

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

**National Minutes  
and  
Information from National Council**

**February 2017**

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## Summary of Decisions at National Council Meeting February 2017

Area of Work	Decision, Policy and/or Procedure	Agenda Reference
Resolutions	Four motions selected as VIEW Resolutions for clubs to debate and vote on prior to <b>returning Tally Sheets only to National office by 4.30 pm Friday 25 August 2017.</b> Members coming to National Convention to hear the resolution debate can vote at National Convention.	4.1
Future of VIEW Working Group	National Council <b>ratified</b> the rezoning of the Riverina, MIA, Snowy Mountain Foothills Area and <b>agreed</b> that the rezoning take place retrospectively effective 1 January 2017	5.3
National Convention	Members (especially new members) are encouraged to come and experience VIEW <b>National Convention in Tamworth 15-17 September 2017.</b>	5.4
Zone Councillor Appointment	National Council <b>accepted</b> , with regret, the resignation of Liz Evers due to health and unanimously <b>ratified</b> the appointment of Gail Tooth as Zone Councillor for 2017 in Zone NL02	6.6
Book Vouchers	National Council unanimously <b>reiterated</b> the current policy that a maximum of \$50 per Club per year could be expended on a book award/voucher to one local school	6.7

## MINUTES AND INFORMATION FROM NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Sunday 12 February 2017  
The Holiday Inn, Sydney Airport

### National Executive Present

National President Gwen Wilton, National Vice Presidents Toni Thomas and Gloria Walter

### National Councillors Present

**Cecilia Bayliss**, Upper Mid North Coast of NSW and Inland (NM), **Patricia Brooks** - South Eastern Metropolitan Melbourne to the Mornington Peninsula & Gippsland (VB), **Barbara Cameron** - The Sunshine and Fraser Coast (QB), **Jeanette Cassidy** - Sydney North Shore & Northern Beaches (NC), **Kathie Diskin** - NSW Northern Rivers (NJ), **Liz Doorey** - Lower Mid North Coast of NSW and Inland (NK), **Ellen Gray** - Central and Southern Sydney (ND), **Barbara Gullotta** - Riverina, MIA, Snowy Mountain Foothills (NL), **Eila Harding** - Metropolitan Adelaide and Surrounds including Sunraysia (SA), **Barbara Hyslop** - New England and North Central NSW (NI), **Pat McRae** - NSW South Coast Berry to Eden (NG), **Lyn Masters** - Brisbane and Surrounds (QA), **Jan Roberts** - Canberra and surrounding areas (AA), **Annette Schlafrig** - Central & Eastern Metropolitan Melbourne (VA), **Annette Thiedeke** - Gold Coast and Darling Downs (QC), **Sunnie Watts**, North and Western Metropolitan Melbourne & North and Western Country (VC), **Yvonne White** - Macarthur, Southern Highlands & Illawarra region including Wollongong (NB)

**Apologies:** None

### Guests Present

Leonie Green, Head of State and Territory Operations, The Smith Family  
Susan Groenhout, Past National Vice President  
Luisa Bustos, Communications Consultant

### 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 Gwen Wilton welcomed all present and began the meeting by acknowledging the traditional owners and custodians of the land. She then opened the meeting with the VIEW Pledge.

**Succession planning** - Zone and National Councillors for 2018-19  
Gwen raised the importance of succession planning of National and Zone Councillors for 2018-19 in all Areas to ensure the future wellbeing of VIEW as a viable and ongoing organization.

### **Making a Difference Award: October - December 2016**

The Executive continues to be impressed by the calibre of the candidates nominated for this award. During the last two quarters, they have received a number of outstanding entries from Clubs who have nominated amazing VIEW members, living the VIEW values and guiding principles.

All recipients and their clubs have been notified of their success. They have been acknowledged on the VIEW website and will be added to the Honour Roll at National Convention 2017.

The Making a Difference Award for January-March 2017 is now open for nominations. Clubs (and or members) are encouraged to nominate member/s from their clubs who are deserving of this award, to acknowledge their dedication and contribution to VIEW.

Clubs are asked to send a high quality photo with the nomination form available on the website to [view@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:view@thesmithfamily.com.au) with the heading Making a Difference Award nominee.

## 2. MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

**Minutes** - National Council **ratified** the minutes of the October 2016 meeting.

**Moved** Ellen Gray, **seconded** Yvonne White.

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

## 3. REPORTS

### 3.1 Executive Update

Gloria Walter spoke to a report circulated prior the meeting.

