

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

**National Minutes
and
Information from National Council**

June 2015

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Summary of Decisions at National Council Meeting June 2015

Area of Work	Decision, Policy and/or Procedure	Agenda Reference
Reports	<i>Learning for Life</i> Liaison - How students are identified for sponsorship - see item for details.	4.4
Sub-Committees	VIEW Engaging with the Community – Members Volunteering Hours required from clubs – see item for details.	5.1
General Business	VIEW Patron – Names of top five candidates selected for submission to The Smith Family Board for approval.	8.4
General Business	Club Communication - National Council agreed that Club Committees are reminded of their obligations to provide all relevant information to all club members before any decisions are agreed upon.	8.5
General Business	In line with guidelines National Council ratified the following Clubs with Alternative Club Structures: Braidwood Evening VIEW Club - Area AA Cooma Evening VIEW Club - Area AA	8.6
General Business	Ratification of Club Name Changes - Adelaide Pioneer VIEW Club (Area SA) to become Burnside Pioneer VIEW Club and Subiaco Day VIEW Club (Area WA) to become WA Western Suburbs VIEW Club	8.7
General Business	Review of Annual Subscription and Joining Fee - National Council agreed that the Annual Membership Subscription and Joining Fee should remain at \$15.00 and \$20.00 respectively for 2016 and be reviewed next year.	8.8
General Business	Reduced Number of National Vice Presidents - National Council unanimously agreed (1) to a two year trial of a reduced National Executive which would consist of the National President and two National Vice Presidents and (2) that the decision would be reviewed in 2017.	8.11

MINUTES AND INFORMATION FROM NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Sunday 14 June 2015
The Holiday Inn, Sydney Airport

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), **Jan Roberts** - Canberra and surrounding areas (AA), **Marjorie Schultz** - Metropolitan Adelaide and Surrounds including Sunraysia (SA), **Lola Shaw** - NSW Central Coast, North to Lake Macquarie (NF), **Toni Thomas** - Blue Mountains, Lithgow, Richmond/Windsor & St Mary's (NN), **Gloria Walter** - Sydney South West (NE), **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

Laura O'Brien, Upper Mid North Coast of NSW and Inland (NM), **Sunnie Watts**, North and Western Metropolitan Melbourne & North and Western Country (VC)

National Office Staff Present

VIEW National Manager Maryanne Maher
Administration Coordinator Linda Custer

Guests Present

Sophie Armstrong Direct Marketing Coordinator and Adam Watson Face to Face Fundraising Manager TSF - Marketing Team

Minute Secretary - Past National Vice President Jillian Smith

1. OPENING

National President Robin Perros welcomed all present and began by acknowledging the traditional owners and custodians of the land. Robin then opened the meeting with the VIEW Pledge.

2. MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

Minutes - National Council **ratified** the minutes of the February 2015 meeting.

Moved Gwen Wilton, **seconded** Toni Thomas.

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 February 2015. She noted that a number of Get Well and Sympathy cards had been sent to members and Clubs. She also noted that a number of invitations to Birthday celebrations had been received and responded to.

4. REPORTS

4.1 2015 Decade Birthdays – Update re Executive Attendance

June Greentree provided a list of Decade Birthdays to be celebrated until September. She also noted that other events include Walk with VIEW events, Major Fashion Parades, Morning and Afternoon Teas, Theatre Parties, Mystery Bus Trips and general outings. Further details are available from National Councillors.

All clubs should complete a VIEW Event Form (which is available on the website) for any upcoming events and return to their National Councillor for national promotional purposes.

4.2 2015 Area Gala Functions

June Greentree noted that a number of Area Gala Functions were planned this year and provided an updated list of functions.

4.3 2015 Zone Conferences

June Greentree updated National Council on planned Zone Conferences.

4.4 *Learning for Life* Liaison

Sue Field spoke to a report circulated prior to the meeting noting that The Smith Family steps into a child's life while they are still at school, to help them get the most from their time there. Through the *Learning for Life* program, (which many clubs are supporting) through sponsorship, children are helped to participate in and get the most out of their education to prevent them from experiencing a lifetime of poverty.

By investing in children's education, we can break a cycle of disadvantage that often continues through family generations. And by believing in them, we can help them believe in themselves.

Often questions are raised by members regarding the eligibility criteria for students to be accepted onto the *Learning for Life* program and how sponsorship helps.

How students are identified for sponsorship

Learning for Life Coordinators are based in the disadvantaged communities in which we work, which helps us more actively identify and respond to students in need in that area. Usually, students are referred to a Smith Family *Learning for Life* Coordinator through their school.

To qualify for support families need to satisfy some general eligibility criteria:

- Possess a Health Care Card (HCC) or Pension Concession Card (PCC) as proof of low income;
- Reside or study in a community in which the *Learning for Life* program operates
- Be responsible for a child/children attending school
- Be referred by an external provider (school or community agency)

- Maintain a partnership with The Smith Family

To meet the partnership agreement they enter into with us, we ask our families to:

- Demonstrate a commitment to education through regular school attendance. *Learning for Life* sponsors are provided on the basis of need, not academic achievement.
- Provide required documentation, including their child's annual completion of a student profile (if a student joins the program mid-year, their profile may not be available until the following year).
- Provide a school report annually that includes attendance information.
- Retain receipts for purchase of school items using sponsorship monies, to be presented on request.

