

SOUTHERN WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK



# Newsletter

## November 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 women, including ethnically diverse, differently abled, and those self-identifying as transgender or non-binary. We are committed to encompassing greater gender diversity in our membership, practices, social justice actions and in the terminology that we use.*

## SWAN NEWS Notice

So you receive the 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 - 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 photographer's name and/or source is included).

# 16 Days of Activism Against Gendered Violence

Starting Sunday 25 November on the **International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women**, and finishing Tuesday 10 December on **Human Rights Day**, *16 Days of Activism* is an annual global campaign against gender-based violence.

## The theme for 2024: 'Respect is ...'.

In the lead up to the campaign, SWAN is hosting anti-violence activist **Dr Helen Keleher** to **present at our General Meeting on Sunday 17 November at Mt Martha House** – see flyer on page 3 for details. We encourage members to **come wearing orange and bring a placard calling for Respect and an end to violence**. A **group photo** – of those who wish to participate - will be taken at the end of the meeting to promote **SWAN's March Against Gender-Based Violence**. This march welcomes all, irrespective of gender, and will take place Sunday 1 December at 11am from Mornington Park, corner Schnapper Drive and the Esplanade.



Come in orange or create your own T-Shirt with the words '**No to Violence No to Silence**' on the front and '**Respect Women**' on the back.

### Messaging for Placards:

- Respect Women
- Enough!
- End Gender-Based Violence
- Violence Against Women is a Men's Issue
- No to Violence No to Silence
- Gender Equality

Queries about the **Mornington March** contact [Maureen maurdone@gmail.com](mailto:Maureen_maurdone@gmail.com)

More information/resources about '**16 Days of Activism**' visit <https://www.respectvictoria.vic.gov.au/campaigns/16-days-activism-against-gender-based-violence>

# SWAN Presentation

On Sunday 17 November, Prof Helen Keleher will speak with members at Mt Martha House on the prevention of violence against women, addressing Victoria's Royal Commission recommendations, and advocating that *'We can do more and we must'*.



## Helen KELEHER

SWAN's Next  
Guest Speaker

**"WE CAN DO MORE, AND WE MUST"**

Professor Helen Keleher's experience in the prevention of violence against women (PVAW) and women's health extends over decades – from nursing and public health to academia and consulting.

Prof. Keleher has been a member of the World Health Organisation Women and Gender Equity Knowledge Network (2006-2008); Chair of the Australian Women's Health Network; President of the Public Health Association of Australia; Convenor of the 2017 World Congress on Public Health held in Melbourne; and co-author of *'Change the Story: A Shared Framework for the Primary Prevention of Violence Against Women and Their Children in Australia'* (2015, 2018).

With a focus on activism for gender and health equity, Prof. Keleher will address some of the family violence prevention strategies from Victoria's 2015 Royal Commission recommendations. She will also overview the infrastructure and programs in Victoria changing the long-standing patriarchal cultures that support gender inequality.

### VENUE

Mt Martha House  
466 Esplanade  
(Cnr Dominion Rd)  
Mt Martha

For women interested  
in deepening their  
knowledge of  
community issues and  
promoting action for  
social justice.

SWAN thanks our raffle  
sponsors for their generous  
donations:

Ella Bache - Rye  
and Pamper Hamper -  
anonymous SWAN member

Gratefully accepting donations:

[www.trybooking.com/au/donate/swan](http://www.trybooking.com/au/donate/swan)

9:30 AM | SUNDAY 17 | NOV | 2024



Thanks to Secret Garden for donating the beautiful flowers for our guest speaker



southernwomensactionnetwork



[www.swanwomen.org.au](http://www.swanwomen.org.au)



spswan

# More Ways to Get Involved:

## **Wallaroo Community House Hastings Walk Against Family Violence**

is on Wednesday 20 November, 10am–midday at 6 Wallaroo Place, Hastings.

**Victoria's Walk Against Family Violence** is on Friday 22 November, commencing 11am at Birrarung Marr (Upper Terrace) Melbourne CBD.



