#### SOUTHERN WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK



# Newsletter July 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.

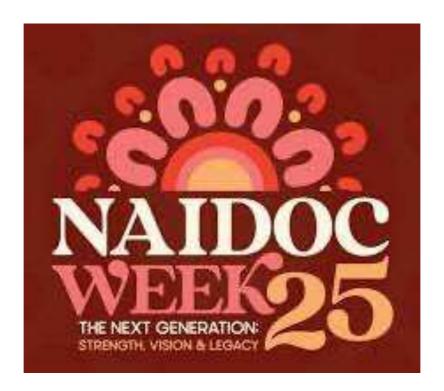
We appreciate all contributions to SWAN NEWS and encourage members to provide information about events, activities and causes, including photos (as long as those photographed have given permission, and the photographer's name and/or source is included).

# NAIDOC WEEK

# 6 - 13 July 2025

### 'The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy'

The theme for NAIDOC Week 2025 is 'The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy'. This theme celebrates the contributions of young Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander individuals and highlights the importance of supporting their development and empowerment. It also encourages reflection on the legacy that has been passed down and how to build a positive future for all.



# SWAN Speaker Event: NAIDOC Week

This month's General Meeting acknowledges NAIDOC WEEK 2025. Our guest speaker is **Kayla Cartledge**, a proud Gurrindji woman from Larrakia country who moved to the Mornington Peninsula on Bunurong land during her primary school years, and later established 'Our Songlines'- to make Indigenous culture accessible to everyone in a supportive environment.

Thank you to our raffle sponsors, Nora's Pizza House Rye and Miller's Bread Kitchen Dromana, and to Secret Garden Mornington for flowers for our speaker.

See flyer below for Speaker Event details



# KAYLA CARTLEDGE



SWAN's NAIDOC Week speaker

#### Next Generation: Strength, Vision and Legacy

Kayla Cartledge is a proud Gurindji woman who exemplifies the qualities expressed in this year's NAIDOC theme. Born on her motherland Larrakia country (Darwin) and growing up on Bunurong Country, she has spent a large part of her childhood and young adult life living and working on the Mornington Peninsula.

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: Nora's Pizza House, Rye and Miller's Bread Kitchen.

Dromana

Recognising the need for Aboriginal Culture to be made accessible to both Indigenous and non-Indigenous people, Kayla established *Our Songlines* in 2019 after graduating with a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Property and Real Estate from Deakin University. 'Committed to First Peoples empowerment', Kayla played a significant leadership role in the YES campaign and is the founder of the zero waste, eco-friendly *Our Survival Day* event on the Mornington Peninsula, attracting thousands of attendees every year. Kayla currently lives in Fitzroy and works as the *Director - First Peoples Energy*, ensuring Traditional Owners are partners in the renewable energy transition.

Kayla's passion for educating people about Aboriginal Culture and Practices, Engagement, Activism and Truth-Telling will be reflected in her presentation at this month's SWAN NAIDOC presentation.

SWAN gratefully accepts donations: www.trybooking.com/au/donate/swan

# 9:30 AM | SUNDAY 20 | JULY | 2025



NAIDOC WEEK stands for National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee. It has its roots in the 1938 Day of Mourning, becoming a week-long event in 1975. Celebrations are happening across the Mornington Peninsula and in Frankston City.

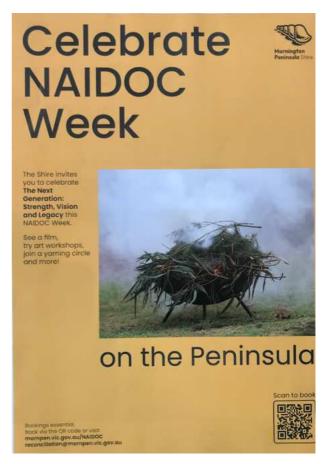
Local First Nations organisations, including Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association, Nairm Marr Djambana Aboriginal Gathering Place, Living Culture, and Tounnin Wominjeka Youth Hub, amongst others, are holding events: flag raising, a community BBQ, art exhibitions & artefacts, storytelling & yarning circles, workshops, film screenings, medicine & bush tucker, and more!

For NAIDOC Mornington Peninsula events, scan the QR code on this poster. Or go to:

https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/About-Us/News-Media-Publications/News-and-Media-Releases/Join-us-for-NAIDOC-Week

For Frankston City NAIDOC events, check out Nairm Marr Djambana's posters here. More events in Frankston City, go to:

https://library.frankston.vic.gov.au/Community-Connection/News-and-Updates/News/NAIDOC-Week-2025





### **Council Cuts**

Take action on local Council Funding Cuts to climate change action, First Nations, social justice organisations and the arts. Regrettably, Council's motions for the cuts (see SWAN NEWS June 2025) were passed. Please keep the momentum going and let council know of your dissatisfaction!

