



27th Meeting

FreeSchools World Literacy Australia

DATE commencing: Friday 1st July 2011 TIME: 9:00 am

DATE completion: Friday 16th Dec 2011 TIME: 8:00 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 10 participants in attendance

Robert Coenraads (President)
Ben Bowler (Vice-President)
Merindi Belarski (Treasurer)
Ian Esmore (Public Officer)
Linda Alcorn (Committee Member)
Melissa Alldis (Committee Member)
Bernie Belarski (Committee Member)
Kathleen Swadling (Committee Member)
Jude Townsend (Committee Member)
Sue Tennant

Apologies: Delpine Swadling (Secretary)

2. Acceptance of the Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the 26th meeting were sent to each member of the committee and were accepted by the committee
Moved by Melissa Alldis, and Seconded by Robert Coenraads

Business Arising from Previous Minutes

Business arising from 26th minutes and Attachment.

Ian: The MOU as included in minutes requires some text adjustment. Please find attached a revised copy (see Appendix 1).
Amendment includes FSWL registered office and Roberts address for signatory, plus correction to remove reference to Canada on second page and finally some minor formatting.

MOVED by: Ian Esmore
SECONDED by: Robert Coenraads

3. Reports from the Committee.

The Committee received the President's Report

PRESIDENTS REPORT

Dear Committee,

I would now like to officially open our 27th Meeting of the FSWL Committee of Management this Friday, the 1st July 2011.

This 27th Meeting will continue throughout July and the latter half of 2011 to give all the opportunity to contribute and will follow on from our highly successful 26th Meeting in which we achieved signatory status to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) Code of Conduct.

During our 27th meeting we continue the application process for AusAID Approved Organization status. We will also consider for adoption the Memorandum of Understanding MOU document outlining voluntary agreements on operational policy between FreeSchools World Literacy-Australia and its in-country partners. The latest version of this document was placed on the table during our 26th monthly meeting in April.

As always, thank you for your support.

Kind regards,

Dr. Robert Coenraads
President
FreeSchools World Literacy Australia

The Committee received the Public Officer's Report

PUBLIC OFFICER REPORT

1. On behalf of FSWL committee the 2010 AGM report was sent to Consumer Affairs together with the revised RULES to reflect the new reporting financial year. Documentation requires Roberts signature and this has been mailed to Robert.
2. The FSWL committee 2011 AGM report has also been sent to Consumer Affairs and can be accepted following the above completed.
3. Also included in mail was correspondence from AFCID. Membership has been noted as commencing from 1st June 2011 and requires 1 month membership fees. I expect Robert may give a report on the membership costing versus benefits and pathway we have yet to undertake for membership fees as per Aus Aid acceptance.

The Committee also received a Report from the President of FreeSchools World Literacy - Canada

REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT – SUE TENANT (CANADA)

THAILAND: The main reason we have FreeSchools in Thailand among the northern Hill Tribes is because poverty, Thai language skills and lack of citizenship and mobility shut children off from the government education system and expose them to exploitation and human trafficking. The situation has changed greatly with FreeSchools in the Fang region of Thailand. With our help paying for teachers and learning materials, Mirror Foundation has forged a good partnership with government and volunteers, bringing free education and access to Hill Tribe children to government schools, one village at a time.

INDIA: We have FreeSchools in India because the situation there is more complex. Extreme poverty, gender discrimination (not found in Thailand) and dense populations (illiterate for generations) are just some of the reasons. In terms of numbers, illiteracy and abuse of women are the worst in the world. The best investment has proven to be girls' education because the girls stay in the villages while the boys are eventually lost to the cities. With education and skills, women support their children and ensure they too are educated and exercise their rights by slowly taking economic and leadership roles in the villages.

In Bihar, with our wonderful Field Partner Sister Crescence, the FreeSchools' policy has been to take girls first and then boys. The Americans, (FSWL-USA) under the leadership of Geri Johnson, support and manage the 45 - 50 FreeSchools in Bihar. There also is a new girls' dormitory, built with funds raised by Saskia Raevourie, for those girls from the FreeSchools who pass rigorous testing and screening before being accepted. Last year was the first year of operation and 12 girls accomplished three grade levels in one year.

