SOUTHERN WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK



Newsletter August 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

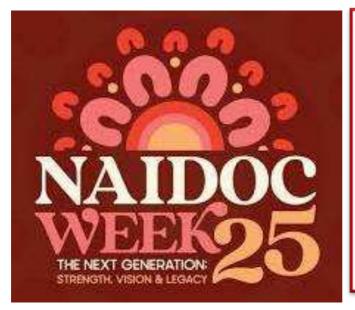
CONTRIBUTION END DATES for 2025:

So you receive the NEWS on the first day of each month, the deadline date for 2025 will be the 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).





SWAN Speaker Event: NAIDOC Week

On Sunday 20 July, SWAN acknowledged NAIDOC WEEK 2025 at our General Meeting in Mt Martha. Our guest speaker was **Kayla Cartledge (above)**, 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' and 'Our Survival Day' - to make Indigenous culture accessible to everyone in a supportive, safe environment.

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

Kayla addressed the history behind 50 years of NAIDOC and the theme honouring the ancestors who have paved the way. Elders pass the baton on to new generations to continue ongoing advocacy for a strong future. Kayla stressed the importance of Values and Culture, including Self Determination, Ancient Knowledge, and Education as primary focal points in creating safe spaces for mob and allies. She explained how these principles guided the establishment of 'Our Survival Day'- a space to bring people together to feel safe on January 26- to practice and celebrate culture and connect with community: a place to build pride and courage.

Kayla was asked by a SWAN member: "What is the significance of your Gurindji connection - how do you carry it?"

'Gurindji culture showed us that peaceful protest was able to move people and bring change and strengthen community. I feel it's important to be inclusive for allies and mob to work together and see the strength that exists in that. It's very much about creating a sense of wider community and having space for that – Survival Day could have been just about mob – but we wanted to bring everyone who was feeling that sense of isolation, the message of wanting to be in a different world that acknowledges traditional culture.'

Following Kayla's presentation, three inspiring, mulit-talented and hard-working Aboriginal Elders who live and work in this community – **Aunty Patsy Smith, Aunty Yvonne Luke, and Aunty Deb Mellett OAM (who is also Kayla's mum)** – told their own moving stories of deprivation, Stolen Generations, resilience and growth, and spoke of their ongoing work and positivity in support of First Nations people, culture and justice: their hope for the future.

The life stories shared by Aunty Patsy, Aunty Yvonne and Kayla's equally inspiring Mum, Aunty Deb, confirmed for us that Kayla and other young First Nations leaders will continue to build on the solid groundwork laid by their Elders, ensuring the voices of First Peoples are heard loud and strong and that self-determination will be achieved.

SWAN too is relying on our youth taking up the baton and leading the way, walking closely beside First Peoples to create a more inclusive and equal nation for us all. Initiatives such as those provided by 'Our Songlines' give us a meaningful way to connect. And so that this hope becomes a reality.

Thanking all four inspiring presenters, SWAN Facilitator Diane McDonald stated, 'We are extremenly grateful to you and the many other Aboriginal people who live in our midst, for giving us the opportunity to learn from you, find ways to connect, and work together to create an inclusive and just future for all ... SWAN looks forward to continuing to walk beside our First Nations allies over the coming years.'

Most powerfully, in the true spirit of walking together for a better future, Kayla asked that the \$200 donation we offered her as guest speaker be used to sponsor some 'Our Survivial Day' tickets for non-Indigenous people who would otherwise not be able to attend.

Thank you to our raffle sponsors, Nora's Pizza House Rye and Miller's Bread Kitchen Dromana.



L-R: Aunty Patsy Smith, Aunty Yvonne Luke, Aunty Deb Mellett OAM. Photo: Beck Cridland

NEXT SWAN Coffee Catch-Up: The Blue Mini Café Rosebud

Sunday 17 August 10-11.30am 2 Colchester Rd Rosebud (off Boneo Rd)

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.

The Blue Mini is the former Rosebud Ten Pin Bowling Alley, nostalgically converted into a spacious café and gift store featuring locally grown, handcrafted, upcycled and reusable products, including Revolution Coffee from Somerville.

Come along and see what all the fun and connection is about!

Reservations: Moz Lucas maureenfrances21@gmail.com

Grandmothers For Refugees (GFR)

Flinders-Dunkley GFR are a community advocacy group for the welfare and recognition of refugees and asylum seekers. Their work includes liaising with local councils, promoting refugee welcome zones, setting up library displays, letter-writing, distributing postcards for change, and participating in the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre annual food drive. The group meets monthly in Frankston library.

ACTION FOR AUGUST!

A current GFR campaign priority aims to end a decade of injustice, demanding the Federal government immediately bring all refugees who remain in Papua New Guinea (37 men, 17 partners, 20 children) and Nauru (under 100) to Australia. Maryanne Barclay has 'Compassion NOT Punishment' postcards (below) available on request for you to post to the Minister for Home Affairs, Immigration & Citizenship Tony Burke.

'TED Ed' Talks

'What does it mean to be a refugee?' by Bernadetta Berti & Evelien Borgman https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25bwiSikRsl

'What is a refugee (or displaced person)?' from Save The Children https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRk8eaW3X1Y

Asylum Seeker Resource Centre Cafes

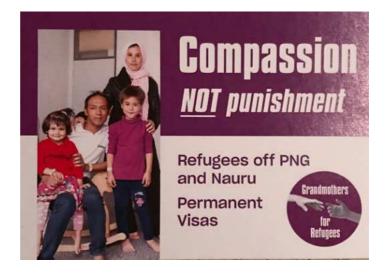
https://www.catering.asrc.org.au/journeys-cafe

POSTCARDS

For postcards to send to

Tony Burke the Minister for
Home Affairs, Immigration &
Citizenship, contact:

Maryanne: 0400201689 maryannebarclay5@gmail.com



End the Waiting Campaign is an initiative of **Common Grace** and the **National Council of Churches**, seeking resolution to the situation for men stuck in PNG and those in detention on Nauru: https://www.commongrace.org.au/end the waiting

To join the GFR mailing list, contact Maryanne: 0400 201 689 or maryannebarclay5@gmail.com

SWAN Women for Housing Justice: Update

"Homelessness is a profound assault on dignity, social inclusion and the right to life"

Leilani Farha, former United Nations special rapporteur on the right to adequate housing.

SWAN's Women for Housing Justice group continues to meet monthly and advance our advocacy and community action work. Last month the group met with MPSC Mayor Anthony Marsh and CEO Mark Stoermer. Engaging with our elected representatives and MPSC's Mayor and CEO has allowed us to keep them up to date with the current situation and our continued campaigns, including telling them our expectations of their role in addressing the dire housing and homelessness crisis on the Mornington Peninsula.

Recent data this month provided by **Launch ZERO Mornington Peninsula** tells us that the situation continues to worsen, especially for women.

Currently, we are organising **ROUNDTABLE 2** with **Josh Burns MP**, the federal government's Special Envoy for Housing and Homelessness committed to attend. **Please put <u>Tuesday 9 September</u>** in your diaries - as was the case with the first Roundtable, we will need some volunteers to help please with the day's event.

We will also be attending the Parliament of Victoria in late August to meet with Government Ministers and Shadow Ministers to inform them about the problems we are facing in our community and seeking our fair share of funding.

Our next group meeting on <u>Tuesday 12 August</u> at 9.45am at Mt Martha Community House will be mainly focussed on planning for ROUNDTABLE 2. Please come along and join us!

SWAN WOMEN FOR HOUSING JUSTICE

You are most welcome to attend our next SW4HJ meeting – Tuesday 12 August at 9.45am
Room 7, Mt Martha Community House, 466 Esplanade, Mt Martha.

Contact: Erica Churchill: churchill.erica@gmail.com

A Personal Account:

Acknowledgement must go to SWAN member Beck Cridland for the publication of her succinct, authentic, well researched and no-nonsense article 'Affordable rent' increasingly unaffordable', featured in the Mornington Peninsula News and Southern Peninsula News on 16 July 2025. Available on MPN website: mpnews.com.au

A Broader View:

Especially useful to gain and share with others about a broad and current overview of the homelessness crisis is the **ABC's 'Life Matters'** episode aired last month '*A plan to tackle homelessness in Australia*' with (formerly homeless) Prof Gregory Smith OAM, Assoc Prof David McKenzie CEO of homelessness prevention organisation Upstream Australia, Kate Colvin CEO Homelessness Australia, and presenter ABC's Tegan Taylor. See *ABC Listen Life Matters*, aired 24 July 2025. Website: abc.net.au

Most Recent News!

Petrina Dodds Buckley MPSC Housing Projects has announced that Rosebud Community Housing Project was endorsed at last week's council meeting. Councillors unanimously voted to support a partnership with Housing Choices Australia to develop women's community housing in Rosebud. "As we now enter the funding stage ... I would like to personally thank you all for your advice and guidance at our Stakeholder Briefing and your overwhelming support of the project. Our extensive community engagement program saw an 84% approval rate for the 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-to-stop-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 29 August, 1.15pm Come & join us

Mt Martha House Community Centre, Room 7, cnr Esplanade & Dominion Rd. Mt Martha. Contact: Maureen Donelly maurdone@gmail.com

Donating to SWAN

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

Donations for the Bursary** are tax deductible.

