



## **Nineteenth Meeting**

### **FreeSchools World Literacy Australia**

DATE commencing: Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2009 TIME: 9 am

DATE completion: Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2009 TIME: 9 pm

INTERNET VENUE: FreeSchools Literacy Australia email network  
[fswl-australia@googlegroups.com](mailto:fswl-australia@googlegroups.com)

## **Minutes of the Meeting**

### 1. Rollcall of members and others present and apologies.

There were 12 participants in attendance  
Robert Coenraads (President)  
Ben Bowler (Vice President)  
Merindi Belarski (Treasurer)  
Delphine Swadling (Secretary)  
Ian Esmore (Public Officer)  
Betty Lyon (Committee Member)  
Donna Cervantes (Committee Member)  
Melissa Aldis (Committee Member)  
Sue Tennant  
Linda Alcorn  
Judy Townsend  
Joanna Townsend

### 2. Acceptance of the Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Eighteenth meeting were sent to each member of the committee and were accepted by the committee  
Moved by Merindi Belarski and Seconded by Ian Esmore

### 3. Reports from the Committee.

The Committee received the President's Report

#### **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

I would like to welcome you all to our 19th monthly meeting.  
The Minutes of our last monthly meeting (the 18th Monthly Meeting) were the longest ones ever produced, totalling 26 pages. Our minutes are always full of our exciting correspondence for the month. Please take the time to read them, as they provide a summary of all of the latest news and also the important ongoing action items that need to be followed. Also contained in the appendices (of the Minutes of the 18<sup>th</sup> Meeting), is a full report on the status of the FreeSchools operating in northern Thailand, sent to us by Paul Garrioch. Thank you for your attendance at our 19th meeting.

Kind regards,

Robert

Dr. Robert Coenraads  
President,  
FreeSchools World Literacy – Australia

#### 4. Progress in Thailand

#### 5. Progress in India

**Robert:** Please find the following letter from Sister Crescence about the progress of the Scholarship Students in Bihar, India,

DATE: 04-04-2009

Dear Mr. Robert,

*Wish you a very Happy Easter. May the Risen lord shower His special blessing of peace and joy on you and the entire family and friends. May our triumphant lord win over all the evil power on earth. May our Victorious Christ specially visit those families which suffered in Orissa, Gujrat and other state of India.*

*You would love to hear about the progress of scholarship children.*

*(1) Ashish Majhi - Completed +2 with good results. Is doing college in private and learning computer. He has started teaching in a private school to meet all the experience of his studies. He is also privately preparing for banking.*

*(2) Sonal Vincent Paul – Completed matriculation from St Teresa’s school, Bettiah in February 2008, and passed with 70%. She joined +2 immediately. She attends many seminars and now she is elected on State Level to go to Japan on an excursion as a youth representative. What joy and pride for the parents and specially for you. All help that came from you has been spent on a right person.*

*(3) Smridhi Vincent Paul - She completed her 10th class. Has written board exam and is waiting her results.*

*(4) Deepak - Sacred Heart School, malighat has passed his annual exam in good rank. He attends to his study so well, that Sister Principal is giving him double promotion.*

*(5) Mary Anne Benedict - Is promoted to class 4th has done very well in exam is given some merit reward.*

*(6) Lizza Benedict - Has passed well in exam and is promoted to class 2nd.*

*(7) Rufus and Mihir - Both passed in annual exam. They are changing their school. From Hindi medium school, they are taking admission in an English Medium school, which is run by Holy Cross Sisters.*

*(9) Alka Augustine - She passed class 3rd from Sacred Heart School and is now promoted to class 4th.*

*(10) Nikita Raj - Passed annual exam with very good results. I have withdrawn her name from scholarship group, for many inconveniences in contacting her.*

(11) Sonu Victor His passed well in annual exam with good marks and is promoted to class 10th.

