SOUTHERN WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK



Newsletter December 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

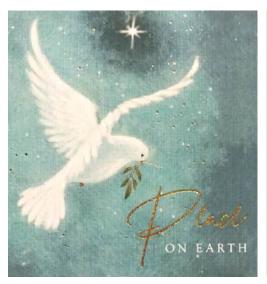
CONTRIBUTION END DATES for 2025:

So you receive the NEWS on the first day of each month, the deadline date for 2025 will be the 25th of the month. For example, January 25 for February's newsletter, February 25 for March's newsletter, and so on - through to November 25 for December's newsletter.

DIARY DATES:

To keep you informed on what's happening in our area, check out Diary Dates near the end of this newsletter.

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).



PLEASE NOTE SWAN NEWS IS TAKING A BREAK FOR JANUARY 2025.

We'll be back in FEBRUARY 2025.

Warmly wishing you all a relaxing and wonderful Festive Season!

Donations instead of Gifts

We are delighted to announce our NEW SWAN BURSARY!

The Val McKenna Young Women's Advocacy Award'

This supports our Education Bursaries for young women on their social justice journey.

SEE PAGES 8 & 9 ABOUT THE NEW BURSARY AND HOW TO DONATE.

Perhaps you're celebrating **Xmas or a special birthday? Have you thought about a donation to SWAN in lieu of gifts?**Donations for this new Bursary are tax deductible.

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

Thank You

SWAN INSTAGRAM

HAVE YOU CHECKED IT OUT?

TYPE

@southernwomensactionnetwork

OR GO TO

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

OR SCAN THE QR CODE



SWAN MARCH for 16 Days of Activism Against Gendered Violence

SWAN has been instrumental in organising a march this **SUNDAY 1st DECEMBER at 11AM** from Mornington Park down Main Street Mornington for this year's '16 Days of Activism', an annual global campaign against gender-based violence. Preparations for the march involved liaison with a range of organisations including Respect Victoria, Mornington Shire Council, and Rye Community House. Speakers Helen Keleher and Bronwyn Currie will address the audience prior to the march. '16 Days of Activism' commenced on International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women (Nov 25) and finishes on Human Rights Day (Dec 10).

The theme for 2024: 'RESPECT IS ...'

Wear orange & come join us!

Make a placard if you can.

All welcome irrespective of gender.



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 <u>maurdone@gmail.com</u>

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



SWAN Members wear orange and hold placards in preparation for SWAN'S WALK TO STOP VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN on Sunday 1st December. Photo: Monica Eldridge

SWAN WOMEN AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

NEXT MEETING: Sunday 8 December, 11am, Rye Community House, 27 Nelson St. Rye Contact: Maureen Donelly maurdone@gmail.com

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

Gender-Based Violence Responses: maurdone@gmail.com

Please support the need for SAFE EMERGENCY HOUSING by signing this petition: Everybody's Home (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.

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

SWAN WOMEN FOR HOUSING JUSTICE

We are excited to announce that after much lobbying, patience and persistence, we have organised a **ROUND TABLE meeting with The Hon Harriet Shing MP and local housing and homelessness stakeholders.** A report by Belinda Rodman on the outcome of the Round Table will be in the next edition of SWAN NEWS.

Until then, you are welcome to attend our next SW4HJ meeting – Tuesday 3 December, 9.45am followed by a zoom meeting with Launch Housing

Room 7, Mt Martha Community House, 466 Esplanade, Mt Martha. Contact: Erica Churchill churchill.erica@gmail.com

SWAN Presentation

On Sunday 17 November at Mt Martha House, anti-violence activist and SWAN member Professor Helen Keleher gave a highly informative, direct and up-to-date presentation to members and guests on the Prevention of Violence Against Women (PVAW), addressing Victoria's Royal Commission recommendations, and advocating a call to action coined by Victoria's first Minister for the Prevention of Family Violence, Fiona Richardson: 'We can do more and we must'. SWAN invited Helen as part of this year's world-wide campaign for '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence'. Helen's presentation drew on her decades of experience in PVAW and women's health – from nursing and public health to academia and consulting. Helen's credentials also extend to her membership of the World Health Organisation 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, Melbourne; and as co-author of 'Change the Story: National Framework to Prevent Violence Against Women and Their Children'.

