

SOUTHERN WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK



Newsletter

June 2024

SWAN acknowledges the Bunurong / Boon Wurrung people, the Traditional Custodians of these lands and waters where we meet, work and live. We pay our respects to Elders, past and present. In line with our commitment to social justice, SWAN unequivocally supports First Nations People in their campaigns for sovereignty, self-determination, treaties and truth-telling.

Southern Women's+ Action Network

Women of the Mornington Peninsula and across the Southern Metropolitan suburbs of Melbourne striving for social justice.

SWAN aspires to be a supportive community for all self-identified cis or transgender women and for those who self-identify as non-binary or gender non-conforming. We are committed to encompassing greater gender diversity in our membership, practices, social justice actions and in the terminology that we use.*

* cis: a person whose sense of personal identity and gender corresponds with the sex assigned to them at birth
<https://www.hrc.org/resources/glossary-of-terms>

SWAN NEWS Notice

So you get the month's news on the first day of each month, the deadline date is the last Wednesday before the new month starts. Also, to keep you informed on what's happening in our area, check out Diary Dates near the end of this newsletter.

CONTRIBUTION END DATES: *last Wednesday of the month -*
June 26, July 24, August 28, September 25, October 23, November 27.

We appreciate all contributions to SWAN NEWS and encourage members to provide information about events, activities and causes, including photos (as long as those photographed have given permission, and the photograph's author and/or source is included).

SWAN Women for Housing Justice

Dear SWAN Members,

The Women for Housing Justice group is co-ordinating an advocacy campaign to raise awareness and take action about the increasing rates of homelessness on the Mornington Peninsula, particularly women over 55 years old.



More and more women are realizing that only collective strength and action will allow us to be free to fight for the kind of society that meets basic human needs.

ROXANNE DUNBAR

Stage One letters, fact sheets and contact lists have been distributed and we ask all SWAN members and their family and friends to send the materials to local councillors and Federal MPs. We are already receiving some interesting responses which will provide us with material to focus our work.

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Stage Two follows on from the SWAN Speaker/Member Meeting with The Hon Harriet Shing MP on Sunday 19 May and will target State MPs. Already a letter has been sent to the Minister requesting responses to some of the issues raised at the meeting, including funding of transitional and social/public housing on the Mornington Peninsula.

The members of our group are Judith Graley, Belinda Rodman, Susan Blackburn, Gillian Adam, Erica Churchill, Lynn Carpenter and Susan Hillman-Stolz.

If you would like to be involved, please join us at our next meeting on
Tuesday 18 June at 9.45am, Mt. Martha House, Room 7.



MEET OUR MEMBERS:

SWAN Women for Housing Justice

In February this year, a group of SWAN women passionate about taking affirmative action to address the homelessness crisis for women on the Mornington Peninsula formed 'SWAN Women for Housing Justice', namely, Judith Graley, Belinda Rodman, Susan Blackburn, Gillian Adam, Erica Churchill, Lynn Carpenter and Susan Hillman-Stolz.

In recent editions of *SWAN NEWS* 'Meet Our Members', Erica (Feb 24), Lynn (May 24) and Susan Hillman-Stolz (Dec 23) have featured their profiles. Here, Belinda, Gillian, and Susan Blackburn share something of their own story. The contribution and dedication of these SWAN members in making a difference to women's lives is both immeasurable and appreciated.



L – R: Belinda Rodman, Susan Blackburn, Gillian Adam

Belinda Rodman

"British by birth, I grew up in South Africa, and have now lived on every continent except Antarctica. I have two adult sons. Having worked mostly in Human Resources, I still run my own consulting business assisting people with employment applications. Current President of the Board of Management of Southern Peninsula Community Support, I am also on the Core Committee of Repower Mornington Peninsula. I joined SWAN in 2020."

Susan Blackburn

"A child of £10-poms, I came to Australia from northern England close to my 11th birthday. My working life varied: initially in hospitality, banking, retail and advertising. After having two children, I studied for a BA and worked in the community sector and state government (community focused projects). My favourite work related to the No Interest Loan Scheme with Good Shepherd and working on behalf of public tenants with state government. My hobby is family history research. I was on the SWAN Committee 2006-2009."

