

SOUTHERN WOMEN'S ACTION NETWORK



Newsletter

October 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 ANNIVERSARY BOOK & EXHIBITION

Join us to celebrate the launch of our new book '**Where SWANS Soar**', a lively and informative record sharing so much of what has been achieved by SWAN women in recent years. It builds on our first book 'When Women Meet' published in 2022. Copies of the book will be available for purchase.

Congratulations to **Diane McDonald and Judith Couacaud Graley** for all their time and effort to ensure SWAN's story is recorded in print. It is sure to be a source of inspiration for others looking for a successful model of advocacy and action in social justice

Accompanying the book will be a **beautiful photographic display** of individual SWAN member's portraits and of SWAN's intrepid working groups.

'WHERE SWANS SOAR'

SWAN'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY

Book and Exhibition Launch

*Friday 23 October 2026
2.30 pm - 4.30 pm*

*Mornington Community House
91 Wilsons Rd Mornington (on-site parking)*

Guest Speaker: Jodie Belyea MP Federal member for Dunkley

Afternoon tea provided

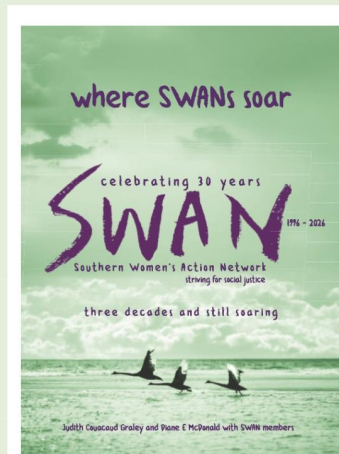
We invite all SWAN members to join us in continuing to celebrate Southern Women's Action Network's 30th Anniversary Year!

SWAN: Thirty Years on and still SOARING!



Many thanks to Bendigo Bank
Community Bank Balnarring & District

Many thanks to Mornington Peninsula Shire for sponsoring this event



1st Prize:

2nd Prize:

3rd Prize:

Tickets:

'Extra Special' SWAN 30th Anniversary Raffle: on sale and drawn at the launch:

A beautiful Tea Set and Tea, T2 - Fitzroy

Yabby Lake Restaurant \$200 dinner voucher

Panton's Winery - Gift Pack of 2 bottles of wine

\$5 each or 3 for \$10 - cash or card available

SWAN ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Facilitated by SWAN member Melissa Kelly, SWAN's 2026 AGM was held on Sunday 27 September at Mt Martha House Community Centre with 62 attendees, including 51 members present. The following nominations for SWAN Committee members 2026-2027 were moved and seconded:

Ros Beard (Treasurer), Monica Coyle (Secretary), Diane McDonald, Susan Hillman Stolz, Maureen Lucas, Mechelle Cheers, Lyn Jones, Jill Warner, Pat McConvill. Diane McDonald announced that she is finishing her term as Facilitator, however, will continue in the position until the Committee decides how to best fill the role. The Committee wishes to thank retiring Committee members Marilyn Hoban and Beck Cridland for their unwavering dedication and valuable input, and to extend a very warm welcome to new Committee member Pat McConvill.



L-R: Melissa Kelly, Diane McDonald. Photos: Moz Lucas

SWAN AGM 2026: FACILITATORS REPORT

Before I sum up the highlights of this amazing year, I want to acknowledge the passing of two of the women who played a key role in the establishment of SWAN.

Dr. Carole Ford one of SWAN's founding members died in Cairns in January after a long illness. Carole was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) in 2016 for her tireless service to women and the community. Her name is also recorded in 'Emily's List Australia'.

Denise Hassett who was principal speaker at a meeting of women across our region that led to the formation of SWAN, passed away in June. A feisty advocate for equality and human rights, Denise cared deeply for others and was well loved by all. We thank them both for their leadership and inspiration.

And now - What an amazing year it's been for SWAN! There's no way I can do justice to everything that's been achieved, in this brief annual report. So, I've picked out some of the main highlights that reflect SWAN's ongoing commitment to building belonging, enabling women in this southern region to play an active role in community development, and undertaking practical social justice action.

