

SOUTHERN WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK



# Newsletter

## October 2023

*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.

# Annual General Meeting and Facilitator's Report

The **SWAN AGM** was held **Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September** at Mt Martha House. The SWAN Committee was dissolved and nominations were received to form a new Committee for 2023-2024. From the combined nominations put forward at the AGM and at the first Committee Meeting held Saturday 30 September, a new Committee was formed.

Sadly, our amazing and multi-talented Erica Churchill has stepped down from her role as SWAN Facilitator – but fortunately not left the Committee! The Facilitator's role is being filled by the very capable and inspiring leadership of Diane McDonald. Below is Erica's **Facilitator's Annual Report 2022-2023**.

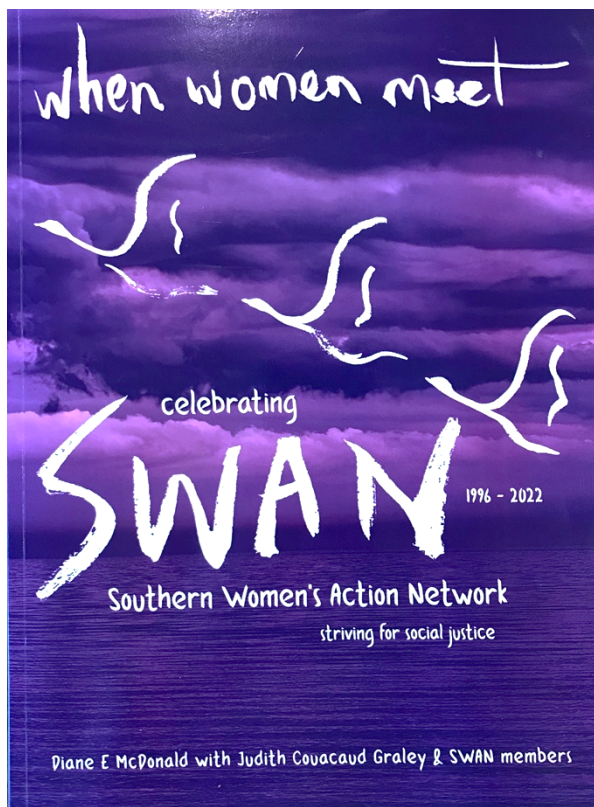
## SWAN FACILITATOR'S ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023

It has certainly been a busy and exciting year. Firstly the Speaker Meetings.

At the 2022 AGM in September, **Diana Johns** spoke to us about the criminalisation of children, how it happens and why it needs to stop.

**Dr Sarah Russell** from Aged Care Matters enlightened us about the issues with Aged Care at the November Meeting. She spoke about her experiences with various Aged Care homes, both good and bad and her advocacy for improvement.

Our March meeting, for **International Women's Day**, was very special as it was the **launch of SWAN's history in the book entitled 'When Women Meet'**. This saw a very good turnout of members who were enthused by the presentation by **Jean Ker Walsh** on *'Riding the Tidal Wave of Justice: the challenge for change-makers'*. **Peta Murphy MP** then launched the book and we celebrated this occasion with a lunch catered by Nairm Marr Djambana. We are grateful that Mornington Peninsula Shire Council provided a grant which has allowed us to break even on the production of the book and the launch.



The production of SWAN's history up to 2022 is a momentous occurrence. A huge effort by **Diane McDonald**, ably assisted by **Judith Graley** and many others to proof read, research and contribute ideas saw a comprehensive and interesting book produced. It is so important that SWAN's remarkable history has been recorded. Thanks for Mornington Peninsula Shire for a grant to assist with this production.

Following on from Jean Ker Walsh's presentation in March, the May meeting started with a **demonstration of a Kitchen Table conversation**, followed by discussion in small groups about how to ensure SWAN endures into the future. This was facilitated by **Jean Ker Walsh** who kindly made the trip from the country again. Many useful suggestions were made, some of which have been implemented and others will be discussed further in November.