In Delhi and Uttar Pradesh, our Field Partner is ISPCK (the oldest Christian publishing company in Asia). Here, we are dealing with major gender discrimination and much higher costs. There is more pronounced Hindu/Muslim tension than in Bihar. Illiterate migrant workers and their families are pouring in from Bihar to work on construction and the living conditions are appalling. The women and children, as property of the husband, suffer greatly, and are used to transport dangerous materials because they are cheaper than machines. Of course the husband is paid but many men succumb to alcohol and gambling. The need here for FreeSchools is intense. The strong Bihar gene pool ensures that many very bright kids can excel given half a chance.

Our model for FreeSchools has been to use borrowed space for classes, but it's just not possible in this costly urban morass. We need a safe and secure flagship FreeSchool with full elementary capacity, modest accommodations for foreign and domestic volunteer teachers, and sufficient space to teach sewing and embroidery, cell phone repair and candlemaking. With a secure building (totally walled with security guard) we would finally be able to accept the kind offers of volunteers, donated sewing machines, computers, desks and chairs, learning materials that so far we have been unable to accept. The cost of the land alone will be at least \$100K. The cost of building something energy efficient will be at least another \$100K. Derek and I are willing to match any funds raised.

The best information is still on our website www.freeschools.org <<http://www.freeschools.org/>> . Be sure to watch the video that gives a good history and overview of FreeSchools. Download that and the Channel Nine news clip to your laptop and show both in your presentation to Rotary Clubs. Let me know if you need help to do this. People are always moved by these two excellent resources. On that note, I will have a new 10-minute video available on FreeSchools in India produced by award-winning director Risa Morimoto from NYC. We plan to have the first screening on International Literacy Day - September 8.

I hope this overview has been helpful. Please just ask me questions if you need more information, but it's best to do it on the google group so everyone benefits from the information. Thanks again for all the work you are about to do for FreeSchools!

I am copying this to FSWL-USA and FSWL-Foundation for their information.

4. Progress in Thailand

Ian: Hello and I hope this email finds you in good health for the New Year 2012 - Chinese year of the water dragon. Sue Tennant had to postpone her tour for family reasons and therefore Isobel and I undertook the schools visitation as scheduled. Attached is a photographic report of the recent schools tour with the Mirror Foundation Dec 2011 (see Appendix 2) and written status and recommendations report (Appendix 3)

A full presentation Powerpoint version is available 60 MB.
<http://dl.dropbox.com/u/46956195/Thailand%20Schools%20Dec_2011.ppt>

Ian Esmore - Public Officer, FreeSchools World Literacy Australia, January 2012

5. Progress in India

Dear Robert,

Many many thanks for your letter. You need not be too worried for my fever. I have passed over the phase of real sickness and some what thereafter effect of sickness, It has indeed slowed down my active self.

We are truly struggling with the new batch of selected students of Bridge Course. Our patience is on trial .Every day we see drama, One child crying for mummy, papa .The only answer that I can at last give is to release the child to go home. Ten days of struggle is over. I do not know how will I succumb this trial .The sad part is "Shristi" our backbone of the program is at home and we fight the battle alone , "Shristi" engagement has taken place suddenly and her place is vacant. I am looking for a suitable person but there is no result of my search. Do pray that God sent his own choice. My eye trouble has also increased after the fever, I need to consult my doctor at Kolkotta .

The diocese of Bettiah is struck by a historical sad incident. You might have heard that at Rauxaul there was a lepers hospital which was well known in the world for it's charity to lepers. Yesterday after great struggle the founder of the hospital. M.C Brother Kristo Das. died, no one could save him from severe pneumonias. The northeastern church will mourn his untimely death. Please help us by your supportive prayer.

Sister Crescence

Robert: Dear Committee, I know that you will all be pleased to receive a Christmas message from Sister Crescence (see Appendix 4). It is great to know that all of our hard work, and the hard work of all of our donors and many others is having its effect on the ground in India. Thank you all for your continued support of FreeSchools World Literacy.