GENERAL MEETINGS

Last year we held five General Meetings and a 30th Anniversary Celebration Lunch, hosting a diverse range of remarkable guest speakers.

Ann Urch gave a very moving presentation about the significant challenges she confronted firstly as a gay man and then as a trans woman.

Kirsty Sword Gusmão AO spoke about *'The Unstoppable Power of Women's Solidarity'*. 'She shared her personal journey from human rights activist to becoming First Lady of Timor Leste and helping to empower her Timorese sisters.

Mary Crooks AO, former Executive Director of the Victorian Women's Trust, delivered our International Women's Day address entitled: *'Rights. Justice. Action. For ALL Women and Girls: Maintain the Struggle for Women's Safety.'*

Keynote speaker at our 30th Anniversary Lunch was Victoria's Equal Opportunity and Human Rights Commissioner, **Ro Allen**, with a powerful address entitled *Participation, Power, and Progress: mobilizing movements to be stronger together with women at the centre.'*

Guest speaker at our NAIDOC meeting was Aunty Gail Kunwarra Dawson who shared the remarkable story of the *'Reawakening Bunurong Language Project'* that is bringing this language, once thought lost, back into everyday use.

30TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

A central feature of the year has been SWAN's 30th anniversary. In November, **Monica Coyle** engaged us in a lively workshop where we shared key moments and stories about our SWAN experience to help inform the preparation of a SWAN video. With support of grants from the Mornington Peninsula Shire Council and Bendigo Community Bank Balnarring & District, we undertook a series of activities to commemorate this significant occasion. A working group comprising founding members **Fran Rule and Judith Graley**, and members **Susan Blackburn, Rosemarie Draper, Belinda Rodman, Monica Coyle, Ros Beard and myself** have worked tirelessly throughout the year to host our Anniversary Lunch, and produce a series of portraits of SWAN women over time, a new book entitled *'Where SWAN's Soar'* and a documentary video that encapsulates the essence of SWAN and its community development focus. I'm delighted to say that the portraits, book and a trailer of the video will be unveiled at a Launch event being held on 23 October and that there will be a public screening of the full video during International Women's Day in March 2027.

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS

In the months between our bi-monthly General Meetings, **Moz Lucas** facilitated a series of informal and increasingly popular Coffee Catch ups at very appealing café locations in Dromana, Mornington, Moorooduc, Tyabb and Sorrento.

The *'Val McKenna Young Women's Advocacy Award'* was presented to two Year 12 students, one from Western Port SC and the other from Rosebud SC. Under the experienced leadership of **Susan Blackburn** and **Lyn Jones** and with generous donations from our members, two more bursaries will be awarded for 2027.

SWAN members have continued to **support First Nations people** and their concerns in various ways, including volunteering and participating in activities at Our Survival Day, and with Willum Warrain, Nairm Marr Djambana and Baluk Arts. Members have also actively supported Treaty, participated in truth-telling and cultural awareness initiatives, and engaged in discussions about how best to support First People to achieve meaningful and lasting justice through constitutional reform.

In November the **SWAN Women for Housing Justice group** facilitated its second Roundtable on Homelessness. This brought together the leaders of over 30 community organisations with local government representatives and Federal Special Envoy for Social Housing and Homelessness, the Hon Josh Burns, to discuss concrete strategies to address the homelessness crisis in our region.

In June, group members met with government ministers and their shadows at Parliament House, Victoria, helping to secure funds for financial counselling, \$2.1M for Assertive Outreach Workers and emergency accommodation assistance.

The **SWAN Women Against Gender-Based Violence group** were involved in several community awareness raising initiatives including the 'Stop Violence against Women' rally in Hastings, as part of the 'UN 16 Days of Activism Campaign', a theatre performance for senior secondary students about coercive control and initiating a project to urge men to act as allies.

Member interest in setting up other action-oriented working groups has emerged, with concern about racism, and in support of multiculturalism, high on the list.

COMMITTEE

In particular, 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.

