



23rd Meeting

FreeSchools World Literacy Australia

DATE commencing: Friday 4th September 2009 TIME: 9 am
DATE completion: Sunday 6th September 2009 TIME: 9 pm

INTERNET VENUE: FreeSchools Literacy Australia email network
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)
Betty Lyon (Committee Member)
Melissa Alldis (Committee Member)
Kathleen Swadling (Committee Member)
Paul Garrioch
Julian Martin
Saskia Raevouri
Sue Tennant
Jude Townsend
Chelsea McLean

2. Acceptance of the Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the 22nd meeting were sent to each member of the committee and were accepted by the committee
Moved by Ben Bowler and Seconded by Merindi Swadling

3. Reports from the Committee.

The Committee received the President's Report

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Dear Committee Members and Visitors,

A formal welcome to you all for our 23rd Monthly Meeting.

Here is an update of the FreeSchools World Literacy bank account for August 2009

07 Aug Donation - Chelsea McLean Rufus Scholarship	\$ 72.00
14 Aug Donation - Melissa Aldis	\$ 100.00
17 Aug Donation - Belarski Family	\$ 15.00
27 Aug Donation - Swadling family	\$ 15.00
28 Aug Donation - Judy Townsend	\$ 950.00
31 Aug Closing balance	\$ 2744.00

A very special thanks for the fundraising efforts of Melissa Aldis and also to Judy Townsend (who, this month, realized her personal goal of topping \$1,000 in donations raised for the Thailand project). Thank you to all of the Committee and others for your continued support of the FreeSchools cause.

I would also like to give 1 month advance notification to you all for our 2009 Annual General Meeting which will be held on the Friday 2nd October - Sunday 4th October 2009 in place of the usual October monthly meeting.

During this present meeting, and throughout September, I would like to invite nominations for the positions of office bearers or ordinary members of the FreeSchools World Literacy Committee of Management. Please also feel free to re-nominate for your present positions.

In accordance with the usual formality, could you please acknowledge yourselves as present for this meeting.

I also attach the Minutes containing the email records of our 22nd meeting for your perusal. Could I please have formal acceptance of those Minutes at this monthly meeting.

Kind regards,
Robert Coenraads
President
FreeSchools World Literacy Australia

4. Progress in Thailand

Ben: For the information of the group please see this recent article in the Bangkok Post about some interesting school projects in Tak province. <http://www.bangkokpost.com/life/education/23892/literacy-has-no-nationality> We are also investigating setting up non-formal schools in Shan State Burma and will keep you posted to progress in this regards.

5. Progress in India

Sr Ambrose: Dear loving Saskia, Loving greetings. Thank you Saskia for the money which I received from you through Sr. Cresence to buy tricycles. This time I have given order to the company to make 12 wheel chairs with this cash, because I found that the C.P. children and a few weak ones require mobility with the support of others through wheel chairs. These ones also require some sort of mobility and socialization. Now I have began residential literacy and vocational training for the disabled small boys who are under 9 years and also for the 10 adolescent disabled girls. They require special attention for their main-streaming. It is expensive too. If there is any possibility you find to support this kind of training if any agency is ready, please let me know. The ones who are helped previously through tricycles are very grateful for the help they received. Please let me know whether any donor agency is willing to help residential training for the disabled girls, with a few another normal illiterate rural adolescent girls? Thanking you Saskia once again.

Sr. Ambrose Kadavelil SSH,
Sugauli

Robert: Great work on this project, Saskia. Life is so tough for India's ordinary poor, you can just imagine how it would be to be disabled as well. Sue, so you think that providing teachers for the literacy and vocational training for these disabled children would fall into the jurisdiction of FSWL?

Sue: Sorry Robert, I should have copied you on my reply to Saskia. Here is some of what I wrote:

"FreeSchools pays for the Bridge Course students (at Van Hoeke) and I don't see how this is different. And as you know, Sr. C. has used funds from FreeSchools to finish the Bridge Course building. When she moves in she is expecting a small salary that she will then contribute to the community. So she will no longer be a "volunteer" in the strictest sense and we will also have to pay an assistant and a driver. This is all part of the evolution of FreeSchools. I think Sr. Ambrose has waited long enough for money and I should ask Sr. C if there is any reason that we shouldn't support her and if not, I'll send money. But maybe this would be an easier fundraising project than the Bridge Course building for you. Let me know what you think."

Sue: Dear Rajiv, Since you are going to help me purchase the vehicle for Sr. Cresence and FreeSchools please be advised that she said no to our proposal of air conditioning. She says she would be inundated with requests to transport sick people to Patna and she would find it impossible to refuse. So we still are looking for the best deal on a bare bones Mahindra or similar vehicle. Can we ask a dealer to donate this to our worthy cause? Please use all of your contacts to help get us the vehicle donated or the best possible deal.

Robert: I can clearly see Sister Cresence's dilemma with the proposed FSWL vehicle and it is an interesting one. We provide her with a vehicle to make her life easier in conducting FreeSchools work and she can already see the problems that will arise as a result of having such a vehicle. Being scrupulously honest, she will only want to use that vehicle for conducting FSW business, but she can see the urgent demands that will arise both on the vehicle and probably upon her, or one of her team, as chauffeur. It will probably make like easier for her if we stipulate that the vehicle is strictly only to be used for FSWL work and, as is customary business practice, that she keep a simple written log of all vehicle usage (eg start km – finish km – purpose of journey). She will then find it somewhat easier to be able to defer to a higher authority, in preventing her vehicle for being used by all and sundry as just another, much needed, emergency vehicle in the district. Even so, in that part of rural India, there are going to be a lot of people approaching her with life or death situations.

Saskia: They probably have already had plenty of experience along those lines, with the two vehicles Sr. Elise has, so it might be an idea to ask how they have handled that

problem. Regarding the air conditioning, we must remember that these nuns have taken a vow of poverty, and take that oath very seriously. Sr. Crescence may not feel it appropriate to be riding around in an air-conditioned car in the midst of all the poverty and squalor of Bihar. I can understand this, especially after seeing her wear the same habit every day, held together with safety pins, and refusing the offer of air travel to Delhi when she could take the train. They have to tread a very fine line, so as not to be seen as hypocrites by the people they are trying to reach, and certainly not being influenced by our Western ways. Sacrificing personal comfort is their way of life, and we must honor that.

Sue: Dear Robert, Would you be willing to include fswl-usa@googlegroups.com on your list? I think it would help with the dissemination of information. Thanks very much for your excellent feedback. Your suggestions make a lot of sense. When last in Bettiah, those around Sr. Crescence and involved with FreeSchools pleaded with me to please provide a vehicle. When we got the financial commitment a few months ago I asked Sr. Crescence to consider very carefully if this was something she really, really needed and was willing to take responsibility for. I asked her to think about it for a week and she came back to me and said yes, she really needed a vehicle because she wanted to visit all the schools every month which she could not do on a scooter. She wants to be more "hands on" with the FreeSchools. But she said she wanted me to wait until I was next in India to purchase the car. I was concerned about vehicle ownership. As a nun, Sr. Crescence cannot own or control the ownership of anything personally. Our Field Partnership is with the Fakarina Sisters Society but all ownership issues eventually default to the Catholic Church and Bishop Thaker. It's still not clear how FreeSchools would continue without Sr. C at the helm, but I have the confidence that with her help, we are setting things up in a reliable manner to address these future concerns. But for now, Rajiv has assured me that the ownership of the vehicle can be in my name even though I am a non-resident. That should diminish (but not totally escape) any jealousy issues or exploitation of the use of the car. This is a big step (financially) for us but I think it's essential. There's a point at which you just proceed on faith and on the coattails of the tremendous goodwill generated by others and the incredible energy that continues to grow from every trip. I now have a total of five people visiting FreeSchools (India) in February. It's like now people are finally starting to get it and I believe that FreeSchools is going to totally rock in 2010!

