

# SWAN Newsletter



Women striving for  
**Social Justice**

Volume 13 Issue 5

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ADMINISTRATIVE  
COMMITTEE  
2013-2014

**Facilitator**

Pam Blazsanyik

**Secretary**

Lynn Carpenter

**Correspondence Secretary**

Rosemary Race

**Treasurer**

Rosemary Maughan

**Speaker Co-Ordinator**

-

**Minutes Secretary**

-

**Newsletter Co-ordinator**

Gwen White

**Website Co-ordinator**

Rosemarie Draper

**Purchasing Officer**

Pauline Young

**Committee Member and**

**Raffle**

Claire Chandler

Wendy Barnes



Members are  
welcome to  
attend Committee meetings.

Southern Women's Action Network Inc.  
Reg No A0038144Z, ABN 84 41627 1331  
PO Box 392 Mt Martha 3934

## Judith Graley MP Founding Member of SWAN

We are delighted to welcome Judith Graley as our guest speaker this month. As a founding member of SWAN, we have much for which to thank her. Furthermore, Judith has occupied a number of roles serving her community, initially through her roles in a range of educational settings, through various positions in local government to her current position as the MLA for Narre Warren South and Parliamentary Secretary to the Leader of the Opposition since February 2012.

Judith lives locally and is married with 2 daughters and a son.

As a qualified teacher, Judith has taught at both High Schools and at the University of Melbourne. She has been a board member of Peninsula Health, an Electorate Officer, a councillor on Mornington Peninsula Shire Council for both Kangerong and Mt Martha wards, the Mayor of Mornington Peninsula Shire Council (2000-2001) and is currently serving her community as a Member of the Legislative Assembly, a position she has held since 2006. Hers is a history of vision, concern for others and action.

Judith also lists a wide range of other interests including reading, cinema, walking and the Western Bulldogs. We eagerly look forward to her return to SWAN.



## SWAN sincerely thanks

**Judith Graley for printing and facilitating distribution of the newsletters and, Mornington Council for provision of a comfortable and convenient space for our meetings.**

## Dr Caroline Norma Challenging our thinking on Prostitution

Dr Caroline Norma set out to critique the Government's legalisation of prostitution in Australia, and introduce us to what she believes is a superior policy adopted in 1999 by the Swedish Government and subsequently by Korea, Norway and Iceland.

The Australian approach to the legalisation of prostitution is philosophically underpinned by the concept of harm minimisation. Harm minimisation is a policy approach that purports to protect prostituted women from male violence, the public from sexually transmitted diseases, and the community from organised crime.

She referred to a small amount of empirical evidence that significant numbers of sex workers in brothels are pressured to accept unprotected sex and physical violence, suggesting problems with the current policy. She hinted at the Government's inability to deal with street prostitution.

Whilst acknowledging that the Governments approach is a sincere effort "to make the best of a bad situation", Dr Norma aimed to convince us that the focus needed to change. She strongly advocated closer investigation of a more human rights oriented approach as exists in the Scandanavian counties - "Criminalisation of buyers of prostituted people, decriminalisation of prostituted people as victims of crime and public education as to human rights violation of prostitution." She cited figures of a decrease in the rate of "Swedish men buying women" and a "cut by half in street based prostitution."

Dr Caroline Norma (right), and our Speaker Coordinator, Gwen Fletcher



### SWAN Dates—2013-14

Make sure you have written these SWAN dates on your calendar for 2014. Again SWAN intends to have dynamic, socially conscious women to challenge our thinking.

**SUNDAY  
16th MARCH**

**SUNDAY  
18TH MAY**

**SUNDAY  
20TH JULY**

**SUNDAY  
21 SEPTEMBER  
AGM**

## SWAN Committee news

A huge congratulations to the Committee of 2012-13 for their continued dedication and willing efforts to do all the behind the scenes administration for SWAN to remain true to its values of promoting social justice issues. To our outgoing members, we say many thanks. In particular, we are indebted to Gwen Fletcher for her excellent work in sourcing and liaising with our fascinating variety of guest speakers over the last three years. Many thanks to Daphne Fergusson, our retiring Minutes Secretary, who has done a wonderful job organising us all for the past three years. June Rance has also been active, first as Treasurer (2011 & 12) then as a Committee member. Many thanks to you, June.

Unfortunately, we had no replacements nominated at the AGM, which is a problem we will need to discuss at our November Meeting.

**SWAN is such a worthwhile organisation with a proud tradition of providing a forum for the women of the Peninsula for 18 years!! Please consider nominating for the role of Speaker Coordinator or Minutes Secretary and join our friendly collaborative committee. For the position of Speaker Coordinator, Gwen Fletcher has already tentatively contacted three potential speakers and all of us on the Committee would be only too willing to offer you support in fulfilling the role.**



### SWAN Indigenous Bursary

#### Letter from Margaret James Scholarship Secretary Graduate Women of Victoria

“You will be interested to hear that Penny Scott, our 2013 Bursary winner, has let GWV know that she received an H1 for her research project on youth wages and that it is likely to be published by Melbourne University’s Centre for Employment Law and Labour Relations in their student working paper series. Penny plans to continue studying for another 6 months. Many thanks from GWV to SWAN members for your interest and support.”

SWAN has sponsored Indigenous bursaries for 3 years. However, in 2013 only 3 applicants identified as Indigenous, Penny being the outstanding candidate, and worthy of support.

For 2014, Marilyn Godley has very generously offered to donate \$5000 for a scholarship for an Indigenous student. As GWV now have a valuable scholarship for an Indigenous student, SWAN members need to consider whether we would prefer to continue with the Indigenous Bursary, or support a bursary in the general program for disadvantaged students.

From my own attendance at the Scholarship Presentation Days, I am well aware of the manner in which so many of the most impressive winners have overcome the disadvantages to their study from low income, disability, family responsibilities and so on.

**Discussion of the SWAN Indigenous Bursary will be an Agenda item at the meeting on Nov. 17th**

I am an optimist.  
It does not seem  
too much use  
being anything  
else.

Sir Winston  
Churchill

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.



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# SUNDAY 17TH NOVEMBER

# JUDITH GRALEY MP

- Judith is a founding member of SWAN
- She has worked as an educator, in local government and as a MLA in the current parliament
- Judith will share her experiences from the diverse areas of her work
- Particularly, Judith will talk about the role of women in Government
- ...and the background to SWAN

## This and That

### SWAN Website news

We are indebted to Rosemary Draper and Lynn Carpenter for their work on our very informative SWAN website. Check it out at:-

[swanwomen.org.au](http://swanwomen.org.au) You will find information on SWAN history, past newsletters and photos. You may like to look at the

**SWAN Annual Treasurer's Report** from our AGM. As of 30th June 2013, SWAN funds totalled \$859.95

### IMPORTANT

#### **Model Rules for Incorporated Associations.**

In 2012, new Rules came into law for all Incorporated Associations. Hence, our Constitution became obsolete and SWAN was obliged to adopt a new set of governing rules. We have adopted the Rules without any changes to the standard legal requirements.

**At the next SWAN breakfast, on Nov 17th, SWAN mem-**

**bers will need to vote to adopt these new rules before the November 26th deadline.**

These new Model Rules for an Incorporated Association of SWAN are on the SWAN website. Please read them before then. We will have some printed copies present at the meeting for you to peruse before the meeting commences.

**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. Pauline Young, our Purchasing Officer, will provide delicious goodies for us all.**