



## Annual General Meeting 2021 for FreeSchools World Literacy Australia

### FreeSchools World Literacy Australia

ABN 13 233 167 644; Reg No = A0050403N

DATE commencing: Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2021 TIME: 9:00 am  
DATE completion: Friday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2021 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)

Melissa Aldis  
Bernie Belarski\*  
Merindi Belarski\*  
Graeme Chapman\*  
Robert Coenraads\*  
Sister Mary Crescence  
Ian Esmore\*  
Marion Lesaffre\*  
Julian Martin  
Saskia Raevouri  
Delphine Swadling\*  
Kathleen Swadling\*  
Derek Tennant

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

Dear Committee and Friends,

Our 2021 AGM will open Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> of February at 9:00am and run for an extended period, thereby allowing all of the Committee Members ample time to register and vote. This year we have been granted extra time within which to submit our minutes due to COVID19. Ian Esmore will submit our meeting minutes.

Please find attached the standard Agenda for the 2020 AGM. The main purpose of this meeting is to present the 2020 Annual Report containing the audited accounts of FreeSchools World Literacy for 2019, and to elect our new Committee of Management for 2020.

#### 3. Minutes of previous year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2020

Motion: That the minutes of the 2020 AGM be accepted by the Committee.

Move: Graeme Chapman      Second: Ian Esmore      Carried

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

It has been two decades now since Mark Bloomfield and I traveled 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 saw, 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, Australian donors have raised a total of \$101,991 towards our educational efforts.

2020 has been a difficult year for the world as a whole, and particularly for our Indian FreeSchools. Sister Crescence reports that the students were required to stay at home for the majority of the year (March 23<sup>rd</sup> to end December). In spite of lock down the teachers were paid regularly, for some month full pay and then half for some months. The office remained open. As of the second week in January 2021, the FreeSchools have reopened, while observing the Covid-19 social distancing and other safety protocols.

Sister Crescence advises that, apart from Shilpi who is still studying is in Class 10<sup>th</sup> grade this year, the remainder of our scholarship children have become independent: Subash, the aspiring engineer, has graduated and has a job; Lalmuni has finished the first part of B.A is soon be married; and Rubi now independently earns her living working for a nun.

In Bihar State, we have 1148 students being taught by 27 teachers at 23 FreeSchools World Literacy funded centres.

A total of \$3,985 was raised during the 2020 reporting period for the Free Schools in Bihar, India, thanks to our dedicated group of regular donors including Melissa Alldis, Marion Lesaffre, Julian Martin, Chelsea McLean, Bob Mills, Ken Morley, Saskia Raevouri, Che Stapleton, Kathleen & Trevor Swadling, Andrew & Delphine Swadling, the Coenraads Family's Francis C. Nieves Memorial Fund, Margaret Walls, and the Forest Kirk Women's Fellowship. This also includes student scholarships raised by the Forest Kirk KidzChurch (for Shilpi), and Warrick & Lorna Brady (for Lalmuni). FreeSchools World Literacy annual registration fees of \$59.20 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.

I have the pleasure of submitting the FreeSchools World Literacy Financial Report and Audited Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2020 as part of full FreeSchools World Literacy Annual Report for 2020. 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
2020	Bihar, India	\$ 30.25	\$ 3,984.52	\$ -	\$ 4,014.77
2020	Interest	\$ -	\$ 0.79	\$ -	\$ 0.79
<b>TOTAL 2020</b>		<b>\$ 30.25</b>	<b>\$ 3,985.31</b>	<b>\$ -</b>	<b>\$ 4,015.56</b>

#### Statement:

1. FreeSchools World Literacy is reliant on donations for its overseas projects and is financially healthy. During 2020 FreeSchools raised \$3,985, bringing its available cash balance to \$4,015 on December 31, 2020. On Jan 8, 2021 FreeSchools sent this \$4,015 to its India Project (2020 donations) reducing the cash balance to zero.

2. These funds were disbursed in their entirety to FreeSchools project in Bihar, India where they were used to pay salaries of teachers working at the FreeSchools according to the disbursement letter. This works out to be an average cost of about \$15 to \$20 per year per child being educated and we consider this application of donor funds to be highly effective in providing an education to disadvantaged children.

3. Although currently not a financial member of ACFID, FreeSchools World Literacy remains fully committed to full adherence to the ACFID Code of Conduct.

4. Complaints can be lodged against FreeSchools World Literacy with the President of the Organization, Dr Robert Coenraads, or any of the other members of the FreeSchools World Literacy Committee of Management, whose full contact details are provided in this report.

6. Complaints about a breach of the Code of Conduct can be made directly to Code Manager of the ACFID Code of Conduct Committee, by completing a complaint form on their website <http://www.acfid.asn.au/code-of-conduct/files/complaint-form>, and attaching all relevant information.

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 2020.

Move: Derek Tennant

Second: Ian Esmore

Carried

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

The majority of the 2020 FreeSchools World Literacy Committee of Management indicated their willingness to re-stand for office during 2021. The Committee members were elected as follows:

ROBERT COENRAADS.	nominated as President FSWL	
Move: Kathleen Swadling	Second: Saskia Raevouri/Ian Esmore	Carried:
IAN ESMORE.	nominated as Secretary/ Public Officer FSWL	
Move: Robert Coenraads	Second: Kathleen Swadling	Carried:
MERINDI BELARSKI.	nominated as Treasurer FSWL	
Move: Robert Coenraads	Second: Kathleen Swadling	Carried:
BERNIE BELARSKI .	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:

## 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

We have not had membership fees to date as we have left it up to Committee members to decide in what manner they wish to contribute to the FreeSchools project, with most making monthly donations according to their capability, or donating in terms of their time and effort.

And I would like to take this opportunity to again thank Ian and Marion for their most-generous contributions to the emergency situation of Covid/flooding being faced by the children and their families in India at the present time.

I think that we should continue to operate as we have successfully been doing to date, and I MOVE that the schedule of membership fees remain at \$0 for present.

Move: Robert Coenraads                      Second: Kathleen Swadling                      Carried

It was confirmed that FSWL Australia will have NIL membership fees for 2021.

## 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 and Certificate of Thanks to Bob Mills CPA for auditing our annual accounts to the standard of the ACFID Code.

2. I would like to formally thank Committee Member Graeme Chapman of Architectural Art <http://www.archart.com.au/> for uploading the 2020 FSWL Annual Report, and these Minutes to the FreeSchools Australian Web page which can be found at the following addresses:

**[www.freeschools.org.au](http://www.freeschools.org.au)**

**[www.robertcoenraads.com.au/freeschools.htm](http://www.robertcoenraads.com.au/freeschools.htm)**

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.

3. On the 30<sup>th</sup> August, a sum of \$1500 (generously donated by Ian Esmore and Marion Lesaffre) was transferred to Fakirana sisters Society FCRA Account in the State Bank of India (4th Floor, New Delhi main Branch, 11 sansad Marg , New Delhi -110001, Account Number: - 40112371415. IFSC code: - SBIN0000691. SWIFT Code: - SBININBB104. Branch code: - 00691). The amount received was INR 78249

These funds will go directly towards providing relief for the combined COVID19 and flood disasters bringing such hardship to that part of the world.

4. A report on the Sisters' food relief efforts, prepared by Sister Crescence and Nitesh Kumar was tabled and sent to the FSWL Committee of Management and Friends.

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

The 2021 AGM was closed on the 13<sup>th</sup> August 2021.

The next Annual General Meeting of FSWL will commence in February 2022.

The Committee is thanked for its involvement in the AGM

END OF MINUTES