



Annual General Meeting 2025 for FreeSchools World Literacy Australia

FreeSchools World Literacy Australia

ABN 13 233 167 644; Reg No = A0050403N

DATE commencing: Friday 27th January 2025 TIME: 9:00 am
DATE completion: Friday 30st May 2025 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 9 participants in attendance (*Committee member, **New 2024 member)

Merindi Belarski*
Graeme Chapman*
Robert Coenraads*
Fher Merino**
Melissa Schellekens*
Delphine Swadling*
Kathleen Swadling*

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

Dear Committee and Friends,

Welcome to our 2025 AGM this Friday morning 27th of January. Our meeting will run for a few weeks throughout February and March, thereby allowing all of the Committee Members ample time to participate.

This year I have been in contact with you personally to thank you for your ongoing support of India's poor children during 2024. You should be pleased to know that last year we sent a total of \$4,385 to India.

Sister Crescence acknowledged receipt of these funds on 4th February, as follows:
Many, many thanks your fund has reached to us. You have taken lot of trouble for getting back the money and sending it us. We have received INR 230807 Rupees. God will bless you and your family in abundances. With much love, Sr. Crescence

3. Minutes of previous year's Annual General Meeting (AGM) 2024

Motion: That the minutes of the 2024 AGM be accepted by the Committee.

Move: Kathleen Swadling Second: Robert Coenraads Carried

4. President's Report. As circulated to membership

I am proud to announce that Australian donors have raised a total of \$122,582 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 quarter century 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 over 1370 students being taught by 27 teachers at 27 FreeSchools World Literacy funded centres.

A total of \$4,435 was raised during the 2024 calendar year for the FreeSchools centres in Bihar, India, thanks to our dedicated group of regular donors¹ including Melissa Aldis, Warrick & Lorna Brady, Chelsea McLean, Bob Mills, Kenneth & Elizabeth Morley, Che Stapleton, Kathleen & Trevor Swadling, Andrew & Delphine Swadling, the Coenraads Family's Francis C. Nieves Memorial Fund, and the Forest Kirk Men's Fellowship, Women's Fellowship and Kidz Club. This will be used for FreeSchools teachers' salaries and scholarships for the five girls we are sponsoring. FreeSchools World Literacy annual registration fees of \$47.70 were donated and paid directly by Secretary Melissa Schellekens.

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, some 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 2023 as part of full FreeSchools World Literacy Annual Report for 2023. 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
2024	Bihar, India	\$ 20.00	\$ 4,435.00	\$ 4,405.00	\$ 50.00
2024	Interest	\$ -	\$ -		\$ -
TOTAL 2024		\$ 20.00	\$ 4,435.00	\$ 4,405.00	\$ 50.00

Statement:

1. FreeSchools World Literacy is reliant on donations for its overseas projects and is financially healthy. During 2024 FreeSchools raised \$4,435, and dispersed \$4,405 bringing its available cash balance to \$50 on December 31, 2024.

2. These donated funds were disbursed in their entirety to FreeSchools projects in Bihar, India where they were used to pay salaries of teachers working at FreeSchools centres plus scholarships for five girls who will continue their studies during 2025 and the \$20 bank international transfer charges were paid by Robert Coenraads. 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 the Australian Council for International Development (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.

5. 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 2024.

Move: Graeme Chapman Second: Kathleen Swadling Carried

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

The 2024 FreeSchools World Literacy Committee of Management indicated their willingness to re-stand for office during 2025. The Committee members were elected as follows:

ROBERT COENRAADS nominated as President_Chairperson FSWL
Move: Kathleen Swadling Second: Graeme Chapman Carried:

MELISSA SCHELLEKENS nominated as Secretary/Public Officer FSWL
Move: Robert Coenraads Second: Delphine Swadling Carried:

MERINDI BELARSKI nominated as Treasurer FSWL
Move: Robert Coenraads Second: Delphine Swadling Carried:

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

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

FHER MERINO nominated as Committee Member FSWL
Move: Robert Coenraads Second: Delphine 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: Delphine Swadling 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 2025.

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 Report and AGM Minutes.

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 2025.

Move: Robert Coenraads Second: Melissa Schellekens/Kathleen Swadling Carried

It was confirmed that FSWL Australia will have NIL membership fees for 2024.

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 2024 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

3. I would like to formally thank Public Officer/Secretary Melissa Schellekens for submitting our 2024 Annual Report and Minutes of the 2025 Annual General Meeting to Consumer Affairs, Victoria as part of our statutory requirements.

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.

During the year 2022-2023 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 2025 AGM was closed at 9:00 pm Friday 30th May 2025

The next Annual General Meeting of FSWL will commence in February 2026.

The Committee is thanked for its involvement in the AGM

END OF MINUTES