



Seventh Meeting

FreeSchools World Literacy Australia

DATE commencing: Friday 7nd December 2007 TIME: 9 am
DATE completion: Sunday 9th December 2007 TIME: 9 pm

INTERNET VENUE: FreeSchools Literacy Australia email network
fswl-australia@googlegroups.com

Minutes of the Meeting

1. Rollcall of members present and apologies.

There were 8 participants in attendance
Robert Coenraads (President)
Ben Bowler (Vice President)
Delphine Swadling (Secretary)
Merindi Swadling (Treasurer)
Ian Esmore (Public Officer)
Donna Cervantes (Committee Member)
Jildou Brower
Sue Tennant

2. Acceptance of the Minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the Sixth meeting was sent to each member of the committee and accepted by the committee
Moved by Ian Esmore and Seconded by Robert Coenraads

3. Reports from the Committee.

The President's Report was received by the committee

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

Welcome to the 7th meeting of FSWL Australia.
This month I would like to announce that our Treasurer, Merindi Swadling, has opened the FreeSchools World Literacy Bank account at WestPac, Mona Vale, and I have deposited the \$1,367 that can shortly be sent to India. Our new bank account marks the beginning of us being able to operate in a professional manner with regard to the receipt of funds and the issue of receipts for all donations. We also have the ability to receive donations from credit cards (although I have not yet switched on this facility until such time as we actually start using it as it attracts a monthly fee).
Thank you all for your participation and comments.

Kind regards, Dr. Robert Coenraads (President)

4. Progress in Thailand.

Hello Ben here,

Here is some brief updates (copied emails to Sue) on happenings here in Fang:

"Dear Paul, Khun Moo & Sue,

I have been running around like a whirlwind this last week but I wanted to communicate how things went with Jadad and Jappa on the salary run Friday 30/11.

Things went very well!

We were with Jadad at nearly all the villages and while I was paying salaries he was having meetings with the principles and teachers. It was a really good kick off. From what I understand Jadad will organise a big meeting sometime early in the new year with everyone present.

I will continue to help in anyway I can and I have told the teachers that if they need something and cannot contact with Jadad they should ring Pui. I think that is a good balance.

Also a new car run has started going from a Shan area near our Monpin Rd school (Teacher Pi Ban). There are some 15-18 students now going to the Shan school run by S.W.A.N. and Principle Terry Brown. This costs 3500 Baht/ month and Jildou and I have raised funds to pay for the rest of the school year ending March/April 2008. There are some really great stories coming out of this. On Jadad's next visit to Fang I understand he will visit this wonderful school.

It is exciting to think what the team at Mirror and Jadad will be able to offer to these communities.

Any questions, enquiries or comments please feel free to discuss."

Also:

"Now these laptops are looking very interesting indeed. We have had quite a journey over the last week or 2.

In Summary:

We have met 2 Canadians from Vancouver, Jon Peters and Christiana Kiesel. These two first began talking about the possibility with the new laptops from One Laptop Per Child (OLPC) www.laptop.com.

We then went on a somewhat incredible odyssey and found a pilot project here in Thailand where we were 'fortunate' enough to crash a high level meeting including the visiting President of OLPC from out of M.I.T. Cambridge Massachusetts.

Jon, who has his own money, wants to form a new NGO called Kinshyp to help get these machines out into the field. I am keen for him to do it in Fang. It's not just me actually there are a lot of reasons why it would be a good place for a pilot project.

I have told them a lot about FreeSchools and he has mentioned on his return to Canada he would like to meet up with Sue.

If it goes ahead then maybe, just maybe Jildou and I would return to Fang after India and manage the project. It's all ideas at this stage but I wanted to keep you abreast of what is happening.

These machines really are amazing and the opportunities they represent to kids have no ceiling. I wouldn't be surprised if there are greater forces than us at work on this one"

Kind Regards,
Ben

5. Progress in India
No report

6. General Business.

The following discussion took place during the meeting and is recorded here for completeness under the following headings:

1. Ross Foundation
2. laptop.org
3. FSWL Bank Account
4. The FSWL charity registration process in Australia
5. Continuation of open discussion topics

Ross Foundation

Ian: "Hi Robert, could you please review the above web site and attached Guidelines for funding. I was considering that FSWL Australia make an approach to the RE ROSS foundation for a funding grant application to assist in getting a strategic marketing plan formulated to help get our program up and going. That is a funding grant to help us get a plan/presentation together which will be aimed at sourcing funds from professional and philanthropic organisations."

