

SOUTHERN WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK



# Newsletter

## March 2025

*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 25<sup>th</sup> 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).

# Celebrating International Women's Day!

The theme for 2025 is 'MARCH FORWARD for ALL Women and Girls' and calls for action that can unlock equal rights, power and opportunities for all and a feminist future where no one is left behind.



International Women's Day (IWD) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women and to build support for women's rights around the world. The day focuses on accelerating gender parity and is all about unity, celebration, reflection, advocacy and action.

## Celebrate HERstory

*this International Women's Day*

Uncover the untold stories of women who shaped the Mornington Peninsula. Join us in celebration!

<b>PUBLIC ART PROJECT</b> 10-metre photo montage mural <b>8 Mar – 8 Jun 2025</b> Mornington Office 2 Queen Street	<b>GUEST SPEAKER PROGRAM</b> <b>Monica Cronin</b> <b>8 March, 11am</b> 'Well Behaved Women Seldom Make History'  <b>Jean Rotherham</b> <b>12 April, 11am</b> Victorian Suffrage Petition 1891  <b>Cate Cox</b> <b>10 May, 11am</b> Lila's Story	<b>PODCASTS</b> Hear from pioneering women shaping the Peninsula's identity, launching <b>8 March</b> .  
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Special guests  
Andrew Nabbout  
and Emma Gallagher



Frankston City Council is hosting several events to celebrate. Check their website under [International Women's Day events 2025](#)

More Mornington Peninsula events:  
scan the QR CODE  
bottom left-hand flyer



**YOU ARE INVITED**

International Women's Day Breakfast

SHARING OUR STORIES AND  
CELEBRATING OUR ACHIEVEMENTS

**FRIDAY 7TH MARCH 2025**  
**9.00AM - 9.00AM**

THE MEETING ROOM CAFE  
320 MAIN ST MORNINGTON

R.S.V.P. TO [LOUISE.CRANWELL@MCSC.AU](mailto:LOUISE.CRANWELL@MCSC.AU)

# SWAN Speaker for IWD

## *'Women empowering Women'*

SWAN is celebrating IWD by having **Suzanne Murphy**, an inspirational motivational leader, as our guest speaker on Sunday 16 March. Suzanne is highly experienced in empowering women and will share the story of the Women's Spirit Project (WSP). Joining Suzanne will be Helen Beeby, a WSP Board member, and a WSP participant with lived experience of the benefits of the project.





**SWAN's IWD  
Guest Speaker**

## Suzanne MURPHY

**"SPIRIT OF TRANSFORMATION"**

Suzanne Murphy, Managing Director of the Women's Spirit Project (WSP) is Guest Speaker at SWAN's International Women's Day event 2025.

Women's Spirit Project is a grassroots, volunteer-led initiative based in Frankston that aims to connect, inspire and empower women from all walks of life experiencing life's challenges - through fitness, health and wellbeing activities. The project also aims to fill the gap in supporting women facing issues such as social isolation, long-term unemployment or family violence.

With vast experience in coaching, mentoring and conducting leadership workshops, Suzanne knows first-hand that empowering women builds resilience, courage and self-worth, transforming women's lives into a brighter future.

Accompanying Suzanne will be WSP Board member Helen Beeby and a WSP participant with lived experience of the personal benefits of this project.

**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:  
**Farrells Bookshop**  
and **Zen Living - Mornington**

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

**9:30 AM | SUNDAY 16 | MAR | 2025**

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

 [southernwomensactionnetwork](https://www.instagram.com/southernwomensactionnetwork)

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

 [spwswan](https://www.facebook.com/spwswan)

# SWAN Women Against Gender-based Violence

**SWAGBV are taking an inventive and creative approach for International Women's Day 2025 by designing cards (see images below) to use in a range of installations across the Mornington Peninsula.**

