



GFS Australia Incorporated
ABN 92 153 260 694
Annual General Meeting
Morpeth, NSW
4th February, 2017
Minutes



Meeting opened : Gail Orchard, our National President, officially opened the Annual General Meeting at 2.05pm, thanking the members of GFS Newcastle, Tanya Brown from GFS Sydney and Barbara Phillips from GFS Tasmania for being present. The Venerable Canon Sonia Roulston led us in prayer and Acknowledgement of Country.

Present : Gail Orchard (National President), The Venerable Canon Sonia Roulston (National Chaplain), The Reverend Canon Cheryl Selvage (National Vice-President), Canon Val Gribble (National Executive Member and World President), Noeleen Stewart (National Treasurer), Helen Petering (National Executive Member), Marj Wellings (National Executive Member), Abuok Majuk (National Junior Delegate), Nicole Baldwin (National Secretary), Rhonda Stevenson, Barbara Phillips, Joan Nicholson, Audrey Fuller, Rosemary Neave, Tania Brown, Ella Means, Noelene Lentfer, Evelyn Turner, Elaine Wilson

Apologies and Greetings : Leanne Kapetanovski, Lauren Kitwood, Deb Wadeson, Kate Brewer, Elizabeth Petering, Mary Nicholls, Yvonne Round, Lillian Morgan, Jennifer Buckby, Julie Smith

Minutes

The Minutes for the previous Annual General Meeting at Belair, South Australia on 5th June with amendments were then moved by The Reverend Canon Cheryl Selvage and seconded by Helen Petering to be a true and accurate record.

Business Arising

No Business Arising.

Reports

President's Report

- Gail's year has been one full of travel and delight in participating with GFS groups around Australia

Treasurers Report

- Noeleen's report was tabled as presented and discussed.
- The Auditors Report was also tabled.
- It's been a busy year of organisation for World Council.
- Leanne Kapetanovski asked by email why World Council monies were going through GFS Australia books. The answer is because to carry out business and have a bank account in Australia, an ABN is required. There is an account that is administered by Val Gribble and Ros Lumsden for these purposes.
- Donations are transferred from ANZ World Project (Japan) account to the World Account two to three times per year, depending on the amount of funds held.
- Total current assets include \$112000 World Council funds.
- The GST refunds will be calculated for GFS Australia and World Council, with the refund for World Council refund being sent to South Africa after World Council is completed.
- Method of operation to accounts is any two directors to sign.
- Reports are available in DropBox so can be forwarded to members if requested.
- THANK YOU Noeleen for all your work!

Moved by Noeleen Stewart, seconded by Marj Wellings.

Diocesan and Other Reports

- Received as tabled, with members speaking to highlights.
- GFS Tasmania has been very generous in their financial support of our Junior Delegate's activities, the Kathleen Bright Parker Fund, the Pat Franklin Fund, and the fees for World Council for Val Gribble. Funds are utilised from Bequests that are held with the Diocese of Tasmania, the current members want to have a say how those funds are used. One of the Bequests date back to 1902.
- GFS Melbourne shared their financial contribution to Parish Support Packages, thereby supporting Strategic Gospel Ministry. This support is in the form of funding to assist with Children's and Families Ministry within parishes. There is a review process in place to ensure that funds will be available in the second and third year.
- GFS Perth are looking at a Diocesan wide camp in October, with younger children being day visitors and older children camping. They also welcome Des Smit as their new Chaplain. The Lodge has been leased to the Diocese of Perth for 21 years. This leased has now expired, so GFS Perth again have use of the Lodge.
- Val spoke to the PNG report. It was one of the best visits for ages. There are a whole new group of people in Port Moresby (20), that the Diocese of Rockhampton are supporting. Val and Gail visited the school which is so impressed by GFS that two women want to work with young women there. There are four delegates from PNG coming to World Council, Fr Isaiah, Maty, Giraka and Wilma.
- Gail spoke to the Melanesia report. The Solomon's as we have previously known it is known as Melanesia. They are hoping to bring five delegates to World Council. Gail and Julie have been asked to go back to Melanesia, a request that they have agreed to.
- GFS Newcastle has been supporting Stroud with programs (from Joan), as they wish to work with children, but have no desire to become a part of GFS.
- Reverend Canon Cheryl Selvage gave a verbal report for GFS Brisbane. GFS Brisbane is well known in the Diocese as a supporter of children's ministry. The majority of work is through the Grants Programs which can be one-off or continuing. To have access to the Grants Program, membership to GFS is essential. Townsend groups are growing: outreach meetings

are an opportunity for social gathering and reconnection. Support of GFS World and GFS Australia Projects continue. There is also ongoing funding for a Chaplain one day a week in the Children's Hospital. They are currently working on their Constitution. Members are a good group of faithful people working together.

