

Southern Women's Action Network Inc

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

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/southernwomensaction>

Email: swanwomen@outlook.com

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

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



SWAN NEWSLETTER JUNE 2023

OUR monthly newsletter aims to inform readers of current issues and matters of interest. 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 next issue 1st July.

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.

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

WORKSHOPPING SWAN'S FUTURE

At SWAN's last speaker meeting on Sunday 21 May, **Dr Jean Ker Walsh** presented a robust case for the valuable role of **Community-Based Leadership**, particularly addressing concerns raised in SWAN's recent publication of the organisation's 26-year history '*When Women Meet*'. Those members who contributed to '*When Women Meet*' were asked their views about how SWAN might be further developed. Four key themes emerged. Interestingly, these themes were suggested both by *founding members* based on their understanding of why SWAN was established and mirrored by more *recent members*. Concerns included our organisation's future role in social justice advocacy work and the efficacy of SWAN's current model for its bi-monthly meetings.

Using the role SWAN can play in the lead up to the *Voice Referendum* as an example, a '**Kitchen Table Model**' designed by Dr Jean Ker Walsh and Diane McDonald and facilitated by Moz Lucas, was role-played by a small group of SWAN members. The larger audience of members observed and then provided feedback on this model of engagement. Following critical and very useful feedback on the model's viability, Dr Jean Ker Walsh then divided us up and workshoped with all audience members across four 'Kitchen Tables' of 5-6 members per table who enthusiastically brainstormed one of the following 4 key themes relating to SWAN's future:

1. **Strengthen advocacy and activism, including developing working groups on specific social justice concerns.**
2. **Broaden the diversity of the SWAN membership, including attracting younger members.**

3. **Encourage members to join the SWAN Committee.**
4. **Identify strategies to better promote SWAN and its activities.**

Follow up from the workshop results are currently being collated and discussed by the Committee. We'll let you know what happens next and how you can be involved as this project progresses.

OUR BOOK *When Women Meet*, by Diane McDonald with the help of Judith Couacaud Graley and other members, celebrates 26 years of SWAN activity and its wonderful women. It is a good read and a worthwhile souvenir which is still available for purchase at \$15. Contact Diane on 0404 417 485

POSITIVE AGING ON THE PENINSULA

As there has been much concern expressed about services intended to assist the elderly to continue living at home, Flinders Probus Club is conducting an on-line survey to discover conceptions and misconceptions held about accessing vital services, both for now and in the future. A particular focus also, is on gathering stories of "Lived Experiences" from Peninsula residents who are impacted by the minefield of assessment or the privatisation of Ageing in the Home.

Therefore, with your support, they hope to amplify their voice in an attempt to clarify the route of access to "Positive Ageing at Home". The survey and the personal stories will remain completely anonymous. They do not need to know who you are.

SWAN members and friends are invited to participate in this survey via this link:

<https://shout.com/s/xZx5qEii>

Probus plans eventually to combine information that you give into a practical report. If you have any questions please contact: Rose White, President Probus Club of Flinders: 0448 898 003

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Our guest speakers for the next SWAN meeting on Sunday 16 July, will give you the truth about housing and homelessness on the peninsula; the hidden epidemic.

Belinda Rodman (President / Chair – Fundraising & Marketing committee, Finance & Governance committee) and Kara Van Der Heyde (Assertive Outreach Worker) work at the Southern Peninsula Community Support Centre. They are at the coal face of the housing crisis. Every day, the numbers of people seeking support are increasing. Hear about the programs they are running to support our community and how you can support their work.

Meet and greet at 9:30 for a 10am start.

Look out for this event flyer coming soon. Despi O'Connor

SWAN SUPPORTING FIRST NATIONS

TOGETHER YES

As you may already know, the 'Together Yes' resource materials are now available for those people who signed up to be a Kitchen Table conversation host. These materials have been prepared by the Victorian Women's Trust in conjunction with the **Yes 23** campaign team. If you haven't already signed up to join this community education process you can do so via the following link: <https://togetheryes.com.au>

In the past few months some SWAN members have met to discuss how we might support one another to conduct Kitchen Table conversations with our neighbours, family members and friends. If you would like to join this Kitchen Table support group please contact Moz Lucas at: maureenfrances21@gmail.com for further details.