The purpose of the cards is to both inform and to include. One side of the card provides factual information on gender INEQUALITY; the other side asks the reader to write what they believe will make for more EQUALITY. It also invites them to visit SWAN's website. SWAGBV has circulated these cards to several community organisations, inviting them to encourage their cliental to write on the cards and exhibit them in a prominent location. Following the event, SWAGBV will collate the community's input for further advocacy work. Participant organisations displaying the cards and creating installations include Mornington Community House, Rye Community House, Good Shepherd Wallaroo, The Corner Youth Project, Southern Peninsula Community Information Support Centre, Mornington Community Support Centre, and Western Port Community Support Centre. Installation ideas range from stringing the cards up clothesline style, 'planting' them in the surrounds of the community gardens, and hanging them from trees. SWAN members who would like to write on a card, contact Maureen Donelly [maurdone@gmail.com](mailto:maurdone@gmail.com)



## EQUALITY IS ...

Please tell us at Southern Women's Action Network what you think would make for more equality for you /women in general:

.....

.....

.....

.....

We will collect these cards for our advocacy work. You may also like to visit our website: <https://swanwomen.org.au>

## SWAN WOMEN AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

**NEXT MEETING:** Friday 28 March, 1.15pm,  
Mt Martha House Community Centre, Room 7,  
cnr Esplanade & Dominion Rd. Mt Martha.  
Contact: Maureen Donnelly [maurdone@gmail.com](mailto: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.eric@gmail.com](mailto:churchill.eric@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.

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

## SWAN WOMEN FOR HOUSING JUSTICE

You are welcome to attend our next SW4HJ meeting - Tuesday 4 March, 9.45am  
Room 7, Mt Martha Community House, 466 Esplanade, Mt Martha.  
Contact: Erica Churchill [churchill.eric@gmail.com](mailto:churchill.eric@gmail.com)

### DROP-IN DONATIONS

### Thank You!

#### Location:

Southern Peninsula Community Support Centre, 878 Point Nepean Rd, Rosebud. Ph: 03 5986 1285  
Mon-Fri: 9.30am-3.30pm.

#### Toiletries:

Family-sized please (*not the small guest-size*) of shampoo, conditioner, men's & women's deodorant, toothpaste, toothbrushes, soap.

#### Pantry:

Packaged and tinned soup, baked beans, rice, pasta, casserole-style sauces, tea, coffee, long-life milk.



# SWAN Attends Candidates Forum

On 14 February, SWAN attended a forum facilitated by the Committee for Frankston & Mornington Peninsula (CFMP) to hear first-hand from local candidates for Flinders and Dunkley ahead of the 2025 Federal Election: Candidates for Flinders were **Zoe McKenzie (LIB)**, **Sarah Race (ALP)** and **Ben Smith (IND)**. Candidates for Dunkley were **Jodie Belyea (ALP)** and **Nathan Conroy (LIB)**. Comprising over 200 local, government, community and business leaders and moderated by Patricia Karvelas (host of ABC Q&A), the aim of the forum was to address key local issues and bring a national focus to our region's major challenges.



Top right: SWAN members at the forum. Photo: Deb Childs. Other images courtesy of CFMP.

The Dunkley discussion with Jodie Belyea and Nathan Conroy canvassed the housing and cost of living crises, gambling reform, public transport, the nuclear debate, small business challenges, and crisis support funding. The Flinders conversation with Ben Smith, Sarah Race and Zoe McKenzie centered around energy and the environment, skills shortages, small business challenges, and infrastructure priorities, as well as the housing crisis.

Southern Women's Action Network (SWAN) was very pleased to attend and hear all candidates acknowledge the critical issue of the housing and homelessness crisis in our region. The plight of our homeless, the lack of social housing and the unfairness of housing affordability is a huge problem both for our business sector trying to attract a stable well-trained workforce, and for our community support organisations trying to find homes for people in desperate need of shelter.

The solutions to this crisis are known. It requires good leadership and hard work by our elected representatives at all levels of government. It is very clear and was emphasised by the CFMP and others that the Mornington Peninsula is not getting its fair share of Federal funding. Our

urgent need for new affordable housing, the provision of social housing and support for our homeless have been overlooked by successive governments for far too long.

When you meet any Federal election candidates - at a street stall, door knocking, via a phone call, at events - ask them firmly the following questions:

**Will you commit to:**

1. Funding a replacement for the Peninsula's only crisis accommodation, The Ranch?
2. A considerable increase in the funding of our three local Community Support Centres to assist with their escalating case-loads?
3. As an urgent priority, providing significant funding of social housing projects in our local area?