- GFS Sydney encourage people who wish to access Playgroup Plus Programs to join GFS so that they can have access to programs. Currently there are nine groups. This may be a way to re-establish GFS Branches.
- GFS Gippsland held 130th Celebration – State Day. There is an upcoming camp. Abuok Majuk is our new Junior Delegate. Abuok was born in Sudan, lived in Egypt and moved with her family to Australia nine years ago. She is currently in Year 12 and would like to study to be a Registered Nurse. There are seven children in her family, she is the middle child. Abuok speaks Danca, Arabic and English.
- World Council : There are currently 226 Registrations. This is the largest World Council ever. 202 are staying at the venue and 24 are off site. There are some issues with some delegates not being eligible for automatic entry to Australia who have needed a Personal Letter of Invitation and a Letter to their Consulate, so there is an officer to help sort out the visas. There are 19 countries represented in the delegates who have registered. Of these there are 16 Junior delegates registered to attend. There are 50 youth registered, that is those under 30 years of age. Of the 19 countries attending, 7 are Western Countries, the rest are developing countries. The Immigration Department are waiting on Passport numbers, there are still three outstanding. The Philippines, Swaziland and Dominican Republic will not be coming. There is \$45000 ready to be distributed for airfares. Val suggested that perhaps a World Project could be a fund to grow these funds???

Moved by Barbara Phillips and seconded by Rhonda Stevenson. Carried by acclamation.

Reverend Canon Cheryl Selvage said that reading through the reports is highly encouraging and thanked those who wrote or spoke to reports for the detail they provided regarding the ministry of GFS in their Diocese.

General Business

Motions for GFS National Annual General Meeting

- 1 Moved by Canon Val Gribble, Rockhampton, seconded by Pam Guy, Rockhampton**
That the title of the National Chairman of GFS Australia Inc. be changed to National President, in line with all other GFS countries.
That until the Rules are changed to reflect this change, all formal documents will retain the title "National Chair" but that the title "National President" be used informally from this date.

This motion was discussed highlighting that Australia is the only country that has the title National Chairman. Changing the title to National President, brings GFS Australia into line with the rest of the world. This motion was PASSED.

- 2 Moved by Canon Val Gribble, Rockhampton, seconded by Pam Guy, Rockhampton**
That the monies retained for the Melanesian project (as per the motion moved at the 2014 World Council), be retained in the current investment account and managed by the incoming World Vice-President, the Melanesian Support team (Ms Gail Orchard and Ms Julie Smith) and the incoming National President of GFS Australia Inc.

These funds need to be managed responsible and well. This motion was PASSED.

- 3 Moved by Canon Val Gribble, Rockhampton, seconded by Pam Guy, Rockhampton**
That Ms Gail Orchard and Ms Julie Smith be appointed as the GFS Australia Consultants to GFS Melanesia and report to each national annual meeting.

Titles mean a lot in developing countries and people expect that we come with some authority. This motion was PASSED.

- 4 Moved by Canon Val Gribble, Rockhampton, seconded by Pam Guy, Rockhampton**
That The Reverend Canon Cheryl Selvage and Canon Val Gribble be appointed as the GFS Australia Consultants to GFS Papua New Guinea and report to each national annual meeting.

Titles mean a lot in developing countries and people expect that we come with some authority. This motion was PASSED.

Australian Council 2018

- The venue for GFS Australian Council is the Hunter Valley Hotel Academy (Kurri Kurri TAFE).
- Council dates are 7th to 13th January 2018.
- Gail, Sonia and Nicole to continue the process of planning for Council, updating all members as needed and seeking input into programming etc.

Questions

Noeleen asked how much interaction from GFS is there with Mainly Music or other groups?

Children involved in GFS groups is not a reflection of the number of children in our churches, participating in other Christian groups such as Mainly Music. There are many children's programs being run that are not affiliated with GFS.

Pre-school aged children need to build relationships, unchurched families need to see and know that they can trust us, that we are a safe place with loving, protective and caring people.

Young people and parents need to be encouraged in leadership.

Correspondence :

04/07/2016 Passing of Ballarat Member – Joan Slade
Declined Membership – Brett Fullarton, Brian Dixon, David Craig, Deidre Willmott,
Eric Ross-Adjie, Ian Leverington, Peter Dawes, Richard Court AC, Venerable Braden
Scott, Venerable Lionel Snell

14/07/2016 New Members – Melbourne

09/08/2016 New Member – Joel Gillies

26/08/2016 New Member – Ballarat

02/11/2016 ANIP

3/11/2016 Anglican Church of Australia Directory

29/01/2017 Passing of GFS Member – Rosemary from Wales

Bare Bones Issues 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9

Next Meeting : To be advised by incoming 2018 – 2020 National Executive

Meeting closed : at 1.50pm