#### **SEND AN EMAIL**

If you haven't already done so, express opposition to these decisions by emailing the individual Councillors below who *VOTED TO APPROVE THE CUTS*:

Mayor, Anthony Marsh: <a href="mailto:anthony.marsh@mornpen.vic.gov.au">anthony.marsh@mornpen.vic.gov.au</a>

Deputy Mayor, Paul Pingiaro: <a href="mailto:Paul.Pingiaro@mornpen.vic.gov.au">Paul.Pingiaro@mornpen.vic.gov.au</a>

Andrea Allen: <u>Andrea.Allen@mornpen.vic.gov.au</u>
Bruce Ranken: <u>Bruce.Ranken@mornpen.vic.gov.au</u>

Stephen Batty: <u>Stephen.Batty@mornpen.vic.gov.au</u> Cam Williams: <u>Cam.Williams@mornpen.vic.gov.au</u>

The Council CEO: Mark Stoermer - <u>mark.stoermer@mornpen.vic.gov.au</u>

The Head of Community Strengthening: Cheryl Casey - <u>Cheryl.Casey@mornpen.vic.gov.au</u>

David Simon, Acting Director, Planning & Infrastructure: <u>David.Simon@mornpen.vic.gov.au</u>

Please keep your emails and letters short and polite.

To thank them for their support, you could also email these Councillors who *VOTED AGAINST* the rescinding of the Climate Emergency Declaration and against the funding cuts:

David Gill: <u>David.gill@mornpen.vic.gov.au</u>

Max Patton: <a href="max.patton@morpen.vic.gov.au">max.patton@morpen.vic.gov.au</a>
Katie Roper: <a href="max.patton@morpen.vic.gov.au">katie.roper@morpen.vic.gov.au</a>

Micheal Stephens: <u>Michael.stephens@mornpen.vic.gov.au</u> Stephen Binyon: <u>stephen.binyon@mornpen.vic.gov.au</u>

#### WRITE A LETTER

**To the Editor of your local paper**, the Mornington Peninsula News, addressing your concerns to <a href="mailto:team@mpnews.com.au">team@mpnews.com.au</a> and <a href="mailto:mornpennews@yahoo.com.au">mornpennews@yahoo.com.au</a>

You can also make a **complaint to the Local Government Inspectorate** (you can choose to do this anonymously): https://www.lgi.vic.gov.au/make-complaint-local-government-inspectorate

#### **SIGN A PETITION**

#### **Mornington Peninsula Climate Emergency**

www.change.org/p/save-our-mp-climate-emergency-plan/psf/share

#### **Restore Willum Warrain Funding**

https://www.change.org/p/restore-willum-warrain-funding?recruiter=1303030697&recruited by id=f80c58d0-cd06-11ed-b3ea-13cc40aebcec&utm source=share petition&utm campaign=petition dashboard&utm\_medium=copylink

Further information on Willum Warrain funding cuts:

- Maureen Donelly from Southern Peninsula Allies group: <a href="mailto:maurdone@gmail.com">maurdone@gmail.com</a>
- Deb Child from **Walking Together**: <u>deb.child77@gmail.com</u> or
- Julie Pittle from **MP Human Rights** group: <u>juliepittle@hotmail.com</u>

#### **Save Our Arts**

https://saveourartsmp.org/

Let's keep the heart in our beautiful Peninsula so that it remains a place on which we are proud to live!

Left: Protesting council cuts to the Arts at 20th May Council meeting.

Photo: Susan Blackburn



#### **COMPLETE A CONSULTATION**

#### Council's Consultation on Public Health & Wellbeing

This is a key opportunity to ensure that Climate Action and many other areas important to our community are prioritised in Council's strategic direction. Please read carefully and make comments aligned with the parts of the plans that are important to you: <a href="https://shape.mornpen.vic.gov.au/our-peninsula-our-future">https://shape.mornpen.vic.gov.au/our-peninsula-our-future</a>

# SWAN Coffee Catch-Up: McCrae

# Sunday 22 June 'Merchant & Maker Café'

Bringing joy, social connection, and engaging discussion, SWAN Coffee Catch Ups are a great way for you to relax and to spend time with like-minded women, especially when there's less time to do so at our General Meetings.