For students undertaking a University or VTE (Vocation, Training and Education) course the eligibility criteria is similar; students must also have been on the *Learning for Life* program at secondary school.

Failure to adhere to the above criteria may result in the student being taken off the program.

If Clubs have any queries regarding sponsored student/s they should contact Deon Ngatai at The Smith Family supporter care team on 1800 633 622.

Sue thanked Clubs for sponsoring over 1131 *Learning for Life* students and for helping to make VIEW The Smith Family's single biggest community sponsor of disadvantaged Australian students.

4.5 Introduction Letters and meetings with local/State/Federal MPs

Robin Perros reminded National Councillors to follow up on recent contact and meetings with their local, State and Federal representatives. This has proved to be an excellent way to promote and profile VIEW in the community. After sending out letters to their local representatives the National Councillors follow up by requesting a face to face meeting where they explain what we do and seek the MP's help to promote VIEW to others in the community. Some successes have included:

- Placing VIEW Club contact details onto Community Website/Noticeboards
- Posting VIEW information on MPs Facebook/Website/Newsletter/Flyer
- Engaging with the local MPs and inviting them as a guest speaker to upcoming VIEW events

Outcomes from these mailouts and meetings will be reported in the November 2015 minutes.

5. SUB-COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS

5.1 VIEW Engaging with the Community

June Greentree reported that since February, VIEW members throughout Australia have been busy volunteering in a number ways.

Unfortunately a number of Clubs have **not** been submitting Volunteering Reports to their Zone Councillors.

As some members may be unaware of the reasons why this information is required, June referred them to item 5.1 National Minutes February 2013 which deals with this topic.

Acknowledging VIEW Clubs' contribution

VIEW and The Smith Family would like to acknowledge the valuable contribution of all VIEW members, and share the information about the impact VIEW Clubs are having in their local communities.

The only way this can be quantified is by VIEW members informing their Club Delegate of the types of volunteering they have been involved in together with the estimated total number of hours volunteered per month.

The Delegate records the information in the Volunteering form and forwards it to the Zone/National Councillor who then forwards the information to the VIEW Executive.

One of the most stated facts about VIEW Clubs is that its members contribute more than 50,000 hours volunteering for The Smith Family programs and in the Community. It is vital that all VIEW members' volunteer hours are recorded.

Clubs are reminded that 2 types of Volunteering information are required.

1. **How VIEW members have volunteered for The Smith Family in their communities:** (Type of activity and the estimated number of hours) – eg any TSF community programs; Student2Student mentoring; reading in school; homework club; mentoring students; breakfast club; sewing library bags; reading rugs for students; etc.
2. **How VIEW members have volunteered in their Community in the name of VIEW:** (Type of activity and the estimated number of hours) - eg Christmas wrapping in local shopping centre to raise funds for *Learning for Life* Students; Bunnings BBQ fundraiser for a club's *Learning for Life* students; fundraising stalls; VIEW members volunteering their time on a meals on wheels/hospital auxiliary roster; community activities promoting VIEW eg Seniors Week.

Please note: The names of members who have volunteered are not required, only the type of activity and the hours volunteered.

5.2 Communications and Public Relations

***Between the Lines* Internal VIEW Newsletter**

Robin Perros advised that the next e-newsletter from the National Executive is expected by the end of June for distribution to interested members.

VIEW Magazine "VIEW Matters"

Maryanne Maher reported that the April 2015 edition was distributed to all Clubs. Any club or National/Zone Councillor who requires extra copies or for promotional purposes should contact National Office.

The November 2015 edition is now accepting submissions. National and Zone Councillors were encouraged to remind clubs to provide details of:

Around the Clubs, volunteering, fundraising, Zone Conferences/Gala functions and any other interesting news or events. Community in focus – will include some of the clubs in Area NL. Articles together with a high resolution photograph/s (1mb or over) can be sent to: view@thesmithfamily.com.au. “For VIEW Matters” should be included in the heading.

Lyn Gerstenberg confirmed that she had requested (Cootamundra Day, Griffith Day and Corowa Evening) clubs in this Area to write a paragraph about their club and submit it ASAP.

5.3 Development New Clubs

Lyn Gerstenberg was delighted to welcome two new VIEW Clubs. In Victoria, Plenty Valley (Zone VA01) Inaugural was held on 25 March and in South Australia, the Prospect (Zone SA01) Inaugural was held on 19 May.

Plenty Valley VIEW Club – VIC

On 25 March, the long awaited Plenty Valley VIEW Club in the Central & Eastern Metropolitan Melbourne area, held its inaugural event. Lyn congratulated the hard work of the Victorian Development team, under the guidance of Edna Burwash.

Plenty Valley had enormous support from Greensborough Evening VIEW Club who encouraged and hosted members from the beginning.

The inaugural event was attended by National Manager Maryanne Maher, National President Robin Perros, The Smith Family General Manager Victoria, Anton Leschen, Team Leader *Learning for Life* Anne Marmion and many Clubs in the area who joined in the celebrations. Plenty Valley President, Lorraine Beasley announced at their inauguration that they would be sponsoring their first *Learning for Life* student.