Gillian Adam

"Coming to Australia as a 4 year old of £10-pom parents, I grew up in Melbourne and after year 12, entered the Public Service. After marrying in 1977 and having my daughter, I attended Monash University to complete an Arts Degree. My career particularly over the last 20 years has been in Public and Social Housing and Disability services. I retired in 2011 to Rosebud to indulge my leisure pastimes, particularly underwater photography. I joined SWAN in 2012; a Committee Member 2012-2018."

Donations instead of Gifts

Are you celebrating a special birthday this year? All birthdays are special, I hear you say and I agree! **Have you thought about suggesting a donation to SWAN in lieu of gifts?** This is a way to support our work and actions and especially to ensure the continuation of our Education Bursaries for young women who are studying and have a strong potential for social justice involvement.

If this interests you, please direct gift-givers to our website: swanwomen.org.au. They should then click on the **'Donate to SWAN'** tab and follow the instructions. In order to keep track of donations, it would be helpful if the gift-giver could forward an email to: swan.women@outlook.com and in the subject heading enter **'Birthday Donation'**. In the body of the email, record date and amount of donation. Alternatively cash donations can be given to SWAN Treasurer Erica Churchill.

* Please note donations made to SWAN are not tax deductible.

SWAN MEMBER SURVEY 2024: Update

Thanks so much to all those who contributed to our recent survey! A good response yielded representation of members from across all the different SWAN generations. One third of respondents had been a SWAN member for less than 3 years. Just over half joined SWAN between 4-10 years ago. The remaining 25% have been involved in SWAN for over a decade.

Survey Results are currently being collated. These will be reported in the July issue of SWAN NEWS. Over the next few weeks, Committee members will review the findings and discuss the range of suggestions that have been made on how SWAN can further enhance its role in facilitating women's active involvement in our community.

Stay tuned!

SWAN ~~Coffee~~ Lunch Catch-Up!

This month we're doing LUNCH! On Sunday 16 June at midday, we're gathering in Rosebud as a lead up to the special screening of 'Journey Beyond Fear', a Refugee Week event at Rosebud's Peninsula Cinema. Of course there is no obligation to attend the film and you are more than welcome to just come for lunch and enjoy one another's company!

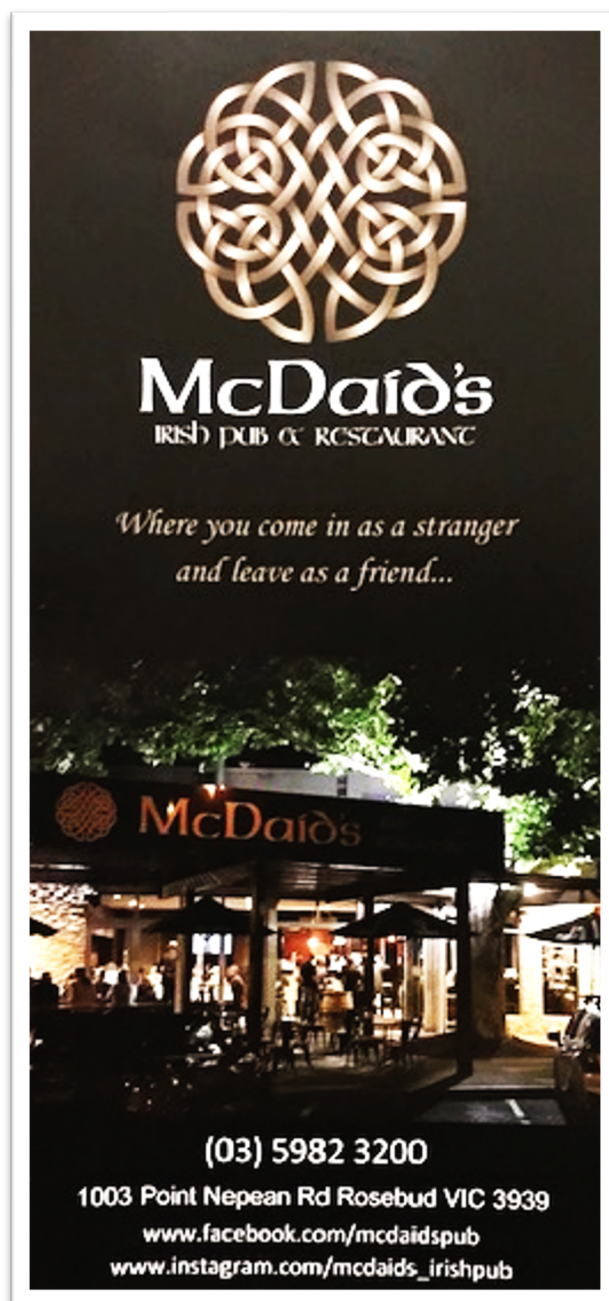
Lunch will be at McDaid's Irish Pub 1003 Point Nepean Rd. Rosebud where hearty meals are served, a nourishing antidote to winter's cooler weather. The film commences at 2pm and it's a short 5 minute walk from the pub to the cinema. See pages 6-7 for details of 'Journey Beyond Fear'.