**Your ongoing letters to the media and to politicians about HOMELESSNESS and GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE still matter.** They feed into the issues we will discuss in forthcoming meetings with more of our politicians and local government representatives. Please keep them coming and tell us of responses you receive, including the 'no reply'!

**Homelessness Responses:** [churchill.ERICA@gmail.com](mailto:churchill.ERICA@gmail.com)

**Gender-Based Violence Responses:** [maurdone@gmail.com](mailto:maurdone@gmail.com)

**Please support the need for SAFE EMERGENCY HOUSING by signing this petition:** [Everybody's Home \(everybodyshome.com.au\)](http://everybodyshome.com.au)

***Frankston and Mornington Peninsula Family Violence Primary Prevention Collaborative*** meets bimonthly on a Tuesday 10am-12noon, bringing together different stakeholders including family violence organisations, local government, community groups and community members from Frankston City and Mornington Peninsula. The Collaborative focuses on a primary prevention approach to change underlying social conditions that drive family violence. They share resources and annually plan local awareness raising activities. Members include Women's Health Service, Good Shepherd, Orange Door, Family Life, Department of Education Respectful Relationships, VicPol, and Peninsula Health, as well as local Council representatives.

**Contact: Mandy Roche, Equity & Inclusion Officer, Mornington Peninsula Shire**

## **SWAN WOMEN FOR HOUSING JUSTICE**

**Next Meeting – all welcome:**

**Tuesday 12 November, 9.45am**

**Room 7, Mt Martha Community House, 466 Esplanade, Mt Martha.**

**Contact: Erica Churchill [churchill.ERICA@gmail.com](mailto:churchill.ERICA@gmail.com)**



# 16 days of Activism Author Talk:

## Jane Gilmore - Mornington Library

Saturday, 30 November 2024 | 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM

As stories of male high school students ranking their female peers via sexualised spreadsheets hit the headlines, it's clear that education around treating girls and women with respect needs to be examined more closely.

In Jane Gilmore's insightful new book, *Fairytale Princesses Will Kill Your Children*, she explores what fairy tale princesses, rape myths and the *Fixed It project* (*on violence and the representation of women in the media*) have in common.

In this important live event, Jane talks with writer and interviewer Claire Halliday to discuss how parents, carers and educators can work together to help support young people and reduce the risks of gendered violence. Jane is an author, journalist, feminist, and consent educator.

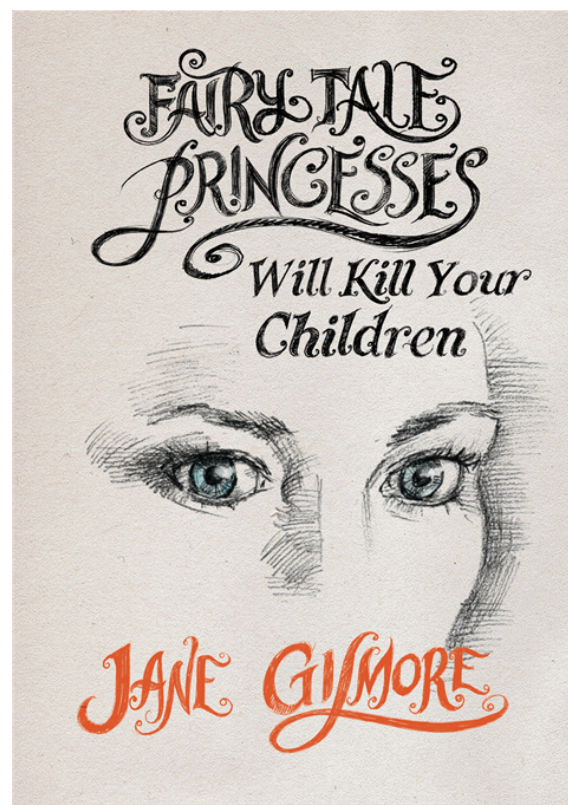
This author talk is in support of 16 Days of Activism to prevent violence against women. 16 Days of Activism against gender based violence runs between 25 November - 10 December 2024.

