



## Annual General Meeting 2014 for FreeSchools World Literacy Australia

### FreeSchools World Literacy Australia

ABN 13 233 167 644; Reg No = A0050403N

DATE commencing: Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> Apr 2014 TIME: 9:00 am  
DATE completion: Sunday 30<sup>th</sup> Aug 2014 TIME: 9:00 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)

Melissa Alldis\*  
Bernie Belarski\*  
Merindi Belarski\*  
Donna Cervantes\*  
Robert Coenraads\*  
Ian Esmore\*  
Delphine Swadling\*  
Kathleen Swadling\*  
Sue Tennant

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

Dear Committee and Friends,

It is now again time to announce our Annual General Meeting. Our 2014 AGM will be opened on Saturday 12th of April at 9:00am and will run as long as necessary, thereby allowing all of the Committee Members ample time to register and vote.

Please find attached the standard Agenda for the 2014 AGM. The main purpose of this meeting is to present the 2013 Annual Report containing the audited accounts of FreeSchools World Literacy for 2013, and to elect our new Committee of Management for 2014.

Could you please acknowledge your ability to participate in this year's AGM?

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) 2013

Motion: That the minutes of the 2014 AGM be accepted by the Committee.

Move: Robert Coenraads      Second: Kathleen Swadling      Carried

### 4. President's Report.

As circulated to membership

#### President's Report

It has been nearly a decade and a half now since Mark Bloomfield and I travelled to Motihari Evening School in Bihar State, India in 2000 – a single schoolhouse for the poor children of the village 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, fourteen years on, as we enter year 2014, there are over 3,000 students being taught by 87 teachers at 74 FreeSchools World Literacy funded centres in India, Bangladesh, Thailand, and Zambia with donors in Australia having raised a total of \$68,709 to those efforts since that time.

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 ISPCCK in New Delhi; Amarok in Bangladesh; the Mirror Foundation team in Thailand; and Immanuel Mercy Reachout Ministries in Zambia; we are seeing the real benefits of this education flow back into the local community.

A total of \$6,390 was raised for FreeSchools World Literacy aid projects during 2013 reporting period in the following campaigns:

1. \$3,240 was raised for the Thai schools due the efforts of the Townsend family, and Linda Alcorn's fundraising efforts at Whitebridge High School.
2. \$1,642 was raised for the Indian FreeSchools in Bihar thanks to the fundraising efforts of a dedicated group of regular monthly donors including Kathleen and Trevor Swadling, Melissa Alldis, Bernie & Merindi Swadling, Andrew & Delphine Swadling, the Coenraads family, the Meredith Family, and members of the Forest Kirk Uniting Church.
3. \$1,500 was raised for the Immanuel Mercy School in Zambia, our Africa project now one year old, thanks to the single-handed commitment of Donna Cervantes.

Last year FreeSchools World Literacy achieved the proud milestone of being granted full membership to the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and all of the privileges and recognition brought about by that membership. However it is with deep regret that we now relinquish that membership for 2014, choosing to instead apply the annual membership fee of \$1,753.40 to our overseas field projects where those funds can directly help the needy

I cannot justify to our 'mum, dad, family and church' general donors, the withholding such a significant amount (just under a third) of our donations received to cover fees in Australia while our overseas projects are wanting.

Involvement with ACFID during the past 2 years has been of immeasurable benefit; both to FreeSchools World Literacy the organization, and myself personally, as President. To mention but a few; going through the accreditation process and attending various training courses has resulted in a raft of essential policy and code of conduct documents for FSWL and, of course, high-quality audited annual accounts and reportage presented to ACFID standard. Standards that we plan to maintain in the future.

Finally, 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.

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

## 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 2013 as part of full FreeSchools World Literacy Annual Report for 2013. The accounts are an unbroken record dating back to the beginnings of FSWL in 2001 and are presented in ACFID standard format.

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
2013	Bihar, India	\$ (32)	\$ 1,642	\$ 1,410	\$ 200
2013	Thailand	\$ 1,355	\$ 3,240	\$ 4,195	\$ 400
2013	Africa	\$ 764	\$ 1,500	\$ 2,025	\$ 239
2013	Interest	\$ 55	\$ 8	\$ -	\$ 63
<b>TOTAL 2013</b>		<b>\$ 2,142</b>	<b>\$ 6,390</b>	<b>\$ 7,630</b>	<b>\$ 902</b>

The figures in the President's Report are taken from the Cash Movement Summary, which shows \$2,142 available in the FreeSchools account at the beginning of the year, plus \$6,390 raised during 2013, minus \$7,630 dispersed during the year, giving a total of \$ 902 available at the end of December 2013.

Motion: That the President's report and audited accounts be received and accepted as read as part of the FreeSchools World Literacy Annual Report for 2013.

Move: Ian Esmore      Second: Robert Coenraads      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: Ian Esmore      Second: Kathleen Swadling      Carried:

DELPHINE SWADLING nominated as Secretary FSWL  
Move: Robert Coenraads Second: Ian Esmore Carried:

MERINDI BELARSKI nominated as Treasurer FSWL  
Move: Robert Coenraads Second: Ian Esmore Carried:

IAN ESMORE nominated as Public Officer FSWL  
Move: Robert Coenraads Second: Ian Esmore Carried:

BERNARD GABRIEL BELARSKI nominated as Committee Member FSWL  
Move: Robert Coenraads Second: Ian Esmore Carried:

DONNA MARIE CERVANTES nominated as Committee Member FSWL  
Move: Robert Coenraads Second: Ian Esmore Carried:

KATHLEEN SWADLING nominated as Committee Member FSWL  
Move: Robert Coenraads Second: Ian Esmore 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: Ian Esmore Second: Kathleen Swadling 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).

ROBERT COENRAADS – I would like to propose a letter of thanks for Melissa Alldis – I would like to thank you for your service to the Committee of Management over the years, both on the executive as Vice-President and as Ordinary Member, and would welcome you back at any time in the future as opportunity permits.

A heartfelt thank you on behalf of the underprivileged FreeSchools World Literacy children for your continuing support of their education through your ongoing monthly donations.

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

The next Annual General Meeting of FSWL will be held in March 2015.

The business of the meeting concluded at 9:00 pm on Saturday 30<sup>th</sup> August 2013

The Committee is thanked for its involvement in the AGM

END OF MINUTES