



## Annual General Meeting 2013 for FreeSchools World Literacy Australia

### FreeSchools World Literacy Australia

ABN 13 233 167 644; Reg No = A0050403N

DATE commencing: Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> Mar 2013 TIME: 9:00 am  
DATE completion: Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> Jun 2013 TIME: 7:00 pm

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

Member pre-registration is essential to participate and vote

### Minutes of the Meeting

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

There were 12 participants in attendance (\*Committee member)

Linda Alcorn\*  
Melissa Alldis\*  
Bernie Belarski\*  
Merindi Belarski\*  
Donna Cervantes\*  
Robert Coenraads\*  
Ian Esmore\*  
Julian Martin  
Delphine Swadling\*  
Kathleen Swadling\*  
Sue Tennant  
Judy Townsend\*

#### 2. Welcome and background briefing by the Chairperson/President.

Dear Committee and Friends,

Welcome to the FreeSchools World Literacy Annual General Meeting for 2013. Thank you for officially acknowledging your ability to participate in this meeting opening on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> March at 9:00am.

Please find attached the standard agenda for the Annual General Meeting. The main purpose of this meeting is to present the 2012 Annual Report containing the audited accounts of FreeSchools World Literacy for 2012 and to elect our new Committee of Management for 2013.

The AGM will run throughout March and April to make sure that all of the Committee have a chance to register and vote. Thank you for your continued support since the last AGM and for your attendance at this very important Annual General Meeting.

Please find attached, the Minutes of the 2012 Annual General Meeting held in March/April 2012. Could you please read and check those minutes to ensure they represent an accurate transcript of that meeting.

Thank you for your continued support since the last AGM and for your attendance at this meeting.

Kind regards,  
Dr. Robert Coenraads  
President; FreeSchools World Literacy - Australia

3. Minutes of previous year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) March-April 2012. As circulated to membership

Motion: That the minutes of the 2012 AGM be accepted by the Committee.  
Move: Melissa Alldis    Second: Robert Coenraads    Carried

4. President's Report.  
As circulated to membership

It has been over a decade now since Mark Bloomfield and I traveled to Motihari Evening School in Bihar State, India in 2000 – a single schoolhouse for the poor being run by Sister Crescence. There, I realized for the first time in my life, the real need for free education for the poor, and the ability of education to drastically change the lives of those who were lucky enough to get it. I also saw the benefits of that knowledge spread from the student back to their families and to the local community.

Now, thirteen years on, as we enter year 2013, there are over 3,000 students being taught by 87 teachers at 74 FreeSchools World Literacy funded centres in India, Bangladesh and Thailand, with donors in Australia having raised a total of \$62,320 to those efforts since that time. It costs approx. \$135, 000 to fund these schools annually.

Thanks to the continuing selfless work of our overseas field partners; Sister Crescence and the Fakirana Sisters Society in Bihar State, India; Rev. Ashish Amos and ISPCK in New Delhi; Amarok in Bangladesh; the Mirror Foundation team in Thailand; and, newly as of this year, Immanuel Mercy Reachout Ministries in Zambia; we are seeing the real benefits of this education flow back into the local community.

A total of \$12,098 was raised for FreeSchools World Literacy projects during 2012 in the following campaigns:

1. \$4,907 was raised for the Thai schools due the amazing efforts of the Townsend family & friends, and Linda Alcorn's fundraising efforts at Whitebridge High School. We are especially indebted to the ladies of Gosford North Inner Wheel for their support of the Thai FreeSchools. In addition to that, Judy Townsend initiated a new school uniform and FSWL logo project that has the potential to grow into the future such that all of our students can one-day proudly wear a uniform. A uniform formalizes the importance of education in a child's life and reinforces their feeling of belonging to the group.

2. \$3,989 was raised for the Indian FreeSchools in Bihar thanks to the fundraising efforts of a dedicated group of regular monthly donors including the Galloway Family, Kathleen and Trevor Swadling, Melissa Alldis, Bernie & Merindi Swadling, Andrew & Delphine Swadling, the Coenraads family, the Meredith Family, Cathy Hoffmann and members of the Forest Kirk Uniting Church.

3. \$1,500 was raised for the Immanuel Mercy School in Zambia, a brand new project on our books, thanks to the sterling and single-handed efforts of Donna Cervantes.

Last year FreeSchools World Literacy achieved the proud milestone of being granted signatory status to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and during 2013 we hope to be granted full membership of that organization and thus receive all of the privileges and recognition brought about by that membership.

In August 2012 FreeSchools World Literacy lodged its application documents with AusAID paving the way for recognition as an "Approved Organization" with that Australian government accreditation organization.

However, 2012 also marks for the first time our Australian organization has incurred significant administration costs. A total of \$2,484 was paid for 2012 & 2013 ACFID Code signatory fees. We have created a special ACFID fund to cover this necessity into which Julian Martin has generously pledged to donate our first three years of membership. By compartmentalizing our unavoidable administrative costs in this way such that they are supported by specialist donors such as Julian, we can continue to promise all of our regular and other donors that every cent they contribute will continue make its way to the needy FreeSchools of India, Thailand and Africa.

I would like to thank the FreeSchools World Literacy Committee of Management, many of whom have been members and donors since the Committee's inception, and especially Melissa Alldis, for taking on the Vice-Presidency role and tirelessly supporting the organization, both financially and through her efforts, which included writing and publishing the FreeSchools World Literacy newsletter for 2012.