Topics covered in Helen's SWAN presentation on PVAW centred on 'Primary Prevention-what is it?'; 'Addressing Victoria's 2015 Royal Commission Recommendations 187-188'; 'Drivers of Violence'; 'Risk Factors'; 'Spectrum of Prevention'; 'Levels of Action'; and to conclude, asked: 'What Can SWAN Do?'. Helen's suggestions for further action by SWAN on PVAW prompted enlivened discussion with audience members, and included:

- **Support** 'Put Her Name On It', an initiative by Kerry Wilson, Gender Equity consultant, commemorating place names in Victoria that honour women. How about statues celebrating women on the Mornington Peninsula?
- Connect with Peninsula Advisory Committee for the Elderly (PACE) and place the focus on our older ('elder') women concerning, for instance, abuse by carers, tradies, etc. as well as family members.
- **Continue to advocate to close the Gender Pay Gap,** especially for 'female heavy' service providers like nurses, teachers, child care workers.

'The power of women's alliances cannot be underestimated' Prof Helen Keleher, SWAN meeting 17/11/2024

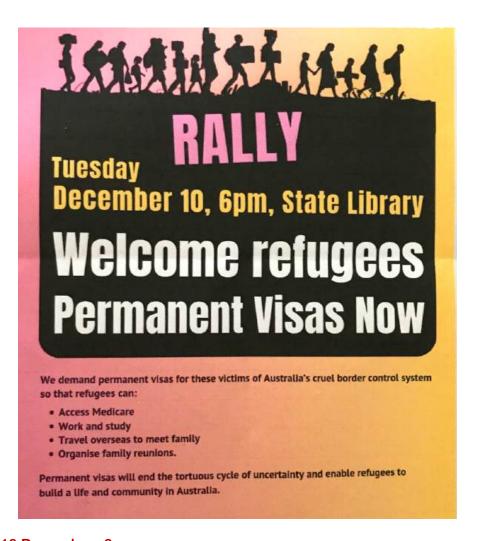


Prof Helen Keleher, Viv Daniels & Diane McDonaldPhoto: Moz Lucas

Helen was presented with a bouquet donated by 'Secret Garden' and thoughtfully gifted her \$200 from SWAN to our new SWAN Bursary (see p.8 about the new bursary). Thank you to our Raffle Sponsors: a gift from Ella Bache Rye, and a Pamper Hamper from an anonymous SWAN member.

Human Rights Day 2024:

The '16 Days of Activism' campaign ends on Human Rights Day (HRD) Tuesday 10 December. To mark this occasion, Grandmothers for Refugees (G4R Dunkley/Flinders) are urging members to consider the plight of refugees. Refugees who have been living on temporary visas for 12 years have established a protest camp outside the office of Labor MP Julian Hill in Robinson Street, Dandenong. They welcome supportive visitors, so if you have time or are in the area, drop by so they know there are people in the community who welcome refugees and want to see them granted permanent visas to put an end to living in limbo. To mark HRD 2024, Victoria's Refugee Action Collective are holding a public rally at the State Library (details below).



Tuesday 10 December, 6pm

State Library of Victoria 328 Swanston St. City.

Refugee Action Collective (VIC) Rally: 'Welcome Refugees - Permanent Visas Now'

Friday 6 December, midday

Dunkley/Flinders G4R End of Year Lunch, Eeny Meeny Cafe, 96 Young St. Frankston. New members welcome: Maryanne 0400 201 689 or maryannebarclay5@gmail.com

SWAN Member Profiles

New SWAN Committee 2024-2025:



Back Row (L-R)

Susan Hillman Stolz, Beck Cridland, Monica Coyle *(Secretary)*, Lyn Jones

Front Row (L-R)

Jill Warner,
Erica Churchill (*Treasurer*),
Marilyn Hoban,
Moz Lucas,
Diane McDonald (*Facilitator*),
Mechelle Cheers

Photo: Monica Eldridge

A special thank you to our five new Committee Members who are already bringing fresh energy and ideas: Beck, Mechelle, Jill, Lyn and Monica. And of course, our gratitude must go to retiring Committee Secretary of 4 years, Vivienne Daniels, and also to Depsi O'Connor who served as Speaker Coordinator for 2023 and 2024. Viv's generous attitude, attention to detail, countless hours sorting through correspondence, maintaining SWAN Membership and publishing the SWAN Newsletter are to be applauded. Despi's thoughtfulness, networking and people skills helped bring an array of excellent speakers and also establish fruitful connections. Below are two of our new Committee members' profiles; other Committee members have previously featured.