Robert: I would be happy to ask Merindi to include fswl-usa on the list - there could certainly be some very interesting and useful cross traffic in that exercise – as long as fswl-usa did not feel that the monitoring of that extra Australian traffic did not become a burden. The supply of donations, thanks to our keen and wonderful supporters, is today sufficient and continuous enough, and spread over enough people, such that there is no risk of over-reliance on one source – which was something that was of great concern to me a decade ago. But, you are correct, for many years now, we have been relying on Sister Crescence as a critical figure at the helm of FreeSchools, and that is something that now needs quite a lot of thought and future planning. If we can now provide Sister Crescence with sufficient time and opportunity to think about and plan for this issue then she will be of great help to us in preparing a framework to move forward. I am sure that she is also aware and concerned about this issue of the smooth operations of the Indian FreeSchools into the future, but is unable to do much about it because she is busy from dawn to dusk and fully occupied just moving forward from one day to the next. But, all that said, this is an issue that cannot be resolved by someone from the "outside" without critical help from those on the ground and within the system. It goes without saying that the process could be easily corrupted without someone like Sister Crescence at the helm.

Jude: Five people visiting! Wow. Hopefully you won't wear yourself out this time. No chesty coughs allowed. Is there to be a visit to the Thai schools or will you leave it to Paul and Jaddad? You are a powerhouse my wonderful friend. Jo's invitation is ready - saw the draft last night and it is awesome - featuring Abu on the swing at Ban Appa. A professional photographer has also volunteered to come and photograph the

Sunday Splurge so that will help with further publicity. As you say 2010 is to be your year! I think this year wasn't too shabby!

Sue: Australia was always, always ahead of the curve in terms of support for FreeSchools. From Robert incorporating FreeSchools to your's and other's incredibly creative fundraisers (without charitable tax status!) Australians have led the way for grassroots support of FreeSchools.

But Saskia (USA/Netherlands) helped rally the troops around the world in a very significant way though her personal email network. Her self-styled fundraising has now resulted in infrastructure that was not on the FreeSchools agenda but has proven to be very fortuitous for the future administration of FreeSchools in India.

Jude: You meet people on the plane and the next thing they are helping FreeSchools! You house swap with someone and they get inspired to help FreeSchools - all you need to do is go out and keep meeting people and there will be a school in every village! It is such a great concept. There is a lovely lady over here who wants to incorporate a charity trek with a visit to some FreeSchools in northern Thailand. I know it would be a huge job to organise it but charity treks raise thousands of dollars in sponsorship and they become annual events that get easier to arrange each year. They also raise an incredible amount of awareness. It is beyond me but I think we should be encouraging it as a future idea for when we have the charity status. Maybe I could train myself up and go on the first one with Linda! Perhaps they need someone to go ahead on an elephant to make sure the way is safe!

Must go to bed. Duncan's parents arrive in Oz tomorrow morning. Murray is down in Sydney already (at Jo's) because they get in at 6am in the morning. Wish I didn't have to work.

One day I would love to meet Saskia and Geri and all of your other inspiring friends. We are house swapping to Columbus Ohio next year so we may drive up.

Now Geri is steamrolling with such creative associations in Singapore. I think when people are attracted to this work that it comes from the heart and that there is an invisible coordinating factor that we can't really know for sure but we can trust and believe in without reservation. For instance, I think I may have a world famous American photographer willing to photograph the Bihar schools on our next trip. I met him on the plane to Delhi. Where does that willingness come from? Only from the heart.

And you don't even know the story of Rajiv and his daughter Anchal - something to savor and admire in awesome wonder, another time.

Sue: While Saskia is plugging away, as a volunteer, at creating the international website for FreeSchools, I just wanted you to know that she is also fundraising online for the Bettiah Girl's dormitory with her own personal worldwide network.

FreeSchools World Literacy does not build infrastructure, that's an important part of our model that stimulates initiative from villagers and Field partners, but Saskia personally took on the challenge of helping Sr. Crescence realize a dream. Her dream was to turn a cow barn into a teaching/dormitory for 30 village girls. You cannot imagine life in the villages! It's like 2000 years ago and girls have no way to learn basic hygiene, cooking, cleaning much less literacy skills, until they are exposed to a more civilized learning environment. This dormitory has been created for 30 girls of "promise".

The construction costs are pitifully cheap because Sr. Crescence supervises every aspect of the construction and she never wastes a single rupee. If any of you are willing to cut back on a luxury this week and send the amount saved to Saskia, that would be greatly appreciated.

6. General Business.

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

Jude: The bank charges \$25 whether you get a draft for \$20 or \$2000. We always send big amounts to our daughter in America - not lots of little ones. Did you get Linda's latest donation yet? It will be close to \$1000 as well so maybe wait for it before organising the draft to save you two trips to the bank. If it anything like my experience they take an age! I always get a different girl at the bank and I can see the look in their eyes when I ask for an international bank draft!

Sue: I've found that bank drafts are much cheaper than wiring money to a bank account so I will go that route. I too get the "glazed look" in the small Collingwood bank when I try to buy bank drafts in \$US or INR (rupees). I do wire money directly to Mirror's account but it costs about \$150 every time. I'll wait until Jadad (note spelling) and Paul have some scholarship recipient in mind and then send the money to you if that's OK.

Sue: I'm passing this on for your information. Ashish and Ella are our Field Partners in Delhi/UP and have no connection with Sr. Crescence and our 49 schools in Bihar, so they obviously do not know we can't change our plans for February. But it does mean that others could attend this significant event that he refers to if they want. Any Board member who can represent FreeSchools would be most welcome. If I have the airmiles I will most likely attend. Sue

Sue you are a sweetheart. I wish you to postpone your visit if possible to October 2010 around 6th to 18th as we celebrate ISPCCK' tercentenary and wish you to stand tall shoulder to shoulder with Team ISPCCK for the blessing that you and all at the FreeSchools have been to our region and we wish to recognize this partnership .We would extend this invite to all our FreeSchools Promoters in Australia, Canada and the USA. If you could please send me their email and postal id' with contacts to send them an initial invite and then a more formal one.

The Archbishop of Canterbury will celebrate and we are trying to attract the Indian President or Prime Minister to be a part of this great thanksgiving to God Almighty for His faithfulness through friends like you in this 300 years long journey. Be a part of it please.

Sue: Hello friends, You may want to check out this new video - <http://www.becauseiamagirl.ca/>.

Sue: I hope you can appreciate that it's not always possible to let everyone know what great things are going on in terms of support for FreeSchools from all three countries. And Saskia's tremendous enthusiasm right now for FreeSchools in the USA is important for us now. But, believe me, when the time comes, she will also feature all the creative and generous fundraising efforts in Australia. Saskia is fiercely fair in her accolades. Just didn't want you guys to feel that your efforts are not going to be recognized! Soon all the online world will know about them (well not all the nitty griity so they can copy). Thank you for all your creative ideas and hard work!! Your commitment to Freechools is a gift from God.

Jude: As if we do it for accolades! We are thrilled about the dorms and Saskia's amazing contribution. She is inspirational. Never think that you have to worry about thanking us all the time - it is an honour to be of assistance. We just think about the looks on the kids faces! I am actually thinking of trying to raise enough money to put a toilet onto the newest FreeSchool - not sure of the village's name. I must write to Paul to find out the cost of getting one dug/built. Got another \$300 donation for Mum's scholarship fund! It has been well regarded by her old teacher friends. Murray will bank it tomorrow as he is near the bank at his school. Too exciting. Jo is getting very excited as the Sunday Splurge approaches. She has the donations - and now need the people to attend. People in general are lovely and we think that the day has lots to offer. It will certainly not be your average Sunday afternoon tea. I am off to Noosa to pick up the donations from a gorgeous shop in Hastings Street up there. We are very lucky to be sponsored by Signature on Hastings and we hope the association continues.

Sue: You are ever the gracious friend and tireless supporter of FreeSchools! We send all our best wishes to Joanna and all the volunteers for a full attendance at the Sunday

Spurge! And our heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers and supporters. Joanna, you're the best! I so wish I could be there is person to help!

