

VIEW (Voice, Interests and Education of Women) Clubs of Australia
GPO Box 10500
Sydney NSW 2001

**National Minutes
and
Information from National Council**

September 2015

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Summary of Decisions at National Council Meeting September 2015

Area of Work	Decision, Policy and/or Procedure	Agenda Reference
Development – Sister Clubs	Southern Highlands (Zone NB02) and Kangaroo Valley VIEW Clubs (Zone NG01) have formed a sister club relationship.	5.3
General Business – Speakers Bureau	National Council unanimously endorsed the formation of a VIEW Speakers Bureau.	8.5
General Business – Name Change	National Council ratified the name change of Central VIEW Club (Zone ND02) to Sydney City VIEW Club.	8.9
General Business – Area QC	National Council unanimously (1) confirmed its previous ratification of Area QC with effect 1 January 2016, (2) agreed that the Area contain only one Zone ie Zone QC01, pending further development and (3) agreed the renaming of Zones QA02 to QA01 and QA03 to QA02.	8.10

MINUTES AND INFORMATION FROM NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 10 September 2015
Novotel Northbeach, Wollongong NSW

National Executive Present

National President Robin Perros, National Vice Presidents Sue Field, Lyn Gerstenberg and June Greentree

National Councillors Present

Robyn Bursill - NSW South Coast Berry to Eden (NG), **Mary Daly** - South Eastern Metropolitan Melbourne to the Mornington Peninsula & Gippsland (VB), **Kathie Diskin** - NSW Northern Rivers (NJ), **Liz Doorey** - Lower Mid North Coast of NSW and Inland (NK), **Beverley Giglio** - Upper and Lower Hunter & Port Stephens (NA), **Barbara Hyslop** - New England and North Central NSW (NI), **Marian Kingham** - Sydney North Shore & Northern Beaches (NC), **Laura O'Brien**, Upper Mid North Coast of NSW and Inland (NM), **Jan Roberts** - Canberra and surrounding areas (AA), **Marjorie Schultz** - Metropolitan Adelaide and Surrounds including Sunraysia (SA), **Toni Thomas** - Blue Mountains, Lithgow, Richmond/Windsor & St Mary's (NN), **Gloria Walter** - Sydney South West (NE), **Sunnie Watts**, North and Western Metropolitan Melbourne & North and Western Country (VC), **Gwen Wilton** - Macarthur, Southern Highlands & Illawarra region including Wollongong (NB), **Jennie Wynd** - Central & Eastern Metropolitan Melbourne (VA)

Caretaker National Councillors - Not Present

Lyndsay Basford/Jean Clarke - Gold Coast, Darling Downs and Brisbane (QA), **Madge Doust** - Central and Southern Sydney (ND), **Cynthia Guyenette** - Riverina, MIA, Snowy Mountain Foothills (NL)

Apologies

Lola Shaw - NSW Central Coast, North to Lake Macquarie (NF)

National Office Staff Present

VIEW National Manager Maryanne Maher
Administration Coordinator Linda Custer
Operations Coordinator Olga Shkuropatova

Minute Secretary - Past National Vice President Jillian Smith

1. OPENING

National President Robin Perros welcomed all present and began the meeting by acknowledging the traditional owners and custodians of the land. Robin then opened the meeting with the VIEW Pledge. She reminded National Councillors that they should be ready to assist members with any queries that might arise during Convention. As the meeting had been shortened in terms of timing, Robin advised that all reports circulated prior to the meeting would be taken as read, but minuted in full, as a record. However, National Councillors had the opportunity to make comment, where necessary.

ELECTION OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE FOR 2016-2017

A ballot was held to establish who will be elected to the position of National President 2016-2017.

A public announcement of the National Executive 2016-2017 will be made at Convention on Conference Day 2, Saturday 12 September 2015.

2. MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

Minutes - National Council **ratified** the minutes of the June 2015 meeting with the following correction:

Item 5.3, page 8 – Sister Clubs:
Boronia (VA03) and Toowoomba **Evening** (QA01)

Moved Gloria Walter, **seconded** Gwen Wilton.

Business Arising - Business arising from previous minutes was dealt with during the meeting under the appropriate Agenda Item.

3. CORRESPONDENCE IN/OUT

Sue Field tabled the correspondence received and sent out since June 2015. She noted that a number of Get Well, Thinking of You and Sympathy cards had been sent to members and Clubs.