Come along and join us! These catch-ups are becoming a popular event as there is less opportunity and time at our Speaker/Member Meetings to meet with and enjoy the company of like-minded members, established and new.

FUTURE CATCH-UPS:

For each Catch-Up, we are moving around to different cafés on the Mornington Peninsula - preferably cafés with large tables - to invite participation of those living in different Peninsula locations. Please let Moz know of your café suggestions. Future Coffee Catch-Ups will be in August, October and December this year.

REMEMBER THERE IS NO COFFEE CATCH-UP IN JULY. Our AUGUST Coffee Catch-Up will be in Rye (café to be decided, suggestions welcome). Check July's SWAN NEWS for details.

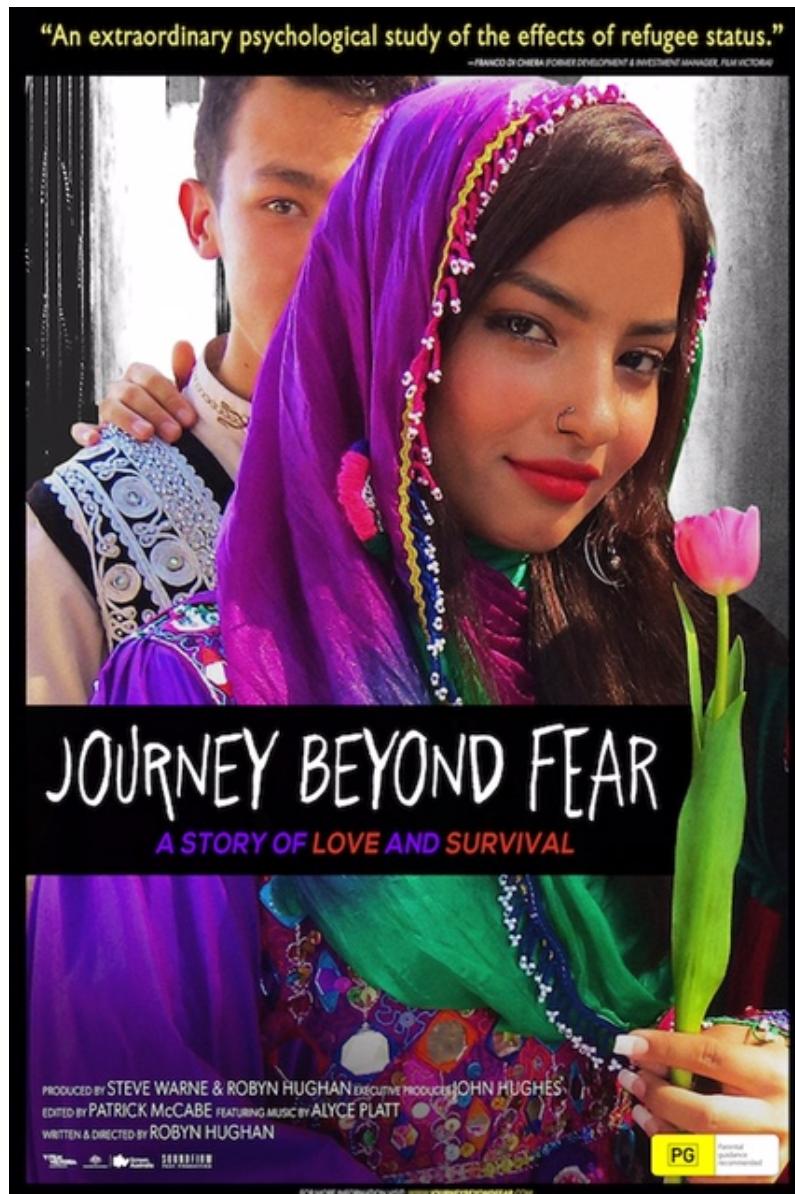


Lunch RSVP: Moz Lucas by Sunday 9 June: maureenfrances21@gmail.com

Film Bookings: <https://www.peninsulacinemas.com.au/Movie/Journey-Beyond-Fear> or at the Cinema

REFUGEE WEEK 16 – 22 June 2024

Finding Freedom: Family



FILM EVENT: 'Journey Beyond Fear'

**Q&A with SWAN's Rosemarie Draper OAM as MC,
Robyn Hughan, Director & Co-producer,
and Steve Warne, Co-producer**

Peninsula Cinema Rosebud, Sunday 16 June, 2pm

Bookings: <https://www.peninsulacinemas.com.au/Movie/Journey-Beyond-Fear> or at the Cinema.

‘Journey Beyond Fear’

‘Journey Beyond Fear’ is an inspirational film following a teenage girl and her Afghan refugee family in Malaysia as they wait for and eventually achieve resettlement in Australia. Shot over 7 years in Malaysia and Australia and told through their eyes, *‘Journey Beyond Fear’* takes us from despair to joy through hope, humour and love - shattering prevailing stereotypes.

‘4 out of 5 stars ... a journey well worth taking - David Stratton’ (Weekend Australian, 30 March, 2019) *‘made with a haunting soundtrack by Melbourne singer/songwriter, Alyce Platt ... it smashes stereotypes about refugees’* (The Age, 21 October, 2018).

Following the screening, there will be a Q&A with filmmakers Robyn Hughan (Producer/Director) and Steve Warne (Co-Producer), MC’d by local resident, long-time supporter of refugees and SWAN member Rosemarie Draper OAM.