Wonderful news that more money is coming in for the Elaine Callan Memorial Scholarship. Please remind Jo to send me a photo and hopefully a "story" about her grandmother for the website. We have 5 Memorial Scholarships already plus an Endowment Fund and we need to feature this information on the website.

Good on you for the toilet idea - just how will you inspire people to give for that one?

And good on Signature on Hastings for realizing that they are supporting the most cost-effective empowering charity of Hill Tribe children and women in Thailand!

Robert: The \$300 deposited in the FreeSchools account for the Elaine Callan Memorial Fund has now been received bringing the total for the fund to \$450! Your mum would be proud to know. (you might want to record your mum's friends names in a database so that they can receive a proper receipt for those donations when we become registered – I can also record them here on my database if you would like to send the names to me, as I have done for the first \$150 donation into the Elaine Callan Fund).

On the 24th I received the \$1,100 in donations raised by Linda from her afternoon tea/white elephant clothing day. What a fabulous effort by Linda and her keen helpers on the day, which brings the total now ready to be sent to Thailand to \$2,167.30. And I believe that this now exceeds the amount that Paul was hoping for from Australia for this year. It is exiting to think of the good that these kind donations are going to bring to the needy children of the northern Thailand border regions.

Jude: Wow! Moo, Paul and Jadat will put it to good use. I still think they need a lot more. Can always use it for salaries. Nice to know that they will be covered. I am certain that Paul was expecting more than that to pay this year's salaries though. It never ends but we hope the Sunday Splurge will help it all along. You can see Linda and her daughter there because they are attending.

Sue: You may have already seen this but if not, it's pretty exciting!

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIFYPQjYhv8&feature=youtube_gdata

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sIFYPQjYhv8&feature=youtube_gdata

Ben: Yes it's fantastic Sue, Such amazing possibilities... Thank you for sharing

Melissa: I would like to sponsor 2 children Lisa & Mariyan Benedict. Do you need the full amount of \$150 upfront or can it be paid in installments?

Robert: Thank you for your kind offer to sponsor Lisa and Mariyan. You can pay up their scholarships front or in installments, whichever suits you best. Installments can be easy as they can be set to happen automatically. You choose a message such as "Melisaa Alldis Student Scholarship, India". Then you don't have to worry about it any more, (only a nice reminder each time you get your bank statement of the education that you are contributing to).

Melissa: Sorry to bother with you on this. But do I set up the direct debit for \$15 per month?

Robert: Thank you for your enthusiastic support Melissa. In fact, to provide annual scholarship for Lisa and Mariyan to attend regular school, you will only need to direct debit \$12.50 from your account each month. How truly amazing is that!

Melissa: I would like to donate \$30 a month. So I will do 2 direct debits - one for \$12.50 to sponsor Lisa & Mariyan Benedict and a second one for \$17.50 as a general donation that can be used by Sister Crescence as she sees fit. How do I know that the the 2 girls that I have requested to sponsor will be sponsored? Do you send an email or notification that this money is to be used for them?

Robert: Thank you for that kind donation. I will now be discussing your commitment to and sponsorship of these students with Sister Crescence, who manages all of the scholarship students in Bihar. You will see that correspondence as it occurs. The Scholarship Program is not all that big as yet. Technically speaking, Lisa and Mariyan, along with all the others on the list would already be in day school, their costs being covered by the donations that I have been forwarding (since 2000) and administered by Sister Crescence as she sees fit, only that now they will know that someone has been assigned personally to them (i.e. that there is someone out there that personally cares about them and their progress at school) and so they can also benefit from the psychological effect of having that personal sponsorship.

Sue: You may or may not know, but until last August when we finally found the right general manager for Silver Springs, I had 2 full-time jobs running the business and FreeSchools - far from ideal. A great backlog of "to do" items had built up in the FreeSchools office (a cabin at the back of my house) and I knew that I needed help with the time-consuming administrative details and the responsibilities of fundraising. The charity hasn't raised enough money yet to pay anyone so another source of funding had to be considered. I approached TRACKS Employment Agency in Collingwood early in September and they recently sent me a resume of a candidate that I thought was bang-on to meet our needs - a skilled marketing and advertising person, experienced in both the profit and not-for-profit worlds who lives in nearby Wasaga Beach. With the economic downturn in Toronto, ad agencies were not hiring and he moved to the Beach to live with friends, only to find, like us that he prefers it here.

After our interview we both felt excited and energized by the possibilities for FreeSchools. TRACKS came through with a government grant to help us fund a 12-week on-the-job training and probationary period for the position of executive director. It's the largest grant they've awarded from their office. I'm happy to inform you that I have hired Robert Vittela as executive director for FreeSchools and he started last Monday. By noon yesterday he had all our data entry and eTapestry woes sorted out and now he is writing our business plan. I can't tell you how grateful I am to have an enthusiastic self-starter who believes in the cause to work with day to day. We have a ton of work ahead and money to raise, but I feel this will be a turning point for FreeSchools.

Jude: Oh Sue - how marvellous! Well done. We could have used him for The Sunday Splurge!! (does he do family weddings as well?) Seriously, that is the best news. It is so great to see FreeSchools growing. A Government Grant gives incredible credibility as well. Fantastic.

We have had a few new helpers come on board this time as well. One pair in particular want to go and volunteer with Mirror - BUT add on something to help FreeSchools. I have no idea how to advise them because of the remoteness of the schools - will ask Paul. They are taking a year out of their normal everyday business life to help the world. If that includes FreeSchools then I am sure we can accommodate something.

Big hugs

Jude - and a very excited Jo who has everything crossed for Sunday to be a success. Over 100 RSVPs so it is looking good - though the forecast is for rain that doesn't help. Aussies aren't allowed to complain about rain as we need it so much - perhaps it is a good sign because it will keep people off the beaches and they will come to the big FreeSchools fundraiser instead.

FSWL Charitable Status

Sue: I wish so much that I was reporting this on behalf of FreeSchools World Literacy Australia, but you will get there soon enough. FreeSchools World Literacy USA has been approved for 501 (3)c status and duly designated a US charity as of June 09. Robert Burns, the president, is eager to get things moving. I'm attaching the Board profiles for your information (See Appendix 1).

Jude: Lovely news. It has affected me this week as a couple of people rang wanting to give money to Mum's scholarship fund. I told them that they would have to wait for a receipt until the charitable status came through and they were still keen but they thought they would wait to ask others that didn't know Mum quite so well. Robert I hope you got the \$150 - banked it yesterday. One was a cheque (Margaret Reid) and a \$100 donation from Pam Slough. Absolutely no idea how it gets allocated to Mum's scholarship as they haven't even picked the candidate as yet. Jadat is working on it with Paul and Moo.
Sue did you get Paul's email about setting up the scholarship? If not I will forward it to you. Pretty complicated because the girl will have to board in town. (Not a lot of High Schools in a Hill Tribe village!)

Sue: That's so great Judy that people want to honour your Mum and some already have. The Elaine Callan Memorial Scholarship should be a ongoing designated fund, accumulating within the FSWL-AU bank account. This is an important bookkeeping job. Otherwise, you have to open a separate savings account but that could be tricky when you get charitable tax status. Eventually, this fund should be featured on the website (I'll start it on ours as soon as I get information from Jo and send any funds to AU donated to us on line) and when Vern is able to create the "Master" website with the options of AU, CAN and USA, donors can go directly to the AU site.
I haven't sent our \$500 yet. I'd like to donate it to FSWL first and then have FSWL send a bank draft. Robert, what is the best way for me to send money to Australia? Will a \$US bank draft for comparable funds work?

Robert: That is great news and it sounds like a good and experienced team to lead the USA forward. Meanwhile, I will keep soldiering on with our application here in Australia. I have made a number of very important contacts now, who will be able to help me with the AusAID accreditation process. That is great news about the Scholarship Fund. Either a bank draft or direct transfer of funds into the FreeSchools-Australia account will work, however excessive fees will apply. The banks make a killing on the international transfer of small amounts, and I have always tried to avoid moving funds in that way until I accumulate amounts closer to the \$1000 figure to reduce the percentage loss. I guess there is no rush though, as Jaddat and Paul are still working things through on their end.