In June, due to unforeseen circumstances, we met at another Mc Crae café: 'Merchant & Maker' (not Wildflower as planned) where eleven of us cosied up in the warmth inside, enjoying hot drinks, cake and savoury treats. Most of all, we enjoyed each other's company and welcomed two new SWAN members who were keen to know more about SWAN's special interest groups on homelessness and gender-based violence. Other topics that sparked conversation included relaxing meditation, the recent showing of a confronting refugee film, ukelele lessons, and loneliness.

Our next Catch-Up will be at The Blue Mini Café in Rosebud in August. Come along and see what all the fun and connection is about!

NEXT CATCH-UP: The Blue Mini Café, Rosebud, 10-11.30am, Sunday 17 August! Email Moz Lucas: <a href="mailto:



It was warm and cosy inside!

Photo: supplied

## SWAN Women for Housing Justice: Update

The SWAN Women for Housing Justice (SW4HJ) group is continuing to meet and discuss our next steps post the 2025 federal election.

Judith has attended the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council (MPSC) **Triple A Housing Committee** meeting where discussion focused on the need to progress applications for new crisis accommodation and social housing developments advocated by MPSC and organisations such as Fusion. Attention should also be maintained on the state of **335 Main Street** which has seen some improvements lately. For example, in regards to maintenance as well as the establishment of a residents' monthly barbeque, under the auspice of MPSC.

The **Launch ZERO** housing and homelessness data continues to worsen, therefore necessitating continued work to get more accommodation options and funding applications. Chair of the Triple A committee **Cr David Gill** has asked that their next meeting focus solely on opportunities and ideas in the housing space that he can speak about to the other councillors.

Congratulations to the local **Community Support Centres** and the leadership role played by our group member **Belinda Rodman** in securing new crisis accommodation in Mornington: RANCH 2.0. We are hopeful this successful partnership model can be replicated elsewhere. See MPNEWS article, 4/6/2025, available on their website: '*Peninsula crisis accommodation saved with Ranch 2.0*'.

In coming weeks, the group will meet with **MPSC Mayor Anthony Marsh and CEO Mark Stoermer**. We are also planning to hold another gathering of the Roundtable attendees in late August.



Our formidable SW4HJ team (L-R): Beck Cridland & Bryn, Lynn Carpenter, Susan Blackburn, Belinda Rodman and Judith Graley recently met with Jane Fielden (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) who heads Supporter Engagement at Fusion Mornington Peninsula.

Photo: supplied

#### SWAN WOMEN FOR HOUSING JUSTICE

You are most welcome to attend our next SW4HJ meeting – Thursday 10 July at 9.45am Room 56, Mt Martha Community House, 466 Esplanade, Mt Martha. Contact: Erica Churchill churchill.erica@gmail.com

#### **GENDER EQUITY VICTORIA**

#### Hidden Stories of the Women's Housing Crisis - A Discussion Panel

GEN VIC is partnering with Queen Victoria Women's Centre to hold a public discussion panel on women and the housing crisis as a part of our Open House Melbourne program this year.

Date: Friday 25 JulyTime: 10am – 11.30am

• Venue: Wayi Djerring, Level 4, QVWC 210 Lonsdale Street

Panelists and registration details: <a href="https://www.genvic.org.au/events-training/">https://www.genvic.org.au/events-training/</a>

#### **Online Active Bystander Project**

GENDER EQUITY VICTORIA has developed a social media toolkit and video, the first of this kind in the world, to help people become active bystanders on social media. The toolkit aims to help get you inspired to stand up for what you think is right online and step in when you see someone participating in or encouraging discrimination. An active bystander is someone who says or does something when they see harassment and discrimination. You can be an active bystander online by using the suggestions in the toolkit and video:

https://www.genvic.org.au/focus-areas/safety-respect/online-active-bystander-project/

# SWAN Women Against Gender-based Violence

#### **GET INFORMED / TAKE ACTION**

STOP KILLING US CAMPAIGN are asking us to sign the petition:

https://www.change.org/p/stop-killing-us-a-petition-from-the-women-of-australia-tostop-violence-against-us

SWAN members can access definitions and resources about 'Coercive control, nonphysical violence and relationship red flags' from RESPECT VICTORIA:

https://www.respectvictoria.vic.gov.au/coercive-control-non-physical-violence-and-relationship-red-flags

#### SWAN WOMEN AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

NEXT MEETING: Friday 25 July, 1.15pm Come & join us

Mt Martha House Community Centre, Room 7, cnr Esplanade & Dominion Rd. Mt Martha.