She reported that, in 2016, the Executive attended a number of events in all States including interest meetings, State conferences (WA and SA) and information sessions giving them the opportunity to meet current, new and prospective members and learn more about them and their clubs.

#### **Sydney Metropolitan Area**

The Executive has completed 32 of the 36 visits to all Sydney Metropolitan Clubs with the final four scheduled for March. The Executive would like to thank all Clubs for their warm welcome. These visits have provided the Executive with an opportunity to understand the health of clubs, to offer assistance on ways to promote VIEW and attract new members.

#### **Interest Meetings – Bathurst**

Following on from the two interest meetings held in Bathurst last year further interest meetings are planned this year for **Monday 20 March (89 Rankin Street, Bathurst at 5pm)**, **15 June** and **19 October**. Members are asked to spread the word to their friends and relatives in Bathurst and surrounding areas that we are *Bringing VIEW back to Bathurst*. If you would like to join one of our interest meetings, be part of the development team, or require further information contact Toni Thomas [bobtonithomas1@hotmail.com](mailto:bobtonithomas1@hotmail.com) / 0468 793 832.

#### **Interest Meetings – Mosman**

VIEW was delighted to be invited by Mosman Municipal Council late last year to establish a VIEW Club in Mosman with Council's support. **An Interest Meeting for Mosman VIEW Club will be held on Friday 24 March at 2.30pm in the Mosman Square Centre**. Further Interest meetings are scheduled for the third Friday of each month **21 April, 19 May, 16 June** same time and place as above.

If you would like to come to a Mosman interest meeting, be part of the development team, or require further information contact Jeanette Cassidy [pjcass@tpg.com.au](mailto:pjcass@tpg.com.au) /02 9144 6108.

All members are encouraged to inform their friends, relatives, colleagues in Mosman and neighbouring suburbs about this exciting opportunity for VIEW and to come along to support and learn more about VIEW in Mosman.

### **The Smith Family Retail Stores**

All of The Smith Family Retail stores in NSW and ACT are equipped with VIEW marketing material, posters VIEW Matters Magazines and brochures to promote VIEW.

The Smith Family Retail stores are slowly undergoing change with a new flagship store opened in Marrickville in November last year. Lugarno VIEW Club members attended the official launch and provided the morning tea as well as attending the community launch.

The **Kempsey retail store** launch will be on Tuesday 14 February. Local VIEW Club members will be attending this event and providing morning tea

This inaugural store in Kempsey (67 Smith Street, Kempsey) will showcase The Smith Family's new and recycled clothing and provide employment and engagement opportunities within the local community.

In May the **Goulburn retail store** will undergo relocation to 107 Auburn Street (in the main street) Goulburn. There will be a grand opening of the new look store. Once the date has been confirmed local VIEW members and their friends will be invited to attend.

All members in NSW/ACT are encouraged to visit their local The Smith Family retail stores and introduce themselves to the staff. Retail stores are often looking for donations of good quality wearable or unwanted new clothing as well as volunteers to tag stock, keep the store neat and tidy, and interact with customers. Any members interested in donating and/or volunteering should contact their local Smith Family retail store.

Members are reminded that they receive a minimum of 25% discount (if they show a current VIEW Club badge) throughout all Smith Family retail stores. To find your local store go to The Smith Family website.

### **3.2 Learning for Life Liaison**

National Council **noted** a report circulated prior to the meeting. PNVP Sue Field has been the VIEW *Learning for Life* Liaison for the past four years and during that time has noticed a marked reduction in issues from VIEW Clubs regarding their *Learning for Life* students.

Sue believes that the assistance of Deon Ngatai Supporter Care The Smith Family and the implementation of the *My Smith Family portal* (which enables clubs to go online to obtain their receipts and student profiles) have increased the communication between VIEW Clubs, *Learning for Life* students and The Smith Family which has led to this reduction in issues.

As Sue believes that the *Learning for Life* Liaison role is no longer required she has tendered her resignation.

National Council **thanked** Sue for her dedication and commitment to improving VIEW Clubs communication with their *Learning for Life* students and The Smith Family. National Council **agreed** that this position was no longer required.

### **3.3 National Council *Learning for Life* Student**

Jeanette Cassidy provided an update on the National Council's *Learning for Life* student, Isabella.