Prospect VIEW Club – SA

On 19 May, Prospect VIEW Club in South Australia held its inaugural function at the Bombay Bicycle Club, Ovingham. The inaugural event was attended by National Manager Maryanne Maher, National President Robin Perros, Team Leader *Learning for Life* Port Adelaide/Enfield Travis Barty State member for Adelaide Rachel Sanderson MP, and many Clubs in SA attended and joined in the celebrations.

Lyn congratulated the South Australian Development team, for yet another new SA VIEW Club, the third in two years, under the guidance of Anne Strangway.

Prospective Clubs

Victoria - Lyn Gerstenberg advised that interest meetings are continuing to establish a morning tea club in Dingley (Zone VB02). For more information please contact NC Mary Daly on ph: 03 8774 6133 or email: mary3daly@optusnet.com.au

NSW - The Woollahra Development Team is continuing to work towards a new club in the Woollahra area. Members who have family/friends/colleagues in the Sydney Eastern Suburbs and surrounds are encouraged to mention this club to them. To attract new members a Literary Luncheon will be held on 24 June 2015 at Gadens Café Woollahra.

Larry Writer will be speaking about his latest book "*Dangerous Games*", which addresses Australia's role in the 1936 Berlin Olympics. Members of the community are invited to attend and join in a two course lunch. Contact: Marcia Taylor on 9533 4613 or email roy.mar@optusnet.com.

Tasmania - The Launceston Development Team including the General Manager The Smith Family in Tasmania Alison Standen and Hobart VIEW Club members are focussing on arranging events in Launceston in August and October to keep the momentum going.

Members are asked to pass on any details of friends, relatives and colleagues who may be interested in joining or assisting with the development of the Launceston VIEW Club to contact National President Robin Perros on ph 03 97644776 or email robinjimperros@yahoo.com.au

Lyn reminded National Council that VIEW is always looking to develop new clubs and for ways to increase our membership. Any member who would like to get involved in creating new VIEW Clubs should contact their National Councillor.

Sister Clubs

Lyn Gerstenberg advised that two sister club relationships had been formed since the last National Council Meeting -

Glasshouse Country (QB01) and June Evening (NL03)
Boronia (VA03) and Toowoomba (QA01)

She noted that forming Sister Club relationships was a great way to keep in touch with other members - exchanging ideas, newsletters, invitations to attend special functions, etc. The possibilities are endless and entirely up to individual clubs.

She encouraged all National and Zone Councillors to promote the idea of forming Sister club relationships with like-minded VIEW women and create a connection either in their Area, another Area, another State, or extending friendship on a national level.

Lyn suggested that forming Sister Club relationships may assist those clubs who feel isolated. "Sister Club" reunions at National Conventions are always a wonderful way to catch up and spend some time together.

Application forms are available on the VIEW website or by contacting Past National President Brenda Harrold at brendaharrold@bigpond.com who maintains a register of sister clubs. Completed applications are forwarded to Brenda on completion.

Club Closures

Lyn Gerstenberg advised that the following clubs had closed since the February National Council meeting -

Kandos-Rylstone	NH02	12 February 2015
Chatswood	NC01	16 February 2015
Evans Head	NJ02	16 February 2015
Canberra	AA01	5 March 2015
Hills District	NE01	24 March 2015
Albury Evening	NL03	22 April 2015

Lyn commented that the reason for these clubs closing is ageing membership and the inability to gain more members or committee members to enable the clubs to continue functioning.

She stressed that it is essential that all VIEW members focus on promoting their club and recruiting new members.

5.4 Community Partnerships

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

Winter Appeal

The Smith Family Winter Appeal 2015 is now in full swing. TSF aims to raise \$3.5million by the end of June, and \$3.83 million by the end of July. To provide the maximum help, clubs and/or National/Zone Councillors- are encouraged to send in any money in their accounts which is surplus to immediate needs to National Office ASAP. These immediate funds will help to provide 9,575 disadvantaged children get extra learning support to build their skills and confidence and reach their potential education.

Blue Illusion

Thank you once again to VIEW members, their friends and family who supported the Blue Illusion styling workshop and shopping day on Thursday 12 March. Blue Illusion announced that \$36,732.30 (10% of sale proceeds on the day) was raised for The Smith Family. What a wonderful effort!

This was the second Blue Illusion event on behalf of The Smith Family the previous event was held on 12 September 2014 raising \$41,342.40.

VIEW Clubs members were encouraged to invite their friends, family members, colleagues and received a \$25 gift voucher, goodie bag, a fashion parade and the ability to speak about VIEW and The Smith Family. VIEW Club marketing collateral was also placed in shoppers bags on the day.

Blue Illusion experienced a 43% increase on sales compared to the same day last year and was particularly excited to see the number of Smith Family/VIEW redemptions of the \$25 voucher on 12 March: a total of 354 vouchers were redeemed, which was worth over \$65,000 in sales. This has been their highest result so far with a charity.

Discussions are currently underway about the likelihood of another Blue Illusion national shopping day for The Smith Family in September 2015. Further details will be provided once received.

PCCU Community Lottery

VIEW received an allocation of 10,000 PCCU raffle tickets (\$20,000) to be sold from Mid-May to the end of August. Clubs who did not receive books last year have been given priority.