Mornington Library, Vancouver Street, Mornington

FREE, bookings essential

(03) 5950 1820

[www.ourlibrary.mornpen.vic.gov.au](http://www.ourlibrary.mornpen.vic.gov.au)



# OPEN DAY 2024

## Mt Martha House Community Centre

Direct engagement with the local community is a key way for SWAN to promote its social justice platform and encourage new membership. 'ECHO' Open Day at Mt Martha House Community Centre (MMHCC) on Sunday 27 October presented a great opportunity for SWAN volunteers to do just that. One visitor asked a pertinent question: 'What would you say are some of SWAN's key achievements?' Following our reply, she promptly signed up! A special thank you to our SWAN volunteers for giving their time and dedication on the day.



SWAN INFORMATION STAND was rostered at various times throughout the day  
by SWAN members:

(L-R) Sue Parritt, Marilyn Hoban, Mechelle Cheers, Val Campbell, Moz Lucas,  
Lynn Carpenter (not pictured) and Viv Daniels (not pictured).

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## New SWAN Bursary builds on the long-term generosity of our members

Since it was established in 1996, SWAN has assisted countless women to pursue their own social justice journeys. One way of doing this was through the generous donations made by members to fund bursaries to help young women to complete their education. Initially several 'Community Participation Encouragement' Awards were given to encourage local students aged 16 - 26 years to take up training in public speaking, public presentation and media management. The inaugural recipient of this youth award in 2005 was Bonnie Einsiedel. Bonnie remains an active SWAN member to this day.

Between 2011-2019, under the umbrella of Graduate Women Victoria, more substantive bursaries were awarded. These funds supported nine disadvantaged students to undertake

tertiary studies leading to careers associated with human rights, equity and social justice. Several recipients of these awards were Aboriginal women.

**In 2025 and again in 2026, we are redirecting the annual SWAN bursary to help meet the education expenses of two students in Years 10 or 11, one from Rosebud Secondary College and the other from Western Port Secondary College.** As well as helping to cover education costs, this new bursary aims to nurture the student's potential to contribute to positive societal change. Award recipients will be announced at end of year school assemblies.

We have named SWAN's new bursary the '**Val McKenna Young Women's Advocacy Award**' in recognition of one of the remarkable pioneering women who established SWAN almost 30 years ago. Val was instrumental in spearheading a campaign on the Peninsula that led to the release of Heather Osland (a victim of domestic violence) who had been unjustly imprisoned for the murder of her husband in 1996.

**A celebration to launch this new bursary is being held on Tuesday 19 November at Mt Martha Community House.** This will be attended by staff representatives from the participating schools, the Mornington Peninsula Shire and the Mornington Peninsula Foundation (MPF). We are most grateful to MPF for the generous support it is providing to help us administer these bursaries. This ensures that donations made to the SWAN Bursary are tax deductible.

*Diane McDonald, SWAN Facilitator, October 2024*

## Donations instead of Gifts

Are you celebrating a special birthday this year?

**Have you thought about a donation to SWAN in lieu of gifts?**

This supports our work, including our Education Bursaries for young women to support their social justice journey.

Go to: [swanwomen.org.au](https://swanwomen.org.au) then 'Donate to SWAN'.

To help us keep track of donations, please also email: [swanwomen@outlook.com](mailto:swanwomen@outlook.com) with subject heading '**Birthday Donation**' and include date and amount in your email message.

Alternatively, cash donations can be given to SWAN Treasurer Erica Churchill.

**\*Please specify if the donation is for the SWAN Bursary – these are tax deductible.**

Other donations to SWAN are not tax deductible.

# Peninsula Fundraiser for Palestine Australia Relief and Action

**LIVE MUSIC**  
4-6pm

*Yara, a Palestinian Naarm based  
pop-soul singer-songwriter (4pm)*  
**Nola Lauch (JALGANY),**  
*a Kirrae-wurrung/Bundjalung  
woman who lives on the  
Mornington Peninsula (5pm)*

*An exhibition and fundraising event  
celebrating Palestinian food, music and culture*

**Saturday 9 November 2-7pm**

**The Factory Creative Studios**

8/71 Yuilles Road, Mornington, 3931

**Delicious Palestinian food will be provided by Aheda's Kitchen**



humanitix

## Tix via Humanitix

Dinner box general entry \$65  
Dinner box general entry concession/low income \$50  
General entry \$30  
General entry concession/low income \$25  
Palestinian/First Nations FREE  
Under 12 FREE  
Additional dinner box \$45  
Snack box \$25

**THREADS for  
Palestine Exhibition.**  
25 Artists 100  
artworks



The event space has been generously provided by The Factory Creative Studios. The event is also supported by the Rye Community House and the Mornington Peninsula Human Rights Group.

