



THE TRAP

OCTOBER 2021

Welcome

Greetings friends! Well, we thought 2020 sent us some curve balls but 2021 has proven to be quite the year.

We've had lockdowns, a fierce, feminist Australian of the Year in Grace Tame, more lockdowns, an underwhelming Women's Summit, more lockdowns, and even an earthquake!

Here at the Trust we, like so many of you, have been doing our best from the confines of home. Receiving mail has become quite the thrill these days so we hope that this newsletter is a welcome surprise in your letterbox.

In this edition of the Victorian Women's Trust (VWT) newsletter, you'll hear about our new podcast, *The Trap*, with Jess Hill; we pay tribute to the late Bill Moyle, Joanna Hayter offers some reflections on the situation in Afghanistan and how you can help, you'll meet Maki, the fabulous new editor of *Rosie*; and much more.

From our homes to yours, thank you for your support. Your commitment gives us so much hope. It fills us with energy to keep doing the work that we do, and reminds us that even in isolation, we are never alone.

The Trap: a podcast about love, abuse and power

Content warning: domestic abuse

On August 5, The Victorian Women's Trust launched *The Trap*, a multi-part audio documentary series which delves deeply into the pervasive and endemic issue of domestic abuse in Australia.

This ambitious project has been a deep collaboration between Walkley and Stella award-winning investigative journalist and writer, Jess Hill, documentary and podcast producer, Georgina Savage and our team at the Victorian Women's Trust who came together to address some of the fundamental questions at the heart of why we continue to face this crisis of violence and abuse as a nation.

The series takes a bold, unapologetic appraisal of what constitutes domestic abuse and the flaws within our beliefs, systems and culture that perpetuate violence and harm.

"For too long we have tiptoed around the problem of abuse and violence in Australia ... We need an honest narrative if we are serious about reducing and eliminating all forms of violence towards women and children."

- Mary Crooks AO

Centring the voices of victim survivors as well as experts, *The Trap* invites listeners to deepen our definition of what constitutes domestic abuse and violence, how this shows up and operates in our intimate partner relationships, why perpetrators abuse and the ways that our systems perpetuate this abuse.

Featuring interviews with trailblazers, policy influencers and people with lived experiences, the show dares to ask what it is in our national identity and character that creates this pervasive issue.

[READ MORE page 2 →](#)

TOP: Jess Hill, Walkley award winning journalist and host of *The Trap*
Image Saskia Wilson

The show also focuses on showcasing solutions that are being developed to this enormous problem. This means better supporting victim survivors fleeing abuse, and ultimately an outcome that we all expect and deserve: measurable and significant reduction in both incidents and deaths.

As Jess describes it:

“This is the show I’ve dreamt of making. One that will take listeners deep into the domestic abuse crisis raging in our homes and across our systems.

The story of domestic abuse and coercive control in Australia is not a niche problem that happens to other people.

Every single one of us is affected by domestic abuse and violence in some way, whether it’s something we’ve witnessed or lived through, it’s affected people we love, or it’s hidden within our family histories.

To truly change society, we need to understand how abuse, coercion and control play out in private and public life, and how we can play a part in changing this: both in our systems, and ourselves.”

The Trap is a harm prevention podcast, created by the Dugdale Trust for Women & Girls (of which the Victorian Women’s Trust is Trustee). This project has been made possible thanks to the support of donors. Special thanks to the Phyllis Connor Memorial Trust of Equity Trustees Limited, Jo Baevski, a private donor, and The Bokhara Foundation.

WHERE TO LISTEN

The Trap is available on your favourite podcast platforms or by visiting our website:

www.vwt.org.au/thetrap

In addition to each of the episodes, there is a range of related resources, show notes and support services.

