

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

**National Minutes
and
Information from National Council**

September 2017

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Summary of Decisions at National Council Meeting September 2017

Area of Work	Decision, Policy and/or Procedure	Agenda Reference
Community Partnerships	<p>Anti-Poverty Week 15-21 October Members are encouraged to dedicate their October Club meetings to raise awareness during Anti-Poverty Week and to register activities on the website www.antipovertyweek.org.au</p>	4.4
Community Partnerships	<p>Blue Illusion - SAVE THE DATE Clubs will receive their official invitation shortly for the Blue Illusion National Shopping Day in support of The Smith Family. This time it will be held on Saturday 28 October.</p>	4.4
General Business	<p>VIEW Merchandise Christmas Sale All clubs were sent a VIEW Merchandise Christmas Sale flyer in the August mailout. The sale commences 1 October and ends 30 November.</p>	6.1
General Business	<p>International Women's Day Sydney - SAVE THE DATE - Sydney IWD luncheon will be held on Thursday 8 March 2018 at Club York – 99 York Street Sydney.</p>	6.1
National Executive	<p>The trial of a three-member National Executive consisting of a National President and two National Vice Presidents will continue for 2018-19 and be reviewed early in 2019.</p>	6.5

MINUTES AND INFORMATION FROM NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING

Thursday 14 September 2017 (half day)

Tamworth Regional Entertainment and Conference Centre, Tamworth, NSW

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), **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)

Apologies: Barbara Gullotta - Riverina, MIA, Snowy Mountain Foothills (NL), **Yvonne White** - Macarthur, Southern Highlands & Illawarra region including Wollongong (NB)

Guests Present

Past National President Lorraine Montgomery - Convention Convenor

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 of the Kamilaroi people. She opened the meeting with the VIEW Pledge.

Gwen acknowledged that this VIEW National Convention was a very important and exciting weekend for everyone as representatives from all parts of Australia are coming together in Tamworth to celebrate the role of women in society, the contribution of members to VIEW and The Smith Family by fundraising and volunteering and to debate issues of national importance.

This meeting is very important as this is the time we elect the new Executive team to take the organisation forward into 2018-19 and including the new National President. The announcement of the new Executive 2018-19 will be made on Saturday afternoon, Day 2 of Convention.

2. MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING

Minutes - National Council **ratified** the minutes of the June 2017 meeting. **Moved** Cecilia Bayliss, **seconded** Sunnie Watts.

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

3. REPORTS

3.1 Executive Update

Gwen spoke to a report circulated prior the meeting.

Galas and Zone Conferences

Galas and Zone Conferences were held in all Areas in Victoria; Area ND in Sydney; Area QC in Queensland and in South Australia; with Zone NA 03 to hold a Zone Conference on 23 September in Newcastle. Where possible, the Executive attended and presented to members to bring them up to date with VIEW and The Smith Family.

Decade Birthdays

This year a number of clubs celebrated their 50th birthdays and the Executive attended as many as possible including Albion Park Evening, Taree, Kuring-gai Evening, Port Macquarie, Nelson Bay and Kempsey with Coffs Harbour, Murwillumbah and Grafton still to come. Other significant birthdays attended were Camden's 55th, Merimbula Day's 20th, Goulburn Day's 40th, with Moruya and Gwandalan to hold their 40th birthdays in the near future.

Clubs are reminded to send details of events to June Greentree and National Office as soon as dates are finalised to allow time for consideration for the Executive to attend.

Interest Meetings

Bathurst NSW

Interest meetings have continued in Bathurst with encouraging progress. A further meeting is planned on Thursday 19 October with a fashion parade and morning tea at Black Pepper in 64 William Street, Bathurst at 11am and a Bathurst VIEW Club Interest meeting at the Bathurst RSL at 5.30pm to attract new members. All local clubs are welcome to attend and bring friends with them. RSVP Toni Thomas bobtonithomas1@hotmail.com or 02 4751 7134.

Mosman NSW

Regular Interest meetings have continued in Mosman, with good response and some members already signed up to VIEW with a social function planned to attract new members. The next meeting will be on Friday 29 September at 2.30pm at the Mosman Council Seniors Centre. All local clubs are invited to attend and bring along friends. RSVP Jeanette Cassidy pjcass@tpq.com.au or 02 9144 6108.

