



FEBRUARY 2020

## WELCOME

Welcome to the first Victorian Women's Trust (VWT) newsletter of 2020!

So much has happened in the past few months: we launched two new Sub-Funds; our podcast has been released; we hosted Tarana Burke, founder of the Me Too Movement, at the Collingwood Town Hall; and we have a new merchandise collaboration with Michelle Pereira. All of this has been made possible thanks to your generous support. Please enjoy this update from VWT HQ.

## MONEY POWER FREEDOM PODCAST IS LAUNCHED!

On 21 November 2019, we were delighted to celebrate the launch of our six part podcast series *Money Power Freedom* at Schoolhouse Studios in Collingwood. Created with the support of Bank Australia, *Money Power Freedom* is co-hosted by Cal Wilson (comedian) and Santilla Chingaibe (journalist), two feminists working together to decode money and power, and what it means for our freedom.

Mary Crooks AO (executive director, VWT) kicked off the night with a warm welcome to the 100 strong crowd and then introduced the evening's MC,

drag legend Karen from Finance. Karen (featured in episode 1), took the stage for a succession of interviews with Ally Oliver-Perham and Maria Chetcuti (VWT staff and co-producers of *Money Power Freedom*); Fiona Nixon (head of strategy and communication at Bank Australia); and finally, podcast co-hosts Santilla and Cal.

Talented musical guest, Sugar Fed Leopards, closed out the evening, with a performance that got the crowd moving and shaking, despite it being school night! Thank you to everyone who came along and celebrated with us.



You can listen and find out more about *Money Power Freedom* on our website: [www.vwt.org.au/podcast/](http://www.vwt.org.au/podcast/)



TOP: Maria Chetcuti, Santilla Chingaibe and Ally Oliver-Perham TOP RIGHT: Tarik Bayrakli, Jan Browning, Mary Crooks AO, Karen from Finance, Sophie Bliss MIDDLE RIGHT: Cal Wilson and Santilla Chingaibe BOTTOM RIGHT: Sugar Fed Leopards *Images Breeana Dunbar*



# Trust Events



## Women powering climate action

6pm Thurs 26 March | The Wheeler Centre

Join us for an important panel discussion on how we can protect our environment and women's rights by using the financial power we have now.

Featuring **AMELIA TELFORD** (Seed Indigenous Youth Climate Network); **CHRISTINA HOBBS** (Verve Super, Australia's first super fund for women); and **PETRA STOCK** (ClimateWorks); moderated by **SANTILLA CHINGAIPE** (journalist & filmmaker).

Buy tickets: [www.bit.ly/womenpowerclimate](http://www.bit.ly/womenpowerclimate)

Every ticket supports:



AMELIA TELFORD



CHRISTINA HOBBS



SANTILLA CHINGAIPE



PETRA STOCK



## Lindy West in conversation with Clementine Ford

6pm Monday 9 March | Athaneum Theatre

International Women's Day is upon us and we are very excited to be collaborating with our friends at Readings on March 9 to bring you Lindy West and Clementine Ford in conversation about misogyny, propaganda and the power of women.

Lindy West's latest book *The Witches Are Coming* is a cultural critique that unpacks the complicated, sometimes tragic, politics of not being a white man in the twenty-first century. West is also known for her New York Times bestselling memoir *Shrill*, that has also now been made into a critically acclaimed TV series *Shrill*.

Tickets are \$50 per person (\$45 concession) and includes a copy of West's new book *The Witches Are Coming*.

Buy tickets: [www.bit.ly/LindyWest](http://www.bit.ly/LindyWest)



# John Cain Memorial Eulogy Speech

By Mary Crooks AO, executive director

*Note: this is part one of Mary's eulogy. Read or watch in full via [www.bit.ly/JohnCainEulogy](http://www.bit.ly/JohnCainEulogy)*

"I first worked with John in 1977, when he was Shadow Minister for Planning, helping with speeches and doing research. We had serious fun together sleuthing some highly dubious land deals, like Mt Ridley.

Working at close quarters gave me an early measure of the man. He had a keen, plainly-wrapped intellect; and an impressive grasp of issues. He was ethical, fair minded, collegial and hard-working. There was no bluff or bluster; no over-sized ego. He had a wry, at times, wicked sense of humour.

But above all, he was deeply respectful, toward his life partner, Nancye, his children, Joanne, John and James, toward others and to me. For a woman in her late twenties, navigating what was then very much a 'man's world', the respect John accorded me was both validating and empowering.

