

## World Families Australia

Annual General Meeting Minutes– October 4th 2016, 7pm

Tyndale College

50 Fern Grove Bld

Salisbury East 5109

1. Welcome
2. Present Bruce Smith, Di Amato, Brooke Matcham, Bert Michels, Elaine Smith, Vicki Hyde, Jenny Minck, Dani Potter, Glenn Smith, Morgan Smith
3. Apologies Sandi Petersen, Kerry Walker, Kevin Lynch, Peter Mann
4. Minutes of last year's AGM- October 6th 2015 Moved to accept Bruce Smith, seconded Elaine Smith, all in favour.
5. Business arising (if any) Adoption of amended Constitution – Moved to accept Di Amato, seconded Bruce Smith. The amended Constitution will be lodged with the Government "Consumer and Business Services".
6. Correspondence Reports recently received – The reports for Bonga Rural, Shalom Children's Home, and Dembidollo/Samerro had been emailed out but only on the day of the meeting. These will be considered at the December meeting.
7. President's report Morgan Smith presented her report

Through its generous donors World Families Australia continues to fund many projects in developing countries that improve the quality of life for communities, families and individuals.

In the last twelve months the organisation has continued to strengthen the quality and accountability of its projects. Several non-Ethiopian projects have closed through lack of a project officer. These projects have been supported for many years. One project has closed through insufficient accountability and another will probably close shortly. To ensure available funds provide the most benefit to those in need new projects are opened and existing ones reviewed. Some of these projects are reoriented or closed.

Under Bert Michels' leadership the governance of the organisation has been strengthened. New key policies have been developed to support the work of the organisation. Considerable work has been undertaken by Bert and Kevin Lynch in the area of constitution change to position the organisation going forward. Di Amato continues to provide us with informative, colourful newsletters that chart the achievements and changes of World Families Australia.

Work by Elaine Smith and Kerry Walker has seen efficiency measures within the organisation that have reduced workload and saved funds. In part as a result of their efforts the organisation is financial sound. The setting up of the Ethiopian Late-payment Fund (ELF) by Kerry will enable individual children supported through a

number of the Ethiopian projects to experience financial certainty. For the first time these children will no longer have to worry about their donors not paying on time. Adoption support continues as practicable. The Barmera camp, a World Families Australia tradition, ran as usual in December 2015. Due to low numbers, however, the future of the event is in doubt. The next camp maybe the last one. The camp would not be possible without the support of Helen and Dennis McInerney and Sue Dobbin who organise it each year.

I would like to thank everyone for their support over the last twelve months. The donors who make funding the projects possible. The office staff for ensuring the organisation runs smoothly, all the members of the management committee and the project officers.

Thank you all.

Morgan Smith

Moved to accept Vicki, seconded Glenn, all in favour.

Discussion focussed on the Barmera camp and its relationship with World Families Australia as the bank account which is kept by the camp coordinator is held in the name of Australians Aiding Children. As the next would most likely be the last camp, it was resolved that World Families Australia acknowledges that this account is a subsidiary account of WFA. Moved Di, seconded Vicki, all in favour.

8. Evaluation reports Approved/Not approved for continuance

Mithra Home has been approved to continue for a further 6 months. Jenny indicated there was an opportunity to include vocational training as an objective.

Both Bali Girls Home and Bali Boys Home have been discontinued due to lack of a Project Officer and no contact with the project.

Indonesia (MIF) to continue 12 months. Advertise for Project Officer from within the donors.

Sri Lanka PSA, PRB, PSC to continue 12 months. Advertise for Project Officer from within the donors.

Sri Lanka SA (Salvation Army) Review in 12 months. Project attempts to implement developmental goals. Explore option of a new Project Officer in the newsletter.

Fiji, St Christopher's. Project to be discontinued.

9. Project reports - Project reports received from 26 projects were accepted; 3 reports outstanding Woylata, Ethiopia –UDP and Mission Uplift. Project Officers to be contacted by secretary.

10. Adoption support report Vicki Hyde

**World Families Australia specific events** – Gaye Thurland continues to hold her regular monthly coffee morning to provide support for adoptive parents. A number of parents attend regularly and find the group invaluable in providing support both at and between meetings. This year will be the last year of the Barmera Camp. Low numbers due to reductions in adoptions and the large number of older adoptees has reduced numbers over recent years. In addition, Dennis and Helen McInerney have been running the camp for a number of years and are at the stage where they need a break. The 2017 camp will be held between 6<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> January and everyone is encouraged to attend and make this a successful final camp.

**ISIs** – the new adoption service has been advertising post adoption support and search services, in addition to counselling services.

Counselling support, information and education service for the pre- and post- adoption community Including therapeutic parenting courses and activities for adoptees are also still provided through PASS.

**Inter country Adoption Support Groups**–have not met since late last year. The Curry Club has had a dinner this year. A dinner was also held for pre- and post-adoptive mothers last Christmas and another is being planned for this Christmas.

**Adoption Review:** The recommendations for the State Government review of adoption services has been released and includes the following recommendations: same sex couples should have the right to adopt. Greater rights should be given for single people to adopt than previously. Adoption of adults should be allowed. An adopted child's birth name should be retained except in exceptional circumstances. Birth certificates should include birth and adoptive parents. There should be a greater protection of adopted children's rights, including allowing an adoption order to be discharged in cases of abuse.

### **Intercountry adoption programs**

In November 2015 Australia two new intercountry adoption programs were commenced with Poland and Latvia. Most countries operate on a quota system with small numbers. For further information on specific country programs see:

<https://www.ag.gov.au/FamiliesAndMarriage/IntercountryAdoption/Pages/default.aspx>

Vicki Hyde WFA Adoption Rep.

11. Treasurer's report  
Glenn Smith presented Auditor's Report. Moved to accept Di, seconded Bert, all in favour. Management to undertake a workshop with Glenn in regard to understanding the financial reports.  
Appointment of auditor - Moved to accept Peter Hall as the auditor for 2016/17 Glenn, seconded Bruce, all in favour.
12. Other business  
Barmera Camp – previously dealt with.
13. Election of committee  
This matter to be on the December agenda in regard to implementing Constitutional changes. Bert to identify appropriate amendments and a strategy to deal with these.
14. Election of office bearers  
President: Morgan Smith elected unopposed  
Vice President: Christine Hoffman elected unopposed  
Secretary: Bert Michels elected unopposed  
Treasurer: Glenn Smith elected unopposed
14. Closed approximately 8.40pm