Once again, Zone Councillors are helping National Office with redistribution of books locally, encouraging selling and, of course, collection and return by the due date of **Friday 4 September**.

Once again some clubs have missed out on receiving PCCU raffle books this year. Clubs are asked not to hang on to books if they are unable to sell them, but to notify their Zone Councillor ASAP so they can be redistributed.

5.5 Promoting our Brand

Sue Field spoke to a paper circulated prior to the meeting noting that there are a number of ways to promote the VIEW brand.

Walk with VIEW Once again VIEW Clubs are gearing up to participate in their annual "Walk with VIEW". These events are many and varied around the country and give members the opportunity to communicate with other women, profile what we do in the community, raise funds and get some exercise at the same time. Area AA members were commended for continuing their walk with a VIEW in the pouring rain.

Area Galas and Zone Conferences are now being held and the amount of media these events are generating is certainly Promoting our Brand. Having a *Learning for Life* student speak at these events often helps "new to VIEW" women to make the connection between VIEW and The Smith Family and in so doing helps to promote what we do and why we raise funds to help Australian children reach their potential through education.

Information Stands at local festivals and shopping centres promoting our Brand have increased awareness of VIEW, bringing in new members and a new public awareness of how together with The Smith Family, VIEW is providing essential support to disadvantaged children, helping them make the most of their education.

VIEW National Convention – Wollongong - 11-13 September 2015

All members are invited to come and join in the fun! National Convention provides a wonderful opportunity to Promote our Brand. With only 3 months till Convention (and tickets still available) now is the time to encourage your VIEW and non-VIEW friends to come and hear from well-known guest speakers and personalities. Join the "Walk with VIEW" along the Wollongong foreshore. There has already been media in the local papers with more to come in the lead up to convention.

Sue especially encouraged all local VIEW Club members in Macarthur, Southern Highlands & Illawarra region including Wollongong (NB) and NSW South Coast Berry to Eden (NG) to join in the fun of Convention in their neighbourhood.

7 reasons to come to National Convention in Wollongong

- Great opportunity to mix with like-minded women
- Hear updates about VIEW and The Smith Family organisations
- Connect with VIEW friends from around Australia and make new ones
- Hear from inspirational speakers
- Embrace the fun and friendship of VIEW Clubs
- All social events are within easy walking distance of the Novotel
- Have a great holiday, in a fabulous seaside location

See item 6.4 for more details about speakers attending National Convention

Social Media is another way to promote VIEW to others. Members are encouraged to use Facebook or Twitter etc. to talk about what they are

doing and how much they enjoy being a member of VIEW. Many clubs and Zones are forming their own Facebook pages, which enables members of the public to see what's happening in their own areas. The VIEW **Website** is in the process of being refreshed and will be up and running later in the year.

VIEW Magazine is another way to Promote our Brand. Once read by members, magazines can be left in the waiting rooms of hairdressers, dentists, doctors, etc, or handed on to family and friends with an invitation to go along to one of your functions.

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 spoke to a report circulated prior to the meeting noting that voting is underway for the four successful resolutions which were selected for debate at National Convention in September. Briefly the topics are:

- Childhood obesity
- Domestic violence
- Education for Aboriginal girls
- Sugar content in food

In the March mailout all clubs were sent all four resolutions including the full title and wording of each rationale, with arguments for and against. The resolutions are also available on the VIEW website (under March mailouts) or can be obtained from Zone or National Councillors.

Lyn stated that there had been renewed interest in resolutions debates with many clubs inviting school students to debate a resolution at Club Meetings and Zone Conferences.

Every club member is encouraged to vote. Lyn reminded members that voting and debating resolutions enables members to use the Voice of VIEW to advocate for significant change in Australian Society.

Resolution Debate at National Convention in September. Each resolution requires three speakers for and three against. Members interested in debating any of the resolutions at Convention are asked to contact Lyn Gerstenberg on 02 4422 0705 or madeline16@bigpond.com

5.7 External Relations

Maryanne Maher reported on a recent Economic Security 4 Women (eS4W) Face to Face meeting. The meeting considered the recent Federal Budget and Member Engagement.

It was proposed that the work plan for the next financial period would include building on the 2014-2015 projects and a new project 'What Women Need: for their economic security' which would build on the previous projects – "What women want survey". It was noted that eS4W would engage in research and professional writing expertise to firstly, assist with the development of the survey and the analysis of results and secondly, to write the report.

This would produce a substantial document; on which to base future work of eS4W and to Parliament as it faces the 2016 election. It would demonstrate and include strong member engagement with a concrete understanding of what is important for women from all member organisations to achieve economic security.

All eS4W member organisations will be asked to distribute the survey (once finalized and approved) to their members to ensure broad circulation and reach amongst their networks to promote a robust response.

LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

Sophie Armstrong Direct Marketing Coordinator and **Adam Watson** Face to Face Fundraising Manager TSF Marketing Team presented a session on how The Smith Family is using "storytelling" in its fundraising initiatives. They explained some of the strategies and activities used in Appeals.

AROUND THE AREAS

Robin Perros facilitated a session where National Councillors were able to share issues (and solutions and learnings) that had arisen in their Areas.

