

SOUTHERN WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK



Newsletter

June 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).

Special Feature:

CONGRATULATIONS TO SWAN! *30 YEARS and STILL SOARING*

SWAN's 30th ANNIVERSARY LUNCH at Safety Beach Life Saving Club held on Sunday 24TH May was a stunning event! Organised by a dedicated crew of SWAN volunteers led by Belinda Rodman and expertly MC'd by Tracee Hutchison, this inaugural occasion commenced with a heartfelt Welcome to Country by proud Palawa and Bunurong woman Jillian West. There were over 80 attendees, passionate speeches, letters of congratulation, delicious food, a celebration cake baked and decorated by co-founder Judith Graley, and flowers beautifully arranged in elegant table settings of SWAN colours.



Keepsake: Part of each guest's table setting



MC Tracee Hutchison introduced the following speakers and VIP guests:

Diane McDonald, SWAN Facilitator; Judith Graley, SWAN Foundation Member; Ro Allen - The Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commissioner; Jillian West - owner of Nomuckerlener: First Nations Training, Consulting and Mentoring; Aunty Deb Mellett (OAM) - CEO Nairm Marr Djambana Aboriginal Gathering Place; Aunty Yvonne Luke, Elder at Melbourne County Court, Baluk Arts Board Member, Nairm Marr Djambana Board Member; Aunty Patsy Smith - artist, Baluk Arts founding member and Board Secretary; Sarah Moran - Director of Community Bank Balnarring & District - Bendigo Bank; Petrina Dodds Buckley, Advocacy, Social Policy & Partnerships, Mornington Peninsula Shire; Mandy Roche, Equity & Inclusion Officer, Mornington Peninsula Shire.

Photo: Moz Lucas



Welcome to Country with Jillian West

Photo: Diane Johnstone

Keynote Speaker:

Keynote Speaker **RO ALLEN** Victoria's Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commissioner brought a clarity, honesty and authentic strength of their more than 25 years of experience in community services, governance and social justice.

As Victorian Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commissioner, Ro Allen works to uphold Victorians' rights, promote accountability and build a fairer, safer and more inclusive community. In their 25 years involved in community services, governance and social justice, Ro has served as inaugural (and first in Australia) Victorian Commissioner for LGBTIQ+ Communities where they worked to promote the safety and wellbeing of LGBTIQ+ Victorians, advocate for their rights, and provide strategic advice to the Victorian Government.

Ro has held a range of leadership roles, including chairing the Victorian Adult, Community and Further Education Board and Youth Affairs Council Victoria, and serving as Commissioner on the Victorian Skills Commission. As founding CEO of Uniting Care in Shepparton, Ro worked at grassroots level to develop and support Aboriginal self-determination, refugee settlement, and family violence and mental health initiatives, as well as emergency disaster responses.

Ro was inducted into the Victorian Government Honour Roll for Women in 2009, has a Centenary Medal for services for young people, is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors and a member of the AICD Victorian Division Council. In 2024, Ro was

appointed to the Council of Trobe University and in November 2025, named Victorian Fellow by IPAA Victoria.



Far right: SWAN Facilitator Diane McDonald thanked Ro and presented them with flowers donated by Secret Garden.
Photos: Beck Cridland & Moz Lucas

*“Until we accept the truth we can’t walk in reconciliation”. Ro emphasised that education is the pathway out of poverty, and that **“building belonging”** to address hate speech and racial vilification is vital for social change. And that **we need to create the space with people we don’t necessarily get along with**. **“Be brave. Have a conversation about things you do agree on”** urged Ro, **“(because) we all share humanity. We all have connection”**. Ro said their role is to help people have that conversation. On addressing audience concerns about the increasing engagement of young men to the dark web, Ro stated that there’s a deep need in young males to actually focus on positive change and we are all responsible for encouraging that. Of great concern for the future is that if we get a return of a conservative government, these equal opportunity laws (and Treaty in Vic) may be repealed. By the end of Ro’s presentation, we were all querying: **Why doesn’t Australia have a National Human Rights Charter?***

Reading of Congratulation Letters:

From the Governor-General of the Commonwealth of Australia Her Excellency the Hon Sam Mostyn AC & the Governor of Victoria Her Excellency Prof the Hon Margaret Gardner AC read by SWAN Members Monica Coyle, SWAN Correspondence Secretary and Rosemarie Draper AO.



Photo: Moz Lucas

SWAN thanks our Event Sponsors:

Major sponsors:

Mornington Peninsula Shire
Community Bank Balnarring & District - Bendigo Bank

Local MPs:

Jodie Belyea MP, Member of the House of Representatives for Dunkley

Chris Crewther MP, Member for Mornington
Hon Paul Edbrooke MP, Member for Frankston
Tom McIntosh, Member of the Victorian Legislative Council for Eastern Victoria.