### **3.4 Reports on MPs**

Gwen Wilton noted that National Councillors have had a number of successful meetings with their Local, State and Federal representatives in 2016 and in 2017 will continue to send letters of introduction to their Local Council representatives, and State/Federal Members of Parliament.

The letters include information about VIEW, the number of Clubs and members in their area, and the number of *Learning for Life* students supported by their clubs. The aim of the letter is to inform Local Councillors and MPs (about VIEW, what we do and how we support The Smith Family's work in our communities), and request a face to face meeting to discuss VIEW and how they, the representative, can help in profiling VIEW Clubs to others in the community.

## **4. SUB-COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS**

### **4.1 Resolutions**

Toni Thomas reported that by 25 November 2016, 37 motions were received from Clubs and members. The motions were reviewed by the Resolutions Sub-Committee, reworded if necessary after contacting the submitting clubs and formatted, ready for National Council to review.

At the National Council meeting, by process of elimination, these motions were then voted on with four selected to go forward as resolutions for debate at all clubs and National Convention.

Toni noted that the four resolutions include issues of national importance involving women, children and education.

The following four motions were selected to go forward as Resolutions for debate at Convention 2017 –

1. ***Safety first in family law (Domestic Violence)*** That VIEW Clubs of Australia urge all State, Territory and Federal Governments to implement the five point plan "Safety First in Family" to fix Australia's family law system as outlined by Rosie Batty on 15 June 2016 to the National Press Club as part of the Justice for Kids Campaign.
2. ***Transition to post school options for students with disabilities (Education/Children)*** That VIEW Clubs of Australia call on Australian Governments at all levels to address the disparity in educational outcomes for students with a disability and continue to support and resource these students to maximize their education potential and transition to meaningful

post school pathways such as tertiary education and/or employment.

3. **Gambling advertising on TV (Social)** That VIEW Clubs of Australia call on State and Federal Governments to regulate gambling advertising on television to ensure they are not shown during family viewing times.
4. **Medical use of marijuana (Health)** That VIEW Clubs of Australia call on State and Federal Governments to legislate regulatory systems which ensure patient access to cannabis and cannabis-related drugs to ease their suffering.

National Council **noted** that a number of motions were received on the topics of Domestic Violence and Gambling Advertising on Television.

These four resolutions will be forwarded to clubs on 16 February for discussion, debate and voting, together with voting papers. Clubs are asked to **return their Tally Sheets only to National Office by 4.30 pm Friday 25 August 2017.**

Clubs are encouraged to set aside one or two meetings to enable informed discussion or debate and to encourage members to vote responsibly with preferably a Yes or No vote and not abstain. A number of clubs invite local school debating teams to attend their meetings to debate one of the resolutions, which is a good a way to involve members in the resolution process.

Resolutions are debated at National Convention in the morning of Conference Day 2 (Saturday 16 September) giving members attending the chance to vote after hearing the informed and often exciting debate.

Members are reminded that the resolution debate is an important part of National Convention where VIEW members are able to raise their voice on issues of national importance. All members are entitled to submit an individual vote.

### **Selection of Resolutions for Debate in 2017**

National Councillors thanked Susan Groenhout for facilitating the selection process of motions put forward by the membership for resolutions for debate at clubs and National Convention 2017.

The following is a summary of the 37 motions considered by National Council:

No	Motion	No	Motion
1	Transition to post school options for students with disabilities (Education/Children)	20	Gambling Advertising (Social)
2	Minimum staffing levels for Aged-Care Homes (Health)	21	Dash cams in cars (Safety)
3	Improved pedestrian crossing times (Safety)	22	Ban on all forms of TV gambling (Social)

4	Sperm donors (Health)	23	Domestic violence – detention (Domestic Violence)
5	Music therapy for residential aged-care (Aged Care)	24	Children at risk from family violence (Domestic Violence)
6	Outsourcing 000 service (Social)	25	Food Flavour Enhancers (Health)
7	Extended school hours (Children/Education)	26	Removal of mixed sex hospital wards (Health and Social)
8	Reduce the number of months of daylight saving time (Social)	27	Affordable housing for women (Women and Housing)
9	Charges for paper bills (Social Justice)	28	ICE Taskforce (Health/Social)
10	Higher interest rates for self-funded retirees (Social)	29	Anti-bullying (Children/Education)
11	Gambling Advertising on TV (Social Justice)	30	Safe schools program (Health and Social)
12	Charges for paperless bills (Social Justice)	31	Funding for AIS athletes (Sport)
13	Funding for aged care facilities (Aged Care)	32	Outreach to Muslim children (Education)
14	Safety first in family law (Domestic Violence)	33	Captioned movies (Social)
15	Gap bridges for all trains (Safety)	34	Gambling advertising on TV (Social)
16	Standardised Federal road rules (Safety)	35	Reflective strips for country trains (Social)
17	Special licence to tow caravans and trailers (Road Safety)	36	Dying with dignity (Health)
18	Ban on Gambling advertising on TV (Social)	37	Medical use of marijuana (Health)
19	Safety first in family law (Domestic Violence)		

