



SWAN Newsletter

Women striving for
Social Justice

Volume 13 Issue 3

Southern Women's Action Network Inc.
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July 2013

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Aunty Janet Turpie-Johnson Our NAIDOC Speaker



ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE 2012-2013

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Daphne Fergusson

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Gwen Fletcher

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Rosemary Race

Newsletter Co-ordinator

Gwen White

Public Officer

Barb Godfrey

Website Co-ordinator

Rosemarie Draper

Purchasing Officer

Pauline Young

Committee

Member and

Raffle

Claire Chandler

June Rance



Members are
welcome to
attend Committee meetings.

Janet Turpie - Johnson is a salt water woman. She was born in Portland and grew up in the Western District. Janet has spent most of her life in Melbourne but hopes to return to the bush when she retires.

She has had many different roles and is a woman of religion who became an Anglican priest but has also worked in secretarial, finance officer roles, has done some acting and has been a life long student.

Janet has served the Aboriginal Community in Melbourne in various roles and is currently on the Board of Mullum Mullum Indigenous Gathering Place, Boorndawan Willam, Indigenous Family Violence Regional Gathering Place, Indigenous Advisory Council to the Yarra Ranges Council and various other community roles.

Janet will share her experiences and talk about her many and varied roles in serving the Aboriginal community.

Mel Gillon and Nicky Mih May Speakers Human trafficking and the Sex Trade in Cambodia

When Mel Gillon and Nicky Mih arrived, SWAN members settled in for their informed talk.

But this was not like any other talk I have ever experienced at SWAN meetings. Both young women were knowledgeable, informed and so committed to making a difference for the women, particularly very young women, whose cause they pursue. The terrible treatment of girls as young as 5 years old!!! was horrifying and almost impossible to comprehend.

The commitment of these two young women to supporting the rescue and nurturing of young Cambodians from Sex Slavery was amazing. Mel's involvement as the Melbourne link of the "Project Futures" family has led to her organisation of fundraising cycling trips to support the Somaly Mam projects in Cambodia.

Nicky founded the "Free to Shine" initiative, also as a response to Somaly Mam's book. "Free to Shine" identifies girls at risk, then sets about supporting their families to keep their girls in education providing long-term scholarships.

We've all read about Sex trafficking in SE Asia in the media, but Mel and Nicky's information was confronting. They managed to personalise the shocking reality relating their first hand experiences and stories of Somaly Mam.

They suggested a number of ways that SWAN members can help:

- * Purchase Somaly Mam's book "The Road of Lost Innocence"
- * Attend a "Project Futures" fundraiser
- * Check out both their websites for further action
- * Sponsor through "Free to Shine"



SWAN Dates—2013

SUNDAY 15 SEPTEMBER

tbc

SUNDAY 17 NOVEMBER

**Judith Graley MP
Women in Government
And
Establishing SWAN**



SWAN Indigenous Bursary Winner Penelope Scott



Gwen White (left), with Penelope Scott and Marilyn Godley at the Graduate Women Victoria Scholarship presentation on June 8th

This year, the SWAN Indigenous Bursary, combined with the Marilyn Godley Scholarship, was awarded to Penelope Scott. Penelope is completing her Masters in Law at Melbourne University and was a most impressive recipient.

Penelope's thesis for her Masters focuses on the Social Justice issue of "Junior Wages". In her "spare" time, she has a passionate interest in gathering information through her blog relating to low income housing concerns.

The scholarship will allow her to spend more time on her studies rather than worry about meeting bills and taking on part-time work.

Marilyn had the honour of presenting her Award at an inspiring ceremony where 14 very impressive Graduate women received Awards.

This and That

Website News

Rosemarie Draper, Rosemary Race and Lynn Carpenter have been working hard, meeting with our Web Consultants and have the site up and running. The Web address is SWANwomen.org.au On it you will find information about SWAN his-

tory, pictures, and other events. In the next few weeks, it will have a copy of the old Constitution and the new 2013 Constitution for you to view. As we will be voting on the adoption of the new Constitution at our AGM in September, you may like to read through the updates we

have made. Congratulations to our hard working Committee members.

Asylum Seekers Needs The Asylum Seeker Centre is desperately in need of Blankets. If you would like to bring these to the next SWAN Meeting, we

The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil, is for good people to do nothing.

Many thanks to

SECRET GARDEN

Who supply us with our beautiful flowers



SHARE TABLE

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



SUNDAY 21ST JULY

ELDER AUNTY JANET TURPIE-JOHNSON

- Elder Aunty Janet Turpie-Johnson is a salt water woman from Portland
- She has been ordained as an Anglican priest
- She has served the Aboriginal Community in Melbourne in various roles.
- Janet will share her experiences and talk about her many and varied roles in servicing the Aboriginal Community

This and That (continued)

will take these to the Centre on your behalf. Hundreds of individuals on Community Detention and Bridging visas have arrived in Dandenong this year. Many thanks in advance.

SWAN Accounting
At our May SWAN meeting door takings plus Raffle

monies totalled \$451.00. Of this, \$150 is donated to a Social Justice cause that our speakers nominate. Also our Speakers each receive a \$50 Book voucher as thanks for their efforts.

AGM at the September Meeting
In September, we will be

electing a new Administrative Committee for 2013-14. Several of our Committee members have worked for a number of years and will step down. PLEASE consider being nominated to become part of this friendly group. Personally, I am wanting to train someone to take over the newsletter in 2014-15.

SWAN sincerely 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 meetings.



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

9.30AM — cost \$8

**Bookings no longer required.
Please feel free to arrive at future meetings
without confirming your attendance.
A yummy morning tea will await you.**