Raffle sponsors:

Kirsty Sword Gusmao AO, former first lady of Timor Leste
Patricia Grimsley of Lola by Escape the Ordinary Collection
Yabby Lake Vineyard, Restaurant & Cellar Door

Thanks also to:

Secret Garden – floral bouquets for over two decades
Victoria Williams who donated flowers for the tables
Dr Martin Coffey who supported the welcome drinks
The many SWAN members who have donated additional funds to help finance this event.

And a special thanks to:

Members of the 30th Anniversary Planning group and all the event volunteers.

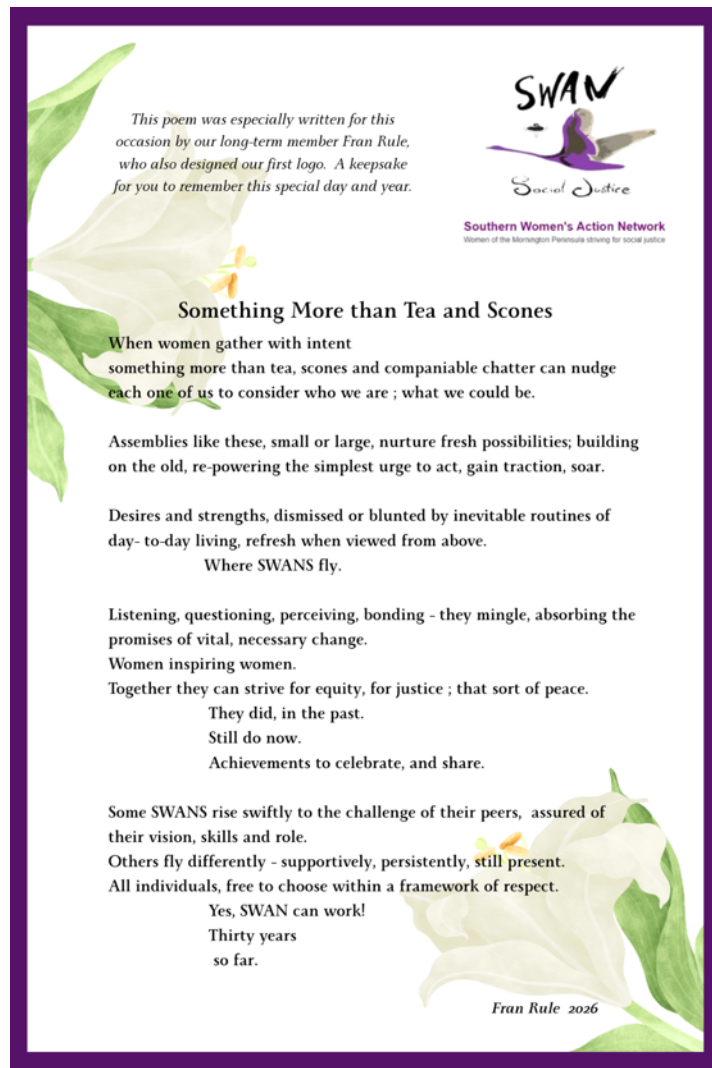


L-R: Aunty Yvonne Luke with some of the wonderful volunteers - Diane Johnstone, Susan Hillman Stolz and Belinda Rodman Photo: Moz Lucas

Judith Graley, Founding Member: some excerpts from her address

“The name of our group – SWAN – was thoughtfully designed around my kitchen table in 1996, with cake and tea in Mt Martha’. For 3 decades, SWAN women have known WHO we are, WHAT we do, WHY we do it, HOW we do it.” We are ‘LIKE MINDED’, a descriptor so often used to characterise the focus of our work and our camaraderie, always with an emphasis on WE not I ... has undoubtedly contributed to our longevity ... of staying the distance, our perseverance ... a labour of love. From those early days, we wanted a FEMINIST COLLECTIVE, a flat structure, inclusive with consensus decision-making. A place where women can come and go – no pressure, no judgement.

To be better informed, we conquered the tyranny of distance with a plethora of fabulous speakers who educated, empowered and inspired us. Thank you to co-founders Val McKenna and Maureen McPhate for setting the standards so high. Joan Kirner commented that ADVOCACY IS A HUMAN RIGHT, Julia Baird speaks of grace, and Kirsty Sword Gusmao says act with care. We embrace these principles, along with grit and belief we can change anything, despite pushback: that’s the SWAN style. We readily give to and do for others, including CARING FOR EACH OTHER In the words of Rebecca Solnitt: ‘JOY is the final critical act of insurrection’. Congratulations everyone!”



