

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

**National Minutes  
and  
Information from National Council**

**November 2017**

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## Summary of Decisions at National Council Meeting November 2017

Area of Work	Decision, Policy and/or Procedure	Agenda Reference
Opening	Summary of Achievements for 2016-2017 noted.	1.
Sub-Committees - Resolutions	Final voting results noted – see item for details.	4.1
General Business – National Executive	National Council <b>noted</b> the appointment of National Executive for 2018-2019 announced at Convention 2017.	6.2
General Business - National Councillor Nominations	National Council unanimously <b>ratified</b> the appointment of National Councillors for 2018-2019.	6.3
General Business - Zone Councillor Nominations	National Council unanimously <b>ratified</b> the appointment of Zone Councillors for 2018-2019.	6.4
General Business – National Schedule of Dates 2018	National Council unanimously <b>ratified</b> the 2018 Schedule of Dates. The Schedule appears at the end of these minutes.	6.5
General Business – George Forbes Award	National Council <b>noted</b> that the George Forbes Award had been presented at Convention to Past National President Lorraine Montgomery.	6.6
General Business – National President’s Award	National Council <b>noted</b> that the National President’s Award had been presented at Convention to Zone Councillor Marlene Powell.	6.7
General Business – Club Name Change	Kenmore Evening VIEW Club become a day club and be known as Kenmore VIEW Club.	6.10
General Business - Request for Rezoning	Areas NE and NN to be amalgamated to form one Area to be known as <b>Western Sydney Region</b> (NE) with two Zones effective 1 January 2018.	6.12
General Business - Request for Rezoning	Areas NA and NF to be amalgamated to form one Area to be known as <b>Hunter/Central Coast</b> (NA) with four Zones effective 1 January 2018.	6.13

## **MINUTES AND INFORMATION FROM NATIONAL COUNCIL MEETING**

Monday 13 November 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), **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:** **Liz Doorey** - Lower Mid North Coast of NSW and Inland (NK)

### **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 the Gadigal people of the Eora nation. She opened the meeting with the VIEW Pledge.

Gwen also welcomed incoming National Councillors for 2018-19 as observers.

Gwen acknowledged that the end of this National Council term (2016-17) is now approaching and she hoped that National Councillors had found their roles to be rewarding and satisfying. She noted that over the last two years the Executive had visited many clubs and Areas. They were able to see first-hand, how hardworking National and Zone Councillors had all been, whether that be organising workshops, Zone Conferences, Area Galas and events, ensuring that clubs and all VIEW members were kept up to date with VIEW information and importantly, felt part of our great national organisation.

### **Succession planning**

Gwen urged National Councillors to continue to encourage members to take on leadership roles whether that is Club Committee, Zone or National Councillor. These roles are all vital and ensure that the clubs continue to

flourish and regenerate, are kept up to date with VIEW and The Smith Family. Leadership roles are also incredibly rewarding.

### **Major Achievements 2016-2017**

National Council **noted** the following **major** achievements of their term:

- Club Development – Opened 5 new clubs with a pipeline of prospective clubs. See 3.1 below.
- Information Days and Interest Meetings across New South Wales
- Restructuring and Rezoning of three Areas - the Riverina, Sydney and Hunter regions of NSW
- Making a Difference Awards to 77 unsung heroes of VIEW
- Establishment of Speakers Bureau to promote VIEW and The Smith Family in the community to external organisations
- Establishing a closer connection with The Smith Family through regular attendance at key Smith Family events, ie Graduation nights, Girls @ the Centre, NSW/ACT Conference, Communities for Children.

## **2. MINUTES AND BUSINESS ARISING**

**Minutes** - National Council **ratified** the minutes of the September 2017 meeting.

**Moved** Yvonne White, **seconded** Jeanette Cassidy.

**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 to the meeting.

#### **Gala and Zone Conferences:**

Galas and Zone Conferences were held in many areas and where possible, the Executive attended in order to bring members up to date with VIEW and The Smith Family; the most recent was held in NA03 in Newcastle in September with clubs from Hunter and Central Coast attending.

#### **Decade Birthdays**

This year ten clubs celebrated their 50th birthdays – Albion Park Evening and Taree in June; Kuring-gai Evening and Port Macquarie in July; Kempsey in August; with the latest being Nelson Bay in September; Coffs Harbour and Murwillumbah both in October and Grafton last week in November. Members of Executive attended 40th birthday celebrations for Goulburn Day and Moruya Evening both in September; and Gwandalan in October.

If Clubs wish to invite Executive members to attend events they are reminded to send details of events to National Office as soon as dates are finalised to allow sufficient time for Executive to consider.

#### **Interest Meetings**

**Bathurst NSW** - Interest meetings and a social function have had encouraging response in Bathurst with regular meetings planned for 2018, commencing on 8 February 2018.

As a result of good press in Bathurst City Life newspaper, new members attended.

Local MP, Paul Toole, continues to promote VIEW on his regular Bathurst local radio segment and also on his MP Facebook page.

Bathurst City Councillor Monica Morse has given great support to the development of a VIEW club in Bathurst including an introduction to Bathurst's Inspiring Women networking group, enabling useful contacts for future plans.

During the latest visit on 19-20 October, Councillor Morse invited Gwen and Toni to join her on her regular radio segment to talk about VIEW, The Smith Family and VIEW's plans for establishing a club.

With the support of Black Pepper women's fashion store in Bathurst, a successful in-store fashion parade was held on Thursday 19 October with over 30 attending, including members from Blayney and Lithgow VIEW Clubs. Several attendees from the fashion parade came along to the VIEW interest meeting that night at Bathurst RSL.

