

SOUTHERN WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK



Newsletter

March 2026

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 2026:

So that you receive the NEWS on the first day of each month, the deadline date for 2026 will be the 25th of the month. For example, February 25th for March's newsletter, March 25th for April's newsletter, and so on - through to November 25th 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'S 30TH YEAR is here!

Instead of our holding our regular bimonthly meeting, SWAN is hosting a **30th ANNIVERSARY LUNCH at Safety Beach Life Saving Club on Sunday 24 May**. Our Keynote Speaker for this special occasion is **Victoria's Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commissioner Ro Allen**. Ro brings more than 25 years of experience in community services, governance and social justice.

YOUR INVITATION

CELEBRATE SWAN'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY!



*Sunday 24 May 2026, 12.00 pm - 3.00 pm
Safety Beach Sailing Club
185 Marine Drive, Safety Beach (on-site parking)*

\$60 per person (includes a two-course lunch)

Guest Speaker: Ro Allen, Victorian Equal Opportunity & Human Rights Commissioner

'Participation, Power & Progress: mobilising movements to be stronger together with women at centre'

We invite all members, new and long-term, your friends and supporters to join us in celebrating SWAN's 30th Anniversary Year – a unique achievement for a women-led, volunteer-based community organisation.

SWAN: Thirty Years on and still SOARING!



Many thanks to the Bendigo Bank for sponsoring this event

BE ON THE LOOKOUT - A copy of this invitation with details of how to book your ticket for this special event will be emailed to you by mid-March.

WE NEED YOUR HELP PLEASE! We are calling on members to volunteer to assist. There are many ways to be involved such as in facilitation, public speaking, networking and marketing, hospitality and catering, as well as creatively – graphic design, music, poetry and acting skills. Or whatever you can contribute! All offers welcomed. Contact: swanwomen@outlook.com

THIS SUNDAY 1st MARCH SWAN COFFEE CATCH-UP: change of venue from Dava Hotel to DAISY CAFÉ cnr Esplanade & Hargreaves St. Mornington at 10-11.30am.

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 support a wide range of SWAN initiatives:

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

Alternatively, cash donations can be given to SWAN Treasurer Ros Beard

'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

SWAN Special Speaker Event

On Sunday 15 February, SWAN was thrilled to have **Kirsty Sword Gusmao AO**, the former **First Lady of Timor-Leste** address our membership. Kirsty grew up in regional Victoria, has had a long association with the Mornington Peninsula and supported the establishment of **'Friends of Lospalos'**, a friendship relationship between the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council and the Timorese sub-district of Lospalos established in 2000. For 25 years, this partnership provided much needed solidarity and financial support to this Timorese community, as well as reciprocal benefits to our region, by way of awareness raising and connection. **Kirsty spoke on 'The Unstoppable Power of Women's Solidarity'**, shared her personal journey from activist and human rights campaigner to First Lady of Timor-Leste, her role as Founding Director and current Chair of the Aloha Foundation (25 years old this year), and her ongoing commitment to Australia's First Peoples in her work with Woor-Dungin.



In her early days of activism during the Suharto regime, Kirsty worked with the **Overseas Service Bureau (now Australian Volunteers International)** in community and international development, including helping people seek asylum. She also assisted resistance leader **Xanana Gusmao** (who later became her husband and East Timor's first president) with learning English and forwarding correspondence to world leaders such as Bill Clinton and Jose Ramos Horta. One of Kirsty's key achievements was her commencement of Timor Leste's first breast-feeding program which morphed into the **Aloha Maternal Foundation** - establishing mothers' support groups, family planning, gender-based violence awareness, and vaccine availability – programs now implemented across the country with government support and 80% staffed by women! Kirsty emphasised that the women of Timor-Leste need practical support and to be heard – not trauma healing.

Left: Kirsty Sword Gusmao addresses SWAN - 'Today I am honoured to speak to you not as attendees but as architects of community – and as women.' Photo: Beck Cridland



Photos: Diane Johnstone

Passionate about Education, Teacher Training and traditional knowledge systems, Kirsty advocates for children to learn in their local Portuguese language, then transition to their mother tongue of ‘Tetun’, as English is not their first language. However, school infrastructure is sadly lacking.

Kirsty was motivated by Maria’s story of weaving traditional Tais to put her children through school which, she says,

‘illustrates a profound truth: economic dignity isn’t about handouts – it’s about creating the right conditions where women can use their skills to transform their families’ future’.