This event is co-sponsored by SWAN together with *Grandmothers for Refugees* groups in Dunkley and Flinders.

Trailer: <https://vimeo.com/287224555>

Facebook: <https://m.facebook.com/journeybeyondfear/>

Website: <https://www.journeybeyondfear.com>

Humanise our approach to refugees by making a tax deductible donation at:
<https://www.documentaryaustralia.com.au/project/journey-beyond-fear>

TICKETS SELLING FAST!!!

Bookings: <https://www.peninsulacinemas.com.au/Movie/Journey-Beyond-Fear>
or at the Cinema

GRANDMOTHERS FOR REFUGEES

VOX Peninsula Inc presents.

VENICE TO VIENNA

with songs of peace



Featuring oratorios for orphans

May 26th → Anglican Church Koetong Parade Mt Eliza 2.30PM

June 2nd → The new FLINDERS Hall, Cook St, FLINDERS 2.30PM

Each performance \$30, Children Free

Musical director: Rupert Balint Smith

Soloist: Nicholas Sheppard from the Berlin Opera Academy

Sponsored by: MARSHALL WHITE Flinders & Mt Eliza
INTEND Financial Mornington, LINDEN Meats Karingal

Benefitting: Grandmothers for Refugees

VENICE TO VIENNA Bookings: <https://www.trybooking.com/events/landing/1218594>

Also as part of Refugee Week, on Friday June 21 at 11.30am, Dunkley Grandmothers for Refugees will host a Powerpoint Presentation at Frankston Library, giving an overview and a global perspective of **Grandmothers for Refugees**, and key issues in Australia.

More Info: *Maryanne* 0400 201 689 or maryannebarclay5@gmail.com

Supporting First Nations

NAIDOC WEEK 7 – 14 JULY, 2024

'Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud'

NAIDOC Week is a significant opportunity for us all to celebrate and recognise the history, culture and achievements of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples. The theme for 2024 is *'Keep the Fire Burning! Blak, Loud and Proud'* to celebrate resilience and unity in a fire symbol of connection to Country, to each other and to a rich cultural tapestry of traditions that define First Nations.

Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association

are having a Flag Raising Ceremony for **NAIDOC WEEK** on Monday 8 July at 4pm.
10 Pound Rd. Hastings.
More Info: 0403 528 034



Another celebration at the local level is the Annual NAIDOC Dinner Dance coordinated by Nairm Marr Djambana Aboriginal Gathering Place at Mornington Racecourse on Friday 6 July. Details on the flyer below.

SWAN members who attended this event last year said it was a truly memorable occasion. Last year, in the midst of many challenges in the lead up to the Voice Referendum, we especially enjoyed the chance for Indigenous and non-Indigenous residents to engage socially with one another and to watch the vibrant performance of the Aboriginal dancing troupe. It was uplifting!

This year we are organising a 'SWAN Table' at the Dinner Dance. The evening includes a 2-course meal and appetisers on arrival. **If you would like to sit with us, please contact** dianemcdonald.consult@gmail.com



**NAIRM MARR
DJAMBANA**

GATHERING BY THE BAY

NAIDOC week @ Nairm

Saturday 6th July, 2024
6.30pm - 11.30pm
NAIDOC DINNER DANCE
Mornington Race Course

Monday 8th July, 2024
10am- 12noon
NAIDOC Flag Raising
Welcome to Country & Smoking Ceremony
Cultural Dancers
Morning Tea

Thursday 11th July, 2024
11.00am - 2.00pm
NAIDOC Family Day
Free event
Activities for Children
Elders yarning space
BBQ Lunch and Refreshments

32 Nursery Avenue
Frankston

For more information contact

Nairm on 9783 1521 to register.



KEEP THE FIRE BURNING!
BLAK, LOUD AND PROUD

7-14 JULY 2024



**All
Welcome**

ANTAR'S FEDERAL BUDGET ANALYSIS, May 2024

More information: <https://antar.org.au> and NITV website: *Federal Budget 2024: What's in it for mob?*

The most disappointing outcome of this (May 2024) budget for First Nations communities and advocates (who) maintain that the Uluru Statement's core principles of Voice, Treaty, and Truth are the way forward, is the Government's axing of the \$20 million allocated for regional and local voices ... The Treasurer, the Hon. Jim Chalmers MP also **confirmed** that the \$5.8 million funding for a Makarrata Commission to oversee national Treaty and Truth-Telling processes had been redirected to 'Closing the Gap' measures.

Our focus will now be on the State and Territory progress on Voice, Treaty and Truth – action that we will continue to watch very closely.

"Our lives matter, we will not stop fighting for our future... After a Referendum that has detrimentally impacted Aboriginal Communities and seen a rise in racism in our communities, institutions and so-called places of safety coupled with increasing violence against women, it bewilders the mind that the Albanese government has not provided vital resources to ensure the voices of Aboriginal Communities can be protected and that they can access legal help where and when they need it" (The Victorian Aboriginal Legal Service).

In Solidarity, **The ANTAR (Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation) Team, 2024**

RECONCILIATION WEEK 2024 'Now More Than Ever'

At Nairm Marr Djambana, the beginning of Reconciliation Week was very well attended by Indigenous and non-Indigenous members and allies, including SWAN. On the crisp blue-sky Monday morning of May 27, community gathered for a Flag Raising, Welcome to Country and Smoking Ceremony. The Smoking Ceremony was carried out by local Bunurong artist Adam Magennis, an archaeologist and Director of Indigenous art business *Kaptify*. Along with Aunty Deb Mellett, Adam invited others to participate - Colin Valentine, an ally who has strongly supported the community over decades, and Shani Blyth from the Bunurong Land Council. Cultural dance troupe *Kalat Dancers* – 3 sisters Skyla and Carla Lauch and Jamillah Roberts - exuded a powerful grounding energy. Skyla features in the foreground of the photo below. The day ended with a delicious Morning Tea provided by Nairm's social enterprise Djambana Catering using their Indigenous ingredients.



Smoking Ceremony, Nairm Marr Djambana, Reconciliation Week 2024.