Blue Mountains NSW

Preliminary investigations and meetings have been held with local council, State and Federal MPs to identify growth areas in the Blue Mountains including Lawson/Hazelbrook, Blackheath and Glenbrook/Blaxland. This will be further investigated in 2018.

Work is continuing in **Springfield (QLD)** and **Murrumbateman (ACT)** with Development Teams holding Interest meetings and functions to attract new members to VIEW. Prospective members have been linked with existing clubs until numbers reach the required target to open new clubs.

If members have friends, colleagues or relatives in any of these areas, please encourage them to join.

New Clubs

Following the opening of three new clubs this year, we are delighted to welcome another new club, **Bairnsdale** in Area VB in Victoria, which will be inaugurated on **1 November 2017**. This will make a total of five new clubs established during the 2016-17 term.

3.2 National Council *Learning for Life* Student

Jeanette Cassidy provided an update on the National Council's *Learning for Life* student, Isabella and read out her new profile which provided an update on her progress.

3.3 Reports on MPs

Gwen Wilton thanked National Councillors for their hard work writing to and meeting with local, State and Federal MPs noting the importance of informing them about the work of VIEW and The Smith Family in their communities. She noted that new opportunities have been created as a result of these connections.

4. SUB-COMMITTEES/WORKING GROUPS

4.1 Resolutions

Toni Thomas spoke to a report circulated prior to the meeting noting that Clubs in 2017 have been very active debating and voting on the four resolutions.

She reiterated that Resolutions are an important part of Convention; this is the way VIEW raises its collective voice on issues of National importance.

At National Convention, each resolution will be debated with the results announced on Saturday 16 September. Final voting results from Clubs and Convention will be published in the November 2017 National Minutes.

Clubs interested in following up with their local MPs should contact the Resolutions Sub-Committee (view@thesmithfamily.com.au) for a template letter which will be available from late September.

4.2 VIEW in the Community including Events

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

The Smith Family Retail Store update

VIEW Executive together with a number of local VIEW club members attended the official relaunch of The Smith Family Goulburn Retail Store on Saturday 9 September which was officially opened by Member for Goulburn, Prue Goward.

An Open Day is planned for **The Smith Family Liverpool Retail Store** on **Thursday 12 October from 4.00pm to 6.30pm** and local VIEW club members are invited and welcome to attend.

All members in NSW and ACT are encouraged to visit their local Smith Family Retail Stores, introduce themselves to the staff, obtain their Loyalty Card and shop for a bargain.

CONverge Concert

A number of VIEW club members, including the VIEW Executive and National Councillor Jeanette Cassidy, attended a lunch time concert at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music on Monday 4 September.

The CONverge program is a partnership between the Sydney Conservatorium of Music and The Smith Family, with funding received from Westpac. The program is in its 12th year of implementation. CONverge seeks to explore and develop students' own musical identity, creativity and potential using the voice as an instrument. This program supports the physical, social and emotional development of students as well as their emerging personal skills, talents and interests. Students from the following Smith Family partner schools performed at CONverge this year: Miller Technology High School, Airds High School and Chifley College Mount Druitt Campus.

Media

Clubs are encouraged to utilise the Media Releases provided by National Office to promote their club. The most recent was headed "National Women's group set to gather in Tamworth" which encouraged members to promote the fact that they would be attending National Convention.

Clubs are reminded to promote their upcoming events on their Club website pages by contacting admin@view.org.au with the details of their events and activities. Clubs are also encouraged to post their upcoming events and activities on their Club Facebook pages and like VIEW Clubs of Australia Facebook page.

Members are reminded that VIEW Matters, VIEW posters and brochures can be left at libraries, Council offices, meeting venues, etc - please ensure they contain local club and member contact details.

4.3 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 and perhaps to offer an alternative to their members who might want to become involved in our work with The Smith Family.

In June speaking engagements have continued.

PNP Robin Perros presented to 106 members of the combined Probus Club of Monash and reported an excellent response from attendees.

