



## **Fifth Meeting**

# **FreeSchools World Literacy Australia**

DATE Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2007

VENUE: The Annual Australian Urantia Book Readers Conference, Melbourne, 2007

[fswl-australia@googlegroups.com](mailto:fswl-australia@googlegroups.com)

## **Minutes of the Meeting**

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

There were 8 members in attendance  
Robert Coenraads (President)  
Ian Esmore (Public Officer)  
Merindi Swadling (Treasurer)  
Kathleen Swadling (Committee Member)  
Yvonne Hirt (Committee Member)

And a number of interested visitors attending the conference including

Valerie Billington  
Graeme Chapman  
Robyn Hromek  
Adrianna James-Richard  
Heather Johnson  
Betty Lyon  
Julian McGarry  
Gerhardt Neuwiller  
Carmel Stewart

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

The minutes of the September 7-9, 2007 Fourth Meeting were not formally moved and accepted by the committee. They will be put to the 6<sup>th</sup> Meeting

### **3. Reports from the Committee.**

#### **- Chairman's Report**

The President addressed the meeting, firstly as a formal 40 minute presentation on "The Book and I" theme of the Melbourne Conference, and then a short address to the Committee and visitors on the history of FSWL Australia and the progress made in the past year.

The 40 minute presentation was based on the conference theme is, "The Book and I", so I talked about the leading of the teachings of Jesus Christ towards works such as FreeSchools World Literacy. In other words, I analysed the way the Urantia Book leads to a spiritual awakening through the following steps:

- Initial discovery of the book.
- Reading and understanding of the concepts of the book.
- A vague feeling that the book's teachings are trying to get me, as the reader, to do more than just understand fully its teachings.
- A clear drive towards striving for others (doing the work of God) and a movement away from selfish material desires.
- Formulation of some form of useful and functional activity, either through a series of accidental opportunities and deliberate choices.
- FreeSchools World Literacy as an example of such an outreach project.
- Growth of the project through family, friends, fellow readers (the stage at which FreeSchools is at present).
- Growth of the project into the wider community
- Self sufficiency and growth of the project independent of the founders (the Future).
- Attainment of maximum self potential

I then drew parallels between the above points and the development of the disciples of Jesus as a result of his teachings and different critical sermons. Particularly Jesus' teachings on marriage and children. (I presented historical and recent artworks with Jesus and the children followed by actual images of the FreeSchools children as well as the FreeSchools summary slides prepared by Donna Cervantes – the CD is available to all those who would like a copy). My 9-year old and 7 year old daughters Francheska and Leonora also had the brief opportunity to show a few images of their penfriends that they are sponsoring in India.

I think the presentation was very well received. It was a wonderful opportunity to meet other committee members face to face and have the opportunity for more detailed interaction.

#### 4. General Business.

The following discussion took place during the Committee Meeting and is recorded here under the following headings:

##### 1. Chelsea McLean's Media Kit

Chelsea's Media Kit was handed around to the Committee members and visitors at the meeting. Special thanks were made to Chelsea for preparing and revising Media Kit. Congratulations also on the good news about her baby son Isaac born 29 September 2007 at 7:15pm.

The Media Kit includes:

- A media release – with the news angle 'Decade of Literacy'
- The backgrounder / fact sheet
- The story about Thailand student Darrin – with photos by Brennan O'Connor
- Plus, we could include the DVD, current newsletter and photos on CD

## 2. Radio Interview on FreeSchools

Thanks to Chelsea McLean's efforts, we had our first radio publicity for FSWL. Tonight, Sunday evening, with Kym Ferguson from Macquarie Regional Radio network on her "Talking Back the Night" program. It went quite smoothly - about 13 minutes.

## 3. Special Thanks to Donors

Following the Melbourne Conference several participants were inspired to contribute to the FreeSchools World Literacy children. I would like to extend many thanks on behalf of myself and the for their generosity:

- Val Billington \$100
- Adrianna James Richard \$100
- Carmel Stewart \$50
- Gerhard Neuwiller \$72 for the continued support for his Indian scholarship student, Ashish Kumar Majhi.

## 4. Betty Lyon's Donor Luncheons

Betty Lyon explained how she has held donor luncheons to raise money for FreeSchools World Literacy in the pleasant relaxed surrounds of her Tasmanian home. Thank you very much for your ideas and efforts. Betty also proposed the concept of sister schools, with classes of students in Australia raising money for their counterparts in India by holding small cake stalls.

## 5. 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 will be from Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> to Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> of November 2007.

The Committee and the visitors are thanked for their involvement.

END OF MINUTES

## Appendix 1

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

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