A Christmas function at The Smith Family office (89 Rankin Street Bathurst) is planned for 23 November. All women interested in coming to this function are asked to RSVP Gwen Wilton: [gwenwilton@bigpond.com](mailto:gwenwilton@bigpond.com) or 02 4677 1381. Regular Bathurst VIEW club meetings will commence at Bathurst RSL on the 2nd Thursday of each month commencing 8 February 2018. All local women are welcome.

Attendees will be encouraged to join Bathurst VIEW and form a core group to help steer the club in their local area. A High Tea/Literary lunch is planned for 2018 to attract more members to join the club as well as an International Women's Day function in March 2018.

**Mosman NSW** – Throughout 2017 regular Interest meetings and social functions have been successful in Mosman, with a good response and a number of women have now joined VIEW.

On 13 October, a tour of Mosman Art Gallery was held to view the 70th Anniversary Mosman Art Prize with 15 members attending.

A Christmas lunch is planned for 15 December at 'August The Old Place', 4/707 Military Road, Mosman to finish the year. To RSVP this Christmas function contact Jeanette Cassidy: [pjcass@tpg.com.au](mailto:pjcass@tpg.com.au) -02 9144 6108.

Mosman Interest Meetings will recommence in February 2018. Further social functions are planned in the future.

Please invite any friends or relatives in any of these areas to join us.

### **New Clubs**

On 1 November 2017 we celebrated the opening of Bairnsdale VIEW Club in Victoria and welcomed 33 new members to VIEW. With 85 members joining the celebrations the inaugural luncheon was well supported by the Victorian club members who had travelled significant distances across the State to wish them well.

The Victorian Development Team will now start investigating Bacchus Marsh and Safety Beach (between Dromana and Mornington) as potential areas for new Victorian VIEW clubs.

Other VIEW Clubs opened this year were -

NSW: Woollahra VIEW on 30 March 2017  
Victoria: Dingley Cheltenham VIEW on 11 May 2017  
WA: Capes VIEW (Dunsborough) on 26 May 2017

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

Jeanette Cassidy provided an update on the National Council's *Learning for Life* student, Isabella, advising that she had recently sent a birthday card/voucher and Christmas voucher to her. Gwen noted that the incoming National Council would discuss the continuation of this sponsorship of Isabella (since 2008) at their meeting in February 2018.

### **3.3 Reports on MPs**

Gwen Wilton acknowledged that National Councillors had continued to connect with their local, State and Federal MPs to inform them about the work of VIEW and The Smith Family in their communities.

National Councillors provided an overview including highlights from their contact with MPs.

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

### **4.1 Resolutions**

Toni Thomas reported that in September all Resolutions were enthusiastically debated at National Convention. She stressed the importance of encouraging clubs to engage in the resolutions process.

The combined voting from all VIEW Clubs and National Convention resulted in the following being passed.

- 1. Medical Use of Marijuana** - 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.
- 2. Safety first in Family Law** - That VIEW Clubs of Australia urge all state, territory, and federal governments to implement the five point plan "Safety First in Family Law" to fix Australia's family law system as outlined by Rosie Batty on 15th June 2016 to the National Press Club as part of the Justice for Kids Campaign.
- 3. Gambling Advertising on TV** - That VIEW Clubs of Australia calls on State and Federal Governments to regulate gambling advertising on television to ensure they are not shown during family viewing times.
- 4. Transition to Post School Options** - 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 educational potential and transition to meaningful post school pathways such as tertiary education and/or employment.

Final results of the resolution vote for 2017 were as follows:

	For	Against	Abstain
Resolution 4	7868	531	531
Resolution 1	7435	371	531
Resolution 3	6824	865	520
Resolution 2	6570	676	815

The results reflect the same pattern which was set with the initial votes from clubs prior to the convention vote. What is most heartening is that the number of abstentions is significantly reduced this year. This can be attributed in part to an increased awareness of the relevance of our voice in the community as well as the resolution topic and a renewed interest in the resolution process overall.

Letters will be sent to relevant local and Federal Members of Parliament, Ministers and other relevant statutory bodies informing them of VIEW Clubs position on these issues.

While it is disappointing that clubs continue to not participate in the Resolution process the number of clubs not participating is reducing as Zone and National Councillors reinforce the importance of using our voice within the community. This also reflects an increased awareness by members and clubs that the resolution process is an integral part of our organisation. The ultimate goal of VIEW Resolutions is to increase the profile of VIEW, while giving women in the community a voice to raise issues of concern.

**Information which can be used by clubs, who wish to follow up with local authorities on resolutions, is available from the Resolution Sub-Committee on request to National Office.**

#### **Resolutions 2018-19**

Clubs are invited to select topics for debate at the 2019 National Convention.

Clubs have until 30 November 2018 to submit their motions to National Office via the Voice of VIEW form. Copies of the form are available on [view.org.au/resources/forms](http://view.org.au/resources/forms).

#### **4.2 External Relations**

Maryanne Maher reminded National Council that VIEW is a member of Economic Security4Women (eS4W) which is one of five national alliances of women's organisations funded by the Australian Government, through the Office for Women in the Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

She advised that she will be attending the AGM of eS4W as a representative of VIEW. National Councillors were provided with a copy of the eS4W Chair's Report for 2017.

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

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

### **The Smith Family Retail Stores (NSW and ACT)**

The Smith Family Goulburn retail store was relaunched at 47 Auburn Street Goulburn on Saturday 9 September and was officially opened by Pru Goward, Member for Goulburn. Thank you to all local VIEW club members who supported this event.