6. General Business.

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

FSWL Charitable Status

Robert: The application documentation is still in preparation

FSWL Website and Communications

Sue: Dear Ian, Please send us any FSWL-AU website changes needed. Stories, like Judy's, are very much appreciated. Can we get an executive decision soon?

Wonderful news about Rotary support from Daylesford. Great job Ian! Thank you so much! I am looking forward to meeting you and your wife in Thailand in December. Our flights have been booked and we can't now rendezvous at the Golden Triangle Inn until the afternoon of Monday December 5. We arrive in Chiang Rai at 12:55 p.m and I will need to organize an afternoon meeting with Mirror Foundation. Sorry for the change.

I will be traveling with Eef Hoedemacker from Alderbrook (near Vancouver, BC) who is our Cnd. FreeSchools Treasurer. I've known Eef for 30 years. His wife Alice battled cancer for many years and when she passed away two years ago, Eef sponsored a FreeSchool in her name in Noida, just outside of Delhi.

Please take as many pictures as you can while in Thailand. A picture of your Rotary club to bring to the clubs we visit would also be good. You may have many more seasoned ideas than me. Please let us know how we can help.

Ian: www.freeschools.org.au <<http://www.freeschools.org.au>>

Website has been amended to redirect, direct to main website on the Australian page of .ORG address. No changes to our letterhead and is seamless to look like .AU address.

In a previous email I have asked Sue Tennant, to see if the website manager could make some changes such as the U-tube link (ch9 video – Thailand) on existing front Home page to also be added as a RHS menu item on the Australian page.

Also hopeful to get Judy Townsend experience, commentary updated on website.

Endeavouring to get a few items in place, the OZ component, prior to Rotary approach being undertaken.

FSWL Memorandum of Understanding

Ian: The Thailand agency MOU agreement was attached in previous email for committee consideration. Last year I circulated an affiliate agreement, MOU between Australia and Canada AND Draft Organisational Framework Feb 2010. My question is to ask members the relevancy of those documents? Feed back please.

Robert: Thank you, Ian, for making those minor modifications to the MOU. It is a tidy concise document

Ian: I would like to address with a motion.

1. That the MOU agreement for Thailand be accepted and a letter be sent notifying the Mirror Foundation.

2. That the draft MOU agreement between Canada and Australia be forwarded with a letter asking for comments/amendments from FSWL Canada committee.

3. That the draft organisational structure Feb2010 be noted as read for the time being. No action required.

If there is a seconder, then the subject could be open for discussion, any changes or otherwise.

Ian: Mirror have sent signed MOU via mail to Roberts address and also copy of their Thailand registration. Sue, do you have a copy of their Thai registration or do you want me to email forward you. The Justice Dept made a request we show evidence of this for any incorporated group undertaking fundraising over \$10,000.

FSWL Fundraising

Jude: I went to Inner Wheel last night and got the surprise of my life. They have decided to make FreeSchools their International District Project for this year!!! Can you believe it. We presented months ago against other clubs in the district. The other 2 contenders were very strong and it was just after Japan, so we thought we had no hope. The other 2 were Shelter Boxes and Malaria Inhibiting Mosquito nets for the third world - esp Paua New Guinea. Can't believe they chose FreeSchools over them. I think there are 8 clubs who will all be working towards their International Project. Robert I will probably need you to come up and give a talk as I really am not knowledgeable enough.

Do you have their email address from when they gave their last donation. In honour of their club being the club that put up the successful International project, they also gave me a \$500 cheque to get thing started!! I am in total shock. It will mean help for afternoon teas, raffles etc. I have a raffle ready with a quilt and a painting - need more - will get Jo onto it...Yay!! How wonderful will all the publicity be.

I feel very under informed and not too capable. Sue could I magic you out here for a few days please. I feel SO out of touch.

Love from a very delighted Jude - Robert - can you please tell your Rotary contact? Also - can you please tell me what status we just achieved with all those policies and the huge document you completed. I tried to tell everyone in my excitement last night and it was obvious I didn't have a clue what it was called!! I know it is a step towards Caritable status. Of course that came up AGAIN last night. I told them that I would bet all the details from you.