#### 4.2 External Relations

Maryanne Maher spoke to a report circulated prior to the meeting advising that Roselyne Anderson was elected as the new Chair of eS4W (economic security for women) in November last year.

PNVP Lyn Geer will represent VIEW at Day 2 of the Who Cares! Forum to be held in Melbourne 20 & 21 February 2017. The Who Cares! Forum will cover four key areas of the Care Economy:

- Scoping the Care Economy
- The Cost of the Care Economy
- Existing Structure and Framework
- Gaps and Strategies

### **4.3 VIEW in the Community including Events**

Gloria Walter spoke to a report circulated prior to the meeting.

#### **Promoting VIEW**

Development of clubs, increasing membership including reinvigorating and revitalising our current clubs remains the focus of National Council. Members are encouraged to promote their sponsorship of *Learning for Life* students, volunteering and advocacy to improve the life outcomes of disadvantaged Australian children and young people through their support of The Smith Family.

All VIEW Clubs are encouraged to place information (VIEW brochures, posters, wallet cards) with their club contact details in local meeting venues, supermarket community noticeboards, local Libraries, Community Centres, Doctor's surgeries, Dentists, etc.

All members are encouraged (where possible) to participate in the national fundraising activities and events that occur during the year ie Blue Illusion National Shopping Day, People's Choice Community Lottery, Toy and Book Appeal, Christmas and Winter Appeals.

#### **Walk with VIEW**

In 2016 members participated in 20 Walks with VIEW in their local communities. Clubs are encouraged to host this fun activity in their local area, wearing VIEW colours and carrying The Smith Family red and blue balloons which represent the children VIEW sponsor. A Balloon kit is available from National Office [view@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:view@thesmithfamily.com.au).

#### **Fabulous Fountain Photo Competition**

A number of fabulous photos of members, their VIEW umbrellas and fountains have been received. Members are encouraged to submit entries to [view@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:view@thesmithfamily.com.au) before 30 June 2017.

#### **Media Release**

All Clubs have received the "membership drive" media release (to customize to their particular area) to promote their Club to potential new members through local media. This media release can be used at any time of the year.

Clubs are reminded that group photographs with guest speakers, new members or a new Committee together with an article about VIEW and our work with The Smith Family are successful ways to get into the local paper.

Media Liaison Officer, PNVP Christine Newell is available for advice [chrismn48@gmail.com](mailto:chrismn48@gmail.com).

#### **Website & Facebook**

All members are urged to visit the [view.org.au](http://view.org.au) website and update their club page and join Facebook to promote VIEW and The Smith Family. Members are encouraged to set up their own club Facebook page and "like" the VIEW Club Facebook page.

#### **Volunteering**

The Smith Family is currently seeking volunteers for Learning clubs, student2student program supervisors and administrative support in Smith Family offices. Members interested in volunteering should contact their local Smith Family office. Members volunteering hours should continue to be sent regularly to June Greentree ([jbgreentree@gmail.com](mailto:jbgreentree@gmail.com)).

### **4.4 Promoting Our Brand/Speakers Bureau**

Gwen Wilton reminded National Council that the goal of the Speakers Bureau is to promote and profile VIEW and our connection with The Smith Family to external organisations such as Lions, Rotary, Inner Wheel, CWA,

Zonta, Probus, local businesses, local councils and other community groups.

The Speakers' Bureau is currently being trialed in Shoalhaven, Illawarra, Sydney and Central Coast areas with a broad range of organisations approached and offered speakers to attend their meetings with follow up letters sent in January 2017.

The first speaking engagement for 2017 was for the *NSW Conference of Environmental and Zoo Education* held in Bowral and attended by Gwen Wilton. This was a successful night with attendees interested to hear about the work of VIEW and our connection with The Smith Family and generously donated \$2000

A further engagement has been booked with Shoalhaven Ladies Probus for April/May.

