



Annual General Meeting 2023 for FreeSchools World Literacy Australia

FreeSchools World Literacy Australia

ABN 13 233 167 644; Reg No = A0050403N

DATE commencing: Saturday 25th February 2023 TIME: 9:00 am
DATE completion: Thursday 30th March 2023 TIME: 9:00 am

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 10 participants in attendance (*Committee member, **New 2023 member)

Bernie Belarski*
Merindi Belarski*
Graeme Chapman*
Robert Coenraads*
Marion Lesaffre*
Phillip Marriott**
Melissa Schellekens**
Delphine Swadling*
Kathleen Swadling*
Derek Tennant

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

Dear Committee and Friends,

Welcome to our 2023 AGM this Saturday morning 25th of February. Our meeting will run for a few weeks throughout February and March, thereby allowing all of the Committee Members ample time to participate.

We dedicate this meeting in special honour of Ian Esmore, our Committee of Management's Public Officer and Secretary.

Ian was involved with FreeSchools World Literacy since its inception in 2000. He loved the concept of FreeSchools and what the charity was able to achieve in the bettering of the lives, via education, of some of India's and Thailand's most underprivileged children.

Ian was responsible for development of our 'Modal Laws of the Organisation' and the formation and structure of our Committee of Management. He was involved with the formal incorporation of the Australian branch of FreeSchools World Literacy on the 16th July 2007 (number A0050403N) with Consumer Affairs Victoria. As a member of Rotary in Victoria, Ian was also responsible for our close association with that organization over the years.

Ian was elected foundational Secretary/Public Officer at our first Annual General Meeting in 2007 and has been re-elected onto the Committee every year since that time.

Ian's drive and desire has formed the cornerstone of our Committee over the years and his infectious enthusiasm will be sorely missed from our ranks.

3. Minutes of previous year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2022

Motion: That the minutes of the 2022 AGM be accepted by the Committee.

Move: Robert Coenraads Second: Kathleen Swadling Carried

4. President's Report. As circulated to membership

I am proud to announce that Australian donors have raised a total of \$111,902 towards our educational efforts since FreeSchools World Literacy's humble beginnings in the year 2000 as a single-classroom evening school for the poor children of Motihari village—a concept developed by our in-country partner, Sister Crescence, with help from founding supporter Mark Bloomfield.

Over the past two decades the outcomes have been life-changing for thousands of children otherwise unable to attain an education, with the benefit of that knowledge flowing from the students to their families and to the local community.

Our Schools

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

A total of \$4,116 was raised during the 2022 reporting period for the FreeSchools centres in Bihar, India, thanks to our dedicated group of regular donors including Phil and Pam Allen, Melissa Alldis, Bernie & Merindi Belarski, Ian & Isobel Esmore, Marion Lesaffre, Julian Martin, Julian McGarry, Chelsea McLean, Bob Mills, Ken Morley, Che Stapleton, Kathleen & Trevor Swadling, Andrew & Delphine Swadling, Warrick & Lorna Brady, the Coenraads Family's Francis C. Nieves Memorial Fund, the Forest Kirk Men's Fellowship and the Forest Kirk Women's Fellowship. This also includes payment of \$700 for scholarships for five girls. 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 and which have been audited by accountant Bob Mills.

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 2022 as part of full FreeSchools World Literacy Annual Report for 2022. The accounts are an unbroken record dating back to the beginnings of FSWL in 2001 and are presented in ACFID standard format.

MERINDI BELARSKI. Move: Robert Coenraads	nominated as Treasurer FSWL Second: Kathleen Swadling	Carried:
BERNIE BELARSKI . Move: Robert Coenraads	nominated as Committee Member FSWL Second: Kathleen Swadling	Carried:
GRAEME CHAPMAN . Move: Robert Coenraads	nominated as Committee Member FSWL Second: Kathleen Swadling	Carried:
MARION LESAFFRE . Move: Robert Coenraads	nominated as Committee Member FSWL Second: Kathleen Swadling	Carried:
PHILLIP MARRIOTT . Move: Robert Coenraads	nominated as Committee Member FSWL Second: Kathleen Swadling	Carried:
DELPHINE SWADLING . Move: Robert Coenraads	nominated as Committee Member FSWL Second: Kathleen Swadling	Carried:
KATHLEEN SWADLING. Move: Robert Coenraads	nominated as Committee Member FSWL Second: Merindi Belarski	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 each 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 to the operations of FreeSchools World Literacy throughout the course of 2023.

A number of our members make a monthly donation while others serve through contributing their time, for example helping manage our website, or with lodgement of our annual reports.

This provides a much more flexible approach where members serve according to their individual motivations, abilities and strengths, as opposed to an arbitrarily-imposed set contribution.

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 2023.

Move: Robert Coenraads Second: Kathleen Swadling Carried

It was confirmed that FSWL Australia will have NIL membership fees for 2023.

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.

The Committee formally thanks 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. Ian's position of Secretary/Public Officer on the Committee will now be taken over by Melissa Schellekens

During the year 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.

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

The 2022 AGM was closed at 9:00 am Thursday 30th March 2023

The next Annual General Meeting of FSWL will commence in February 2024.

The Committee is thanked for its involvement in the AGM

END OF MINUTES