Can Melissa send a thank you to North Gosford Inner Wheel for the \$500 - here are the contact details - can you please let them know our wonderful progress towards accreditation in your thank you letter.

The Inner Wheel Club of Gosford North
president Deidra Groppenbacher, Sec: Alison McClean, Treasurer: Christine Hirons
36 Hensons Rd
Somersby
NSW 2250

The letter reads:

*Please accept this cheque for \$500 on behalf of the FreeSchools World Literacy Program
The Inner Wheel Club of Gosford North greatly admire the good work done to improve basic
education throughout the world, and hope our donation will help with your continuing efforts.*

Yours sincerely

Christine Hirons - Hon Treasurer

Sue: Darling Jude, You are the best! It is your amazing enthusiasm for FreeSchools that sells people. Thank you so much for this wonderful accomplishment. There are many, many great causes in the world but in terms of return on investment, FreeSchools World Literacy is the bargain of the century. As we just reached a world population of 7 billion (2 billion living in moderate to extreme suffering), we remember that scientists have identified girls' education as the top driving force to curb future population growth. We have a big job to do!

Jude: The Inner Wheel District of the Central Coast has voted for FreeSchools to be its International Project for 2011/12. I am unsure what it will entail but it means that each club in the district will concentrate fundraising and awareness for us. I will probably go to each club to tell them about FreeSchools. I will need photos from India as my photos are only of Northern Thailand. I have asked Robert to come up and talk one evening as my knowledge is so limited compared to his. It is such a great opportunity to let many people know of the great work of FreeSchools and I feel the responsibility quite keenly. All help and suggestions will be greatly appreciated as the year progresses. What a wonderful thing to happen to FreeSchools. I feel very honoured that they chose us. The other presenters were Mosquito nets that inhibit malaria - mostly for PNG, and Shelter Boxes which are self contained "houses" that have everything you need after a flood, earthquake etc.,. The opposition was so big I thought FreeSchools wouldn't have a chance. We wore full Akha headdresses to do the presentation and I wore a gorgeous Akha jacket - maybe that tipped the scales!

Sue: Dear Judy and FSWL-AU friends, This is indeed a wonderful thing that has happened! Your enthusiasm for FreeSchools Judy is joyful and contagious. I have introduced FreeSchools to many Rotary Clubs and thankfully can always count on a one-time donation, but so far haven't managed to get a greater commitment.

Dr. Tanyss Munro of Amarok Society, our Field Partner in Bangladesh, (where we support but don't yet fully fund 6 Amarok FreeSchools, teaching mothers to be teachers in the slums of Dhaka) has spoken to 150 Rotary Clubs over the last 5 years, and she too has never captured a long-term commitment for their dedicated and outstanding work. It's not easy, but you have been able to win the support of an entire District to support FreeSchools for a year! This is huge. Thank you so much Jude!!!

Linda: Wow! That's fantastic Jude! Good for you! Your passion as well as FreeSchools being such a fabulous charity is probably what tipped the scales. Wonderful news!

Melissa: Fantastic Jude! Absolutely GREAT news!

Jude: Find attached the flyer to FreeSchools Opening Night/premiere of the movie THE FIRST GRADER!! How cool is that!! I saw that this movie was coming up to our local "artsy" movie theatre - (gorgeous old art deco award winning movie theatre at Avoca Beach) - it is about an 84 year had trekked in Nth Thailand years ago and stayed in the villages. She always thought they needed schools - so she offered us the Opening Night - we get half and they get half!! We have old Kenyan man who presents himself at his remote local FREE SCHOOL as he has heard that the govt has said that school is free for everyone to learn to read. Based on a true story and evidently a great movie. I rang the theatre and told them about OUR FreeSchools and the owner to provide supper - tickets are \$20 and the theatre takes \$7.70 of each ticket sold there are 250 seats - more if we add a few temporary ones at the back! WE could easily raise over \$2000.