Their answers will help you identify a candidate who genuinely cares about our local area and will work hard to make our community a better place to live, work and raise a family.

**VIDEO LINK OF THE FORUM:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KIEQCnnrFU>



**MORNINGTON PENINSULA SHIRE COUNCIL is also hosting a Candidate Forum in Rosebud on Thursday 20 March. Attend in person or live-stream. More info:**  
<https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/About-Us/Advocacy/Shout-Out-for-the-Peninsula>

**PLEASE NOTE**

*As a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC), SWAN must adhere to certain obligations. One such requirement is that SWAN should not align with any political candidate or party.*

*While individual members are completely within their right to support whatever party or candidate they choose, SWAN must remain neutral.*

*This includes members being careful not to post, share or 'like' any politically aligned information or comments in the name of SWAN on social media. It also includes not signing politically aligned letters to the editor, media articles etc or making public announcements as a 'SWAN Member'.*

# A SWAN Story



**L:** Susan Blackburn (left) with SWAN founding member Barbara Godfrey at Blak Fig Café, Frankston, February 2025. **R:** This scarf tells a story.

*'This pink hand knitted scarf was left at a SWAN meeting 20+ years ago. I religiously took it to meetings for about a year asking if it belonged to anyone, then for a further year I wore it to meetings in the hope someone might recognise it. Fast forward to 2024 my long (6 months) trip to the UK and Europe, to see my son and daughter in law who have done the reverse migrant thing, to see other family and for adventures. Except for very warm days the SWAN scarf has been with me. She has been to Roman ruins, Viking exhibitions, stood below the Eiffel Tower, fallen in love with Normandy's Rouen, walked and walked the streets of London, Cambridge and Oxford and all the rest. All along she has witnessed the exceptional work of SWAN and revelled in the strength and advocacy of the SWAN women. She's glad to be home to get deeper knowledge of the past SWAN year and hear about 2025. From the well-travelled and much loved SWAN scarf, Happy New Year and wishing all SWAN women all you hope for in 2025. Many, many thanks to the woman who left her at one of our very early meetings'.*

Susan Blackburn

Susan Blackburn is a long-term SWAN member and former Committee Member. Susan, along with Lyn Jones, oversees the ongoing development and roll-out of the SWAN Bursary: 'The Val McKenna Young Women's Advocacy Award'.

Blak Fig Café is an Aboriginal-led social enterprise training café in Frankston run by First People's Health and Wellbeing: <https://www.facebook.com/BlakFig/>



# Donations instead of Gifts

Perhaps you're celebrating a special birthday or anniversary?  
Have you thought about a donation to SWAN in lieu of gifts?

**Our NEW SWAN BURSARY 'The Val McKenna Young Women's Advocacy Award'**  
supports our Education Bursaries for young women  
on their social justice journey.

**See below about HOW TO DONATE.**

Donations for this new Bursary are tax deductible.  
Alternatively, cash donations can be given to SWAN Treasurer Erica Churchill.

**THANK YOU**

## HOW DO I DONATE?

SWAN members who wish to donate to our Bursary can do so via the MPF website [www.mpf.org.au](http://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 on the right.

If you have difficulty navigating this process please contact: [swanwomen@outlook.com](mailto:swanwomen@outlook.com)

The screenshot shows a mobile app interface for donating. At the top, it says 'Choose amount' with a blue header. Below that, 'Contribute Today' is displayed with 'One-time' and 'Monthly' toggle buttons. The 'One-time' button is selected. There are three circular buttons for 'A\$ 100', 'A\$ 500', and 'A\$ 1,000'. Below these is a text input field for 'A\$ Custom Amount'. A green arrow points to the 'A\$ 1,000' button with the label '1. Choose amount'. Below the amount section is a 'Categories' dropdown menu with 'Scholarships' selected. A green arrow points to this dropdown with the label '2. Select Scholarships'. Below the categories is a checkbox labeled 'Write us a comment' which is checked. A green arrow points to this checkbox with the label '3. Check tick box'. Below the checkbox is a text input field for 'Your comment'. A green arrow points to this field with the label '4. Donate to SWAN Bursary'. At the bottom, there is a blue button labeled 'Next →'.