‘From Dili to the Mornington Peninsula, women need control of their own resources to build secure futures’.

‘The relentless solidarity of women ... is the thread that weaves through every struggle and every victory’.

‘You don’t have to be aggressive to be effective. Empathy is a strategic tool’.

ONGOING GRATITUDE: Thanking them for their service to SWAN, Kirsty generously presented Timorese Tais to (L-R) Val Campbell, Erica Churchill, Beck Cridland and Susan Blackburn.

Photo: Moz Lucas



LASTING CONNECTIONS: Kirsty’s friendship and working relationship with some SWAN members stretch back over two decades, including (L-R) Judith Graley, Fran Rule and Diane McDonald.

Photo: Moz Lucas

On behalf of the **Xanana Gusmao Reading Room**, Kirsty gratefully received SWAN’s \$200 donation. To find out more about Friends of Lospalos community building projects and volunteering opportunities:

<https://friendsoflospalos.org>

Thank you to our raffle sponsors **Farrells Bookshop** and **Two Left Sisters Café** Mornington and for the beautiful flowers for our speaker donated by **Secret Garden** Mornington.

International Women’s Day (IWD)

The United Nations Women Australia theme for IWD 2026 is **BALANCE THE SCALES** “highlighting the urgent need to ensure fair, inclusive and accessible justice for every woman and girl” (unwomen.org.au)

FOR A FULL LIST OF EVENTS ON THE MORNINGTON PENINSULA & FRANKSTON CITY:
<https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Activities/Whats-On/Special-Programs-Events/International-Womens-Day-2026>

FOR LOCAL FIRST NATIONS EVENTS, SEE PAGES 13-14 OF THIS NEWSLETTER

Connect, Learn, Empower

Mornington Peninsula Shire

Wed 4 March 12–2pm

Mt Martha Community House 486 Esplanade

Join us for a community education session and free financial, health, and legal advice from:

- Peninsula Community Legal Centre
- Good Shepherd's Financial Independence Hub & Sexual Health Victoria.

Discover local services. Connect with local women.

Food provided. Booking essential.

UN WOMEN IWD 2026

For more information: 1300 850 000
#BalanceTheScales #IWD2026 iwd.net.au

Frankston City Libraries

2026 International Women's Day Lunch

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH DISCOVERY

#BalanceTheScales

TUESDAY MARCH 3 12.00PM -2:00 PM

Frankston Library

Legal information from Peninsula Community Legal Centre

Healthy and delicious lunch provided

Financial wellness support from Good Shepherd's Financial Independence Hub

Free event!

We invite women and female-identifying people to enjoy lunch together and hear from local women and organisations working to advance gender equality.

Book now!

Book via the QR code or call Frankston Library on 03 9784 1020

This International Women's Day Let's **BALANCE THE SCALES**

#BalanceTheScales | #IWD2026 | iwd.net.au

The above 2026 International Women’s Day events are a jointly-planned initiative with both Frankston City Council and Mornington Peninsula Shire Council hosting respectively.

Developed in alignment with UN Women Australia 2026 theme *Balance the Scales* – we invite women and female-identifying individuals to join us for lunch this IWD, to build community connections, discover local women’s groups, and to advocate for services that advance gender equality be empowered with free health, legal and financial advice.

Both events are FREE and provide attendees:

- Nutritious lunch & welcoming of children (activities provided)
- Short presentations from Good Shepherd & Peninsula Community Legal Centre (PCLC)
- Event stalls by local women’s groups, grassroots organisations, community services & specialist services
- Casual *world-café* style expo for attendees to build connections and obtain resources & promo-material

SWAN IWD Speaker Event

For International Women's Day (IWD), Mary Crooks AO will address SWAN members at our March General Meeting. Mary's legacy is significant for her work in challenging political agendas and progressing support from men to advocate with women for equality, safety, and enduring change. **Mary recently retired as the long-term Executive Director of the Victorian Women's Trust** and continues to be a dedicated feminist leader - never afraid to speak truth to power, who has championed women's rights for decades.