*On the whole I am very pleased with annual performance of our scholarship group.*

*How are you all specially Leonora and Francheska? How about their studies?  
Once again wishing for Easter I wind up my letter with much love. But like to say Mr. Vincent Paul and his family, Sonal and Smridhi send you all special wishes for coming Easter.*

*Sister M. Crescence*

**Robert:** Please find my reply to Sister Crescence's letter about the Scholarship Students,

*5th April 2009*

*Dear Sister Crescence,*

*Thank you for your recent e-mail containing news of the scholarship students. It gave me great pleasure to read about their progress and also to read the words that some of them spoke at their graduation ceremony last year, and that Sue Tennant copied and sent to us here in Australia. It is hard to believe that they are now young educated adults and on their way to a potentially bright future. They will now be able to contribute to the well-being of their family, play an important role in their community, and be ambassadors testifying to the success of the FreeSchools World Literacy program in India. Their parents must have been so proud to hear these speeches.*

*You must have been also proud also, Sister Crescence, as it is through your hard work and effort in the name of God, that you have built the successful FreeSchools evening program and scholarships program in Bihar - out of nothing. You have been the instrument of God's work, His physical hands on our earth carrying out His will. I look forward to the next generation of FreeSchools students, and many generations of FreeSchools students thereafter in ever-increasing number. It is a testimony to the importance of free education for all in our world.*

*I read the student's speeches out to the Congregation at the local church which my family attend. The Congregation were greatly moved to contribute to the FreeSchools World Literacy project, including the Father in charge of the church, himself. Their contribution forms part of the latest bank draft that I am sending you by registered post. A large part of the latest donation is also made up of contributions from the newest members to our Australian Committee, Betty Lyon and Melissa Alldis, who are very supportive of the FreeSchools concept. Betty held a morning and afternoon tea in her small community of Franklin, Tasmania, and was greatly pleased by the response. Another new supporter, Katja Maajen, keeps a donation tin on the counter in her craft shop in the small town of Central Tilpa on the New South Wales south coast. Also included are the regular monthly donations of Kathleen and Trevor Swadling, and Merindi and Bernia Belarski, and contributions from my family. Alan Platcher sends his apologies for being unable to contribute to FreeSchools this time, because of his poor financial situation.*

*I am sending you, by registered post, a bank draft (number 88 096 388) for FreeSchools work made out to the Sacred Heart's Sisters Society. It is for 36,711.61 Indian rupees (\$1,110.79 Australian dollars). I also enclose letters for Sonal and the rest of the Vincent family.*

*My family and I, and all of the Committee of FreeSchools World Literacy, here in Australia wish you were joyous and happy Easter and the strength to continue your work in God's name.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Robert, Francis, Francheska and Leonora*

**Ian:** Robert. A wonderful letter response to sister Crescence's Easter report.

## 6. General Business.

The following discussion took place during the meeting and is recorded here:

### **FSWL Charitable Status**

**Ben:** This is an upcoming web-based service for Non Profits. It is a vehicle for fund-raising and for maximising social media to champion causes. It looks excellent and could be something highly useful for Free Schools. Currently they are only working with 501c registered organisations and so not appropriate at this stage for us at Blood Foundation. I had heard that Free Schools is seeking 501c status in the US and so it might be worthwhile to begin looking into this. <[www.networkforgood.com](http://www.networkforgood.com) <<http://www.networkforgood.com>>

**Sue:** Thanks very much for the link. As it turns out I leave for California on Sunday to do the incorporation for FSWL USA and the application for 501 (3c) status. It takes six months approximately to achieve. But if it's anything like the beginning of this year, that time will fly by. Hope all is well with you and Jildou.

