

# SWAN Newsletter



Southern Women's Action Network Inc.  
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Volume 11 Issue 1

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*Special points of interest:*

- March speaker p1.
- Report on November meeting p2.
- 2011 Meeting dates p2.
- This and That p3
- International Women's Day p3
- Introducing Your Committee p4
- Bookings **please** for February meeting p4.

## ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE 2011

### Facilitator

Janice Rowland

### Secretary

Daphne Fergusson

### Correspondence Secretary

Lynda Hart

### Treasurer

June Rance

### Speaker Co-Ordinator

Gwen Fletcher

### Membership Secretary

Heather Phillips

### Newsletter Co-ordinator

Gwen White

### Public Officer

Barb Godfrey

### Website Co-ordinator

Rosemarie

Draper

### Purchasing Officer

Pauline Young



Members are  
welcome to  
attend Committee meetings.

## Marlene Fox-March Speaker Early Intervention - the long term implications for optimal outcomes for children

Marlene has 30 years of experience in the early childhood field. She has qualifications in early childhood teaching and special education and a broad range of experience in different settings and services working with young children and their families and the broader community and has spent the last 20 years in a management and leadership role in early childhood.



Marlene has worked in kindergarten in metropolitan and rural communities, been a visiting teacher for children with additional needs, an early childhood advisor in both the non-government and government sectors, a TAFE and university lecturer, an early childhood consultant, worked in children's services in local government, been head of department in paediatrics for play therapy and as an associate staff member for a number of TAFE'S and Universities in relation to students on practicum placements in early childhood courses.

For the past 3 years Marlene has been the Manager of Biala Peninsula Early Childhood Intervention Service (ECIS) in Mornington – a centre for children birth to 6 years with delays and disabilities and their families and still supervises tertiary students on placement for three Universities.

Marlene is a Board member of the free Kindergarten Association – children's services, and in her 4th year as President of Early Childhood Australia (ECA) Victorian Branch – the Peak body for early childhood in Victoria.

As Aunts, mothers, grandmothers and friends, how can we have some input to assist our own families or those with whom we work.

## Sian Darling – November Speaker

**“A PAINTING WILL NOT STOP A BULLET, BUT A PAINTING CAN STOP A BULLET FROM BEING FIRED.”**

William Kelly

We, in this privileged land of OZ, often have a very limited comprehension of the meaning of true freedom. Having not been oppressed by a brutal government, incarcerated by a rigid regime or persecuted and subjected to ongoing violence from the society within which we live, our understanding of freedom is more hypothetical. Many of our SWAN members have fought hard in our own ways for social justice within our own contexts and thus have some understanding of the struggle for basic rights, the challenges, the losses, the anguish and the heartbreak of injustice.

Sian Darling, who is completing her thesis for her Masters at RMIT, is interested in the meaning of Freedom and the concept of survival. How is it that some people, in the face of unimaginable suffering, manage to cling to their vision and survive? In the process of these studies, she compiled video footage of interviews with a wide range of individuals from various oppressed backgrounds, producing a DVD titled “You’d Sing Too” focusing on the refugee experience of 4 artists: an Iranian playwright, a Sudanese singer, an Iraqi actor and an Afghani painter.

Two key concepts emerged. First, that Art allows a dialogue with society. It is a form of liberation - a liberation of ideas which can inform and empower others. Second, that the expression of suffering through art is a form of healing. It enables the individual to confront his demons, clarify them and move forward.

Whilst explaining their views of the role of art in the understanding of freedom, each artist told their own stories which reflected this idea.

Sian’s film and her art, helped me to further understand the immense sense of relief that refugees in Australia experience as they begin to recognize the liberation permitted in our lucky land. In her shy, unassuming way, Sian conveyed a powerful message.



## SWAN Dates–2011

<p><b>SUNDAY 20 MARCH</b>  <b>Marlene Fox</b>  <b>Children with disabilities</b></p>	<p><b>SUNDAY 15 MAY</b>  <b>Fazila Hajeb</b>                      Islamic Women’s Welfare Council</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY 17 JULY</b>                      NAIDOC Week                      tbc</p>
<p><b>SUNDAY 18 SEPTEMBER</b>  <b>Cordelia Fine</b>                      On Gender Issues</p>	<p><b>SUNDAY 20 NOVEMBER</b>                      tbc</p>	<p><b>RSVP</b>  <b>for all meetings to:</b>  <b>Heather P—9787 8532</b>  <b>Gwen W—9787 1487</b></p>

## THIS AND THAT

### Many Thanks to...

**Heather Boundy** for chairing our last meeting with such pizzazz

Many thanks to Judith Graley for printing and facilitating distribution of the newsletters.