One of these suggestions was to have a **Discussion Meeting** in the months between the Speaker Meetings to allow members to get to know each other better and perhaps take some action as a result of the most recent speaker's topic. The first of these in August resulted in some interesting discussions, although only a small number of members present, hopefully more will join us in the future.

In July we were shocked to hear of the extent of the homeless situation on the Mornington Peninsula. **Belinda Rodman**, President of Southern Peninsula Community Support and **Kara Van der Heyde**, Assertive Outreach Worker for the same organisation spoke of the important work they do to assist those sleeping rough on the foreshore at Rosebud and of the lack of funding for housing and other services to assist these people.

A big thank you to **Despi O'Connor**, our Speaker Co-ordinator, for arranging these speakers. Thank you also to the fantastic ladies on the **Catering Group** who provide such an excellent repast at each face-to-face meeting.

In the past 12 months, SWAN members have continued to show their **support for Australia's First Nations people** at a National, State and local level in a variety of ways. Indeed this support has escalated in response to the call from Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people to walk with them to create a better future for us all.

In February, we established a **Working Group** to raise awareness within the Mornington Peninsula community about the enshrinement of an **Indigenous Voice in the Constitution**. Since then, this group has met weekly to plan and promote a range of Voice related community education activities. This included planning and hosting a public information forum in Mt Eliza in July and another in Rosebud in September. These events provided accurate information to help voters to make an informed decision when they vote. They could not have happened without another Mornington Peninsula Shire grant.

The Working Group also encouraged SWAN members to join the **'Together Yes' campaign** led by the **Victorian Women's Trust** with a focus on conducting kitchen table conversations with people in their networks. Additionally, many SWAN members took whatever opportunity arose to have informal discussions with friends, family and neighbours about the reasons why Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people are asking for constitutional recognition in the form of a Voice to Parliament.

Members also joined the nationwide **YES23 campaign** and took part in other awareness raising activities.

As well as the strong focus on promoting the need for lasting structural change, efforts were made to regularly update members on activities and events being held by local First Nations organisations and encouraging members to advocate against a range of injustices facing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people. This includes supporting the nation-wide **Raise the Age campaign**.

We have continued with other **Social Justice actions** including **advocating for more Council assistance** for Nairn Mar Djambana Aboriginal Gathering Place in Frankston, for more Government assistance for homeless people and to Raise the Age of incarceration to 14 years. Our efforts in the previous year to have the Shire re-appoint a dedicated position with responsibility to assist Council in the implementation of the Shire's Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP) has recently met with success.

**Susan Hillman-Stolz** has organised the raffle for us during the year and has organised the vouchers which now form the prizes. For many years, donations by members have made up the prizes and were much appreciated. However, I suspect we have all reached the stage where we are decluttering and so are not so keen on getting more things, lovely as they have always been.



A big thanks to all Committee members who have been involved in all these decisions and many more, as well as set up for meetings and many other tasks. It has been a great committee to work with. A big thanks also to all members who help with or attend meetings, write letters or take part in Social Justice actions, make suggestions and care for each other.

Thank You  
Erica Churchill

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## SWAN's New Committee



**The SWAN AGM was held on Sunday 17<sup>th</sup> September.** Following 5 years of unwavering service, **Erica Churchill** vacated her position as Facilitator of several years, and has once again, taken up the role of Treasurer, replacing **Lesley Beasley** who has retired from Committee - also after 2 years of service. We are so grateful to have Erica and her passion and versatile expertise to continue to input into the Committee. Similarly, we are very appreciative of Lesley's dependability and attention to detail, and her sunny disposition will be missed! Also leaving the Committee is **Vivienne Daniels** who served a valuable role as Communications Secretary for 3 years out of 4 on the Committee - which included her adept skills and patience in editing our SWAN Newsletter – especially with the usual influx of last minute submissions! Viv's natural warmth and her generosity in opening her home for Committee Meetings is also appreciated.

