

SWAN Newsletter



Women striving for
Social Justice

Volume 14 Issue 3

July 2014

Special points of interest:

- July speaker p1.
- Report on May speaker p2
- This and That p2
- 2014 Meeting Dates p2
- May Speaker (cont) p3
- Photos p3
- SWAN Scholarship p3
- News p4

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE 2013-2014

Facilitator

Pam Blazsanyik

Secretary

Lynn Carpenter

Correspondence Secretary

-

Treasurer

Rosemary Maughan

Speaker Co-Ordinator

Sue Weber

Minutes Secretary

June Jay

Newsletter Co-ordinator

Gwen White

Website Co-ordinators

Rosemarie Draper

Lynn Carpenter

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

NAIDOC SPEAKER Lois Peeler



Lois' childhood was spent on orchards in Shepparton East and Orrvale districts of the Goulburn Valley after her family moved from the Cumeragunja Aboriginal Reserve near Barmah. These experiences have shaped the lives of Lois' family who have been very active in Aboriginal community development. Lois' mother Mrs Geraldine Briggs AO was awarded for her work in this field. Lois' sister the late Hyllus Maris was a visionary and writer who wrote "Women of the Sun" and established Wora-wa Aboriginal College in Healesville.

Lois has had a varied career which includes being the first Aboriginal model and the first Aboriginal person to work in television when she was engaged to work on the GTV 9 Breakfast Session in the 60's. Lois and her sisters formed a singing group the Sapphires which toured Vietnam at the height of the Vietnam war. Lois' nephew Aboriginal playwright Tony Briggs wrote about these experiences in the smash hit 'The Sapphires' which as a stage play completed sell out seasons in Melbourne, Sydney and Perth before going on to take 11 of 12 awards at the Australian Academy of Cinema and Television Arts Award (AACTA).

Lois has extensive experience in Aboriginal Affairs having worked in the Aboriginal community sector, the State and Federal (continued page 4)

SUNDAY 20th JULY

NATALIE COLLARD
on
"The transformational nature of Failure"

What a joy it was to listen to Natalie Collard!

For those who expect CEOs of large corporations to be dry, aloof and lost in a world of statistics-boy ! what a surprise was in store for them.

Natalie was warm, funny, visionary and possessed that beautiful ability to draw people in , and take them with her. Natalie's quote:"The distance between where you are and where you want to be, is shorter than you think", got us all focused and thinking. Her next statement had us totally engaged. What? She wasn't going to rabbit on about the way to be the "perfect , packaged , ideal leader" or "her multiple amazing achievements". She was going to tell us about her failures!??

Her charming, self-deprecating humour, describing her Army Reservist self as "the purple nikkers girl", who , through embarrassment , nearly gave up on a challenge which ultimately led to her personal revelation of how mentally tough she could be. That, together with the Diplomatic "wasabi" blooper, had the audience chuckling at their own past foibles.

In spite of a high profile period in the Department of Defence, addressing the UN and a role supporting an Australian Ambassador, Natalie's empathy for Australian farmers , in the wake of a 10+year drought, led her to a career change, first with the National Farmers Federation, then as CEO of the Australian Dairy Farmers.

Natalie talked of the strength, resilience and humility of farmers, all the time downplaying her own valuable role in developing strategies to better manage the dairy industry, her calculated difficult reforms, juggling personal tragedy with stressful work based negotiations. She highlighted a key leadership strategy of "understanding who needs what? when?" and used the quote "the day you are petty is the day you have lost" to explain her leadership style. "Vision, Strength and Empathy" were the qualities Natalie prized in a leader. Wise words indeed which resonated with a rapt audience.

Natalie's optimism for the role of Australian dairy farmers in the face of world food needs into the future, her knowledge of Global Markets, her cleverness in perceiving strategies to facilitate a better outcomes for the industry, her commitment to a "fair go" for farmers from the multinational corporations and her passionate, yet humble manner in taking on the fight, were truly inspirational.

Natalie was a most enjoyable inspiration and SWAN wishes her success in the future.