OTHER WAYS TO SUPPORT THE YES CAMPAIGN

Dean Parkin from the **Yes 23** campaign team asks all Allies for Uluru to sign and share a pledge to vote 'YES' in the referendum. Find out more and pledge your support at: <https://alliesforuluru.antar.org.au>

Things we can do to support the Uluru Statement from the Heart and its call for a Voice

1. Support and engage in **First Nations events**, including those on Voice
2. Support and engage in **'YES' events by Allies**
3. Join or facilitate **Kitchen Table conversations**
4. **Informal conversations** as opportunities arise
5. Wear the **'YES' badge /t-shirt**
6. Be **proactive within your organisation/setting/network** (employer, retirement village, book club, church, etc) to support and promote the Voice, including distributing support media
7. Write **letters and media** articles

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

It's great to see so many letters in support of an Indigenous Voice, that are bring written by SWAN members and published in MP News and via other media outlets. This includes, Diane Johnstone, Maureen Donnelly, Marg Darcy and Marilyn Hoban to name a few. Please keep up the momentum in refuting the misinformation and disinformation that is circuiting in various quarters.

WHAT OUR FEDERAL MPs SAID RECENTLY IN PARLIAMENT ABOUT THE VOICE

In case you missed it, listen to the speech given in Parliament on 23 May by **Peta Murphy**, the Federal Member for Dunkley re the enshrinement of an Indigenous Voice in the Constitution:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7qs20472_Gs

In contrast, here is a link to the speech given by **Zoe McKenzie**, the Federal Member for Flinders about why she will vote NO in the Referendum:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dweijQk1ZT4>

Read also why some signed up members of the Liberal Party have decided to vote YES:

https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/jun/07/vote-liberal-you-should-vote-yes-for-an-indigenous-voice-to-parliament-referendum?CMP=Share_iOSApp_Other



Kingston Council letter-boxes residents in support of the Uluru Statement: *As previously reported, a number of LGA's are publicly supporting 'Voice, Treaty, Truth' but not as yet FCC or MPSC - remember to lobby your local council to keep up the pressure!*

SOME USEFUL LINKS AND RESOURCES

The updated Government website on the Indigenous Voice provides some very helpful resources, including excellent and accessible community conversation materials. You can access this at: <https://voice.gov.au>

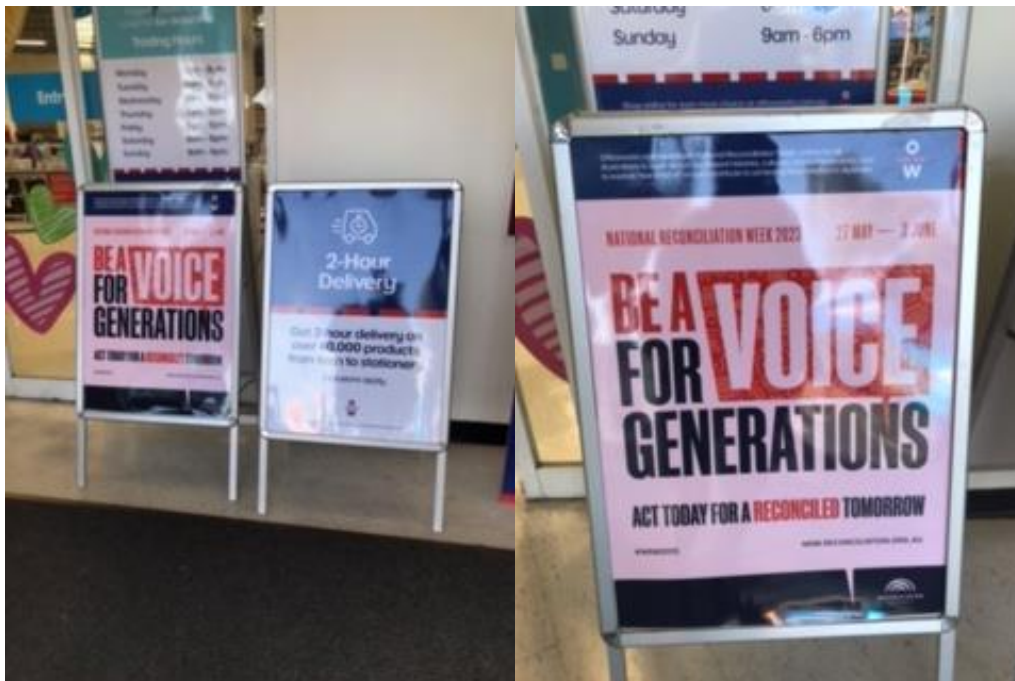
Head to Farrell's in Main St Mornington or another reputable bookstore and purchase a copy of the recently published *'The Voice to Parliament Handbook'* by Thomas Mayo and Kerry O'Brien. This low cost book provides 'all the detail that you need' to make an informed decision at the referendum.