Congratulations and much appreciation goes to **Diane McDonald** for stepping into the Facilitator's role! Diane's capability and foresight into how to navigate what's needed for the viability of SWAN's future is invaluable. Her tireless work in forming and facilitating a Working Group to support an Indigenous Voice to Parliament, and in authoring SWAN's history book *'When Women Meet'* are already noteworthy contributions.

We are very excited to welcome a new member to the Committee: **Susan Hillman-Stolz**. Fortunately, **Despi O'Connor** re-nominated for the Speaker Coordinator role. Other re-nominating members are **Marilyn Hoban** and **Moz Lucas**. Moz Lucas regularly takes minutes of Committee Meetings and has recently taken on the role of Editor of SWAN News.

However, we need to fill a key role ASAP:

**URGENT: COORDINATOR OF SWAN COMMUNICATIONS NEEDED!!!**

After several years of exemplary voluntary service, keeping us all connected and informed, Vivienne Daniels has decided to complete her term as the SWAN Correspondence Secretary. SWAN acknowledges, with gratitude, the significant contribution that Vivienne made in this role. We are now on the look-out for someone to coordinate SWAN communications.

**Summary of the main tasks involved:**

1. Respond to mail and email in a timely manner, following input from the Facilitator or Committee, where appropriate.
2. Maintain a record of correspondence inwards and outwards.
3. Liaise with the SWAN NEWS Editor to include information received about upcoming meetings and community events for the next newsletter.
4. Maintain and update the register of SWAN members.

**If you are willing to consider joining the SWAN Committee to take up this role, please contact Diane McDonald at the following email address and she will give you a call to discuss: [dianemcdonald.consult@gmail.com](mailto:dianemcdonald.consult@gmail.com)**

Also, the role of **Social Justice Coordinator** remains open. Without this Social Justice Co-ordinator role in place, SWAN's Social Justice activities are severely limited. If you are interested, please contact [dianemcdonald.consult@gmail.com](mailto:dianemcdonald.consult@gmail.com)

**PLEASE COME & JOIN US!!!** Position descriptions and a list of various tasks are on the SWAN website: <https://swanwomen.org.au/about-us/committee-position-descriptions/>. These give an idea of the required tasks but if you can take on any subset of these tasks it will assist everyone on the Committee. The Committee is very flexible and happy to allocate tasks according to members' time availability, preferences and skills. Undertaking some of these tasks without being on the Committee is also possible and we will be happy to hear of any such offers.

**Current position holders will be happy to provide support during the transition. Being away or on holidays for a period, as many of us are, is not an issue - someone will stand in for you.**

It is a great Committee with wide experience, all dedicated to Social Justice and a vibrant future for SWAN. Joining the Committee is a practical way to become more involved in and learn about varied Social Justice issues, and in particular, to have a say in SWAN's future direction.

# Thank You Erica!

**Erica Churchill joined SWAN in 2015** and has been part of SWAN's Committee since 2016, having filled various roles - Treasurer, Speaker Co-Ordinator and Facilitator.

**Erica is currently stepping down as Facilitator to become Treasurer again.**

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I was asked to write something about Erica, I thought I would use the letters of her name: ERICA

**E** ... energetic, enthusiastic & embracing new members

**R** ... resolute & reliable

**I** ... intelligent, inspiring & informative

**C** ... caring & courageous

**A** ... attentive & assiduous

Thank you very much Erica, for your past and continuing roles with SWAN.....

*Denise Hassett,  
SWAN Member since 1996  
SWAN Committee Member 1997*

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I joined the SWAN Committee three years ago during the height of early COVID. I quickly appreciated the significant contribution that Erica made to hold the organisation together during a very challenging period. This included over 260 days of lockdown and many more months when members were reluctant to meet in person. Erica used her technical skills to pivot the organisation and enable us to stay connected via zoom.

I was conscious too of the many and varied demands placed on Erica's time, as SWAN Facilitator and then Treasurer. From administration, website development and bookkeeping, to facilitating member meetings and supporting those with committee

roles. Erica was always ready and available to lend an ear and provide advice. I am ever grateful for her personal encouragement and generous support.

