

Southern Women's Action Network

SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER AND NOTICE OF AGM



Southern Women's Action Network Inc
Reg: A0038144Z, ABN. 84.41627 1331
P.O. Box 392 Mt. MARTHA. 3934

COVID-19 ISSUE 3

Points of Interest:

- Social Justice Actions
- Handmade Creations
- Constitution
- Refugees
- Elder Abuse
- Jigsaws
- A lockdown poem
- Zoom
- Council Election Enrolment
- Women in Power
- First Nations
- Online Classes
- Pen Pal Program
- Path to Equality
- AGM documents

Swan Committee:

- Facilitator: Erica Churchill
- Treasurer: Sue Parritt
- Secretary: Lynn Carpenter
- Membership Secretary: Gillian Adam
- Minutes Secretary: Val Campbell
- Speaker Coordinator: Melissa Kelly
- Publicity: Sue Weber
- Committee Members with various tasks including sub Committee convenors:
 - Lauren Hunt
 - Vivienne Daniels
 - Val Campbell

NOTICE OF AGM

The Annual General Meeting of SWAN will be held via Zoom on Sunday 20th September at 10 a.m.

You can attend via Zoom or appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf on the following motions and the elections to Committee if required.

- That the minutes of meeting of 15th September 2019 be accepted.
- That the Financial Statement be accepted.
- That the proposed Constitution as displayed on the SWAN website be adopted as the SWAN Constitution.

Proxy forms must be received by the Secretary no later than 10 am on 19th September.

Please consider whether you can serve on Committee. Self-nomination is encouraged. We would love to have some new blood and not all Committee members are re-standing. You can nominate up to the date of the meeting, but to receive proxy votes you will need to nominate prior to the reminder email – say by 13th September.

All required documents are attached to this newsletter

The Zoom link is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84565945835>. If you are unfamiliar with Zoom, it is very straight forward and detailed instructions are below.

We will try to arrange some items of interest to follow the meeting. If you have suggestions or would like to make a short presentation on something of interest, please call Erica on 0404 811 422.

Further details will be sent closer to the meeting, along with a reminder of the Zoom link and the list of nominations received.

Message from the Committee

Greetings from all SWAN Committee members. Sadly the September face to face meeting will also need to be cancelled due to the current restrictions. The AGM will be held via Zoom in September as per separate notices. We are planning a Zoom meeting for November, hopefully with a NAIDOC appropriate speaker. To ensure you can enjoy this, practicing with Zoom for the AGM will be a good idea if you need practice and we would love to have you join us anyway.

The Supporting First Nations sub-committee is working well as you will see below. We would also like to start a **Multicultural sub committee** to focus efforts in this area. Vivienne Daniels has agreed to lead this sub committee, with meetings starting once the restrictions allow face to face meetings. If you would like to be part of this sub committee, please email Viv on vivdaniels@icloud.com.

We have managed to achieve some Social Justice actions in the lockdown. Details below. I'm sure many of you have also been taking what action you can in the lockdown to improve conditions in society.

Best wishes,

Erica and the Committee

Bev Colomb, Councillor for Briars ward, who is retiring this year, sends her best wishes to SWAN members.

From the Archives

Islamic "My Dress My Choice" Forum Late 2012?

It sounds like this was a very successful fashion parade and social occasion.



SOCIAL JUSTICE ACTIONS

Recently, as you will be aware, we supported the naming of the aquatic centre at Rosebud as Yawa Aquatic Centre, as recommended by local Indigenous representatives. Emails were sent to all Councillors supporting this name, and, given the majority vote for this name, it would seem many of you voted as requested. Thank you to all who supported this.

We have also emailed the Victorian Attorney General, Jill Hennessy, supporting raising the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14, to avoid young children facing remand and a court appearance at minimum. This action was requested by the Mornington Peninsula Human Rights group and we were happy to support it.