Robert: "With regard to the Ross Trust, I have had a quick look at their guidelines and website and it does appear that funds "are only for organizations in Victoria (which does include us) or organizations planning to use the grant funds in Victoria". I have just double checked in a phone conversation with a Ross Foundation staff member and found out that we are not eligible because the children would have to specifically be located in Victoria.

He suggested that we contact Philanthropy Australia to ask about suitable sponsoring organizations, so perhaps we could check out their website . www.philanthropy.org.au in detail."

Ian: "Thanks for following up.

Please note that the enquiry was for funding to assist getting a Victorian registered Not for Profit association to do a strategic management plan.

I am not sure how you worded the original query as I also noticed their guidelines..

Funding sought is to help set up administration framework.

Funding is not to help do on ground work overseas.

I have heard the CEO of the RE Ross foundation on Radio saying that this is an area they are currently seeing a great need and willing to support with funds to get established better in order to access the Corporate sector. They see this as their way of helping other groups. Empowering others helps them achieve their mission.

Robert: "Thanks Ian,

I noticed that they had an email address for enquiries, so perhaps we could send a more lengthy email? Would you like to think about the wording of that? No harm trying!"

Ian: "During the week I will draft up something to send to RE Ross foundation to follow up on possible funding for as discussed."

Laptop.org

Ben: "FSWL Australia please have a look at www.laptop.org and let's familiarise ourselves with the scale of this vision. As someone who has now seen these in operation in the field (a small rural Thai school) I can tell you that we should all be looking at this very very closely.

Robert: "Hi Ben,
Thanks for your update. The laptop concept looks rather interesting and I am excited to see it taking off. A few years ago, a few of us were looking into sending older computers, second hand sports gear, books etc to India and other disadvantaged countries. We teed-up assistance from Cisco Systems with shipping costs and got some stuff off to Vanuatu and Timor. We never got anything into India because it was such an expensive and logistical nightmare, so in the end decided it was easier to send the money to Sister Crescence. The computers were a pain because of their sheer bulk especially in the old-technology screens - but the use of laptops gets around this. It looks like they have overcome this and also laptop durability issues with their XO laptop, and the \$200 unit price is amazing;

"XO laptop has been made available to the general public. For a donation of \$399, one XO laptop will be sent to empower a child in a developing nation and one will be sent to the child in your life in recognition of your contribution. Up to \$200 of your donation may be tax-deductible (your \$399 donation minus the fair market value of the XO laptop you will be receiving)."

Ian: "I had a check out of the web site and media for the laptops.
An interesting project."

The FSWL Charity Bank Account:

We can now accept donations into our bank account that has been set up as the Westpac Bank by Merindi:

Name: FreeSchools Worrlid Literacy Inc
BSB Number: 032 196,
Account Number: 266 690

The four signatories (as agreed during our first meeting) are:

Robert Coenraads
Delphine Swaddling,
Merindi Swaddling,
Kathleen Swadling.

Contact: Maria Tan, 9997 5211

Merindi "Merchant facility means we can accept donations via credit card. There is a \$110 once-off set-up fee, then a monthly charge of 1.5% of all credit card transactions or \$22 (depending on which is the greatest amount). These merchant fees, plus international transfer fees (\$20 per transfer if done online) are the only fees we will incur. All other fees are waived for the Community Services package we are on.

All four signatories will have access to online banking.

Postal address is currently your home address Robert, so cheque & deposit books + other paraphernalia will be arriving soon."

Robert: "Hi Delphine and Kathleen,
In order for our FSWL Westpac account to become fully operational, you must both go to the bank with your ID and sign the documents. Kathleen, you can just pop down to the Mona Vale branch just opposite the Library, and Delphine, you can just go to any branch near your home to

do this. We then need to inform the bank on how to organize the signatories – I suggest that we require 2 signatures to authorize a withdrawal transaction as is standard business practice”

Robert: “Hi Merindi,

Well, our new bank account now marks the beginning of a new era of receipted donations. It will be good to use your expertise to get this process correctly operational right from the beginning, and then it should be fairly automatic from then on especially when we start receiving more. With regard to the funds that are now in our new account, I would like to issue receipts to those donors. We might also consider sending each donor a thank you letter for their contribution (perhaps this could be as some kind of updatable box on the receipt itself which could contain a snippet of information as well as their thank you). In this way the donor will feel that they are being addressed personally as well as just receiving a receipt. Anyway over to you Merindi. Kind regards,
Robert