Ashish Amos: Thanks for sharing this mail, it brings great hope to our situation where partnerships are drying up owing to the economic slowdown globally.

Sue: I'm so glad that you have made some good connections to help advance FreeSchools as a registered charity in Australia. I have the feeling that 2010 is going to be a really productive year for FreeSchools. I think we are going to see help coming from our many different "irons in the fire". I'm really hoping that we can fully fund the ISPCCK FreeSchools next year. It will be such a relief for Ashish and Ella. Their schools are more expensive than in Bihar because they must be conducted inside (there are few trees and shade is at a premium). and they conform to more formal standards such as uniforms. But these all Muslim schools are a gift of love to these otherwise desperately impoverished illiterate people. Please just keep doing your best and all will come together in time. Thank you for your unfailing loyalty to FreeSchools.

Merindi: This truly is wonderful news, and I too am looking forward to the day we can report this for Australia. Well done to the US team!

Robert: I have just checked the bank account and have noted that the \$150 was in the account as of the 17th. I apologize for the delay in the Charitable Status thing but the application is proving to be so complicated. It is happening slowly but it is so difficult to fit everything into my limited free time. We now have \$1,150 in the account ready to go to Paul in Thailand (plus another \$838 for Sister Crescence in India).

FSWL Website and Communications

Saskia: As Sue may have told you, I am producing the new website for FreeSchools World Literacy. It is a work in progress and not yet ready to go live, but in order to work with it and get feedback I have temporarily placed it on a domain that I own called www.lifeonotherworlds.com <<http://www.lifeonotherworlds.com>> .

I need to explain a few things:

1. I have adopted many of Vern Verass's ideas as Sue liked them very much, and have made some adjustments to make it easier for me to work with. Thank you, Vern, for your good ideas and for allowing me to run with it!

2. I have gone through the current site, www.freeschools.org <<http://www.freeschools.org>> and rearranged all the information under several major headings, all to be found on and above the orange menu bar. Please click on SITE MAP <http://www.lifeonotherworlds.com/sitemap.html> for an overview of everything the site will include for starters. These lists will grow over time.

3. Everything above the orange bar is permanent, and will be seen on every page. Sue and I have nailed this down, and it cannot be changed at this point unless someone spots a major mistake. The reason is that eTapestry (who hosts the tax-exempt donations on a separate, secure domain) will duplicate that information on their pages, and any changes we make will have to be made by them as well, and they charge \$250 per hour for labor. For this reason, we are not having drop-down menus as it would be too costly if we wanted to add a sub-category. (See what disaster happens when they don't update their pages on the current site!) Instead, I have each major category linked to a main sub-page, so that all the action will take place below the orange bar for more flexibility. (I have included Australia in the eTapestry but we will make it a COMING SOON page.

4. At this stage the website is just a framework, and after getting feedback I can start adding content. There are some sample pages, such as under TESTIMONIALS, to give an idea of how these sections will look and how we can add to them.

5. You will notice a section for each country, where we can post their histories, board, contact info, projects and events -- whatever the communications committee sends me. And this information can be duplicated and linked under some of the other headings as well.

As I am very busy with a host of other projects, I will have to run a tight ship as far as making changes. I realize that it is impossible to please everyone, so while I welcome all ideas, I will have to reject suggestions that would involve lots of extra work or that would upset the balance of the site as I have planned it.

That's it for now, and I look forward to hearing from you!

Sue: I talked to Saskia this morning. She has had no feedback from Australia on the website and can't move forward. She has worked many long hours and I think has done a wonderful job. She's concerned that if she proceeds without hearing from people and people are unhappy with something a month from now, it will be too late. Robert Burns, Geri Johnson, 2 Canadian Board members and I have already signed off. All she needs is a word from you that she has the green light to proceed.

Robert: With regards to our website, I am highly appreciative of everything that is being done by Saskia and Vern in this regard (every small amount of help is a giant step forward for us, and especially as I don't have any technical expertise to help in any way in this area myself). I am a strong supporter of a "unified look" across the websites of our national FSWL bodies and the handling of this matter by a dedicated expert team, and can assure you that I will not be unhappy with anything that Saskia has done a month from now. Vern had told me at the recent ANZURA annual Urantia conference in Sydney that you had asked him to help on the website, so, although I was not aware of the exact specific individual responsibilities that Vern and Saskia were performing or how they were meshing together on this

project, I must admit that I thought the matter was under control and required no further input from me. I apologize though for not replying to the matter directly and will do so now.

Saskia: I am relieved to hear that you are okay with the website! I just needed a "green light" before going ahead. I have taken the site over completely, using mainly Vern's color scheme and heading, and Vern has given me his blessing on this. Only one person can work on a site at a time (too many cooks in the kitchen syndrome!) and being retired I have the time to devote to it. Also, having seen the schools in person and having worked with Sue for a number of years it just seemed like the right thing.

I do need help with the Australian donation page that I pieced together in its temporary location: <http://www.lifeonotherworlds.com/donate/donateaustralia.html> Because FSWL-AUS does not yet have charity status, I need to know what it should say (we can change it later). For instance, where can people mail cheques? Should we mention that charity status is coming? I need an Aussie to collaborate with on this page.

Also, if you have a history of FSWL-AUS written up, I could use it for the main Australia page. Also, a list of the officers (or Board of Directors as we say). In fact, anything you want to send me, including reports fund-raising teas, etc., will we welcome, along with pictures. It would be terrific if someone like Merindi could work together with me on this. (I know she is busy becoming a new mother!). That's all for now -- will keep you informed!

Robert: Thank you very much for your time and effort on this project. I will start sending you through some material and photos for this and can be your point of contact for the time being. That will ensure that you get all of the basic information. Once Merindi has settled in to being a mum, perhaps she can work together with you. As soon as we finalize this AGM, I will send you the names of the new Board – and I will try to get a brief resume from each.

Saskia: Dear Sue, This is the right thing to do, to get input from all of the people cc'd below. Not enough serious thought has gone into it, and before engaging eTapestry at \$250 an hour, you need everyone to sign off on the standard eTapestry page, that it meets their needs. Here is the page they provide:

<https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/FreeschoolsWorldLiteracy/OnlineDonation.html?submitButtonName=Donate>

This does not work for me, as there are no options for earmarking my donation for India, and my credit card billing address is different than my mailing address. Their "choose your country" option only lists 12 countries, so what does a person from Holland do? In "choose your state" they only have U.S. and Canadian states listed, so again, what does a person from Holland do? If they need to change this, someone needs to give them instructions.

I suggest not rushing this, but getting each person -- as they can devote the necessary time -- to study the donation form and give serious feedback.

FSWL Newsletter and Publicity Materials

FSWL Fundraiser Events

Robert: Sounds like a great event coming up, I'll be there at the Surry Hills Library with the family, and put the word around. Is that the library at the corner of Collins Street and Crown Street opposite Shannon Reserve? If so, it looks like it is about a 600-700 metre walk from Central Station. You might want to prepare a brief notice on directions how to get to the library (different transport options), parking, etc.

I'll come along on earlier on the Sunday to help with the set up. What time is the Council organizing to close the earlier event and allow set up of afternoon event?

Jude: Linda's afternoon tea/white elephant/clothing stall was amazing. She is so charismatic. People just love to be near her - they can feel how good she is! Jenny the girl that helped out this time is just the same. She volunteered in Africa and could have organised the day for Africa but she chose FreeSchools. We were certainly honoured to have a lady like that on board. Now we just need about 100 more people the same!

Lovely to know that Mum's scholarship fund won't be too much trouble. We were so thrilled to get those two donations last week. Can just imagine the red tape that you are up against to get the charitable status...and somewhere in there you have a full time job and a family!

