

March 2000: Vivienne Nicholson spoke to SWAN members about a wide range of environmental concerns on the Mornington Peninsula and in both Port Philip and Westernport bays, encouraging us to take appropriate action to raise these issues in the wider community. This led to SWAN initiating a public forum to establish a Mornington Peninsula Environmental Collective.

May 2000: Jill Hennessy, who in 2010 was elected to the Victorian Legislative Assembly. She became Minister of Health (2014-18) and was Attorney General of Victoria (2018-2020). She delivered a challenging address raising questions and concerns about women influencing and achieving effective political power and sharing insights on what women can do to ensure that they can play a more active role in government.

July 2000: Prof. Linda Hancock, Visiting Research Fellow at the Centre for Public Policy at the University of Melbourne and former Commissioner on the Law Reform Commission of Victoria shared her knowledge and experience on justice issues.

September 2000: Sian Prior, ABC presenter and occasional journalist for 'The Age' spoke to SWAN members about how government funding cuts to the ABC threatened its character and its ability to deliver innovative and in-depth analytical programming.

November 2000: Irene Bolger, barrister and former leader of the Nurses Union who led the Victorian Nurses strike during the time of the Cain government, gave an inspiring presentation on the topic: *'The Journeys of a Feminist'*.

March 2001: Lisa Jane Solomon, Convener of the Women's Electoral Lobby (Vic) who has had a long and distinguished career in both State and Federal Government positions relating to social justice and equity, spoke to us on the topic: *'Five most important issues for Victorian women in the new millennium.'*

May 2001: Sara Coward, assistant to State Government Minister Lynne Kosky and former mayor of the Maribyrnong Council spoke about the marginalization and disempowerment felt by people living in the Western Suburbs' multicultural communities.

July 2001: Susan Davies AO, Independent MP Victorian State Government shared her parliamentary and political insights, rejecting the claim that independents cannot make a difference, being a constant reminder to the major parties that they need to listen to the needs of the constituents in the communities they represent.

September 2001: Dr. Lynette Dumble, Convener of the World Sisterhood and former Senior Research Fellow in surgery at the Royal Melbourne Hospital gave an impassioned presentation on the topic: *'Women in Peril from Womb to Tomb'* in which she spoke about the devastating situation of women under the Taliban in Afghanistan; the torment faced by female asylum seekers and women in prison; and the maltreatment and suffering girls in many countries around the world.

November 2001: Christine Nixon AO, APM, Chief Commissioner Victoria Police addressed SWAN members, on the occasion of our 5th Anniversary, about women's leadership and the need to recognise and seize opportunities when they arise.

March 2002: Amanda George, Victorian Honour Roll 2001, lawyer, women's rights activist and founding member of Women Against Prison was part of a collective that established the

Women's Legal Resource groups in the early 1980s. She spoke to us on the topic: *'Women and Prisons'*.

In addition, Tahmeena Faral, human rights activist at the Revolutionary Association of Afghanistan Women addressed a special public forum of Mornington Peninsula women attended by many SWAN members.

May 2002: Morag Fraser, Miles Franklin Award (2005-2007), social analyst, author, and editor of Eureka magazine spoke to us on the topic: *'Confronting two Current and Controversial Concerns: Community Movements and Asylum Seekers and the Terrorism Bill 2002'*.

July 2002, SWAN AGM: Mary Bluett, President of the Victorian Branch of the Australian Education Union (1998-2012) spoke about her personal involvement in the trade union movement and the active role being played by other women.

September 2002: Dr. June Factor, Victorian Honour Roll 2001, senior fellow at The Australia Centre, the University of Melbourne and former President of Friends of the ABC told us that many positive outcomes had been achieved through the efforts of the 'Friends' when she addressed the topic: *'What's happening to the ABC'*.

November 2002: Glenyys Romanes AM, former Mayor of Brunswick and State Director of Community Aid Abroad gave an inspiring presentation sharing her experience about *'The Long Road to Parliament'*.

March 2003: Kate Durham, artist, political activist and the driving force behind the community network Spare Rooms for Refugees was joined by her husband Julian Burnside in her presentation about the great shame of Australia's refugee policy.

May 2003: Inaam Barakat, Manager of the Overseas Qualifications Unit, Victorian Communities, Chairperson of North Eastern Migrant Resource Centre, and former radio presenter at SBS spoke to us about her experience as a Lebanese Muslim woman living in Melbourne and about her work in assisting women from many different ethnic backgrounds to secure employment in their fields.

In addition, under the auspice of SWAN, a public meeting was held in May featuring guest speaker **Surma Hamid**, from the Committee in Defence of Iraqi Women's Rights, in which she spoke on the topic: *'War is not the Answer – An Iraqi woman speaks out'*.