SWAN member, Marg Darcy is a member of the **Yes 23** Mornington Peninsula campaign team. To purchase **Yes 23** badges and t-shirts email: mpyes23@mpyes23.org

CONNECTING WITH YOUR ORGANISATION OR COMMUNITY

Maureen Donelly has suggested these strategies to encourage your organisation and/or various communities to engage with the YES campaign:

1. Check out if they have a Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). If so, request for them to adopt a 'YES' Position and to make this public.
2. If they don't have a RAP, find a way to link to their responsibility to act. For example, I have asked Learning Difficulties Australia (no RAP) of which I am a member, to adopt a 'YES' stance because of their commitment to equity in literacy for disadvantaged children, and the over-representation of Indigenous children.
3. Monitor what happens next. For example, in what ways is the organisation ensuring their message of support for the Voice is disseminated to their members, employees, networks, etc? This step is really important as it seems a number of on-side organisations don't filter the message through to their cohorts.
4. Follow up and enlist support. For example, in the case of Learning Difficulties Australia, another colleague who is consultant to the organisation has been helping with contacts.
5. Explore the degree of what an organisation can do to make its support visible to people on the street. For example, we know that the big banks are YES supporters - so why don't they have posters up in their banks? The list of corporates supporting the Voice is huge and growing, such as Wesfarmers, Coles, Woolworths, Officeworks, and so on, as well as major sporting codes and faith-based organisations. Another idea would be to lobby Op Shops like Salvos and Vinnies - imagine posters in every Op Shop window in Australia!



A VOICE ALLY: Spotted at the entrance to OFFICEWORKS Mornington during Reconciliation Week: *'Officeworks acknowledges National Reconciliation Week, a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures, and achievements, and to explore how each of us can contribute to achieving reconciliation in Australia'*

LOCAL FIRST NATIONS NEWS AND EVENTS

On Sunday May 21st, a **Community Forum on the Voice to Parliament** with guest speaker **The Hon Linda Burney MP** took place in Seaford, organised by **Peta Murphy MP**, catering by Nairm Marr Djambana. Several SWAN members attended who reported the event was booked out, despite the 9am Sunday start, predominantly by enthusiastic 'YES' supporters.

During **Reconciliation Week May 27 – June 3**, a number of very successful local events took place, including:

Nairm Marr Djambana Aboriginal Gathering Place commenced the week with a Smoking Ceremony, flag-raising and a delicious morning tea prepared by the team at Djambana Catering (DC) social enterprise. Read the moving speech given by two local First Nations students about the importance of Reconciliation Week for them and their hopes for Australia's future:

Hello everyone, my name is Jenaya, and this is my beautiful sister Marley. We are both proud Wiradjuri women... We are standing up here today talking about what National Reconciliation Week is and what it means to us as two Aboriginal women, who are proud of who we are, and proud of our people.

I would like to start by acknowledging the traditional owners of the land that we gather on today, the Bunurong people of the Kulin Nations. It always was and always will be Aboriginal land. This is Bunurong Country. I am lucky enough to live and learn on their country. I want to thank the Bunurong people for allowing us all to do this. I want to thank their ancestors who have returned to the Dreaming who have carried their memories and traditions that have forged the path for emerging leaders and who have protected this land and its ecosystems since time immemorial. With gratitude and respect, we tread lightly on this country. And I want to thank my own ancestors for guiding and protecting me wherever I leave footprints.