Mary Crooks AO

Rights. Justice. Action.
For ALL Women and Girls:
Maintain the Struggle for
Women's Safety

Mary Crooks served as the Executive Director of the Victorian Women's Trust from November 1996 to July 2025. She is highly regarded as a dedicated feminist leader who led many ground-breaking community engagement initiatives. This included the Purple Sage Project that later became the Kitchen Table Conversation model that helped secure the election of Independent Cathy McGowan to the seat of Indi in 2013; and was adapted as Together Yes in the lead up to the Voice referendum of 2023. **In June 2012, Mary was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia, for her distinguished services to public policy and advocacy for the advancement of women.**

VENUE
Mt Martha House
466 Esplanade
(Cnr Dominion Rd)
Mt Martha

SWAN thanks our raffle sponsors for their generous donations:

2 Left Sisters Cafe - Mornington

Farrells Bookshop - Mornington

Throughout her career, **Mary has advocated consistently against violence against women and girls.** She is deeply concerned that as a nation, we still lack a truthful, honest narrative as to why so many Australian women die at the hands of their partners or former intimate partners. In her address, **Mary will discuss how realising lasting change rests on women keeping this matter on the political agenda and increasing the numbers of men as allies in the cause.** She will emphasise the important role of networks such as SWAN in achieving this critical outcome.

9:30 AM | SUNDAY 15 | MAR | 2026



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



southernwomensactionnetwork



www.swanwomen.org.au



spwswan



International Women’s Day Luncheon: ‘Her Light, Her Legacy’

Every woman and girl deserves to be safe, heard, and free to shape her own future. Yet too many still face barriers to education, opportunity, and justice. These barriers are built and they can be dismantled. **One girl educated can change everything.** Education restores dignity, builds confidence, and creates opportunity. When a girl is supported to learn, her choices expand, her future strengthens, and the positive impact extends to her family and community.

ABOUT THE EVENT

An IWD 2026 campaign is ‘When we give, we all gain’. Join us for an inspiring International Women’s Day charity luncheon presented in collaboration with **Lauren Wild, Frankston Business Chamber** and the **Payton Foundation**, proudly supporting the work of **Te-Kworo Foundation**. Our goal is to collectively **raise funds to support the education of 40 girls in Uganda**. By investing in education, we help **Balance the Scales** creating safer futures and stronger communities.

SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS

Corrie Perkin

Journalist, Author, Podcaster & Founding Director of Sorrento Writers Festival. An award-winning journalist, author, podcaster and the Founding Director of the Sorrento Writers Festival. A strong believer in the power of words to inform, connect and create change, she has worked across *The Age*, *Good Weekend*, *The Australian* and ABC Radio, and is co-host of *Don’t Shoot the Messenger*. Through the Festival, now Australia’s second-largest literary event and the Sorrento Writers Festival Literacy Fund, Corrie gives back by championing literacy, storytelling and equitable access to opportunity, empowering voices that strengthen communities and future generations.

Alice Achan

Founder, CEO & Ugandan Chair, Te-Kworo Foundation and **Stella Okot** Program Manager - Education, Te-Kworo Foundation
Driven by lived experience, Alice Achan and Stella Okot have dedicated their lives to ensuring girls and young women in northern Uganda can access education, dignity, and opportunity; including those returning from conflict and young motherhood. Through education-led, community-based programs, Te-Kworo supports long-term pathways for girls to rebuild their lives and futures.

FRIDAY 6 MARCH. Join us at 11:45am for a 12pm start.

Tickets \$125 include a glass of bubbles on arrival, canapés, main meal and dessert. Plus a copy of ‘The School of Restoration’ by Alice Achan.

<https://events.humanitix.com/her-light-her-legacy>

Ageism in the Workplace

SWAN member Rosemarie Draper OAM is involved with a project exploring ageism in the workplace, with a focus on women's experiences and the impact this has had on them. Rosemarie is a professional social worker, joined SWAN over two decades ago and is a former member of the SWAN Committee.

For details go to:

<https://www.celebrateageing.com/theworkplace.html>

Rosemarie encourages any interested SWAN members to consider being interviewed by her, with the assurance that any identifiable information will be kept confidential, or for members to participate in the written survey that is also a part of this project.

To find out more or make arrangements to be interviewed, please contact Rosemarie on 0435620191 or at primroses4@icloud.com



Photo: Supplied

Following up on Ann Urch's SWAN presentation on September 2025, SWAN members gathered at Mt Martha House Community Centre on 16 December 2025 for a relaxed morning tea, facilitated by Rosemarie Draper. Ann was joined by her friend Hazel, and together they shared their transgender journeys and generously answered questions from those attending.