*Diane McDonald,  
SWAN Committee since 2020, incoming Facilitator  
Author of 'When Women Meet: celebrating SWAN 1996-2022'*

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What a marvellous organiser! Erica is a wonderful Committee person, a pleasure to work with. She is a good listener and full of good suggestions, and carries it all out with a minimum of fuss. And a good companion also. Erica, you are the 'Salt of the Earth!'

*Val Campbell,  
SWAN Committee 2017 - 2020  
SWAN Speaker Coordinator 2018 - 2020*

### **VALE MARK PHILLIPS**

*We are sad to advise that Mark, the husband of long term, active SWAN member and previous Committee member, Heather Phillips, became ill and died suddenly in mid-September while they were interstate. Our thoughts and prayers are with Heather at this very sad time.*

## **SWAN'S recent Rosebud VOICE Referendum Forum gives clarity**

On 26 September **Mornington Peninsula News** published the following **SWAN Press Release** in four local newspapers: *Mornington News, Southern Peninsula News, Westernport News and Frankston News.*

The article below, by SWAN founding member **Judith Graley**, was written on behalf of the **SWAN Voice Referendum Working Group** who hosted a recent Community Information Forum in Rosebud.

If you haven't seen it yet, please take a look and share it with people in your circles, especially with those who are uncertain on how they will vote.

## **SWAN Press Release:**

### **‘YES - A VERY LIBERAL THING TO DO’**

The Southern Women's Action Network (SWAN) held its second Voice Public Forum in Rosebud last Tuesday, featuring former Liberal ACT Chief Minister, Kate Carnell AO. The main theme of her speech was that it is “a very Liberal thing to do, to vote YES on 14th October”.

The well attended event also included Peter Aldenhoven, CEO of Willum Warrain Aboriginal Gathering Place, and Mornington Peninsula legal expert Bryce Paterson.

Ms Carnell commenced the event with an outline of the question being asked at the Referendum, declaring “fundamentally there is nothing to worry about”. She emphasised that “as a Liberal who believes in good policy, not wasting taxpayer money, and promoting personal responsibility, to vote YES is the sensible thing to do”.

Peter Aldenhoven told the audience that at least 80% of First Nations people support the Voice. He stressed that it is needed because if we look back on our past Government policies, including assimilation, the stolen generations and the NT intervention, they have done enduring harm and it needs to stop. The Voice offers new “hope, change, opportunity and possibility” he said.

In one of many poignant moments at the public meeting, Peter Aldenhoven quoted Indigenous footballer Michael Long: “This is an offer of love - we hope mainstream Australians can embrace it - we don't want rage”.

The audience appreciated lawyer Bryce Patterson providing a legal context for understanding the referendum, noting that “it is but 95 extra words in a near 12,000-word document. It would not lead to a raft of litigation, and it would have no power to make laws. The Parliament would make the laws, as it must under the Constitution”.

A robust Q&A chaired by Professor Melissa Castan, Director of the Castan Centre for Human Rights Law, Monash University concluded the event.

All speakers and the MC emphasised what a simple, non-threatening change is requested. Each made it clear that on 15th October, the day after the Referendum, a YES result will mean absolutely no change to the lifestyle of 97% of the population. For the 3% Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander population it will mean a significant change and an opportunity to have a say in what impacts their lives.





**L-R: Erica Churchill with MC Prof Melissa Castan, legal expert Bryce Paterson, former Liberal Chief Minister Kate Carnell AO, and local Indigenous leader Peter Aldenhoven (Photo: Yanni)**

We feel confident this Forum helped audience members to cut through the noise and confusion being circulated in the media, to carefully consider how they will vote. Feedback we received shows that participants really appreciated hearing the perspectives of each of the speakers and were grateful for the well facilitated and wide-ranging discussion in the Q&A that allowed everyone who had a question to ask it.