4. REPORTS

4.1 2015 Decade Birthdays – Update re Executive Attendance

June Greentree advised that West Coast VIEW and Adelaide Hills VIEW are due to celebrate their 10 year Birthdays and Great Lakes Evening VIEW is due to celebrate its 20th Birthday shortly. Also celebrating significant Birthdays are: Warragul Evening VIEW (turns 27), Tamworth Day VIEW (turns 47) and Ingleburn Day VIEW (turns 49).

Other upcoming events are Walks with VIEW (very popular), Rainforest walks, Fashion Parades, Bunnings BBQs, Putt Putt Golf days, Girls night out events, Cruises, Card parties, helping out at registration desks for Ironman Events and Triathlons, Bus Trips, also Mystery Bus Trips, Walkathons, visits to Community Gardens, visits to Farmers Markets, etc. A number of clubs are planning Melbourne Cup Day functions.

There are also tours planned to the Hunter Valley to see the Christmas Lights Displays, Coach Tours to Sydney to see theatre productions, one of which is being organised for next February.

4.2 Learning for Life Liaison

Sue Field spoke to a report circulated prior to the meeting noting -
Student Profiles

Student profiles are updated annually and sent to sponsors during the second half of the year. This is the only compulsory communication students must complete and we know these are extremely important to our members, who like to hear from their student/s. *Please also refer to My Smith Family portal paper at Item 8.2.*

For those clubs supporting senior students, this part of the year is extremely busy and in many instances stressful for them with important exams looming. Members are asked to be mindful of this if waiting for a reply to a letter or card sent.

Christmas Correspondence/gifts

Christmas is only three months away. If Clubs choose to send a card or gift (which is optional) to sponsored student/s, now is the time to send them. These must be received by The Smith Family Supporter Care Team

by the end of October to ensure students receive Christmas wishes in time. With over 34,000 students it is a major task for the Supporter Care team.

Often *Learning for Life* students live in remote communities which is why Clubs are encouraged to send gift cards (Woolworths Wish gift card or Coles Myer gift card) as these cards are simpler and easier to send. As all gifts and correspondence are reviewed prior to being sent to students, Clubs are asked not seal or wrap any gifts. After correspondence has been reviewed, volunteers wrap the presents prior to sending them on to students.

Clubs Closing and Learning for Life Students

Some members are concerned about what would happen if their Club can no longer support their student. Clubs that have recently closed have used remaining funds to advance pay for their *Learning for Life* students' education. Closing Clubs wanting to pay in advance should contact The Smith Family Supporter Care Team 1800 633 622 or Sue Field suefie@bigpond.net.au.

Once a child is on the *Learning for Life* program and being supported, The Smith Family will endeavour to match them with another sponsor as it is important they receive continued support.

4.3 Letters and meetings with MPs

National Councillors continue to make contact with their local representatives throughout their 2 year term. Reports will continue to be updated with a final report in November 2015. State elections were held in NSW in 2015 and new letters for incoming State Representatives were drafted and sent.

During the past 18 months all National Councillors have continued to connect with their Federal, State and Local government representatives informing them about VIEW and its connection with The Smith Family, together with specific information about the number of VIEW members living in that community and the number of *Learning for Life* students sponsored by VIEW in the community.

The aim was to promote and profile VIEW and raise awareness of the great work VIEW club members do in their community.

The overall outcome of these introduction letters and subsequent meetings, so far, has been positive with many MPs providing contact details for local community notice boards and displaying VIEW promotional materials in their offices. A number of local MPs have offered to mention VIEW Clubs in their next local newsletters, to promote local VIEW clubs on their websites, Facebook pages, attend upcoming Zone Conferences and generally promote VIEW clubs to other women in their communities.

National Council **noted** that a Private Members Statement was delivered on 28 August in the NSW Parliament by Jonathan O'Dea, Member for Davidson, devoted to VIEW Clubs and in particular those in his electorate. Amongst other things he said "...Marian Kingham, one of my constituents, is one of the National Councillors of VIEW Clubs of Australia and I am keen to help her promote the Club's valuable work"...

5. SUB-COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS

5.1 VIEW Engaging with the Community

The Volunteering for The Smith Family - Activities and Events Programs

Information received from members and clubs is encouraging with an increase in members volunteering in the schools with reading programs, helping with school gardens projects, mentoring students, breakfast clubs, helping at school canteens etc.