Members are encouraged to visit The Smith Family retail stores, introduce themselves to the staff, collect their Loyalty Card and find a bargain. Clubs in NSW and ACT may also like to host a collection drive and donate good quality clothing, shoes and accessories to their local store. For details of the nearest Smith Family store go to <https://www.thesmithfamily.com.au/donate/give/clothing>

### **Christmas Wrapping**

Each year, VIEW members raise funds by participating in Christmas wrapping at local shopping centres. This is not only a good way to raise significant funds, but is also an opportunity for members to be seen in the community, raising the profile of VIEW and The Smith Family. If your club hasn't been involved in Christmas wrapping activities, why not approach your local shopping centre and become involved this year, or perhaps make enquiries for next year! Contact National Office if you need any advice. There are limited numbers of VIEW banners available for use. Please contact your National Councillor for availability.

We encourage members to promote this activity, post information on the view.org.au website, or Club's Facebook page and most importantly send photos and an article for VIEW Matters and Friday Facts to [view@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:view@thesmithfamily.com.au)

### **Fabulous Fountain Photo Competition**

Toni Thomas and Gloria Walter presented the Fabulous Fountain Photo Competition awards at National Convention in Tamworth. This fun competition raised over \$14,000 from the sale of VIEW umbrellas. Entries have been posted on the VIEW Facebook page.

### **Making a Difference Award**

Congratulations to the 77 outstanding women all living the VIEW values who were the recipients of the Making a Difference Award over the past two years.

As well as receiving a congratulatory letter from the Executive, all of the recipients were acknowledged in an Honour Roll presentation at National Convention and Clubs who nominated a recipient also received a thank you letter from the VIEW Executive.

To view the Making a Difference Award recipients go to <http://view.org.au/getinvolved/awards/>

## **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 as well as businesses, community groups, service organisations, and schools. The aim is to inform them about who we are and what we do and perhaps to offer an alternative to their members who might want to become involved in our work with The Smith Family.



Our speaking engagements have continued with Toni Thomas invited to speak at Springwood Probus Club in November.

Upcoming VIEW speaking engagements

- Murrumbateman Probus Club and Garden Club - National Councillor Jan Roberts in Area AA
- Campbelltown Branch of NSW Justice Association at Campbelltown Catholic Club - Past National Councillor Rhonda Boyde
- Bendigo Rotary – National Councillor Sunnie Watts
- SA VIEW South Australian Leadership team will be holding a workshop in early 2018 to equip and encourage members to promote VIEW and The Smith Family in their local area.

If any Members, Zone or National Councillors have the opportunity to speak to organisations in their local area, please contact Gwen Wilton - [gwenwilton@bigpond.com](mailto:gwenwilton@bigpond.com) or 02 4677 1381 or National Office for advice and a speech will be provided.

Please Note: Any VIEW member in Victoria who is engaged to speak at any service organisations, schools etc is asked to also inform Beryl Jones, a long term volunteer at The Smith Family office in Melbourne, who co-ordinates the speakers for the Community Relations Group (CRG) in Victoria. Part of Beryl's role is to regularly write to clubs, service organisations, schools etc asking if they would like a speaker from The Smith Family to come along to their meeting and inform members of The Smith Family programs etc and VIEW. A number of CRG speakers are VIEW members. To ensure Beryl doesn't write to organisations where VIEW members may have already spoken or been booked to speak, we would appreciate any members, Zone or National Councillors letting Beryl know of any speaking engagements in Victoria by emailing Beryl at [beryl.jones@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:beryl.jones@thesmithfamily.com.au)

#### **4.5 Community Partnerships**

**People's Choice Community Lottery** was drawn on Wednesday 4 October. This year VIEW raised \$16,260. All funds raised through this initiative go towards The Smith Family's student2student reading program, to help young students who are behind in their reading skills.

VIEW Clubs sold five winning tickets – one in Queensland, one in Victoria and three in South Australia. We congratulate the winners and would appreciate a photo of the lucky person with their prize to promote PCCU. We look forward to participating in next year's lottery.

#### **Blue Illusion – National Shopping Day in support of The Smith Family**

Blue Illusion hosted a successful National Shopping Day in support of The Smith Family on Saturday 28 October 2017. The event raised \$25,265. We are looking to participate in a similar event next year.

#### **Anti-Poverty Week 15-21 October**

Thank you to the Clubs who held events, invited guest speakers, dedicated their October meetings in support of Anti-Poverty week and placed the VIEW Media Release in their local newspapers.

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.

### **National Recycling Week – 13-19 November**

We encourage VIEW Clubs in NSW/ACT who have made contact with their local Smith Family Retail Store to consider taking part in National Recycling Week 13-19 November. This is a great way for members to declutter their wardrobes, collect and donate good quality wearable clothing and accessories to their nearest Smith Family store or bin. Members can also raise awareness by encouraging others to shop in The Smith Family Retail Stores during this week. This is also a great way to actively promote membership of VIEW Clubs and its connection with The Smith Family.