I would like to thank those who have allowed us to stand on their shoulders, and pay respects to Bunurong Elders past, present and emerging. I extend this to all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people here today. We are celebrating National Reconciliation Week. National Reconciliation Week is a time for all Australians to come together and reflect on the history's, culture, achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders peoples, it also encourages all Australians to take meaningful steps towards Reconciliation. The dates for NRW remain the same each year, 27 May to 3 June - these dates are for two milestones — the successful 1967 referendum, and the High Court Mabo decision.

The theme for National Reconciliation Week this year, is 'Be a Voice for Generations'. Reconciliation Australia's research shows a lot of community support for the next steps in Australia's reconciliation journey, including the Voice to Parliament, treaty making and truth-telling. The 2023 theme, 'Be a Voice for Generations', urges all Australians to use their power, their words and their vote to create a better, more just Australia for all of us.

Today, we are asking you to stand and act with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. This year in Victoria, we are on the path to Treaty. Nationally, we're going to vote

on the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Voice to Parliament. So, we ask you to do more than turn up to a National Reconciliation Week event. We ask you to put us in the spotlight and allow us to define the issues that impact us. Celebrate our successes. Understand that some spaces can only be ours. We know you may not always get it right, but we just ask that you always be ready to listen and to learn.

On behalf of my sister and I we would like to thank Aunty Deb and the Nairm Marr Djambana staff for allowing us to take part in such a special time for all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and thank you for supporting all Aboriginal student's community wide. When we celebrate together, we are working to build relationships and communities that value Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples, histories, cultures, and futures.

This event was followed a couple of days later by **Bay Mob Expo**. This attracted several hundred Indigenous and non-Indigenous community members who had the chance to view a wide range of displays and join in activities that promoted local First Nations organisations. The crowd enjoyed an appetising BBQ lunch in the warm winter sunshine, cooked by DC kitchen staff with support from SWAN volunteers.

To cap off the week, Nairm hosted **Jessie Llyod**, acclaimed Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander singer, social historian and cultural practitioner of Indigenous song, and founder of her award-winning *Mission Songs Project*. Jessie entertained community members with her moving harmonies and storytelling, shared with her by island families and song women in various languages and dialects: <https://nit.com.au/24-05-2022/3144/jessie-lloyd-reimagines-torres-strait-islander-folk-music-in-new-album>

Willum Warrain Aboriginal Gathering Place's Cultural Forum on an Indigenous Voice

On May 31st, Reuben Berg (proud Gunditjmara man and First Peoples Assembly elected representative) spoke on the Victorian Treaty experience in relation to the upcoming Referendum. Peter Aldenhoven (CEO of Willum Warrain and proud Quandamooka man) provided an historical context to the Voice. Proud Palawa woman, Jeanette Kaindel and President of the Willum Warrain Board chaired the discussion. Both men presented arguments in support of Voice before a Q & A session concluded the night. Willum Warrain said they had been heartened to have so many allies in attendance and hear the commitment from local organisations like SWAN and 'Yes 23' Mornington Peninsula branch, to the YES campaign.

PLEASE NOTE The Women's Weaving Group, scheduled for Saturday 17th June has been cancelled due to illness.

**WILLUM WARRAIN 'VOICE'
FORUM**

*L-R: Peter Aldenhoven,
Jeanette Kaindel, and
Reuben Berg*



This highly successful forum provided information to enable those present, and those they might outreach, to vote responsibly in the forthcoming Referendum on the Voice, with an overwhelming support for the Voice evident amongst the many participants. The forum addressed the disinformation and misinformation currently aimed at undermining a YES outcome.

Reconciliation Walk

On June 4th at **Willum Warrain**, a fantastic turnout of reportedly 2000 plus people - First Nations and allies – walked in support of this year's Reconciliation theme '*Be a Voice for Generations*'. SWAN members were ever-present assisting with catering and serving, as well as road marshalling. 'YES' placards were prominent along with 'YES' badges and t-shirts for sale, and Paul Mercurio MP gave a stirring speech declaring his Referendum vote will be 'YES'. First Nation's musicians added to the positivity and celebratory nature of the day.