Keepsake & Video Presentation: *'Something more than Tea and Scones'* – Poem written by and read for SWAN's 30th anniversary by Foundation Member Fran Rule (bottom R)



Cutting of Congratulatory Cake:

By SWAN Foundation Members Judith Graley and Fran Rule, and by Denise Hassett (centre), principal speaker at the first SWAN meeting

Photo: Moz Lucas

**Closing Address by SWAN Facilitator Diane McDonald:
'SWAN into the Future: Building on our Legacy
and continuing to make a Difference'**

Across decades, SWAN members have worked to fulfill the organisation's purpose, **providing a safe, energising space for local women to learn, grow, and advocate for equality and justice.**

SWAN's history is marked by **friendship and collaboration between women of like-mind, sustained, practical advocacy** across a wide range of social justice concerns. It's grounded in:

- * **Listening** to those affected by injustice.
- * **Learning** from experts and those with lived experience.
- * **Acting** through campaigns, forums, partnerships, providing direct support.

Based on our experience we've got a good idea of **what works** and what doesn't.

We know that:

- * **Strong relationships** and **shared leadership** are fundamental.
- * Lasting change requires **collective**, not just individual **effort**.
- * Being **inclusive** builds **legitimacy, diversity of thought, and resilience**.

Critically, we understand the importance of **listening first**, being **well informed, developing strategies** to achieve change and **never giving up**. These things we know, but we also know **there's more to learn**, and that there's **so much more for us to do**.

REFLECTING ON THE PAST TO INFORM SWAN'S FUTURE

My task in closing this memorable event is to speak of **SWAN's future**. I can't do this without reflecting on the last few years. Five years ago, our lives were heavily restricted due to ongoing COVID lockdowns. But, due to the tenacity and skills of SWAN Facilitator Erica Churchill, SWAN **meetings had pivoted and were being held on-line**. Despite considerable impediments we still hosted **remarkable guest speakers**. As well as this, the Committee initiated a **project to document the organisation's history** by capturing the recollections of current and past members about their SWAN experience. **Over 50 women** shared their views and helped us locate old documents and other memorabilia, stored in shoe boxes, in cupboards and under beds.

In March 2023 SWAN's history (1996-22) entitled '*When Women Meet*' was launched by the late **Hon. Peta Murphy MP** for Dunkley. A few days later she tabled it in Federal Parliament. Recording our history enabled us to **reflect on what we learned from the past, discuss where we were at and determine what to do going forward**. A **Future Directions workshop** in May 2023 helped us decide where best to focus our efforts and capabilities, **to strengthen our impact**. In the following months, in small groups, we identified strategies to strengthen our promotion, diversity and engagement with younger women. We introduced **new ways for women to connect with others of like-mind** and committed to **collective advocacy and action** on significant justice concerns.

Our **first priority** was to **raise community awareness** in the lead up to the **Voice referendum** and **counter the rampant misinformation** being circulated by some groups. This included hosting Public Forums in Mt Eliza and Rosebud. Following the **shameful result** of the referendum, we **regrouped**, confirmed we would **never give up** and reminded ourselves of our **collective strengths**. Principally that: SWAN is a **safe and supportive space** where women can **strive together** to achieve positive social change and **build a more inclusive community - build belonging**. We reaffirmed our commitment to continue to walk beside **Aboriginal and Torres Strait Island people** and agreed to proactively advocate, as an organisation, to end **Homelessness** and **Gender-based Violence**.

Across 2024 and 2025 we expanded our advocacy, deepened partnerships and strengthened our public presence in the local community. Highlights include:

* A moving cultural awareness session facilitated by Jillian West on the beach at **Monmar (Point Nepean)**, the tragic site of the abduction of Aboriginal women by non-Indigenous sealers in the 1830s.

* An inspiring **NAIDOC presentation** by Kayla Cartledge and respected Elders Aunties Deb Mellett, Yvonne Luke and Patsy Smith.

* Formation of two new working groups - **SWAN Women 4 Housing Justice** and **SWAN Women Against Gender-based Violence**.

Housing Justice members **strengthened engagement with all levels of government**, visited **State Parliament**, and hosted two major **Housing & Homelessness Roundtables** (2024 and 2025), **bringing together some 40 community leaders and government representatives with relevant Ministers**, enabling **frank discussion and collaborative planning** in response to the escalating local homelessness crisis. Our commitment to addressing **gender-based violence** also intensified with a focus on collaboration with MPSC and other organisations to strengthen community awareness. Including: a public rally and **March Against Violence** in Mornington as part of the 2024 UN **16 Days of Activism campaign**; supporting **Peninsula Community Legal Centre's theatre performance** on coercive control; and joining a **Community March against Violence in Hastings, 2025**.