LYN JONES

I grew up in Werribee, later lived in Malvern, have 2 daughters and 2 granddaughters. My professional life centred around secondary teaching in Victoria's state and private schools. In 1960s, I worked in two London comprehensive schools. These days, I tutor Year 12 students in English. My hobbies include Tai Chi, Probus, reading, music and a knitting group where I knit baby blankets for premature babies in Frankston Hospital's

neonatal ward. In 2023 I joined SWAN, becoming involved in SWAN's Promotion Group from its inception.

MONICA COYLE

I was blessed with a childhood in country Victoria, then high school years at Lilydale before moving to the Mornington Peninsula in 1985. I studied teaching and enjoyed a 40 year career in education including 18 years as a primary school principal. With a focus on the needs of young people, my further studies included Wellbeing and Psychology. I enjoy reading, walking, gardening and ukelele. I joined SWAN this year and was inspired to contribute as Correspondence Secretary.



New SWAN Bursary Launch



On 19 November, the new SWAN Bursary was officially launched at Mt Martha Community House. This bursary, named the 'VAL MCKENNA YOUNG WOMEN'S ADVOCACY AWARD' recognises one of our remarkable, pioneering SWAN women.

In both 2025 and 2026 two annual Bursaries valued at \$500 each will be awarded to female students in Years 10 or 11 who show leadership potential and interest in social justice, equity and human rights. One bursary each year will be given to a student from Rosebud Secondary College (RSC) and the other to a student from Western Port Secondary College (WPSC). We hope that in future years, donations to SWAN's Bursary Fund will enable us to award four annual bursaries to local Secondary School students.

Val was present at this ceremony, attended by her family, friends, SWAN members, staff from **Mornington Peninsula Foundation** (MPF) and School leadership from both RSC and WPSC. In her formal address, co-founding SWAN member Judith Graley highlighted how Val's purpose in life has been to make a fairer, more just and equal world for all.

Clearly overwhelmed, Val responded saying "I am honoured to have this bursary named after me. I hope it will inspire a new generation of young women to fight for social justice and become a community leader."



Following the event, **RSC School Principal Lisa Holt** (who recently received the '2024 Victorian Excellence in Education Outstanding Secondary Principal Award') commented: "I enjoyed hearing about the early days of SWAN and in particular, the passion with which Val took on challenges!"

MPF Events and Partnerships Coordinator Sara Petautschnig agreed: "This has been a most fulfilling experience, being in a room with such committed women of all ages and hearing from a different perspective ... It's not just about the money (being given through this Bursary), it's about caring for people."



We are most grateful to the Mornington Peninsula Foundation (MPF) for their generous support, connecting us with the Schools and helping us to administer these awards. This ensures that donations made to the SWAN Bursary are tax deductible.

The 2025 Award recipients will be announced at end of year school assemblies in December. Further information will be provided in our next newsletter.

Images Top-Bottom:

*SWAN co-founders Judith Grayley & Val McKenna

Photo: Moz Lucas

*Judith Grayley giving the keynote speech

Photo: Sara Petautschnig

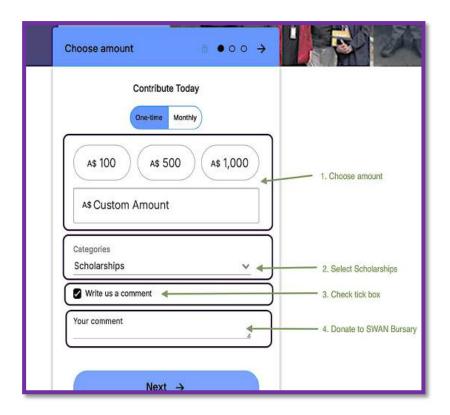
*Val McKenna with SWAN Co-founder Maureen McPhate (L) & SWAN Facilitator Diane McDonald (R)

Photo: Judith Grayley

HOW DO I DONATE?

SWAN members who wish to donate to our Bursary can do so via the MPF website www.mpf.org.au. Simply open the website link and click on the DONATE tab in the top right-hand side, then (1) enter the amount you want to donate, (2) under 'Categories' click 'Scholarships', (3) tick the box 'Write us a comment', (4) under 'Your comment' state 'DONATE TO SWAN BURSARY'. See the screen shot below.

If you have difficulty navigating this process please contact: swanwomen@outlook.com



FUNDRAISER: Sorrento Carols by Candlelight

Friday 6 December, 5pm - 9.15pm, Sorrento Oval, Hotham Rd

All monies raised will go to SOUTHERN PENINSULA COMMUNITY SUPPORT CENTRE to help the needy in our community. Hosted by The Spirit of Sorrento Committee.