Monica Coyle carries out a pivotal role as Communications Secretary and oversees all compliance and administrative aspects of SWAN.

Ros Beard has taken on the Treasurer's role with gusto, making sure our finances stay on track.

Former Speaker Coordinator, **Susan Hillman Stotz** supports the Catering Team and coordinates our raffle to attract much needed income to cover our meeting costs and support the SWAN Bursary.

Moz Lucas facilitates our Coffee Catchups and skilfully crafts SWAN NEWS keeping us well informed about upcoming meetings, forums and events, both locally and beyond.

Marilyn Hoban has been Committee Minutes Secretary and promotes SWAN meetings in the local media, as well as writing forceful Letters to the Editor about various justice concerns.

Lyn Jones partners with **Susan Blackburn** to coordinate SWAN's bursary, engaging with teachers and Student Award recipients at Rosebud and Western Port Secondary Colleges.

Mechelle Cheers and **Jill Warner** help guide SWAN's ongoing engagement with First Nations organisations and Committee discussions on how best to support their causes.

Beck Cridland has played an instrumental role in boosting SWAN social media presence with regular posts on Instagram and Facebook. This has greatly increased our outreach.

After several years of service, Marilyn and Beck have decided to relinquish their committee roles to give more time to other pursuits. I know that all their Co-Committee members will join me in thanking them sincerely for their contribution.

Many other members generously give their time and skills in countless ways, in particular:

Erica Churchill provides essential support based on her long-term SWAN experience and leadership. **Melissa Kelly** creates attractive flyers for our General Meetings and other events, as well as supporting the preparation of our promotional resources.

Di Lewis provides technical backup with our website and helps to ensure that our newsletter reaches the inbox of over 250 people.

Viv Daniels makes sure we always have an attractive bouquet of flowers to present to our guest speaker.

And we can always rely on long-term members of the Catering Team: **Lynn Carpenter, Helen Corocran and Gillian Adam** to provide refreshments at our meetings.

Looking back, this period has been marked by growth, improved visibility and increased engagement with community partners and government decision makers. And for many of us, once casual connections have become deep friendships based on shared values and convictions. More coordinated advocacy on priority issues has resulted in greater impact.

As we approach the end of this anniversary year, we can be justifiably proud of SWAN's longevity and the contribution being made to enhance the role of local women in building a more just, equitable and inclusive society.

And so - onward and upward - as we rise to meet the challenges and opportunities of the next decade!

Diane McDonald, 27 September 2026

SWAN Speaker Event: Rosie Batty AO



L-R: Dr Helen Keleher thanks Rosie Batty; Rosie during her presentation.

Photos: Moz Lucas

On Sunday 27 September after our AGM, Dr Helen Keleher introduced guest speaker Rosie Batty AO. Through her personal journey, Rosie's advocacy work continues to be highly influential in challenging systemic issues and in providing personal empowerment to women who have and are experiencing domestic violence. Rosie's authenticity, incredible strength, infectious warmth, unrelenting tenacity and compassion shone throughout her presentation. Rosie spoke about how her personal experience of losing her son Luke at the hands of his father catapulted her into the media spotlight and how she channelled her grief into ongoing action against domestic violence, becoming a powerful catalyst for systemic change and for inspiring others to find hope in the face of adversity.

When made Australian of the Year, Rosie was propelled into the media again. Within a year, PTSD and societal pressure to keep a stoic brave face caused Rosie to reflect that as a society, we don't know how to express deep grief. Following on, COVID caused her to sit more deeply with her grief, understanding that we never get over loss, including the loss of the life we've had before: "You have to work out a way to feel genuinely pleased for others' journey when it's a reminder of what you don't have."

Rosie shared her spiritual philosophy:

"LIFE IS A JOURNEY OF LEARNING", that home, animals and the farm are her joy. "YOU HAVE TO LOOK BACK TO WHERE YOU'VE COME FROM TO KNOW IF YOU'VE MADE ANY CHANGES. CHANGE TAKES TIME. I HELPED CHANGE THE CONVERSATION. IT'S NOW A WORKPLACE ISSUE. IT'S IMPORTANT NOT TO FALL INTO VICTIM BLAMING."

