



Annual General Meeting 2018 for FreeSchools World Literacy Australia

FreeSchools World Literacy Australia

ABN 13 233 167 644; Reg No = A0050403N

DATE commencing: Sunday 3rd Mar 2018 TIME: 9:00 am
DATE completion: Sunday 5th Aug 2018 TIME: 9:00 pm

INTERNET VENUE: FreeSchools Literacy Australia email network
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)

Graeme Chapman*
Sister Mary Crescence
Bernie Belarski*
Merindi Belarski*
Donna Cervantes*
Robert Coenraads*
Ian Esmore*
Raymond Hockley
Marion Lesaffre*
Ella Sonawane
Delphine Swadling*
Kathleen Swadling*
Derek 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.

I hope all of you have enjoyed a restful holiday season with family and friends, and I look forward to sharing with you some of our project achievements this last year.

Our 2018 AGM will open on Saturday 3rd of March at 9:00am and run for a few weeks, thereby allowing all of the Committee Members ample time to register and vote.

Please find attached the standard Agenda for the 2018 AGM. The main purpose of this meeting is to present the 2017 Annual Report containing the audited accounts of FreeSchools World Literacy for 2017, and to elect our new Committee of Management for 2018.

Now, most importantly, as we commence our 2018 Annual General Meeting, we should reflect on our beautiful international and Canadian President, Sue Tennant, whom we just so recently lost.

Without her FreeSchools World Literacy will never be the same, but nevertheless we must continue to do her proud and soldier on.

We will miss her communications and especially her support and encouragement for FreeSchools-Australia. She always attended our Australian AGM, for example:

AGM 2016 Thank you Robert for your steadfast leadership and to all the board members for your unfailing support of FreeSchools World Literacy - AU. You have helped so many supporters of FreeSchools be champions of Light. Thank you so much! You continue to learn about people and embrace human need with kindness and generosity. We live this life in modest ways to affirm that the true law and purpose among all humanity is to love one another as God loves us. To be aware of that is a privilege and a joy!

AGM 2017 Let's remember how lucky we are for our special opportunities to work among and support the poorest of the poor. We have broadened our experience through unique relationships and that learning is harboured in our souls. I believe it will be very useful in the next life.

To Sue's hard work and enthusiasm we owe our formal charitable structure and the FreeSchools Mission Statement

The purpose of FreeSchools World Literacy can be summarized as follows: to break the cycle of ignorance and poverty through free education by providing literacy programs; teacher/employment training; income-producing skills, health education; food and clothing; and researching and documenting changes in the wellbeing of the community

We should stand proud on what we are striving for as members and friends of FreeSchools World Literacy.

Let us hold this meeting in honour of Sue Tennant.

3. Minutes of previous year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) 201

Motion: That the minutes of the 2017 AGM be accepted by the Committee.
Move: Ian Esmore Second: Kathleen Swadling Carried

4. President's Report. As circulated to membership

It has been nearly two decades 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.

Since that time, donors in Australia have raised a total of \$90,000 towards our educational efforts.

This year we have achieved a significant milestone in our work in both Thailand and Zambia:-

1. In Thailand, the program that FreeSchools World Literacy has maintained and improved over the past nine years, will now run without our help under the supervision of the Mirror Foundation. The Thai government continues playing its part - taking on funding of those schools that demonstrate their importance to the local community by having maintained full enrolment for a period of 3 years.

2. In Zambia, Immanuel Mercy's Kantalomba School is now self-sufficient. The Zambian government will manage the teacher's salary costs previously covered by FreeSchools World Literacy. We acknowledge Committee Member, Donna Cervantes, for her single-handed support of the project, and echo the sentiments of Raymond Hockley of Swan Christian College, Perth, "...my heartfelt gratitude on behalf of myself and the people of Kantolomba for Donna's support over all these years. We have been fortunate to have the faithful support of Donna to cover this teacher's salary up until this time where the government is prepared to step in. Thank you again and may the Lord Jesus bless you in all that you do." On behalf of the FreeSchools Committee of Management, I again congratulate Donna on achieving this important milestone.

We have done our job; FreeSchools has completed its mission in Thailand and Zambia. We are now able to turn our resources to the Indian schools and the great need of the children there through the selfless work of our field partner; Sister Crescence and the Fakirana Sisters Society in Bihar State, India; where we are seeing the real benefits of this education flow back into the local community.

In Bihar State, we have 980 students being taught by 27 teachers at 23 FreeSchools World Literacy funded centres.