RECONCILIATION WALK 2023: '*Be a Voice for Generations*'

UPCOMING EVENTS

Willum Warrain Women's Business welcomes any SWAN members interested to come along to our weaving session on **Saturday 17 June**. Join us for a bit of a yarn while we are weaving traditional style. We are located at 10c Pound Rd, Hastings. Drop in any time between 9.30am and 12.

NAIDOC WEEK

Nairm Marr Djambana is hosting its annual **NAIDOC Week Dinner Dance** at Mornington Racecourse on **Saturday 1 July**. Click this link for further information:

<https://www.facebook.com/photo/?fbid=629295315898643&set=a.618920270269481>

Tickets can be purchased by emailing: admin@djambana.org.au

On **Sunday 2 July**, **Our Songlines** is teaming up with **Landcare's 'Greens Bush to Arthurs Seat Biolink'** program to host its annual **Tree Planting** event. This commences at 9.30am in Main Ridge with a Welcome to Country by Traditional Custodian, Jillian West. Further details are provided via the link below. You are encouraged to register for this FREE event. Tools and lunch will be provided.

<https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/naidoc-week-tree-planting-tickets-634543224867>

Also on **Sunday 2 July**, **Peter Aldenhoven**, CEO of Willum Warrain will address a forum on the **Indigenous Voice**. This event is being held at St Mark's Uniting Church, 50 Barkly St. Mornington between 2.00-4.00pm.

Looking for local catering?

If you are involved in an organisation or community group that is hosting an NAIDOC Week event and you are exploring options to provide your guests with an appetising lunch or morning/afternoon tea, contact **Djambana Catering** and ask about their Indigenous inspired and traditional menu at <https://www.djambana.org.au/catering/>

Djambana Catering is an accredited social enterprise that provides wellbeing support and employment opportunities for the local First Nations community.

SWAN PUBLIC FORUM ON THE VOICE WITH TEELA REID

SWAN's own Public Forum on the Referendum for a Constitutionally Enshrined Indigenous Voice to Parliament is now set! The forum will take place at Mt Eliza in July – next month! Read the attached poster for all the details of this major free event open to ALL THE COMMUNITY, not just SWAN members. TICKETS ARE FREE BUT LIMITED – go to: <https://www.trybooking.com/CIWVF>

Planning for a **second SWAN Community Forum** is underway, scheduled for August/September in Rosebud. We'll keep you abreast of developments. Importantly, your

help in promoting, setting up beforehand and assisting on the day will be much appreciated. See below.

HELP - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Are you the 'Queen of pick-up and delivery', or a 'professional chair placement' person? Perhaps you have mastered the skill of 'Welcome' or serve a mean cup of coffee or tea?

THANKS TO THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY OFFERED ASSISTANCE – *BUT* – WE NEED YOUR HELP TOO!

1. If you live in Mt Eliza, Mornington or Mt Martha, we need some willing walkers to drop flyers about the Public Forum being held at the Mt Eliza Community Hall, in letter boxes. Ideally the letter boxing needs to be done during the first two weeks of July.
2. We would also appreciate your help to deliver A3 size posters to businesses and community places, asking them to display these in public areas.
3. We need some volunteers to collect and bring various items to the Mt Eliza Community Hall on the afternoon of 20 July. This includes: banners, crockery and items for the SWAN info table.
4. We also need help on the late afternoon of 20 July to set up the hall and to pack up this furniture at the end of the forum. This includes chairs and a few tables.

Please let us know asap if you can help. Letter box walkers please contact Diane McDonald by email at: dianemcdonald.consult@gmail.com

If you can help the day before (19 July) or on the day of the forum (20 July) contact Susan Blackburn by text to: 0414 253 345 or email: sbmhome@hotmail.com

Please tell us:

- a) Your name.
- b) Your contact details.
- c) What you prefer to do.
- d) When you can be available ie. 2 weeks prior to the event for flyer distribution (first week in July) OR a day prior (19 July) to collect things OR on the day of the event (20 July).

N.B. The event starts at 7pm but volunteers are required from 5pm to 9.30pm.

You do not have to assist for the whole period - a couple of hours would certainly help.

We look forward to hearing from you. Warm regards, Susan and Diane.