July 2003: Sharon Burrow AC, President ACTU and the first woman elected President of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions Asia-Pacific Region, gave an inspiring address providing an overview of the global situation of women in the workplace and an update on work issues in Australia.

September 2003: Christina Browning, Waan and Chitlu from the Australia Karen Youth Project informed us of the plight of the Karen ethnic minority in Burma where over 120,000 refugees are living on the Thai border in dire conditions, with many persecuted by the military regime; and about the education workshops that are being provided in these refugee camps by Karen supporters.

November 2003: Duré Dara OAM, Convener of the Victorian Women's Trust, Vice President Philanthropy Australia, business woman and musician gave a scintillating address on the topic *'My Life as an Australian Citizen'*, in which she shared various aspects of her life and told us that the key to a successful life is negotiation.

March 2004: Kate Bailleu, journalist and activist who was recently appointed to the Point Nepean Management Trust gave a provoking presentation that painted a clear picture of the many complex issues relating to the future of Point Nepean.

In addition, SWAN facilitated a public meeting at which former Senior Intelligence Officer at the Office of National Assessment, **Andrew Wilkie** MP shared his views on the reasons given by the Australian Government to justify joining the 'coalition of the willing' in the invasion of Iraq.

May 2004: Lillian Holt (1945-2020) was born on the Cherbourg Aboriginal Settlement in Queensland and had been involved in Indigenous education for over 30 years, including as the Director of the Indigenous Education Unit at The University of Melbourne. Lillian addressed SWAN members on the topic: '*Building a Dreaming Track for a Better Australia*'.

July 2004: Pamela Curr AM, Victorian Honour Roll 2009, the Greens National Spokesperson for Refugees spoke about the situation in East Timor and Australia's poor history in failing to prevent or even to acknowledge the murder, rape and displacement of many thousands of Timorese people.

September 2004: Marguerite Ryan AM, Founder of Women for Women in Africa, a fundraising group assisting Kenyan women to establish their own businesses, told the SWAN audience about her efforts to improve the lives and expectations of people living in Kibera, on the outskirts of Nairobi, supporting them to earn a living to provide for their families and raising their self-esteem.

November 2004: Anne O'Rourke, Research Fellow, Faculty of Business and Economics, Monash University and Vice President of Liberty Australia (2004-2014) challenged us to consider many world-wide issues and concerns including attitudes to torture, sweat shop labour conditions in third world countries and the war against terror and genocide.

March 2005: Dr. Caroline Taylor AM gave a moving presentation on the topic '*Social Death and Violence against Women*' in which she told us about her personal suffering as the victim of her father's sexual abuse up until the age of 15, her experience of the legal system and the systemic bias against women and girls who are victims of sexual and domestic violence.

May 2005: Prof. Marcia Neave AO, Law Faculty, Monash University, foundation Chair of the Victorian Law Reform Commission and former President of the Commonwealth Administrative Review Council explained the functions of Law Commissions across the world and spoke about some of the more controversial legal issues that have been addressed here in Victoria.

July 2005: Trish Bolton, Lecturer Media Studies, Swinburne University spoke to us on the topic: '*The Fleeting and Fickle Nature of News*', reinforcing the importance of the media to our democracy and culture; and the influence of the media on the lives of women, sending messages to our daughters about the issues we face and highlighting where social change is needed.

September 2005: Elleni Bereded-Samuel AM, Commissioner to the Victorian Multicultural Commission spoke of her advocacy work in supporting migrants from the Horn of Africa who had experienced violence and civil unrest in their homeland.

November 2005: Dr. Lauren Wimetall, then final year Medical student, Monash University spoke about her volunteer internship in East Timor, outlining the multiple needs of the Timorese

people following many years of war and devastation and the challenges that faced people such as herself who offer assistance.

March 2006: Tracee Hutchison, author, broadcast journalist and presenter and producer in radio and TV spoke about her strong commitment to protecting the environment, her work in the media and the importance of being an idealist.

May 2006: Kali Paxinos, spoke of her experience of having a son diagnosed with schizophrenia and about the particular difficulties faced by culturally and linguistically diverse communities in trying to access the necessary treatment and support. She explained how this led her to stand for State Parliament as a member of the People Power Party.

July 2006: Dr. Anne Manne, Australian journalist and social philosopher, engaged SWAN members in her presentation entitled '*The Invisible Heart: women, family work and the care penalty*'. She spoke about how society significantly undervalues this unseen and unpaid work.

September 2006: Sush Das, award winning Columnist with 'The Age' impressed SWAN members with her ability to take on the issue of racism in our society and her efforts to ensure that this issue is taken seriously by politicians and the society at large.