FOLLOW ON INSTAGRAM

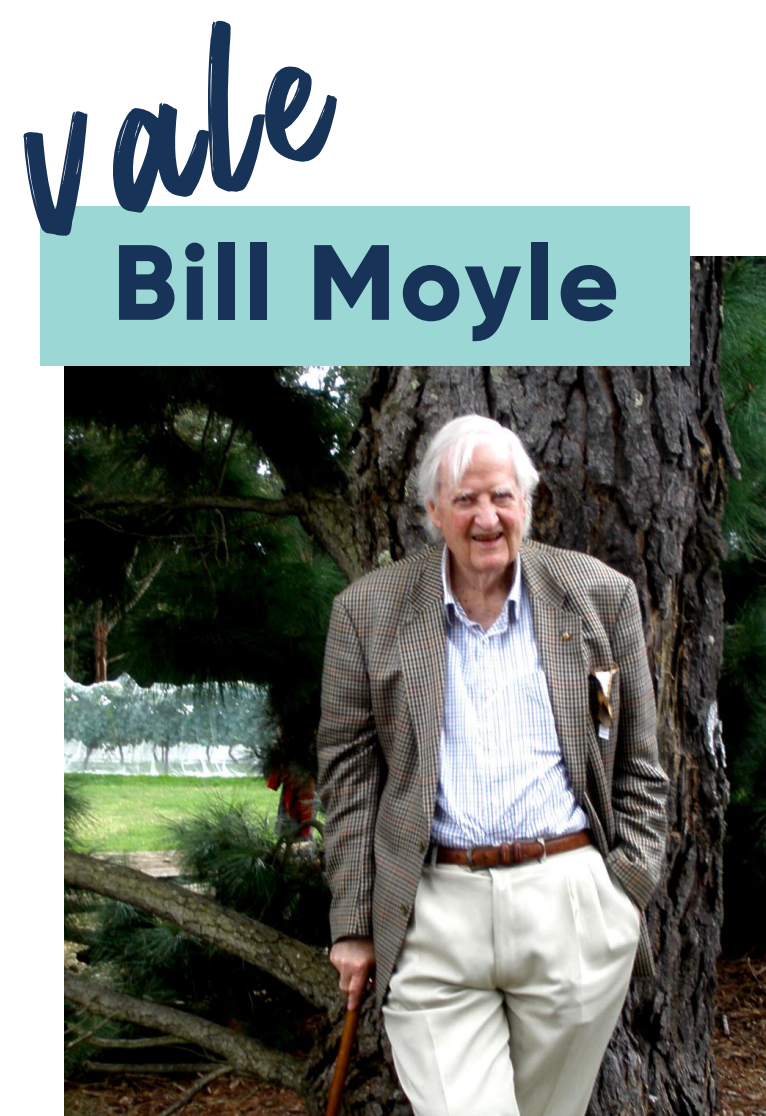
@TheTrapPod - The Trap Podcast

@jessicahelenhill - Jess Hill

@savage_woman - Georgina Savage

@VicWomensTrust - VWT

BOTTOM: The Trap banner and episode covers



“Bill Moyle had extensive experience in commercial banking—an area in which the State Bank did not have great strength. He was a strong supporter of making banking facilities available to all Victorians who were credit-worthy, regardless of sex, race or background.”

– Ian Renard, who served on the Bank Board when Bill Moyle was CEO

The Victorian Women’s Trust was established in 1985 with a \$1m gift from the Cain Government.

It has remained a constant source of inspiration to us at VWT ever since, that the first major initiative to emerge from this new-minted women’s organisation was the Guaranteed Loan Fund (GLF).

The Guaranteed Loan Fund reflected the belief that the lack of capital was a major reason many women were not able to develop their own businesses; and that traditional banking institutions were not sympathetic to lending to women in their own right.

The leadership of the VWT back then, the Board and Jenny Florence as ED, approached the CEO of the State Bank, Bill Moyle, with a simple but powerful proposition: lend to women to start their businesses and the VWT would guarantee 50% of the loans.

Bill Moyle had only joined the State Bank in August 1984 and this was one of his first significant innovations for State Bank lending. The proposal was approved by the State Bank board and proved to be a great success.

Thus, an Australian first came into being—the first time in our country that a women’s foundation guaranteed women’s business enterprises through the traditional banking system.

We love those early eligibility criteria. The existing or intended businesses should:

- Be owned or operated by women living in Australia
- Be based in Victoria
- Employ at least 50% women
- Have long term economic viability
- *Have been refused commercial credit from trading banks* (italics ours)
- Have a responsible industrial relations policy, including offering award wages and conditions to employees and observing equal opportunity and affirmative action principles

The Scheme had an enormous rippling impact, giving rise also to a new generation of mentors, business advocates and changed banking practices.