Given the alarming nature of domestic and family violence statistics, Rosie queried why are we not better educated in this area, particularly those preparing to work or volunteer in the community space? Rosie reiterated that family violence is about power and control, that it can happen to anyone, no matter how nice your house or how wealthy or impoverished you are. Education and awareness are a really slow journey but the cause is gaining momentum. This development, said Rosie, strengthens her purpose. She attends hundreds of events each year, having so far reached over 70,000 people directly, and that's not including media and public personalities. It's not unusual for Rosie to receive a 'Thank You' from strangers saying – *'You've saved my life'*.

Women, and people generally in the family violence sector and feminist spaces, said Rosie, are her 'tribe', including SWAN. Rosie commended SWAN for its continued advocacy and networking over three decades. Dr Helen Keleher acknowledged Rosie for helping to build language about what domestic and family violence is all about. When queried about the 'Manosphere', Rosie's advice is to adopt a strategy to include men and not to shame them, that men are on a journey too:

"I BELIEVE IT'S POSSIBLE FOR PEOPLE TO CHANGE." We all need to take account as parents and partners to model respect. Children are influenced. Mobile phones have allowed access to pornography by 8 years of age. So critical conversations for young people are really important. Attitudinal shift, even slight, usually comes from modelling. ***"WHEN WE STAY INSULAR, PRECONCEIVED IDEAS, BIAS AND PREJUDICES STAY ENTRENCHED."*** This feeds the 'Manosphere'. ***"WE NEED TO WISE UP AND SO DO MEN AS ROLE MODELS."*** We need to invite them along as allies.

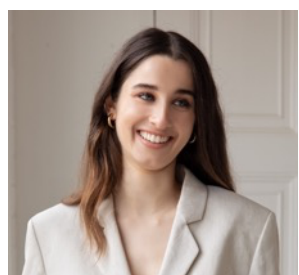
At the same time, some people are challenged by progress and by her talking about feminism - they push back. Victoria is the only state that has a Gender Equality Commissioner. Cultural change across the police force is not consistent across Australia and there is a chronic problem of police investigating police. Rosie asked: ***'HOW DO WE GAUGE THE SUCCESS OF PREVENTION?'*** We need to be committed to information sharing schemes, respectful relationships, and understanding the generational impact on children. Rosie expressed her gratitude to the pivotal role of Community Legal Centres in providing support to her and many others, including pro bono work and system and theoretical knowledge. For bringing change, Rosie acknowledged the previous Andrews' government **Royal Commission into Family Violence (Victoria)** and their commitment to the completion of all 227 Recommendations.

Rosie gifted her \$200 donation from SWAN to the **'Australian Childhood Foundation'**. SWAN thanks our Raffle sponsors - T2 Fitzroy; Yabby Lake Restaurant, Tuerong; and Pantons Vineyard, Shoreham. Thank you also to Secret Garden Mornington for donating flowers for the speaker and to Millers Bakery, Dromana for contributing to catering for the meeting.

RECOMMENDED READING & VIEWING

'Hope' by Rosie Batty (Harper Collins, 2024)

CHANEL CONTOS – CEO of 'TEACH US CONSENT' addressed the National Press Club, 2 September 2026, available ABC iview: <https://iview.abc.net.au/show/national-press-club-address/series/0/video/NC2611C032S00>



'Algorithmic funnels and division: the systemic promotion of outrage, misogyny, and radicalisation online'. Chanel's presentation interrogates Gender-Based Violence and the online 'Manosphere' industry, how online misogyny is being addressed world-wide and what further structural reform needs to happen here in Australia. Chanel founded the 'Teach Us Consent' campaign, and has authored Consent Laid Bare: Sex, Entitlement, and the Distortion of Desire Further info: www.teachusconsent.com

"We believe in a world free from sexual violence. To get there, we're putting consent, respect and empathy at the heart of sex education." Source: www.teachusconsent.com

SWAN Women Against Gender-Based Violence

SWAN WOMEN AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

NEXT MEETING: Thursday 8 October, 2.00pm

WALLAROO COMMUNITY HOUSE, 6 Wallaroo Place, Hastings.