The gathering was lively, warm and informative. Members also shared personal stories of gender diversity within their own families, along with reflections on the ways they have sought to offer understanding and support. The conversation sparked strong interest in how SWAN might continue to learn about, engage with, and support the local LGBTIQ+ community into the future.

A MESSAGE TO MEMBERS

We would really appreciate if SWAN members could go to the SWAN Instagram and Facebook sites and Like and/or Comment on the postings.

We need to let others know we are serious and are being heard.

Every extra Like and Comment will help us in pressing our cases for advocacy and action as well as promoting how SWAN is a place of connection and friendship for like-minded women.

SWAN Women Against Gender-Based Violence

The Women Against Gendered Violence group urges all SWAN women to read and sign the **FAIR AGENDA PETITION** which calls on the government to do more to increase gender equity and for the elimination of violence. **SIGN the PETITION:** <https://www.womendeliveraus.org/full>

SWAN WOMEN AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

NEXT MEETING: Friday 27 March, 1.15pm, Mt Martha House Community Centre, Room 7, cnr Esplanade & Dominion Rd. Mt Martha. Contact: Maureen Donnelly maurdone@gmail.com

Keeping Kids Safe: Preventing Sexual Harm and Violence

How to have conversations that set your kids up for safe, respectful relationships



Real-world tips for parents and carers in the Mornington Peninsula Shire area to talk about respect and healthy, safe relationships and consent.

Learn how to:

- Start age-appropriate conversations about relationships, sex and consent that align with your family values
- Talk about respectful, safe and healthy relationships
- Understand new Victorian consent laws
- Support what your child is learning at school

You'll gain:

- Confidence in talking to your child about respectful relationships and consent
- Conversation tools
- Expert advice
- A community of other local parents

When & where:

Peninsula Grammar
20 Wooralla Drive, Mount Eliza,
Victoria 3930

- Wednesday 22 April, 6-8:30pm
- Wednesday 29 April, 6-8:30pm
- Wednesday 6 May, 6-8:30pm
- Wednesday 13 May, 6-8:30pm

Register now or for more info:



To learn more, contact
Laura Riccardi, Program Coordinator:
triccardi@whise.org.au | 0401 315 387

In partnership with



SWAN Women for Housing Justice

SWAN W4HJ has begun the year ready to yet again take on the challenges facing our community as we deal with the continuing and increasing local housing and homelessness crisis.

Recent statistics for February 2026 indicate that the number of people rough sleeping is continuing to increase, with Shire Housing Projects Lead Petrina Dodds Buckley telling us at our first meeting for 2026 that there were **123 people currently sleeping rough in the local area, with 33 of those women who were in tents or in their cars**. We have all also been saddened to hear of the death of yet another person on our foreshore - the fifth in the last 18 months.

There has been some good news with the opening of the seven units for crisis accommodation at **Ranch 2.0** (the original Ranch is now due to close by the end of March), the beginnings of the **Women's Property Initiatives (WPI)** modular women's housing project in Hastings and positive steps with the **YWCA** social housing proposal in Mornington.

Many of the issues raised at SWAN Roundtable 2 need to be advanced in 2026, including the funding of the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council proposal in Rosebud, the redevelopment of 335 Main Street Mornington, increased support for our three Community Support Centres and expansion of community service provision on the Peninsula. We will continue to demand our fair share of funding to facilitate all these priorities.

This year provides us with some unique opportunities to raise the above issues, given that there is a State election in November and shortly, locally, the Nepean by-election. We encourage all SWAN members to write to your local politicians. Our aim this year will be to ensure that all political candidates are aware of the housing and homelessness crisis on the Mornington Peninsula and hopefully garner bipartisan support for the priorities outlined above.