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The coverage of John's legacy over the past weeks has rightly acknowledged high profile achievements – the National Tennis Centre, the TAC, Southbank, shop trading hours. On its own, this account doesn't do justice to his three terms as Premier. Neither does it capture the broad sweep of his government's reform agenda.

But especially missing from this narrative

so far is John's personal commitment and political contribution to achieving a fairer world for women.

Women have been hugely under-represented in our national and state parliament over the past century and more but this doesn't mean they are disinterested observers. Within the same patriarchal culture which has devalued women and sought to control what they should and shouldn't do, women have agitated and struggled long and hard, across the political spectrum, to secure basic human rights and reforms. Always from a lesser position of power, progress for women has been halting in the face of stiff rear guard action. It is no surprise that the hearts of many women skip a beat when they bear witness to a government intent on addressing gendered inequality.

A perspective on the span of time is crucial here today. So far, we have experienced 165 years of Victorian parliamentary history; and 120 years federally. There have been 48 Victorian Premiers and 30 Australian Prime Ministers. Out of these 78 leaders, only two have been women – Joan Kirner and Julia Gillard.

Wistfully, in my lifetime and that of my mother's (who is three weeks off turning 100), we can count on just two hands the numbers of male-led Victorian and federal governments that have elevated

gender equality as part of their core business; and backed it with policy and action.

Of these handfuls, two governments have a special status – because they broke through on gender equality like none before. The Whitlam Government was one. John Cain's was the other."

You can continue reading the full eulogy or watch the livestream of John Cain's Memorial service at: [www.bit.ly/JohnCainEulogy](http://www.bit.ly/JohnCainEulogy)



TOP: John Cain *Image Breeana Dunbar* RIGHT: Nancye and John Cain celebrating Labor's victory in the Victorian tally room 1982.

BOTTOM RIGHT: John and Nancye Cain, *Image Kate Dyer*



# More Trust news



## LEANNE MILLER APPOINTED TO FIRST PEOPLES' ASSEMBLY

Congratulations to VWT Board member Leanne Miller on her historic appointment to the First Peoples' Assembly. Leanne is a woman of the Dhulanyagen Ulupna Clan, Yorta Yorta nation and Executive Director of Koorie Women Mean Business.

Here's what she had to say about her new role:

*"In 2016, when public conversations began around Self-Determination Forums and the creation of the Aboriginal Treaty Working Group was funded by State Government - I felt uneasy. Without having any funding, we have been practicing self-determination for a number of decades and generations within my family, clan and community. Aboriginal communities have and always will continue to push for governments to be proactive and deliver on identified Victorian Aboriginal community actions at a local level.*

*State government funded ongoing conversations and consults leading up to the First Peoples Assembly of Victoria election has resulted in emotion and challenges at both ends of the spectrum. We know that any community consultations should*

*always be guided by our Aboriginal ways of knowing, being and doing. As a representative I will ask the right questions and ensure we are talkin' up the right way. Values of respect, reciprocity, equality, responsibility and accountability, survival and protection need guide our interactions and our work. Our Aboriginal spirit and integrity must bind our values together and remain central to all our decision making."*

It must be noted that a gender quota was not necessary in this process due to the incredible numbers of women standing for election. Congrats once again Leanne!

## CONGRATS ALANA JOHNSON AM

Our chair Alana Johnson AM was made a Member of the Order of Australia as part of the Australia Day honours for 2020! We know directly Alana's incredible leadership and tireless dedication over so many years to the advancement of women and girls - and this recognition is well deserved. Well done, Alana!

## FEMALE MURAL LAUNCHED!

Did you see this news story? Two significant Yorta Yorta elders, Aunty Geraldine Briggs and the late Aunty

Elizabeth Morgan will be honoured in a mural by renowned painter Matt Adnate, as part of an ongoing Shepparton Aboriginal street art project. Both women are highly regarded community leaders, well known for their work in advocating for Aboriginal rights.

Learn more:  
[www.bit.ly/AboriginalStreetArtproject](http://www.bit.ly/AboriginalStreetArtproject)

## MOLLY HADFIELD SOCIAL JUSTICE ORATION

The Molly Hadfield Social Justice Oration is a community event held every year by the Darebin City Council for International Women's Day. The event is a tribute to respected Darebin resident Molly Hadfield OAM, who worked tirelessly to advance the rights of women and seniors.

This year's event will host a keynote speech from Roj Amedi with Hella Ibrahim as MC.

This is a free event, and if you are available we encourage you to attend.