The Speakers Bureau is keen to receive more speaking engagements with organisations, in other areas and asks that clubs forward any details of prospective speaking engagements to National Office ([view@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:view@thesmithfamily.com.au)).

#### **4.5 Community Partnerships**

Maryanne Maher advised National Council that VIEW Clubs will again be participating in **People's Choice Credit Union's Community Lottery**. Early bird online tickets sales will be from 1 February until 31 March only, with all tickets going into the early bird prize draw of a Toyota Yaris Ascent 1.3L Petrol Auto 5 Door Hatch valued at \$20,337. In addition all online tickets will also be entered into the final prize draw. **Paper tickets will be distributed to participants in early April.**

Clubs wishing to participate must contact their Zone Councillor with their requested number of books and a mailing address (cannot be a PO Box). Requests are handled on a first come first serve basis. Once again there will be a significant prize pool. All Clubs are encouraged to participate in this fundraising activity.

### **LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT**

**Leonie Green**, Head of State and Territory Operations, The Smith Family, briefed National Council on **The 2020 Learning for Life Growth Project**. Leonie gave a PowerPoint presentation in summary.

The Australian Government is investing in the expansion of The Smith Family *Learning for Life* program. This is the most outstanding outcome of our advocacy effort! It is an acknowledgement of the rigorous evidence that underpins the effectiveness of our *Learning for Life* program. It acknowledges the quality of our work. It acknowledges the quality of our team members in making our work happen.

The funding will help us to acquire sponsors to support the 24,000 new students brought on to the program. We will need thousands more sponsors to support the new families being recruited to participate in *Learning for Life*.

The long term support coming from these sponsors for the students will be the key to ensuring sustainability of the program over time, long after the government funding has concluded.

The project brings together a not-for profit organisation (The Smith Family together with VIEW Club support), the government (Department of Education and Training) and the Australian public.

Further information will be sent to clubs about The 2020 *Learning for Life* Growth Project

### **VIEW Matters review**

**Luisa Bustos**, Communications Consultant, reported on the findings of a recent survey and review by National Council VIEW Matters is popular, members look forward to it and it is an important marketing tool.

Luisa noted requests for more articles about students, major events eg Convention, innovative club activities and more photos of VIEW members with students and volunteering. These gradual refinements will be added to future VIEW Matters magazines.

The Executive briefed the National Councillors on **The Smith Family's Annual Report 2015-16** and noted that a copy has been sent to all Clubs.

Olga Shkuropatova briefed National Councillors on the **VIEW Audit problems and recommendations 2015 and VIEW Club Cash Book Cashbook guidelines** (which are available on the [view.org.au](http://view.org.au) under resources)

## **5. WORKING GROUPS**

### **5.1 History**

National Council **noted** a report circulated prior the meeting.

#### **Preserving Club History**

The number of clubs now actively saving club data has increased with many creating the role of 'Club Historian' in order to preserve their individual club history. All clubs are encouraged to preserve their history and if possible forward copies to the Working Group either electronically via the e-mail address [view.historymatters@gmail.com](mailto:view.historymatters@gmail.com) or by sending hard copies to National Office for collection and digitising thus providing an ongoing record of the organisation.

#### **Inaugural Minutes**

The History Working Group is also archiving Inaugural Minutes from clubs and if clubs have these a copy should be forwarded for the archives. This assists when requests for information are received.

#### **History Newsletter**

The History Newsletter will be produced again in 2017. Member contributions are always welcome so if you have a story about your club or your time as a VIEW member and would like it published please contact the Working Group.

### **5.2 Website and Social Media**

National Council **noted** a report circulated prior to the meeting.

#### **Website**

Gwen Wilton noted that the VIEW website has more than 60,000 unique page views with 100 users daily and thanked the Website Support Group

for reviewing club website pages and making changes when notified by clubs. All members are urged to visit [view.org.au](http://view.org.au) and review their club page.

Dedicated e-mail addresses have now been added as well as Facebook links.

As Elections and AGMs have begun, there will be many more changes to the Contact section as new Committee Lists are received.

It is the responsibility of all Clubs to keep their Club webpage up to date.