Contact: Maureen Donelly <a href="mailto:maurdone@gmail.com">maurdone@gmail.com</a>

### **Exhibition**

The Art of Connection: celebrating the strength of women and the power of shared experiences.

25 June – 8 July, free entry. Mornington Community Art Space, Mornington Library.



Little Miss Dream Weaver by Jaimie Lee Daniel

The Art of Connection is more than an exhibition—it's a celebration of voice, of vulnerability, and of the power of community. This exhibition brings together a collective of women whose lives have been shaped by strength, resilience, and the pursuit of connection, including participants in the Women and Mentoring (WAM) program—women with lived experience of the criminal justice system in the Frankston, Mornington Peninsula, Dandenong and Casey communities. Established in 2010, WAM matches participants with a trained and supportive volunteer mentor to improve their life outcomes. The exhibition invites viewers to witness the strength in every brushstroke, stitch, stanza, and image—and to honour the women who created them.

Co-ordinator of WAM, Cyanna McClaren was our guest speaker at SWAN's May meeting this year. WAM: 'Empowering Positive Change in the Community'

More info about WAM Young Women's Program, their Ann Polis Empowerment Fund, or about volunteering to be a mentor: https://www.womenandmentoring.org.au

# Donating to SWAN

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

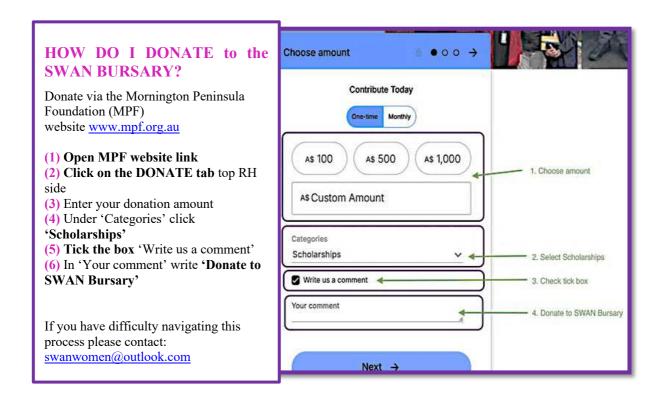
Donations in general or for the Bursary\*\* are tax deductible.

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

#### Thank You!

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

Information about the SWAN Bursary and instructions for making a tax-deductible donation are available at: <a href="https://swanwomen.org.au/swan-donations-and-bursaries/">https://swanwomen.org.au/swan-donations-and-bursaries/</a>



### TEAM MEMBER NEEDED

We urgently need a volunteer for our SWAN CATERING TEAM for just 5 mornings a year.

Can you join our delightful team at our General Meetings to help set up and tidy up a selection of refreshments for our members?

EMAIL: susanhs@bigpond.com

# VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Want to give back and have a whole lot of fun doing it?

Join our Thrift Volunteer Team! Whether you've got a few hours or a whole day to spare, we'd love your help sorting donations, creating beautiful displays, or serving our amazing customers.

Pop in and say hello: Thrift, Progress Street, Mornington or call on 03 5909 8769 to find out more!



# Supporting First Nations

**The Yoorrook Justice Commission's candid new videos** of a selection from the powerful evidence presented to the Commission are now available to watch for free at their Yoorrook Video Library website: <a href="https://www.yoorrook.org.au/videos">https://www.yoorrook.org.au/videos</a>



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

'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'.

#### '65,000 Years: A Short History of Australian Art',

a First Nations exhibition at The Potter Museum of Art, Cnr Swanston St and Masson Rd, Parkville. Free entry. **Exhibition Dates:** 30 May – 22 Nov 2025

Exhibition Dates: 30 May – 22 Nov 2025 Gallery Times: Tuesday – Saturday, 11am-5pm

Curated by Prof. Marcia Langton AO, Associate Provost Melbourne University, Judith Ryan, Potter Museum of Art Senior Curator, and Shanysa McConville, Potter Museum of Art Associate Curator. The exhibition reveals 'the brilliance of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander art while confronting the dark heart of Australia's colonial history and proclaims the importance of Indigenous history and agency'.

#### **Southern Peninsula Allies for Justice for First Nations**

NEXT MEETING – ALL WELCOME: Friday 18 July, midday at Rye Community House, 27 Nelson St, Rye.