She has thrown in champagne and free tickets to add to our raffle. We have a gorgeous quilt and framed pictures. My girlfriend is sending 100 bars of gorgeous soap and the special paper to wrap them in - for lucky door prizes and i have written to the local soccer club for all their promotional stuff. (They are very popular on the coast.) Inner Wheel ladies are fantastic cooks, so supper is sorted.

All good news comes with a down side. Because we don't have charitable status it has to be run by Inner Wheel - (ladies Rotary) Anyway - as it is the 2011/12 International Project - all money is given in ONE cheque at the end of the financial year in June 2012. So our money will be added to the other clubs efforts - it will be many thousands of dollars BUT we have to wait until the end of June 2012! How frustrating. If all clubs raise their usual amount we will be looking at a very sizable amount - worth the wait.

is it coming to a theatre near you? Rotary might do a night for you as well - so perfect. It is also on in Book Week here and the Book Week theme this year is: ONE WORLD - MANY STORIES....could it be any better for this movie.

Robert: That is absolutely fabulous news! What a tremendous opportunity that you have created for FreeSchools. Congratulations, Jude.

It is important to note that all of this has come out of you taking the initiative to do things – that is hearing about a someone with our same basic beliefs as ours, and then actually taking the opportunity to contact them personally. From that simple act, all of this has arisen. It never ceases to amaze me how things work. I would love to meet that lady and thank her personally for her belief in FreeSchools World Literacy projects, so I will organize things so that can be there on the night. Thank you so much Jude.

Ian: A terrific idea and great effort to follow-up on the networking links, Jude. The hands on work keeps adding a brick, one step at a time. I am canvassing our local cinema

Jude: Thanks Ian - just need to find the odd 250 people to fill the theatre now!! Of course in my mind it will fill to overflowing. I will be so disappointed if only a few turn up. The movie is fabulous, the food will be great and my friend who owns a gorgeous gift shop in Noosa is sending thank you gifts for the patrons - and all for \$20. Here is the flyer - I am no graphic designer - but most people who are receiving at are saying they will come. Fingers crossed - a full theatre will give us \$3000. Lots of garage sales in that!!

Jude: Hi Robert, can you let everyone know we raised \$4938.30! How wonderful is that!

The movie premiere night was a wonderful success for FreeSchools, but its success resulted from a unique set of circumstances. Anyone even thinking of repeating the experienceplease read the list below very carefully.

1. The movie THE FIRST GRADER was quite obviously perfect for a FreeSchools fundraiser movie night as the story revolves around an 84 year old Kenyan man applying to his local Free School to learn to read.
2. The movie was in Book Week and the theme was "One World, Many Stories"
- 3 The theatre owner had trekked in Thailand and knew the Hill Tribe region.

4. There hasn't been a decent teacher movie out for a while!
 5. In a moment of insanity I booked the theatre that accomodates 280 people and decided that I could fill it.
 6. The movie release was delayed in Australia - so our movie night became a premiere.
 7. Inner Wheel decided to put on supper - for free - it was gorgeous.
 8. We were given huge amounts of cosmetics and make up to raffle - they got a wonderful thank you letter with photos of the Thai freeSchool kids - who can resist them!
 9. My amazing friend from Noosa sent 280 free gifts - one for every patron.
 10. The teacher network took over - it is VERY important to have a good flyer with a picture taken from the movie. I will attach it.
 11. More gifts rolled in for lucky door prizes and raffles - including designer jewellery.
 12. I was able to secure TV, Radio and Newspaper interviews to spread the news about the premiere evening with FREE gifts.
 13. I personally took the flyer to MANY schools - and begged people to come.
 14. I asked consultants that visit schools, to take the flyer - eventually people were saying "we have already booked - we heard about it from ...whoever!"
 15. I contacted Children's Book Council who sent the flyer to every one of their contact libraries and schools.
 16. I put it onto the Teacher/Librarians school email.
 17. On the night it was like a HUGE reunion. Teachers were meeting up with colleagues that they hadn't seen in ages. Made it like a big party.
 18. We showed the short Ch9 DVD before the movie
 19. I made a HUGE mistake and forgot to get everyone's email! Next time I will make the bookings via email to me + the theatre.
 20. It is VERY hard to keep a track of how many seats were sold as you give out tickets to friends and colleagues and they "forget" to let you know that they have sold an EXTRA 10 or so!! PANIC stations at the end as we thought we would have to stand up the back. Quite a few of us sat in the aisle!
 21. We raised \$4700 + a HUGE amount of awareness.
 22. Not sure the conditions will ever coincide as well again.
- PS The weather was perfect - thank goodness as the supper was outside - it was the only place we could all fit.
- PPS I invited celebrities and they ALL declined but one said - "maybe next time! " Will follow that up.
- Hope this helps.
- Trouble is it is just a drop in the ocean - we need this 10 times over!