If you would like to know the location of your nearest donation point or Retail Store, call The Smith Family Material Donation Line 1300 737 166 or visit <https://www.thesmithfamily.com.au/donate/give/clothing>

### **Toy & Book Appeal**

Christmas is just around the corner, and once again we are calling on all clubs to support The Smith Family's annual Toy & Book Appeal, which ensures disadvantaged children, supported by The Smith Family, receive a gift on Christmas Day. Last year, VIEW raised over \$60,000 towards the Appeal. These funds helped to purchase toys and books for children most in need. To find out how to contribute to the Toy & Book Appeal, please call 1800 805 366 or email [view@thesmithfamily.com.au](mailto:view@thesmithfamily.com.au)

### **Christmas Appeal**

The Smith Family Christmas Appeal commenced on 1 November 2017. Clubs are reminded that this is their opportunity to donate excess funds in support of Smith Family programs.

### **Excess Funds to be donated to The Smith Family**

As we approach the end of the year Clubs, Zone and National Councillors are reminded to send excess funds to The Smith Family - members are encouraged to support the **Toy and Book Appeal, Christmas Appeal and Joy Spreaders**. Minimum funds to cover current expenses to be retained in all bank accounts.

## **5. WORKING GROUPS**

### **5.1 History**

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

- National Councillors are once again reminded that Inaugural Minutes from new clubs should be sent to the Working Group together with the relevant History Reporting form for archiving. Email to [view.historymatters@gmail.com](mailto:view.historymatters@gmail.com)
- A number of requests have been received and due to the ongoing digitisation of records, we are able to respond positively to the majority of requests.
- In future the History Newsletter, "History Matters", will be available on the website (<http://view.org.au/resources/publications/>) for all members and clubs to read. The most recent issue is now available.
- If clubs wish to record a club history there is a Guideline Document available on the website (<http://view.org.au/resources/committee-information>). There are a growing number of club histories in the archives.

## 5.2 Website and Social Media

Gwen Wilton spoke to a report circulated prior to the meeting from Carleen Maley.

### Media

Clubs are encouraged to continue to submit articles for publication in their local papers and in particular to utilise the Media Releases provided by National Office to promote their club.

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

Clubs are encouraged to use the website page at [view.org.au](http://view.org.au) and to join Facebook to promote VIEW and The Smith Family, which can be linked to their web page.

Posters, brochures and VIEW Matters magazines can be left at libraries, Council offices, meeting venues but please ensure they contain contact details.

### Website

The Website Support Group is working on 'cleaning up' the website. They will be removing news items and any related photos (over 12 months old), obsolete forms and documents, and updating Facebook links.

Early in 2018 there will be further work updating Club Contact information (per Committee Lists sent into National Office). This updated Club Contact information will also provide the Working Group with a contact so they can work with clubs to profile their "About the club" section on their Club Webpage on [view.org.au](http://view.org.au).

The Website Support Group is able to make changes to About/When/Where, add club email addresses and links to a Club Facebook page. Keep those updates coming to [admin@view.org.au](mailto:admin@view.org.au)

Reminder – Clubs are encouraged to add items to Club News, keeping members and other women updated with the happenings in their club. These should be sent to: [admin@view.org.au](mailto:admin@view.org.au)

If Clubs post news items to Facebook, please consider sending them on as items for VIEW Matters.

**Naming Convention for Photos** - Members are reminded that they need to rename their photos before they are sent for use on the website (state, club name, date eg NSW Woollahra 150717). This is also good practice for posting on social media or use for VIEW Matters. Renaming photos like this will avoid a mix up when photos are received with the same name from different clubs (example image 01, image 02 and image 03 received from three different clubs on the same day).

A Checklist for updating a Club Website will be available at <http://view.org.au/resources/committee-information/> Both Clubs and Councillors are encouraged to follow this checklist.

### Social Media - Facebook

A number of VIEW Clubs have already set up Facebook pages. The Social Media Group has the following tips to help set up a Club's Facebook page.

Name: Name of the club, eg Merimbula Evening VIEW Club.

Date of Birth: (must be over 18) Use the Birthday date of the Club.

Administrators: Add minimum three Administrators for editing purposes in case the main one leaves the club.

NOTE: Remember to log out of a members Facebook account before creating a new Facebook account otherwise the VIEW Club's Facebook group is added to the account which is already opened. Some members do not mind this happening.

Group vs Page: Choice is up to the club. Groups can be closed to outsiders so members may need to consider whether they want to use your Facebook page for membership promotion.

### **5.3 VIEW National Convention Tamworth – 15-17 September 2017**

Over 500 VIEW members from across Australia descended on Tamworth from Friday 15 to Sunday 17 September for the VIEW National Convention. Positive feedback has been received from attendees.

**Highlights** included:

Special rendition of the National Anthem led by Kevin Anderson MP, NSW Member for Tamworth; Welcome to the New England region by The Hon. Barnaby Joyce, former Deputy Prime Minister and Member for New England, who also recited Dorothea Mackellar's My Country; Official Opening of Convention by The Hon. Tanya Davies, NSW Minister for Mental Health, Women and Ageing.

Dr Lisa O'Brien gave The Smith Family address, and a local *Learning for Life* student Ryan shared his experiences of being supported by The Smith Family. National President Gwen Wilton gave the VIEW address culminating with the recognition of the many recipients of the Making a Difference Award. Christine Bartlett, The Smith Family's Chair of the Board also gave an inspiring address.

The Panel of Inspirational People chaired by ABC journalist Jennifer Ingall and featured singer and actress Natacha Curnow, voluntary euthanasia advocate and spokesperson for Dying with Dignity NSW, Shayne Higson, author Meg Keneally and Tamworth local campaigner for medicinal cannabis, Lucy Haslam.

The Hon. Anna Bligh AC, CEO of the Australian Bankers' Association presented the George Forbes Oration.