Here are the donors:

\$355 K-Mart Group c/o Yvonne Hirt, 31 Earl Street Kew Vic 3101,
yvonne.mundy@hotmail.com

\$300 Donna Cervantes 26 Verney Street, Kings Beach, Caloundra, 4551,
windmilldc@yahoo.com

\$300 Allan Platcher aplatche@bigpond.net.au

\$100 Adriana James-Richard adriana@thefreedomfactor.org

\$100 Carmel Stewart 2180 Gelantipy Road, W. Tree via Buchan Vic 3885

\$100 Val Billington valeriejo@optusnet.com.au (check with Kathleen as this address could be old)

\$72 Gerhard Neuwiller 31 Hilda Ave Boronia, Vic 3155,
gneuwill@bigpond.net.au

\$40 Francheska and Leonora Coenraads, 8 Trigalana Place Frenchs Forest NSW
2086, coenraads01@optusnet.com.au

\$1367 TOTAL

The FSWL charity registration process in Australia

Ben: “Hello Ian, Would it be possible to have an update on the 'rough' timeline until FSWL Australia achieves tax-deductible status. Jildou and I are looking ahead to what we might do after India and fundraising looks like an activity which we might give some focus to.”

Ian: “Hi Ben

Sorry about delay on responding to your query re status of FSWL and deductible timeline. I am not in a position to answer your query now. Primarily I have been overtaxed on work and health issues which has meant little time to devote to the FSWL process.

On returning from Cape York I had a call from my specialist doctor offering a date mid January for a total hip replacement surgery. (previously wait listed). I have also cracked one of the few front teeth requiring urgent work.

The above has time stressed work commitments, especially for a few VCAT tribunal cases underway for clients.

Expect to be on top of these towards end of week”

Robert: “Hi Ian,

Thank you again for all of your efforts. A few weeks here or there is not going to make any difference to our long term future plan. I will be happy to see you on top of your work and health

issues in the lead up to Christmas - especially since we didn't require the charitable status to establish our FSWL bank account."

Flyer – A resource to share

Sue: "Dear friends,
We created this flyer to hopefully go out in a mailing to parents of students from Havergal College - a private girls in Toronto. The Junior School elected to adopt a FreeSchool. This is our first one and it took quite some time. The kids had the option of four charities and they had to study all of them and then decide. In the end they chose FreeSchools. They said they would consider including a flyer (and we targeted girls' education) in their next mailing but we don't know if they will accept this or not. Anyway, we thought you might like to see it and maybe it could serve as a future resource for you. In turn, we appreciate your sharing any creative fundraising ideas with us."

Ben: "Dear Sue,
That looks like an excellent brochure.
Let's hope it proves very successful at raising money from the parents at Havergal College.
Let us know about the response."

Ian: "Thanks Sue for the last attachment re school flyer. It looks great.
Certainly something like that could be adapted and used here in Australia as a general info background to anyone enquiring about ways they could assist.
If FSWL Canada were to allow use of document we could amend to suit Australia pitch to suitable possible donor.
Please run this by Robert and Committee. If OK, Committee could suggest text amendments and I could do artwork adjustments."

Robert: "Dear Sue,
I must compliment you on the production of that flyer. The photography is stunning and the presentation highly professional. I love the photos of the girls coming across the bridge with the FreeSchools banner. I would like to have that one printed actually, and hang it up on my wall.
Great job!"

Sue: "Dear Robert,
What a nice compliment and I was losing faith in my camera until Saskia told me all my photos are high resolution. Duh! Turns out you need high resolution for printing.
But the real credit goes to a 22 year old graphic artist in Collingwood. I haven't actually met "Hannah" - the one responsible for this moving design. Her Dad asked her to do me this as a favour. But today I emailed her a proposal to work with us on future FreeSchools' materials as I think she has a special feel for our message. Of course I told her we have to get sponsors to pay her!"

Sue: "Ian, Please feel free to adapt any of our materials for your purposes."

7. 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 1st to Sunday 3rd of February, 2008.

The Committee is thanked for its involvement

END OF MINUTES

Appendix 1

The FSWL Committee - Australian Contact Details

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