



Annual General Meeting 2022 for FreeSchools World Literacy Australia

FreeSchools World Literacy Australia

ABN 13 233 167 644; Reg No = A0050403N

DATE commencing: Saturday 19th February 2022 TIME: 9:30 am
DATE completion: Sunday 22nd May 2022 TIME: 6:30 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 12 participants in attendance (*Committee member)

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,

Welcome to our 2022 AGM this Saturday morning 19th of March. Our meeting will run for a few weeks, thereby allowing all of the Committee Members ample time to participate. This year we will try to be a little quicker to enable Ian Esmore to submit our meeting minutes and reports on time.

The main purpose of this meeting is to present the 2021 Annual Report containing the audited accounts of FreeSchools World Literacy for 2021, and to elect our new Committee of Management for 2022 according to the standard Agenda for the 2022 AGM.

3. Minutes of previous year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2021

Motion: That the minutes of the 2021 AGM be accepted by the Committee.

Move: Graeme Chapman Second: Kathleen Swadling Carried

4. President's Report. As circulated to membership

It has been over 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 realised 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 lucky enough to receive it. I also saw the benefits of that knowledge flow from the student to their families and into the local community. Since that time, Australian donors have raised a total of \$107,806 towards our educational efforts.

2021 has been another difficult year for the world as a whole, and particularly for our Indian FreeSchools. Our in-country co-ordinator, Sister Mary Crescence reports that the Bihar region continued to be plagued by job losses due to the Covid pandemic and damage to infrastructure, homes and crops due to flooding of the Ganges River and its tributaries, combined with an unusually severe winter.

As a result Australia participated in the funding of two emergency programs during 2021; the food relief program and the winter clothing appeal. In spite of these setbacks, Bihar's Free Schools and the Bridge Course have continued to operate successfully.

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

With respect to our current scholarship students, Sister Crescence advises that Shilpi (funded by the Forest Kirk Kidz Church) finished Class 10th grade this year, and that five promising new students have been selected as prospective candidates for our scholarship program.

A total of \$5,815 was raised during the 2021 reporting period for the Free Schools in Bihar, India, thanks to our dedicated group of regular donors including Melissa Alldis, Bernie & Merindi Belarski, Janine Campbell, Ian & Isobel Esmore, Marion Lesaffre, Julian Martin, Chelsea McLean, Bob Mills, Ken Morley, Saskia Raevouri, Che Stapleton, Kathleen & Trevor Swadling, Andrew & Delphine Swadling, Warrick & Lorna Brady, the Coenraads Family's Francis C. Nieves Memorial Fund, Margaret Walls, and the Forest Kirk Women's Fellowship. This also includes a scholarship raised by the Forest Kirk KidzChurch for Shilpi). 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.

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 2021 as part of full FreeSchools World Literacy Annual Report for 2021. 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 |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2021 | Bihar, India | \$ 4,015.56 | \$ 5,815.00 | \$ 9,780.56 | \$ 50.00 |
| 2021 | Interest | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - |
| TOTAL 2021 | | \$ 4,015.56 | \$ 5,815.00 | \$ 9,780.56 | \$ 50.00 |

Statement:

1. FreeSchools World Literacy is reliant on donations for its overseas projects and is financially healthy. During 2021 FreeSchools raised \$5,815 and disbursed \$9,780 (which includes international transfer of funds to India \$4,015.56 on 8/1/2021 for 2020 donations, \$1,500 on 30/8/2021 for pandemic and flood relief, and \$4,225 on 29/12/2021 for 2021 donations, and \$40 transfer fees). On December 31, 2021 the available cash balance was \$50.
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 2021.

Move: Graeme Chapman

Second: Kathleen Swadling

Carried

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

The 2021 FreeSchools World Literacy Committee of Management indicated their willingness to re-stand for office during 2022. The Committee members were elected as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------------|---|----------|
| ROBERT COENRAADS. | nominated as President FSWL | |
| Move: Kathleen Swadling | Second: 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: Ian Esmore | Carried: |
| GRAEME CHAPMAN . | nominated as Committee Member FSWL | |
| Move: Robert Coenraads | Second: Ian Esmore | 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

It is a formality that the Committee decide upon membership fees at the AGM.

Previously we have elected to have no membership fees, thereby enabling each member of the Committee and Friends to contribute as they are able and are motivated.

And I would like to take this opportunity to again thank Graeme Chapman for volunteering his time on maintaining the FreeSchools Australia website

I believe 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: Ian Esmore Carried

It was confirmed that FSWL Australia will have NIL membership fees for 2022.

9. General Business:

ROBERT COENRAADS –

Under this item, I would like to note in these 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 2021 FSWL Annual Report and these Minutes to the FreeSchools Australian Web page which can be found at the following addresses:

www.freeschools.org.au

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. I would like to formally thank Committee Member Ian Esmore for his work in maintaining the registration of FreeSchools World Literacy up to date and paid, and submitting our Annual Report and Minutes.

4. During the course of our AGM, we received 2021-2022 annual reports on the Indian FreeSchools Program and the Bridge Course prepared by Sister Crescence and Nitesh Kumar. These reports were sent to the FSWL Committee of Management and Friends and tabled for inclusion in our 2022 report.

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

The 2022 AGM was closed at 6:30 pm Sunday 22nd May 2022

The next Annual General Meeting of FSWL will commence in February 2023.

The Committee is thanked for its involvement in the AGM

END OF MINUTES