## SWAN's 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration

In mid-February, a small gathering of SWAN members met to share initial ideas on how SWAN might commemorate our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, a major event for next year. The group included several founding members, some other 'long-termers', as well as a few who joined SWAN more recently. Discussion commenced with recollections of the very early days, the context in which women from various backgrounds were motivated to form a network, and the key principles and values on which SWAN was established. Words and phrases such as: *reaching out, building friendships, solidarity, social justice and hospitality* featured prominently. Young mothers felt 'hemmed in' with children, grandmothers sought 'intellectual stimulus' and women in general wanted 'a voice', a say in community matters.



### BRAINSTORMING SWAN'S 30<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

L-R, back row: Susan Blackburn, Judith Graley, Erica Churchill, Rosemarie Draper,  
Diane McDonald, Fran Rule.

L-R, front row: Maureen McPhate, Val McKenna. Photo: Belinda Rodman (also part of the group).

**Many great ideas about how SWAN could celebrate this significant and unique milestone were discussed, including:** hosting a performance that showcased important events in SWAN's history; creating a visual installation made of fishing net or thread that could be displayed in libraries and other community locations; a jigsaw comprising photos of SWAN members, speakers and activities; a podcast capturing the memories of founding members; an audio visual or short documentary featuring interviews with members and former guest speakers about SWAN's history and social justice activities; creation of a SWAN broch or a scarf that members could wear with pride; production of a '*SWAN Advocacy and Action booklet*' – how a small group of women can make a difference *and* have fun.

**Importantly, the group agreed that our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary must be a celebration and include a dedicated occasion or 'party' where we can come together to acknowledge the importance of friendship and connection to enjoy this very special moment with one another.** Of course, suggestions about 'the cake' were tabled! When all the brainstorming was done, a delicious afternoon tea, prepared by Judith, was enjoyed by all!

**Following this initial discussion, we are now reaching out to YOU and ALL SWAN MEMBERS in the hope of generating further ideas that could be considered. We are also seeking volunteers to be part of a 'working group' to determine which ideas to prioritise and to help us take them further.** If you have any suggestions about other ways we could commemorate this anniversary, particular skills that you could share and/or would like to join this working group, please let us know by contacting [swanwomen@outlook.com](mailto:swanwomen@outlook.com) as soon as possible.

# SWAN Coffee Catch-Up



SWAN's latest Coffee Catch-Up in February was a lively affair – as per usual! This time at Point Leo. Eleven women attended, including 2 new members who wanted to meet and connect with some of our more established members and to find out more about SWAN. As well, robust discussions ensued on topics like the Aged Care System, Death and Dying, a metaphysical discussion on the differences between Spiritualism and Determinism, and on a lighter note, memorable travel experiences. Also, a shout out to Millers Bakery for their scrumptious goodies!

Café suggestions? Let Moz know - preferably cafés with large tables around the Mornington Peninsula and Frankston.  
Moz Lucas: [maureenfrances21@gmail.com](mailto:maureenfrances21@gmail.com)

**Our next Coffee Catch-Up will be Sunday 27 April**  
**Details in April's SWAN NEWS**

## TEAM MEMBER NEEDED!!!

We urgently need a volunteer to join our Catering Team. This will help to ensure that we can provide a variety of tasty refreshments at our General Meetings, held five times a year. The tasks are not arduous or overly time-consuming. The role involves purchasing food and beverage supplies, helping to lay out refreshments prior to the meeting, helping to pack up any leftover food, and ensuring the kitchen is clean and tidy. You won't be alone but with a delightful team of helpers.