We honour the vision and effort of the many talented and committed women who made it possible, not just within VWT itself, as well as its GLF Committee members and other trusted advisers.

But it also reflects another important dimension—the importance of men as allies in the cause of gender equality. Bill Moyle was one such man.

Lindsay Gordon Crossley (Bill) Moyle AM passed away in his early nineties in August. His wife Judy, his children Sally and Richard, can take great pride in the role he played in this important (and largely untold) story of economic security and financial independence for women.

Words by Mary Crooks AO

TOP: Bill Moyle Image Sally Moyle



Afghanistan 2021

BY JOANNA HAYTER AO

Here, Joanna Hayter AO reflects on August's devastating turn of events in Kabul through the lens of one very precious friendship—that between herself and the Executive Director of the Afghan Australian Development Organisation, Nouria Salehi AM.

In August, we watched in anguish and despair as the Taliban returned to power. Many of us remember their rule between 1996 and 2001 and the treachery that stole the rights and freedoms of so many Afghans, particularly their women and girls.

Today, 60% of the country's 38 million people are under 25 and do not share those direct memories or experiences. We do not know what the relationship between Taliban and Al Qaeda will become. We do not know how the Taliban will frame governance now they are in public administration. We fear that the rights of women and girls will be smashed again.

Despite this uncertain future, the actions we take and the support we give to our Afghan communities and partners now, will unquestionably protect rights, save lives, bring transparency to civil society voices and ideas and keep the international accountability strong.

My friend, Nouria Salehi AM, is a woman of relentless courage and conviction. We first met in 2010 when I had joined International Women's Development Agency.



Nouria was and still is the unpaid Executive Director of the Afghan Australian Development Organisation. She established this Diaspora led group soon after the defeat of the Taliban in 2002.

It was agonising to be unable to resource the work of AADO due to our geo-political program boundaries in South-East Asia and the Pacific.

Yet we never stopped meeting and talking. We never stopped sharing ideas. We never stopped respecting each other's work and challenges. We were peers and friends.

Many of you may have met Nouria and her family, at the Afghan Restaurant in Brunswick Street, Fitzroy, which they set up in 1983 in order to sponsor and provide first jobs in Australia to Afghan refugees.

Others may know her from the work she did as a highly respected nuclear physicist and biophysicist at the Royal Melbourne Hospital for 40 years.

Others yet may have supported her in her work in Afghanistan over many decades. I know her for the remarkable work she has done as a volunteer in support of Afghan women and girls.

I know her as a brilliant leader and testimony to the importance of diaspora movements across the world.

In the next few weeks ahead, Nouria is going back to Afghanistan. She will return to the villages where her organisation is providing lifeskills training, vocational education programs and literacy and numeracy education for rural women and their families.

She describes the social and economic reality for village women as "slavery".



TOP: Afghanistan landscape *Image Sohaib Ghyasi*
CENTRE: Dr Nouria Salehi AM
RIGHT: AADO Literacy and Livelihoods Program
Image courtesy of AADO

I initially balked when I heard about the sewing machines as one of the VocEd approaches—my many years in development have shown me that projects with chickens or sewing machines tend to keep women in poverty rather than liberate us, given the economic return is so little and opens few gateways to new working opportunities or life experiences.

However, I understand from Nouria that the women in these villages cannot get permission to leave the home, cannot travel, cannot shop for clothes or household supplies and she believes this will become worse under Taliban again. Her village programs are generating self-esteem, self-sufficiency and solidarity for rural women.

Women teachers were banned altogether from teaching during the former Taliban decade. Nouria is determined to prevent this happening again. AADO's work includes a science teacher education program to advance the professionalism of this sector and opportunities for women. To date, AADO has trained 5,000 maths and science teachers to Master Science Teacher level. They have, in turn, delivered this training to an estimated 20,000 of their peers in their school and those in neighbouring schools.