**Ben:** OK Sue, good luck with it, Being registered in the US will be a major coming-of-age for the organisation.

**Sue:**

*Dear Bruce,*

*I'm in California now and when I can dig it up, will send you a list of Directors' responsibilities for you to ponder. There are two things we need to accomplish here this week - the incorporation and the application for 501 (3)c status. After that we just wait. Except for the initial set-up, FSWL-USA will be totally independent of the Canadian organization, but like Australia will share the same logo and website portal (when I get it set up). and then have their own content after that.*

*FSWL-AU is the model we are following. Under the leadership of Robert Coenraads in Sydney, this bunch of mainly Urantians has been "meeting" on line for over two years. They are still awaiting charitable status, keeping everyone connected, until they can move into a higher gear.*

*But the visit of my Aussie friends to FreeSchools in Thailand last January and subsequent news coverage, public response and organized fundraising events (despite no charitable receipts) was a great stimulus. Not sure if I sent you this link:  
<http://news.ninemsn.com.au/video.aspx?videoid=2346c93a-d59b-40af-a220-363c86067563>*

*Derek's brother John in California will be interim president (because he is retired and willing to handle the logistics to get things started). Except for raising funds for the documentary in 2010, I don't expect there will not be much going on, unless the Board members initiate fund-raising efforts in their own communities (ie Rotary, schools and church groups etc).*

*Geri has already begun her own program\* in Singapore and Susan and Peter did a presentation to Susan's church in Kansas City last March and raised enough to sponsor a FreeSchool for a year. Because FreeSchools is so cost-effective, we never feel that we are asking people to give very much and since only a tiny percentage supports administration and almost everything goes directly to fund the schools, it's the biggest international development bang for the buck.*

*At this point, Susan Cook is the driving force behind FreeSchools in the US, but like me, she is challenged to free herself from corporate responsibilities. After the documentary team personally experiences FreeSchools in both India and Thailand, I believe they will not only be highly motivated to move this charity forward but will then be wanting to create sustainable inroads to solving the most fundamental problem of our planet - world literacy, which translates to the education of women. Our fincredible field workers, can win the support of village leaders and begin to introduce a culture of education that has been formerly resisted by generations of villagers out of ignorance and fear. 200 million women are illiterate in India - the worst illiteracy in the world.*

*I am forwarding this email to all those who have a stake in this venture.*

**Robert:** Good luck with your application for charitable status in the US, Sue. I agree with Ben, the granting of 501 (3)c to FreeSchools will mark a most important step forward for our organization in being able to expand its program of bringing education to the poorest corners of the globe. In appreciation of all of your time and effort, from the Australian Committee.

#### **FSWL Australian Website and Communications**

#### **FSWL Newsletter and Publicity Materials**

#### **FSWL Fundraiser Events**

**Donna:** The last School that I worked in had their own charity and would not support many other fund raising and the same with this one...I have approached my Church and the Paster says he would look at the CD of the Free Schools...the last School lost mine as I gave it to the RE teacher to view...can you send another one...to the Goldfields Baptist College, PO Box 10267, WA, 6433. I have tried to contact the two students in Thailand that I sponsored...with no luck.

**Robert:** Yes, I can very well understand that, Donna, with so many worthy charities about it is sometimes very difficult to support yet another new one. I am sure that the supporters of the charities run by your local school and church are doing their best.

It is interesting to note that some of the world's richest individuals live in India where some of the world's poorest (that we are supporting through FreeSchools) also live. So, we can only try our hardest working towards a word that will, one day, be a more equitable place.

Thank you very much for your efforts, Donna.

**Robert:** Probably the most reliable way to contact your two students in Thailand is by sending an email directly to Paul. That way your "electronic letter" will be able to make its way to them more reliably than a postal service.

I am sure that our students, and their classmates, will really enjoy hearing your words of encouragement from afar.

**Sue:** Paul's email address is "Paul Garrioch" <paul.garrioch@gmail.com>. I will send Robert a dozen or so DVDs next week as I'm trapped at Silver Springs until the weekend. The DVD is a bit dated but it still gives a good history of how FreeSchools came about and the simple and effective model that we use. Joanna's news coverage at this link <http://news.ninemsn.com.au/video.aspx?videoid=2346c93a-d59b-40af-a220-363c86067563> is very powerful. Thanks for all your efforts on behalf of FreeSchools.

**Melissa:** I am organizing a small fundraiser for the 18th April and I was wondering if you had any material that I could show at the function to explain where their money is going.