Jo got free champagne glass hire donated last week so now she has glasses, champagne, juice, coffee, cup cakes, (my friend and I are doing the sandwiches), ballet tickets, Acer Arena tickets, beauty products, M & Ms for a guess the loollie competition (you win the ballet tickets with the souvenir program) - the biggest problem is the timing. The council booked in another group in the morning so we can't go and set up. Jo is really worried that people will be arriving and she will still be setting up. Doesn't look professional and you want the first big fundraiser to be a huge success that people will attend next year as well. Jo needs 100 people to make this one a success so please put the word out to your friends. The goodie bag alone is worth coming for. 25th Oct - 2-5pm Surry Hills Library. Hopefully it will be all her friends that arrive first and they can pitch in. Of course there is no parking or loading zone as well. No idea how the barista is going to cope with his coffee cart. Perhaps next year a different location - anyone know someone with a big old mansion with a huge garden?

Sue: I'm so glad Linda's fundraiser went well. She is a beautiful person, who only became involved with FreeSchools through your's and Jo's enthusiasm. Reminder: she has never actually seen a FreeSchool, yet has totally gone out on a limb for us! Isn't Jenny the best! How can you possibly thank people enough for that kind of commitment and effort? I have noted that people either react immediately to the FreeSchools story or else they are completely indifferent. Thank God Linda and Jenny are with us.

Jo's fundraiser at the Surry Hills Library sounds WONDERFUL. I do so hope her friends arrive first and get the set-up handled. But you guys seem to overcome these challenges with aplomb! Thank you so much for these amazing efforts!!!

By the way, our Toronto Star and national paper, Globe and Mail, have both carried 2 and 3 full page articles featuring girls education in developing countries over the last two weeks. President Clinton was interviewed on television last Friday saying, "Girls' education is the most important issue of our time." We are moving into a new era of global awareness for the uplift of 50% of the human race. It will eventually change the world and thanks to your valiant efforts, you are a small but important part of it.

Jude: Jo has been promised that they will be out by 1pm. They are a judo group I think so I hope their matches are over. We will simply have to set up around them if they go over time. Jo is not sure that she will use this venue again - they have not been easy to deal with because you go through the council that has 1000 other calls a day. It is not personal at all. Thanks for coming - Merindi is bringing a group as well. Julia that you put in touch with us came to lunch yesterday and she is delightful. She is helping out on the day and bringing sandwiches. That is the one area that Jo needs help. She was just going to bring stuff to the venue and make them there on the spot but not sure if that is possible now. Maybe we may have to ask special people to bring sandwiches? I will talk to Jo.

Julia said yesterday she has a contact with a book publisher. We talked so much that I forgot to ask her to contact them. I will email her today. Books would be useful in the goodie bag. She is getting the invite out now. It will have directions and addresses. No parking nearby but most people will come by train or taxi. Linda is coming from Newcastle and I am bringing some friends from the coast. That is the key to the day's success - people bringing their mums, friends

and next door neighbours. I am hoping my cousin can make it - she has lots of modern thinking friends that want to make the world a better place.

Did you see Brennon's new photo essay. Beautiful as usual. I asked hm if we could use one of his photos as a fundraiser. Pretty sure he will help out. He is certainly gifted.

Robert: Hi Linda and all, I have just received, and will bank in the FreeSchools World Literacy account, a cheque for \$47.30 for the remaining donations made during Whitebridge High School's Harmony Day. (Note: this is in addition to the earlier cheque received from the high school for \$1,273.30 brining the grand total raised by the students for FreeSchools to \$1,320.60). I would like to say again - what a wonderful effort it was by the students of Whitebridge to raise those funds to help educate their disadvantaged counterparts in poorer regions of the world. Thank you Linda for coordinating all of that.

Sue: A fantastic effort! Linda, you are amazing! Thank you, thank you... I have to ask you, what exactly motivated you to help in this way when you had never even see the FreeSchools for yourself?

Jude: Hi everyone, Jo is having a big event in Sydney to try and help stop the exploitation of the refugee kids from Burma and the Hill Tribe kids where we volunteered with FreeSchools World Literacy, in northern Thailand this year. It is a ladies afternoon of indulgence where you can get your nails painted, hair curled, drink champagne, drink nice coffee, eat cup cakes, learn how to change a tyre from a ladies group, get good book recommendations and chat to other lovely ladies that want to make the world a better place - all for free. Depending on rosters there will be Ch9 newsreadres and presenters there to help out. We hope to be able to fund at least one little village FreeSchool for a year.

She is really hoping that people come to get all the goodies! The sponsors have been very generous and we are sure that by having an afternoon of fun we can help make the third world just that little bit smaller! We know that we can't change the world but we are really convinced that every little bit helps. I wouldn't mind winning the tickets to the Ballet with the souvenir programme but I will let someone else have a go at winning the Brittney Spears gold passes! Hope to see you there for a catch up.

Sorry the invitation below (Appendix 2) is a bit big. It opens up differently on everyone's computer. The little girl on the swing's name is Abu and she is an orphan. She was a special favourite of ours while we were over there. Isn't she just fabulous - who could resist that face! She is from the Akha Hill tribe and she is very spoilt by all the volunteers from all over the world.

Jude: Robert, I know it is a girl's afternoon - but Presidents are exempt - are you coming? If not can you give me a message to read out to everyone?
Thanks Judy

Sue: Dear Jude, You wrote,
*"Sue - too tired and have to get to school so I am forwarding my friend's note to give you an idea of the day. The weather was atrocious - how anyone made it to the venue I will never know. We were completely soaked through - our shoes were squelching and I had to wring out my knickers! I ended up getting volunteers off the street to help me bring stuff in, in the pouring rain. It bucketed down. We dried off and it improved AND people came. Jo is one in a million, James worked like a slave, Em kept the food table fresh all afternoon and provided great music and a photo display on the digital photo board. Hope more money comes in today from the 40 who didn't make it. Everyone got their nails done, their hair curled, a neck massage, drank lots of champagne, coffee, juice (lots left over - not popular too cold a day) ate tons of food - even my spare cakes in the boot of my car . Very sad that our huge photo display was found in the bottom of a box as we were packing up! Will use it another day. Don't think we can keep doing any more until the charitable status comes through. A lot of people are asking for receipts. Fingers crossed that it will be soon.
Jude"*

I thought I had replied but maybe not as I've been swamped and can't remember. I had an intense weekend with the documentary film planning team and with newly hired Robert, I'm working so hard I can hardly think. Well, it's more than that. Our star Board member fell off a ladder and needed the most complicated surgery foot surgery that will lay her up for 12 weeks. She and her 8-year-old daughter (Hayley) are booked to go to India with me in February, as is, an award-winning filmmaker, willing to document Hayley's founding of the FreeSchools Club (spreading across Ontario) for free.

Oh, my dear friend, I'm so, so sorry for the weather and adversity of your much anticipated event for FreeSchools. You must be wishing you had never met Sue Tennant! And the problem about receipts drives me crazy! I don't blame you if you give up on us entirely!

But wait a minute, I think you raised \$2000! That is amazing! That's the biggest fundraising event success in the history of FreeSchools!

Take a break. Don't even think about FreeSchools. I can't tell you how proud I am of the Townsend family and their collective heart for kids who would otherwise never get an education. You're the best, and I love and appreciate you so much.

P.S. I have the Australian bank draft for the Elaine Callan Memorial Scholarship, but I have not had a spare moment to organize mailing it. It would be such a help if you could just reply with your mailing address and save me the time hunting for it. Thanks in advance and a really big, long heartfelt hug! Sue.

Robert: It was about midday on Sunday 25th when torrential rain started to come down over Sydney in bucket loads. It was so unusually heavy that the roof of the house even began to leak and, to top it off, one of the kids had left the car back-door window open allowing a giant swimming pool to form on the floor inside. I could imagine this scene repeating itself hundreds of times over around Sydney as I headed off in my fogged up car, cross-city, towards the *Sunday Splurge*. The roads towards the Roseville Bridge were flooded, with rivers cascading out of surrounding driveways, and cars throwing up sheets of water everywhere. Some of this water must have managed to get up under my distributor, shorting the car's electric's, and it stopped dead at the traffic lights in the middle of a busy road. Soon cars had built up everywhere, honking and overtaking, while I was out in pouring rain and in ankle deep water trying desperately to dry the distributor with a damp cloth that I had in the car with the intention of mopping up the swimming pool in the back seat. It felt hopeless and dangerous, and I was reminded of the time when I ate Sister Crescence's slightly undercooked western-style chicken dinner, prepared especially in my honour, when I went to visit the first FreeSchool in Bihar India in 2000 - with me hoping at the time that I would be OK because I was trying to help do a good thing!