Contact: Maureen Donnelly maurdone@gmail.com

New members welcome.

UPDATE FROM DR HELEN KELEHER

The Gender-Based Violence Prevention Group is working with the Frankston & Mornington Peninsula Family Violence Prevention Collaborative on a pilot project called *Respect in Action – Men as Allies*. This is an initiative to coincide with this year's 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign.

The project is being developed by a sub-group of the Collaborative, which has worked up the concept into a pilot project. We have now invited 10 men from a range of sectors, to take a visible leadership role during the 16 Days campaign. The men selected have community influence, sector experience, and shared values about respect and equality, and are willing to use their voices to advance the prevention of gender-based violence.

By amplifying local men's voices, we aim to shift attitudes at least in a small way, and inspire action across our community. There is good research showing that men have a vital role to play alongside women in promoting respect and preventing gender-based violence – figuring out how we might do that is one of the reasons we are developing this pilot project to test the concept.

Becoming a male ally is a volunteer role, and we are encouraging men to choose a contribution that best suits their availability such as:

- Taking part in a filmed interview for Council social media, responding to pre-prepared questions.
- Participating in an interview with local radio or podcast.
- Contributing a short, written article for local media.
- Speaking at a 16 Days campaign event - for example, one Male Ally will be on a panel discussion, following the Hastings March Against Gender-Based Violence.

Participants are not expected to take part in every opportunity; one contribution is welcome. Support from Mornington Peninsula Shire Council and Collaborative members includes providing pre-prepared questions and answers, key messages and briefings, and we are currently setting up media and event opportunities. All activities will be delivered in the weeks leading up to, or during, the 16 Days of Activism campaign, from 25 November to 10 December 2026.

Key messages include:

- Preventing violence against women is everybody's responsibility.

- Everyone in the community benefits when homes, workplaces and public spaces are safe, equal and respectful.
- Men have an important role in preventing violence by walking alongside women, modelling respect, and challenging behaviours that excuse or minimise harm.
- Gender inequality is a key driver of men's violence against women, and prevention starts with addressing the attitudes, systems, and behaviours that treat women as less equal.
- Respect is active: it shows up in what men say, what they challenge, and how they support equality every day.

The project started as a twinkle in Maureen Donnelly's eye some months ago and has grown with the enthusiastic support of the Collaborative. We are very much looking forward to progressing the pilot and hope it can grow further in 2027.

Meanwhile, you are all invited to attend the **Hastings March Against Gender-Based Violence on 26th November 11.30am-2pm** including a panel of speakers – one will be from our Male Allies group. Our SWAGBV group will be there in our orange T-shirts and we hope to see you there.

Until then, click on the **'Working Together with Men'** link.

'Working Together with Men' by Health West Partnership Victoria:

<https://apo.org.au/sites/default/files/resource-files/2020-05/apo-nid317356.pdf>



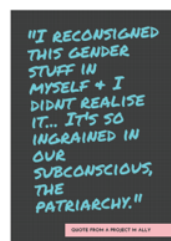
What is this resource and who is it for?

This resource aims to be an inspiration and guide to assist you to create your own community mobilisation movement that engages men at the grassroots in efforts to prevent violence against women.

Working Together with Men is a movement model that was attempted in stages across the west of Melbourne between 2016 and 2020. It has seen men of all ages and backgrounds rise to the challenge to become allies for equity and attempt to make change, both on a personal level and within their communities.

The model attempts many things, but at its heart is gender-transformative work and partnership work. It is a model in which men and women, as well as services, organisations and institutions, work collectively to find ways to create a safer and more supportive world for all of us.

This resource can be used as a step-by-step guide for creating your own Working Together with Men project. Or if you are looking for new ways to engage and work with men, this resource can provide you with tips, activities and ideas to support you in your prevention efforts.