Since there is no chance for the membership to indicate whether or not they support these actions, the emails are sent from Erica personally but start with the following paragraph: I am facilitator of the Southern Women's Action Network. This is a group of more than 200 women who reside on the Mornington Peninsula. We have been a force for Social Justice for more than 22 years.

If anyone objects to the Committee taking such actions, please call Erica on 0404 811 422.



Lynn Carpenter has bought a few things from <https://www.novica.com/> and has always been delighted with the whole process. 1000's of handmade artisan creations.

She thought it may be of interest to other members as it directly impacts the artists.

The website has many inspiring messages including "your purchases help artisans support families, uplift communities, and overcome adversity".

CONSTITUTION

The SWAN constitution is very out of date and needs to be updated based on the current Model Rules.

The current constitution, a proposed constitution from 2013 which was never adopted, and the proposed new constitution are on the following website.

<https://swanwomen.org.au/about-us/swan-current-model-rulesconstitution/>

We intend to move at the Zoom AGM that this be adopted as our constitution.

Please review the proposed constitution and urgently make any suggestions for improvement. Contact details are on the website.

Please also be prepared to vote on this at the AGM, or register your proxy as per the details attached.

If you would like a copy of the proposed Constitution posted or emailed to you please contact Erica on 0404 811 422.

REFUGEES

We have formed a link with the Bayside Refugee Advocacy and Support Association (BRASA)
<https://baysiderefugeesupport.com/>

We have listed them as a link on our website. We can advertise our speaker events to them and they can advise our members of events they are holding.

They keep a close watch on refugee happenings and advocate for improvements, as well as raising funds and collecting material goods. Their regular newsletter is very informative.

You may like to consider this as one small way to get the Government to contribute to the many in the community who are not covered by Corona virus support.

Many of us have now received two \$750 support payments. For some of us this makes no sense as expenses are less with the restrictions than previously. For some income is considerably reduced and the support payment is required.

If you feel you do not need it, you could donate all or some of it to someone not supported by the Government at this time – casual workers, asylum seekers, etc, etc. This will effectively ensure that some of them have some Government support - even if the Government would prefer they did not.



ELDER ABUSE

Here are links to online information available through Seniors Rights Victoria (SRV) on elder abuse:

1. An excellent booklet for anyone 'concerned about an older person' which details what elder abuse is & the response options
<https://seniorsrights.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Concerned-About-an-Elder-Person-WEB.pdf>
2. This is the standard SRV brochure
https://seniorsrights.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/SRV-Service-Brochure-Aug-2016_web-2.pdf
3. This links to several of the excellent help sheets on variety of topics e.g. Safety plans, gifts, and when an adult child moves home
<https://seniorsrights.org.au/resources/older-people/>

A new resource available from Rotary may be of interest to you & any groups you are involved in

<https://rotaryclubofmelbourne.org.au/news/38576/rotary-safe-families-program>

Thanks to Marilyn Godley for this information

Keeping Sane in Lockdown

I'm sure you have all found your own ways of keeping occupied. I have always been keen on jigsaws but they take up space, are not easily moved and need to be bought.

Online jigsaws are free and take up no space. There are, I'm sure, thousands of sites for these.

www.jigsawexplorer.com is one. This allows you to choose from hundreds of jigsaws of all sorts of pictures. You can then choose the number of pieces and the complexity and whether they will appear the right way up or not. With the choice of number of pieces from as few as 6 they are suitable for all ages.