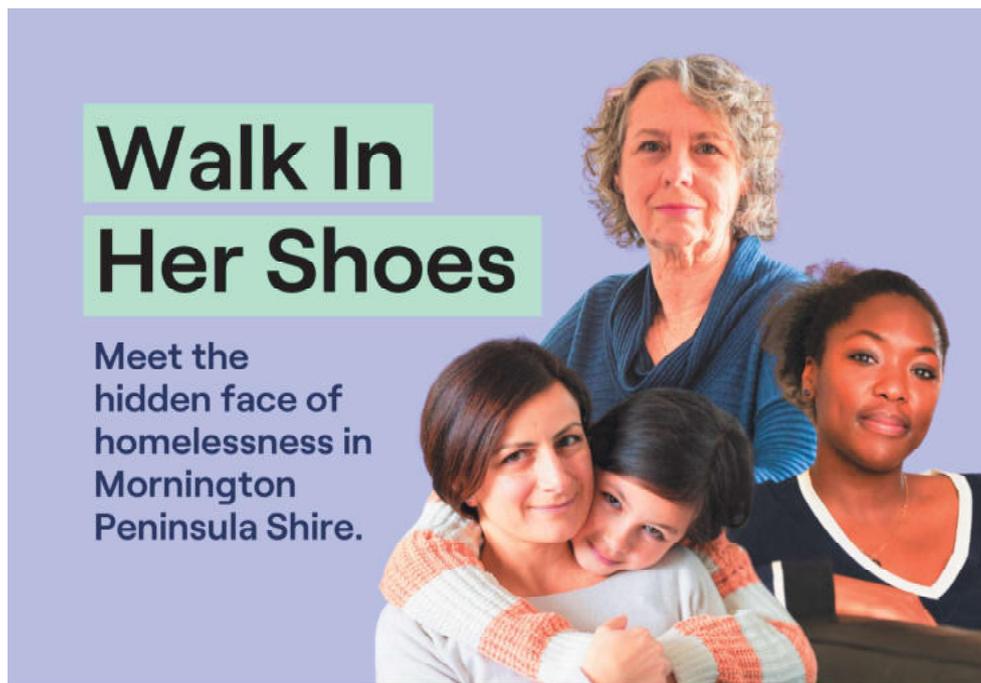
	<p>A list of needed items for Southern Peninsula Community Support Centre.</p> <p>DROP OFF: <u>Southern Peninsula Community Support Centre</u> 878 Point Nepean Road, Rosebud Monday to Friday 9.30am – 3.30pm</p> <p>OR: Members can bring them to the next SWAN meeting and <u>Belinda Rodman</u> is happy to deliver.</p>
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Mornington Peninsula Shire is hosting a **Public Exhibition and a Community Forum** called '*Walk in Her Shoes*'. Both events present a powerful exposé of three women to help us all understand more about what it is like to navigate homelessness and housing insecurity.

The exhibition is at Mornington Central Shopping Centre from 2-15 March.

The Community Forum includes a **Panel Discussion with Rosie Batty AO, the Hon Harriet Shing, Victoria's Minister for Housing, lived experience experts and local homelessness workers.**
Monday 16th March at Peninsula Community Theatre, Wilsons Rd. Mornington 6.30pm for 7pm start.

THIS EVENT IS FREE. Bookings essential: <https://www.eventbrite.com.au/e/walk-in-her-shoes-exhibition-and-forum-mornington-tickets-1979838526328?aff=erelexpmlt>



Walk In Her Shoes

Meet the hidden face of homelessness in Mornington Peninsula Shire.

See the exhibition:
Discover the hidden face of homelessness in Victoria, in this powerful exhibition telling the stories of three women who have lived it.

Where: Mornington Central Shopping Centre - 78 Barkly St, Mornington
When: 2-15 March 2026

Join the conversation:
The exhibition concludes with a special community forum to discuss homelessness in Mornington Peninsula Shire, and the changes needed to end it.

Featuring guest speakers:

- Rosie Batty AO, campaigner against family violence
- Hon Harriet Shing, Victorian Minister for Housing
- Local homelessness workers
- Lived experience experts

Where: Peninsula Community Theatre - 91 Wilsons Rd, Mornington
When: 16 March 2026, 6:30pm

Presented by:



Register to attend: 

Harmony Week Cultures in Connection



Mornington
Peninsula Shire



Culture. Connects.
18 March, 3–5pm

Alexandra Park Pavilion,
Mornington

Come together for a community talk about cultural connections and how unconscious bias influences everyday interactions.

Enjoy networking and hear from specialist **Andrea Gaddie**, plus explore practical ways to get involved locally.

Wheelchair accessible
Recommended for ages 16+

Phone: **1300 850 600**



mornpen.vic.gov.au/harmonyweek

Harmony Week is an annual celebration of Australia's cultural diversity and the benefits it brings to the Australian community. This year Harmony Week will be held from 17 to 23 March. This includes the United Nations International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (IDERD) on Friday 21 March.