Gwen Wilton presented to the Communities for Children Committee in Bankstown. The Committee was very interested to learn about VIEW and the work we are doing in the community in support of The Smith Family

In July PNVP Chris Newell presented to Soroptimist International, Brisbane Waters. Chris reported that it was a positive experience; her presentation was very well received with many questions afterwards.

Toni Thomas has been invited to speak at Springwood Probus Club in November.

In the near future:

Jan Roberts has been approached to speak at Murrumbateman Probus Club and Garden Club and PNC Rhonda Boyde will speak to the Campbelltown Branch of NSW Justice Association at Campbelltown Catholic Club.

Sunnie Watts has been invited to present to Bendigo Rotary.

We are keen to continue obtaining speaking engagements in the community to promote VIEW and our work in support of The Smith Family. If any members would like to present to organisations in their local area, they should contact the Speakers Bureau for advice and a speech will be provided. Contact Gwen Wilton on gwenwilton@bigpond.com or 02 4677 1381.

4.4 Community Partnerships

The Smith Family Winter Appeal

The Smith Family Winter Appeal "How do you end poverty in Australia?" raised \$4.66m – which will support more than 11,000 children through Smith Family programs. VIEW Clubs and members are thanked for their generous donations in support of this appeal.

Toy & Book Appeal

"It's only Christmas when we share it", and once again we are calling on all clubs to support The Smith Family's annual Toy & Book Appeal, (a blue brochure) which ensures disadvantaged children, supported by The Smith Family, receive a gift on Christmas Day. Last year, VIEW raised \$62,970 towards the Appeal. This year the Toy & Book Appeal aims to deliver over 45,000 toys and 30,000 books to children around Australia. **Clubs are asked to send cheques from 1 October 2017.**

Christmas Appeal and Joyspreaders

Clubs are reminded that they can donate to the Christmas Appeal and Joyspreaders at this time of the year.

PCCU Community Lottery

People's Choice Credit Union's Community Lottery has now closed. Special thanks to the South Australian VIEW club members who sold tickets at Castle Plaza and the Colonnades shopping centres. All money raised in this Community lottery goes to support The Smith Family's *Student2Student* program. The lottery will be drawn on 4 October 2017.

Anti-Poverty Week 15-21 October

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

Anti-Poverty week flyers were sent to clubs in the July 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.

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

Blue Illusion - SAVE THE DATE - Saturday 28 October

Clubs will receive their official invitation shortly for the Blue Illusion National Shopping Day in support of The Smith Family. This time it will be held on **Saturday 28 October**.

Members are encouraged to invite their female friends, family and colleagues to attend the Blue Illusion store in their area to see the latest fashions at the styling workshops and watch the fashion parade, have a glass of bubbles, receive their goodie bag and redeem their Gift voucher on this day.

Election of VIEW National Executive for 2018-2019

Presentations by the candidates for National Executive 2018-19 were conducted according to the agreed process.

A public announcement of the National Executive 2018-19 will be made at National Convention on Conference Day 2, Saturday 16 September 2017.

5. WORKING GROUPS

5.1 History

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

- National Councillors were once again reminded that Inaugural Minutes from new clubs should be sent to the Working Group together with the relevant History Reporting form. This allows the database to be maintained for history purposes.
- As VIEW Clubs will be celebrating its 60th anniversary in 2020 the History Working Group would like to record as many individual club histories as possible. If clubs have prepared a history of their club and have not previously given a copy to the Working Group further additions would be welcomed. These will be archived and assist in the collation of the overall history.
- If clubs wish to record a club history a Guideline Document is available, on request, to assist with this.

5.2 Convention Update

VIEW National Convention Tamworth – 15-17 September

PNP Lorraine Montgomery, Convention Convenor, briefed National Council on National Convention. National Council undertook a site visit at the end of the meeting to familiarise themselves with the venue.

6. GENERAL BUSINESS

6.1 VIEW National Office Update

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

VIEW Matters magazine

The VIEW Matters November 2017 edition is now being edited. This is expected to be published in early November. Submissions from Clubs have now closed for this edition.