Only through friendship, respect and support for each other's struggles can we change the course of the future. I hope you will join me in supporting my beautiful friend in her courage and never-ending determination.

→ Support the Afghan Australian Development Organisation:
www.aado.org.au



JOANNA HAYTER AO

Joanna has worked across the international development, human rights and social justice sectors for over 30 years, with experience ranging across four continents and 25 countries including long term residencies in Myanmar, Vietnam and Japan, and nearly a decade across African nations.

With experience ranging across four continents and 25 countries, her former roles include CEO of the International Women's Development Agency (IWDA); Country Director for the Burnet Institute in Burma; Country Director for Save the Children UK in Vietnam; and Regional Director for Africa with the Overseas Service Bureau.

Joanna has also managed her own consultancy, with clients including the UN, government and international NGOs.

RIGHT: Joanna Hayter

Meet Maki, the new Rosie editor

A few months ago we bid farewell to Sanduni Hewa Katupothage, long-time VWT volunteer and a star editor who took *Rosie* to exciting new places.

Exchanging hands with Sanduni is our new editor, Maki. We sat down with Maki to chat all things feminism, teen hood, and what's up next for *Rosie*.

To start us off, can you tell us a bit about yourself?

Sure! Well, first up I'm pretty obsessed with books, movies, and plays. I'm an only child, so when I was growing up I spent a lot of alone time delving into fictional worlds. I think this has really influenced who I am today—I can be social and love hanging out with my friends, but I'm also very independent and enjoy doing activities in solitude.

I also enjoy doing fun things that get my body moving and transport my senses, like live music, dancing, and more recently I've been trying out skateboarding.

What does being a young feminist mean to you and why is it important?

When I was younger I had feelings and experiences that I would now say are feminist. I wondered why guys at school treated me a certain way, why people expected less from me. Feminism is important to me because once I learned more about it I realised these feelings are valid.

It made me see I'm part of a big, global collective that wants change and is doing exciting things about it.



What are your favourite feminist films and TV shows?

I watched *The Watermelon Woman* recently, which is an intriguing film that really sucks you in—I highly recommend it. *Mustang* and *Persepolis* are some other all-time favourites. Another one is *Promising Young Woman*, Carey Mulligan's performance in that is incredible.

In terms of TV shows I can't go past *Fleabag*, I'm pretty sure I've seen the entire series three times.

What's next for Rosie?

Rosie is an amazing platform and I'm so excited to get cracking as the new editor. There'll be new stories coming out soon from our teen writers program, as well as a *Rosie* social media campaign and a writing workshop. So there is plenty on the *Rosie* horizon!

→ Learn more about *Rosie*: www.rosie.org.au

TOP: Maki Morita Image Nella Fullard



About Bloody Time in schools

BY ROBYN FRENCH

In 2019 we published the ground-breaking account of the menstrual taboo, *About Bloody Time: The Menstrual Revolution We Have to Have*.

This month, with input and financial support from our supporters and volunteers we are excited to be able to offer each Victorian secondary school and college library a complimentary copy of *About Bloody Time*.

It is now almost 12 months since pads and tampons became free and available in Victorian government schools. At the Victorian Women's Trust, we are proud to have been supporters of this important initiative. The negative impact of stigma and embarrassment that surrounds menstruation should not be a barrier to girls and young women achieving their full potential.

In *ABT*, co-authors Karen Pickering and Jane Bennett dig deep into the stigma and taboo and propose a new positive culture of menstrual well-being, where women and girls are entitled to respect and dignity and a belief in the integrity of their bodies.

About Bloody Time reflects extensive survey and wide research, including conversations with women and girls from diverse cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

It provides powerfully clear and sound explanations of menstruation and menopause, and new ways of thinking about menstrual wellbeing.

About Bloody Time is now helping women and girls deeply understand and trust their bodies, as well as providing practical strategies and support for navigating the journey from puberty to adulthood.

At the Victorian Women's Trust, we are determined to spread this knowledge about menstrual wellbeing.

That's why we have committed to continue this important work, by ensuring that *About Bloody Time* is easily accessible to Victorian secondary school students.