Support the petition for a Royal Commission into Femicide: the Killing of Australian Women and Girls. Go to: [Petition · Royal Commission into the Killing of Australian Women and Girls - Australia · Change.org](https://petition.royalcommissionintothe-killing-of-australian-women-and-girls-australia.change.org)

Next SWAN Coffee Catch Up

Spring has arrived! Our next Coffee Catch Up destination will be

'RED HILL LAVENDER FARM' Café & Farm Gate
284 Main Creek Rd, Main Ridge

SUNDAY 18 OCTOBER, 10 – 11.30am (or stay as long as you want!)

Check it out at: www.redhilllavender.com.au

SAVE THE DATE!

RSVPs and carpooling appreciated! Email: maureenfrances21@gmail.com

SWAN Women for Housing Justice

SW4HJ have been for many years working hard at highlighting the urgent need for crisis accommodation for our homeless people on the Mornington Peninsula. So good news was received on 9 September 2026. A message from Ben Smith CEO Mornington Community Support Centre ...

I'm up in (the Victorian) parliament. Premier and Minister (Staikos) just announced funding to build crisis accommodation on the Peninsula (tied to funding from short stay levy). Also more J2SI. Additional resource also for new critical complex homelessness coordination. Minister Staikos thanked SWAN for your amazing advocacy.

The facility will be funded from the Airbnb Short Stay levy. J2SI refers to **Journey to Social Inclusion**, an evidence-based program created by the **Sacred Heart Mission** to end chronic and long-term homelessness.

Well done to everyone in the SW4HJ group !!! This announcement is a significant recognition of the needs of our local community. It is also an excellent illustration of the need for perseverance when undertaking community action and advocacy.

Seniors Month Guide 2026 available online

Includes information about the **Yidaki-led Meditation** on 1.10.2026 and the **Multicultural Film Festival** at Rosebud Cinema at 4pm on 17.10.2026, as well as a wide range of other free or low cost activities:

https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/files/assets/public2/v/2/community-services/seniors/activities-amp-programs/docs/seniorsfest25_a5guide_2026_v06_web.pdf



**SOUTHERN
PENINSULA
COMMUNITY
SUPPORT**

HELP WHERE IT'S NEEDED

= You're Invited =

Southern Peninsula Community Support Inc. 2026 Annual General Meeting

Celebrating 10 years of SPLaSh

 **Wednesday, 21 October 2026**
10am – 12pm

 **Rye Civic Hall**
12 Napier Street, Rye

 Join us as we reflect, acknowledge
and thank our community.
Brief formalities will occur.





Register your attendance via TryBooking

<https://www.trybooking.com/au/event/1643677>







MAJOR SUPPORTER



KEY SUPPORTING SPONSOR

MEALS ON WHEELS : Update

SWAN member, Joan Doyle recently raised concerns about the MPSC decision to outsource the Meals on Wheels service. A range of people, including Joan and some other SWAN members have met to discuss the issues arising from this decision.

Joan has informed us that the Commonwealth has recently had a change of heart about the funding model, putting their original decision on hold. She says: *"We have found that some MPSC Councillors have had a change of mind about ceasing the delivery of Meals on Wheels and other Aged Care Services."*

Joan asks those who are concerned about this issue to write to their local Councillor to tell them they value Meals on Wheels and want it continued.

Vicky Davidson, SWAN member and Chairperson of the Peninsula Advisory Committee for Elders (PACE), a community advisory group that helps guide the Shire's response on issues affecting older residents, has just informed us:

"Last week PACE resolved to support the option to retain delivery of all three services when Council reconsiders this matter next Tuesday (29 September)." She goes on to say: "I have written to the Mayor and all Councillors asking them to support this. We look forward to a positive resolution and being actively involved in any further discussions on this matter."

It is hoped that at this meeting the Council will revoke its earlier decision. If not Joan will keep us informed about ways that SWAN members can show their concern.

For further information, you can contact Joan on mobile: 0419 345 134 or by email: doylejoan4@gmail.com

Information about the changes can be found on the MPSC website via the following link:
<https://www.mornpen.vic.gov.au/Services/Communities/Older-people/Services/Aged-Care-Services-Update>



Donating to SWAN

We are a registered charity

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 for First Nations

CALL OUT TO ALL SWAN MEMBERS!!!