SWAN for First Nations



Baluk Arts

International Women's Day Celebrations Saturday 7th March



PROGRAM

10.30am - Opening celebrations of our curated IWD Exhibition

11am - Yarning Circle of inspiring stories of culture, creativity, and career with Indigenous women from Baluk Arts [Bookings >>](#)

1 - 2.30pm - Weaved Bracelet Workshop with Taungwurrung Artist Sammy Trist
Attendance is for adults and children aged 15+.
\$48 - all materials provided. Places are limited. To book, please [click here >>](#)

Enjoy a cup of Jala Jala native teas whilst you browse the works in the exhibition.





Taungwurrung Cultural Educator and Artist Sammy Trist

For more information about the day's events, please contact gallery@balukarts.org.au
or call 0497 004 179

Celebrating Treaty for Victoria

SWAN women are invited to take up an opportunity to **celebrate the historic Victorian Treaty at WILLUM WARRAIN ABORIGINAL GATHERING PLACE**. The event runs from 11am to 1pm and will include an address on Treaty, a performance by Jalgany, a sausage sizzle and birthday cake! This event coincides with Willum Warrain's 12th birthday!

Event organisers Mornington Peninsula Human Rights Group would appreciate volunteer help with the setup, sausage sizzle and car park marshalling.

If you can help please email Joan Doyle:
doylejoan4@gmail.com

Dancing, Cake, Sausage Sizzle
free entry

Treaty Celebration

Saturday 21 March
2026 11am to 1pm

Celebrate Willum Warrain's
birthday -
Aboriginal Gathering Place
10C Pound Rd Hastings

Dance to music by Jalgany

Sponsored by Mornington Human Rights Group
Held on Bunurong Country

New Video on First Nations History & Culture with Zoe Upton

‘Yarning Truth and Treaty on Country with Proud Bunurong Woman, Zoe Upton’

[youtube.com/watch?feature=shared&v=9fNd-uJUwV8](https://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=shared&v=9fNd-uJUwV8)

[Zoe Upton - Bunurong Interview | Padua Students | Southern Peninsula Allies For First Nations](#)



This video is for all Australians, and especially those living on Bunurong/Boon Wurrung Country, who are curious about our true history. History-telling is dominated by white voices and where voices are those of Aboriginal Elders, their stories rely, as they age, on their descendants. Proud Bunurong Trawoolaway woman, Zoe Upton who found out at 8 years old that she was Aboriginal is one of these descendants, holding the story of her Aunty Dyan Summers and descended from the original group of Bunurong women abducted from Mon Mar Point Nepean and exiled to remote Tasmania Islands. In just 9.33 minutes, Zoe touches on the lifeline that her culture represents, some hard historical truths linked to Aboriginal peoples' longing for a reckoning through Treaty, and her faith in young people and allies to bring change, all the while embodying the resilience that sustains many Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who emerge from the trauma of the past, a resilience supported by culture and connection.

Video coordinated by Southern Peninsula Allies, produced by Padua College Mornington Vice Principal of Students Sam Wright, along with students Logan Shelley, Millie Smith and Baron Way, and supported by ANTaR Victoria. Our deepest gratitude to Zoe Upton.

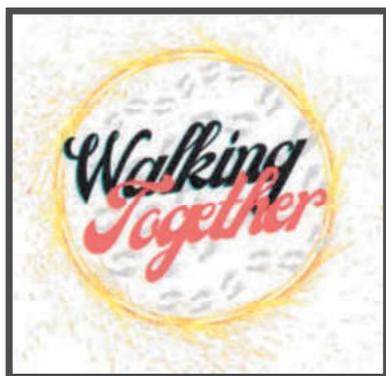
Southern Peninsula Allies for First Nations Justice

NEXT MEETING – ALL WELCOME: Friday 20 March, midday

at Rye Community House, 27 Nelson St, Rye.

Contact: southern.peninsula.allies@gmail.com

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.

INQUIRIES and to receive the WT NEWSLETTER:

walkingtogethormorningtonpen@gmail.com

Instagram:

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

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

.Womin Djeka.