We also renewed our **commitment to young women's leadership**, refocusing the SWAN bursary and launching **The Val McKenna Young Women's Advocacy Award**, **signalling a long-term investment in the next generation of social justice advocates**.

These three years marked a period of growth, visibility and impact, with SWAN's advocacy becoming **more coordinated, more public and more deeply connected to community partners and government decision-makers**.



SWAN Members & guests felt inspired and empowered by Diane's closing address. Photo: Moz Lucas

And so, here we are in **2026. There's no sign we are going to stop!** Strong advocacy on priority issues continues and member interest in setting up **other working groups** has emerged with concern about **racism** high on the list. As in previous years we are hosting an impressive group of **high-profile speakers** including former Australian of the Year, **Rosie Batty**, in September. Underpinning all this activity is the significant and often understated role of **SWAN Committee Members**, each with distinct areas of responsibility. Without doubt, SWAN would not be where it is today without the generous contribution of **time, energy and skills** of all who have taken on Committee roles since 1996.

The efforts of **SWAN's 30th Anniversary working group** cannot be overlooked. As well as organising today's lunch, they are coordinating the work required to produce a **portrait exhibition, a video and our new book** that focuses on SWAN's Community Development approach, **with examples of how it has been applied in recent years.**

THE FUTURE

And so – might you ask – **what about SWAN's future?** **Well – that's up to you.** When I'm asked, 'What is SWAN doing about ... X?' – my response always is – SWAN is a group of volunteers. If you are concerned about a particular issue, my advice is to raise this in a SWAN meeting. **Chances are there'll be others with similar concerns. Arrange to get together with them over coffee** and discuss how you could tackle this matter. The key principles of SWAN's approach to community development can be your guide.

In my view, the **SWAN video and new book will provide valuable insights into the steps you might take.** As I said earlier, after 3 decades, we've got a pretty good idea of what works and what doesn't, recognising there's always more to learn. And so much more to do. **But we're on the right track, with a strong legacy and building momentum.** Former co-Chair of Grandmothers for Refugees, **Jean Ker Walsh**, who guided our Future Directions workshop in 2023 describes SWAN as:

"A dynamic, brave tribe of women, who know their patch and actively work to enrich it with justice and equity". She sees *"SWAN as a worthy model for others who want to make a difference to how women can live the lives that they value"*.

Others who haven't met us are taking notice. **The Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC)** has showcased SWAN in its current newsletter, celebrating National Volunteer Week. SWAN is **one of two case studies highlighting the valuable work being done by volunteers in Australia**, the other being **Clean Up Australia**, that compared to SWAN, has a large infrastructure with staff and over 23 million volunteers in the last 35 years.

(Photo: Diane Johnstone)



BUT WE HAVE SOME CHALLENGES GOING FORWARD

SWAN is a **network of women** from wide ranging backgrounds and with varied social concerns. This is both an asset and a challenge. We encourage respectful dialogue, disagreeing where we must whilst enabling a diverse group of women to move forward together to challenge injustice.

* SWAN is **completely run by volunteers.** The challenge is to secure or develop the skills we need, when we need them, without funds to purchase them.

* We are mindful of the **danger of burn-out** and need to develop succession plans for various Committee and support roles.

* We need to find ways to **engage with and support younger women** to tackle the matters of injustice and inequity with which they are most concerned.

* SWAN **doesn't fundraise.** Member donations help finance bursaries and support like-minded groups addressing justice concerns.

* We urgently **need to increase our income to cover administrative and compliance costs**, while **maintaining our integrity** as a not-for-profit voluntary organisation.

Working in a group always has its challenges. Echoing the words of Judith Graley – "Here at SWAN, **we stick together and somehow, we find a way.** We manage the dollars, deal with controversial issues, roadblocks and backlash - knowing that **acting as a collective is more powerful than acting alone"**. **Knowing that we've always got each other is SWAN's core strength. We've come a long way. We can't unknow what we**

know. It's my firm belief that **what has started - simply won't stop.** Not even when the last one of us falls off the perch! **So - let's keep soaring in the SWAN way.** With **humility, respect and determination.** **Bringing others with us on this journey to build a more just, equitable and inclusive society.**

A Note of Thanks

Thanks for such an inspirational afternoon yesterday (at SWAN's 30th). There's nothing more intoxicating than a room full of likeminded women, supporting one another and giving each other a collective hug ... it was soooo uplifting to hear the SWAN social justice achievements of the last 30 years and to be in the same room as Ro the LGBTIQA+ Commissioner to hear an equally inspirational presentation ... my cup is full.