Anyway, I did miraculously get the car started again and limped off to the nearest train station to, at least, get safely and surely in to the city by public transport.

When I finally arrived at the Sunday Splurge in Surry Hills Library, I was greeted by a scene of organized serenity with Judy at the door ushering well dressed ladies into a beautifully-prepared spacious, airy and light function room, where the attendees were being pampered in every respect. Male servants were moving around offering champagne and sandwiches, while experts gave massages, hairdos and manicures. Outside, there were 80 Channel Nine bags filled with soaps, shampoos, and other goodies worth well over the \$15 entrance donation, ready to be handed out at the the end of the afternoon. It was a scene worlds apart from what everybody must have gone through to get there that day. Ladies continued to arrive throughout the afternoon, with the very last one arriving just moments before the draw of the lucky door prize, and then winning it - she was thrilled by the coincidence.

Later, as all of the ladies were leaving and passing by where I was stationed outside the door, I had the privilege of thanking each one personally on behalf of FreeSchools World Literacy for their support, and the opportunity to explain just how much their \$15 donation was going to achieve in the field. It was an honour to be able to do that.

The success of the day was clearly the result of the tremendous effort, both before and during the event, by Judy, Jo and Linda, and all of their friends that volunteered their time and skills. And thanks to all of those attendees, including the Sydney members of the FreeSchools Committee, who braved the weather to come along and support the event.

Betty: Well, the big concert is over and I am more than pleased with the entire event. Feedback from many of the people who attended the concert was highly appreciative of the quality and variety of all the performers. In all we had about 90 performers and this would be the most I have ever worked with. The general comments were they would like the concert to become an annual event which is a very large compliment for all of those who participated and made "Stars are Born" possible. After all production costs, the concert generated a total of \$1,000.00 which was equally distributed as follows:-
T0 Uniting Care Bridgewater/Gagebrook project Tasmania - \$500.
T0 FreeSchools World Literacy (Aust) - \$500.
Robert, I'll bank the cheque in the Westpac bank A/c. Ray will do this sometime today.

Robert: The "Stars are Born" Concert sounds like a fabulous event, and all of those involved can only guess at what the efforts of all of their work (and pleasure) is going to bring to those in need being supported by the donations raised. Thank you so much for your efforts in coordinating all of that, Betty. Would you like a formal letter from the President thanking all involved? If you have some digital photos of the event that you could email to Saskia that would be excellent, as "Stars are Born" is one of the very events that she would like to publicize on the new FreeSchools website.

Betty: I have just been unofficially informed that another \$500.00 is being donated to FreeSchools by the Scots-Memorial Uniting Church who were most impressed by just how successful everything went and delighted to meet people interested in the history of their church. As Scots-Memorial is a very old heritage church built in the times of the early convicts there is a lot of history attached to it and people found it fascinating after the concert, to be shown around and to learn more about the background of this wonderful building. The Minister is on holidays at the moment but apparently it has been agreed by her and the committee at their last meeting that they would like to donate a further \$500.00 to both FreeSchools and \$500.00 to the Uniting Care Woodbridge/Gagebrook project the other recipient involved. We also have another \$100.00 donated by one of the performers and this will be forwarded to you as soon as we finalise our financial status. By the way, on Tuesday 27th I banked \$500.00 in the Westpac Bank under FreeSchools World Literacy, BSB Number 032-196; A/c No. 26 - 6690. Hope you have received it. The moneys we have banked do not need to be acknowledged by a personal letter as they came from the admission fees for the Concert. However, as soon as we are told officially about the extra funds to be donated I think it would be nice, after you have received these, for you as President of FreeSchools to write a letter of thanks for this generous donation.

We have had a number of media and radio coverages for the Concert and FreeSchools has been receiving quite a bit of publicity as one of the recipients who benefited through the generosity of everyone who were involved. I have made announcements and entered into discussions myself with our church and various clubs I am associated with and it is now nice to say that people who know me and others I come in contact with are now relating me to this "very worthwhile charity -FreeSchools" that they had never heard of but now want to know more about. I don't want to presume too much, but I feel fairly confident that there will be many more people interested in Free Schools as a result of this concert. Unfortunately, there are not a lot of photos. Our photographer on the day failed to turn up (I think it was because of illness). However, one of our helpers managed to take a couple of shots, one of which is of the entire 90 odd performers on stage singing the finale...."Climb Every Mountain" (I thought a very appropriate song for such a concert). I can send this off to Saskia- but I'm not sure whether the reproduction will be good enough, for the web. I will leave it to her discretion. Do we have her email address somewhere? I'll be in touch Robert as soon as I have further information about the extra funds.

Sue: Dear Betty, Sue Tennant here from Canada. On behalf of FreeSchools (AU, CAN, & USA), I just wanted to add our thanks and tremendous congratulations on your "Stars are Born" initiative. Your fundraising concept is brilliant and timely. Thank you so much for all the heart and effort that went into this. Australia may not have charitable tax status yet, but recent

fundraising efforts (including those of Judy and Jo Townsend and Linda Alcorn) have been awesome. You can't even begin to know how much we appreciate your support. Thank you so much!!!

Robert: That is incredible news, Betty. and it never ceases to amaze me how simple and powerfully attractive the FreeSchools message is. I will write personal letters when you send me those donor's details. I have checked the FSWL bank account and the \$500 deposit made at "Huonvale Instore TAS" has been registered. Thank you for sending the photos that you do have, together with a description, to Saskia. Her email is saskia.raevouri@att.net Kind regards and many thanks for your support.

Sue: I am swamped these days but would be remiss if I didn't share this successful Holiday fundraising concept. One week ago at our AGM, Dr. Heather Palmer presented FreeSchools Holiday gift cards. The gift is a handsome, slightly larger than credit card sized, card, ideal for slipping in with a greeting card or as a stocking stuffer. The Board bought 70. Last week Heather and Sonja, another Board member sent out emails to their personal network and about \$1500 worth of cards have been sold to date. Last Monday, we connected Heather with Geri Johnson in Singapore. Heather emailed her the files and Geri was to able to print up the cards and post a want ad on the school's electronic Bulletin Board, In just two days, Geri had sold \$2000 worth of Holiday cards (@\$15/card) to donors (mainly teachers and parents from her school). I'm now scrambling to find teachers to give this a go in local schools here. I've attached her ad (**APPENDIX 4**) which I had to shorten for a flyer. Please let me know if you want us to send you the files. Heather wants us to track who has printed them and how many are sold to properly evaluate the initiative.

7. Correspondence with Supporters and Donors

Jude: Thank goodness you sent these minutes because it reminded me to ring Julia. She lives in Narara and is very willing to come on board and help with our FreeSchools fundraising. She sounds like a great lady. Thank you for giving her our number. She is going to come to the Sunday Splurge which will be wonderful.

Robert: Thank you for contacting Julia again, I think that she is going to be inspired by the FreeSchools work that you are doing and, in turn, will become an active part of your team up there.

Julian: Hi Rob, I have been talking with a couple in Canada who are interested in education for the underprivileged in India. I mentioned Freeschools and they said they would like to find out more. Perhaps you could forward their details to the Freeschools folk in Canada. Their names are Royce and Laurel Schmitke and their number is 011-403-590-8285.

Robert: Sue, you might like to give Royce and Laurel (see below) a call to have a chat about FreeSchools.

Sue: Dear Julian, I am grateful to Robert for the introduction and look forward to hearing from you regarding any potential support for FreeSchools in Canada.