Submissions for the April 2018 edition will open in December 2017. Clubs are asked to consider articles on:

- Significant Events – eg Resolution debating, *Learning for Life* student attending an event, Teachers/parents speaking at a club event?
- Volunteering – how do you volunteer in the community, or volunteer with The Smith Family?
- Community – How do your members give back to the community in the name of VIEW? Have you attended any expos to promote VIEW? What community events has your club participated in?
- Fundraising – Does your Club conduct any unique or innovative activities to raise funds which you would like to share?

All submissions should include

- A brief description (max 100 words); and
- at least one high resolution photo (including a caption Left to Right) and should be forwarded to view@thesmithfamily.com.au

Clubs are reminded that they can post articles on their club web page (please send to admin@view.org.au).

VIEW Merchandise Christmas Sale

All clubs were sent a VIEW Merchandise Christmas Sale flyer in the August mailout. **The sale commences 1 October and ends 30 November.** To make sure that members receive their items in time for Christmas, Clubs are asked to send through orders as soon as possible.

Certificate of Currency

National Office will email to Clubs (via club email address) in early October. Club Secretaries are reminded to keep a copy of this on file. National and Zone Councillors are reminded to keep a copy for their records and to make sure that Clubs have a copy of this certificate.

International Women's Day (IWD) 8 March 2018

Clubs are encouraged to start arranging 2018 International Women's Day events. Details of events should be sent to view@thesmithfamily.com.au. Clubs are encouraged to promote their events on their VIEW website and Club Facebook pages. Submissions for VIEW Matters are also requested including high resolution photos of the attendees.

International Women's Day Sydney - SAVE THE DATE - Sydney IWD luncheon will be held on **Thursday 8 March 2018** at Club York - 99 York Street Sydney. **Author Bernadette Brennan** will be discussing her book: *A Writing Life: Helen Garner and Her Work*. Invitations will be forwarded to Clubs in the near future.

Club Treasurers – New Members

Club Treasurers are reminded that they need to send in two cheques for their new members. One cheque should be for Annual Membership Subscriptions (currently \$15 x number of new members) and the other for Joining Fee (\$20 x number of new members). Both cheques need to be made out to "The Smith Family" and attached to the Application for Membership forms and returned to National Office.

*Please note membership increase of \$5 from January 2018. Membership Annual Subscription will be \$20 per member.

VIEW Website

It is the responsibility of all Clubs to keep their Club web page up to date. Members should send photos and articles of events held, promote upcoming

events and let potential VIEW members know what they can expect when they join a club. All changes should be emailed to admin@view.org.au

6.2 National Councillor Nominations 2018-19

National Council **noted** those nominations received to date. A discussion took place regarding the vacancies in Areas NC, ND, NG, NH, QA, QB, QC and VB. Gwen Wilton stressed the importance of filling all vacant positions.

6.3 Zone Councillor Nominations 2018-19

National Council **noted** those nominations received to date. A discussion took place regarding the vacancies. All eligible members are urged to consider taking on the roles.

6.4 Workstudy/Changeover Dinner

Training for incoming Zone and National Councillors 2018-19 will be held in November. Zone Councillors will attend training on Saturday 11 November. National Councillors will attend a training session on Sunday 12 November, the Changeover dinner Sunday night and the National Council meeting on Monday 13 November.

6.5 Continuation of three-member trial for National Executive 2018-2019

Gwen Wilton spoke to a paper circulated prior to the meeting reminding National Councillors that in June 2015, due to the reduced pool of eligible candidates, National Council unanimously agreed to a two-year trial of a reduced National Executive, which would consist of the National President and two National Vice Presidents and for this decision to be reviewed in 2017.

After a brief discussion, Barbara Hyslop **moved** that the trial of a three-member National Executive consisting of a National President and two National Vice Presidents continue for 2018-19 and that it be reviewed early in 2019.

Seconded by Lyn Masters

Carried

6.6 Development

Gwen Wilton provided an update on development to date. She noted Areas being investigated during 2018 might include Area NB, NE, and NN in NSW, Area VC in Victoria, Area SA in South Australia and Area WA in Western Australia.

Dates of Next Meetings

National Executive – 5 October (Teleconference) and 10 November 2017 (Face to Face)

National Council – Monday 13 November 2017 at The Holiday Inn, Sydney Airport