November 2006: Prof. Marilyn Lake AO, from the History Department at La Trobe University spoke to SWAN members on our 10th Anniversary on the topic of Australian values and the historical factors that had led to them to evolve.

March 2007: Sue Cowden, Special Projects Manager at UNHCR spoke about the agency's reproductive health program in Myanmar and the support provided to Burmese refugees in India, Nepal and Chad.

May 2007: Mary Dalmau, Manager of Reader's Feast Bookstore, spoke about how bookstores can play an active role in the community; her involvement in providing audio books to the Braille Library; running forums on political issues and facilitating a Social Justice Festival supported by Julian Burnside and Brendan Kelty.

July 2007: Tara Anderson spoke of her work in combatting the stigma of mental illness through the Stigma Watch and Sane Speaker Program, and her role in the Federal Government's peak youth body, the Nation Youth Roundtable.

September 2007: Leslie Cannold, Australian Humanist of the Year (2011), past president of Reproductive Choice Australia is a philosopher, ethicist, educationalist, writer, activist and public academic who spoke about ethics and the abortion myth.

November 2007: Merle Mitchell AM (1934-2021) former head of ACOSS, spoke about many community development initiatives from the Springvale Community Aid and Advice Bureau to assist newly arrived migrant and refugee families during her time as their director.

March 2008: Jenny Wharfe President of the Blue Wedges Coalition against the deepening and dredging of Port Phillip Bay spoke about the group's activism.

May 2008: Pamela Warr (1933-2022) spoke about her commitments with the Salvation Army including her role with their missing person's bureau, now known as their family tracing service.

July 2008: Belinda Jakiel, Emerging Leader under the Fellowship for Indigenous Leadership (2006-2007) spoke about her Aboriginal heritage and role as Project Manager in the National Indigenous Employment Program of AFL Sportsready.

September 2008: Dianne Bowles spoke about her work with World Education Australia that helps empower women in developing countries by providing education and training and micro-finance loans to assist them in creating sustainable employment opportunities.

November 2008: To commemorate and celebrate the Centenary of Women's Suffrage in Victoria SWAN had a special meeting which included 3 special guest speakers. Founding SWAN member **Judith Couacaud Graley**, Victorian Legislative Assembly, spoke of her 12 years as a local councillor and current State MP role, **Bev Colomb**, Mayor of the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, spoke of a recent meeting with the PM Kevin Rudd in Canberra, and **Prof. Marian Quartly**, academic, gave an overview of the history of the women's vote in Victoria.

March 2009: Our planned speaker **Mary-Lou Doswell** from Trauma Centre Australia was to speak about strategies for supporting grieving adults and children who are survivors of trauma and disasters. Instead at short notice, SWAN member and academic **Dr. Carol Morse** provided us with information about post-traumatic stress disorder and her work with survivors of the recent bushfires.

May 2009: May Kentish spoke about her lifelong interest in the international political economy and the devastation wrought on the environment during times of war.

July 2009: Aboriginal health worker and Indigenous artist **Bea Edwards**, a speaker and advocate for the Aboriginal Community living on the Mornington Peninsula through her association at that time with the Kaala Koori Association, Hastings, spoke about the current and future concerns of the Aboriginal community on the Mornington Peninsula.

September 2009: Joan Kirner AM, AC, Centenary Medal 2001 (1938-2015), first female Premier of Victoria (1990-92), spoke about women having a voice in our political system and of Emily's List which she helped found in 1996 to support and mentor progressive Labor women to be elected to parliament.

November 2009: Sabra Lazarus spoke about her role as a housing officer at the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council and her report *'Speaking Home Truths: homelessness on the Mornington Peninsula 2008'*.

March 2010: Debby Maziarz founder of Westside Circus, Melbourne, creative entrepreneur and community arts and cultural development leader spoke about circus skills to engage and disadvantaged and troubled young people, migrants and refugees.

May 2010: Morag Loh (1935-2019) a writer of children's literature and Australian History and a curator of photography, Morag spoke about social justice and the Australian Broadcasting Commission, and featured *'The ABC: It's Ours, Independent and Free'* a travelling exhibition she put together with photographer John Werrett for Friends of the ABC, to emphasise the importance of the ABC remaining in independent hands.

July 2010: Marguerite Ryan AM spoke about the Women for Women in Africa Foundation (WWFIA) established in 2003, and of which she is the chairperson. WWFIA is committed to empowering and supporting women and children in Kibera, a slum area of Nairobi, Kenya.

September 2010: Assoc. Prof. Marlene Drysdale, Head of Indigenous Health studies, Department of Rural and Indigenous Health, Monash University spoke about her *'Aboriginal Women's Journey: Politics, Social Justice and Academia'*.