ELECTION OF NATIONAL EXECUTIVE FOR 2016-2017

Interviews for the National Executive for 2016-2017 were conducted. At the September National Council meeting a ballot will be 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 2016.

6. WORKING GROUPS

6.1 Future of VIEW Working Group (FoV WG)

Robin Perros spoke to a report circulated prior to the meeting. National Council was reminded that the FoV WG is an advisory body, with the decision making resting with National Council, the VIEW Executive and VIEW National Manager. Since its inception, the FoV WG has drafted a number of discussion papers and made recommendations to National Council which have been implemented.

The FoV WG is:

- Continuing to survey remaining club Secretaries or Presidents focusing on four key areas – membership, promotion, advocacy/volunteering and fundraising. This follows on from the 150 surveys conducted in 2014.
- Reviewing and updating guidelines for Development of new Clubs for future submission to National Council.

Current FoV WG members include: Jennie Wynd (joined the FoV WG as the National Council representative in 2014), PNP Lorraine Montgomery and PNVPs Jillian Smith, Susan Groenhout and Lyn Geer and National Manager Maryanne Maher.

6.2 History

Robin Perros spoke to a paper circulated prior to the meeting.

Clubs are reminded that they should always keep the Minutes of their Inaugural and Annual General Meetings (including attached reports).

National Councillors are reminded that details pertaining to Club Inaugural and Closure Meetings are vital to the ongoing history of the VIEW organisation and are urged to ensure that these records are supplied to the Working Group as soon as possible.

A VIEW History Information booth will be included in the Expo on Day 1 - Friday 11 September at National Convention 2015. All members attending are invited to come along and visit the VIEW History display.

6.3 Website Development Project

Maryanne Maher advised that the development of the new VIEW website – View.org.au is progressing well. The VIEW Website Development Working Group has updated content for this refreshed website. This project is expected to be completed in late 2015.

6.4 National Convention 2015

Maryanne Maher provided an update on National Convention 2015 noting that there is a spectacular line up of speakers for all events.

Friday 11 September - Day 1 – Women of Inspiration Panel: Jean Kittson, Caroline Knight, Jessica Rowe, Margaret Pomeranz and Ticky Fullerton who will facilitate this event. **Friday night:** Two fun social dinners to choose from "Let's go Cruising" and "Midnight in Paris".

Saturday 12 September -Day 2 – Voice of VIEW and Writer's Festival: Geraldine Doogue, Sarah Hopkins, and Kate Grenville who will be interviewed by a local facilitator.

The **George Forbes Oration** will be given by Professor Gillian Triggs, President of Human Rights Commission.

Saturday night – highlight event - **Gala Dinner** "Emeralds, Elegance and Excitement" celebrating the 55th Anniversary of VIEW.

Sunday 13 September – Grand Celebration Wollongong Town Hall. A free event - come and hear the BlueScope Youth Orchestra, Venerable Miao You from Nan Tien Temple, Peter Nickolas play the famous pipe organ as well as a local soloist. Friends and family members are encouraged to attend the Grand Celebration.

New VIEW members in 2015 have been sent individual invitations to attend their first National Convention in September.

While cost might be a factor for some members, there is no obligation to attend all events. Members will still benefit from only attending one function.

Volunteers are required for Convention at all events, especially for Sunday at the Grand Celebration. If members are interested in volunteering they should contact: PNP Lorraine Montgomery 02 44643648 or gl.monty@bigpond.com

All events still have tickets available. Registration has been extended to 21 August but members are encouraged to book now so that they do not miss out.

Recycling comes to National Convention in Wollongong “pop up” retail store

For members attending National Convention, this year there will be a Smith Family “pop up” retail store at Expo Day 1 on Friday and Day 2 Saturday. All proceeds from the sale of clothing donations will go to learning programs for disadvantaged children supported by The Smith Family.

Clothing donations

VIEW members who will be attending National Convention are invited to look through their wardrobes and find at least one item of good quality used, (or unwanted new) clothing to donate to The Smith Family Collection point “Big Red Bin” which will be located at Novotel Northbeach Wollongong (National Convention’s main venue). (All donated clothing will be sent to Villawood for distribution to TSF Recycling stores in NSW AND ACT.)

Members (particularly those in NSW and ACT) not attending are encouraged to similarly donate any items of unwanted clothing to their local Smith Family retail store. These locations can be found at thesmithfamily.com.au/recycling

7. EVENTS

7.1 International Women’s Day (IWD) 2015

Maryanne Maher provided an update on IWD Events noting that this year VIEW hosted a record number of International Women’s Day events around Australia. These events continue to be a successful way to profile VIEW and the work members do in the community in support of The Smith Family.

In Sydney 160 members including NVPs Lyn Gerstenberg (MC) and Sue Field attended NSW Parliament House in Sydney on 5 March to celebrate International Women’s Day. Speakers were: The Hon Pru Goward MP, Minister for Women, The Hon Shelley Hancock MP, Speaker of NSW Legislative Assembly, Dr Lisa O’Brien and Tenile Bryce *Learning for Life* student.