Details: [www.bit.ly/MollyHadfield](http://www.bit.ly/MollyHadfield)



# Couples Working Together for Gender Equality

Maria Chetcuti, grants manager

TOP: Ruth Owens and Kevin Lynch *Image Breeana Dunbar* BOTTOM: Alma and Albert Tivendale *Image provided.*



2019 was a memorable year for the Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust (our grant-making branch of VWT) through which we have been funding gender equality projects since 1985. In recent years, we expanded our grants program to include named Sub-Funds, established by dedicated members of the community who keenly understand the importance of community grants.

Last year, our diverse Sub-Fund suite grew to 13. We welcomed our first Sub-Fund named in honour of a couple – the Jan Webster and Sue Peterson Sub-Fund – and we also had the pleasure of launching two Sub-Funds named after both women and men: the Ruth Owens and Kevin Lynch Sub-Fund, and the Alma and Albert Tivendale Sub-fund.

Each of these Sub-Funds recognise couples united in their vision to bring about a better world by investing in women and girls. As an inclusive feminist organisation, it is important to reflect the diversity of our community, and showcase the ways loved ones can work together to achieve gender equality in our community.

For Jan Webster and Sue Peterson, social justice was always a shared value throughout their long and loving relationship. Together they protested all the big issues in Melbourne: the Eastern Freeway, the closure of the Fitzroy pool, Alexander Parade tree lopping, the Yellow Ribbon campaign against the Grand Prix, and better conditions for nurses and midwives. They also

championed International Women's Day and women's rights.

Shortly after Jan's death in 2018, Sue put in motion their wish to share their good fortune with others who deserve the chance to turn things around and called the VWT to discuss ideas, including how to set up a Sub-Fund of their own.

The Jan Webster and Sue Peterson Sub-Fund funds projects supporting women exiting prison; educational and leadership opportunities for Aboriginal women; and pathways for women out of homelessness.

Ruth Owens and Kevin Lynch are a couple who see people as equals and are passionate about addressing the systemic barriers to equal opportunity. At their Sub-Fund launch both Ruth and Kevin spoke of a growing intergenerational inequality and how they wanted to harvest the opportunities that were afforded to them to invest in community grants.

The Ruth Owens and Kevin Lynch Sub-Fund will support grassroots projects that enhance educational and employment opportunities for single women as parents and refugee and migrant women.

Alma and Albert Tivendale were a couple united in their generosity. Albert was a bus driver who became a demolition business owner and Alma raised five children and volunteered in her community for over 40 years. Both were

active members of their local church and sporting groups and they would quietly offer help whenever they saw a need. Their daughter Linda recalls, "they were normal working class people who looked for ways to help."

The Alma and Albert Tivendale Sub-Fund will fund projects which support disadvantaged girls in overcoming barriers to participating in physical activities and/or foster innovative community models to assist women and their families experiencing financial hardship due to health and medical crises.

The Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust is proud to facilitate the social justice aspirations of these couples. Over the last thirty five years, we have seen the transformative effect grant making can have on the lives of women and girls. It is a vital part of strong, connected and inclusive communities. Our Sub-Funds continue this important tradition.

*There are currently 13 Victorian Women's Benevolent Trust Sub-Funds. Each funds community projects that benefit women and girls, in perpetuity. Make a donation to any of our existing Sub-Funds or learn more about starting a Sub-Fund of your own.*

Donate: [www.vwt.org.au/donate/](http://www.vwt.org.au/donate/)

Start a Sub-Fund: [www.vwt.org.au/establishing-a-sub-fund/](http://www.vwt.org.au/establishing-a-sub-fund/)





# Tarana Burke

## Founder of the Me Too Movement at the Collingwood Town Hall

Our event with Tarana Burke on 18 Nov 2019 was truly an exceptional moment; one we are so grateful to have shared with you. 800 people gathered at Collingwood Town Hall to hear Me Too Founder Tarana Burke speaking alongside Dr. Kyllie Cripps (proud Pallawah woman and violence prevention expert); Kate Jenkins (federal sex discrimination commissioner); Tracey Spicer AM (journalist); and Mary Crooks AO (panel moderator and executive director, VWT).

We heard about what we can do for the movement to sustain momentum (and also sustain ourselves); dealing with backlash; disclosing safely; the work that still needs to be done to centre women of colour; and how we can remain hopeful for the future.

We left emboldened and humbled. Thank you for joining us in this experience.