A total of \$5,226 was raised for FreeSchools World Literacy aid projects during the 2017 reporting period for the Free Schools in Bihar, India, thanks to the fundraising efforts of a dedicated group of regular donors including Isabel Abraham, Melissa Alldis, Donna Cervantes, Catherine Hoffmann, Marion Lesaffre, Bob Mills, Che Stapleton, Kathleen & Trevor Swadling, Andrew & Delphine Swadling, Ken Morley, the Coenraads Family's Francis C. Nieves Memorial Fund, the Forest Kirk Women's Fellowship 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). (FreeSchools World Literacy annual registration fees of \$55.80 were donated and paid directly by Secretary Ian Esmore).

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 2017 as part of full FreeSchools World Literacy Annual Report for 2017. 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
2017	Bihar, India	\$ 95	\$ 5,224	\$ 20	\$ 5,299
2017	Thailand	\$ 20	\$ -	\$ 20	\$ -
2017	Africa	\$ 20	\$ -	\$ 20	\$ -
2017	Interest	\$ 74	\$ 2	\$ -	\$ 76
TOTAL 2017		\$ 209	\$ 5,226	\$ 60	\$ 5,375
Note: International transfer of funds to India \$5,370.00 on 7/1/2018					

The figures in the President's Report are taken from the Cash Movement Summary, which shows \$209 available in the FreeSchools account at the beginning of the year, plus \$5,226 raised during 2017, minus \$60 dispersed during the year, giving a total of \$5,375 available at the end of December 2017 and this amount formed the majority of the transfer to India made on 7/1/2018

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 2017.

Move: Kathleen Swadling Second: Graeme Chapman Carried:

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

The 2017 FreeSchools World Literacy Committee of Management indicated its willingness to re-stand for office during 2018. They were elected as follows:

ROBERT COENRAADS nominated as President_Chairperson FSWL
Move: Kathleen Swadling Second: Ian Esmore Carried:

IAN ESMORE nominated as Secretary FSWL
Move: Robert Coenraads Second: Kathleen Swadling Carried:

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

BERNARD GABRIEL BELARSKI nominated as Committee Member FSWL
Move: Robert Coenraads Second: Kathleen Swadling Carried:

DONNA MARIE CERVANTES nominated as Committee Member FSWL
Move: Robert Coenraads Second: Kathleen Swadling Carried:

GRAEME CHAPMAN nominated as Committee Member FSWL
Move: Robert Coenraads Second: Kathleen Swadling Carried

MARION LESAFFRE nominated as Committee Member FSWL
Move: Robert Coenraads Second: Kathleen Swadling Carried

DELPHINE SWADLING nominated as Committee Member FSWL
Move: Robert Coenraads Second: Kathleen Swadling 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: Robert Coenraads Second: Ian Esmore Carried

9. General Business:

ROBERT COENRAADS –

Under this item, I would like to note (for our Minutes) the following votes of formal thanks:

1. I have sent a letter of thanks to Bob Mills CPA for auditing our annual accounts to the standard of the ACFID Code.

Mr Robert Mills CPA
3 Wakely Place
Forestville NSW 2087

2. I would like to formally thank Vern Verass of the creative agency Design Direction www.designd.com.au for preparing the FreeSchools Newsletter.

3. I would like to formally thank Committee Member Graeme Chapman of Architectural Art <http://www.archart.com.au/> for his work in updating the FreeSchools Australian Webpage.

www.robertcoenraads.com.au/freeschools.htm

It is a great step forward that donations can now be made directly via Donorbox, and all of our Newsletters, Annual Reports, AGM Minutes, Ordinary Minutes, and Policy/Code of Conduct documents can now be easily accessed by any interested party.

These volunteer efforts in support of FreeSchools World Literacy are as real to us as any monetary donation, as we would otherwise have to pay with valuable donor funds for these services..

SISTER CRESCENCE

DEREK but wonderful is your faith that can think beyond the perishable life and can hold on to eternal truth. Your faith "SUE is gone but she is alive" is admirable. After reading your letter I felt courage within me. You were blessed to have her as life companion. Today too she is your supporter. Although I got few occasions when I got chance to know her kindness and great thoughts. In those few moments I was highly impressed by her views and kindness towards the poor and needy people. You must be proud that god blessed you with such a great personality. I understand that the words are not enough to heel this great loss but you need to keep patience at this hard time.

All the members of the society have sent their sincere sympathy to you and your family. May you get some comfort in this difficult situation. Please do not give up.

We all will be always there for you in all the difficult and hard time of your and we hope that you will also not unhold us.

"A LOSS TO US IS A GAIN TO OUR GOD SO LETS REJOICE TO THOSE WHO WILL SEE HER AFTER THIS LIFE"

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

The next Annual General Meeting of FSWL will commence in March 2019.

The Committee is thanked for its involvement in the AGM

END OF MINUTES