In Melbourne 160 members including National President Robin Perros attended a luncheon at Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club. Speakers were: The Smith Family’s General Manager, Anton Leschen, Dr Sally Cockburn, the Mayor of Stonnington joined former *Learning for Life* student, Kristen Vienna.

In Brisbane 160 members attended a High Tea at Pullman Mercure. Speakers were: The Smith Family’s General Manager, Alan Le May, National President Robin Perros, a panel of influential women: Anne Cross, Rhonda Davidson-Irwin, Dr Carol Douglas Squadron Leader 36 Squadron RAAF Samantha Freebairn, Jane Prentice MP and Marie- Rose Ishimwe *Learning for Life* student.

Other significant events were held around Australia:

ACT events: Belconnen, Combined (Lake George, Bungendore, and Queanbeyan)

NSW Events: Nelson Bay, Tilligerry, Central Coast, Clarence Valley, Bateau Bay, Goulburn, Combined Clubs from Sapphire Coast, Lennox

Head, Great Lakes/Forster/Tuncurry, Harrington, Peakhurst, South Tweed St Marys, Tamworth, Taree, Wagga Wagga, Wollongong and Yamba.

QLD Events: Caloundra VIEW, Warwick VIEW, Toowoomba Day

SA Events: Gawler VIEW Club, Marion VIEW Club, Victor Harbour VIEW

VIC Events: ZC Joan Dillon, Cranbourne

WA Events: West Coast VIEW Club

International Women's Day 2016

Plans have already started for IWD next year - **NSW Parliament House** has been booked for the VIEW IWD luncheon on **Tuesday 8 March 2016**. If members have not been to this event, they are encouraged to come along and celebrate with fellow VIEW members and friends. **Special key note speaker: Jane Hutcheon** (who presents the interview program One Plus One on ABC TV) will be attending and talking about her second book about China's One Child Policy.

Regional and rural members are particularly encouraged to attend next year for a fabulous luncheon, in the stunning Stranger's dining room overlooking The Domain.

In Melbourne, The Kooyong Lawn Tennis Club has also been booked for **Thursday 3 March**.

National Office is keen to promote all VIEW IWD events to all members and others. Clubs hosting should send an email to National Office with the day, time, speakers attending and cost.

7.2 Development Workshops

Robin Perros reported that one of the major focuses of this National Council has been assisting with development of new clubs as well as maintaining and increasing membership of current clubs.

The Executive has held Development meetings in NSW in Areas New England and North Central NSW (NI), NSW Northern Rivers (NJ) and Riverina, MIA, Snowy Mountain Foothills and south to Victorian border (NL), as well as in Queensland, Brisbane and surrounding area(QA), The Sunshine and Fraser Coasts (QB) and Gold Coast and Darling Downs (QC).

The Development meetings were attended by members of the National Executive, National and Zone Councillors and Senior Office Bearers in each Area, as well as representatives from most Clubs.

The main objectives were to assess the health of the clubs in each area, to impart information, to answer queries and concerns from those clubs who were represented, and to encourage the formation of Development Teams in these Areas.

All agreed it was a good opportunity for our more remote clubs to have a face to face meeting with members of the Senior Leadership Team.

NSW Northern Rivers (NJ)

For Area NJ the Development meeting was held on 13 March 2015 at Ocean Shores.

Kathie Diskin who was appointed as National Councillor in 2015, and Rosie McDermott and Cathy Campbell, who both stepped into the roles of Zone

Councillors, are all keen to focus on maintaining the health of the Clubs in the Area.

Generous time for discussion, sharing of ideas, and presentation of updated information allowed all members to leave with renewed enthusiasm.

New England and North Central NSW (NI)

For Area NI the Development Meeting was held in Gunnedah on 19 March 2015.

This area is rural and pastoral with significant distances between clubs which often inhibits inter club visiting.

Valuable discussions and sharing of information was beneficial to all clubs who were represented.

PSOBs Mareen Bithrey, Maureen Boyce, Glenda Noble and Gwen Krause have formed a Development Team for the Area. This group will **investigate the reforming of a club in Armidale**. Members may be aware that the Armidale Day club closed in 2009 and the Armidale Evening Club closed 2010.

It was noted that other **areas for investigation are: Quirindi, Warialda, Walcha and Uralla**. If any members have contacts in any of these areas or would like to assist they should contact PNC Glenda Noble on 02 6762 1910 or 0408 621 910 or email wno95240@bigpond.net.au

Riverina, MIA, Snowy Mountain Foothills and south to Victorian border (NL)

For Area NL the Development meeting was held in Wagga Wagga on 20 March and attended by the local The Smith Family *Learning for Life* Program Co-ordinators who spoke about their work in the area. The NL Development team, was formed by PNC Cynthia Guyenette, and includes PNVP Helen Eccleston, ZC Marjorie Smith, ZC Gail Tooth, PNC Bobbie Kell, PNC Barb Stieber and Gill McKay. Their initial focus is to provide support, and encouragement as well as working to improve communication between the clubs in the Area with the possibility of developing new clubs in the future.

Three common concerns from members in all NSW Areas visited were:

1. Issues of declining membership due to ageing and ill health.
2. Difficulty in encouraging women to step up into Club Committee roles, as well as Zone and National Councillor roles.
3. Remote Clubs often feel isolated.