**Take ACTION to Support
VICTORIA'S TREATY**



NEXT MONTH IS VICTORIA'S STATE ELECTION.

If there is a change of government, the Opposition and One Nation are clear in their proposed RETRACTION OF THE TREATY. Actions SWAN and allies can take to promote Australia's first Treaty and help establish bi-partisan support, ANTaR Victoria (Australians for Native Title and Reconciliation) suggest the following:

1. Let the Leader of the Opposition know your support for Treaty – call, visit, email, write, flood social media, start your own campaign: <https://www.jesswilsonkew.com.au/contact>
2. You can also sign the Common Threads petition: <https://act.togetherfortreaty.org.au/petitions/wilson-dont-wreck-treaty/>.
3. Share and promote positive, factual information about Treaty: <https://gellungwarl.org/resources/library/category/statewide-treaty/>
4. Be a visible, vocal supporter – show up to events, put up posters, put info on your website, have community conversations.: <https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1xyRlHn9MFa-T1oHu4joJMQJ2hZGPrAc9?usp=sharing>
5. Enrol (if you're Mob), sign up (if you're an ally) or become a Friend of Treaty organisation and make a public pledge: [Sign Up - Gellung Warl](#)
6. Read, share and act on the truths and recommendations of the Yoorrook Justice Commission: [Yoorrook Justice Commission](#)
7. Donate to ANTaR Victoria to support our work to Defend Treaty to Survive and Thrive <https://antarvictoria.org.au/donate>



What is Victoria's Treaty with First Nations People?

A first in Australia, a Treaty has been negotiated between the State of Victoria and the First Peoples, acknowledging their unique connection to the land over millennia. It officially commenced on 12 December 2025. The Treaty is now law.

What will the Treaty do?

The Treaty is about making a better and fairer state for all Victorians by ensuring First Peoples have a say over the policies that impact them and their families. It recognises that Aboriginal people are the experts when it comes to their culture and communities. It will allow Aboriginal communities to deliver practical solutions to improve health, education, employment, justice and housing outcomes. It represents an opportunity to heal from past trauma, for reckoning with our colonial past and for reconciliation between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Victorians.

The Treaty will not

Change the Victorian or Commonwealth Constitution, change tax laws or provide individual financial reparations, or lead to loss of private land.

Why Treaty should be funded

The Treaty is a crucial, long-term generational investment in healing, justice and a fairer Victoria.

Discover more at:

<https://gellungwarl.org/> and to get involved locally, contact us at southern.peninsula.allies@gmail.com

Southern Peninsula Allies for First Nations Justice

NEXT MEETING – ALL WELCOME: Friday 16 October, 12.30pm

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.



Mornington
Peninsula Shire
Library

On Bunurong Country: Truth-Telling & Treaty



Join Joan Doyle and John Karslake from the Southern Peninsula Allies and explore the treatment of the local First People (the Bunurong / Boon Wurrung).

From First Contact with Europeans to the historic recent Treaty between the Victorian State Government and First Nations which promises self-determination and respect.

**11am-12pm
Wednesday
7 October**

Mornington Library

Free, bookings essential
library.mornpen.vic.gov.au/events
 or call 5950 1710

Before I Forget | Melbourne Theatre Company

24 OCT – 28 NOV Arts Centre Melbourne, Fairfax Studio

Before I Forget – A fierce and funny tribute to the unwavering strength of Blak matriarchy and the memories that shape us, starring **Roxanne McDonald, Melodie Reynolds-Diarra** and **Tyallah Bullock**. Details & tickets: click on title above.