Have a great day,
Cheers Petrina
25/5/2026

Petrina Dodds Buckley,
Advocacy, Social Policy and Partnerships,
Mornington Shire Council

L-R: Ro & Petrina at SWAN's 30th Celebration

Photo supplied



SWAN showcased in ACNC Report

The Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC) Media Office has republished the SWAN CASE STUDY in the Commissioner's Column in their monthly newsletter under the title *'The Charitable Purpose'* (May 2026), distributed to thousands of NFPs. This is great acknowledgement for the hard work done by all SWAN volunteers and promotion for the organisation going forward. Here is an EXTRACT FROM THE COMMISSIONER'S INTRODUCTION:

*... While many volunteer-run charities were small (with annual revenue under \$500,000), together their contribution really adds up. Just in revenue (a simple dollar measurement), they generated around \$4.3 billion. From parent groups to surf lifesaving clubs and faith-based organisations, they strengthened social connections, responded to local needs and delivered vital services. However, **these charities are facing challenges. They typically had less access to government funding, felt regulatory requirements more acutely, and were navigating rising costs and demand – often needing to do more with limited resources.** Encouragingly, after a decline over several years, the charity-reported volunteer count rose in the 2023 reporting period and soon we will be able to report to you the figures for the 2024 reporting period. Many others speak about how enriching volunteering can be. **Southern Women's Action Network (SWAN) facilitator, Diane McDonald echoed my perspective in our [volunteer-run charities report](#). 'Volunteers are our lifeblood ... without doubt, as volunteers, we gain more than we give.'** Another organisation featured in the report, Clean Up Australia, attracted the*

largest numbers. Over 35 years, more than 23 million Aussies had participated in Clean Up Australia activities. What an amazing story and also impact on the health and amenity of our environment. **Acknowledging volunteers and sharing their impact matters. Charities that tell their story well – supported by evidence and data – build trust and reputation, which in turn helps attract volunteers.**

Next SWAN Coffee Catch Up

Our next SWAN COFFEE (or Tea/Juice/Milkshake!) CATCH UP will be
SUNDAY 21 JUNE 10-11.30am
at another unique location:

'TYABB PACKING HOUSE GALLERIA & CAFE'

At the far end of the main building - Tyabb Packing House, 14 Mornington-Tyabb Rd, Tyabb Park close to the main building or turn left into the side carpark (pictured)

Please note due to the cooler weather we are switching from the 'Red Rattler Cafe' to the 'Galleria & Café' inside the warmth of the main building of the Tyabb Packing House.

Give yourself time to explore the range of antique and speciality shops that comprise the 'The Village' at the TYABB PACKING HOUSE.

RSVPs and carpooling appreciated! maureenfrances21@gmail.com



SWAN Women Against Gender-Based Violence

SWAN WOMEN AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
NEXT MEETING: Friday 26 JUNE, 1.15pm, Mt Martha House Community Centre, Room 7,
cnr Esplanade & Dominion Rd. Mt Martha. Contact: Maureen Donnelly maurdone@gmail.com

Support the call for a Royal Commission into the Killing of Australian Women and Girls

[Petition · Royal Commission into the Killing of Australian Women and Girls - Australia · Change.org](#)

Australia has lost more than 1300 women and girls to acts of violence since 2000. Yet there's been no national examination of the systemic failures and cultural attitudes underpinning our femicide epidemic. Please consider signing the petition to demand the Federal Government hold a royal commission into the killing of women and girls.

The Royal Commission would examine all unlawful deaths of women and girls, including intimate partner and domestic violence, associate violence (the violent deaths of women and girls by people known to them but who are not related) and stranger violence.

It would also examine the factors of violence against women which [Our Watch](#) describes as: Condoning of violence against women; Men's control of decision-making and limits to women's independence in public and private life; Rigid gender stereotyping and dominant forms of masculinity; and Male peer relations and cultures of masculinity that emphasise aggression, dominance and control.

RESPECT VICTORIA



**RED FLAGS:
ONLINE
DATING**



*Dating apps: whether you're on them, 'retired' from them, or hear about them from your friends, you've probably seen the messy side ... Swipe long enough and you'll notice patterns. Sometimes what seems like a good match can quickly disintegrate into disrespect. With 72% of surveyed Australians experiencing dating app sexual harassment, aggression and violence in the last 5 years, it's behaviour that can't be ignored. **Our latest blog dives into the red flags of online dating, and how to keep you and your friends safe while navigating the apps:** <https://www.respectvictoria.vic.gov.au>*

STORIES BY THE SEA

Free event.
Bookings
required

Author Event with
Dr Stephanie Wescott & Prof. Steven Roberts



Join authors Dr Stephanie Wescott & Professor Steven Roberts to discuss their recent book launch: *Schooling Misogyny: Exposing and eliminating the influence of the mansphere in education settings*—a powerful new book examining how gendered violence is shaped, sustained and challenged within school environments.