**Robert:** You could show the videos. I have an 8 and 12 min video of the Indian Schools. And, Judy is going to send me Joanna Townsend's video that she made in Thailand. We also have our pamphlets. Is there anything else that I could help you with?

**Melissa:** Jo or Judy is going to send me Joanna's video and I'd like to borrow the other 2 videos that you have. Should I organize a time to come and pick them up. I am very good at returning things so it will come straight back to you after the fundraiser. I already have some pamphlets.

**Melissa:** How are you? Hope you are enjoying Easter. I am having my fundraiser this Saturday night (18th April) so would really appreciate getting those 2 DVDs. Would you like me to collect them from your place and if so when is good? Also, I might get a couple more Freeschools brochures to hand out on the night - about 6 would be good as I have a couple already.

I received the DVD from Jo or Judy but it doesn't seem to work.

**Robert:** You can borrow my set of disks as I couldn't figure how copy them. I am going away for a week from tomorrow, but you can pick them up at any time during the week as my father is always home at,

8 Trigalana Place  
Frenchs Forest

If you want to double check that he is not out walking the dog when you call by, you can call beforehand on 9451 8496. Or, I can drop them off to you sometime today, Sunday, as I am home all day, if that is more convenient for you. I hope that you are having an enjoyable Easter.

**Melissa:** Thankyou very much for the DVD's. I had the fundraiser last night and am glad to report that it was a success. We raised \$360! Intimo (the lingerie company) will be doing up 2 cheques for a total of \$160. Should these cheques be made out to Freeschools? And the \$200 in cash, would you like me to donate this on the website?

**Robert:** I'm glad to hear that everyone had a good time at your fundraiser event and that the videos went well. Did you show all of them, and how did you schedule them throughout your evening's entertainment? If convenient, you can deposit the cheques and cash together directly into the FreeSchools World Literacy account at any Westpac branch:

Bank: Westpac  
Acc Name: FreeSchools World Literacy  
BSB: 032-196  
Acc No: 26-6690

Thanks so much for your efforts on behalf of FreeSchools. Those \$360 in donations will equate to a year's education for about 20 children in the FreeSchools. Kind regards and thanks.

**Melissa:** I only showed one of your DVDs. And I showed it just before dinner so that everyone knew what they were donating their \$20 to.

**Judy and Joanna:** Great news Melissa, - Linda from Newcastle still has an afternoon tea to go and I have just had another quilt donated as well. The dear little kids in India and northern Thailand have just had one more school funded. Fantastic effort.

**Betty:** Many thanks for the brochures which arrived yesterday. The package was marked : "next day delivery" which must have cost you a fair sum. I would very much like to contribute to any costs involved when sending such a large parcel so please let me pay something towards this.

I have booked the 22nd and the 23rd April as my next morning and afternoon teas. I'm not sure how well they will be attended as there are so many fund raising events on here at the moment. Unfortunately I am still helping with some of the charities which I was involved with - they are finding it difficult to find a co-ordinator. Seems people will happily volunteer to help out but no-one is prepared to take on the supervision and what goes with it. Nevertheless I am managing and will do my best what ever I have to do.

Once again thanks again Robert - I will report back to you when I have more information concerning the morning and afternoon teas. and don't forget to let me know how I can contribute to postage finances.

**Linda:** Last time I spoke to Delphine she said she was waiting on a letter from you stating she was a bonafide fundraiser for FreeSchools. I've been so flat out at school and in the evenings marking etc that I haven't written till now but wanted to ask if you can send me a similar letter too please? Then I'll approach different shops to Delphine and see how I go getting any donations for the lucky dips and raffles. I now have 4 things I'm raffling and am getting things together for the afternoon tea on the 3rd of May. My address again; P.O. Box 763, Charlestown, 2290. Thanks a lot.

**Robert:** Hi Linda, Please find a letter of authority to fundraise for FreeSchools World Literacy. If you think that it is an appropriate style of letter for your needs, I will print it, sign it and send it to you. Thank you again for your Harmony Day fundraising efforts at Whitebridge High School. I have now received a cheque for \$1,273.30 from the school which I will deposit into the FreeSchools account tomorrow.

