

SWAN Newsletter



Women striving for
Social Justice

Volume 12 Issue 1

February 2012

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ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE 2011-2012

Facilitator

Janice Rowland

Secretary

Daphne Fergusson

Correspondence Secretary

Rosemary Race

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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

Committee Member

Lynn Carpenter



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

Sarah Capper

From the Victorian Women's Trust



Sarah works for the **Victorian Women's Trust** as the Policy, Advocacy and Communications Officer having started there in 2002 as the Grants Officer. She has a degree in journalism and worked as a Senior Media Analyst at Rehome Australia, which at the time, was the largest media monitoring company in Australia.

Her time at the Trust has seen her involved in a range of policy and special projects including advocacy on homicide law reform (working with the Heather Osland Support group, lobbying for law reform to better reflect the experiences of women). In 2007, as Project manager, she developed **Be the Hero!** a Victorian Women's Trust violence prevention website program aimed at boys and young men.

A passionate writer she continues to develop a website service relevant to women and girls.

Sarah will speak about the Trust as well as her role there.

Thursday 8th March is INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

In an effort to align our SWAN Sunday breakfast for March as near as possible to International Women's Day, we will be holding our breakfast on March 4th. Please note the change in your diaries.

**To enter into the spirit of the day,
wear something green and purple to celebrate.**

Welcome back to all our SWAN members

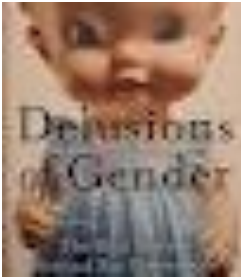
We also wish to welcome back Jan Rowland, our Facilitator, from her travels in 2011. The committee has been busy organizing another productive and enlightening SWAN year and we look forward to your company and meeting new members.

Dr Cordelia Fine – November Speaker

So...are the brains of girls and boys neurologically significantly different??

Dr Cordelia Fine ,B.A., M.A., PhD., has focused on the analysis of the seminal studies of gender brain differences. She has looked closely at the statistical significance of the results and the accuracy of the sampling and come to the conclusion that there is insufficient evidence to conclude that there are significant gender differences in the neuroscience of the brain.

In a fascinating and humorous explanation of the science behind the myths, Dr Fine outlined her extensive work using scientific method to investigate past findings of leading scientists in the field. She talked about experiments for sex differences having small samples, problems with new technology and outright misrepresentation of results through skewed interpretations. She pointed out that scientists routinely look for the differences rather than the similarities and ..surprise , surprise, the media fascination with the differences! Furthermore, males are over represented in the scientific research field, which may be a factor to consider.



Dr Fine kept us enthralled with her excellent PowerPoint presentation and her ability to make sense for us of the scientific data she displayed.

As women, as mothers, as grannies and just plain Social Justice advocates, we were delighted by her findings. Our sincere thanks for her thoroughly absorbing talk.

If you are interested in reading more, her book is called [“Delusions of Gender”](#)

SWAN Dates–2012

SUNDAY MARCH 4TH

Sarah Capper

Please note the early placement
of this meeting to more closely
align with International Women's
Day

SUNDAY 20TH MAY

**Natalie Pryles
“The Big Issue”**

SUNDAY 15TH JULY

**NAIDOC Week speaker
On Aboriginal Issues**

**SUNDAY
16TH SEPTEMBER**

**Barb Godfrey
“East Timor”**

**SUNDAY
18TH NOVEMBER**

TBA



Photo Gallery

Dr Cordelia Fine (*left and right*) and with Gwen Fletcher (*below*).



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.

This and That

Have you got computer skills?

SWAN is looking for a volunteer who has skills in excel and/or Publisher to assist with some publications. Please contact Heather Phillips 97878532

Suggestion Box

Each SWAN meeting, a suggestion box is placed on the back table. If you have any ideas for interesting speakers on social issues for women or causes in need of donations to assist women, please write your

ideas on the paper provided and pop it in the box. The SWAN committee are happy to discuss all suggestions .

The Big Issue

Several copies will be available for borrowing from the Share Table.

International Women's Day

If you are looking for events you may like to attend on International Women's Day on March 8th, try www.qvwc.org.au

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.

SWAN



SUNDAY 4TH MARCH SARAH CAPPER

"The Victorian Women's Trust is not new to the idea of stepping in where 'angels fear to tread', and has been in the vanguard of public advocacy in Melbourne since its inception in 1985."

Ass. Prof. Ruth Beilin, University of Melbourne, October 2000

- Sarah will speak about the role of the Trust
- She will also speak about the Be the Hero! website

A Recommended Good Read

A Thousand Splendid Suns: by Khaled Hosseini
Author of The Kite Runner

This is an unforgettable portrait of the plight of women in Afghanistan under the rule of the Taliban. It is a deeply moving story of family and friendship set against the war torn streets of Kabul.

Although it is fictional, it gives some insight into the resilience, courage and endurance of these oppressed women.

Many 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 bi-monthly meetings.

*Thanks to Secret Garden
For the beautiful bouquet*



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

9.30AM — cost \$7

BOOKINGS PLEASE

RSVP BY FRIDAY 2ND MARCH

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