This does not solve the problem of addiction, of meals not getting cooked, housework not done, etc – so beware!!
Erica

A thought for you



Stage 4 Agenda

I wake late call bright greetings
Early riser husband responds
Chink of mugs jug boiling

Pillow-propped I savour hot tea
First brew pre-eminent
in tea-focused household
obsessed with figures
We quote cases tests deaths
Offer opinions on postcodes

Leisurely breakfast no deadlines
Nowhere to go rain a deterrent
Trawl Facebook read email
Check BOM weather app

Ablutions preceded by
Bed making pill popping
Unfurling old mat
Back workout essential

Exit house no permit required
for garden-setting studio
Mac OS High Sierra awakes
Word file emerges first draft
Requiring expansion

Morning tea on front patio
Wave to masked neighbours
Striding on bitumen
Tossing balls to fur-babies
Post-lunch walk one hour max
Blue mask fogged specs
cliff path vistas delightful
merchant ship gliding
free roaming no borders

Winter daylight departs
Mouse-clicks close files
Late-life vocation suspended
dinner duties demanding

Sofa-bound evening
Op shop track pants
Pop-up shop sweater
Inverted rhymes suit
Free verse poet

Double bed beckons
Last words before sleep
38 he announces. I wish
Thinks my 3 score 10 brain

Sue Parritt
05.08.20

How to use Zoom for the AGM

You need access to a web browser such as Chrome or Safari on a computer or iPad or smart phone. On a desk top it will help if you have a camera but you can join without this.

5 minutes or so before the meeting is due to start, click on the link from the meeting notice above or enter the link into your browser. You should see a message "Launching Zoom". Just wait a few minutes. Click "Open Zoom" when asked and you should be in the meeting. No need to download anything first.

You will need to ensure your sound is turned on. If you move your mouse to the bottom of the Zoom screen you will see controls to mute your microphone and turn off you video if you wish. It will be a good idea to be muted most of the time. If you are muted, you can hold down the space bar to speak.

If you move the cursor to the top of the screen you will see controls for Full Screen and also for Gallery View which lets you see a selection of people in the meeting on screen. Whoever is speaking (or making a noise) will appear on screen.

Please use the Chat process to record your name for the attendance list in the minutes.

If you would like a practice session before the meeting, please call Erica on 0404 811 422.

And remember if the meeting doesn't suit you, please appoint a proxy so your votes will count.



COUNCIL POSTAL ELECTIONS OCTOBER

You must be correctly enrolled by the close of roll, which is **4 pm on Friday 28 August**. Remember to check that both your postal and residential addresses are correct. If you've recently moved and haven't updated your address, or if you've just closed your post office box, you can enrol online at vec.vic.gov.au/enrolment.

If you're an Australian citizen aged 18 or over and you're enrolled on the State electoral roll, voting is compulsory. If you're enrolled as a Council-enrolled voter (for example, as a non-citizen ratepayer or corporation representative), voting is highly encouraged but not compulsory. State-enrolled voters can sign up to our free VoterAlert service to receive SMS and email reminders about the election. Visit vec.vic.gov.au to find out more.

Large print or braille ballot papers are available for voters who are blind or have low vision. Please register by **Tuesday 15 September** by calling (03) 8620 1222 during business hours.

If you'll be away during the election period, you can make a request in writing no later than Thursday 17 September to have your ballot pack redirected to another address.

More information is available by calling 131 832 or at vec.vic.gov.au, where State-enrolled voters can also sign up to our free VoterAlert SMS and email reminders.

You can learn more about nominating as a candidate on the VEC website at vec.vic.gov.au.

Nations may be safer under women

SWAN member, Anne Johnston, has recommended the above article by Nicholas Kristof, an American journalist, author and a winner of two Pulitzer Prizes. Some very interesting points and details. If you search for the title you will find it on various sites including <https://www.msn.com/en-ae/news/other/covid-19-nations-may-be-safer-under-women/ar-BB15swj8>

SWAN Supporting First Nations Sub-committee September, 2020

We would first like to thank everyone who supported us in our advocacy for an Aboriginal name for the new aquatic centre as part of our campaign to support the choice of the Traditional Owners. The result was fantastic, a huge relief, and a resounding victory that goes some small but important way to acknowledge that the land belonged to the Bunurong / Boon Wurrung people who have never ceded this ownership. Here, from Council minutes are the results of votes scored:

- 1 Yawa Aquatic Centre 18,379
- 2 Gunawarra Aquatic Centre 16,313
- 3 Rosebud Aquatic Centre 15,266
- 4 Tides Aquatic Centre 14,791
- 5 Barbawar Aquatic Centre 13,716

Council's decision to adopt 'Yawa' was unanimous.