Photo: Rosemarie Draper

"The #NRW2024 theme, Now More Than Ever is a reminder to us all that, no matter what, the fight for justice and the rights of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people will – and must – continue."

Source: Reconciliation Australia, reconciliation.org.au



Cultural Dance, Nairm Marr Djambana, Reconciliation Week 2024.

Photo: Rosemarie Draper

NBN First Nations Art Node Project

The Mornington Peninsula Shire / NBN Co First Nations Art Node Project is a partnership that covers Twenty-One NBN node cabinets across thirteen townships with Aboriginal art wraps from six local Aboriginal groups/organisations including Bunurong Land Council, Balee Group, Baluk Arts, Bunjilwarra, Living Culture and Willum Warrain.

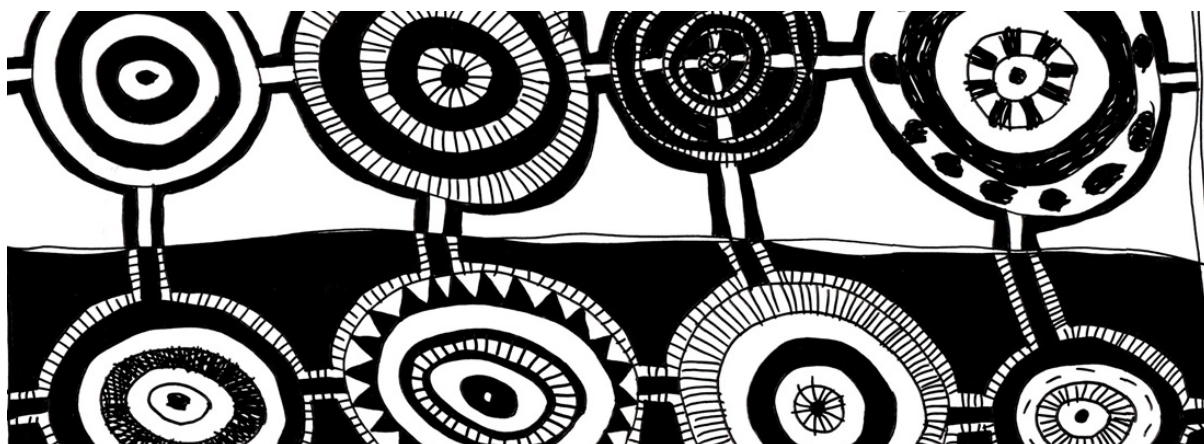
Location: 87 Canadian Bay Rd, Mt. Eliza



'Women's Business' (detail) by Willum Warrain Women's Group, 2018. Credit: **Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association.**

This project aims to support and increase awareness of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander groups and organisations on the Mornington Peninsula and celebrate a sense of place and the importance of storytelling through art.

Location: 39 Boneo Rd, Rosebud



'Community' (detail) by Lisa Waup, 2020. Credit: **Baluk Arts.**

Visit: <https://artsandculture.mornpen.vic.gov.au/nbn-first-nations-art-node-project/#:~:text=The%20Mornington%20Peninsula%20Shire%20%2F%20NBN,Arts%2C%20Bunjilwarra%2C%20Living%20Culture%20and>