→ To request a copy of *About Bloody Time* for your library, please email: women@vwt.org.au

Club Respect: Partnerships are everything

BY TARIK BAYRAKLI

Our national sports harm-prevention initiative, Club Respect, is making leaps and strides helping sports clubs build and maintain a culture of respect.

The more we partner up, the greater the scope for connecting to clubs around the country. It's great to join forces with people and organisations who share the cause—building positive culture, creating more equality; and reducing violence and abuse.

Thanks to one of our corporate partners, Spicers, Club Respect can now offer free club signage to support the efforts of sports clubs around Australia to become exemplary clubs.

Spicers, along with the Wood Foundation, are also partners helping us to deliver our six-part podcast series due for release in early 2022.

Mary Crooks said "Spicers CEO, David Martin, came to us several years ago, keen to explore how he, and Spicers, could play a part in reducing violence and abuse. The one great remedy needed if we are to effectively tackle the scourge of violence against women in our society, is for increasing numbers of men to join forces with women to work in close and effective partnership. Clear, strong, combined leadership across our communities will make the world of difference."

Spicers CEO, David Martin said "The entire Spicers team is proud to support Club Respect and we are all behind the objective to cease violence against women, in all its forms. We are an organisation built on respect and we have leaders across our business who truly live our values.

Meeting Mary Crooks several years ago was a moment for me, personally, when I felt we just had to be involved. Understanding the depth of the issue, through Mary, led us to committing to a relationship that will do what it takes to have an impact."

Our relationship with Spicers continues to demonstrate the strength of men and women coming together to raise awareness, build respect and help to reduce harm in our communities.

→ Learn more about Club Respect: www.clubrespect.org.au



We are committed to building a safe, kind and fair club.



LEFT: About Bloody Time
RIGHT: Club Respect/Spicers signage



Women in League Round 2021

BY LUCY BALLANTYNE

On August 12th VWT and National Rugby League Team Melbourne Storm partnered once again for the annual Women in League Round.

The Victorian Women's Trust has been a proud partner of Melbourne Storm since 2010—a partnership based on the principles of mutual respect and a commitment to bringing gender equality to Australian sport. The Women in League round is the biggest opportunity of the year for Storm to celebrate our long-standing partnership, highlight contributions of women in the NRL, and renew their commitment to achieving gender equality.

This year's game coincided with the release of the first episode of *The Trap*, our podcast about domestic abuse hosted by Jess Hill. Storm snapped up this opportunity to speak on the importance of this particular issue in a number of (COVID-safe) ways.

The team wore Victorian Women's Trust branded warm-up shirts, with the Storm logo styled out of the words integral to the Trust's focus areas: 'respect', 'safety', 'dignity' and 'equality'.

The Storm—whose team colours are conveniently already a suffragette green and purple!—themed all of their external communications for the week of the game around gender equality.



This included an email newsletter to their vast subscriber base, as well as social media posts, that reached a huge number of football fans, all about the Victorian Women's Trust and why it is so important to pursue gender equality in sport.

In the lead-up to the game, we published a blog post on the VWT blog, *Trust Journal*, by Mel Hoffman, author of *Full Credit to the Boys: A Cliché-Free Tale of Marrying Into Footy*.

Mel's memoir is about becoming a reluctant NRL 'WAG', and how that forced her to reckon with the game's problems with women, and prompted her feminist awakening. Her piece for *Trust Journal* 'Elite allies-in-training: raising the bar to strive for gender equality' is all about how we expect so much from athletes in terms of their work ethic for the sport—so why not expect the same from them in terms of their commitment to gender equality?

On game day, Storm broadcast a flipbook-style video of players holding signs with statistics and facts related to the epidemic of domestic abuse in Australia, with a call to donate to the Trust at the end.

Perhaps most excitingly, given the large-scale take-up of QR codes in contact tracing efforts over the last year, we produced a QR code for projection on the big screen at the game that would take users to the Donate Now page on the VWT website.

→ Read Mel Hoffman's piece, and many more, on the Trust Journal: www.vwt.org.au/blog

TOP: Peter Robinson, Sophie Bliss and Brian Phelan *Image Breeana Dunbar*
CENTRE: Melbourne Storm VWT jersey