CONTACT: [susanhs@bigpond.com](mailto:susanhs@bigpond.com)

# SWAN Workshops: Enhancing Women's Participation in Community Development

In response to feedback received from our SWAN Member Survey held last year, SWAN has prepared a workshop program for later this month that aims to help members strengthen their public-facing communication skills and advocacy capabilities. Four interlinked workshops will be conducted by SWAN members and others who have strong expertise in these areas. Lunch will be provided. Following is a brief outline:

## **SESSION 1    *'Using Facebook & Instagram more Effectively'***

**Tracee Hutchison**

Tracee Hutchison is a trailblazing broadcaster, journalist, TV producer, filmmaker and author. Her career spans 40 years at the highest level in Australian and international media. She is a widely respected creative industries leader for her advocacy on gender equality, social justice and environmental issues over many decades. In this interactive workshop Tracee will share her expertise on how to enhance our social media engagement and outreach. Participants are encouraged to bring their phones and other smart devices, where possible.

## **SESSION 2    *'Publishing Your Passion'***

**Dr Sarah Russell**

Dr Sarah Russell is a public health researcher whose persistent advocacy for our society's most vulnerable people has won her widespread respect. She has extensive media experience and a passion for encouraging others to engage in public debate. Sarah has written over 100 opinion pieces for 'The Guardian', 'The Age' and investigative journals, with countless letters published in local and mainstream papers. This workshop includes strategies and tips to improve your chance of being published and will draw on examples of published work provided by other SWAN members.

## **SESSION 3    *'A Good Photo is Worth a 1,000 Words'***

**Speaker to be advised**

This workshop will be presented by a professional photographer. It includes practical tips and simple techniques on how to improve the quality of your digital snapshots to ensure the pictures that you capture best reflect the images and reality you want to convey. Participants are encouraged to bring their cameras, phones and other smart devices, where possible.

## **SESSION 4    *'Engaging Effectively with Politicians'***

**Judith Graley, Belinda Rodman, Beck Cridland with other SW4HJ members**

In this interactive workshop, SW4HJ (SWAN Women for Housing Justice) members will present the range of community awareness raising and advocacy activities they undertook during 2024 to highlight the urgent need to address the escalating housing and homelessness crisis on the Mornington Peninsula. This includes preparing fact sheets about the current context; circulating examples of letters to send to local councillors, state and federal representatives and Ministers; meetings with representatives across the political spectrum to hear what they commit to do; and meetings with MPSC staff and a wide range of concerned community and service groups. This groundwork was complemented by regular letters and articles in the local media. The year-long campaign led to SWAN hosting a Roundtable for community leaders with the Victorian Minister for Housing, where community reps presented concrete ideas on what they could do to help address this crisis, with State Government assistance.

**WHEN:** Sunday 30 March 2025, 9.30am - 1.00pm, followed by lunch.

*Starts promptly at 9.30am – please arrive by 9.20am to register.*

**WHERE:** Main Hall, Mt Martha House Community Centre, 446 Esplanade, Mt Martha.

**COST:** By donation. Morning tea and a light lunch provided.

**RSVP:** For catering purposes please RSVP [swanwomen@outlook.com](mailto:swanwomen@outlook.com) by Wednesday 26 March.



Let's talk about it! Racism and  
Discrimination

**International Day for the  
Elimination of Racial  
Discrimination (IDERD)**

**The Studio - Mornington  
Community House**  
*91 Wilsons Road, Mornington*

Friday 21 March, 3.30 - 5.30pm

MC: Rosemarie Draper OAM

**HARMONY WEEK**  
**March 17-23 'We all belong'**

On Friday 21 March, to celebrate Harmony Week and IDERD, MP Shire is hosting a panel of individuals and thought leaders from diverse cultural backgrounds who will share their personal stories and insights on the impact of racism and discrimination, followed by a Q&A. Long-term SWAN member **Rosemarie Draper** has been engaged to moderate this event.

**Free entry. Bookings go to:**  
mornpen.vic.gov.au  
type in 'Celebrating Cultural Diversity'  
scroll down to  
**'Let's talk about it! Racism and  
Discrimination'**

More Harmony Week events, go to: <https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au>

Type in 'Celebrating Cultural Diversity', scroll through events.



For over 40 years, Fusion Mornington Peninsula has been supporting and housing youth at risk.