Contact Marg Darcy: 0409 859 046

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

# National Reconciliation Week 2025: Willum Warrain's 'Family & Allies Day'

The theme for 2025 'Bridging Now to Next' encourages reflection on the past and looking ahead to build a more united and respectful Australia



# Dates for your Diary



- WEDNESDAY 25 JUNE TUESDAY 8 JULY: 'The Art of Connection' exhibition, Women and Mentoring (WAM), Mornington Community Art Space, Mornington Library Foyer, Vancouver St. Mornington. Free entry.
- FRIDAY 4 JULY, 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
- FRIDAY 4 JULY, 6.30pm: 'NAIDOC 25th Anniversary Dinner Dance & Awards Night', hosted by Nairm Marr Djambana. SWAN Table: SOLD OUT
- MONDAY 7 JULY, 10am-12pm: 'NAIDOC Flag Raising', Nairm Marr Djambana Aboriginal Gathering Place by the Bay, 32 Nursery Ave, Frankston. Free event, details p.4
- MONDAY 7 JULY, 4-5pm: 'NAIDOC Flag Raising & Afternoon Tea', Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association, 10 Pound Rd. Hastings. Free event, details p. 4. Contact: (03) 5979 1391 or 0403528034 or willumwarrain.org.au
- THURSDAY 10 JULY, 9.45-11.45am: 'SWAN Women for Housing Justice meeting', Mt. Martha House Community Centre, Room 56, cnr. Dominion Rd. & Esplanade, Mt. Martha. Contact: Erica Churchill <a href="mailto:churchill.erica@gmail.com">churchill.erica@gmail.com</a>
- THURSDAY 10 JULY, 10am-2pm: 'NAIRM NAIDOC Family Day', Nairm Marr Djambana Aboriginal Gathering Place by the Bay, 32 Nursery Ave, Frankston. Free event, details p.4
- **SATURDAY 12 JULY, 11am-1pm:** '*NAIDOC Community BBQ and two exhibition launches*', Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association, 10 Pound Rd. Hastings. Free event, details p. 4. Contact: (03) 5979 1391 or 0403528034 or willumwarrain.org.au
- FRIDAY 18 JULY, midday: 'Southern Peninsula Allies for Justice for First Nations meeting', Rye Community House, 27 Nelson St. Rye. Contact: Marg Darcy 0409 859 046
- SUNDAY 20 JULY, 9.30am: 'SWAN General Meeting: speaker Kayla Cartledge', Mt Martha House Community Centre, cnr Esplanade & Dominion Rd. Mt Martha. Details pp.2-3
- FRIDAY 25 JULY, 1.15pm: 'SWAN Women Against Gender-Based Violence meeting', Mt. Martha House Community Centre, Room 7, cnr. Dominion Rd. & Esplanade, Mt. Martha. Contact: Maureen Donelly <a href="mailto:maurdone@gmail.com">maurdone@gmail.com</a>

SOUTHERN WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK

# Contact Us

SWAN News Editor: Moz Lucas



**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 Next Deadline 25 July 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 (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.

<u>PHOTOS NEEDED:</u> PLEASE EMAIL US GOOD QUALITY PHOTOS OF EVENTS/OCCASIONS OF INTEREST TO SWAN MEMBERS. INCLUDE THE PHOTOGRAPHER'S NAME AND ENSURE PERMISSION FROM THOSE PHOTOGRAPHED. SEND TO: <a href="mailto:swanwomen@outlook.com">swanwomen@outlook.com</a>

#### **CONTACT**

Postal: PO Box 72 BITTERN VIC 3918
Email: swanwomen@outlook.com
Website: https://swanwomen.org.au/

Facebook: <a href="https://www.facebook.com/spwswan/">https://www.facebook.com/spwswan/</a>

YouTube: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHua3ynobWOxAUEfOPLt1yQ">https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHua3ynobWOxAUEfOPLt1yQ</a> <a href="https://www.instagram.com/southernwomensactionnetwork/">https://www.instagram.com/southernwomensactionnetwork/</a>

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

#### **OUR SPONSORS**

- \* Farrells Bookshop: 143 Main Street Mornington (03) 5975 5034 farrells.com.au
- \* Millers Bread Kitchen: 116 Point Nepean Road Dromana 0411166685 millersbread.squarespace.com
- \* Nora's Pizza House: 2113 Point Nepean Road Rye (03) 5985 3967 noraspizzahouse.com.au
- \* Secret Garden: 81 Main Street Mornington (03) 5975 0977 secretgardenflowers.com.au
- \* Zen Living: 70 Main Street Mornington (03) 5975 1013 zenlivingmornington.com

#### PARKING

A request from Mt Martha House Community Centre - Please do not park in Disabled Parking areas and, if parking is tight and you are fit, please park in the rear car park. The Reserved Parking spots in front of the building are now available for public use.

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