Send in photos and articles of events held, promote upcoming events and let potential VIEW members know what they can expect when they joining your club. All changes should be emailed to [admin@view.org.au](mailto:admin@view.org.au)

**Club News** section continues to be popular with many clubs. Incoming publicity officers are encouraged to keep this section up-to-date. **Zone Councillors are asked to remind delegates of this.**

Members are reminded that if sending photos via smart phone or tablet that they should send the largest size possible. High resolution photos are required at all times.

#### **Social Media - Facebook**

VIEW Facebook page "likes" continues to grow with 810 likes.

When setting up Group Facebook pages. It is suggested that:

- The name of the Facebook page be the name of the club eg Bega Evening VIEW Club.
- Date of Birth (must be over 18); use the Birthday of the Club or 1960 when VIEW was established.
- Add three Administrators for editing purposes in case the main one leaves the club.

Members are encouraged to set up their own club Facebook page and "like" the VIEW Club Facebook page.

#### **Zone and National Councillors**

Gwen congratulated Zone and National Councillors who have added the details of their Conferences and Galas to the State News and Events section of the VIEW website.

### **5.3 Future of VIEW Working Group (FoV WG)**

Gwen Wilton spoke to a paper circulated prior to the meeting.

She noted that National Council approved a proposed rezoning of Area NL in October 2016. National Office contacted all clubs in Area NL to inform them of the proposed Zone redistribution and received five responses from clubs.

In summary the majority of clubs in Area NL agreed with the redistribution of Zones from three (NL01, NL02/03 & NL04) into two Zones (NL01 & NL02). There were a number of concerns regarding Junee's location and requests that it stay in its current Zone NL02/03 which becomes NL02.

On 16 December 2016 the Executive and Future of VIEW Working Group discussed the rezoning of Area NL; considered the feedback received from clubs and reviewed the geographic locations of all clubs in the Area.

It was recommended that as Junee is located in centre of Area NL and a pivot point between the two new proposed Zones it could remain in NL02 with minimum effect to the overall redistribution.

Therefore, NL01 will now consist of 7 Clubs (rather than 8) and NL02 will consist of 11 Clubs (rather than 10) as set out below:

**NL01** (7 clubs)  
Cootamundra Day  
Cowra Day  
Griffith Day  
Harden Evening  
Leeton Day  
Temora Day  
West Wyalong Day

**NL02** (11 clubs)  
Adelong Day  
Albury Day  
Batlow Day  
Flowerdale Day  
Junee Evening  
Tumut Day  
Tumut Evening  
Thurgoona Evening  
Wagga Day  
Wagga Evening  
Wodonga Day

After a brief discussion National Council **ratified** the rezoning of the Riverina, MIA, Snowy Mountain Foothills Area as per the revised distribution; and **agreed** that the rezoning take place retrospectively effective 1 January 2017.

#### **5.4 Convention Update**

##### **VIEW National Convention Tamworth – 15-17 September**

Members (especially new members) are encouraged to come and experience VIEW National Convention in Tamworth -15-17 September 2017.

Over 250 women have registered to attend. Exciting and entertaining speakers continue to be secured for the "Panel of Inspirational People" and Writer's Festival sessions – Conference Days 1 and 2.

The themed social dinners "*The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel*" and "*A Little Bit Country*" are filling fast. The spectacular "*City of Lights*" Gala Dinner is a popular choice with members.

Other reasons to attend include: hearing from Dr Lisa O'Brien CEO of The Smith Family, a local *Learning for Life* student, joining in the resolutions debate, meeting Christine Bartlett Chairman of The Smith Family, attending the Grand Celebration an inspirational morning of reflection on Sunday, learning about the Award winners and the location of the 2019 National Convention, seeing local artisans and providores at expo and of course catching up with, and meeting new VIEW friends.

Members are encouraged to invite their friends to come along to National Convention. A Convention Registration form is available at [www.view.org.au/national-convention](http://www.view.org.au/national-convention).

## **6. GENERAL BUSINESS**

### **6.1 VIEW National Office Update**

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

#### **Toy & Book Appeal**

Thank you to all clubs who donated to The Smith Family's Toy & Book appeal in 2016, VIEW Clubs total contribution was \$62,970.05.

#### **The Smith Family Christmas Appeal**

The Smith Family Christmas Appeal aimed to raise \$3.66m by the end of January. As of 30 January \$3.605, 98.5% of this target has been reached. The Smith Family thanks all VIEW Clubs that supported this appeal. This

assistance will provide 8,583 disadvantaged students with the extra learning support they need to make the most of their education.

