pieces of pie for five persons, promptly announces that she never did care for pie.**  
*Tenneva Jordan.*  
Happy Mother's Day to all mothers and those who care for others.

### THIS and THAT

#### WANTED

#### Speaker Co-ordinator

**Are you interested in talking to amazing women? Are you willing to support our fabulous speakers?**

The SWAN Committee is looking for a member who

may be interested in joining us as Speaker Co-ordinator.

The role would basically be to liaise with the potential speakers and to be the contact person to manage the nitty gritty of their visit. It does not involve minutes, or preparing

agendas, just the good stuff.

. If you feel you may be able to fulfil this role please contact

Carol Morse on 5977-1624 or Marilyn Godley on 5976 1282.

### SWAN Dates-2010

SUNDAY 16 MAY  
Morag Loh  
Social Justice and the

SUNDAY 18 JULY  
Marguerite Ryan  
Women for Women in

SUNDAY  
19 SEPTEMBER  
tbc

SUNDAY  
21 NOVEMBER  
tbc

**RSVP**  
**for all meetings to:**  
**Heather P—9787 8532**  
**Gwen W—9787 1487**

## March SWAN Meeting



Determined, resourceful, inventive, compassionate and totally inspiring. That sums up Debby Maziarz.



### Many thanks to Cath John

Cath John has been a SWAN committee member for two years. As she has just taken on a new job, she is unable to continue on with her current SWAN commitments.

In her role as a committee member she took charge of the design and production of our beautiful new SWAN banner—a delightful legacy to leave.

Her position this year, has been as Speaker Co-ordinator and she has provided us with stimulating speakers for our meetings.

Many thanks to Cath for all her work and her willingness to assist in the smooth running of SWAN. We wish her well in her new role.

### SWAN DONATIONS and GRANTS

Each year, the SWAN committee forwards monies raised to a range of local, national and international groups who apply for assistance. At our recent meeting, it was agreed to support the following:-

#### Hastings Women's Choir-

Supporting disadvantaged women to become engaged with the community.

#### Rosebud Secondary College-

To support a school initiative for students to work in a Cambodian orphanage (see article on next page).

#### SHARE TABLE

If you would like to speak to any item you have placed on our Share Table please speak with Carol Morse before the meeting.

#### Community Choirs

Community choirs are open to all, not affiliated to any organization or religion, include people of all race, age, ability, sexual orientation and promote a sense of community.

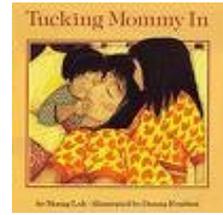
**SWAN**



Thank you to  
**The Secret Garden**  
for the beautiful  
flowers they have  
continued to  
donate.



# SUNDAY 16 MAY MORAG LOH



- Writer, children 's author and curator of photography
- Served on Arts Council and ministerial committees on the arts and multi-cultural affairs.
- Worker for the integration of immigrant communities.
- Supporter of the ABC in its role to inform, entertain and educate all Australians.

## Sponsors Sought for Rosebud Students' Trip to Cambodia

A group of Rosebud Secondary College students will be traveling to Cambodia, where they will work at a local orphanage and develop vital life skills such as self-reliance, resilience, teamwork and leadership. As part of the challenge, each student must raise enough money to fund their own trip. If you would like to support this social action initiative for youth of the area, contact Rosebud Secondary College.

## Friends of Los Palos AGM

Thursday 13 May 2010 at 7.00 pm  
Mornington Peninsula Shire office  
Queen Street Mornington

Guest Speaker - John Kemp Alternative Technology Association

John will talk about his involvement in the Timor Leste Solar Power Training Project.

Their aim is to train Timorese trainers to deliver solar power training to Timorese students and support them in finding employment.

Everyone welcome

**Venue: Meeting Room**  
**Shire Offices, Queen Street,**  
**Mornington**

**9.30AM — cost \$7**

**BOOKINGS PLEASE**

**RSVP BY**

**FRIDAY 14 May**

**Heather Phillips 97878532**

**bluerobin15@bigpond.com**

**or**

**Gwen White 97871487**

**gwenniewhite@hotmail.com**