The Volunteering in the Name of VIEW – Community Focus

Volunteering in the Community consisted of members hosting information stalls, attending Seniors Week Expos, and holding a "Walk with a VIEW", which has become increasingly popular in many areas.

Many hours have been spent by members volunteering at Bunnings BBQs, attending and holding fashion parades at various venues, including the Blue Illusion Styling and Fashion workshops.

Local Blue Illusion fashion parades and Bunnings Barbeques are definitely on the increase and a very worthwhile way for members to get out into the community and profile their local clubs to others. These events are relatively inexpensive to set up for a great reward.

Other activities that have become popular are Bus Trips, TAFE Dinners, Volunteering at Reviver Stations and having Movie and Theatre Parties. A number of members knit reading rugs for school children.

Other Club Donations for Student Support

As well as making library bags and reading rugs a number of clubs collect and donate school stationery supplies on a regular basis, and provide them to their local *Learning for Life* Program Coordinator for distribution where they are most needed.

Clubs are encouraged to continue to send in their volunteering hours in the community.

5.2 Communications and Public Relations

VIEW Magazine "VIEW Matters"

Maryanne Maher advised that the November 2015 edition is now closed for submissions.

The April 2016 edition will commence accepting submissions from November. National Councillors and Zone Councillors are encouraged to contact their clubs to provide details of: Around the Clubs, volunteering, fundraising, Zone Conferences/Gala functions and any other exciting upcoming events. All submissions should be headed VIEW Matters and sent to view@thesmithfamily.com.au

Clubs are reminded that photo submissions must be of **high resolution** (1mb or over) to be considered. Settings on cameras need to be checked. Photos from iPads/Tablets need to be checked for clarity as often these are blurred.

5.3 Development

New Clubs

Lyn Gerstenberg advised that no new clubs have opened since the June National Council Meeting

Prospective Clubs

Lyn Gerstenberg advised that **The Village (Dingley)** (Zone VB02) Interest meetings are continuing with a view to establishing a morning tea club early next year.

Launceston TAS - The development team members will look at holding an event later in the year to keep the momentum going.

Woollahra NSW - A successful literary luncheon was held on 24 June and monthly meetings are continuing with a growing membership. Members who have family/friends/colleagues in the Eastern Suburbs/Bondi Junction/Randwick/Waverley areas are encouraged to suggest this club to them.

On Monday 24 August a number of Woollahra Members attended CONverge, an uplifting concert performed by talented *Learning for Life* students at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

Some areas of interest for development in **Queensland** include Springfield, Maryborough, Port Douglas, Rockhampton, Townsville, Mackay and Cairns.

Traralgon, Sale and Port Arlington are areas of interest in **Victoria**.

NSW - Oran Park, Bingara and Harrington Park (largely populated newly developed areas) are areas which the NB02 development team is investigating for development.

Sister Clubs

Lyn Gerstenberg advised that Southern Highlands (Zone NB02) and Kangaroo Valley VIEW Clubs (Zone NG01) have formed a sister club relationship.

Club Closures

Lyn Gerstenberg advised that Muswellbrook VIEW Club (Zone NA02) closed on 1 September due to a declining membership. She noted that most members have transferred to other nearby clubs.

Lyn reminded clubs that if they are struggling or have declining membership numbers, they should advise their National or Zone Councillor or any of the Executive as soon as possible to enable intervention to offer assistance to possibly prevent the closure.

5.4 Community Partnerships

Maryanne Maher spoke to a report circulated prior to the meeting which provided updates on National Promotions as follows –

Blue Illusion – Thursday 24 September

By now all Clubs will have received hardcopy Blue Illusion invitation to the Summer 2015 launch and **Styling Workshop and Shopping Day on Thursday 24 September which includes a \$25 gift voucher.**

Secretaries will have also received a digital invitation for members to send to other members, or print out for friends, family, colleagues etc to use on the day. A percentage of sales on 24 September will be donated to The Smith Family.

VIEW Club members are encouraged to contact their local Blue Illusion Store Manager and RSVP. At the Styling Workshops members will receive a goodie bag, a fashion parade and the opportunity to speak about VIEW and The Smith Family. VIEW Club marketing collateral will also be placed in shoppers bags on the day.

We look forward to Blue Illusion's announcement of the success of this Styling Workshop and National Shopping day in late September.

