



**FreeSchools World Literacy  
(Australia)**

# **ANNUAL REPORT**

**FOR YEAR ENDING**

**31 DECEMBER 2008**

**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 nine years since Mark Bloomfield and I traveled to Motihari Evening School in Bihar State, India. There, I realized for the first time in my life, 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 that knowledge spread from the student back to their poor families and to the local community.

Today, nine years later, there are over 3,000 students being taught by 90 teachers at 74 FreeSchools World Literacy funded centres in both India and Thailand, with donors in Australia having contributed a total of \$27,800 to those efforts since that time.

Thanks to the continuing selfless work of our overseas field partners; Sister Crescence and the Fakirana Sisters Society in Bihar State, India; Rev. Ashish Amos in New Dehli; Paul Garrioch and his Mirror Foundation team, and Ben & Jildou Bowler, in Thailand; we are seeing the real benefits of this education flow back into the local community.

The scholarships program, now in its fourth year, has been slowly growing. The results of giving merit worthy students the opportunity to take part in a country's regular educational system is now becoming apparent as some of older ones are now graduating. I would like to include an extract from a speech given by one of those:

*"You, are in our lives like a light in the darkness, like a bridge mounting the challenge of our lives while helping us with our education. You make us strong to stand on our own feet and to work for a better career. It is by your very example, that is by your commitment to the poor and needy, that we can ultimately become someone who can think of helping others in society. You have set a very valuable example for us. You are an inspiration to lend a helping hand to people and persons in need. You teach us to help others in their need and command our unselfishness. We do admire you and every effort of yours for spreading the light of education. If you would not have been in our lives most probably, like thousands of selfish people, we would also have been confined by all our needs. What can we return to you for all the valuable help you have provided us? We assure you that we study well. We pray that God will protect you, guide you, inspire you and bring your dream of world literacy to realisation."*

*Deepshieka*

*(20 years old, FreeSchools Scholar, 3rd year Honours Zoology, Patna Women's College, India)*

Following a visit to our FreeSchools in the northern Thailand border region in January 2009 by FreeSchools World Literacy-Canada President, Sue Tennant, Joanna Townsend and her mother Judy Townsend, Channel 9 has published a brilliant report. In this documentary, Jo Townsend reports first hand on the problems that the Hill Tribe children face in that region and the help that FreeSchools World Literacy can provide in terms of much needed education. To see the video go to;

<http://news.ninemsn.com.au/video.aspx?videoid=2346c93a-d59b-40af-a220-363c86067563> (and search for 'One Village at a Time')

As a result of the efforts of the Townsend family, as well as those of schoolteacher, Linda Alcorn, and their friends, some \$10,555 has been raised in Australia for the Thai schools this year.

A further \$2,466 was raised this year for the Indian FreeSchools in Bihar State thanks to the fundraising efforts of Melissa Alldis, Betty Lyon, Merindi Swadling, Kathleen Swadling and Julian Martin.

With regard to the Charitable Status of FreeSchools Word Literacy in Australia; upon the advice of the Australian Tax Office, we are now in the process of submitting an application for "Approved Organization" status to AusAID (an Australian government accreditation organization). We hope to achieve this status during the coming year.

Our Committee of Management has now been in operation since the first official meeting of FreeSchools World Literacy-Australia in June 2007 and has been meeting about online once a month since then. The newly elected 2010 Committee consist of Robert Coenraads (Founding President), Ben Bowler (Vice President), Ian Esmore (Publicity Officer), Delphine Swadling (Secretary), Merindi Swadling (Treasurer), Melissa Alldis, Betty Lyon, Julian Martin and Kathleen Swadling (Committee Members). I would like to thank them all for their dedication to the FreeSchools project.

Dr. Robert Coenraads  
President  
FreeSchools World Literacy - Australia