AUNTY BEA EXHIBITION

NATURE'S DREAMING
18/04

CLOSING JUNE 18

'NATURE'S DREAMING' at BALUK ARTS

Featuring watercolours and acrylics by **Aunty Bea Nambooka Edwards**

BALUK ARTS: 5 Davies St, Mt. Eliza <https://balukarts.org.au/>

OPEN: Tuesday – Friday, 10am-5pm
Saturday 10am-3pm

Dates for your Diary



- **MONDAY 3 JUNE, 10.30am:** *'SWAN & Younger Women Group meeting'*, at Flower Girls Café, 66 Main St. Mornington.
Contact: Bonnie Einsiedel bonnie.einsiedel@gmail.com
- **SUNDAY 16 JUNE, midday:** *'SWAN Lunch Catch-Up'*, McDaid's Irish Pub, 1003 Point Nepean Rd. Rosebud. Bookings: RSVP Moz Lucas by Sunday 9 June
maureenfrances21@gmail.com
- **SUNDAY 16 JUNE, 2pm:** *'Journey Beyond Fear'* film event for Refugee Week, Peninsula Cinema, Rosebud Parade, Rosebud. Tickets: at the cinema or
<https://www.peninsulacinemas.com.au/Movie/Journey-Beyond-Fear>
- **TUESDAY 18 JUNE, 9.45am:** *'SWAN Women for Housing Justice meeting'*, Mt. Martha House, Room 7, cnr. Dominion Rd & The Esplanade, Mt. Martha
- **FRIDAY 21 JUNE, 11am:** *'Grandmothers for Refugees – who are we and what do we do?'*, informative presentation by Dunkley Grandmothers for Refugees, Frankston Library, 60 Playne St. Frankston. More Info: Maryanne 0400 201 689 or maryannebarclay5@gmail.com
- **MONDAY 24 JUNE, 2pm:** *'Grandmothers for Refugees - Flinders meeting'*, Rosebud Library, McDowell St. Rosebud. More Info: Susan 0400 780 487 or susanhs@bigpond.com
- **SATURDAY 6 JULY, 6 - 11pm:** *'Annual NAIDOC Dinner Dance'* by Nairm Marr Djambana at Mornington Racecourse, Racecourse Rd, Mornington. Bookings: 03 9783 1521
- **MONDAY 8 JULY, 10am – midday:** *'NAIDOC Flag Raising'* inc. smoking ceremony, cultural dancers & morning tea, Nairm Marr Djambana Aboriginal Gathering Place, 32 Nursery Ave, Frankston. More Info: 03 9783 1521
- **MONDAY 8 JULY, 4pm:** *'NAIDOC Flag Raising'*, Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association, 10 Pound Rd. Hastings. More Info: 0403 528 034
- **THURSDAY 11 JULY, 11am – 2pm:** *'NAIDOC Family Day'*, BBQ lunch & refreshments, children's activities, elders yarning space. Free event. Nairm Marr Djambana Aboriginal Gathering Place, 32 Nursery Ave, Frankston. More Info: 03 9783 1521

Contact Us

SWAN News Editor:
Moz Lucas

SOUTHERN WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK



OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER aims to inform readers of current issues and matters of interest.

NEWSLETTER CONTRIBUTIONS If you have information of interest to our members, please ensure you let the editor Moz Lucas know via the email below.

Deadline for our next issue Wednesday 26 June 2024

FACEBOOK AND WEBPAGE Recent events and photos may appear on both the SWAN Facebook page and the website, as well as details of future meetings.

PHOTO/VIDEO PERMISSION Please advise swanwomen@outlook.com or at the door at a meeting if you do not wish to be included in photographs or videos, otherwise we will take it that you are happy to have your photo included.

CONTACT

Postal: PO Box 72 BITTERN VIC 3918

Email: swanwomen@outlook.com

Website: <https://swanwomen.org.au/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/spwswan/>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHua3ynobWOxAUEfOPLt1yQ>

Donations www.trybooking.com/au/donate/swan

Our Sponsors

- * Blackbird Café: 2D Empire St Mornington (03) 5976 8632 blackbird-café.edan.io
- * Bodhi & Me Florist: 5A Bay Rd Mt Martha (03) 5916 1270 bodhiandme.com.au
- * Cape Merchants: 96 Ocean Beach Rd Sorrento (03) 5984 4641 capemerchants.com.au
- * Farrells Bookshop: 143 Main Street Mornington (03) 5975 5034 farrells.com.au
- * Higher Ground Café: 5/5 Howey Rd Mt Martha (03) 5974 4733
- * Rosebud Book Barn: 891 Point Nepean Rd (03) 5986 6770 info@rosebudbookbarn.com.au
- * Secret Garden: 81 Main Street Mornington (03) 5975 0977 secretgardenflowers.com.au
- * SiSCo Pizza Restaurant: 2113 Point Nepean Rd Rye (03) 5985 3967 melgow3@gmail.com
- * Zen Living: 70 Main St Mornington (03) 5975 1013 zenlivingmornington.com.au

Southern Women's Action Network Inc. Reg: A0038144Z, ABN. 50 089 314 052