PCCU Community Lottery

PCCU Lottery Tickets need to be returned to Zone Councillors by Friday 4 September and returned to National Office no later than 11 September. National Office thanked Zone Councillors who helped with distribution, follow up and return of sold books/money.

5.5 Promoting our Brand

Sue Field spoke to a paper circulated prior to the meeting noting that **Promoting our Brand** is the best way we can ensure that this wonderful organisation of ours continues to grow. By using our VOICE, and enthusiastically talking about VIEW and our connection to The Smith Family, we will be passing on to others what we all already know – that VIEW is a great organisation to belong.. Talk about your own club and invite new women to come and share in the friendship and camaraderie of VIEW, giving them the opportunity to make a difference to the lives of so many disadvantaged students. By doing this we will all be promoting VIEW.

VIEW National Convention in Wollongong has been a great opportunity to promote VIEW. The media around this event in both radio and newspaper has been excellent, not only in the Wollongong area but around the country, as VIEW clubs utilise the Media Releases supplied by National Office.

Local Radio

Sue advised there had been an increase in regional radio coverage especially in Wollongong in the lead up to convention.

Local VIEW members Sue Field and Yvonne White were able to arrange for the local FM station i98 to promote VIEW and the Convention, three times a day for several weeks in the lead up to convention.

On Sunday 16 August Robin Perros promoted VIEW on "Australia all over" – Macca - ABC radio national.

Elaine Hart, Figtree Evening, arranged for Sue Field, and Robyn Hampton President Figtree Evening to be guests on VOXFM community radio in Wollongong promoting VIEW Convention and VIEW clubs locally.

Club Birthday Celebrations, Zone Conferences and Galas have also been receiving high media coverage in all states. In many areas, the upcoming events section of local papers have been advertising the dates and times

of local VIEW Clubs and inviting women in the community to join them at these events or come along to a club meeting.

Sue suggested that if Clubs are having difficulty in getting the local paper to print media releases or advertise an upcoming event, they could try writing a short article, include a photograph and send it to the local newspaper. Clubs can contact Media Liaison Chris Newell 0418 588 719 or Chrismn48@gmail.com if they need assistance.

Sue reminded members to "Mention VIEW to Someone New" because it is still one of the best ways to 'Promote our Brand'.

5.6 Resolutions

Report from Sub-Committee

Lyn Gerstenberg thanked all members who actively participated in their resolutions debates at club level and at National Convention.

She advised that this year a number of clubs engaged local students to debate resolutions. Wellington High School students debated the *Childhood Obesity* resolution for members from Dubbo Day, Dubbo Evening, Wellington and Mudgee VIEW Clubs attending the NH02 Zone Conference in Wellington.

Moss Vale High School students from year 9 debating team debated "*Childhood Obesity*" at Southern Highlands Evening club meeting. Members then discussed the other three resolutions and voted.

All agreed that inviting school children to debate resolutions makes the resolution process a more interesting and engaging one.

Lyn advised that Resolutions would be debated at National Convention in the following order:

1. **Reduce the incidence of domestic violence and create a centralised data base for victims** - VIEW Clubs of Australia urge that more funding be made available to create a centralised data distribution centre and find more effective ways to combat the incidence of domestic and family violence.

2. **Childhood Obesity** - VIEW Clubs of Australia urge the Federal Government to address the problem of obesity, particularly among young children, through a comprehensive national education strategy which focuses on a back-to-basics practical approach.

3. **Uptake of education for Aboriginal girls** - That State and Federal Governments look at improving Aboriginal uptake of education with particular emphasis for Aboriginal girls to assist in closing the gap in educational performance between Aboriginal and other Australian young people.

4. **The regulation of sugar content in processed food** - VIEW Clubs of Australia calls on State and Federal Government to recognise the health impact of high sugar content in processed foods and to regulate the "added sugar" content of these products.

Final voting results from Clubs and Convention will be published in the November 2015 National Minutes.

6. WORKING GROUPS

6.1 Future of VIEW Working Group (FoV WG)

National Council **noted** that the FoV WG continues to work on:

- Surveying the remaining club Secretaries or Presidents focusing on four key areas – membership, promotion, advocacy/volunteering and fundraising.
- Reviewing and updating guidelines for Development of new Clubs including a one page summary of steps for future submission to National Council.
- Updating the Councillor's Handbook.