This will be a night of wonderful music, choirs, entertainers, markets, fireworks, street food stalls, Xmas gift stalls and a special visitor from the North Pole. Please bring your family and friends to this community event as we welcome the festive season. Gold coin entry donation appreciated.

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*** SWAN XMAS *** COFFEE CATCH UP

Since commencing in August 2023, these get-togethers have grown into a very much looked-forward-to event on members' social calender. SWAN members say:

'What I love about SWAN's Coffee Catch Ups is that it's a great way to get to know like-minded people in a leisurely setting. It is invaluable and I love it!' Janet Turnbull

'They're an enjoyable way to meet up and chat about what's going on in our area and how we can contribute to improving things that need change.' Val Campbell

'Having wide-ranging discussions with knowledgeable women is a postive and empowering way to start Sunday!' Bonnie Einsiedel

Café suggestions? Let Moz know - preferably cafés with large tables around the Mornington Peninsula and Frankston.



SWAN's last Coffee Catch-Up for 2024 is SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER 10.00am!

ONE PEAR TREE CAFE

372 Nepean Highway, Frankston (cnr Fiocchi Ave) Off street parking at back of Café in Fiocchi Ave

RSVP: Moz Lucas

by Sunday 8 December: <u>maureenfrances21@gmail.com</u>

Supporting First Nations



November 21st marked the official opening of Statewide Treaty negotiations between the Assembly and the Victorian Government! "What our Elders fought for and dreamed of will be a reality for our children" said Amy Rust, proud Kokatha woman, Head of Engagement and Communications, First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria. "The key principle that will guide us in these negotiations is simple: decisions about Aboriginal communities, cultures and lands should be made by Aboriginal people."

Get involved! - Treaty for Victoria

How you can help the Treaty for Victoria Campaign:

- Stay up to date: the First Peoples Assembly of Victoria website has all the latest Treaty news
- Show your support: sign up as an individual ally via the Walk With Us page
- Make the pledge: <u>use the guide</u> to discover how organisations can formally pledge themselves as a Friend of Treaty.
- Reach out: discuss your plans for how your organisation intends to Collaborate, Educate, Advocate and Activate your staff, members and supports.

EXHIBITIONS

'Treaty', State Library of Victoria



27 October 2024 - 27 October 2025 10am – 6pm daily

State Library of Victoria 328 Swanston St. City Free

Explore the past, present and future of Treaty with Victoria's First Peoples.

'The technical term for treaty is two parties to come together and strike an understanding, a contract of sorts, and a promise of sorts. And a treaty incorporates peace, that's what it stands for'.

Ringo Terrick, Wurundjeri Elder, Camp Sovereignty.

Victoria is on a path to Treaty with First Peoples – a path that could bring us closer together and mark a significant step towards reconciliation. As Victoria moves forward on the path towards Truth and Treaty, it is timely to reflect on our history, hear from Victorian Aboriginal communities and consider what the future may hold.

In this exhibition, explore a historic collection of items related to the first and only known claim to 'treaty' in Australia, the Batman Treaty. The Batman Treaty was marked by John Batman and Victorian Aboriginal leaders in June 1835. Batman's transaction negotiated the purchase of a tract of country 40 miles in length or 500,000 acres, in exchange for consumable goods, personal supplies and clothing, with an additional yearly payment in this manner, or tribute of similar goods.

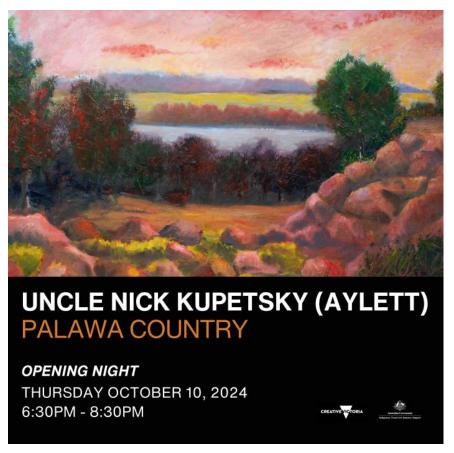
It was almost immediately declared invalid by the government at the time. The treaty remains a critical piece of history and sheds light on the way negotiations have evolved since then.

Come and view the original treaty documents, alongside a painting of the Batman Treaty signing by John Wesley Burtt, and maps which detail the area that Batman intended to acquire.

Videos displayed in this space share the diverse perspectives of Victoria's Aboriginal community, providing a link between the manuscripts of the past and the path to Treaty today and into the future.

Presented by State Library Victoria through the Victorian Indigenous Research Centre, with the support of the Hansen Little Foundation.

