



## Annual General Meeting 2017 for FreeSchools World Literacy Australia

### FreeSchools World Literacy Australia

ABN 13 233 167 644; Reg No = A0050403N

DATE commencing: Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> Feb 2017 TIME: 9:00 am  
DATE completion: Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2017 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 13 participants in attendance (\*Committee member)

Bernie Belarski\*  
Merindi Belarski\*  
Donna Cervantes\*  
Robert Coenraads\*  
Ian Esmore\*  
Marion Lesaffre  
Delphine Swadling\*  
Kathleen Swadling\*  
Graeme Chapman\*  
Anya Ramani\*  
Sue Tennant  
Thellie (Mirror Foundation)  
Veronica Zambesi (Immanuel Mercy Reachout Ministries)

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

Dear Committee and Friends,

It is now again that time of year to announce our Annual General Meeting.

I hope all of you have enjoyed a restful holiday season with family and friends. Visiting India last year has given me much cause to reflect on how lucky we are to be enjoying life in the luxury of a first world country.

Our 2017 AGM will open on Saturday 25th of February at 9:00am and run for a few weeks, thereby allowing all of the Committee Members ample time to register and participate in the meeting.

Please find attached the Agenda for the 2017 AGM. The main purpose of this meeting is to present the 2016 Annual Report containing the audited accounts of FreeSchools World Literacy for 2016, and to elect our new Committee of Management to steer us forward through 2017.

### 3. Minutes of previous year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2016

Motion: That the minutes of the 2016 AGM be accepted by the Committee.  
Move: Kathleen Swadling      Second: Ian Esmore      Carried

### 4. President's Report. As circulated to membership

It has been over 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, sixteen years on, 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 \$84,535 to those efforts since that time.

Also during 2016, I had the privilege of travelling to India, after such a long absence, to again see the FreeSchools, this time in the company of my daughter Francheska. We met with presidents Sue Tenant and Geri Johnson of FreeSchools World Literacy Canada and USA respectively and our international partners to discuss the way forward for FreeSchools in India.

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; Amarak 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 \$5,057 was raised for FreeSchools World Literacy aid projects during the 2016 reporting period in the following campaigns:

1. \$1,435 was raised for the Thai schools due the efforts of the Coenraads Family's Francis C. Nieves Memorial Fund, the Forest Kirk Women's Fellowship and Jacqueline Melilli.
  2. \$1,620 was raised for the Indian FreeSchools in Bihar thanks to the fundraising efforts of a dedicated group of regular donors including Melissa Alldis, Kathleen & Trevor Swadling, Andrew & Delphine Swadling, Che Stapleton, Isabel Abraham, Ken Morley and Tracy Falkner. This also includes student scholarships raised by the Forest Kirk KidzChurch (for Shilpi), Warrick & Lorna Brady (for Lalmuni), the Forest Kirk Men's Group (for Subhash) and Francheska Coenraads (for Ruby).
  3. \$2,000 was raised for the Immanuel Mercy School in Zambia, our Africa project, thanks to the single-handed commitment of Donna Cervantes and with thanks for the blessing of our Lord<sup>1</sup> on her successful retirement project.
- FreeSchools World Literacy maintains high-quality audited annual accounts and reportage presented to Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) standard.

Finally, I would especially 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 2016 as part of full FreeSchools World Literacy Annual Report for 2016. The accounts are an unbroken record dating back to the beginnings of FSWL in 2001 and are presented in ACFID standard format.

### FreeSchools World Literacy - Australia

#### TABLE OF CASH MOVEMENTS FOR DESIGNATED PURPOSES

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
2016	Bihar, India	\$ 75	\$ 1,620	\$ 1,600	\$ 95
2016	Thailand	\$ 20	\$ 1,435	\$ 1,435	\$ 20
2016	Africa	\$ 20	\$ 2,000	\$ 2,000	\$ 20
2016	Interest	\$ 72	\$ 2	\$ -	\$ 74
<b>TOTAL 2016</b>		<b>\$ 187</b>	<b>\$ 5,057</b>	<b>\$ 5,035</b>	<b>\$ 209</b>

The figures in the President's Report are taken from the Cash Movement Summary, which shows \$187 available in the FreeSchools account at the beginning of the year, plus \$5,057 raised during 2016, minus \$5,035 dispersed during the year, giving a total of \$ 209 available at the end of December 2016.

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 2016.

Move: Graeme Chapman Second: Ian Esmore; Donna Cervantes Carried:

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

The majority of the 2016 FreeSchools World Literacy Committee of Management indicated its willingness to re-stand for office during 2017. They were elected as follows:

ROBERT COENRAADS nominated as President\_Chairperson FSWL

Move: Kathleen Swadling Second: Merindi Belarski Carried:

IAN ESMORE nominated as Secretary FSWL

Move: Robert Coenraads Second: Kathleen Swadling Carried:

MERINDI BELARSKI nominated as Treasurer FSWL

Move: Ian Esmore Second: Kathleen Swadling 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: Merindi Belarski Carried:

GRAEME CHAPMAN nominated as Committee Member FSWL  
Move: Ian Esmore                      Second: Robert Coenraads                      Carried

MARION LESAFFRE nominated as Committee Member FSWL  
Move: Robert Coenraads                      Second: Merindi Belarski                      Carried

DELPHINE SWADLING nominated as Committee Member FSWL  
Move: Robert Coenraads                      Second: Merindi Belarski                      Carried:

KATHLEEN SWADLING nominated as Committee Member FSWL  
Move: Robert Coenraads                      Second: Ian Esmore                      Carried:

Anya Ramani is marrying this April and will take a break from serving on the 2017 Committee – we wish her and her husband Conarc Chugh all the best for their future together.

## 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 2017.

Move: Ian Esmore                      Second: Robert Coenraads                      Carried

## 9. General Business:

ROBERT COENRAADS – I have sent a letter of thanks to

Mr Robert Mills CPA  
3 Wakely Place  
Forestville NSW 2087

for volunteering his services to audit our 2016 annual accounts.

His volunteering to do this for us is as real to us as any monetary donation, which we would otherwise have to pay for this service to ensure our accounts remain compliant in Australia.

SUE TENNANT President FSWL Canada – Letter of thanks for Australian Committee

Dear Robert and loyal FSWL- Australia Supporters.  
Thank you Robert for your steadfast leadership and to all the board members for your unflinching support of FreeSchools World Literacy - AU.

This past year has been a struggle - more than in years past. ISPCK lost its foreign currency charity status, but recently won it back due to a forgotten Dalit charity established years ago.

We alone were not able to raise enough funds for our Thai FreeSchools and sadly had to withdraw our funding.

Meanwhile, Derek and I, and new owners of Silver Springs, were able to invite Ella's daughter (a lawyer) to come to Canada with a job offer. We hope this works out. Prayer will help. We just received a donation of \$3000. Thank You God!

Love Sue & Derek

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

The next Annual General Meeting of FSWL will commence in March 2018.

The Committee is thanked for its involvement in the AGM

END OF MINUTES