6.2 History

The latest History Newsletter will be available at the Information Booth and sent out after Convention 2015.

6.3 Website Development Project

Maryanne Maher advised that development of the new VIEW website – View.org.au is progressing. The VIEW Website Development Working Group has updated content for this refreshed website. The website build is currently underway. Clubs will be requested, in the coming months, to provide a short description of their club to be placed on their club page. This project is expected to be completed by early 2016. Members are asked to be patient, as projects like this often take time.

6.4 National Convention 2015

Maryanne Maher provided a briefing on National Convention 2015 noting that it was an exciting opportunity for members to rekindle VIEW friendships and to make wonderful new friends, to add their voice to the debates at the Resolution session, and to hear and learn from an array of thought-provoking speakers.

Recycling comes to National Convention in Wollongong

For members attending National Convention, this year there will be a Smith Family pop up store at Expo Day 1 on Friday and Saturday. All proceeds from the sale of clothing donations go directly to Learning programs for disadvantaged children supported by The Smith Family. Members attending will also have the opportunity to make a donation with clothing bins located in the Novotel to collect all items.

Members (particularly those in NSW and ACT) not attending were encouraged to similarly donate any items of unwanted clothing to their local Smith Family retail store. To find these locations please go to thesmithfamily.com.au/recycling.

7. EVENTS

7.1 International Women's Day 2016

Maryanne advised that plans were well underway for next year in Sydney at The Strangers' Dining Room, **NSW Parliament House on Tuesday 8 March** with Jane Hutcheon as guest speaker and in Melbourne at The Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club on Thursday 3 March.

7.2 Key Events

Maryanne Maher provided an update on key events as follows:

Winter Appeal

The Smith Family Winter Appeal 2015 raised \$3.49 million. It helped 9575 disadvantaged children get extra learning support to build their skills and confidence and reach their potential through education. The Smith Family would like to thank all VIEW clubs that donated to the appeal this year.

Anti-Poverty Week 11-17 October

Anti-Poverty week aims to strengthen public understanding of poverty and hardship in Australia and the rest of the world and encourage local discussion and action aimed at addressing these problems.

Anti-Poverty week flyers were sent to clubs in the July mailout. VIEW members are encouraged to dedicate their October club meetings to Anti-Poverty week. Activities could be as simple as inviting a speaker, such as a *Learning for Life* Program Co-ordinator etc to speak to members and raise awareness.

Members should note that this event it is not about raising funds for Anti-Poverty Week, **it is about raising awareness through support**. Clubs are encouraged to register activities on the website www.antipovertyweek.org.au

8. GENERAL BUSINESS

8.1 VIEW National Office Update

Maryanne Maher spoke to a paper circulated prior to the meeting which covered the following items:

Christmas Wrapping

Clubs are encouraged to start thinking about their Christmas wrapping events. This is a great way to profile VIEW in the community as well as raising funds. VIEW often tops the \$20,000 mark with gold coin donations.

The Smith Family has recently entered into a partnership with Mirvac shopping Centres (Broadway, Rhodes Waterside, Stanhope Village NSW) who are keen to offer VIEW members the opportunity to Promote VIEW, and wrap Christmas presents during the two weeks leading up to Christmas.

If interested in any of these opportunities (set out below) Clubs should speak to their National Councillor or email National Office.

Broadway

Dates: Monday 14 – Thursday 24 December

Times: 12 pm to 6 pm

Qty: 4 people each day at any one time

Rhodes Waterside

Dates: Friday 18 December – Thursday 24 December

Times: 10 am to 4 pm

Qty: 2 from Friday 18 December – Monday 21 December

3 or 4 from Tuesday 22 December – Thursday 24 December

Stanhope Village

Dates: Saturday 19 December & Sunday 20 December

Times: 10 am to 4 pm

VIEW Banners

The redesign of VIEW banners has been completed. The new banners showcase members of VIEW participating in club activities. The new VIEW banners will be launched at National Convention and National Councillors will be issued with one for their Area.

National Councillors were asked to make their older banners available to their Zone Councillor/s with greater visibility in clubs.

Toy & Book Appeal

The Smith Family Toy & Book Appeal gets underway in October. Clubs were sent Toy & Book Appeal Pack and form in the August mailout. Clubs are reminded that **monetary donations** are the **preferred** method of donation to this appeal.