Garden Party Fundraiser tickets: [morningtonpeninsula.fusion.org.au](http://morningtonpeninsula.fusion.org.au)

# Cultural Awareness Session at Point Nepean National Park

Friday 21 March 2025, 9.15am-1.00pm

This is a unique opportunity to participate in a small group cultural awareness session facilitated by Jillian West who was guest speaker at SWAN's NAIDOC Meeting 2024. Jillian is a proud Bunurong woman from Point Nepean and Palawa woman from the Islands of Bass Strait. She is a highly skilled trainer, deeply committed to helping non-Indigenous people to understand the culture of First Nations peoples and learn about their concerns. See:

<https://www.indigenoustraining.org>



The focus is on understanding **Connection to Country** and includes a traditional Welcome and Healing Ceremony, and a Yarning Circle where Jillian will explain why Point Nepean is so important to Bunurong women. She will share stories of the early history of this area and the impact of colonial settlement on Bunurong women.

This activity will commence at 'Gunner's Cottage' in Point Nepean National Park. It involves a short, flat walk down to the beach at Observatory Point. Independent mobility is required, but assistance can be arranged for those who might find it difficult to walk this distance. Places are strictly limited and will be allocated on a first-in basis. Cost is by donation (\$40-50).

***If you would like to attend, contact Mechelle Cheers by March 14: [macheers@gmail.com](mailto:macheers@gmail.com)*** Detailed information, including the donation process, will be sent

*to all those who book. Carpooling can be arranged. Depending on the interest shown in attending this session, we plan to engage Jillian to facilitate another cultural learning activity for SWAN members later in the year.*

Above: Jillian West features in an installation by Noa Smith Fletcher at Flinders Fest 2025. Photo: Beck Cridland.

## Environment

The Arthurs Seat Eagle (ASEagle) is seeking to profit from a State Park by submitting plans for a \$25 million redevelopment. Although ASEagle has a lease on the area and redeveloped the Chairlift in 2016, their proposed upgrade - 8 years later - will have devastating effects on the environment, local community, and the amenity of current and future visitors to this iconic place.

Go to: [www.saveourseat.org](http://www.saveourseat.org)



## Save Our Seat Petition



# Supporting First Nations

## CULTURE & LANGUAGE

SWAN member Maureen Donnelly writes:

*'It recently struck me how often I say 'Mornington' as I go about my daily life. Then I spotted the below list of Indigenous Names, curated by the Bunurong Land Council\* and I determined to add the Bunurong name every time I said or wrote 'Mornington'. It has quickly become second nature to use 'Mornington Gorm-griya' instead of just 'Mornington'. Even better, people ask for an explanation sometimes so it can be a conversation starter. Give it a go! Imagine if allies everywhere did this small act of acknowledgement and respect - how it would grow community awareness'.*

\*Source: *On Bunurong Country: Art and Design in Frankston*, 2023, Jane Eckett (Ed.) with Lisa Byrne, McClelland.

Wonga	Arthur's Seat
Polunuk	Baxter
Narmnup	Berwick
Tunnahan	Cape Schanck
Garrum Garrum	Carrum Downs
Lowyeeung	Carrum Swamp
Korranwarrabul	Dandenong Ranges
Kangerrong	Dromana
Kananook	Frankston
Parre-yurruc-yurruc	Hastings
Kagkeraroite	Kackeraboite Creek
Kannanuke	Kananook Creek
Langwarrin	Langwarrin
Moorooduc	Moorooduc
Murdayaluk	Mordialloc
Gorm-griya	Mornington
Konniga	Mt Eliza
Bygully-barring	Mt Martha
Mon Mar	Point Nepean
Nerm	Port Phillip Bay
Gortgoornok	Rye
Balleymarong	Seaford
Bullanatoolong	Sorrento
Naringalling	Sweetwater Creek
Warn Marin	Western Port Bay

If you aren't sure of the pronunciation, give the Bunurong Land Council a call: 03 9770 1273



## Reconciliation Walk

Volunteers are needed for Willum Warrain's march for Reconciliation Week, Sunday 1st June 10am - 1pm, 10 Pound Rd Hastings. Optional roles include traffic marshals, food preparation and servers, selling plants and merchandise. Text Maureen Donnelly (unless you have already registered with her) 0423806525 with your name, email and role preference.