Sue: Laurel and I had a lovely conversation several weeks ago and I put her directly in touch with the ISPCK FreeSchools (Rev. Dr. Ashish Amos) in Delhi. I think she is planning to visit some FreeSchools in November with Ella Sonawane who manages the program from Delhi. I think Ashish is out of the country or may be just getting back from a trip. Anyway he promised some warm hospitality. Perhaps you could check with Laurel as to what was finalized.

Robert: Hi Julian, Please find FreeSchools Overview and Brief History (**Appendix 3**)

Robert: Dear Ashish, I would like to pass on your contact details in India to a gentleman who is going to move to New Delhi with his family in the near future. He is very interested in children's education and once he has seen first hand how the FreeSchools World Literacy educational program works on the ground, there is the possibility that he might become a staunch supporter of our Indian project. If you are willing, I would suggest that this gentleman contact you and meet with you personally at an appropriate opportunity. I would appreciate it greatly if you could email me your contact details in New Delhi. I hope that this email finds you and your family well.

Ashish Amos: With pleasure, My contact;
ISPCK.
1654 Madarsa Road,
KashmiriGate,
Delhi 110006
mobile. 9810149398. Please let me have the name of the gentleman. Keep us in your prayers.

Sue: I have not forgotten Julian's questions about the number of schools but wanted to confirm with Ella first. She has not gotten back to me and is probably away. From my records, it's 16-18. In the last 10 months we've sent \$25,000 to ISPCK and I believe the total budget was \$28,000 so we are close to fully funding all the schools.

Katja Marjanen: Hello Robert. Hopefully this e-mail finds you and your family all well. I was just reading the Freeschools brochure as I am looking for things to support through my business. I am interested in the Adopt a School option? The main question I have is (maybe I should ask my accountant) is that as a Registered business (which you are) that I can legitimately make a donation to you (for taxation purposes on mine) You do not have tax deductible status??? I am not sure wether that matters or not in my case as a business that is donating, not an individual. Do you have any experience with this that you could share with me? I would love to have my shop Adopting a School. Have a wonderful day.

Robert: It was nice to hear from you again and thank you for keeping FreeSchools World Literacy in your thoughts. It is a pity that we didn't get to catch up in Narrabeen this year. We are a registered business but are still working to achieve tax deductible status. This involves a lengthy application to AusAID (the body responsible for accrediting all Australian organizations involved in providing overseas aid). I am working on that application and hope to submit it in the next few weeks. So perhaps we shall have it sometime early next year. Thanks for staying in touch.

Chelsea McLean: Hope all is well with you and FSWL Australia. It was good news to read of Robert Vitella's appointment in Canada. I would like to make another donation or sponsorship in addition to my current student Rufus – would you prefer me to sponsor a student or is it easier just to make regular donations?
If sponsoring is the way to do it, are there any girls who need sponsoring at the moment? I will make another donation into your online bank account on Monday while doing my banking. I also plan to write to Rufus via Sister Crescence, would he still be there? If so, how often could I sponsor Rufus? The last donation I made was a few months ago in August...

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 5th of February to Sunday 7th of February 2010.

I would like to thank the Committee of Management and other supporters for all of their efforts

END OF MINUTES

APPENDIX REPORTS

APPENDIX 1

FreeSchools World Literacy – USA Board Profiles

OFFICERS

Robert Burns (President)

Robert is a successful entrepreneur in the health and fitness industry and has owned Shape-Up Fitness Center since 1982. He has served as Chair and President of the American Heart Association in Orange County and currently serves as Chair-elect for the University of California, Irvine, Susan Samueli Center for Integrative Medicine (SSCIM). He has just completed his term as President of The Urantia Book Fellowship. Robert brings leadership and fundraising skills, non-profit Board experience and a desire to expand world literacy to save the minds and spirits of children trapped in ignorance and poverty. As president, he schedules and chairs Board meetings and presides at the AGM. He oversees compliance regulations, website content, and leads in the planning of fundraising strategies. Robert resides with his wife in Irvine, California.

Susan Cook (Secretary)

Susan is a Project Manager, currently managing a number of projects within a large corporation. Her responsibilities include mentoring, monitoring and bringing teams together to solve complex problems. She is the Manager of the Foxhall Endowment Fund (Kansas City Community Foundation), and is on the Board of the North American Interfaith Network (NAIN). Her volunteer work has included chairing several International conferences. Her role is particularly valued as the documentary team leader for the production of a documentary film on FreeSchools World Literacy in India in 2010. As secretary, she is responsible for communication with Board members, maintaining the minute book and replying to correspondence from donors. Susan resides in Smithville, Missouri.

John Tennant (Treasurer)

John is an electrical engineer and businessman, having worked most of his life in the car rental business. He was partner and Financial Vice President for a large Thrifty Car Rental franchise before retiring in 2002. As a Canadian, John has dual citizenship, becoming a U.S. citizen in 1999. John is the treasurer of FSWL-USA and is responsible for the legal filings, formulating budgets and forecasts, banking, receiving and receipting donations, and maintaining our online data base. He resides with his wife in San Mateo, California.

DIRECTORS AT LARGE

Geri Johnson

Geri is the Director of the Early Childhood Center at the Singapore American School. A mother, grandmother, educator, administrator and global citizen, she is a champion for children of all ages. Born, raised and educated in Hawaii, she specializes in speech-language pathology and English language instruction. Having worked with students from preschool to college age, in Hawaii, Arizona, Saudi Arabia and Singapore, her passions include early education, language development and literacy. In January 2009, Geri visited the FreeSchools in Bihar and subsequently raised considerable awareness and financial support. Her knowledge and experience in the field gives her counsel to the Board significant weight. Geri resides in Singapore and makes regular visits to the U.S.

Michelle Klimesh

Michelle Klimesh is owner and president of Diablo Gymnastics School in San Ramon, California. Her passion for the support, encouragement, and development of children stems from parenthood and decades of involvement with young athletes. Michelle is president of Diablo Gymnastics Foundation, former president of the Golden Gate Circle for Readers of the Urantia Book, and executive committee member of The Urantia Book Fellowship. Michelle's enthusiasm and professional/client network bring valuable opportunities for fundraising. She resides with her husband in Danville, California.

Rajiv Lochan

Rajiv is Director of Development for St. Joseph's Prep School, a family owned secondary school in Patna, Bihar, India. While a private facility, this school educates a number of poor children who could otherwise not attend school. By training, he is an engineer and economist (Bachelors in Chemical Engineering, Masters in Industrial Technology & Masters in Economics) and worked in the U.S. until 1989. In his personal and professional life, Rajiv has always put children first and dreams of rescuing orphans and sponsoring their education to the maximum of their capacities. Rajiv is a U.S. citizen, world traveled, with extensive knowledge of the language, poverty, cultural norms, and challenges that face FreeSchools in India. His wide network of contacts is important for fundraising and his counsel is invaluable. Rajiv travels back and forth from India to the U.S.

Bruce Wenger

Bruce has been in construction management for 25 years and currently works as Project Manager in commercial construction. He is founding member and active supporter of The Grand Canyon Society of Urantia Book Readers (GCS) – a charitable organization that promotes spiritual growth, social service and scientific awareness. Deeply impressed with the value of the services provided by FreeSchools World Literacy (FSWL), he has been a financial supporter since its founding in Canada. His fundraising, contract administration and profit/loss skills are an important asset to help keep FreeSchools fiscally responsible. Bruce resides with his wife in Phoenix, Arizona.

APPENDIX 2

QuickTime™ and a
TIFF (Uncompressed) decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

APPENDIX 3

FreeSchools World Literacy - Australia Overview

FreeSchools World Literacy is a charitable organization that is primarily concerned with the advancement of education. FreeSchools World Literacy had its beginnings with the opening of a free evening school for desperately poor children, mostly girls, in Bihar, India in 1995. Its stated goal is "to tackle the underlying causes of disadvantage through education." Today FreeSchools has some 3000 students in 74 schools in India and Thailand, which are administered by 90 teachers (2008).

Mission

The FreeSchools World Literacy mission 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 poor countries of the world.