We have received messages of rejoicing like the following: Peter Aldenhoven, Willum Warrain Aboriginal Gathering Place- 'It is very exciting' and Deb Mellett, Warringinee Team, Mornington Peninsula Shire Council- 'It's Yawa! Thank you so much for your advocacy. Today we celebrate.'

Councillor Kate Roper replied, 'It was a great decision and hopefully more to come.'



By way of building on this arguably tiny step towards reconciliation on the Peninsula, one of our sub-group wrote to council to suggest a program of community awareness development. You might remember that in our last newsletter article we initiated an action research idea, requesting SWAN members to look out for any evidence of aboriginal cultural valuing (like signage and markers) when out for a walk. Please keep doing that and let us know what you find (contacts below). Some few examples have been spotted at Tanti Creek, Mills Beach, Mount Martha Forest Drive Park, and Tyabb but most information and trails are of colonial history. Here is an excerpt from the letter to the Mayor and Councillors:

Going forward, could Council now investigate with Traditional Owners, in conjunction with Council's Warringinee Group, the possibility of a project of Indigenous cultural heritage awareness, for example, signage, markers and trails, around the Peninsula? Port Phillip Council have been able to implement this very effectively. Around Australia there are also council-initiated community awareness projects, including booklets and brochures, about the history and culture of our Indigenous people.

The responses have been positive so far: *'I and other councillors have discussed this issue with signage recognising local indigenous heritage. We hope to take advantage of the Arts and Culture grants now available to increase recognition and interest in local culture.'* Councillor Kate Roper.

Councillor David Gill, *'I agree with you and hope to have these long overdue actions implemented in line with your ideas'*

Mayor Sam Hearn, *'I'll follow this up with our Director of Communities and Deb Mellett...'*

On this subject, you might like to have a look at the short video: The Boon Wurrung People Jane Ronc youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Fu82Mf8Z2TY> *Jane Ronc goes in search of evidence of the valuing of Aboriginal culture on the Mornington Peninsula and finds almost none.*

A very useful guide for anyone looking for advice on interacting with Aboriginal communities is Walking and Working Together. The guide is free in pdf format from the Secretariat of National Aboriginal and Islander Child Care (SNAICC) website. The guide covers topics like cultural safety. Perhaps as SWAN members we could discuss this and look at ways that our meetings could be made a comfortable space for Aboriginal women to attend.

<https://www.snaicc.org.au/working-and-walking-together-resource-2010/>

Bored during lockdown: here are some suggestions for reading

SandTalk: How indigenous Thinking can Save the World, by Tyson Yunkaporta.

Decolonising Solidarity, Dilemmas and Directions for Supporters of Indigenous Struggles, by Clare Land. Raises important and challenging issues for those who want to support the struggles of First Nations peoples.

Growing up Aboriginal in Australia, by Anita Heiss. An anthology showcasing diverse voices of 50 First Nations people.

And some exciting news about Victorian initiatives towards truth and justice to check out!

MEDIA RELEASE: Historic first meeting between First Peoples' Assembly and Victorian Government | 3 August 2020 - First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria-see:

<https://www.firstpeoplesvic.org/news/media-release-historic-first-meeting-between-first-peoples-assembly-and-victorian-government/>

The local Bunurong Traditional Owners are participating in this process.

SWAN Supporting First Nations Sub-committee

August 2020

Val Campbell 0404 951 582 (convenor), Diane McDonald, Dianne Wilson, and Maureen Donnelly

0423 806 525 (if you spot some cultural heritage signage -or want to report a lack of it in your area)

STOP PRESS

Mount Martha House Community Centre has now partnered with U3A Southern Peninsula to offer a wider range of online classes including **cooking, makeup, dancing, singing, photography, computer, exercise classes, writing and men's support group.** The sessions aim to provide belonging, engagement, conversation, learning and expression for all age groups. Please refer to their [website](#) for further details.