Queensland

National President Robin Perros attended Development meetings in Queensland in the following areas:

Brisbane and surrounding Area (QA) - 9 March with great representation of the clubs in the Zone. Zone Councillor Lyn Masters has agreed to head up the Development Team of Robyn Apps and Barbara Hitchcock and to investigate the **Springfield area** for the Development of a new club.

The Sunshine and Fraser Coasts Area (QB) - held on 11 March and was organised by PNC Ann McKenna. This area does not presently have a National Councillor, but does have two Zone Councillors Lorraine Sumpton and Barbara Cameron

After much discussion members felt that they needed to focus primarily on the health and expansion of the clubs in the area, with **the investigation of Maryborough area for future development**.

Gold Coast and Darling Downs Area (QC) – held on 12 March, with disappointing attendance. Members felt that there were enough clubs on the Gold Coast and a new club was not warranted at this time. They wished to concentrate on increasing membership in their own Area QC which is presently being trialled, with the current Zone Councillor Anne-Marie Lawlor as the acting National Councillor.

Any Queensland members interested in being part of a development team in their Area should contact Anne-Marie Lawlor on 07 5578 8180 or 0416 160 356 or email zonecouncillorqa01@bigpond.com

Maryanne advised that the VIEW Club Development Guide is currently being reviewed by FoV WG and will be available shortly.

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:

Club/Member Email Address

National/Zone Councillors are asked to remind Clubs that they should:

- a) Ensure that their club contact details are correct with National Office and the view.org.au website;
- b) Ensure that the club committee personal email addresses are correct with National Office; and
- c) Check their Club Email regularly as not only will messages come from National Office but other VIEW Clubs/members and potential members will be trying to contact them.

Incorrect email addresses mean that important information can be missed as well as disappointing potential members.

VIEW Clubs 2014 Audit Cashbooks

The Smith Family External Auditors are finalising their review of VIEW Club Cashbooks for 2014. No major errors were found and minor issues will be addressed on an individual club basis. Cashbooks will be returned to clubs during July. Clubs are reminded to use the Petty Cash Recording Form which is an easy to use tool.

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 will be sent to clubs in the next mail-out. 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 raise awareness.

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

Electronic Funds Transfer - EFT - Victoria

In 2014 a number of SA clubs trialled EFT. Any other clubs in SA or WA wanting to use EFT for TSF transactions eg general donations, paying *Learning for Life* sponsorship, joy spreaders etc. should contact National Office for more information.

In March 2015 EFT was introduced to Clubs in VIC. There are currently nine clubs in VIC using the EFT for Clubs transactions.

EFT will be available to clubs in NSW, QLD and TAS in 2016.

VIEW Merchandise

National Office will send to all Clubs a flyer with a sale of VIEW Xmas Merchandise in the July mailout. Merchandise includes VIEW Christmas Cards and specials on most items. Of course all VIEW merchandise is available for purchase by members attending National Convention.

No Donations of Goods to Collingwood TSF Office

Victorian National and Zone Councillors are reminded to contact their clubs and advise members that the Collingwood Smith Family Office is no longer accepting unsolicited donations of stationery or goods. Collingwood office is closing in the next two weeks and TSF staff will be moving to new premises: Level 7, 50 Queen Street, Melbourne.

Donations of stationery and other items from VIEW Club members are always appreciated by *Learning for Life* Program Co-ordinators. In order to enable VIEW members to continue to donate these items, Anne Marmion Team Leader *Learning for Life* has agreed to accept donations at her home.

VIEW Clubs wishing to make donations should:

- **Contact Anne Marmion** by phoning 03 98774825 or 0418 542 420 or email Anne.Marmion@thesmithfamily.com.au to arrange a date/time for delivery. **This must be arranged prior to delivery.**
- Donations are to be delivered to: 16 Dickens Street, Blackburn VIC 3130.
- Anne's husband, Bernie, is generally home and goods can safely be left on verandah.
- Donations should not be left without contacting Anne first.

If members have any questions or queries they should contact PNVP Lyn Geer ph 03 9434 5691, mob 0409 145 073 or email lyngeer@bigpond.com

8.2 FAQs Session (Frequently Asked Questions)

The following questions were addressed:

Question	Answer
Why does National Office not answer the phone?	All queries should be directed to National and Zone Councillors in the first instance. National Office consists of two and a half staff members who work solidly throughout the day. Often they do not have time to answer the phone and request members leave a clear message and their contact details. Emailing National Office is another way to contact them. view@thesmithfamily.com.au Messages are reviewed throughout the day. If you leave a telephone message or send an email message National Office will respond as soon as possible.

<p>What is the appropriate use of the VIEW logo? Can a club develop its own logo using the VIEW logo? When can the circle of friendship be used and who can use it?</p>	<p>Clubs are part of VIEW Clubs of Australia, a valued part of The Smith Family. As stated in the Club Handbook, VIEW members must adhere to strict usage guidelines. The Smith Family and VIEW are registered business names, each with a logo which is the property of The Smith Family. Approval must be gained from VIEW National Office prior to using The Smith Family and VIEW logos. The VIEW logo cannot be altered and Clubs cannot develop their own logo using the VIEW logo.</p>
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8.3 National Council *Learning for Life* Student

Marian Kingham provided an update on the National Council's *Learning for Life* student.