Jude: It was passed at the Inner Wheel meeting to give \$3738.30 to FreeSchools now rather than wait for the end of the financial year and give the rest at the correct handover time. They want it spent on treadle sewing machines and teachers in India.

Remember there is \$1000 more to come - they had to keep some for the International Day Handover. Plus the \$200 I sent previously - it was really worth running that night. They are great ladies who work tirelseely for lots of charities. FreeSchools was lucky to be included as they have so many requests for money.

Rotary International Connection.

Ian: The topic has come up beforehand in relation to taxation status thru Rotary. Over the past month I have been trying to clarify status of networking Rotary and the pathway is fairly onerous. Simply put - getting one-off \$ \$ gifts from individual clubs can be done with any local Rotary club. However input to sustainable funding or gifting under the Rotary banner is quite a different story. Funding requires a donor country, rotary club to partner with a local Australian host club. Both of those clubs must also be in Rotary Districts which have networking relationships. For instance the area of Bihar, India (sister Crescence) schools has been frozen from participating in international rotary funding due to poor reporting mechanisms of

past-present funding projects. Thru discussions with Sue (Canada) and Mirror foundation I am trying to establish any rotary connections that have already done in northern Thailand. To further scope the process, Isobel and I have booked flights to Thailand first week in December. This coincides with a visit by Sue and another member of her committee.

Robert: It sounds like aiming for the 'sustainable funding' would be worth the extra work in the long term. Thanks for your efforts Ian with regard to Rotary Thailand.

7. Correspondence with Supporters and Donors

Jude: Hi Melissa and Robert, can you please send off a wonderful thank you letter to:

Heather Burke
133 Hillside ROAD
Avoca beach NSW 2251

She has given a \$200 donation because she can't come on Thursday night. Can you please tell her how close we are to charitable status now we are a signatory to AusAID.

Robert: Letter of thanks for Inner Wheel prepared by Melissa Alldis

30th November 2011
The Inner Wheel Club of Gosford North
36 Henson Road
Somersby NSW 2250

Att: Deidra Groppenbacher (President), Alison McClean (Secretary),
Christine Hirons (Treasurer)

On behalf of the FreeSchools World Literacy Committee, we would like to thank you for your very generous donation of \$3738.30 from the 1st Grader film night that Judy Townsend and your club organised. This cheque was banked on the 2nd November, 2011 and will be used for FSWL projects. We believe that by improving basic education in these poorer parts of the world, we will break the cycle of ignorance and poverty.

Your generous donation will be used to provide education, literacy for some of the world's poorest and most needy children. One of our committee members is also international director, Rotary Club of Daylesford and is currently in Thailand to visit the hill tribe refugees near Chiang Rai region.

We now conform to the ACFID code of conduct, and we are in the process of obtaining AusAID accreditation, and sometime 2012 anticipate tax deductibility status. We are getting closer!

May God bless you for your generosity.

Kind regards

*Melissa Alldis on behalf of
Dr Robert Coenraads
President
FreeSchools World Literacy Australia
8 Trigalana Place
Frenchs Forest NSW 2086*

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

Our next meeting will be our 28th Meeting of the Committee of Management Meeting. The Meeting will commence in June 2012.

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 Memorandum of Understanding

APPENDIX 2: Ian Esmore's Photo Report from Thailand

APPENDIX 3: Ian Esmore's Report to the Committee from Thailand

APPENDIX 4: Sister Crescence's Christmas Report from India