AMP Financial Planning Association

VIEW Club members were invited to give a short presentation at the AMP Financial Planners Association dinners promoting The Smith Family and VIEW Clubs throughout July/August in Torquay VIC, Magenta Shores, NSW, The Vines WA and Gold Coast Qld. Maryanne thanked Janice Nation, Charmaine Sherman, Chris Newell and Jean Clarke for taking part in these speaking engagements.

AMPFPA (1500 member organisation) support The Smith Family through staff workplace giving and fundraising at their annual mid-year conference dinners.

AON Offices

With the great response to VIEW members speaking at AMP Financial Planning Association events, VIEW is now looking at engaging with The Smith Family's insurance partners AON throughout Australia. National Councillors will be seeking volunteers from local clubs to attend AON offices for morning tea or lunch time talks to AON employees about how VIEW Clubs connect in communities and the volunteering activities they are engaged in with The Smith Family. More information and the location of AON offices will be provided in the coming months.

8.2 My Smith Family Portal

Maryanne Maher advised that The Smith Family has developed a new self-service portal for Donors and Sponsors allowing a different way to manage their *Learning for Life* support.

The Portal, *My Smith Family*, allows existing sponsors and donors including VIEW Clubs to login to the website via desktop, tablet or mobile in order to view and manage their support of The Smith Family. This includes accessing payment details, managing your sponsorship/s with The Smith Family, viewing or downloading receipts, maintaining your personal details, as well as being able to correspond with your clubs sponsored child or children.

VIEW Clubs, as donors and sponsors, will be able to:

- View and download receipts for donations for the last 2 years. You can email copies of receipts to Club email address.
- View a summary of donations, including the number of students sponsored.
- Receive the latest information from The Smith Family by keeping your contact details up to date.
- View information on your student/s at any time, see when your next renewal is due, and correspond with your student/s.

Whether clubs use the portal or not they **will still receive their regular scheduled information** from The Smith Family. The *My Smith Family* portal allows easy access to information about your Club's sponsorship/s and student/s and may alleviate some of the delays experienced with phone/email correspondence with the Supporter Care team.

National Councillors were shown how to use The Smith Family portal and a *My Smith Family* portal FAQ will be sent to out to all clubs in the October mailout.

8.3 **FAQS Session (Frequently Asked Questions)**

The following questions were addressed:

Question	Answer
Can our Club change from an evening club to a day club.	Yes. Consult Club Handbook and Zone Councillor. If approved by a majority of members, please advise National Office.
A Zone Councillor who is about to finish her term wants to serve on her Club Committee. Can she?	Yes.

8.4 **National Council *Learning for Life* Student**

Marian Kingham provided an update on the National Council's *Learning for Life* student. A revised student profile was circulated.

8.5 **VIEW Speakers Bureau - Utilising Skills of Past Senior Office Bearers**

Sue Field spoke to a paper circulated prior to the meeting explaining that the aim of forming a VIEW Speakers Bureau in NSW, is to promote and profile VIEW and our connection with The Smith Family. By promoting VIEW in this way and spreading the word about our organisation we also aim to recruit new members to VIEW.

Sue explained that ideally it was envisaged that there would be 3-4 speakers for each Area with each speaker helping to identify, source and target specific regions and organisations within their area such as Probus, Lions, other groups within their community, etc.

Initially this will commence within the Sydney, Wollongong and Shoalhaven region with a view to extending to other areas at a later date.

The VIEW Speakers Bureau will be based on The Smith Family Community Relations Group model in Victoria, in which a number of VIEW members participate.

It is envisaged that "Presentation Skills" workshops will be held in National Office and a PowerPoint Presentation provided to ensure consistency of the information presented. Speakers will be reimbursed for reasonable travel costs. Public Transport as the cheapest option will be encouraged where possible and safe. Speaker reports, requests and scheduling of speakers will be kept and updated on a on a monthly basis.

After a brief discussion National Council **unanimously endorsed** the formation of a VIEW Speakers Bureau.

8.6 **VIEW Patron**

Maryanne Maher advised that The Smith Family Board were presented with National Council's choice of potential VIEW Patrons, to which they have agreed. Clubs will be notified once the process of inviting the potential Patron is complete.

8.7 Communication with CEO, The Smith Family

Robin Perros reminded National Council of existing national policy that members and Clubs should not contact Dr Lisa O'Brien CEO, The Smith Family or any other Smith Family senior officer in relation to complaints, questions or comments. All such correspondence should be sent to VIEW National Office.