**Erica Churchill SWAN Facilitator:**

*It was a very successful and informative evening. There were many positive comments afterwards thanking SWAN for hosting an excellent discussion, with participants feeling more able to discuss the referendum with family and friends.”*

*It was especially powerful to hear a Liberal woman, a local Indigenous leader and a legal expert outline clearly how the Voice would work and how important issues like education, health and housing for Aboriginal people would be better delivered, ensuring Government funds would be much more likely to have a lasting impact.*

*It has been disturbing to hear so much misinformation still being spread. SWAN has worked hard to make sure accurate information is being provided to the people of the Mornington Peninsula.*

**Diane McDonald SWAN Committee member:**

*I was very moved by Peter Aldenhoven's response to the question about if the referendum failed. He said it would be 'a bitter pill to swallow' if mainstream Australians voted against government listening to the voices of Aboriginal people. I think everyone at the public meeting went away thinking deeply about the issue.*

**Maureen Donnelly, SWAN member:**

*What impressed me about the public forum is knowing that there are many Liberals who believe strongly in the Voice and will be voting YES. They believe it is the right thing to do.*

# Videos now available: Kate Carnell AO at Rosebud & Teela Reid at Mt Eliza

The video of SWAN's second Community Forum on the VOICE Referendum is now available on our Youtube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@southernwomensactionnetwor1566>

## What is the VOICE Referendum? *If you don't know ... come along and find out*



**Guest Speakers:** Kate Carnell AO, former Liberal Chief Minister  
with Peter Aldenhoven, local Indigenous leader & Bryce Paterson, legal expert  
**MC:** Prof. Melissa Castan, Director Castan Centre for Human Rights Law, Monash University

**TUESDAY 19 SEPTEMBER 7.00-9.00pm**  
**SOUTHERN PENINSULA ARTS CENTRE**  
Rosebud Secondary College, 245 Eastbourne Rd. Rosebud

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Also available on our Youtube channel is the video of SWAN's first Community Forum on the VOICE Referendum: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHua3ynobWOxAUEfOPLt1yQ>

## What is the VOICE Referendum? A Community Discussion

**Keynote Speaker: Teela Reid**

**THURSDAY 20 JULY 7.00-9.00pm**  
**MT ELIZA COMMUNITY HALL**  
90 Canadian Bay Rd MT ELIZA



# 'Our Songlines' Kayla Cartledge: Yes Can Help

Since SWAN's establishment over 27 years ago, many of our members have participated in activities and events held by local First Nations organisations, including Willum Warrain, Nairn Marr Djambana, Living Culture and Baluk Arts. We feel very privileged to have had these opportunities to learn from one another and to develop friendships. Where possible our members have taken action to support the social justice concerns raised by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and to accept their generous request to walk alongside them to create a better future for us all.

The past year has been especially challenging for Australia's First Peoples in the lead up to the Voice Referendum. The impact of the misinformation circulated and the seeds of division sown will be felt for generations. Whatever the outcome of the vote, SWAN will continue to advocate for justice alongside Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.



Take a moment to read this very moving letter written by **Kayla Cartledge**, a dynamic, young Aboriginal woman who lives amongst us and is asking people living in the Mornington Peninsula community to vote YES on 14 October.

Kayla is the founder of **Our Songlines** <https://oursonglines.com/> and hosts the annual 'Our Survival Day' community event held at The Briars each 26 January. (This letter was also published in MP Newspapers on 26/9/23).

## Yes Can Help

"I've lived on the Mornington Peninsula most of my life, have gone to school, worked, and volunteered here.

I believe in fairness and equity. When I volunteered at the libraries to meet with disabled and elderly people to borrow and deliver books to their doors, I knew that offering this service wasn't taking away from other able people. When I volunteered at Habitat for Humanity's op shop, providing houses for those less fortunate, I trusted the team was working hard to ensure that people who needed shelter were able access it.