Anyone wishing to drop in on any session is welcome. All you need is the zoom app (installed). There are no commercial interests, just a way to share and care for others.

Proposed Pen Pal Program

Mt Martha House are currently discussing with the local primary schools a **Pen Pal Program**. The primary school student would be asked to exchange a letter with an elderly person during Covid-19 lockdowns; using their imagination writing stories about what's happening around their life, their favourite hobbies, or what they like to cook as some of the topics to choose from. At the end of the lockdown the idea would be to come together to meet each other for the first time and put a face to a name. The result could possibly be some lifelong friendships! If you are interested contact Mt Martha House on 0466 691 585.

Path to Equality

The following website has a wealth of information about Indigenous affairs. Petitions including the Free the Flag effort, Information, Indigenous businesses to support, books to read, programs to watch or listen to and much more.

<https://pathtoequality.com.au/>

AGM Documents

SOUTHERN WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK



NOMINATION FORM 2020/2021

Please print clearly. Please consider whether you can offer your time for, typically, one Committee meeting every two months and your effort in putting forward your suggestions about events and direction.

Given the COVID restrictions, the signature/s will be considered received if the signatory emails the secretary indicating their agreement. The secretary will second the nomination.

I NOMINATE _____

FOR THE OFFICES AND/OR POSITION OF _____

Offices /Positions are President (Facilitator), Secretary, Treasurer, Committee Member

_____ Signature _____

PERSON MAKING NOMINATION (Self nomination is encouraged)

_____ Signature _____

SECONDER

I ACCEPT THIS NOMINATION

Signature _____

PERSON NOMINATED

Completed forms should be posted to P.O. Box 392, Mt. MARTHA 3934 or emailed to the swanwomen@outlook.com.

APPOINTMENT OF PROXY - AGM 2020

Please print clearly

SOUTHERN WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK



I _____ being a member of the
Southern Women's Action Network, hereby appoint

_____, a member of Southern Women's Action Network,
as my proxy to vote and speak on my behalf at the Annual General Meeting to be held on 20
September 2020 and at any adjourning of that meeting.

My proxy is authorised to vote for the following nominees for offices or positions:

OFFICE / POSITION	NOMINEE TO RECEIVE MY VOTE

Offices /Positions are President (Facilitator), Secretary, Treasurer, Speaker Co-ordinator and Committee Member

AND/OR: My proxy is authorised to vote as she sees fit or as I have instructed her
_____ (Please indicate Yes if this instruction applies)

Signature _____

PERSON APPOINTING PROXY

Some Rules re Proxies: See Governing Rule 19 for full details

- Appointment of proxy must be in writing and signed by member making appointment.
- Any form, signed by the member, which clearly identifies the person appointed as the member's proxy may be used.
- Completed forms should be sent to the Secretary no later than 10 am on Saturday 19th September i.e. at least 24 hours before the commencement of the AGM.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS AGM

Minutes of AGM 15th September 2019

Held at Mt Martha House

Meeting Commenced: 10.10 am

PRESENT: 50 Members as per list held by Communications Secretary

APOLOGIES:

Jean Carr, Diana Grey, Jodie Kewley, Ann Fuller

APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF AGM 16th September 2018:

Moved: Lynn Carpenter

Seconded: Rosemary Draper

FACILITATOR'S REPORT: Attached

TREASURER'S REPORT: Attached

Opening Balance: \$3,191.56

Income: \$3,708.00

Expenses: \$ 612.81

Donations: \$ 4,100.00

Closing Balance (once cheques are presented) \$2,186.75

Moved: Sue Parritt **Seconded:** Melissa Kelly **Carried**

GENERAL BUSINESS: None

Election of Office Bearers: Rosemary Draper took the chair.

