

## Southern Women's Action Network Inc

Reg: A0038144Z, ABN. 50 089 314 052

P.O. Box 72 BITTERN 3918

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

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

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

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

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

Donations: [www.trybooking.com/au/donate/swan](http://www.trybooking.com/au/donate/swan)



## SWAN NEWS JULY 2023

### WHATS ON

In response to the deliberations at the May meeting, we will trial a **discussion meeting** in the even months between meetings. Mostly to get to know each other better but with some discussion on actions which we could take as a result of the previous speaker. 10.30 a.m on the third Sunday - so the first one will be 20<sup>th</sup> August. Please save the date. The initial venue will be advised and the group will decide on future venues once we have some idea of how many come along.

**SPEAKER MEETING** This month we hope to see many SWAN members attend our speaker meeting this Sunday 16<sup>th</sup>, 9.30 for 10 am at Mount Martha Community Hall, when you will hear *Belinda Rodman and Kara Van Der Hyde* from the Southern Peninsula Community Support Centre address the problem of housing and homelessness.

Please consider a SWAN Bursary donation.



### **SWAN BURSARY DONATIONS**

You are probably aware that over the years SWAN has supported various bursaries. Details of these are included in "When Women Meet". Since 2011 Bursaries have been organised through Graduate Women Victoria (GWV). Currently the SWAN bursary is awarded to a disadvantaged Masters student whose study and career plans focus on human rights/social justice issues at the local, national or international level.

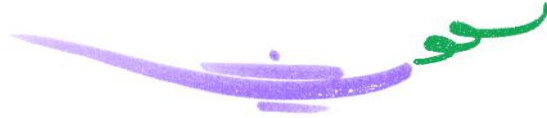
All SWAN Bursary winners have been very deserving and very appreciative of the assistance provided by the Bursary which allows them to focus on their studies, rather than needing to work or to worry about finances.

At the August committee meeting, the committee will need to decide how much in total we can contribute to the 2024 SWAN Bursary. ***Now is the time to donate if you plan to do so.***

The Bursary is for \$3,500. If SWAN does not manage to fund all this, other donors make up the difference. Nevertheless, it is embarrassing when (as has happened) we can only provide \$500. Previously a reasonable donation could be made from SWAN funds. However, meetings on Zoom brought in very few donations and funds are still a bit short, which restricts our ability to donate to the Bursary from SWAN funds.

If you would like to and are able to support the 2023 SWAN Bursary with any donation, small or large, it will really help. *Donations can be made online, or by cheque directly to GWV, or via the donation box at meetings, or by cheque to the Treasurer, P.O. Box 72, Bittern Vic 3918.* If you have any questions, please call Erica on 0404 811 422.

Further details of how to donate directly to GWV follow:



## **GRADUATE WOMEN VICTORIA**

### Donations to Scholarship Sub Fund

Funds to support Graduate Women Victoria's Scholarship Program are held by Australian Communities Foundation.

Donations to Graduate Women Victoria Donors Fund with Australian Communities Foundation are tax deductible.

**To donate online** go to the Australian Communities Foundation website:

<http://communityfoundation.org.au>

and search for Graduate Women Victoria Donors Fund.

Please ensure you put "SWAN Bursary" in the comments. Follow the prompts to pay using credit card or direct debit. A receipt will be issued to your email address.

No credit card fees are incurred for online transactions.

**To mail a donation** Fill in the details below and post with cheque made out to Australian Communities Foundation to:

Australian Communities Foundation  
Level 6, 126 Wellington Parade  
East Melbourne VIC 3002

I request this donation to Australian Communities Foundation be placed within the Graduate Women Victoria Scholarship Donors Fund (tax-deductible) **and marked for the SWAN Bursary.**

..... (signed)

*Donations are tax deductible. A receipt will be issued. Please provide contact details:*

Name: .....

Address.....Postcode .....

Phone: ..... Email.....

## ACTION TO ADDRESS YOUTH CRIMINALISATION



Late last year the SWAN Committee planned to send a petition to the Premier Daniel Andrews demanding that the Victorian Government raise the age of criminalisation to at least 14 years. This action was put on hold due to the 'lock down period' associated with the pending State election. The Committee is currently investigating the best way for SWAN members to continue to advocate against this injustice. Maureen Donnelly has sought advice from local First Nations people on the best way for us to proceed.

In addition, suggestions on the 'Raise the Age' campaign website include writing letters to MPs and circulating information on social media e.g., Facebook, Instagram etc. Members might also print a copy of the attached flyer and send it by 'snail mail post' to the Attorneys General and local MPs.