I never thought there were government departments doing this, so my effort was not needed. I recognised the disconnect between government and what people on the ground truly need and played my part in improving things.

When I donated food and packed hampers for Food for All I didn't ask who would be receiving this food and why they needed it. When I host annual beach clean-ups and tree planting days I never consider it as "someone else's" responsibility.

I believe in taking my place in this society, my home on the peninsula, doing the things people are unable to do and giving a helping hand when I can.

I've never stopped to question what the people I am working with have done to deserve help. I never critiqued their heritage or their worthiness for help.

I am the sort of Aboriginal person that the No campaign does not want you to know about. There are many of us, and we care for everyone.

On 14 October, I'm asking for you to write Yes. Say Yes, just as I have done for this community. Say Yes because it doesn't take anything away from you and because it means a great deal to the people experiencing voicelessness".

*Kayla Cartledge, McCrae*

## Supporting First Nations

### Post-Referendum Event at Willum Warrain

**On Sunday 15<sup>th</sup> October, Willum Warrain Aboriginal Gathering Place will be holding a post-Referendum gathering to commemorate the outcome: 'VOICE REFLECTION'.**

Willum Warrain invites members and allies to the morning which will include a smoking ceremony, yarning and morning tea.

Held from 10.00 - 11.30am at 10c Pound Rd. Hastings, it will be an important occasion for allies like SWAN to show solidarity with First Nations' people.





SWAN members who attended the **Women's Weaving Workshop at Willum Warrain Aboriginal Gathering Place** on 9<sup>th</sup> September (below) would like to thank Ange and all involved for this wonderful cultural experience.

**Next Women's Weaving Workshop:**  
Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> November, 9.30am to 12noon.



WOMEN SUPPORTING WOMEN:  
*'Together Yes' (VWT)*



# Working to Lower the Rate of Aboriginal Youth Incarceration

Recently the Federal member for Dunkley, Peta Murphy, co-hosted a delegation from **Songs for Freedom** and **Big hART** in Parliament.

You may remember **Big hART**'s work in **Frankston North**. It is an extraordinary not-for-profit organisation, who tell stories of disadvantage and social injustice through film, theatre, documentary and music.

**The Songs for Freedom delegation** is currently touring Australia, to draw attention to the disproportionately high rates of incarceration of Aboriginal youth. As they tour around Australia, **Big hART** is meeting with State and Territory Attorneys-General to talk about ways to lower the rate of Aboriginal youth incarceration.



*Marking the 40th Anniversary of the Passing of John Pat in custody, Ngarluma and Yindjibarndi Elders lead Songs for Freedom, raising their voices to heal a nation. [Big hART](#) and the community of Ieramugadu (Roebourne) were honoured to invite the community to a very special concert event, Songs for Freedom.*

*Image: Songs for Freedom 2023 – courtesy of Big hART*

# Online Gambling: Risk & Prevention

## A community conversation about online gambling harm



Join this important conversation about the impact of online gambling, who is at risk of harm and what can be done to prevent it. Time for questions, discussion and a light supper.

**Thursday 12 October, 7-9 pm**  
**Mount Eliza Hall, 90 Canadian Bay Road, Mount Eliza**

- **Peta Murphy MP**, Federal Member for Dunkley on recent federal inquiry into online gambling.
- **Tim Costello AO**, Chief Advocate for reforms to the gambling industry to prevent harm.
- **Daniel Irwin** on his decade long experience of gambling harm.
- **Mount Eliza Football and Netball club** and **Carrum Netball club** will talk about 'Love the Game' program, aiming to reduce the exposure of young people to sports betting promotions.

**FREE EVENT**

**Bookings: [bit.ly/3sR1ovU](https://bit.ly/3sR1ovU)**

P: 0481 094 802

E: [kathleen.vdw@mornpen.vic.gov.au](mailto:kathleen.vdw@mornpen.vic.gov.au)



# 'SWAN Discussion Meeting' up and running!



**In August, SWAN members enjoyed a chat and a cuppa at 'THE HOUSE'**

## **SWAN's very first Discussion Meeting deemed a success!**

As reported in last month's Newsletter, our first discussion meeting on **Sunday 20 August** was very enjoyable, and hopefully the first of many more to come. The purpose of these meetings is for us to get to know other SWAN members in a friendly and informal way as there is not a lot of time for this at the Sunday Speaker Meetings.