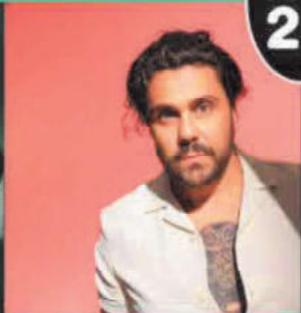


Balnarring Ngargee

20
26



CANDICE LORRAE



DAN SULTAN



KIWAT KENNEL



BOON WURRUNG NGARGE DANCERS

Community Festival

Honouring & Celebrating First Peoples Cultures

SAT 14 MARCH

Family Friendly

EMU PLAINS RESERVE

Coolart Road, Balnarring

10AM-5PM
ENTRY BY DONATION

Presented by Balnarring Preschool

ENTERTAINMENT • CULTURAL WORKSHOPS • MARKET
CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES • CARING FOR COUNTRY • FOOD

We acknowledge Boon Wurrung Peoples as the traditional custodians of the land on which the festival is held. We recognise their strength in maintaining their cultures over thousands of years. We pay our respects to Elders past and present.

Womin Djeka Balnarring



Images - Womin Djeka Balnarring Ngargee Community Festival

Volunteers needed: www.balnarringfestival.com.au

Dates for your Diary



- **SUNDAY 1 MARCH, 10-11.30am: 'SWAN Coffee Catch Up'**, Daisy Cafe, Esplanade (cnr Hargreaves St), Mornington (opp Fisherman's Beach). All welcome. **NOTE CHANGE OF VENUE: NOT DAVA HOTEL!**
- **TUESDAY 3 MARCH, 12-2pm: 'IWD Event & Lunch'**, Frankston Library, Playne St. Frankston. Free event. Details p.5
- **WEDNESDAY 4 MARCH, 12-2pm: 'IWD Event & Lunch'**, Mt Martha House Community Centre, cnr Esplanade & Dominion Rd. Mt Martha. Free event. Details p.5
- **FRIDAY 6 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
- **FRIDAY 6 MARCH, 11.45am-2:30pm: 'International Women's Day (IWD) Luncheon: Her Light, Her Legacy'**, Ranelagh Club, Mount Eliza. Tickets: <https://events.humanitix.com/her-light-her-legacy> Details p.7.
- **SATURDAY 7 MARCH, 10.30am: 'Baluk Arts International Women's Day'**, 5 Davies Ave, Mt Eliza. Program of events & activities pp.13-14
- **SATURDAY 14 MARCH, 10am-5pm: 'Womin Djeka Balnarring Ngargee Festival'**, Emu Plains Reserve, Coolart Rd. Balnarring. Entry by donation. Details p.16
- **SUNDAY 15 MARCH, 9.30am: 'SWAN General Meeting: International Women's Day (IWD) with guest speaker Mary Crooks AO'**, Mt Martha House Community Centre, cnr Esplanade & Dominion Rd. Mt Martha. Details p.6
- **MONDAY 16 MARCH, 6pm: 'Walk in Her Shoes' documentary & panel discussion'**, Peninsula Community Theatre, Wilsons Rd. Mornington 6.30pm for 7pm start. Free event, bookings essential. Details p.11
- **WEDNESDAY 18 MARCH, 3-5pm: 'Harmony Week – Cultures in Connection'**, Alexandra Park Pavillion, Mornington. Details p.12
- **FRIDAY 20 MARCH, midday: 'Southern Peninsula Allies for Justice for First Nations meeting'**, Rye Community House, 27 Nelson St. Rye. Contact: southern.peninsula.allies@gmail.com
- **SATURDAY 21 MARCH, 11am-1pm: 'Willum Warrain's 12th Birthday & Victorian Treaty Celebration'**, Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association, 10 Pound Rd. Hastings. Free, no bookings required. Free event. Details p.14. Contact: (03) 5979 1391 or www.willumwarrain.org.au
- **FRIDAY 27 MARCH, 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
- **SUNDAY 24 MAY, 12.00 – 3.30pm: 'SWAN 30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION', lunch & guest speaker Ro Allen**, Safety Beach Sailing Club, 185 Marine Dr, Safety Beach. Bookings essential by April 30. Details p.2

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 **Next Deadline 25 March 2026**

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

CONTACT

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Email: 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/>

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- * 2 Left Sisters Café: 98 Watt Road Mornington (03) 5916 1133 2leftsisters@facebook.com
- * 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