6pm, Thursday 25th June 2026

14 RANELAGH DRIVE, MT ELIZA VICTORIA 3930

Bookings can be made via the Events page on our website
www.storiesbythesea.com.au



Refugee Week

Coordinated by
Refugee Council of Australia

World Refugee Week Sun 14 – Sat 20 June Theme: 'A Million Stories'

World Refugee Day 2026 in Australia is Saturday 20 June. Marking 40 years of celebrations, this year highlights Australia's milestone of issuing one million humanitarian visas since 1947, celebrating the stories, resilience, and contributions of refugees to Australian society.

Resources can be found on their website [here](#)

They also have a cookbook for sale [here](#)

Events in Victoria: https://action.refugeecouncil.org.au/rw_events

Join Flinders-Dunkley Grandmothers for Refugees (G4R) at the screening of a new documentary 'We Are Not Powerless' at the Classic Cinema Elsternwick, June 7th at 1pm. See the link for a preview. It looks amazing!

<https://www.classiccinemas.com.au/movies/we-are-not-powerless>

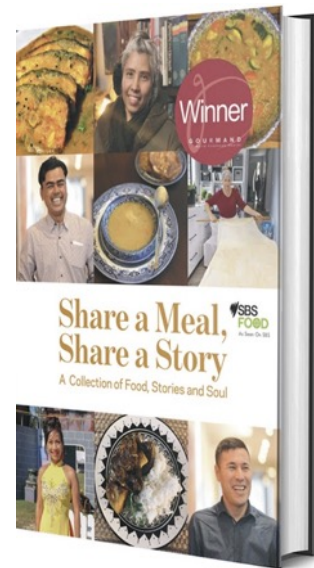
Flinders-Dunkley GFR is a community advocacy group for the welfare and recognition of refugees and asylum seekers. Their work includes liaising with local councils, promoting refugee welcome zones, setting up library displays, letter-writing, distributing postcards for change, and participating in the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

General inquiries and to contribute to the food drive contact:

Maryanne

phone 0400201689

email maryannebarclay5@gmail.com



NEXT MEETING: Friday 5 June, 10 – 11.30am, Frankston Library. All welcome.



Vigil outside MP Jodie Belyea's office

37 Playne St. Frankston

During World Refugee Week, everyone is welcome to join this vigil to advocate for the plight of refugees and asylum seekers in Australia.

16 June, 3.30-4.30pm

Photo: Marilyn Hoban

SWAN for First Nations

Support for Victoria's Treaty

For helpful tips and guides on how SWAN and allies can promote Australia's first Treaty and find out about Gellung Warl (*Tip of the Spear*), check out this website:

<https://gellungwarl.org/>

Or to attend the explanatory webinar on 17 June:

[Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](#)



Messaging Guide for Ally Organisations

If you still haven't written to Jess Wilson MP, Leader of the Opposition, below are some points you can add to your own. Email: Jess.Wilson.MP@parliament.vic.gov.au

Feel free to send any reply you may get to Maureen Donnelly so that she can provide you with facts to rebut exaggerated or incorrect responses: maurdone@gmail.com

Dear Ms Wilson

Victoria became the first state in Australia to enact a Treaty with its First Peoples in December 2025 – a historical milestone in our shared reconciliation journey.

As (for e.g. a member of a group committed to justice), I was inspired by the bipartisan support shown by the Coalition during the almost decade-long journey to Treaty. The subsequent announcement that the Coalition would repeal Treaty within 100 days of being elected suggests political expediency over values. This would make you the first government anywhere in the world in over a century-and-a-half to scrap a Treaty with First Peoples. Is this the legacy you want?

As the Opposition Leader, we call on you to exercise leadership and recognise this historic moment. I greatly admired your support of the Voice to Parliament and am disappointed at your recent withdrawal of support for Treaty. This is a chance to truly embody a fresh start and new generation of leadership by leading with unity, not division.

Yours etc.

Southern Peninsula Allies for First Nations Justice

NEXT MEETING – ALL WELCOME: Friday June 19, 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.