July's Speaker topic on 'Homelessness', presented by Belinda Rodman and Kara van der Heyde, provided thoughtful discussion for the group. Three of the group volunteered to advocate further for assistance to resolve the Homelessness situation on the Mornington Peninsula.

Both those present and the newly formed SWAN Committee agreed it would be good to continue this type of get-together in the months between SWAN's Speaker Meetings. At present, 'The House' is a suitable and welcoming venue. Instant coffee, tea, water and biscuits are available, or bring something to share if you want to.

**The next meeting is scheduled for SUNDAY 15<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER, 10.30am – 12noon and all are welcome! A supportive time to gather together after the Referendum result – whichever way it goes!**



# Inspiring Refugee Stories

## Sharing Food and Stories Community Lunch

October

**28**

**12:00 PM - 2:00 PM**

Foyer of New Peninsula  
Baptist Church,  
370 Craigie Road, Mt Martha

**\$40 per person**

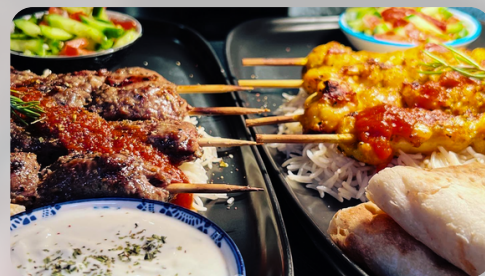
**Free for children aged 5 years or under**

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**Come and enjoy a delicious lunch and  
hear some inspiring refugee stories**

This event connects people who don't normally have the chance to meet; refugees and the local Peninsula community. Over a delicious meal prepared by local chefs, participants will be able to mingle and listen to stories from some inspiring refugee speakers.

This is a not-for-profit event and any income will go to support refugees and local disadvantaged families.



Booking: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/sharing-food-and-stories-community-lunch-tickets-707610651507?aff=oddttdtcreator>



Enquiries: [weisuanlee@gmail.com](mailto:weisuanlee@gmail.com)



# Update on Homelessness from Belinda Rodman

Southern Peninsula Community Support and Mornington Community Support Centre recently hosted a meeting with some interested philanthropists to brief them on the issues and discuss the need to develop an alternative transitional housing option to replace The Ranch Motel.

Homelessness continues to be a major local issue, but we are hopeful that with the increased focus by the media and the State government that some action will start to occur to address the chronic lack of affordable housing. Unfortunately, there are some many underlying issues including lack of supply, planning restrictions, domestic violence, poor public transport etc, that it will be a long road ahead to see significant change.



On the positive side, Southern Peninsula Community Support and Mornington Community Support Centre recently hosted a meeting with some interested philanthropists to brief them on the issues and discuss the need to develop an alternative transitional housing option to replace The Ranch Motel. The Ranch is currently the only such facility on the Peninsula, but it is soon to be redeveloped and will then not be available for us to use. I'm pleased to say that there was strong interest in our proposals and several of the attendees have now formed a Working Group to drive the project forward. I'll keep you posted as things progress.

In the meantime, we continue to offer our wraparound support to those experiencing disadvantage and homelessness.