National Council **reiterated** the policy which states that "No correspondence is to be sent directly addressed to the Chief Executive Officer or Board Members of The Smith Family".

8.8 Social Media Policy

National Councillors were advised of a recent 'tweet' by a member that was political in nature and commented on the current government. National Council was reminded that VIEW is a non-political organisation and any such comments made in conjunction with VIEW and/or The Smith Family are inappropriate.

While we encourage our members to use social media to make personal comments, all comments of a political nature should be clear that they are the member's own personal opinion/s and not those of VIEW or The Smith Family.

VIEW is a part of The Smith Family and its Social Media and Blogging Policy applies to all VIEW members.

National Councillors were provided with a copy of The Smith Family Social Media & Blogging Policy which provides practical guidelines for Smith Family employees, VIEW Club members, volunteers and contractors engaging in blogs or social media and social networking sites.

VIEW Members are reminded that they should show consideration for others' privacy and for topics that may be considered objectionable or inflammatory - such as politics and religion.

If members would like a copy of the Social Media and Blogging Policy and Guidelines they should contact their National Councillor.

We do encourage members to "Tweet" positive comments when they are having a good time at VIEW events or when volunteering.

8.9 Ratification of Club Name Change

Robin Perros advised that a request have been made for Central VIEW Club (Zone ND02) to change to Sydney City VIEW Club (accompanied by a copy of Club Minutes evidencing agreement by the majority of members).

After a brief discussion, National Council **ratified** the Club name change.

8.10 Area QC

At its **October 2014** meeting National Council agreed to trial a new Area QC in Queensland for twelve months from August 2014, and subject to receiving no objections from affected clubs, **ratify** the formal introduction of Area QC from 1 January 2016.

The reason behind the trial period was to identify any other issues or concerns in Area QC. Zone Councillor QA01 Anne-Marie Lawlor agreed to act as National Councillor Area QC during the trial period August 2014 to July 2015.

Clubs were asked to provide feedback to National Office about the viability of the proposed Area QC. No negative feedback has been received. However, a request was received that Area QC be named Area QA because it contained the oldest Queensland clubs.

A discussion recently took place between National President Robin Perros, Senior Office Bearers in Areas QA and QC and FoV WG representative Jillian Smith. This group proposes that:

- The new Area should be named Area QC (despite above request) because Areas are named in the order that they are formed.
- As there are only four clubs (with Lockyer Valley due to close end 2015) in one of the proposed new Zones, the new Area QC should consist of only one Zone containing 11 clubs, pending further development in the Area.
- Administratively, therefore, current Zones QA01 and QA04 will become Zone QC01. Current Zones QA02 and QA03 will become Zones QA01 and QA02 respectively.

After a brief discussion, National Council **unanimously** (1) **confirmed** its previous ratification of Area QC with effect 1 January 2016, (2) **agreed** that the Area contain only one Zone ie Zone QC01, pending further development and (3) **agreed** to the renaming of Zones QA02 to QA01 and QA03 to QA02.

8.11 Awards

Robin Perros advised that many nominations had been received for the George Forbes and National President's Awards and the chosen recipients will be presented with their Awards on Day 2 of Convention. The National Executive has also decided to award a Special Commendation Award.

8.12 National/Zone Councillor Nominations 2016-2017

Robin Perros facilitated a discussion about succession planning particularly in terms of potential candidates. She expressed concern that there were still **seven** vacant National Councillor positions. Due to the number of current vacancies, National Council will ratify incoming National and Zone Councillors at the November National Council meeting.

8.13 Workstudy/Changeover Dinner/November National Council Meeting

Maryanne Maher advised arrangements for Workstudy weekend as follows:

2016-17 Zone Councillors on Saturday 31 October (10.00 am to 4.00 pm)
and
2016-17 National Councillors on Sunday 1 November (10.00 am to 4.00 pm)

National Council meeting Monday 2 November (10.00 am to 4.00 pm) at The Smith Family Villawood Boardroom.

Training sessions will be held at the Holiday Inn Airport which is in Mascot. Invitations will be sent to all attendees after the completion of National Convention ie late September.

Dates of Next Meetings

National Executive – 1 October (Teleconference) and 30 October (Face to Face)

National Council – Monday 2 November 2015