Palestine Australia Relief and Action (PARA) helps Palestinian migrants and refugees live safe, happy, and fulfilling lives in Australia.



**MPHRG**



The organisers of this event acknowledge the Sovereign Peoples of the Koori Nations, on whose land this event will take place. Sovereignty was never ceded. Always was, always will be Mornington Land.





## SWAN COFFEE CATCH-UP



A lovely sunny day, friendship and stimulating conversation was enjoyed by nine SWAN Members (plus puppy!) overlooking water views at Pelikan Soci   Caf   in Hastings village. This was our 2<sup>nd</sup> last Catch-Up for 2024. Our final SWAN Coffee Catch-Up will be in December in Frankston. Please come and join us!

These informal get-togethers on a Sunday morning are an ideal opportunity to bring friends and family - newly retired, semi-retired and younger women - to find out what SWAN is about, and to enjoy the company of like-minded members, established and new.

**Last Coffee Catch-Up for 2024: Sunday 15 December 10.00am.**

**One Pear Tree Caf  ,  
372 Nepean Highway, Frankston**

**RSVP: Moz Lucas**  
by Sunday 8 December: [maureenfrances21@gmail.com](mailto:maureenfrances21@gmail.com)

Please let Moz know of your caf   suggestions - preferably caf  s with large tables around the Mornington Peninsula and Frankston.

# National Conference 2024

## Rural Australians for Refugees

Held during 11-13<sup>th</sup> of October 2024 in Kyneton, the Rural Australians for Refugees (RAR) National Conference was attended by SWAN members Maryanne Barclay, facilitator of Dunkley Grandmothers for Refugees (G4R), and Marilyn Hoban, G4R member. Dr Jean Ker Walsh and her Kyneton-based team of Rural Australians for Refugees did a magnificent job organizing and running this very informative but at times confronting conference. Keynote Speaker Behrouz Boochani along with artist Mostafa Azimitabar, Human Rights lawyer Prof Gillian Triggs, refugee lawyer David Manne, Sister Brigid Arthur from the Brigidine Asylum Seekers Project and more than 32 other presenters spoke about their work in advocating justice, liberty and support for those seeking a new life in Australia.

The Labor Government have made improvements but there are still 43 seriously ill men on Manus Island, 93 on Nauru, and over 7000 in the community with no work rights, access to education or Medicare. On a global scale there are over 120 million refugees on the move, mostly settled in neighbouring poorer countries. Across the Western World there has been a decline for the respect of International Law in relation to refugees. Yet Australia accepts only 20,000 refugees per year!! We must change the narrative, change hearts and minds and give these people hope, liberty and a sense of belonging. Local communities can make it happen. We need to keep fighting to shape the type of communities that we can thrive in.

***‘Every small act is a move towards change,  
shaping the kind of community we want to live in’***

David Manne



**Derek Guillermo (centre) addressing the RAR Conference with Behrouz Boochani (left) and Gillian Triggs (right)** Photo: Marilyn Hoban



## RURAL AUSTRALIANS FOR REFUGEES NATIONAL CONFERENCE 2024

**LEFT: Sister Brigid Arthur AO, Dr Jean Ker Walsh and Prof Philomena Murray**

Photo: Marilyn Hoban

**BELOW: SWAN and G4R Members Maryanne Barclay and Marilyn Hoban with keynote speaker Behrouz Boochani**

Photo: Supplied



## SWAN INSTAGRAM

**CHECK IT OUT!**

### TYPE

@southernwomensactionnetwork

### OR GO TO

<https://www.instagram.com/southernwomensactionnetwork/>

### OR SCAN THE QR CODE



# Supporting First Nations

## WILLUM WARRAIN ABORIGINAL ASSOCIATION

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Saturday 16 November

10.45am – midday

10 Pound Rd. Hastings

**ALL WELCOME!**



SWAN members are warmly invited to participate in the

**WOMEN'S WEAVING WORKSHOPS**  
at Willum Warrain Aboriginal Gathering Place.

**Next Women's Weaving Workshop:**

Saturday 2 November  
9.30am - midday.