## EXHIBITION: 'Treaty'



**State Library of Victoria 328 Swanston St. City**  
**Until 27 October 2025 10am – 6pm daily Free**

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



# MEETINGS

## Southern Peninsula Allies for Justice for First Nations

**NEXT MEETING:** 21 March, midday 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:**  
**[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'.*



# Dates for your Diary



- **TUESDAY 4 MARCH, 9.45-11.45am:** *'SWAN Women for Housing Justice meeting'*, Mt. Martha House Community Centre, Room 7, cnr. Dominion Rd. & Esplanade, Mt. Martha. Contact: Erica Churchill [churchill.ERICA@gmail.com](mailto:churchill.ERICA@gmail.com)
- **FRIDAY 7 MARCH, 10-11.30am:** *'Grandmothers for Refugees Meeting: Dunkley & Flinders'*, Frankston Library, Playne St. Frankston – new members welcome. More Info: Maryanne 0400 201 689 or [maryannebarclay5@gmail.com](mailto:maryannebarclay5@gmail.com)
- **SATURDAY 8 MARCH:** *'International Women's Day'*. See pp.2-4 for local activities.
- **SUNDAY 16 MARCH, 9.30am:** *'SWAN General Meeting and Speaker Suzanne Murphy: The Spirit of Transformation'*, Main Hall, Mt Martha House Community Centre, cnr Esplanade & Dominion Rd. Mt Martha.
- **THURSDAY 20 MARCH:** *'Candidates Community Forum'* Rosebud. Details: <https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/About-Us/Advocacy/Shout-Out-for-the-Peninsula>
- **FRIDAY 21 MARCH, 9.15am-1pm:** *'Cultural Awareness Session at Point Nepean Park'* with Jillian West. Details & Bookings: p.14.
- **FRIDAY 21 MARCH, midday:** *'Southern Peninsula Allies for Justice for First Nations meeting'*, Rye Community House, 27 Nelson St. Rye. Contact: Marg Darcy (03) 5985 4462
- **FRIDAY 21 MARCH, 3.30-5.30pm:** *'Let's Talk About It: Racism & Discrimination'*, The Studio, Mornington Community House, 91 Wilsons Rd. Mornington. Free entry. Booking details p.13.
- **SATURDAY 22 MARCH, 11am-1pm:** *'Willum Warrain 11<sup>th</sup> Birthday'*, Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association, 10 Pound Rd. Hastings. Contact: (03) 5979 1391 or 0403528034 or [willumwarrain.org.au](http://willumwarrain.org.au)
- **FRIDAY 28 MARCH, 1.15pm:** *'SWAN Women Against Gender-Based Violence meeting'*, Mt. Martha House Community Centre, Room 7, cnr. Dominion Rd. & Esplanade, Mt. Martha. Contact: Maureen Donnelly [maurdone@gmail.com](mailto:maurdone@gmail.com)
- **SUNDAY 30 MARCH, 9.20am registration for 9.30am start, concludes 1pm. followed by lunch:** *'SWAN Workshops: Enhancing Women's Participation in Community Development'*, Mt. Martha House Community Centre, Main Hall, cnr. Dominion Rd. & Esplanade, Mt. Martha. Details: p.12.
- **SUNDAY 30 MARCH, 2.00-4.30pm:** *'Friends of Fusion Garden Party'*, Fusion Mornington Peninsula, 2 Cumberland Drive, Mt Martha. Tickets: [morningtonpeninsula.fusion.org.au](http://morningtonpeninsula.fusion.org.au)

# Contact Us

SWAN News Editor:  
Moz Lucas



**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) **Next Deadline 25 March 2025**

**PHOTO/VIDEO PERMISSION** 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 (or when prompted) 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.

**PHOTOS NEEDED:** PLEASE EMAIL GOOD QUALITY PHOTOS TO US OF EVENTS OR OCCASIONS THAT WILL BE OF INTEREST TO SWAN MEMBERS – FOR OUR INSTAGRAM & FACEBOOK PAGES AND FOR SWAN NEWS. PLEASE ENSURE YOU INCLUDE THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S NAME AND HAVE PERMISSION FROM THOSE PHOTOGRAPHED. SEND TO: [swanwomen@outlook.com](mailto:swanwomen@outlook.com)

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