We thank her for sharing the transformational nature of failure and will endeavour to apply the idea to our own lives.

For more dairy information go to:- [www.legendairy.com .au](http://www.legendairy.com.au)

SWAN Dates for 2014

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
21st SEPTEMBER
AGM

Kirsty Rosie
Ovarian Cancer
Council

SUNDAY
16th NOVEMBER

Karen Hayes
CEO
Guide Dogs
Victoria



Judith Graley for printing and facilitating distribution of the newsletters

and, **Mornington Peninsula Shire Council** for provision a convenient space for our meetings.



When we
do the best
we can,
we never
know what
miracle is
wrought in
our life or
the life of
another.

Helen Keller

PLEASE CONSIDER

At our September AGM, it will be time to elect a new Committee for 2014-15. Pauline Young and Gwen White will both be retiring after serving 5 years on the SWAN Committee. Pauline has been in charge of our delicious feasts for all those years, whilst Gwen has produced the newsletter and taken on a variety of roles including administration of the SWAN Scholarship. Rosemary Race retired in May. Our other hard-working and friendly Committee members will continue to serve, but they can't do it alone. At least THREE new members are needed. Unless SWAN members are willing to join the Committee, SWAN is unlikely to be able to continue. PLEASE CONSIDER BEING INVOLVED IN THIS WONDERFUL WORK.

SWAN Scholarship 2014

If you need inspiration or feel that life is treating you unkindly then may I suggest you attend the next Graduate Women of Victoria's Scholarship Presentation Day. I was lucky enough to attend this year's event and agreed with one of the organizers – it was very difficult not to “shed a tear” listening to some of the women tell their stories.

Each person seemed to have overcome extraordinary difficulties – everything from medical, mental, cultural and financial difficulties. And every woman spoke with such humility and grace, telling their story and expressing their profound thanks for receipt of their scholarship.

SWAN's recipient Jennifer O'Sullivan from Federation University, spoke of her health struggles and her great desire to finish her studies. To read more about this year's group of amazing women take the time to look on line at www.gradwomenvic.org.au and consider donating thru SWAN to next year's scholarship.

Sue Weber

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.

News



Blankets needed

With winter upon us, Asylum Seekers are in need of blankets. David Spitteler, at the Asylum Seeker Centre in Dandenong, distributes these. Please bring donations to the next SWAN meeting .

Bring a friend

SWAN's mission is to pursue social justice issues and to provide challenging

and interesting speakers. Pam Blazsanyik spoke at our last meeting about the future growth of our membership. Why not "call a friend" and invite them to the next meeting?

SWAN Donations

As SWAN speakers are not paid for their time, we ask them to nominate a charity to which SWAN donates \$150. Our most re-

cent donations were to:-

- Mission Australia and
- Skyline Education Fund.

We also responded to a request from Southern Peninsula Art Centre for \$76 to sponsor a needy family to attend an performance of "Swampjuice".

Lois Peeler (continued form page 1)

public service sector and in the corporate sector. This experience includes all facets of Aboriginal community development including government, policy development, program implementation, project management, employment and education.

Lois worked for sixteen years at a senior level within Federal and State Government departments managing Aboriginal Affairs. Positions held include being Manager of the Aboriginal Employment Unit of the Public Service Board, an elected representative of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission (ATSIC), Director of the Board of the Indigenous Land Corporation, Director of Land Enterprise Australia, Chairperson of Aboriginal Tourism Australia. Lois was awarded a Centennial Medal for her work in Indigenous tourism. She was instrumental in the development of the Respecting Our Culture (ROC) accreditation program for the Australian tourism industry. Lois is co-author of the Yorta Yorta Language Heritage Program and author of the Aboriginal Oral History of the Flats.

She is Chair of the Regional Justice Advisory Committee (Eastern) a Trustee of the Fairley Foundation and holds the position of Executive Director of Worawa Aboriginal College.

Don't miss out on this extraordinary lady!!



Many thanks to
**SECRET
GARDEN**
who supply us with our
beautiful flowers

**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.**