



**FreeSchools World Literacy
(Australia)**

ANNUAL REPORT

FOR YEAR ENDING

31 DECEMBER 2007

**FREESCHOOLS WORLD LITERACY
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STATEMENT OF GOALS AND PURPOSE

The purpose of FreeSchools World Literacy is to provide free education in order to break the cycle of ignorance and poverty that leaves millions in hopeless despair. The organization provides free literacy programs; teacher employment and training; income-producing skills, health education; food and clothing; and is documenting changes in the wellbeing of the community as a result of its programs. By providing ongoing funds and scholarships for the existing and planned new schools, FreeSchools World Literacy hopes to replicate its model throughout India, Thailand and other Developing Countries of the world.

FreeSchools World Literacy Object Clauses:

1. To provide literacy programs and classes to members of the public.
2. To develop and provide education and training programs to persons who will conduct literacy training.
3. To develop employment training and education programs for needy persons.
4. To relieve poverty in developing nations by providing food and other basic supplies to persons in need.
5. To develop or promote public health in developing nations by educating and instructing the public on prevention of and curative measures for, health problems and by researching and documenting changes in the health of the community.

PROGRAM ACTIVITIES

Message from the President

It has been eight years since Mark Bloomfield and I traveled to Motihari Evening School in Bihar State, India. There, I saw first hand the real need for free education for the poor, and the ability of education to drastically change the lives of those who were lucky enough to get it. I also saw the benefits of the knowledge spread from the student back to their poor families. Eight years on, and with over 3,000 students being taught by 80 teachers at 72 FreeSchool World Literacy funded centres in India and Thailand (classes average around 50 students), I am seeing the real benefits of this education flow back into the community in which the students live. Thank you to Sister Crescence and Rev.

Ashish Amos in India, and the Mirror Foundation and Ben & Jildou Bowler in Thailand for their continuing selfless work in coordinating the schools in the field.

The scholarships program, now in its third year, has grown to 12 students and 6 in Thailand. It has also been particularly rewarding for me to observe my own children, Francheska and Leonora, gain a deeper understanding of what it means to help those less fortunate than themselves, through their correspondence with the Indian scholarship students, Sonal and Samridhi, that they are sponsoring.

Our first Committee of Management has been in operation since the first official meeting of FSWL-Australia in June 2007 and has been meeting online once a month since then. The Committee consists of Robert Coenraads (President), Ben Bowler (Vice President), Ian Esmore (Publicity Officer), Delphine Swadling (Secretary), Merindi Swadling (Treasurer), Erica Light, Yvonne Hirt, Donna Cervantes, and Kathleen Swadling (Committee Members). I would like to thank them for their dedication to the FreeSchools project. . In September, we were saddened by of the loss of Erica Light from our Committee and wish her well on her God-ward journey.

Special congratulations and best wishes for their future together are conveyed to Ben and Jildou following their wedding in Thailand.

This coming January we look forward to the opportunity to visit our FreeSchools students in northern Thailand. Joanna Townsend and her mother Judy will also be accompanying Sue Tennant. Jo works at Channel 9 News and, having learnt about our organization, and now with the opportunity to meet the children first hand, she will be in an ideal position to present the FreeSchools story to all who are willing to listen.

Dr. Robert Coenraads
President
FreeSchools World Literacy - Australia