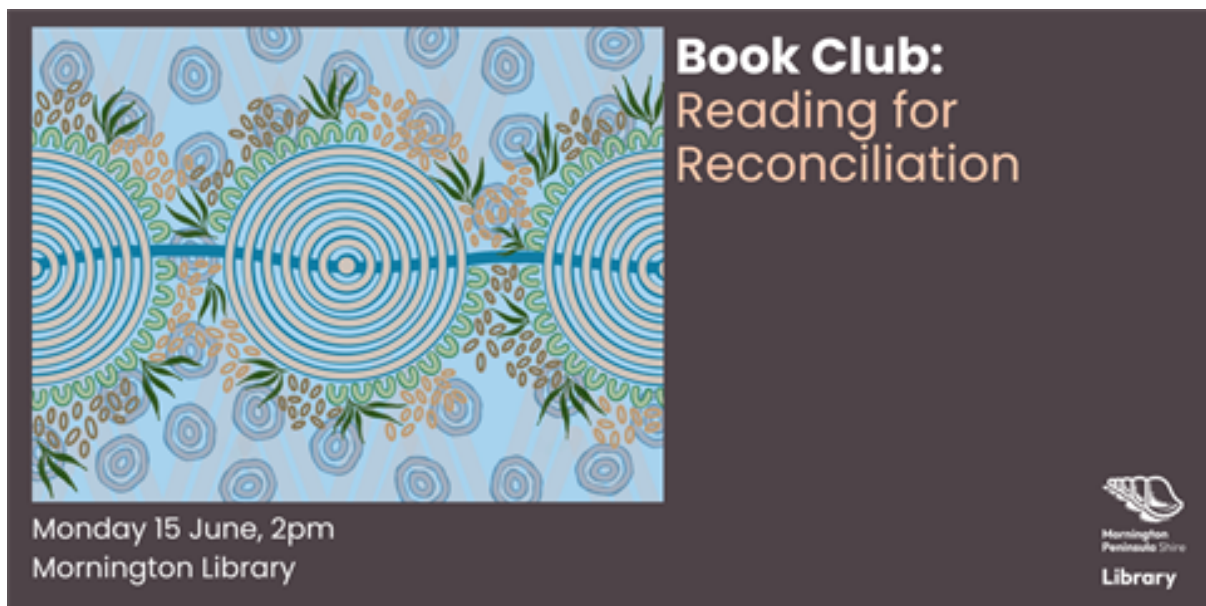
‘All In’ for National Reconciliation Week 2026

‘The theme for National Reconciliation Week 2026 is *All In*, a call for all Australians to commit wholeheartedly to reconciliation every single day. *All In* makes clear that reconciliation is not a spectator sport and that all of us must step away from the sidelines and take action to make change. The theme also reminds us that reconciliation and advancing Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples’ rights isn’t a passive activity, and it is not solely the responsibility of First Nations people, who have carried the weight of championing, explaining and acting for far too long. Reconciliation will not happen by itself, and it will not happen without all of us.’

Source: Reconciliation Australia

Reconciliation Week: First Peoples’ Assembly Treaty Information Session

Tuesday 2 June, 5.15 - 6.30pm at the Safety Beach Sailing Club. Free. Details: <https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Events-Activities/First-Peoples-Assembly-Treaty-Information-Session>

A poster for a book club. The left side features a vibrant Aboriginal dot painting with concentric circles and floral motifs in shades of blue, green, and orange. The right side has a dark grey background with white and orange text. The text reads 'Book Club: Reading for Reconciliation' in a large, bold font. Below the painting, it says 'Monday 15 June, 2pm Mornington Library'. In the bottom right corner, there is a logo for 'Mornington Peninsula Shire Library' featuring a stylized bird or wing design.

Book Club:
Reading for Reconciliation

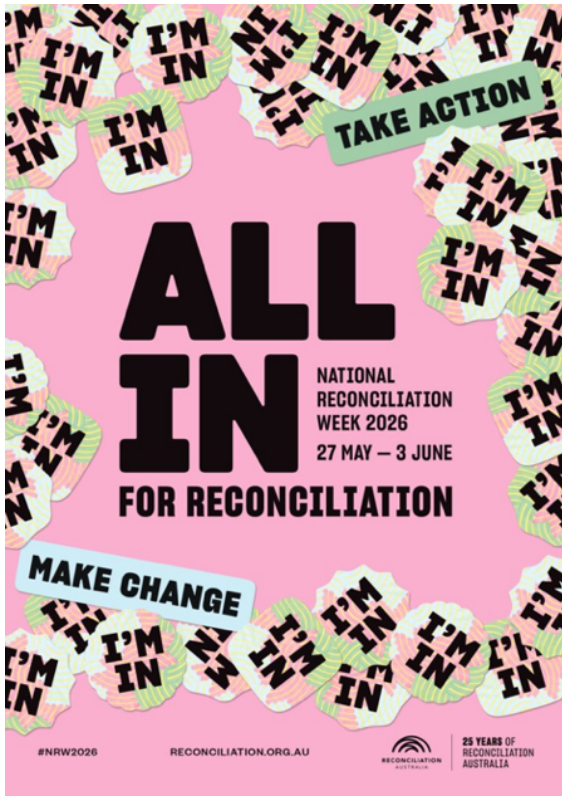
Monday 15 June, 2pm
Mornington Library

Mornington Peninsula Shire
Library

An opportunity for non-Indigenous community to explore First Nations Australian writers with a focus on contemporary books. Participants should endeavour to attend all meeting dates. Everyone is welcome, but places are limited.