**PLEASE RSVP**  
**(03) 5979 1391**

### ALSO COMING UP AT WILLUM WARRAIN:

- Community Drop-In & Gardening – every Friday 11am – 1pm.
- Big Mob Kristmas Cook Up – Friday 6 December, 11am – 2pm.
  - Koorie Kristmas – Thursday 12 December, 4 – 6pm.





BALUK ARTS SOLO EXHIBITION 10th OCTOBER – 10th DECEMBER



Celebrating landscapes from Palawa Country. Uncle Nick's practice explores the deep and dark ancestral histories of Palawa Country, as well as the artist's own private moments of cultural discovery and revelation. Exhibition continues until December 10.

**BALUK ARTS, 5 DAVIES AVE, MOUNT ELIZA**

Tuesday – Friday, 10am - 5pm

Saturday 10am – 3pm

[info@balukarts.org.au](mailto:info@balukarts.org.au)

# NAIRM MARR DJAMBANA'S GIVING TREE APPEAL

MAKE A YOUNG ABORIGINAL  
OR TORRES STRAIT  
ISLANDER PERSONS'  
CHRISTMAS SPECIAL BY  
DONATING A GIFT.  
AGES 0-18 YRS

IDEAL GIFTS:  
TOYS  
VOUCHERS  
SPORTING EQUIPMENT  
GAMES

DROP OFF UNWRAPPED  
GIFTS TO:  
NAIRM MARR DJAMBANA  
32 NURSERY AVENUE  
FRANKSTON VIC 3199

Appeal closes 15 Dec, 2024

It's that  
time of  
year  
again!



## Southern Peninsula Allies for Justice for First Nations

**NEXT MEETING: 15 November, 2.30pm at Rye Community House, 27 Nelson St, Rye**

**Contact Maureen: [maurdone@gmail.com](mailto:maurdone@gmail.com)**

Aiming to amplify First Nations Voices, build community awareness, support Treaty and Truth-Telling and engage with First Nations communities locally. Monthly meetings in Rye.



**Walking Together Mornington Peninsula** is looking for more people to promote and support First Nations people, organisations, businesses and events. Meetings online: [walkingtogethormorningtonpen@gmail.com](mailto:walkingtogethormorningtonpen@gmail.com)

*'Our group was formed from many of the Mornington Peninsula Yes23 campaigners who committed to continuing the journey to support local Indigenous Australians as we moved past the Voice Referendum result of 14 October 2023'.*

 SCAN ME

# TAKE THE PLEDGE

## STOP LATERAL VIOLENCE

Sponsored by:



**DHEK DJA**  
SAFE OUR WAY  
STRONG CULTURE  
STRONG PEOPLES  
STRONG FAMILIES

**"We want community to feel safe at our Gathering Place"**  
KERRY STRICKLAND, CHAIRPERSON NAIRN MARR DIAMBANA



I PLEDGE  
TO CALL OUT  
LATERAL  
VIOLENCE



# Dates for your Diary



- **FRIDAY 1 NOVEMBER, 10–11.30am:** *'Grandmothers for Refugees meeting: Dunkley & Flinders'*, Frankston Library, 60 Playne St. Frankston. More Info: Maryanne 0400 201 689 or [maryannebarclay5@gmail.com](mailto:maryannebarclay5@gmail.com)
- **SATURDAY 2 NOVEMBER, 9.30am-midday:** *'Women's Weaving Workshop'*, Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association, 10 Pound Rd Hastings. Bookings essential: (03) 5979 1391 or 0403528034 or [willumwarrain.org.au](http://willumwarrain.org.au)
- **FRIDAY 15 NOVEMBER, 2.30pm:** *'Southern Peninsula Allies for Justice for First Nations meeting'*, Rye Community House, 27 Nelson St. Rye. Contact: Maureen Donnelly [maurdone@gmail.com](mailto:maurdone@gmail.com)
- **SUNDAY 17 NOVEMBER, 9.30am:** *'SWAN General Meeting and Speaker Presentation'*, Mt. Martha Community House, Room 49, cnr. Dominion Rd. & Esplanade, Mt. Martha. Details: p.3
- **TUESDAY 12 NOVEMBER, 9.45am:** *'SWAN Women for Housing Justice meeting'*, Mt. Martha Community House, Room 7, cnr. Dominion Rd. & Esplanade, Mt. Martha. Contact: Erica Churchill [churchill.eric@gmail.com](mailto:churchill.eric@gmail.com)
- **SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER, 11am:** *'SWAN Walk for 16 Days of Activism'*, meet at Mornington Park, the Esplanade, Mornington. Contact: Maureen Donnelly [maurdone@gmail.com](mailto:maurdone@gmail.com)
- **FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER, 11am-2pm:** *'Big Mob Kristmas Cook Up'*, Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association, 10 Pound Rd. Hastings. Contact: (03) 5979 1391 or 0403528034 or [willumwarrain.org.au](http://willumwarrain.org.au)
- **THURSDAY 12 DECEMBER, 4-6pm:** *'Koorie Kristmas'*, Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association, 10 Pound Rd. Hastings. Contact: (03) 5979 1391 or 0403528034 or [willumwarrain.org.au](http://willumwarrain.org.au)
- **SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER, 10am:** *'SWAN Xmas Coffee Catch-Up'* at One Pear Tree Café, 372 Nepean Highway, Frankston. RSVP: Moz Lucas [maureenfrances21@gmail.com](mailto:maureenfrances21@gmail.com) by 8 December.



# 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.

**SWAN NEWS CONTRIBUTIONS** If you have information of interest to our members, please ensure you let the editor Moz Lucas know via [swanwomen@outlook.com](mailto:swanwomen@outlook.com)

**Deadline for our next issue Wednesday 27 November 2024**

**PHOTO/VIDEO PERMISSION** Recent events and photos may appear on SWAN's Facebook page, Instagram and website, as well as in SWAN NEWS. Please advise at the door of a SWAN meeting if you do not wish to be in photographs or videos, otherwise we will take it that you are happy to have your photo published.

## **CONTACT**

**Postal:** PO Box 72 BITTERN VIC 3918

**Email:** [swanwomen@outlook.com](mailto:swanwomen@outlook.com)

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

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

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

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/southernwomensactionnetwork/>

**DONATIONS** <https://swanwomen.org.au/donate-to-swan/>

## **Our Sponsors**

- \* Blackbird Café: 2D Empire St Mornington (03) 5976 8632 [blackbird-café.edan.io](http://blackbird-café.edan.io)
- \* Cape Merchants: 96 Ocean Beach Rd Sorrento (03) 5984 4641 [capemerchants.com.au](http://capemerchants.com.au)
- \* Ella Bache Rye Beach: 2337 Nepean Hwy, Rye (03) 5985 3050 [ellabache.com.au](http://ellabache.com.au)
- \* Farrells Bookshop: 143 Main Street Mornington (03) 5975 5034 [farrells.com.au](http://farrells.com.au)
- \* Higher Ground Café: 5/5 Howey Rd Mt Martha (03) 5974 4733
- \* Nairn Marr Djambana: 32 Nursery Ave, Frankston <https://www.djambana.org.au>
- \* Secret Garden: 81 Main Street Mornington (03) 5975 0977 [secretgardenflowers.com.au](http://secretgardenflowers.com.au)
- \* SiSCo Pizza Restaurant: 2113 Point Nepean Rd Rye (03) 5985 3967 [melgow3@gmail.com](mailto:melgow3@gmail.com)
- \* Zen Living: 70 Main St Mornington (03) 5975 1013 [zenlivingmornington.com.au](http://zenlivingmornington.com.au)

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