Thank you to **The Secret Garden** for the beautiful flowers they continue to donate.

We acknowledge **Mornington Council** for the provision of a comfortable and central venue for our bi-monthly meetings. We would also like to thank personally both **Elaine Hall-Foote** and **Helen Ridgeway**.



### **SWAN Website**

For information about SWAN or to read the latest newsletter and catch up with coming events, check out the SWAN website at <http://mc2.vicnet.net.au/home/swan1/index.html>

Thanks to Rosemarie Draper for looking after the website.

The closing date for applications for the **SWAN Bursary** for an Indigenous woman through AFUW is March 31st. We will keep you informed when the recipient is selected.

### AND...to the "Voices of Hastings Choir"



### **SHARE TABLE**

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

## March 8th 2011 is the Centenary of INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

On March 5th, Frankston Business Chamber and Mornington Shire Council will jointly host a lunch at Frankston Arts Centre with two outstanding women speakers. Cost \$45 for a 2-course lunch and a glass of wine. Contact the Shire for details.

To help SWAN celebrate this significant day, please wear something purple to our next SWAN Meeting

### *FLOOD APPEAL*

*SWAN Committee, has pledged a \$300 donation to the Flood Appeal*

*There will also be a donation bowl for any members who would like to make additional donations.*



**SWAN**



# SUNDAY 20 MARCH

# MARLENE FOX

## Meet your 2011 Committee mem-

**Jan Rowland** My name is Jan Rowland and I have lived in Mornington for over 25 years and love it. Just recently retired from teaching I was keen to get a little more involved in the local community and really enjoyed the SWAN breakfasts and common purpose of women's affairs in the community. While being a novice on committee and taking on the facilitator's role this year I am looking forward to a rewarding experience with SWAN.

**Daphne Fergusson** Minutes Secretary – almost retired special education teacher. Has lived in Mornington for 4 years and been a member of Swan for 2 years. Joined Swan with a view to becoming more aware of, and involved in, local social issues. Interests, apart from family and work at Biala Early Intervention Centre, include bushwalking, croquet, reading, gardening.

**Lynda Hart** Lynda Hart was born in Wales (but says she cannot sing!) and is now retired and living in Mornington. Prior to retiring, Lynda was self-employed as an Occupational Health & Safety Consultant/Lecturer and is also an Ergonomist. She enjoys her family and especially her nine grandchildren, patchwork, reading, voluntary work and fishing with her husband. Her role with Swan is as the Correspondence Secretary.

**June Rance** I have three children. Started hairdressing at 14. Worked at it for 26 years. Completed my year 12 at 36 and went on to do Primary Teaching and Tch. Librarianship. Taught for 25 years in Classrooms and School Libraries and retired 4 yrs. ago. Missed the Children so have had 2 bouts of voluntary teaching in Cambodia. Loved it all. I am Treasurer.

**Gwen Fletcher** born in NZ, lived in England (5 years) and different parts of Australia - recently retired teacher of English to multicultural adult groups, most recent being working in Frankston with newly arrived adult migrants. Interests include different cultures, social justice, travel, reading, art appreciation, sport etc. My role is organising the speaker program.

**Heather Phillips** Heather Phillips maintains the SWAN member database in an Excel worksheet adding new members and keeping member's addresses both postal and email up to date to ensure you receive the Newsletter. After a career in public and business libraries Heather puts her skills to work at the Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery and the Peninsula Family History Society and as a member of Zonta International - an organisation that 'Advances the status of women worldwide.'

**Gwen White** I am enjoying my retirement after a long career in teaching, 23 years of this spent at Woodleigh. It is a family of educators with both my husband and two daughters also teachers. I spend time with my three grandchildren and sailing with my husband; I volunteer weekly at the Asylum Seeker Centre in Dandenong; tutor refugee children, bushwalk and sneak in some relaxation wherever I can. I produce the newsletter.

**Pauline Young** : I am a retired Secondary Arts and Craft teacher and taught for 20 years at Mornington Secondary College. At this stage of my retirement I am enjoying the opportunity of caring for my seven grandchildren (part time). I feel it is important for women to participate equally in leadership, hence my interest in SWAN. I am the Purchasing Officer.

**Venue: Meeting Room**  
**Shire Offices, Queen**  
**Street,**  
**Mornington**  
**9.30AM \$7**

**BOOKINGS PLEASE**  
**RSVP BY FRIDAY 19 March**  
**Heather Phillips [bluerobin15@bigpond.com](mailto:bluerobin15@bigpond.com)**  
**OR**  
**Gwen White [gwenniewhite@hotmail.com](mailto:gwenniewhite@hotmail.com)**