Dr. Robert Coenraads  
President – FreeSchools World Literacy (Australia)

Motion: That the President's report be received and accepted as read.

Move: Robert Coenraads      Second: Kathleen Swadling      Carried:

## 5. Treasurer's Report.

Dear Committee,

I have the pleasure of submitting the FreeSchools World Literacy Financial Report and Audited Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2012 as part of full FreeSchools World Literacy Annual Report for 2012. The accounts are an unbroken record dating back to the beginnings of

Cash movements for year ended	Designated Project	Cash available at beginning of year	Cash raised during year	Cash disbursed during year	Cash available at year end
2012	Bihar, India	\$ 4,075	\$ 3,989	\$ 8,096	-\$ 32
2012	Thailand	\$ 5,205	\$ 4,907	\$ 8,757	\$ 1,355
2012	E.Callan MF	\$ 645		\$ 645	\$ -
2012	Africa	\$ 1,000	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,736	\$ 764
2012	F.C.Nieves MF	\$ 600	\$ -	\$ 600	\$ -
2012	ACFID Fund	\$ 800	\$ 1,684	\$ 2,484	\$ -
2012	Interest	\$ 37	\$ 18	\$ -	\$ 55
<b>TOTAL 2012</b>		<b>\$ 12,362</b>	<b>\$ 12,098</b>	<b>\$ 22,318</b>	<b>\$ 2,142</b>

FSWL in 2001 and are presented in ACFID standard format.

The figures in the President's Report are taken from the Cash Movement Summary, which shows \$12,362 available in the FreeSchools account at the beginning of the year, plus \$12,098 raised during 2012, minus \$22,318 dispersed during the year, giving a total of \$2,142 available at the end of December 2012.

Could you all please review the annual accounts in the FreeSchools World Literacy Annual Report to December 2012 for acceptance at this 2013 AGM

Motion: That the Treasurer's report, as part of the FSWL Annual Report for 2011 be received and accepted as read.

Move: Robert Coenraads                      Second: Kathleen Swadling      Carried:

## 6. Election of Committee of Management and Nomination of Public Officer

The majority of the 2012 FreeSchools World Literacy Committee of Management indicated its willingness to re-stand for office during 2013. They were elected as follows:

ROBERT COENRAADS nominated as President\_Chairperson FSWL

Move: Melissa Alldis      Second: Ian Esmore                      Carried:

DELPHINE SWADLING                      nominated as Secretary FSWL

Move: Melissa Alldis      Second: Ian Esmore                      Carried:

MERINDI BELARSKI nominated as Treasurer FSWL

Move: Melissa Alldis      Second: Ian Esmore                      Carried:

IAN ESMORE nominated as Public Officer FSWL

Move: Melissa Alldis      Second: Robert Coenraads                      Carried:

MELISSA ALLDIS nominated as Committee Member FSWL

Move: Robert Coenraads      Second: Ian Esmore                      Carried:

BERNARD GABRIEL BELARSKI nominated as Committee Member FSWL

Move: Melissa Alldis      Second: Ian Esmore                      Carried:

DONNA MARIE CERVANTES nominated as Committee Member FSWL

Move: Melissa Alldis      Second: Ian Esmore                      Carried:

KATHLEEN SWADLING nominated as Committee Member FSWL

Move: Melissa Alldis      Second: Ian Esmore                      Carried:

An expression of interest for membership to the Committee of Management has been received by the Secretary of the Committee from Donald Keith Norris via Robert Coenraads.

"I would like to present Mr Donald Norris to the FreeSchools World Literacy Committee of Management for consideration as a person suitable for a position of Ordinary Member on that Committee.

Don Lives in the Murwillumbah area in Northern NSW. He is an active member of the local Seventh Day Adventist Church and participates in a number of voluntary community activities both as part of the church and independently. Recently he was part of a voluntary group that raised funds in Australia and then travelled with that group to India to supervise a construction project for a school using those Australian donations to pay for materials and local labour.

I think that Don would be a valuable addition to our Committee capable of lending some very useful skills and expertise, and I move that he be accepted.”

DONALD KEITH NORRIS nominated as Committee Member FSWL

Move: Robert Coenraads

Second: Melissa Alldis

Carried:

## 7. Chairperson to confirm appointments.

President Robert Coenraads confirmed the appointments to the Committee of Management as listed in Item 6.

## 8. Confirm schedule of membership fees

It was confirmed that FSWL Australia will have NIL membership fees for 2013.

Move: Robert Coenraads

Second: Ian Esmore.

Carried

## 9. General Business :

ROBERT COENRAADS – I would like to propose a letter of thanks for

Mr Robert Mills CPA  
3 Wakely Place  
Forestville NSW 2087

On behalf of the Committee of Management of FreeSchools World Literacy for volunteering his services to audit our 2011 annual accounts.

As a result of his kindness, we do not have to spend valuable funds to pay an auditor (an ACFID requirement).

I would like to thank Melissa Alldis for preparing and sending that letter.

## 10. Set date and time for next Annual General Meeting. Close meeting

The next Annual General Meeting of FSWL will be held in March 2014.

The business of the meeting concluded at 7:00 pm on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> June 2013

The Committee is thanked for its involvement in the AGM

END OF MINUTES