## **How You Can Help:**

If you'd like to help, this is the current need list for our pantry. For drop-off, our centre's contact details are below. These items are given out to people who come into the centre for

material aid – so people who may not actually be homeless yet but who are certainly in need and struggling:

**Long life milk (1 litre)**  
**Tinned soup**  
**Baked beans/spaghetti**  
**Muesli bars**  
**Full size shampoo**  
**Full size conditioner**  
**Toilet paper**  
**Disposable razors**

Many thanks, Belinda

**Belinda Rodman**  
President Board of Management  
**Southern Peninsula Community Support**  
878 Point Nepean Rd, Rosebud, VIC 3939  
[belinda@spsic.org](mailto:belinda@spsic.org)  
03 5986 1285  
0415 721 317  
[www.spsic.org](http://www.spsic.org)

## Raise the Age Campaign



The Victorian Government is planning to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 12 years of age in 2024, with a possible review to go to 14 with carve outs in 2027. This planned legislation will continue to fail in protecting the rights of very young children.

Read about *Alternatives to Prison* at the 'raisetheage' link below.



**Take Action!** Contact your local MP, Premier and Attorney General to let them know that the age must be raised to at least 14 years of age NOW, with no carve outs.

**Contact details for the Premier, Jacinta Allan:**

[jacinta.allan@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:jacinta.allan@parliament.vic.gov.au)

**Contact details for the Attorney General: Jaclyn Symes:**

[jaclyn.symes@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:jaclyn.symes@parliament.vic.gov.au)

**If you live in the Frankston electorate contact Paul Edbrooke:**

[paul.edbrooke@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:paul.edbrooke@parliament.vic.gov.au)

**If you live in the Mornington electorate contact Chris Crewther:**

[chris.crewther@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:chris.crewther@parliament.vic.gov.au)

**If you live in the Hastings electorate, contact Paul Mecurio:**

[paul.mercurio@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:paul.mercurio@parliament.vic.gov.au)

If you live in the Nepean electorate, contact Sam Groth: [sam.groth@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:sam.groth@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Further information about the 'Raise the Age' Campaign at: <https://raisetheage.org.au>

## Dates for your Diary

- **THURSDAY 12 OCTOBER**, 7 – 9pm: *'A Community Conversation about Online Gambling Harm'* at Mt Eliza Hall, 90 Canadian Bay Rd, Mt Eliza. FREE EVENT: see attached poster for booking and contact details.
- **SUNDAY 15 OCTOBER**, 10.30am – 12noon: *'SWAN Discussion Meeting'*, 'The House' 18 Pitt St. Mornington. All welcome for a chat and a cuppa: a time to gather together after the Referendum result!
- **SUNDAY 15 OCTOBER**, 10 – 11.30am: *'Voice Reflection'*, Willum Warrain, 10c Pound Rd. Hastings. Contact: Karsten 0403 528 034 for details or visit [willumwarrain.org.au](http://willumwarrain.org.au)
- **SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER**, 12.00 – 2.00pm: *'Sharing Food & Stories Community Lunch'*, Foyer of New Peninsula Baptist Church, 370 Craigie Rd, Mt Martha. See attached poster for more details.
- **SATURDAY 28 OCTOBER**, 10.30am – 12noon: *'Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association Gathering Place AGM'*, 10c Pound Rd. Hastings. Contact: Karsten 0403 528 034 or visit [willumwarrain.org.au](http://willumwarrain.org.au)
- **SUNDAY 28 OCTOBER**, 11am – 1.00pm: *'Big Mob Cook-Up'*, Willum Warrain, 10c Pound Rd. Hastings. Contact: Karsten 0403 528 034 or visit [willumwarrain.org.au](http://willumwarrain.org.au)
- **SATURDAY 11 NOVEMBER**, 9.30am - 12pm: *'Women's Weaving Workshop'* Willum Warrain, 10c Pound Rd. Hastings. Contact: Karsten 0403 528 034 or visit [willumwarrain.org.au](http://willumwarrain.org.au)

## Contact Us

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 us know via email **by the first of the month** so that the newsletter may be collated and sent out mid-month. Deadline for our next issue **1<sup>st</sup> November**.

**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](mailto: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.

Postal: PO Box 72 BITTERN VIC 3918

Email: [swanwomen@outlook.com](mailto:swanwomen@outlook.com)

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

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

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

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### Southern Women's Action Network Inc.

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