The popular Writer's Festival session was facilitated by Dr Anne Summers AO, joined by the following authors - Jane Hutcheon, Meredith Jaffe and Chris Taylor.

Two very entertaining Social Dinners were enjoyed by the energetic members - The Second Best Exotic Marigold Hotel and A Little Bit Country. An incredibly spectacular Gala Dinner was enjoyed, taking us all on a journey back through time as we celebrated Music Through the Decades.

The Convention finale was held at Tamworth War Memorial Town Hall with a wonderful performance by Tamworth South Public School Choir and Tamworth & District Highland Society Pipe Band who also piped attendees from the hall in rousing fashion.

### **Recycling at Convention**

The Smith Family Pop Up Retail Store was a great success raising \$5000. Popular items included jewellery, scarves, shoes and handbags. It was a great opportunity for The Smith Family Retail team to show their support, create positive brand awareness and provide members with a glimpse of what the new retail stores would look like. Members from NSW and ACT had the opportunity to collect their Loyalty Cards.

## **5.4 VIEW National Convention 2019 - QLD Sunshine Coast**

The next VIEW National Convention will be held on the Sunshine Coast (Twin Waters) in Queensland from 13–15 September 2019. An interest meeting will be held in the early part of 2018 for clubs in the Area.

## **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 Learning for Life Sponsorships**

As at 31 October VIEW Clubs nationally sponsor 1215 students.

#### **Certificate of Currency**

National Office emailed to Clubs (via club email address) the 2017-18 Certificate of Currency. 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.

#### **VIEW Matters magazine**

November 2017 edition will shortly arrive at Clubs. Members are reminded VIEW Matters magazine is a great promotional item to share at Information Stalls/Expos, Doctors offices, libraries etc. If more copies are required, please contact National Office by completing a Stock Order form.

Submissions for the April 2018 edition are now being accepted with closure of submissions must be received by close of business Wednesday 14 March 2018.

#### **New VIEW Gifts**

National Office will be introducing new VIEW Gifts in the form of a VIEW Shoehorn (\$5) and will be selling a VIEW Backpack (which delegates to National Convention received and will attest to its versatility) (\$5).

Merchandise introduced in 2017 will still be available with the ever popular VIEW Umbrellas in two designs (\$15 each) (VIEW Logo and VIEW Spots which replaces the VIEW Circle of women design) and new VIEW Christmas cards (pack of 10 for \$12).

Members are reminded that VIEW gifts make ideal gifts for speakers – all money raised from the sale of VIEW gifts helps children in need succeed in school.

The website will be updated to incorporate these items, and they will be included in the Stock Order form. This information is located at [view.org.au/resources](http://view.org.au/resources).

### **Club Contacts on website**

National Office reminds Clubs that it is their responsibility to make sure that their Club contact details are correct on their Club page.

Club Committees are requested to regularly check their Club page to make sure that all information is correct.

### **Committee Lists**

National Office will be providing Zone Councillors with a copy of the current information held by National Office. Zone Councillors (or their representatives), at time of elections will be asked to update the form with the new information.

Zone Councillors or their representatives are asked to work with their Clubs update all information on the Committee Lists and return these forms to National Office by the due date of 28 February 2018.

National Office spends considerable time updating records for clubs each year. It is expected that with only changes noted, National Office will be able to spend more time on other projects.

### **Audit 2017**

Clubs and Councillors will be asked to provide their 2017 Cashbooks (and accompanying materials) for audit in early 2018.

Clubs and Councillors should aim to finalise their books for the end of 2017, but not send their documents into National Office until they receive their **final statement for December 2017** which is usually provided in January.

More information including a checklist for Treasurers will be provided in the January 2018 mailout.

### **Mailout Dates 2018**

25 January	15 February	15 March
19 April	17 May	21 June
19 July	23 August	20 September
18 October	22 November	

### **Updated Forms**

National Office will be updating all forms on the website early January. Club Secretaries are asked to download these updated forms for their use during 2018. Secretaries are also reminded that National Office no longer provides hardcopies of these forms to Clubs.

## National Office Christmas Closure

Councillors and Clubs are asked to note that VIEW National Office will be closed over the Christmas break from 26 December 2017 to 1 January 2018.

## IWD 2018

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

Sydney International Women's Day Event (Save the Date) will be held on Thursday 8 March at Club York, 99 York Street, Sydney. Further details will be provided when confirmed.

## Annual Report

National Council **noted** that The Smith Family's Annual Report will be released at its Annual General Meeting on 29 November 2017. Updated information will be provided to National Councillors when available.

### 6.2 National Executive 2018-19

As announced at Convention, National Council **noted** that Jan Roberts (Area AA) had been elected as National President and Pat McRae (Area NG) and Annette Schlafrig (Area VA) as National Vice Presidents for 2018-2019.

### 6.3 National Councillor Nominations 2018-19

National Council unanimously **ratified** the appointment of National Councillors for 2018-2019 as follows.