### **Christmas Wrapping**

Thank you to all who were involved in Christmas Wrapping at local shopping centres, providing a valuable service to the community, promoting VIEW Clubs to prospective members, and raising funds for The Smith Family. Clubs should ensure they have notified their Zone Councillors of the amounts raised and hours worked through this activity. In this way we are able to track the great contribution all VIEW Club members have made.

For those that would like to be involved in Christmas wrapping this year in their local shopping centres, now is the time to approach the shopping centre regarding opportunities for VIEW at Christmas time. Mother's Day and Father's Day may also provide opportunities for Clubs to wrap gifts for a 'gold coin' donation and promote VIEW at the same time.

### **International Women's Day (IWD) 2017 – "Be Bold for Change"**

The IWD theme for 2017 is "Be Bold for Change" calling for everyone to help forge a better working world - a more inclusive, gender equal world. We encourage all members to attend an IWD event in their area or celebrate at club level, thereby growing awareness of who we are and what we do, and encouraging others in the community to join us to celebrate the achievements of women past and present.

VIEW Clubs will be celebrating IWD across the nation. We recommend that you contact your National or Zone Councillor for updates on events in your Area or check the website (your Club page has a list of all advised events).

We will not be hosting a Sydney VIEW IWD luncheon in March 2017. However, there are a number of VIEW IWD events being held close to the Sydney City region and throughout NSW. The Sydney VIEW IWD luncheon will be back in 2018.

If Clubs are holding an IWD event they are asked to promote it on the VIEW website. E-mail details to [admin@view.org.au](mailto:admin@view.org.au). After the event please complete the IWD History Report Form and return to PNVP June Greentree ([jbgreentree@gmail.com](mailto:jbgreentree@gmail.com)) and [view.historymatters@gmail.com](mailto:view.historymatters@gmail.com). IWD event hosts are encouraged to send 1 or 2 high resolution photos with a paragraph/s describing the event (key note speakers, *Learning for Life* student presentations and guests) so that this information can be shared with other VIEW members via the VIEW website, VIEW Matters magazine, Facebook and Friday Facts. Please forward to [view@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:view@thesmithfamily.com.au) and [admin@view.org.au](mailto:admin@view.org.au).

### **New VIEW Merchandise**

National Office has introduced new VIEW merchandise in the form of a VIEW Keyring (\$10) and custom designed multi-purpose VIEW Note Cards (\$12) and a VIEW travel hairbrush (\$7) To purchase, Clubs must complete the back of the introductory flyer (sent January and February ) or a Stock Order Form and forward to National Office along with their cheque.

### **VIEW Matters magazine**

National Office has commenced the production of VIEW Matters April 2017 edition. National Councillors and Zone Councillors are encouraged to contact their clubs requesting details of any special events or awards such as: Christmas Wrapping, Australia Day and other Honours. In this April edition clubs in the Canberra and Surrounds (Area AA) will feature in 'A community in focus'.

## January Mailout

The January mailout is very important for all Club Secretaries and Treasurers. It was mailed out to clubs on 19 January and all documents are available on the website. It contains:

- Welcome to 2017 from National President;
- Membership List Memo and current membership list from National Office Database (returned to National Office 31 March);
- Annual Subscription Payment Form (due to National Office 31 March);
- Service Pins – Memo and Service Pin order form;
- 2016 Cashbook Audit Request and Checklist;
- Treasurer’s Checklist for completion;
- Cashbook 2017 Memo and Hardcopy Cashbook;
- Updated Treasurer’s Guide

## Mailout Dates 2017

19 January	16 February	16 March
20 April	18 May	22 June
20 July	24 August	19 October
16 November		

Please note that there will not be a mailout during September 2017.

## 6.2 Election of VIEW National Executive for 2018-2019

Gwen Wilton outlined the process for the election of a VIEW National Executive for 2018-2019. Papers were distributed to National Councillors.

## 6.3 VIEW Patron

Maryanne Maher advised that the list of five women identified by the 2014-15 National Council as suitable VIEW Patrons have now all been approached. Unfortunately it is a disappointing result that not one of the five listed was able to accept the invitation. National Council **agreed** with the recommendation of the Executive and Future of VIEW Working Group that a VIEW Patron be revisited in two years.