Meet and Greet: Monday 15 June | 2–3pm, Mornington Library, Vancouver St. Mornington
Book Club Meetings: Mondays 2-3pm - 13 July, 10 August, 14 September, 12 October

Free, bookings essential: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/reading-for-reconciliation-book-club-mornington-library-tickets-1988960997886?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true



L-R: volunteers Marg Darcy, Maureen Donnelly, Susan Hillman Stolz; Aunty Helen Bnads (Elder) and James Brown (Bunurong Land Council)
Photos: Rosemarie Draper



National Reconciliation Week Families and Allies event
30 May at Willum Warrain Aboriginal Gathering Place
 supported by volunteers from SWAN, Walking Together Mornington Peninsula, Southern Peninsula Allies and Mornington Peninsula Human Rights Group - making it such a success and living this year's theme of 'All In'.

Photos: Maureen Donnelly (L)
 Jill Warner (R)





**NAIDOC WEEK
2026
5 – 12 JULY**

Theme: ‘FIFTY YEARS OF DEADLY’

This milestone theme celebrates five decades of the formal NAIDOC movement, honouring generations of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander activists, artists, and communities who have championed culture, resilience, and change.

**WILLUM WARRAIN
ABORIGINAL
ASSOCIATION**

NAIDOC FLAG RAISING
Mon 6 July, 4 – 6pm

NAIDOC BBQ & LUNCH
Time TBC

ADDRESS
10c Pound Rd
Hastings

CONTACT
0493 634 923
<https://www.willumwarrain.org.au/contact/>

Dates for your Diary



- **TUESDAY 2 JUNE, 5pm: 'First Peoples' Assembly Treaty Information Session'**, Safety Beach Sailing Club. Free, details p.16
- **FRIDAY 5 JUNE, 10-11.30am: 'Grandmothers for Refugees Meeting: Dunkley & Flinders'**, Frankston Library, Playne St. Frankston. More Info: Maryanne 0400 201 689 or maryannebarclay5@gmail.com
- **MONDAY 15 JUNE, 2pm: 'Book Club: Reading for Reconciliation'**, Mornington Library, Vancouver St. Mornington. Details: p.16. Free, bookings essential: https://www.eventbrite.com/e/reading-for-reconciliation-book-club-mornington-library-tickets-1988960997886?aff=oddtcreator&keep_tld=true
- **WEDNESDAY 17 JUNE, 12 – 1pm: 'Treaty webinar'**, Free, registrations essential at: [Microsoft Virtual Events Powered by Teams](https://www.microsoft.com/virtual-events) Queries: ciara.ocallaghan@gellungwarl.org
- **SUNDAY 21 JUNE, 10-11.30am: 'SWAN Coffee Catch Up'**, Tyabb Packing House Galleria & Café (*not Red Rattler Café*), 14 Mornington-Tyabb Rd. Tyabb. Details p.11. RSVP: maureenfrances21@gmail.com
- **THURSDAY 25 JUNE, 6pm: 'Schooling Misogyny: Stories by the Sea'**, 14 Ranelagh Drive, Mt Eliza. Free, bookings required. Details p.13
- **FRIDAY 26 JUNE, 11am-1pm: 'Willum Warrain Big Mob Cook Up'**, 10c Pound Rd. Hastings. Inquiries: 0493 634 923 or <https://www.willumwarrain.org.au/contact/>
- **FRIDAY 26 JUNE, 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
- **SATURDAY 4 JULY, 4 – 6pm: 'NAIDOC Flag Raising Ceremony: Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association'**, 10c Pound Rd. Hastings. Inquiries: 0493 634 923 or <https://www.willumwarrain.org.au/contact/>
- **SATURDAY 4 JULY, 6 - 11pm: 'NAIDOC Dinner Dance: Nairm Marr Djambana'** Mornington Racecourse. Registration & details: p.18
- **MONDAY 6 JULY, 10am – midday: 'NAIDOC Flag Raising Ceremony: Nairm Marr Djambana'**, 32 Nursery Ave, Frankston. Morning tea provided. More info p.18. Contact Keira (03) 9783 1521
- **THURSDAY 9 JULY, 10am - 2pm: 'NAIDOC Family Day: Nairm Marr Djambana'**, 32 Nursery Ave, Frankston. All welcome. More info p.18. Contact Keira (03) 9783 1521

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 June 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

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- * 2 Left Sisters Café: 98 Watt Road Mornington (03) 5916 1133 2leftsisters@facebook.com
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Southern Women's Action Network Inc. Reg: A0038144Z, ABN. 50 089 314 052