History

The FreeSchools concept was first hatched by Sister Crescence and realized following discussions between Mr. Mark Bloomfield and Sister Mary Crescence in Bihar State, India, during a time when Mark was involved in various charity projects in India.

The first free school was started in July 1997 at St Mary's Convent School in the small town of Motihari, in Bihar State, India. Here, teaching of some of the town's poor children took place in the school's empty classrooms after normal school hours. Free classes began at 4:00 pm and ran for about 2 hours each evening of the week, teaching the children the basics of reading, writing, health and hygiene and manual skills such as needlework. These lessons provided the children with the skills to enable them to survive and support themselves in their community. The students were mainly girls who, particularly in this region, are one of the largest disadvantaged and voiceless groups. At the time there were about 100 students and 3 teachers. The cost efficiency was startling - a year's education was being provided for each child for under US\$15.

Sister Crescence became Mark Bloomfield's contact in India, and was responsible for organizing the students and teachers, and managing the donations from Mark's family in England to run the school.

In 2000, Dr. Robert Coenraads accompanied Mark Bloomfield on a visit to the Motihari evening school to observe the classes. During this time Mark and Robert also discussed with Sister Crescence the concept of setting up a scholarship fund to enable poor, but promising, students to be able to attend regular day school and therefore possibly go on to university. Providing such an opportunity of higher education would enable these gifted students to contribute skills to their society in the future in a far greater way - as nurses, doctors, teachers and other professionals. Hence a cycle of uplift through education for the poor is initiated.

On returning to Australia, Robert Coenraads began to raise funds in earnest in order to continue the support of the Indian school. These donations helped Sister Crescence to expand to two schools later in 2000. The scholarships program also began that same year with the selection of a small number of very promising students by Sister Crescence. These students included Ashish Kumar Majhi, Sonal Kumari, Samridhi Kumari and Prasant D'cruze.

In 2005 support for the Indian schools took a great leap forward with the involvement of Mrs. Sue Tennant of Canada who, after meeting with Mark Bloomfield, pledged to expand the free school program in both Thailand and India. FreeSchools World Literacy was incorporated as a charitable organization in Canada in May 2005. This greatly expanded the program being administered by the Sisters of the Sacred Heart in Bihar, India. Thanks to funds raised in Canada during 2005 and 2006, enrolment in India exceeded one thousand students.

In March 2005, dedicated volunteer, Mark Bloomfield introduced the FreeSchools program into Chiang Mai, Thailand to service the northern hill tribes and Burmese refugee camps. Since then twelve new free schools have opened and enrolment has grown to about 100 students in each of these schools, providing employment to dozens of female teachers.

Sue Tennant has been visiting the Indian and Thai Schools on an annual basis since 2005. She also established a partnership in Delhi with Rev. Ashish Amos and ISPCK to support two more FreeSchools and four Women's Empowerment Centres in an impoverished Muslim sector of south Delhi. These schools provide education in English, Hindi and Urdu and hire Muslim teachers. Today, these ISPCK managed FreeSchools south of Delhi and also in Uttar Pradesh number 14 and educate approximately 700, predominantly Muslim, children.

In July 2006, a steering committee was established in Australia with the purpose of establishing FreeSchools World Literacy as a legal charity in Australia. In September 2008, FreeSchools World Literacy was incorporated in Australia – the first step in becoming a registered charity - with Dr. Robert Coenraads elected president of the FreeSchools Committee of Management.

In March 2007, Ben Bowler, volunteer and Vice-President of the Australian chapter of FreeSchools World Literacy travelled to Thailand with Jildou Brower to take over the role of Field Coordinator from Mark Bloomfield. There, Ben and Jildou teamed up with Paul Garrioch of the experienced Thailand-based charitable organization, The Mirror Group, to develop a partnership that would run the FreeSchools and scholarship program thereby ensuring long term sustainability of the schools.

In October-November 2007, Sue Tennant, joined forces with Rev. Ashish Amos the General Secretary of the Indian Society for Promoting Christian Knowledge (ISPCK) resulting in their ISPCK schools becoming ISPCK FreeSchools. Mrs. Anu Amos, as principal of St. Thomas School, volunteered to assist with the incorporation of FreeSchools World Literacy in India.

In February 2009, Reporter Jo Townsend for Australia's Channel 9 News presented a Sunday morning news segment, titled, "One Village at a Time" on the amazing Hill Tribe kids attending FreeSchools near Fang in northern Thailand.

APPENDIX 4

Last minute Holiday Shopping!

Do you still have 'hard to buy for' people or friends that you want to remember with a "kind thought" but not an expensive gift? Are you working with a set budget? Lucky for you, I may have a solution.

For \$15 a child's education makes a great teachers' gift, stocking stuffer, Secret Santa gift, gift for a colleague, etc... FreeSchools World Literacy (www.freeschools.org) presently sponsors 80 programs in India and Northern Thailand, and educates more than 3,000 children in schools conducted in slums, villages and refugee areas. Our most recent school opened for children who live and work on a garbage heap in Bihar, India.

A basic curriculum of reading, writing, mathematics and health is offered to children, 5-12 years for 2-3 hours daily. Classes are held in the late afternoon, to accommodate children who work on farms or in factories.

FreeSchools World Literacy guarantees that 90% of every donation makes it to the field, directly funding teacher training, supervision & salaries, educational supplies and nutritious snacks. We use existing space, which may be a school after regular school hours or outdoors under a tree or in a courtyard.

Our sole focus is educational instruction to those who have no educational opportunity. By keeping overhead to a minimum, it costs as little as \$15 to educate one child for a year.

If you are interested in giving the gift of a child's education to someone you know, you can donate by cheque or credit card and get Holiday gift cards directly from _____.

Donations over \$25 are tax deductible.

For additional information please call Sue Tennant today at 705-446-1118 or email suetennant@gmail.com.

FreeSchools World Literacy 2010 Committee – Contact Details

ROBEERT COENRAADS President of FSWL Australia
8 Trigalana Place, Frenchs Forest NSW 2086
rcoenraads@optusnet.com.au
Occupation: Director (Coenraads GEMS Pty Ltd)/
Principal Project Geologist (Australian Gemstone Mining Pty Ltd)/
Lecturer, (Gemmological Association of Australia)/
Non-fiction author

BEN BOWLER Vice President of FSWL Australia
58 Lisbeth Ave, Donvale, Vic 3111
ben.bowler@bigpond.com
0403 023 432
Occupation: Field Manager (BloodFoundation.org)

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

DELPHINE SWADLING Secretary of FSWL Australia
44 Dodds St, Redhead, NSW 2290
Delphine@mumnbubhampers.com.au
Mobiile: 0438443834. Home: (02) 49449550
Occupation: Director (Mum & Bub Hampers)

MERINDI BELARSKI Treasurer of FSWL Australia
Unit 7,165-167 Herring Road, Macquarie Park, NSW 2113
belarski@bigpond.com
Mobile: 044 898 3393
Occupation: Operational Manager (Macquarie Bank)

LINDA ALCORN Committee Member of FSWL Australia
PO Box 763, Charlestown, NSW 2290
lindaealcorn@hotmail.com
Mobile: 0425 223 355
Occupation: Teacher

MELLISA ALLDIS Committee Member of FSWL Australia
10 / 14 Campbell Pde, Manly Vale, NSW 2093
melissaalldis@propelinteractive.com.au
Mobile: 0418 465 320
Occupation: Brand Development Coordinator
Propel Interactive (Creative Merchandising ideas)

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

JULIAN MARTIN Committee Member of FSWL Australia
12 Ellalong Road, Cremorne NSW 2090
jmartin@opportunity.org.au
Phone Mobile, Home (02) 99532326
Occupation: Donor Relations Director (Opportunity International)

KATHLEEN SWADLING Committee Member of FSWL Australia
7 Walsh Street, North Narrabeen NSW 2101
swadling@bigpond.net.au
(02) 9913 7893
Occupation: Project Officer for Benevolent Society

JUDITH TOWNSEND Committee Member of FSWL Australia
19 Lakin St Bateau Bay 2261 NSW
judetownsend@yahoo.com
Mobile: 0409240740