8.4 VIEW Patron

Jillian Smith facilitated a discussion to select five possible candidates for VIEW Patron. She noted that 77 names had been submitted over the last few months by individuals and Clubs. All names received were considered.

After some discussion National Council **selected** their top five candidates against the selection criteria. These five candidates will be submitted to The Smith Family Board for approval. If approved, a formal approach will be made to the selected candidates in the order selected by National Council.

Jillian explained that a person may be deemed to be appropriate, yet unable to take on the role for a variety of reasons. Should all approved candidates be unable to accept the role of VIEW Patron, National Council **agreed** that the position may be revisited at a later date.

It is hoped that the Patron might be invited to Convention 2015 and presented to the membership.

At this stage, National Council **agreed** that the names of the selected candidates were to be kept confidential.

8.5 Club Communication

Robin Perros spoke to a discussion paper circulated prior to the meeting. She expressed concern that a number of club committees are:

- Not passing on all VIEW information from National Office to their members
- Making executive decisions without ratifying them with members or communicating with its members about such decisions.

Robin noted that it is common VIEW practice for club members to be presented with all relevant background information on matters under discussion and then given the opportunity to ratify or amend the recommendation, or to vote against it. There are some internal matters such as programming, publicity, etc, which can be attended to without members' involvement, this is usual practice.

Robin reiterated that this lack of consultation with club members is not in accordance with VIEW guidelines. In some instances when Senior Office Bearers have requested clubs adhere to VIEW protocol, this advice has been disregarded, making the Zone and National Councillors appear to be “the enforcers” in the process, creating much ill feeling.

Clubs are reminded of VIEW practice and guidelines in regard to openness and transparency between club committee and members.

National Council **agreed** that a memorandum should be sent from the National Executive to Club Committees reminding them of their obligations to provide all relevant information to all club members before any decisions are agreed upon.

8.6 Ratification of Clubs with Alternative Club Structures

As a result of AGM/Elections held earlier this year, National Council **ratified** the following Clubs with Alternative Club Structures:

Braidwood Evening VIEW Club	Area AA
Cooma Evening VIEW Club	Area AA

8.7 Ratification of Club Name Changes

Robin Perros advised that requests have been made for the following changes to Club names (accompanied by a copy of Club Minutes evidencing agreement by the majority of members):

Adelaide Pioneer VIEW Club (Area SA) to become **Burnside Pioneer VIEW Club**

and

Subiaco Day VIEW Club (Area WA) to become **WA Western Suburbs VIEW Club**

After a brief discussion, National Council **ratified** the Club name changes outlined above.

8.8 Review of Annual Subscription and Joining Fee

In light of the cost saving initiatives implemented in 2012 and the general focus of reducing costs where possible, National Council **agreed** that the Annual Membership Subscription and Joining Fee should remain at \$15.00 and \$20.00 respectively for 2016 and be reviewed next year.

8.9 George Forbes and National President’s Awards

Robin Perros reminded National Councillors that the George Forbes and National President’s Awards are now open for nominations. Nomination forms have been provided to all Executive and National Councillors for consideration.

The George Forbes Award is given to a VIEW member for her service to VIEW. The National President’s Award is an award given to a VIEW member for recognition of her volunteering within VIEW and/or The Smith Family.

These Awards are announced at Convention.

Submissions should be sent to National Office no later than 30 July.

8.10 Reduced number of National Vice Presidents

Robin Perros spoke to a discussion paper circulated prior to the meeting noting that, today, the VIEW National Executive consists of four members, a National President and **three** National Vice Presidents. National Executive members are elected from the National Council during the second year of their term.

During 2014 four National Councillors resigned, necessitating the appointment of five National Councillors for 2015. These five replacement National Councillors were ineligible to nominate for Executive as they had not completed a full term.

Due to the reduced pool of eligible candidates and lack of nominations for Executive, Robin recommended that an Executive consisting of the National President and **two** National Vice Presidents to support her and deputise when necessary, be trialled for 2016-17, with the trial to be reviewed in two years.

Robin noted that there might be an increased workload for the National Executive, with fewer members to share the duties.

After a brief discussion, National Council **unanimously agreed** (1) to a two year trial of a reduced National Executive which would consist of the National President and **two** National Vice Presidents and (2) that the decision would be reviewed in 2017.

8.11 Speakers Bureau

Sue Field reminded National Council that it is hoped that a Speakers Bureau will be formed for NSW. She suggested that it would be based on the Victorian Community Relations Group model. Further information will be provided at the September National Council meeting.

8.12 Vacant National/Zone Councillor Positions for 2016-2017

Robin Perros advised that only 10 nominations had been received to date for National Councillors. Nominations closed on 8 May 2015.

Robin advised that nominations for Zone Councillors do not close until 14 August 2015.

She expressed concern that there were still a number of vacant National/Zone Councillor positions and urged all those eligible members to consider these rewarding leadership positions.

After ratification at the September National Council meeting a full list of National Councillors will be published in the National Minutes.

Dates of Next Meetings

National Executive – 10 July (Teleconference), 6 August (Teleconference) and 9 September (Face to Face)

National Council – Thursday 10 September 2015