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>



Dates for your Diary



- **FRIDAY 2 OCT, 10-11.30am: 'Grandmothers for Refugees Meeting: Dunkley & Flinders'**, Frankston Library, Playne St. Frankston. More info: Maryanne 0400 201 689 or maryannebarclay5@gmail.com
- **WEDNESDAY 7 OCT, 11am-12pm: 'On Bunurong Country: Truth Telling and Treaty'**, Mornington Library. Free, bookings essential. Details p.14
- **THURSDAY 8 OCT, 2pm: 'SWAN Women Against Gender-Based Violence meeting'**, Wallaroo Community House, 6 Wallaroo Place, Hastings. Contact: Maureen Donnelly maurdone@gmail.com
- **TUESDAY 13 OCT, 1.30-3pm: 'Multicultural Collaborative Network Meeting'** Paperbark Room, Mornington Shire Offices, Besgrove St, Rosebud. Bookings not required, just turn up! Inquiries: Rosemarie Draper 0435 620 191
- **FRIDAY 16 OCT, 12.30pm: 'Southern Peninsula Allies for Justice for First Nations meeting: Meet Sheena Watt, Co-chair Anti Racism Task Force'**. The Blue Room, Rye Hotel. Contact: Marg Darcy 0409 859 046
- **SUNDAY 18 OCT, 10-11.30am: 'SWAN Coffee Catch Up'**, Red Hill Lavender Farm Café & Farm Gate, 284 Main Creek Rd. Main Ridge. Details p.10 RSVP: maureenfrances21@gmail.com
- **MONDAY 19 OCT, 10.30am - 12.30pm: 'Living Culture: Explore Indigenous Culture & Flora'**, meet at McCrae Lighthouse, \$20. Bookings essential: trybooking.com/DMAWE Inquiries: Marg Darcy 0409859046
- **WEDNESDAY 21 OCT, 10am – 2pm: 'Southern Peninsula Community Support Inc 2026 AGM'**, 12 Napier St Rye. Details p.11 Registration: <https://www.trybooking.com/au/event/1643677>
- **FRIDAY 23 OCT, 2.30 – 4.30pm: 'SWAN 30th Anniversary Book and Exhibition Launch'**. Mornington Community House, 91 Wilsons Rd. Mornington. Details p.2
- **SATURDAY 24 OCT – SATURDAY 28 NOV: 'Before I Forget', a play about First Nations matriarchy**, Melbourne Theatre Company at the Arts Centre, Fairfax Studio. Details p.14
- **SATURDAY 31 OCT, 2pm: 'Gellung Warl Treaty Information event'**, The Studio, 91 Wilsons Rd, Mornington. Details: Maureen Donnelly 0423 806 525
- **THURSDAY 26 NOV, 11.30am: 'March for 16 Days of Activism 2026 for the Elimination of Gender-Based Violence'**, High St, Hastings. Details coming in November SWAN NEWS.

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 October 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

Postal: PO Box 72 BITTERN VIC 3918

Email: swanwomen@outlook.com

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

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

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

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

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

OUR SPONSORS

- * Blackbird Café: 2D Empire St Mornington (03) 5976 8632 blackbird-café.edan.io
- * Farrells Bookshop: 143 Main Street Mornington (03) 5975 5034 farrells.com.au
- * Millers Bread Kitchen: 116 Point Nepean Road Dromana 0411166685 millersbread.squarespace.com
- * Nairn Marr Djambana: 32 Nursey Ave Frankston (03) 9783 1521 djamban.org.au
- * Panton Vineyard: 11 Shoreham Rd. Shoreham pantonvineyard.com.au
- * Secret Garden: 81 Main Street Mornington (03) 5975 0977 secretgardenflowers.com.au
- * T2 Fitzroy: 340 Brunswick St. Fitzroy (03) 8415 0609 t2tea.com
- * 2 Left Sisters Café: 98 Watt Road Mornington (03) 5916 1133 2leftsisters@facebook.com
- * Willum Warrain Aboriginal Association: 10c Pound Rd Hastings 0493 634 923 willumwarrain.org.au
- * Yabby Lake Restaurant: 86 Tuerong Rd. Tuerong 0447132273 yabbylake.com

PARKING A request from Mt Martha House Community Centre - *Please do not park in Disabled Parking areas. If parking is tight and you are fit, please use the rear car park.*

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