

MI Missionary Transition & Re-entry Retreat Meeting
10 February 12.30 pm

MINUTES

Venue: Pioneers of Australia office (first floor) 1/39 Railway Road Blackburn (diagonally opposite Blackburn railway station on the North side). Should you wish to bring your lunch with you and eat it during the meeting you will be most welcome to do so and hot drinks will be provided.

1. **Opening prayer and welcome:** Ephesians 1 *The Divine Secret*, by Bruce Prewer was read responsively. Led by **Dawn**.
2. **Present:** Dawn Taylor, Michael Collie, Andrew Vines, Jenny Johnston, Jane Window, Roger Redford, Charlie Fletcher, Robyn McLean - Skype & Deanna Richey - Skype
3. **Apologies:** Ben McLean, Mark Glover
4. **Confirm minutes:** Michael Collie
5. **Business arising:**

Feedback:

- How to cope with high stress – can we add anything to assist anyone finding themselves in this position? More discussion required.

Seminars can bring up stress. Providing information would need an extra session.

Expectations – include in Welcome Letter – that seminars can bring up emotions – there will be resources on the book table. e.g. *Growing through stress* – Kath Donovan – (Deanna suggested)

ACTION: Suggestion have resources on the bookstall - **Deanna/Michael**

ACTION: Include info about expectations as above, in Welcome Letter - **Michael**

- Starting sessions on time – comments re starting with silence – difficult – start with a song – indicates that session is starting. Some participants need to tend to children and may be late. Don't want to have to wait for people to start as gives impression that people can be late. Suggest talking amongst group or asking participants to share funny episodes. No critical information – when there is a quorum start seminar.
- Adjustments to seminars – Suggestion to make lunch 15 minutes later (M/T was made 15 mins later). Dawn to notify ElKanah

- Aussie barbeque – (lunch on final day) Dawn checked with ElKanah – happy to do this for same price for a set menu. Dawn to check with Leigh re children and BBQ

- Follow up protocols – Michael – spoke to Pam Thyer – need to talk re confidentiality – reinforce in small group. If there was a concern for any particular missionary, encourage them to confide in Mission (uneven in levels of member care). We would not be contacting – action would be taken if there was threat to self or others. Increase self awareness and encourage people to look after themselves.

Discussion re how the retreat is perceived by agencies. Suggest we be open to change of the culture of the event.

6. TCK ReConnect Camp: Feedback read by team. Verbal feedback from some parents of older teens was that we are not meeting the needs of the **older** teens. