

SOUTHERN WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK



# Newsletter

## October 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).

# SWAN AGM & Speaker Event

Our September meeting was jam-packed! With a strong attendance of 40 members plus 9 visitors we began with our SWAN Annual General Meeting 2025, followed by our Guest Speaker Ann Urch, an interview with SWAN Bursary recipient Murphy Clarke, finishing with brief updates from various SWAN and local community advocacy groups. SWAN's Facilitator's Report is on pages 6-7, preceded by a delightful summary of our efforts for 2024-2025, courtesy of Dr Seuss and Diane.

## Ann Urch: 'Lived Experience of Transitioning'

SWAN member and inclusivity advocate Rosemarie Draper OAM introduced speaker Ann Urch, formerly Albert Knowles. Rosemarie outlined how, as a service provider and ally, she met Ann through Peninsula Health LGBTIQ+ Consumer Advisory Group. **LGBTIQ+ stands for:** 'Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer, asexual, other sexually or gender diverse or questioning' (Source: [aifs.gov.au](https://aifs.gov.au)).

**Courageously sharing her life journey, Ann spoke of her personal and professional challenges as a gay man and then a transgender woman, her passion to inform the broader community of transgender identity and history, and her advocacy for the LGBTIQ+ community and those coming out and transitioning.** Ann explained how growing up in conservative 1950s and 60's England, she knew she was 'different' and didn't fit into any stereotypical roles. She self-identified initially as being homosexual because she knew she was attracted to men and at the time did not have the vocabulary, knowledge or confidence to express what she was truly feeling. Not meeting family and societal expectations and being the butt of homophobic remarks and jokes was painful. In 1974, Ann as Albert met her future husband Richard and in 1978 they migrated to Australia.

**However, since childhood, Ann as Albert was also living with the anxiety of Gender Dysphoria 'a state of severe distress or unhappiness caused by feeling that one's gender identity does not match one's sex as registered at birth'** (Source: Oxford Languages Dictionary online). Throughout childhood, teenage years and into adulthood, Albert had episodic periods of gender dysphoria which over time increased in frequency and severity, manifesting as depression, tension, and shutting down. He wanted the dysphoria to "go away". In 2009, he began transitioning from a man to a woman - this decision Ann claimed to be 'almost euphoric', such was the relief. In 2010, the medical transition complete, Ann married Richard but also had to cope with how Richard was impacted and his initial difficulties in accepting this.

Ann advised that building a life before transitioning is important as well as understanding the why and how of transitioning. ***"Transitioning is not a panacea ... you are fundamentally the same person you've always been."*** Now as a woman, she also experiences misogyny and a general low regard various societies have for women. Transitioning is also a schism in that friends and family can ostracise, yet, says Ann ***"I'm now living with more congruence of how I feel inside."***



L: Rosemarie Draper OAM, Ann Urch and Susan Hillman Stoltz. R: Ann presenting to SWAN.

Photos: (L) Moz Lucas. (R) Melissa Kelly

**Susan Hillman Stolz, our SWAN Speaker Coordinator** eloquently expressed the overwhelming audience response to Ann's presentation as *"not only very informative about the subject in general but very moving, and also entertaining with your cheeky sense of humour shining through! A number of people commented that hearing such a personal story gave a real insight into the issues that people who are going through a transition or have transitioned might encounter ... and as a result they feel better placed to support friends or family members who are experiencing gender dysphoria. It was a real privilege and honour to have you as our Guest Speaker."*



**Ann answers audience questions.** Photo: Melissa Kelly

\*For interested members wanting to join Ann in an informal chat, contact Rosemarie: [primroses4@hotmail.com](mailto:primroses4@hotmail.com)

Ann gifted her \$200 donation from SWAN to 'Australia for UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees'. Thank you to our raffle sponsors **Farrells Bookshop Mornington** and **Miller's Bread Kitchen Dromana**, and to **Secret Garden Mornington** for donating a beautiful Spring bouquet of flowers for our speaker.

## Mornington Peninsula Seniors Festival: Tuesday 21 Oct **Pride Centre Bus Tour** Victorian Pride Centre, St Kilda



**Mornington Peninsula Shire invites older LGBTIQ+ people and allies to join us on a bus trip to the Victorian Pride Centre in St Kilda – the first purpose-built centre for Australia's LGBTIQ+ communities.**

You will be taken on a guided tour of the Pride Centre by an experienced tour guide who will provide information on the centre's origins, purpose, design features and resident organisations. There will be two exhibitions to view and we will enjoy a lunch together.

**Departs from Mornington Library at 10am, returns 3pm**

• Free, bookings essential • 1300 850 600

• [mornpen.vic.gov.au/vic-pride-centre](http://mornpen.vic.gov.au/vic-pride-centre)



## Bonnie Einseidel with Murphy Clarke: SWAN Bursary

Last year, SWAN's new Bursary '*The Val McKenna Young Women's Advocacy Award*' was inaugurated and presented to two Year 11 female students, each from a different socially disadvantaged school on the Mornington Peninsula. At SWAN's September meeting, one of the bursary recipients Murphy Clarke was interviewed by former SWAN bursary recipient and current SWAN member Bonnie Einseidel. Murphy, now in Year 12 at Rosebud Secondary College and Vice-Captain of Point Leo Surf Life Saving Club, was asked about her thoughts and concerns on community justice issues, her future aspirations, and what she saw as some of the major concerns for young women and girls today.

Murphy focused on the paucity of girls participating in local community sports and few women working professionally in local sporting venues, especially in leadership positions, and how the current culture is male dominated and sidelines girls. Currently, she is undertaking education in sports coaching for primary schools. Murphy's future aspiration is to work outdoors and to this end, she has been offered an apprenticeship in outdoor education, which she says includes "understanding respect". To change the culture and bring more gender balance, Murphy suggested a sporting day of '*just girls*' under the motto '*GIRLS CAN*'. Bonnie suggested a SWAN speaker on '*Women's Involvement in Sport*'. Murphy also highlighted public transport accessibility as a major community issue on the Mornington Peninsula.



L: Bonnie Einseidel, Melissa Mavridis (RSC), Lyn Jones, Murphy Clarke (RSC), Susan Blackburn.

Lyn and Susan are SWAN's liaisons for the Bursary. Photo: Moz Lucas

R: Bonnie interviewing Murphy. Photo: Susan Blackburn

### SWAN TREASURER NEEDED

I no longer have time to be on the Committee of SWAN. My family responsibilities have increased considerably this year and are likely to increase further next year. This means I cannot be Treasurer.

I have been on the SWAN Committee for 10 years, all of these with a position such as Treasurer, Speaker Co-ordinator or Facilitator. I believe it is time for someone else to step up.

The Treasurer tasks are not arduous. The financial details are kept on an Excel spreadsheet and payments are done by electronic banking which is easy to master. Since SWAN is now registered as a charity we are exempt from tax. Treasurer reports are done for each Committee meeting and then a full year report for the AGM. The full year report is then sent to ACNC by the Secretary.

I am very happy to support anyone who volunteers for this position as much as required. Please give me a call if you would like further information. **Erica Churchill: 0404 811 422**



What might Dr. Seuss say about SWAN's work over the past year?

In the land of SWAN, oh what fun, 30 years of work, and it's just begun!  
With meetings and speakers - Oh so grand!  
Sharing knowledge and experiences that help us understand.

Coffee catch-ups - a monthly delight,  
Increasingly popular, making Sunday mornings so bright.  
A newsletter too filled with information galore,  
Photos, colourful flyers and so much more!

The new SWAN bursary - oh what a start  
Supporting young women who have a big heart.  
Two student awards given so far,  
Thanks to member bank transfers and donations put in a jar!

A Walk to Stop Violence, a powerful stride,  
A Roundtable on Homelessness, with community leaders by our side.  
Skills development workshops and cultural sessions so wise  
Boosting member participation - reaching for the skies!

Engaging with First Peoples, treaty support  
Forums on racism – and other matters causing distraught.  
Rebranding and outreach, digital and neat  
A tsunami of letters to the editor and politicians,  
Oh what a feat!

You can think about purple, you can think about white  
You can think about swans soaring and things that aren't right  
But just remember to think left and then to the right,  
You could try thinking low, but make sure to think high.  
Oh, the thinks you can think, if only you try.

So here's to SWAN - A future so bright!  
With community engagement, women's leadership, and members' sheer might.  
Now celebrating three decades of volunteer cheer  
But look what's ahead - an even more wonderful year!

## SWAN AGM 2025: FACILITATOR'S REPORT

**The last 12 months has been a whirlwind of activity for SWAN. This builds on the valuable groundwork laid in the previous two years to reaffirm and revitalise our strategic direction.** As I reflect on the past year, I want to acknowledge especially the significant contribution made by so many of our members to ensure SWAN fulfils its core objectives and continues to thrive.

As has been the case since SWAN's foundation, last year we hosted five General Meetings. Speaker Coordinator, **Susan Hillman-Stoltz** went the extra mile to ensure a diverse line-up of **inspiring guest speakers** who presented on a range of topics.

In November, **Dr Helen Keleher** spoke about preventative strategies being used to address gender-based violence and programs that are successfully tackling gender inequality. In March, **Suzanne Murphy**, the CEO of Women's Spirit Project, told us about the valuable work that WSP is doing to support and empower vulnerable women and girls. In May, we heard from **Cyanna McLaren**, Co-ordinator of the Women and Mentoring (WAM) Young Women's Program about the support given to those at risk or in early contact with the criminal justice system.

Our NAIDOC meeting in July provided an amazing opportunity for us to hear from 'next generation' First Nations leader, **Kayla Cartledge**, Director of Our Songlines, and three remarkable Aboriginal Elders who Kayla claimed as her mentors, **Aunties Deb Mellett, Yvonne Luke and Patsy Smith**. And here we are now in September, where we will shortly hear from **Ann Urch** who will share her personal story of being a transgender woman.

In the months between our bi-monthly General Meetings, **Moz Lucas** facilitated a series of informal **Coffee Catch Ups** at appealing café locations in Hastings, Frankston, Point Leo, McCrae, Mt Eliza and Rosebud. These casual, increasingly popular, get-togethers are now firmly embedded in SWAN's annual calendar. In fact, organising these gatherings is only one of the many activities facilitated by Moz. Each month, she skilfully crafts written contributions, photos and flyers contributed by members to create **SWAN NEWS**, keeping us well informed about local and more wide-scale social justice issues, meetings and forums. Much of what we do in SWAN relies on teamwork, and I want to acknowledge the valuable technical backup provided by **Di Lewis** who ensures that our newsletter reaches the inbox of over 250 people.

This year, as well these regular gatherings, SWAN hosted several special events. We launched our new bursary, the **Val McKenna Young Women's Advocacy Award**, with two inaugural bursaries presented to Year 12 students, Jenna Chalkitis from Western Port Secondary College and Murphy Clarke from Rosebud Secondary College. Under the experienced leadership of **Susan Blackburn** and **Lyn Jones** and with generous donations from our members, two more bursaries will be awarded for 2026.

Late last year, in conjunction with the **16 Days of Activism Campaign**, SWAN led a Walk down Main St. Mornington to 'Stop Violence against Women'. A few days later, the **SWAN Women for Housing Justice Group** facilitated a **Roundtable on Homelessness** that brought together the leaders of over 30 community organisations with local government representatives and State Minister for Housing, the Hon Harriet Shing, to discuss strategies to address the housing crisis.

After a short Christmas break, the **SWAN Women Against Gender-Based Violence Group** conducted a participatory project to gather community feedback about family violence, the results of which were shared publicly in the lead up to International Women's Day.

Indeed, March-April were extremely busy months for SWAN. With assistance from **Mechelle Cheers**, twenty of us gathered one morning on the beach at Point Nepean, to participate in a very moving **Cultural Awareness Session** conducted by proud Bunurong-Palawan woman, **Jillian West**. A few weeks later we facilitated a half day workshop entitled '**Enhancing Women's Participation in Community Development**', that aimed to skill up our members in using social media, taking good

photos, writing publishable letters to the editor, and engaging effectively with politicians. Next up **Monica Coyle** facilitated our first ever **'Welcome Meeting'** to assist those new to SWAN to find out how they might connect within our network. Based on positive feedback and with 44 new people joining SWAN in the past 12 months, we are hosting another Welcome Session in October.

SWAN members attended many events hosted by the Shire and other community organisations. **Rosemarie Draper** facilitated an MPSC community forum entitled: **'End Racism and Discrimination'**. In the lead up to the Federal Election, SWAN was well-represented at **Candidate Forums** held by both the Shire and the Committee for Frankston and the Mornington Peninsula. Several members also attended the **National Conference of Rural Australians for Refugees**.

As always, a particular focus has been **SWAN's engagement in numerous activities held by local First Nations organisations**, including Our Songlines, Willum Warrain, Nairn Marr Djambana, Baluk Arts and Living Culture. SWAN members are also active participants in both 'Walking Together Mornington Peninsula' and 'Southern Peninsula Allies for Justice for First Nations', and are enthusiastically supporting Treaty and promoting it within their own networks.

As well as deepening our relationships with local First Peoples and supporting them to address their concerns, I want to highlight the valuable advocacy work undertaken by both the Housing Justice and Gender-based Violence groups that are helping to raise community awareness about these matters and to seek systemic change. This has led to many new connections with like-minded community organisations, expanding our own learning about the causes of injustice and strengthening our advocacy to build a more equitable and cohesive society.

At a practical level, many of our members have helped to extend our outreach to new cohorts of women. This includes re-branding and revitalising our promotional resources, improving the accessibility and content of our website, and more effective use of social media. **Erica Churchill, Melissa Kelly, Jill Warner, Moz Lucas and Beck Cridland** deserve a special mention. Thanks also to those whose letters and articles about social concerns have been published, including **Marilyn Hoban, Denise Hassett, Maureen Donnelly, Val Campbell and Diane Johnstone** to name a few.

Underpinning all things SWAN is a hospitality and kindness so emblematic of SWAN members. Observed in so many, varied ways: the generosity of those who regularly cater for our meetings; in members caring for those amongst us who are suffering poor health, struggling with family concerns or otherwise doing it tough; and in those who, regardless of personal cost, are supporting the more vulnerable members of our wider community.

Finally, I want to acknowledge the invaluable contribution made by all SWAN Committee members who willingly undertake multiple, sometimes tedious roles, and play an instrumental part in guiding SWAN's future. I am most grateful for their ongoing support.

I also want to thank those who have kick started the planning to celebrate **SWAN's 30th anniversary next year**. This is a significant achievement and a unique milestone for a women-led, volunteer-based community organisation – that is without doubt, one of the longest running in Australia. Those who have been involved so far are: founding members: **Val McKenna, Maureen McPhate, Fran Rule and Judith Graley, along with Erica Churchill, Susan Blackburn, Rosemarie Draper, Monica Coyle and myself**.

**Stay tuned as SWAN marches onward into our fourth decade!** Be ready to help us celebrate the valuable contribution made by countless numbers of women in our region, who help one another and their peers to learn about matters of inequity and social justice and empower them to become actively involved in building a fairer and more inclusive society.

Volunteers are the lifeblood of SWAN. And look what we can achieve together!

**Diane McDonald, 21 September 2025**



## NEW MEMBERS WELCOME MEETING

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> October, 2.30 - 4.00pm**

Mt Martha Community House, 466 Esplanade (cnr Dominion Rd), Mt Martha  
Room No 5

**The Welcome Meeting is open to all, especially those new to SWAN  
and those who may have joined in recent times**

- \* an opportunity to connect with like-minded women
- \* hear about the type of learning and advocacy SWAN undertakes
- \* time for any questions
- \* afternoon tea

**If you would like to attend RSVP: [swanwomen@outlook.com](mailto:swanwomen@outlook.com)**

## Next SWAN Coffee Catch-Up:

**OURS CAFÉ, DROMANA**

**205 Point Nepean Rd**

**Sunday 19 October, 10 - 11.30am**



**Come along and see what all the fun and connection is about!  
Any friends or relatives interested in finding out more about SWAN are very  
welcome.**

**RSVP by Wednesday 15 October: Moz Lucas [maureenfrances21@gmail.com](mailto:maureenfrances21@gmail.com)**



# SWAN Women for Housing Justice

## *The bad news:*

1. The Mornington Peninsula has now moved up into number one position for the number of rough sleepers out of the eight largest Victorian Local Government Areas (LGAs).
2. A Notice of Motion put up by Councillor Max Patton to declare a Housing and Homelessness Crisis on the Mornington Peninsula to generate greater advocacy and hopefully secure our fair share of state and federal funding was unfortunately rejected by the majority of Councillors at a recent Council meeting.

## *The good news:*

1. The Housing Committee has made fabulous progress on organising a second Round Table event which will include attendance by Josh Burns MP – the Federal government’s Special Envoy for Housing and Homelessness. Between 40 and 50 community members and leaders are also scheduled to attend. Although Josh had to cancel his attendance a few days out from the planned September event, we are hopeful of securing a rescheduled date for November.
2. The community-led renovation and refurbishment of the first replacement option for The Ranch crisis accommodation, which had been purchased through securing philanthropic funds, has progressed to the point that several clients have now been able to move in.
3. As reported in last month’s SWAN News, SW4HJ made another field trip to State Parliament where we were very warmly welcomed by Member for the Southeast Tom McIntosh and we also met with MPs Nick Staikos, Ros Spence and briefly Harriet Shing, as well as with opposition members Chris Crewther, Richard Reardon and Brad Battin. We are hoping that those discussions will lead to not only attracting more attention but also to obtaining concrete outcomes, such as more local funding for financial counselling on the Mornington Peninsula for those in rental or mortgage stress, plus more support for crisis accommodation and longer-term housing, particularly for women and children.
4. Our group’s Chairperson, Judith Graley has become a very vocal and effective representative on the Shire’s Triple A Housing Committee.



**Tom McIntosh MP has addressed the Legislative Council, acknowledging SWAN Women for Housing Justice group’s work & recent visit to State Parliament.** Photo: Diane McDonald

See Tom McIntosh’s posting - an impressive shout out for SWAN:  
<https://www.facebook.com/share/v/1HvL6Qj91p/?mibextid=wwXlfr>

## HOUSING RESEARCH PROJECT:

## Can You Help?

Women's Property Initiatives (WPI) are currently seeking support for their research into the housing needs of older single women (over 55yrs) in Frankston, the Mornington Peninsula and Western Port region who are financially 'caught in the middle' ie. assets up to \$300,000 and on Centrelink - **a particularly vulnerable group increasingly at risk of homelessness**. WPI is a not-for-profit community housing organisation dedicated to providing long-term, affordable housing solutions for women. The goal of the project is to understand the type of accommodation and financial arrangements best suited to these women's long-term housing needs.

**WPI project staff welcome an opportunity to meet with any interested groups during October to offer more information about the project.**

If you would like WPI to attend an existing meeting or if any members would like an invitation to an Information Session or if you know of women who may want to participate in this study, please email [research@wpi.org.au](mailto:research@wpi.org.au) or call **Darina Seal Project Manager 0478 417 987**



# Solar and batteries - is now the time?

**Sunday 19 October**  
3pm to 5.30pm

**Peninsula Community Theatre Mornington**

Expert guest speaker - household electrification  
Demo of Repower and Save quoting tool  
Q&A panel with local electrification specialists  
Community group displays, refreshments  
Followed by short film screening



Register to attend via QR code



**YARRA ENERGY FOUNDATION**

**Repower** Mornington Peninsula  
Reducing Local Emissions Together

Sustainability Victoria VICTORIA

**REPOWER partners with local organisations to ensure common equity and benefit.**

This includes having established a community trust fund which allows us to assist people living in disadvantage to access renewable energy and improve their energy efficiency. **Projects have included the installation of a split-system for a critically ill single woman in Rye who had no existing heating and cooling, and working with our partner suppliers to do energy efficient upgrades, including the installation of solar panels and a communal heat pump system for the refurbishment of the apartments, which are being used as replacement for The Ranch crisis accommodation.**

REPOWER: <https://repowermor.npen.org.au/about/#vision>

# SWAN Women Against Gender-based Violence

SWAGBV group are planning for this year's **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence** (25 November to 10 December). The theme for 2025 is **'UNITE to End Digital Violence against All Women and Girls'**. Local activities you can join in are a 'community walk' in Hastings for respectful relationships, plus SWAGBV is supporting Peninsula Community Legal Centre's theatre production on **'COERCIVE CONTROL'** at George Jenkins Theatre, Monash University, Frankston, Wednesday 26 November 6pm.



**16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM  
WESTERNPORT RESPECTFUL  
RELATIONSHIPS**

Join us for a march against Gender-Based violence  
on  
**November 25th**  
11.30AM-2PM  
Hastings Foreshore

**11.30am- Meet at Hastings foreshore  
opposite the Shire's office**  
**11.45am- March**  
**12.00pm- Welcome and Panel Discussion**  
**12.30pm- Sausage Sizzle, Stalls and  
Information Available**

**Free Sausage  
Sizzle  
&  
Coffee Van**

**Funded by  
SAFE + EQUAL  
RESPECT  
VICTORIA**

**Good Shepherd**  
Australia New Zealand

**family  
life.**

**Western Port  
Community  
Support**

**Handspace**

**SAFE + EQUAL**

**RESPECT  
VICTORIA**

**Peninsula Community Legal Centre & Red Stitch Actor's Theatre  
present**

In recognition of 16 Days of Activism  
against Gender-Based Violence

**A PLAY FOR CHANGE**

**SAVE THE DATE**  
26 NOVEMBER 2025, 6PM  
GEORGE JENKINS THEATRE FRANKSTON  
pclc.org.au

**pclc** **RedStitch** **SAFE + EQUAL** **RESPECT VICTORIA**

As part of **16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence**, SWAN members are invited to **Peninsula Community Legal Centre's (PCLC) Youth Theatre Project's FREE premiere 'A PLAY FOR CHANGE'** at George Jenkins Theatre, Monash University Peninsula Campus, **Wednesday 26 November, 6pm**. PCLC in partnership with **Red Stitch Actors Theatre** has created this powerful performance about coercive control, consent and family violence that will reach over 5,000 young people across local schools in 2026.

**The performance follows two 16-year-olds navigating coercive relationships** and shows real pathways to safety and support services. Based on true stories, it addresses technology-enabled control, consent, bystander responsibility, and legal consequences in ways that resonate deeply with young audiences. Experience firsthand how live performance creates emotional truth that traditional education cannot achieve. **A Panel Discussion on using theatre to prevent violence and exploring innovative prevention strategies with sector experts will follow the performance.**

**Premiere Bookings:** <https://www.pclc.org.au/youth-theatre>

**Contact:** Steven Dupon [sdupon@pclc.org.au](mailto:sdupon@pclc.org.au) or Maureen Donelly [maurdone@gmail.com](mailto:maurdone@gmail.com)



## SWAN WOMEN AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

**NEXT MEETING:** : Friday 31 October, 1.15pm  
Come & join us.

**Mt Martha House Community Centre, Room 7**, cnr Esplanade & Dominion Rd. Mt Martha.  
Contact: Maureen Donnelly [maurdone@gmail.com](mailto:maurdone@gmail.com)

### **PETITION: STOP KILLING US CAMPAIGN**

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

### **DEFINITIONS/RESOURCES: 'COERCIVE CONTROL'**

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



SWAN member Lyn Jones modelling t-shirts for November's '16 Days of Activism' march. **If we receive enough requests, we will order a batch.** \$30 each, sizes S, M, L, XL. **Requests with your size to:** [swanwomen@outlook.com](mailto:swanwomen@outlook.com) Photos: Moz Lucas

## 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.

### **NEXT MEETING**

**Friday 3 October, 10 – 11.30am, Frankston Library. All welcome.**

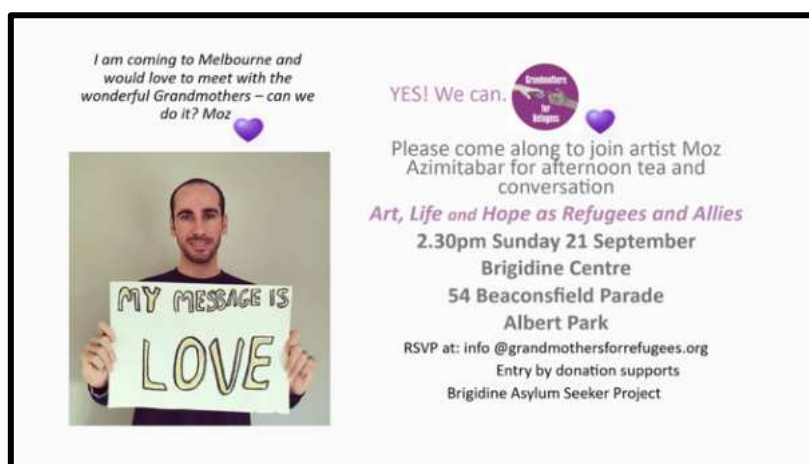
### **UPDATE**

Highly successful 21 September meeting with refugee survivor **Mostafa 'Moz' Azimitabar**, hosted by Sister Bridget Arthur AO at the Brigidine Centre. Sister Bridget is 91, a national treasure!



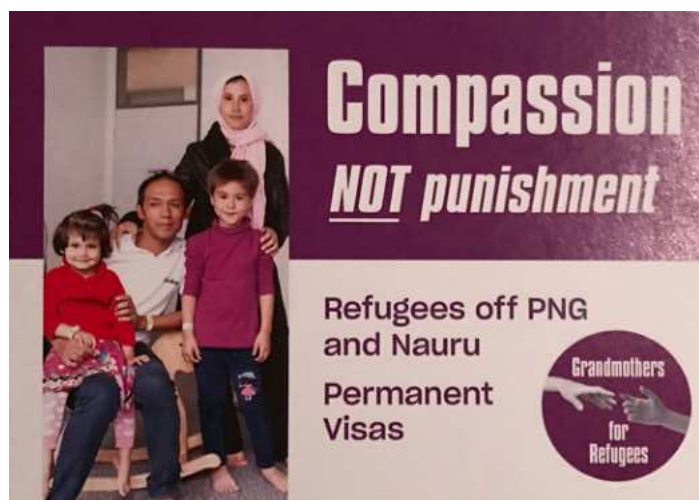
**'Moz' told his life story, battle to gain residency and how he began painting.** It was very emotional, especially when Moz said he rang his elderly father back in Iran to tell him he had been accepted for the prestigious **Archibald Art Prize**. **Moz's entry 'The Definition of Hope' can be viewed at Geelong Art Gallery until Sunday 9 November.**

Meeting with **Jodie Belyea MP** rescheduled to 16<sup>th</sup> October.



## CHECK OUT

- **'TED Ed' Talks**  
**'What is a refugee (or displaced person)?'** from Save The Children  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRk8eaW3X1Y>  
**'What does it mean to be a refugee?'** by Bernadetta Berti & Evelien Borgman  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=25bwiSikRsl>
- **End the Waiting Campaign:** an initiative of **Common Grace** and the **National Council of Churches**, seeking resolution to the situation for men stuck in Papua New Guinea and those in detention on Nauru: [https://www.commongrace.org.au/end\\_the\\_waiting](https://www.commongrace.org.au/end_the_waiting)
- **Journeys Café** by Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC), **Southbank & Parkville**  
<https://www.catering.asrc.org.au/journeys-cafe>



## POSTCARDS FOR PERMANENT VISAS

For postcards to send to **Tony Burke** the Minister for Home Affairs, Immigration & Citizenship, contact:

**Maryanne:** 0400201689  
[maryannebarclay5@gmail.com](mailto:maryannebarclay5@gmail.com)

**GRANDMOTHERS FOR REFUGEES (GFR) mailing list:** to join, contact Maryanne 0400 201 689 or [maryannebarclay5@gmail.com](mailto:maryannebarclay5@gmail.com)

# SONGS

Doing time is hard but healing is harder

# INSIDE



A SPECIAL SCREENING OF  
*SONGS INSIDE* DOCUMENTARY

**SUNDAY 26 OCT | 3:30 PM**

**PALACE CHURCH STREET**

26 Church St, Brighton

**TICKETS**  
\$10 PP

Prison Network and WAM, with the generous support of the Payton Foundation, are pleased to invite you to a special screening of *Songs Inside*, a compelling feature-length documentary that chronicles the transformative journey of a small group of women in prison who, over six months, discovered the healing power of music.



**Payton  
Foundation**

**WAM** WOMEN  
AND  
MENTORING



**Prison  
Network**

The screening will be followed by a panel discussion featuring women from the documentary and lived experience advocates from Prison Network and WAM.

Tickets: <https://events.humanitix.com/songs-inside>

# Donating to SWAN

We are a registered not-for-profit organisation

Are you celebrating a special birthday or anniversary?  
Have you thought about a donation to SWAN as a gift?

## General Donations

To make a general donation to support a wide range of SWAN initiatives:

<https://www.trybooking.com/au/donate/swan>

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

## 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 Bursary and instructions for making a donation:

<https://swanwomen.org.au/swan-donations-and-bursaries/>

## Did You Know?

**Donations for the Bursary are tax deductible**

A donation of \$40 a month over a year equates to an annual Bursary for one student



**CELEBRATING 40 YEARS!**

**Sunday 12 October, 3-6pm**

**Live Music! Cake! Prizes!**

**Bookings essential: 03 9642 0422**

**Tickets \$30**

# Supporting First Nations

## Treaty for Victoria

*“We all need to be active in promoting Treaty ... First Nations people lived here first...They deserve self-determination after 200 plus years of government policies that have done them immeasurable harm.”*

Joan Doyle, Walking Together Mornington Peninsula & SWAN member

On 9 September, the Victorian Treaty Bill was introduced to Parliament. Both houses of Parliament are yet to approve the Bill. Your ongoing advocacy matters. Check out the latest, what it means, and what action you can take via these key websites. Events, videos and easy to read updates are all there!

[www.firstpeoples.org](http://www.firstpeoples.org)

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

[togetherfortreaty.org.au](http://togetherfortreaty.org.au)

[walkingtogethormorningtonpen@gmail.com](mailto:walkingtogethormorningtonpen@gmail.com)



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## Free Seniors Events in October

### **First Nations Treaty: a conversation**

Join a conversation with **Southern Peninsula Allies for First Nations.**

Discover more about the experiences of Bunurong people and about our shared path towards truth telling and Treaty.

**Wednesday 15 Oct, 2.30–3.30pm: Capel Sound Community House, 11a Allambi Ave.**

### **First Nations Allies: what does it mean?**

Together we will explore the question of what it means to be a First Nations ally. Whether you're beginning this journey or continuing it, this session is a space for respectful learning, honest reflection and meaningful conversation.

**Thursday 16 Oct, 1.30–2.30pm: Mornington Community House, 91 Wilsons Rd.**

- **Both events are free & wheelchair accessible**
- **Contact 5950 1318 (Jess) or [reconciliation@mornpen.vic.gov.au](mailto:reconciliation@mornpen.vic.gov.au)**



## Meetings

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

**NEXT MEETING – ALL WELCOME: Friday 17 October, 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.*



**Walking Together Mornington Peninsula** is looking for more people to promote and support First Nations people, organisations, businesses and events.



Check out their latest newsletter about the Victorian Treaty. It includes a concise summary, links and media articles. Plus action on how to amplify the Treaty process and links to local MPs using their letter templates and writing tips.

**Email WT to receive the Newsletter**

**NEWSLETTER and INQUIRIES: [walkingtogethormorningtonpen@gmail.com](mailto:walkingtogethormorningtonpen@gmail.com)**

Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/walkingtogether.morningtonpen/>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/MorningtonPeninsulaYes23>

## Treaty Exhibition: finishing soon!



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

**State Library of Victoria**

328 Swanston St. City

**Until 27 October 2025**

10am – 6pm daily    **Free**

Photos: Moz Lucas



### **'WHAT DOES TREATY MEAN TO YOU?'**

video, TREATY  
exhibition, 2025

L: **Bonnie Dukakis**,  
Gunditjmara, CEO  
Koorie Youth Council

R: **Sue-Anne Hunter**,  
Wurundjeri, Ngural  
Illum Wurrung, former  
Deputy  
Chair/Commissioner  
Yoorook Justice  
Commission



## History Exhibition: well worth the trip to town!

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

**First Nations exhibition at The Potter Museum of Art**  
cnr Swanston St and Masson Rd, Parkville

**Exhibition Dates: 30 May – 22 Nov 2025**

**Gallery Times: Tues – Sat, 11am-5pm**

**Free Entry**

*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'.*

Curated by Prof. Marcia Langton AO, Associate Provost  
Melbourne University, Judith Ryan, Potter Museum of Art  
Senior Curator, and Shanyssa McConville, Potter  
Museum of Art Associate Curator



# Dates for your Diary



- **FRIDAY 3 OCT, 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 4 OCT, 2.30-4pm: 'SWAN New Members Welcome'**, Mt Martha Community House, 466 Esplanade (cnr Dominion Rd), Mt Martha, Room 5. RSVP: [swanwomen@outlook.com](mailto:swanwomen@outlook.com)  
Details p.8
- **SUNDAY 12 OCT, 3-6pm: 'Victoria Women's Trust 40<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration'**, Tickets \$30, bookings essential. Information & Bookings: 03 9642 0422
- **WEDNESDAY 15 OCT, 2.30-3.30pm: 'First Nations Treaty: a conversation'**, Capel Sound Community House, 11a Allambi Ave. Capel Sound. Free event. Details: p.16
- **THURSDAY 16 OCT, 1.30-2.30pm: 'First Nations Allies: what does it mean?'**, Mornington Community House, 91 Wilsons Rd. Mornington. Free event. Details: p.16
- **FRIDAY 17 OCT, midday: 'Southern Peninsula Allies for First Nations Justice meeting'**, Rye Community House, 27 Nelson St. Rye. Contact: Marg Darcy 0409 859 046
- **SUNDAY 19 OCT, 10-11.30am: 'SWAN Coffee Catch Up'**, OURS Café, 205 Point Nepean Rd. Dromana. RSVP: [maureenfrances21@gmail.com](mailto:maureenfrances21@gmail.com)
- **SUNDAY 19 OCT, 3-5.30pm: 'Repower Presentation'**, Peninsula Community Theatre, Mornington. Free event. Bookings essential. Details: p.10.
- **TUESDAY 21 OCT, 10am-3pm: 'Pride Centre Bus Tour'**, departs Mornington Library 10am for Victorian Pride Centre, St Kilda, returns 3pm. Free event. Bookings essential. Details p.3
- **SUNDAY 26 OCT, 3.30-6pm: 'Songs Inside documentary'**, The Palace, 26 Church St. Brighton. Includes a panel discussion with the women in the doco, Prison Network advocates and WAM. Tickets: <https://events.humanitix.com/songs-inside> Details: p.14
- **FRIDAY 31 OCT, 1.15pm: 'SWAN Women Against Gender-Based Violence meeting'**, Mt Martha House Community Centre, Room 7, cnr Esplanade & Dominion Rd. Mt Martha. Contact: Maureen Donnelly [maurdone@gmail.com](mailto:maurdone@gmail.com)
- **COMING UP: '16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence'**, local events in November. See details p.11

# Contact Us

SWAN News Editor:  
Moz Lucas

SOUTHERN WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK



**OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER** aims to inform readers of current issues and matters of interest.

**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 October 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 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](mailto:swanwomen@outlook.com)

## CONTACT

**Postal:** PO Box 72 BITTERN VIC 3918

**Email:** [swanwomen@outlook.com](mailto:swanwomen@outlook.com)

**Website:** <https://swanwomen.org.au/>

**Facebook:** <https://www.facebook.com/spwswan/>

**YouTube:** <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHua3ynobWOxAUEfOPLt1yQ>

**Instagram:** <https://www.instagram.com/southernwomensactionnetwork/>

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

## OUR SPONSORS

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