Area	National Councillor
Canberra and surrounding areas (AA)	Marilynne Weston
Hunter/Central Coast (NA)	Anne-Louise O'Connor
Macarthur, Southern Highlands & Illawarra region including Wollongong (NB)	Joanne Gray
Sydney North Shore & Northern Beaches (NC)	<b>Vacant</b>
Central and Southern Sydney (ND)	<b>Vacant</b>
Western Sydney Region (NE)	Helen Zirn
NSW South Coast Berry to Eden (NG)	<b>Vacant</b>
NSW Central Tablelands, Central and Western Slopes and Western Plains (NH)	<b>Vacant</b>
New England and North Central NSW (NI)	Beryl Pike
NSW Northern Rivers (NJ)	Rosie McDermott
Lower Mid North Coast of NSW and Inland (NK)	Christine Manger
Riverina, MIA, Snowy Mountain Foothills (NL)	Fay Valerius
Upper Mid North Coast of NSW and Inland (NM)	Lesley Carroll
Brisbane and Surrounds (QA)	<b>Vacant</b>
The Sunshine and Fraser Coast (QB)	<b>Vacant</b>
Gold Coast and Darling Downs (QC)	<b>Vacant</b>
Metropolitan Adelaide and Surrounds including Sunraysia (SA)	Marlene Powell
Central & Eastern Metropolitan Melbourne (VA)	Sandi Muntisov

South Eastern Metropolitan Melbourne to the Mornington Peninsula & Gippsland (VB)	<b>Vacant</b>
North and Western Metropolitan Melbourne & North and Western Country (VC)	Maria Culka

National Council **noted** there are eight vacancies at the National Councillor level. All eligible Zone Councillors are **encouraged** to consider taking on this important role.

#### 6.4 Zone Councillor Nominations 2018-19

National Council unanimously **ratified** the appointment of Zone Councillors for 2018-2019 as follows.

Zone	Name	Zone	Name
AA01	Anne Brown-Bryan	NK01	
AA02	Enid Kattenhorn	NK02	Dawn Sage
NA01	<b>Vacant</b>	NL01	<b>Vacant</b>
NA02	Angela Carroll	NL02	Gail Tooth
NA03	<b>Vacant</b>	NM01	
NAA04	Kerrie Wheeler	NM02	
NB01	Pam Graham	NM03	Elizabeth Birch
NB02	Deb Chivers	QA01	
NC01/02	<b>Vacant</b>	QA02	
ND01	Kay Underwood	QB01	Margaret Elliott
ND02	Pam Collins	QB02	Jean Jennings
NE01	Rosemary Day	QC01	
NE02	Lyn Wren	SA01	Janette Spraakman
NG01	Maureen Traynor	SA02	Anne Strangway
NG02	<b>Vacant</b>	VA01	
NG03	Valerie Hobbs	VA02	Lyn Peters
NH01	Therese Welsh	VA03	
NH02	<b>Vacant</b>	VB01	Rosemary Coleman
NH03	<b>Vacant</b>	VB02	
NI01	Sally Cronberger	VB03	Ann Keating
NI02	<b>Vacant</b>	VC01/VC02	Cherie Watkins
NJ01		VC03	Marg Woodhouse
NJ02		WA01	

National Council **noted** with concern that there are a number of vacancies at the Zone Councillor level. All eligible members are **encouraged** to consider this important position.

#### 6.5 National Schedule of Dates 2018

National Council unanimously **ratified** the 2018 Schedule of Dates. The Schedule appears at the end of these minutes.

National Councillors were reminded to make note of these dates when arranging meetings to pass on information through the communication chain.

#### 6.6 George Forbes Award



National Council **noted** that the George Forbes Award was presented at National Convention 2017 to **Past National President Lorraine Montgomery, 2012-13**. Lorraine has been a member of VIEW for 19 years. She has been a valued member of the Future of VIEW Working Group since its inception in 2012 and participated in the development of the Treasurer's Guide, the updating of the Club and Councillors Handbooks and the VIEW Charter in 2013. She is committed to ensuring that VIEW moves with the times so that it remains viable and relevant into the future.

Lorraine took on the role of Convention Convener with successful National Conventions in Wollongong 2015 and Tamworth 2017. She always shows great professionalism and teamwork when working with Sub-Committees.

Lorraine was part of the Development Team for the Woollahra VIEW Club which formed in March this year and her guidance, mentorship and knowledge of VIEW were of great assistance in establishing this club.

She is an enthusiastic Ambassador for both VIEW and The Smith Family. She provides valuable advice and is an excellent mentor and friend to many.

### **6.7 National President's Award**

National Council **noted** that the National President's Award was presented at Convention 2017 to **Zone Councillor Marlene Powell**. Marlene has been a member of VIEW in South Australia for 11 years. Described as the main "mover and shaker" of Southern Vales VIEW Club, Marlene has organized most of their functions and shown great flare and creativity to raise funds for The Smith Family.

Marlene has been an active and outstanding member of the South Australian Development Team which established the following four VIEW Clubs: Onkaparinga, The Vines Evening, Prospect and Oaklands.

She is a great mentor to other members, encouraging them to participate in club activities and to attend other clubs functions.

In her current role of Zone Councillor Marlene leads by example and is a true role model. She is an invaluable member – tireless, generous, efficient, creative, enthusiastic and encouraging.

### **6.8 Development**

Gwen Wilton spoke to a report circulated prior to the meeting noting that Development Teams are currently working in a number of areas in several states.

#### **Areas under Development**

**Brisbane (Area QA) in Queensland:** The Development Team is continuing to develop Springfield. Currently they are attached to Centenary Evening VIEW Club, until they reach the required numbers to form a club.

**Sydney North Shore & Northern Beaches (Area NC) in NSW:** Mosman continues to hold regular interest meetings with guest speakers and a number of members have signed up. Plans are to form a core group to grow the club in the future and attract new members. Regular meetings will continue in 2018, commencing on Friday 16 February.

**NSW Central Tablelands, Central & Western Slopes & Western Plains (Area NH) in NSW:** Interest meetings are continuing in Bathurst with encouraging attendance. Regular meetings will commence at Bathurst RSL on the 2nd Thursday of each month from 8 February 2018.