*19th April 2009*

*Authority for Linda Alcorn to collect donations on behalf of FreeSchools World Literacy*

*Dear Sir/Madam,*

*On behalf of the Australian Committee of Management of FreeSchools World Literacy, I, Dr. Robert Coenraads, have authorized Linda Alcorn to officially collect donations on behalf of FreeSchools World Literacy.*

*I would like to thank you for any donation that you may care to make to FreeSchools World Literacy – no matter how small. Funds raised as a result of your kind donation will be used to provide education in the FreeSchools system for some of the world's poorest and most needy children.*

*Funds raised by FreeSchools and sent to Thailand or India are most carefully used, with all of the donations reaching the school communities in their entirety. The FreeSchools program currently supports over 3,500 students leaning from 90 teachers at 72 FreeSchool World Literacy funded centres in India and Thailand, and with your help, it can continue to grow. More detailed information can be found on our website at [www.freeschools.org.au](http://www.freeschools.org.au).*

*Thank you for your support, and we hope that you will share in the sense of reward and pleasure for the vital work that you are enabling FreeSchools World Literacy to achieve.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Dr. Robert Coenraads  
President  
FreeSchools World Literacy*

**Linda:** Thanks so much Robert, it looks great. There's more money coming. The afternoon tea is on in 2 weeks and i have money from a dinner and raffle tickets here too.

**Robert:** Hi Delphine, Please find a similar letter of authority for you to collect donations on behalf of FreeSchools World Literacy. I will send you a signed hardcopy after you have had a look at it. Kind regards and many thanks for all of your efforts.

## 7. Correspondence with Supporters and Donors

## 8. Set date and time for COM meeting. Close meeting

Meetings of the Committee of FSWL Australia will be held on the first Friday of each month.

The next official meeting of the FSWL Committee of Management will be from Friday 1<sup>st</sup> of May to Sunday 3<sup>rd</sup> of May 2009.

I would like to thank the Committee of Management for all of its efforts

END OF MINUTES

## APPENDIX REPORTS

### **The FSWL Committee - Australian Contact Details**

ROBERT COENRAADS President of FSWL Australia  
8 Trigalana Place Frenchs Forest NSW 2086,  
coenraads01@optusnet.com.au  
(02) 9451 8496

BEN BOWLER Vice President of FSWL Australia  
58 Lisbeth Ave Donvale Vic 3111  
ben.bowler@bigpond.com  
0403 023 432

IAN ESMORE Public Officer of FSWL Australia  
Daylesford Design Studio, PO Box 335, Daylesford 3460  
daylesforddesign@bigpond.com  
(03) 5348 1077



DELPHINE SWADLING Secretary of FSWL Australia  
44 Dodds St Redhead NSW 2290  
Delphine@mumnubhampers.com.au  
Mobile: 0438443834. Home: (02) 49449550

MERINDI BELARSKI Treasurer of FSWL Australia  
5 Merebyn Road, Belrose NSW 2085  
merindi@bigpond.net.au  
Mobile: 044 898 3393

MELLISA ALLDIS  
10 / 14 Campbell Pde  
Manly Vale NSW 2093  
melissaalldis@spos.com.au  
0418 465 320

DONNA CERVANTES Committee Member of FSWL Australia  
26 Verney Street, Kings Beach, Caloundra, 4551  
windmilldc@yahoo.com  
Mobile 0416865263, Home (07)54931201

BETTY LYON Committee Member of FSWL Australia  
65 Old Road, Franklin TAS 7113  
bettyjl65@gmail.com (03) 6266 3554

KATHLEEN SWADLING Committee Member of FSWL Australia  
7 Walsh Street Narrabeen NSW  
swadling@bigpond.net.au  
(02) 9913 7893

BETTY LYON Committee Member of FSWL Australia  
65 Old Road, Franklin TAS 7113  
bettyjl65@gmail.com (03) 6266 3554