'Palawa Country', Baluk Arts



10 OCTOBER – 10 DECEMBER 2024 BALUK ARTS - 5 Davies Ave. Mt Eliza

Tuesday-Friday 10am – 5pm

Saturday 10am – 3pm

Free

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.

info@balukarts.org.au

EVENTS

XMAS AT WILLUM WARRAIN

Big Mob Kristmas Cook Up - Friday 6 December, 11am - 2pm.

Willum Warrain invite you to join in the fun and help prepare an Indigenous-inspired meal, connect, feast and yarn together at a long table.

Contact: (03) 5979 1391 or 0403528034





26 JANUARY 2025: ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDERS' SURVIVAL DAY 'REIGNITE OUR SPIRIT'

WHERE: The Briars WHEN: 12pm-5pm BRING: Picnic rug/chairs, alchohol-free WHAT: Musicians, Dancers, Food stalls, Market stalls

<u>access tickets here</u> Mob tickets: free Ally tickets: \$35 (kids under 14 free) Want to come but can't afford it? Apply for a sponsored position by emailing: <u>events@oursonglines.com</u>

More info: oursurvivalday.com

XMAS GIVING



Our Songlines range of beautiful Weaving Kits make a unique gift. This Indigenous organisation collaborates with Indigenous owned and led businesses to ensure authentic Cultural Representation. The aim is to promote and give back to the Indigenous community.

oursonglines.com



MEETINGS

Southern Peninsula Allies for Justice for First Nations

NEXT MEETING: 6 December, 2.30pm at Rye Community House, 27 Nelson St, Rye

Contact Marg Darcy: (03) 5985 4462

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.

See feature article: 'Referendum the beginning of discovery journey',
Mornington Peninsula News, 12/11/24, p.9 or online



Walking Together Mornington Peninsula is looking for more people to promote and support First Nations people, organisations, businesses and events. Meetings online: walkingtogethermorningtonpen@gmail.com

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



Dates for your Diary



- SUNDAY 1 DECEMBER, 11am: 'SWAN Walk for 16 Days of Activism', wear orange and meet at Mornington Park, the Esplanade, Mornington. Contact: Maureen Donelly maurdone@gmail.com
- TUESDAY 3 DECEMBER, 9.45am: 'SWAN Women for Housing Justice meeting, followed by a zoom meeting with Launch Housing', Mt. Martha Community House, Room 7, cnr. Dominion Rd. & Esplanade, Mt. Martha. Contact: Erica Churchill churchill.erica@gmail.com
- FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER, midday: 'Grandmothers for Refugees End of Year Lunch: Dunkley & Flinders', Eeny Meeny Cafe, 96 Young St. Frankston new members welcome. More Info: Maryanne 0400 201 689 or maryannebarclay5@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
- FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER, 2.30pm: 'Southern Peninsula Allies for Justice for First Nations meeting', Rye Community House, 27 Nelson St. Rye. Contact: Marg Darcy (03) 5985 4462
- FRIDAY 6 DECEMBER, 9.30pm: 'Sorrento Carols by Candlelight', Sorrento Oval, Hotham Rd. Sorrento (all monies raised go to Southern Peninsula Community Support Centre), Details: p.9
- TUESDAY 10 DECEMBER, 6pm: 'Refugee Action Collective (VIC) Rally: Welcome Refugees Permanent Visas Now', State Library of Victoria, 328 Swanston St. City. Details: p.6
- SUNDAY 15 DECEMBER, 10am: 'SWAN Xmas Coffee Catch-Up' at One Pear Tree Café, 372 Nepean Highway, Frankston. RSVP: Moz Lucas <u>maureenfrances21@gmail.com</u> by 8 December.
- SUNDAY 26 JANUARY 2025, 12-5pm: 'Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders' Survival Day', The Briars, Mt Martha. Details: p.14

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.

<u>SWAN NEWS CONTRIBUTIONS</u> If you have information of interest to our members, please ensure you let the editor Moz Lucas know via swanwomen@outlook.com

Deadline for our next issue 25 January 2025

<u>PHOTO/VIDEO PERMISSION</u> Recent events and photos may appear on SWAN's Facebook page, Youtube, 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
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
- * Cape Merchants: 96 Ocean Beach Rd Sorrento (03) 5984 4641 capemerchants.com.au
- * Ella Bache Rye Beach: 2337 Nepean Hwy, Rye (03) 5985 3050 ellabache.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
- * Nairm Marr Djambana: 32 Nursery Ave, Frankston https://www.djambana.org.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

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