## 6.4 Closed Clubs

National Council **noted** with regret that the following clubs had closed since the October 2016 National Council meeting:

Wallsend	Area NA	21 November 2016
Speers Point	Area NA	24 November 2016
Nobbys Evening	Area NA	6 December 2016
Westleigh	Area NC	6 December 2016
Harbourside East Evening	Area ND	15 December 2016

## 6.5 Can “Nabo” increase VIEW profile in our communities?

Yvonne White spoke to a paper distributed prior to the meeting. She explained that Nabo is the private, local social network being used in more than 7,000 suburbs across Australia to help neighbours connect and get the best out of their local area.

Nabo is a joint venture with Fairfax Media, publisher of the website and is used by Councils, Government organisations, Rotary and Lions clubs, Sporting groups, Charities and volunteer organisations to name a few.

Gwen Wilton suggested that a group of volunteers from National Council trial Nabo to see if it may help VIEW engage with potential members and

local communities to increase our profile. Yvonne White will report back to the June National Council meeting. National Council **agreed**.

#### **6.6 Zone Councillor Appointment**

National Council **accepted**, with regret, the resignation of Liz Evers due to ill health and unanimously **ratified** the appointment of Gail Tooth as Zone Councillor for 2017 in Zone NL02.

#### **6.7 Book Vouchers**

Gwen stated that Book Vouchers were initially introduced in 2007 for VIEW Clubs not located in Smith Family communities as a way for them to engage with the local community, promote VIEW and show their support for children and education.

In 2013 February National Council **agreed** that the original intention was for a club to show its support to a school in the local community and promote VIEW as an organisation who supports The Smith Family to help young Australians in need to get the most out of their education.

National Council **agreed** "that a maximum of \$50 per Club per year be expended on a book voucher to one local school. Special fundraising is required and clubs would be encouraged to follow the guidelines."

In 2016, "FAQ Appropriate use of Club funds" sent to all Clubs is a good reference to all clubs when dispersing their funds. It specifically addresses the donation of books and Book vouchers to schools.

National Council **noted** that when VIEW Clubs raise funds through their voluntary efforts, in accordance with VIEW Club policy, these funds are contributed to The Smith Family, and not to other organizations or local schools.

After discussion National Council **agreed** that Funds raised by VIEW Clubs are used to sponsor students on The Smith Family *Learning for Life* program, and are donated as general funds for The Smith Family and directed to disadvantaged communities in Australia where they are most needed.

After a brief discussion National Council unanimously **reiterated** the current policy that in areas where there is no VIEW Club local connection with The Smith Family a **maximum of \$50 per Club per year could be expended on a book award/voucher to one local school**. Clubs can consider rotating the one book voucher award to a different school in their community each year. This enables them to profile VIEW while supporting their local community.

Books are still of enormous relevance to children today. Developing literacy and language skills is essential in preparing a child for school and setting them up for a successful journey through school and later life.

## 6.8 FAQs Session (Frequently Asked Questions)

The following questions were addressed:

Question	Answer
<p>Money in transit – My club is concerned about taking money home after a club meeting and keeping it in a member’s home overnight and not banking until the next day. Can we pay for our club lunches in cash as long as we are provided with a receipt?</p>	<p>Firstly it is recommended that funds be deposited into a Club bank account as soon as possible. If a club can, it should deposit funds to their account immediately after an event.</p> <p><i>Club Handbook 2016 (p38)</i> - All funds collected must be banked in the Club bank account. All payments must be made directly from the Club account, either by cheque, BPay or direct transfer and receipts kept for all expenditure. By operating in this way, it is easier to track the Club's finances, reconcile with the bank statements and provide accountability at the end of each month (for the Treasurer's Report) and at the end of the year (for the Audit). Auditors need to see all cash received by VIEW Clubs as well as money paid out.</p> <p><b>An alternative to members paying cash</b> - VIEW clubs can encourage members to pay via cheque or Electronic Funds Transfer for meals, annual subscriptions and/or merchandise purchases directly into their VIEW Club account. These EFT transactions are easily traced. Clubs are equally encouraged to explore the use of EFT for payments to Venues, Caterers, VIEW National Office and The Smith Family.</p>

## 6.9 Around the Areas

Gwen Wilton facilitated a session where National Councillors were able to share issues (and solutions and learnings) and success stories that had arisen in their Areas.

## Dates of Next Meetings

National Executive – 16 March, 13 April, 11 May (Teleconferences) and 3 June 2017 (Face to Face)

National Council – Sunday 4 June 2017