Nominations:

No additional nominations were received, despite encouragement. All committee members other than Cherie Lewis and Jan Taylor had indicated they would re-stand so all were elected. Continuing were Erica Churchill, Val Campbell, Sue Paritt, Sue Weber, Melissa Kelly, Lynn Carpenter, Gill Adam.

After the meeting, nominations were received from Lauren Hunt and Vivienne Daniels who were co-opted onto the committee.

Meeting Closed 10.30 am

FACILITATOR'S REPORT

The year started well with speakers Pamela Curr, refugee advocate, in November 2019 and Shen Narayanasamy from Get Up in March. Both were excellent speakers and very informative and thought provoking. A big thank you to Melissa Kelly, our Speaker Co-ordinator, and her coach Val Campbell for arranging these speakers. Thank you also the fantastic ladies on the Catering Group who provide such an excellent repast at each meeting.

Since then, however, meetings have been cancelled as Covid-19 restrictions have prevented face to face meetings. With the restrictions likely to continue for some time yet, we are trialling a Zoom meeting for the AGM with the hope of moving to Zoom meetings of a similar format to our usual meetings until we can meet in person again.

In the meantime, we have managed some action for Social Justice with letters to Councillors and encouragement to members to vote for Yawa as the name of the new aquatic centre. The effort by many was very successful and hopefully sets the stage for more Indigenous naming and signage on the Peninsula.

Also, at the request of the Mornington Peninsula Human Rights Group, we have written to the Victorian Attorney-General advocating raising the age of criminal responsibility from 10 to 14. So far we have only had an acknowledgment that this has been received.

A big thanks to all Committee members who have been involved in all these decisions and many more, as well as set up for meetings and many other tasks. It has been a great committee to work with. A big thanks also to everyone who helps with meetings, suggestions and caring for each other.

A Supporting First Nations sub-committee has been formed and has been very active. They were responsible for Swan supporting Yawa as the name of the aquatic centre and for heaps of information in the newsletters which have been issued in months when a meeting has not been possible. Hopefully the newsletters have helped a little with keeping you in touch with Swan.

We have also contributed \$2,000, including individual member donations, towards the SWAN Bursary offered by Graduate Women Victoria. This was awarded to Chloe Waddell, who is doing her Masters degree at Australia Catholic University.

In the financial year to 30 June 2020, we contributed \$150 to organisations chosen by each of our 5 speakers. We have also recently donated \$500 to Friends of Refugees in Springvale who are struggling to support refugees receiving no income during the Covid restrictions. Our income has been considerably reduced due to lack of face to face meetings this year, which has also restricted our ability to make additional donations to Social Justice causes.

After a couple of issues with the sound system at Mt Martha House, we purchased our own speaker system which has provided much greater confidence that members will be able to hear our speakers. A considerable expense but it should stand us in good stead, no matter where we meet, for many years – and it is vital that members are able to hear the speaker.

SOUTHERN WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK

FINANCIAL REPORT 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020

Income

Door Entry	2,650.00
Raffles	309.25
Bursary	23.00
Total Income	2,982.25

Expenses

Audio equipment etc	495.80
Catering	241.82
Consumer Affairs	59.30
P.O. Box Rental	134.00
Postage/Badges	96.15
Rent MMH	295.00
Sundries	20.00
Total Expenses	1342.07

Donations

Sudanese Australian Integrated Learning (SAIL) Program	150.00
Nairm Marr Djambana	150.00
Emily's List	150.00
Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project	150.00
GetUp	150.00
Australian Communities Foundation (bursary)	1450.00
Total Donations	2200.00

Opening Balance **2336.75**

Plus Income 2982.25

Less Expenses 1342.07

Less Donations 2200.00

Closing Balance **\$1776.93**

Plus Unpresented Cheques 150.00 (#393)

1450.00 (#398)

3376.93

Agrees with Bank Statement