**Canberra & Surrounding Areas (Area AA) in ACT:** Interest meetings have been held to establish a new VIEW Club in Murrumbateman with encouraging response and further Interest meetings are planned.

#### **Areas being Investigated**

**Macarthur, Southern Highlands & Illawarra including Wollongong (Area NB) in NSW:** Shell Cove; West Dapto and Bingara/Wilton are still being considered as potential areas for development.

**Western Sydney Region (Area NE) in NSW:** Breakfast Point was identified as a potential area with further investigation needed to confirm viability, possibly in 2018. Preliminary investigations and meetings were held with local Council, State and Federal MPs to identify growth areas in the Blue Mountains with further investigations to take place in 2018. A Development Team is being formed to continue with development in these areas.

**North & Western Metropolitan Melbourne and North & Western Country Victoria (Area VC) in Victoria:** The Development Team has identified Bacchus Marsh and Safety Beach as possible areas to establish clubs with preliminary investigation about to begin.

**Metropolitan Adelaide & Surrounds including Sunraysia (Area SA):** The Development Team is considering Brighton and also West Lakes as Adelaide West is reaching capacity for its venue. Riverland or Mt Gambier could be successful but further information will be needed before this is undertaken.

**Western Australia:** The Development Team has been approached to investigate the York area and, due to renewed interest, there are also plans to revisit the Perth City Club, which was put on hold last year.

#### **6.9 Closed Clubs**

National Council **noted** that no clubs had closed since September 2017.

#### **6.10 Club Name Change**

Gwen Wilton advised that a request has been made (accompanied by a copy of Club Minutes evidencing agreement of majority of members) for Kenmore Evening VIEW Club (Zone QA02) to become a day club and be known as Kenmore VIEW Club.

Lyn Masters **moved** that Kenmore Evening VIEW Club become a day club and be known as Kenmore VIEW Club.

**Seconded** by Kathie Diskin

**Carried unanimously**

### 6.11 NABO

Gwen Wilton suggested that this should be held over to 2018. National Council **agreed** that further investigation is required prior to being formally adopted.

### 6.12 Rezoning of Areas NE and NN

Gwen Wilton spoke to a paper circulated prior to the meeting. The VIEW Clubs in the Sydney South West (Area NE) and Blue Mountains, Lithgow, Richmond/Windsor and St Marys (Area NN) are some of the oldest clubs in VIEW having formed in the 1960s and a number of clubs in these areas have closed or are having difficulties attracting members and filling Committee positions. From 2012 to 2015 Area NE saw the closure of four clubs and in 2016 Area NN had one closure.

During 2016 and early 2017 the VIEW Executive conducted a thorough review of the health of clubs in the Sydney Metropolitan area.

Both these Areas have been without a National Councillor and are currently mentored by Zone Councillors and VIEW Executive.

VIEW Executive team is keen to focus on developing clubs and recommends the following amalgamation of Areas NE and NN. It proposes that Area NN (7 clubs) should become a Zone and be amalgamated into Area NE (10 clubs). Area NE should become one Zone in the new Area.

It is proposed that the new combined NE (incorporating NN) will be known as **Western Sydney Region** and by bringing these clubs into two Zones in one Area will strengthen the clubs by providing them the opportunity to work together and share ideas to grow current membership as well as investigate new areas for development.

In June, all clubs in Areas NE and NN were contacted with the proposal to amalgamate these two Areas to form Area NE and given the opportunity to respond with any major concerns by 31 October.

As no negative comments were raised by clubs in the Areas, it is proposed that the amalgamation occur as follows:

<b>NE01 (10 clubs)</b>	<b>NE02 (7 clubs)</b>
Bankstown	Lithgow
Blacktown	Mountain Evening
Concord West	Nepean Evening
Five Dock Evening	Richmond Windsor
Macquarie Ryde Evening	Springwood
Moorebank District Evening	St Marys
North Rocks Evening	Upper Blue Mountains
Parramatta	
Pennant Hills	
Yagoona	

After some discussion Toni Thomas **moved** that Areas NE and NN be amalgamated to form one Area to be known as **Western Sydney Region** (NE) with two Zones effective 1 January 2018.

**Seconded** by Cecilia Bayliss

**Carried unanimously**

### 6.13 Rezoning of Areas NA and NF

Gwen Wilton spoke to a paper circulated prior to the meeting. In 2013 Area NA consisted of two Zones and in 2014 Area NO was rezoned and became Zone NA03 giving Area NA three zones in all. Over the last three years, six clubs have closed in Area NA, resulting in this area having 17 clubs in three zones.

In 2012, Area NF was rezoned, reducing it from three zones to two zones. However, in the last four years, four clubs have closed in Area NF leaving this Area with only eight clubs.

Due to the geographic proximity and closure of clubs in both NF and NA, it was recommended that Areas NA and NF be amalgamated into one area.

In June, all clubs in Areas NA and NF were contacted with the proposal to amalgamate these two Areas to form Area NA, and given the opportunity to respond with any major concerns by 31 October.

A number of responses were received from clubs in the current NA01 Zone regarding this proposal (Cessnock, Maitland, Raymond Terrace, Tilligerry, Abermain Evening and Myall River) requesting to remain a part of NA01 due to the long distances between clubs in the proposed new Zone and lack of connectivity they would experience.

Having reviewed the letters of concern, the Executive and Future of VIEW Working Group gave further consideration to the proposal and recommended the following: that the three existing zones in Area NA remain as they are and the existing Area NF be added to Area NA and be known as Zone NA04.