November 2010: Sian Darling, film maker, spoke about her role at the Human Rights Arts and Film Festival (HRAFF) and screened her film *'You'd Sing Too'* about artists from refugee backgrounds and their thoughts on the concept of freedom.

March 2011: Marlene Fox, manager of Biala Peninsula in Mornington, spoke about children with disabilities and the importance and benefits of early intervention strategies.

May 2011: Fazila Hajeb, who was born in Kabul, Afghanistan, a part-time teacher and SBS broadcaster, spoke on *'Muslim Women in Australia'* and about the charity Tents4Peace in her role as co-founder and Deputy Chairperson.

July 2011: Our NAIDOC week speaker **Glenys Watts**, team leader of the Aboriginal Support and Development Team at with the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council, spoke of her family history and the work of her team.

September 2011: Due to our planned guest speaker becoming unavailable at short notice, SWAN member and Social Worker **Rosemarie Draper** spoke about her recent working holiday in the Northern Territory, where she did a six-month Child Protection locum to see for herself how the Government's Emergency Response ('Intervention') was being implemented.

November 2011: Prof. Cordelia Fine, philosopher of science, psychologist and academic, shortlisted for the Victorian Premiers Award, discussed her book *'Delusions of Gender: how our minds, society, and neurosexism create difference'* that challenges gender stereotypes and explores the differences and plasticity of the male and female brain.

March 2012: Sarah Capper from the Victorian Women's Trust spoke about the work of this leading women's organisation whose vision is to create a world in which 'Full gender equality' is a reality. The Trust defines this as 'A world where women, girls, and gender diverse people take up all of life's opportunities with respect, safety and dignity'.

May 2012: Jenn Fowler, Project Coordinator at 'The Big Issue' spoke about her role in the marketing and promotion of this street newspaper, with its ground-breaking approach to awareness-raising and supporting homeless and marginalised women.

July 2012: Lynn Brodie from Lowitja Institute for Research into Aboriginal Health and Wellbeing gave a powerful NAIDOC Week presentation entitled: *'Spirit of the Tent Embassy: 40 years on'*.

September 2012: Karen Toohey, Acting Commissioner Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commission spoke about the diversity of complaints received, the manner in which they are dealt with and the work being done to address concerns and implement appropriate solutions in line with the law.

November 2012: Dr. Nuzhat Lotia from the Australian Muslim Women's Centre for Human Rights spoke of the challenges faced by women in Pakistan and the valuable work being done by her organisation to empower Lebanese, Eritrean, Somali, Afghani and other Muslim women to be more active in our society.

March 2013: Prof. Jayashri Kulkari AM Director of the Monash-Alfred Psychiatry Research Centre, raised significant issues regarding the treatment of women's mental health concerns.

May 2013: Mel Gillon from Project Futures and Nicky Mih from the 'Free to Shine' initiative spoke about human sex trafficking and the sex trade in Cambodia and of their role in supporting the rescue and nurture of young girls from sex slavery.

July 2013: Reverend Aunty Janet Turpie-Johnson, a proud salt water woman and Anglican Priest, gave a feisty NAIDOC Week address reminding us of the importance of community, spirituality, women's role in society and the issues facing Aboriginal Peoples.

September 2013: Dr. Caroline Norma from RMIT University and member of the Coalition Against Trafficking Women in Australia, critiqued the Government legislation on prostitution and challenged our own views.

November 2013: Judith Graley MP, founding member of SWAN, former MPSC Mayor and later Victorian Government Member for the seat of Narre Warren spoke about the importance of women in government.

March 2014: Kylee Bates, State Director of Mission Australia spoke of her role in supporting disadvantaged youth and those transitioning from juvenile justice services.

May 2014: Natalie Collard: Winner of the 2013 Telstra Victorian Women's Business Community and Government Award. Natalie spoke about her work in supporting farmers in her role with the National Farmers Federation and as CEO of the Australian Dairy Farmers Association.

July 2014: Dr. Lois Peeler AM, a proud Yorta Yorta and Wurundjeri woman and original member of the Sapphires, gave an inspiring NAIDOC Week address, sharing her own story of activism and reminding us of the ongoing struggles faced by Aboriginal people and the need for us all to press for social justice for Indigenous Peoples.

September 2014: Kirsty Rosie, Community Officer for Ovarian Cancer Australia spoke about the need for all women to be aware of the symptoms of ovarian cancer and the cultural difficulties faced by ethnic women needing advice and support.

November 2014: SWAN in Crisis. Instead of a guest speaker, an Extraordinary General Meeting was held to discuss dwindling member attendance and the lack of volunteers to fill Committee roles.