Here's a few of our highlights from the night:

*"When people ask if I'm surprised that Me Too took off in the way that it did — my answer is always no."*

*"If you're not a survivor, you know one. It is deeply pervasive. If you only takes parts of sexual violence you miss the whole picture and if we're going to truly talk about the magnitude of sexual violence we have to talk about violent language, violent interactions, institutional violence, state-sanctioned violence,*

*familial violence...all of this creates a spectrum and we need to look at the entire thing."*

*"When you have 12 million people respond to a singular hashtag in 24 hours — that's just a drop in the bucket because for every person who put #MeToo on the internet there's probably 5 more who couldn't do it."*

*In response to an audience question submitted by Denise from Cranbourne, "What is the one thing we can do each day/week to support the #MeToo movement?" Tarana said,*

*"Think about what your day to day life is — there are so many gaps around us."*

*Ask questions, be curious.*

*Don't believe everything you read in the news about Me Too. Do your own research.*

*When you go to work tomorrow, go read your workplace policies on sexual harassment.*

*Think about the ways you interact with life that contributes to rape culture."*

*"Don't think there's any contribution that's too small because there's not... this family Christmas when your crotchety aunt or uncle says "this Me Too Movement has gone too far", be*

*the voice that says, "No. I know the truth about this movement."*

We would like to give a huge thanks to our live stream partner, Emma Whiting Travel, for their dedicated support ensuring that this important conversation with renowned activist Tarana Burke was widely broadcast.

Whether you joined us at Collingwood Town Hall or watched from home, thank you for all your support which allows us to create accessible events for all kinds of folks. This event was proudly presented by the Victorian Women's Trust in partnership with the Sydney Peace Foundation.

Missed it? Catch up on the conversation and watch the video here: [www.vwt.org.au/watch-tarana-live-stream/](http://www.vwt.org.au/watch-tarana-live-stream/)

If this event has brought up any issues for you, help is available:

Centre Against Sexual Assault (CASA)  
1800 806 292

1800 RESPECT 1800 737 732

Our full list of support services:  
[www.vwt.org.au/support-services/](http://www.vwt.org.au/support-services/)

TOP: Mary Crooks AO and Tarana Burke TOP  
RIGHT PAGE: Michelle Pereira in her studio  
BOTTOM RIGHT PAGE: Michelle Pereira Images  
Breeana Dunbar





# Meet artist Michelle Pereira

"From the moment I even remember existing, I was drawing. I'd scribble with my mum's lipstick, makeup, crayons, pastels, anything. I used to do little cartoon drawings I'd sell in primary school to make enough money to buy donuts that I wasn't actually allowed to eat. Drawing has always been a huge part of my life. It's a meditative thing I use to spend time with myself and be grounded, and be with my own thoughts. It helps you to process what you've lived through.

Toni Morrison is a huge inspiration for me. *Beloved* is one of my favourite books in the whole world. One of the key protagonist characters is a young black woman, and it's basically set in the post-slavery south of America. And it's just about stories, stories of the people of this time over the course of maybe 10, 20 years.

And Toni Morrison does the most beautiful job of both inspiring and conveying the strength of this one character, but also at the same time showing her vulnerability and the complete brokenness, and her lack of being complete or being strong, which is what I quite like.

That's what makes her and Nina Simone, two of my favourite feminist heroes, because they're both strong but also tender at the same time. And I think that is beautiful, and it captures the human spirit very well.

I've loved working with the VWT, it's quite nice to work and produce work for clients who have a perspective that you can back completely. It makes it feel much more than simply producing a drawing. It's quite possible to have it feed both your mind and your soul in a pretty nice way."







**\$15**

## Respect Safety Dignity A2 Poster by Michelle Pereira

*New merch alert! Just in time for International Women's Day, our friend and local Melbourne artist, Michelle Pereira has created the IWD poster of our dreams.*

We asked Michelle to create a poster that represented health & safety, a critical focus area of the Victorian Women's Trust.

Her peaceful artwork embodies our right as women and girls to live our lives with respect, safety and dignity.

We now have three posters by Michelle Pereira for sale on the VWT Shop, each representing one of our critical focus areas for gender equality: equal representation; economic security; and now, health & safety.

Pick up a copy of this new poster for \$15 or grab a bundle of all three for \$35 (saving \$10) – it's the perfect set for International Women's Day! Every purchase supports the empowerment of women and girls.



\$15 excl. postage

Don't Get Mad, Get Elected! A2 Poster by Michelle Pereira



\$15 excl. postage

Money Power Freedom A2 Poster by Michelle Pereira

**Trust Friend special!**  
**3 for \$35**

