

SWAN Newsletter



Women striving for
Social Justice

Volume 12 Issue 2

May 2012

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**ADMINISTRATIVE
COMMITTEE
2011-2012**

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Correspondence Secretary

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June Rance

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Membership Secretary

Heather Phillips

Newsletter Co-ordinator

Gwen White

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Pauline Young

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Lynn Carpenter

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**Jenn Fowler
“THE BIG ISSUE” newspaper
Project Coordinator- The Women’s Subscription Enterprise**



Jenn will talk about **The Big Issue**, a street newspaper, which is published in eight countries; it is written by professional journalists and sold by homeless individuals. Jenn is responsible for the development and implementation of marketing strategies in raising awareness about homeless women and promoting sales of the Big Issue to support this life changing enterprise.

She started with **The Big Issue** in 2010, just after the Women's Subscription Enterprise was launched and witnessed first hand the positive outcomes that the initiative was already delivering.

She is really proud to be a part of a program that is ground-breaking in its approach to helping homeless, marginalised and disadvantaged women and says that working at **The Big Issue**, and specifically the Women's Subscription Enterprise, provides challenging and stimulating work. Her role requires strong problem solving skills, innovative thinking and the ability to work with people from diverse backgrounds.

Jenn is particularly excited about being a part of a team of professionals at the forefront of social entrepreneurship, which offers business solutions to homelessness and makes a difference to the lives of some of Australia's most marginalised people.



Members are welcome to attend Committee meetings.

Sarah Capper – March Speaker

Sarah Capper was a reminder to us all, that feminist issues still require a strong stance and constructive action.

For many of us, it has become easy to be complacent and point to the significant advances in women's status and aspirations in our modern society. As Sarah pointed out, we have a female Governor General and a female Prime Minister as evidence of women's advancement. There have certainly been significant changes over time!

However, serious issues persist and Sarah, as the Policy, Advocacy and Communications Officer for the Victorian Women's Trust, continues to inspire other women to maintain their support for women's empowerment. The Victorian Women's Trust, established as a Government entity under the Cain Government, became independent of government under Joan Kirner, resulting in a greater degree of freedom to pursue women's issues and concerns. Their mission is to "advocate on behalf of women wherever we can, contributing to policy debates, responding to media requests, making submissions to inquiries and running campaigns."

Sarah talked about her involvement in the case against Heather Osland, the subsequent reforming of homicide laws in 2010 and, in relating the details of the case, reminded us all of the work still to be done in obtaining justice for women before the law.

Surprising to some of the old guard "Women's Libbers", Sarah talked about the importance of working with "good men" such as Jackson Katz, an American Sociologist renowned internationally for his work in preventing men's violence against women. It was with pride that Sarah talked about the role of the Victorian Women's Trust in sponsoring his recent visit to Australia. In Australia, he lectured to top level community leaders including senior police, judicial figures, medicos, sport chiefs and politicians. His work with the AFL promotes respectful relationships and gender equality. Sarah's explanation of one of the exercises conducted with the AFL, clearly demonstrated the specific gender differences existing in perceived personal safety.

Sarah talked briefly about her success with an online course , "Be the Hero!" that she developed in 2007, which is aimed at 15 year old boys and is currently used in Victorian schools.

With her passion, youth, extensive knowledge and humour, Sarah reminded us of the tough work yet to be achieved and the positive steps that the Victorian Women's Trust is continuing to take to improve the lives of women. We are very grateful to her.

SWAN Dates–2012

SUNDAY 15TH JULY

Lyn Brodie

CEO at The Lowitja Institute

Melbourne

NAIDOC Week speaker

SUNDAY

16TH SEPTEMBER

Barb Godfrey

"East Timor"

SUNDAY

18TH NOVEMBER

TBA

SWAN March Meeting

Lynn Carpenter (right) spoke passionately about the Nurses's Conditions Claim at our March Meeting. Despite her reluctance to speak publicly, she outlined the state of negotiations at the time, and the frustrations the Union had had with the media reporting. Thank you, Lynn.



Gwen Fletcher with Sarah Capper

This and That

Suggestion Box

Each SWAN meeting, a suggestion box is placed on the back table. If you have any ideas for interesting speakers on social issues for women or causes in need of donations to assist women, please write your name and the details.

PACE News

Recently, PACE ran a forum on Elder Abuse. If you are interested in finding out more on the subject, contact Senior's Rights on 1300 368 821. They provide free legal and advocacy services to

those who are concerned about emotional, physical or financial abuse of elders.

SWAN Indigenous Bursary

Margaret James, from Graduate Women Victoria, recently informed us that our contributions for this very important bursary, total \$1455. Applications closed in March and the presentation of the award will take place on June 2nd. For details see www.afuwvic.org.au. Thank you all for your generosity.

There is much to be said for challenging fate instead of ducking behind it.

Diana Trilling

SWAN Website

For information about SWAN or to read the latest newsletter and catch up with coming events, check out the SWAN website at

<http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/swan1/index.html>

Thanks to Rosemarie Draper for looking after the website.



Rosemarie Draper

SHARE TABLE

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



SUNDAY 20TH MAY JENN FOWLER

- Jenn Fowler works for The Big Issue, a street newspaper published in eight countries; it is written by professional journalists and sold by homeless individuals.
- She is Project Coordinator for The Women's Subscription Enterprise with The Big Issue
- Her work focusses on helping homeless, marginalised and disadvantaged women.

A Recommended Good Read *The Festival by the Sea* by June Loves

From the author of The Shelly Beach Writers' Group comes the second hilarious instalment of Gina's (mis)adventures, taking readers back into the entrancing world of a small beach community. Full of wit, warmth and whimsy, *The Festival by the Sea* once again displays June Loves's uncanny knack for writing about women's lives, their strengths and vulnerabilities when faced with an unexpected challenge. June Loves is the author of over 100 non-fiction books for both children and adults. She has been a newspaper journalist, freelance writer, teacher, librarian, educational consultant and bookseller. June Loves lives on the Mornington Peninsula.

Many thanks....

to Judith Graley for printing and facilitating distribution of the newsletters.

AND to Mornington Council for provision of a comfortable and convenient space for our bi-monthly meetings.



*Thanks to
Secret Garden
...who supply our
beautiful flowers*

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

9.30AM — cost \$7

BOOKINGS PLEASE
RSVP BY FRIDAY 18th MAY
Heather Phillips bluerobin15@bigpond.com
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