# SUPPORTING FIRST NATIONS

## NAIDOC WEEK ON THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA



**Traditional Dance group at Nairm Marr Djambana NAIDOC WEEK Dinner Dance**

Over 370 people attended the NAIDOC Dinner Dance at Mornington Racecourse on Saturday 1 July. This joyous, celebratory event was hosted by Nairm Marr Djambana Aboriginal Gathering Place. Participants were entertained by the traditional dance troupe, 'Bantok Tati', accompanied by the melodious, rhythmic sound of the Didgeridoo: <https://www.casey.vic.gov.au/events/bandok-tati-digital-story-launch>. They then danced well into the night to more contemporary music provided by 'Rusty Nails'.

On 3 July two moving NAIDOC Flag Raising events were conducted in the Frankston – Mornington Peninsula area. These important annual activities included a Welcome to Country and smoking ceremony conducted by the Bunurong Land Council. The first event was held at Nairm Marr Djambana followed by the launch of the Elders Photo and Story Exhibition and a delicious morning tea prepared by Djambana Catering. The second event was held at Willum Warrain Aboriginal Gathering Place, following which participants enjoyed the chance to yarn and share stories over afternoon tea.



**My Story Photo Exhibition at Nairm Marr Djambana**



## SWAN PUBLIC FORUMS ON THE VOICE

Registrations for SWAN's free Public Forum on the Referendum for a Constitutionally Enshrined Indigenous Voice to Parliament are building! **Register now – if you haven't already – to secure your seat.** Teela Reid is our keynote speaker and there will be ample time for audience Q&A – open to ALL THE COMMUNITY – not just SWAN members. The forum is at Mt Eliza Community Hall **this Thursday July 20 at 7pm!** See the attached poster for more details. Register at: <https://www.trybooking.com/CIWVF>

Planning for a **second SWAN Community Forum** – this time in Rosebud - is continuing, scheduled for **September/October**, avoiding the Thursday – Sunday timeslot for the AFL Finals! Further updates in next month's newsletter.

## THANK YOU!

Without doubt, the actualisation of these important Community Forums is due to the concerted efforts of a dedicated and persistent group of SWAN members - **SWAN Voice Forum Working Group** - namely, Diane McDonald, Susan Blackburn, Moz Lucas, Judith Graley, Mechelle Cheers and Erica Churchill. Tasks undertaken include securing notable and knowledgeable speakers, venue confirmation, event planning and logistics, publicity and sponsorship, funding and administration. Putting up posters and letterboxing for the Mt Eliza event was carried out in all weathers by Vivienne Daniels, Lynne Carpenter, Gillian Adam, Marilyn Hoban, and Diane Johnstone with her 14-year-old grandson Jordan and 3 of the family dogs! - along with members of the SWAN Voice Forum Working Group mentioned above. Additionally, volunteer supporter Marg Darcy continues to provide key logistical support – Marg you're a legend! - while Val Campbell and Lynette Wilks are giving valuable input and much needed moral support. A HUGE THANK YOU to all for your time and commitment!

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# What is the VOICE Referendum?

## A Community Discussion



### Guest Speaker: TEELA REID

Teela, a proud Wiradjuri and Wailwan woman, is an inspirational leader, lawyer, writer and commentator, and is currently appointed to the Federal Government's Referendum Engagement Group, providing strategic input on a First Nations Voice to Parliament.

In this Forum, Teela's focus is on '... properly informing people, whether they sit on the No or Yes case ... that they are making an informed decision'.

**DATE: THURSDAY 20 JULY 7pm**

**VENUE: MT ELIZA COMMUNITY HALL 90 Canadian Bay Rd MT ELIZA**

**ENTRY: Free, bookings essential: <https://www.trybooking.com/CIWVF> or scan the QR Code**

**HOSTED BY SOUTHERN WOMENS ACTION NETWORK (SWAN)**

providing a respectful environment to give factual information and an opportunity for you to ask questions.

**EVERYONE WELCOME!**





[\\$5635 raised! - we are almost there for Maryam and her family](#)

Katie Shafar, our May 2022 speaker from BRASA helping refugees and asylum-seekers, is organizing this fundraising appeal, on behalf of Maryam Begum. Any questions call Katie on 0408 102 552

[chuffed.org](http://chuffed.org)

<https://chuffed.org/project/ud0fhdy cubicilk>

**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 1<sup>st</sup> August.**

**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](mailto: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.