Therefore, the proposed amalgamation would be as follows:

<b>NA01 (8 clubs)</b>	<b>NA02 (4 clubs)</b>	<b>NA03 (5 clubs)</b>	<b>NA04 (8 clubs)</b>
Abermain Evening	Branxton Day	Bel Air	Bateau Bay
Cessnock	Denman Evening	Belmont	Brisbane Water Evng
Maitland	Merriwa Evening	Caves Beach	Gwandalan
Nelson Bay	Muswellbrook	Hunter	Halekulani
Raymond Terrace		Redhead	Kincumber
Stockton			Toukley
Stockton			Tuggerah Lakes
Tilligerry			Westside

After some discussion Ellen Gray **moved** that Areas NA and NF be amalgamated to form one Area to be known as **Hunter/Central Coast** (NA) with four Zones effective 1 January 2018.

**Seconded** by Yvonne White

**Carried unanimously**

## 6.14 FAQs Session (Frequently Asked Questions)

The following questions were addressed:

Question	Answer
Is it possible to have a template for the Certificate of Appreciation because it is difficult to print on the cardboard?	Certificates are available on request from National Office. The National President's signature cannot be provided on a "template".
What is the amount recommended for birthday gifts for <i>Learning for Life</i> students?	The information is clearly set out in the <b>Club Handbook 2018, Page 19</b> . Vouchers to the value of <b>up to \$100 per year</b> (eg birthday, Christmas or educational milestones). Gift giving to students is optional.
How do we know how much money to keep aside at the end of the year for our <i>Learning for Life</i> student sponsorship?	Clubs are reminded to send excess funds to The Smith Family. Minimum funds to cover current expenses for your existing sponsorships are to be retained in all bank accounts.

## 6.15 Around the Areas

Gwen facilitated a session where National Councillors were able to share ideas about development in their Areas, acknowledging their hard work and reminding them to continue to encourage their clubs.

### Thank you from National President

Gwen thanked National Councillors for their contribution to a very successful 2016-17 term and for their friendship and hospitality to her and National Vice Presidents Toni and Gloria.

To the 2018-19 National Executive and National Council, she expressed the hope that they would enjoy their new roles and continue to progress the organisation into the future.

She closed the meeting, wishing everyone a happy and safe festive season with family and friends.

### Dates of Next Meetings

National Executive – 11 and 12 January (Face to Face) and 3 February 2018 (Face to Face)

**National Council** – Sunday 4 February 2018

**2018 National Schedule of Dates**  
(Might be subject to change)

<b>WHEN</b>	<b>WHAT</b>
After first 2018 Club meeting	Delegates Reports due to Zone Councillor
<b>January</b>	
Friday 5 January	Agenda items to Executive Mentor
Thursday 11 and Friday 12 January	<a href="#">Executive Meeting (Face to Face Meeting)</a>
Thursday 25 January	Agenda sent to National Councillors
<b>February</b>	
Saturday 3 February	<a href="#">Executive Meeting (Face to Face Meeting)</a>
Sunday 4 February	<b>National Council Meeting</b>
Monday 12 February	Italicised Minutes emailed to National Councillors
Friday 16 February	National Minutes distributed via email
Week beginning 19 February	Zone Councillor Meeting (Face to Face) with National Councillor
Week beginning 26 February	Delegates Meeting (face to face) with Zone Councillor
<b>March</b>	
Thursday 15 March	<a href="#">Executive Meeting (Teleconference Meeting)</a>
<b>April</b>	
Thursday 19 April	<a href="#">Executive Meeting (Teleconference Meeting)</a>
<b>May</b>	
Friday 11 May	Agenda items to Executive Mentor
Thursday 17 May	<a href="#">Executive Meeting (Teleconference Meeting)</a>
<b>June</b>	
Friday 8 June	Agenda sent to National Councillors
Saturday 16 June	<a href="#">Executive Meeting (Face to Face Meeting)</a>
Sunday 17 June	<b>National Council Meeting</b>
Monday 25 June	Italicised Minutes emailed to National Councillors
Friday 29 June	National Minutes distributed via email
<b>July</b>	
Week beginning 2 July	Zone Councillor Teleconference with National Councillor
Week beginning 9 July	Delegates Meeting/Teleconference with Zone Councillor
Thursday 19 July	<a href="#">Executive Meeting (Teleconference Meeting)</a>
<b>August</b>	
Thursday 16 August	<a href="#">Executive Meeting (Teleconference Meeting)</a>
<b>September</b>	
Thursday 20 September	<a href="#">Executive Meeting (Teleconference Meeting)</a>
Friday 28 September	Agenda items to Executive Mentor
<b>October</b>	
Thursday 11 October	<a href="#">Executive Meeting (Teleconference Meeting)</a>
Friday 19 October	Agenda sent to National Councillors
Saturday 27 October	<a href="#">Executive Meeting (Face to Face Meeting)</a>
Sunday 28 October	<b>National Council Meeting</b>
<b>November</b>	
Monday 5 November	Italicised Minutes emailed to National Councillors
Friday 9 November	National Minutes distributed via email
Week beginning 12 November	Zone Councillor Teleconference with National Councillor
Thursday 15 November	<a href="#">Executive Meeting (Teleconference Meeting)</a>
Week beginning 19 November	Delegates Meeting/Teleconference with Zone Councillor
<b>December</b>	
Thursday 13 December	<a href="#">Executive Meeting (Teleconference Meeting)</a>