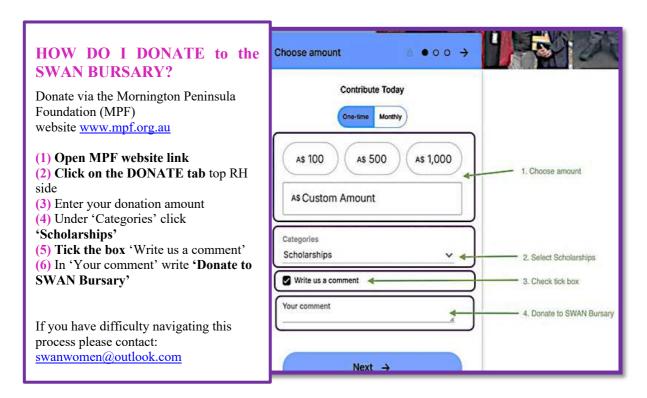
Alternatively, cash donations can be given to SWAN Treasurer Erica Churchill.

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.

To make a general donation to support a wide range of SWAN initiatives follow this link: https://www.trybooking.com/au/donate/swan

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



Supporting First Nations

Treaty for Victoria

Developments are moving fast as the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria negotiates a First Nations Treaty for Victoria. Check out the latest and how you can be involved:

www.firstpeoplesvic.org

Treaty for Victoria - Webinar for Allies

For individual allies: held online via Zoom, Thursday 14 August 6:00-7:00 pm https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/treatv-webinar-for-allies-tickets-1479197803449

A Path to Treaty & Truth Telling

The Yoorrook Justice Commission has released a series of reports and recommendations, including 'Yoorrook Truth Be Told', a most moving Public Record, well worth reading:

https://www.yoorrook.org.au/reports-and-recommendations/reports

Also available are candid new videos of a selection from the powerful evidence presented to the Commission: https://www.yoorrook.org.au/videos

Southern Peninsula Allies for Justice for First Nations

NEXT MEETING – ALL WELCOME: Friday 15 August, 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.

Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association

have expressed their gratitude for all the support that allies provided about recent council funding cuts.

It was a concerted, well-run, multiprong campaign but we were unsuccessful in having the funding restored by Mornington Peninsula Shire Council. Well done also to all who wrote to the councillors and local paper in conjunction with SWAN's organisation-level letter. This was a great example of united solidarity, led by Walking Together Mornington Peninsula.



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

NAIDOC Week Celebrations

A week-long event since 1975, NAIDOC stands for National Aboriginal and Islanders Day Observance Committee, stemming from the 1938 Day of Mourning. SWAN members joined in celebrations with local First Nations organisations, including Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association, Nairm Marr Djambana Aboriginal Gathering Place, Living Culture, Baluk Arts, and Our Songlines.

NAIDOC Week 2025: The Next Generation: Strength, Vision & Legacy'



L: SWAN member Mechelle Cheers got involved at the **NAIDOC Tree Planting with** *Our Songlines* at Main Ridge. Photo: Rosemarie Draper

R: NAIDOC 2025 stunning mural 'Heart of Country' prominently displayed on Mornington Shire's Council building, by Skyla Lauch (below) from Living Culture. Photo: Beck Cridland



CONGRATULATIONS DIANE !!! NAIDOC NAIRM MARR DJAMBANA DINNER DANCE & AWARDS NIGHT

Our own Diane McDonald SWAN
Facilitator, receiving her Champion Award
from NMD's Chairperson Alan Johnston (a
la Elvis!) for her volunteer role in supporting
the development of Djambana Catering.
Diane was thrilled and humbled. "I feel
really privileged to have the opportunity to
work alongside Aunty Deb Mellett and
everyone in the team. Nairm is truly a place of
welcome, support and connection for mob and
non-Indigenous allies. It's a place where
volunteers like me gain far more than they
could ever give."



Photo: Beck Cridland



SWAN members Cath Duane, Mechelle Cheers & Deb Childs zhuzhing it up 70s style!

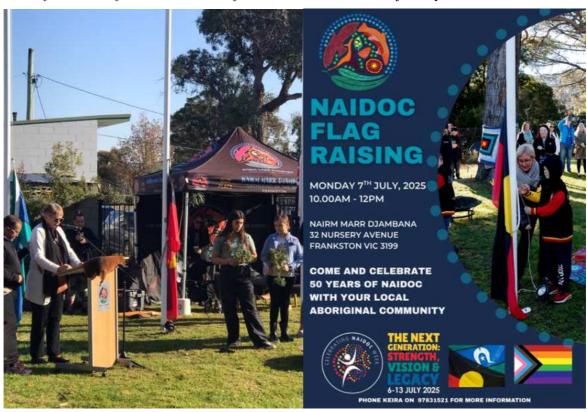
Photo: Beck Cridland



More SWAN women having a ball in front of magnificent First Nations artwork. Photo: Supplied



NAIDOC FLAG RAISING at NAIRM MARR DJAMBANA. Below left: Welcome to Country by **Aunty Dyan Summers** who spoke from the heart of her journey as part of the Stolen Generation and the significance of inclusiveness for future generations in moving forward. See the book 'Telling: Stories of Resilience from Nairm Marr Djambana' for details of her journey. Photos: Diane McDonald





NAIDOC FLAG RAISING at NAIRM MARR DJAMBANA

L: Noah Thomas, Mt Erin College student with Janaya Bartlett, NMD Youth Engagement Officer.
R: A smoking ceremony and cultural dancers. Photos: Diane McDonald



NAIDOC FAMILY DAY at NAIRM MARR DJAMBANA

Jenaya Bartlett (L), NMD Youth Engagement Officer with Keira Reijn (R), NMD Admin Support Officer. The stall included a wide range of Djambana Native Earth Foods and NAIDOC merchandise.

Photo: Diane McDonald



NAIDOC COMMUNITY BBQ at WILLUM WARRAIN with musical entertainment (below left), CEO Peter Aldenhoven (below right) addressing the gathering of mob and allies. Background artwork showcasing their new 'We Are Country' exhibition. Photos: Beck Cridland.

Top Right: **SWAN members** (L-R) Lynn Carpenter, Beck Cridland, Deb Childs, Rosemarie Draper. Photo: Supplied.



NAIDOC FLAG RAISING at WILLUM WARRAIN



NAIDOC FLAG RAISING at Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association's Gathering Place on Monday 7 July in Hastings: a Welcome to Country, speeches and Smoking Ceremony, where older and younger generations raised the flags together.

Photos: Jill Warner

SWAN members (L-R) Rosemarie Draper, Thalia Collard, Jill Warner and Georgie Stubbs.

Photo: Lynn Carpenter



NAIDOC BALUK ARTS EXHIBITION

'Site Legacies' an exhibition of artworks by Aunty Marice
Henare-Gleeson showcased a lifelong collection of her paintings.
L-R: Aunty Marice's brother Uncle Harry, Aunty Marice,
SWAN member Rosemarie Draper, Aunty Mai Katona.

Photo: Beck Cridland







Dates for your Diary



- EVERY FRIDAY, 11am-1pm (except last Friday of the month): 'Community Drop-In and Gardening open to all', Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association, 10 Pound Rd. Hastings. Contact: (03) 5979 1391 or 0403528034 or willumwarrain.org.au
- FRIDAY 1 AUG, 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
- SATURDAY 2 AUG, 3pm: 'Council Budget Cuts', Public Meeting at Flinders Civic Hall.
- TUESDAY 12 AUG, 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
- THURSDAY 14 AUG, 10am-2pm: 'Treaty for Victoria webinair', First Peoples Assembly of Victoria. Free event, bookings required: https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/treaty-webinair-for-allies-tickets-1479197803449
- FRIDAY 15 AUG, midday: 'Southern Peninsula Allies for Justice for First Nations meeting', Rye Community House, 27 Nelson St. Rye. Contact: Marg Darcy 0409 859 046
- **SUNDAY 17 AUG, 10-11.30am:** 'SWAN Coffee Catch Up', Blue Mini Café, 2 Colchester Rd. Rosebud (off Boneo Rd). Reservations: maureenfrances21@gmail.com
- MONDAY 18 AUG: 'Bracelet Weaving with Sammy Trist', workshop with proud Taungurung artist & educator Sammy Trist, Mornington Peninsula Regional Gallery (MPRG). Mornington. Bookings: mprg.mornpen.vic.gov.au
- WEDNESDAY 20 AUG, 11am-7pm: 'Baluk Arts Open Day', 5 Davies Ave, Mt Eliza. Group exhibition, artist talks, refreshments provided. Details p.15
- FRIDAY 29 AUG, 11am-1pm: 'Big Mob Cook Up', Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association, 10 Pound Rd. Hastings. Contact: (03) 5979 1391 or 0403528034 or willumwarrain.org.au
- FRIDAY 29 AUG, 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 maurdone@gmail.com

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 <u>swanwomen@outlook.com</u> Next Deadline <u>25 August 2025</u>

<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: swanwomen@outlook.com

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

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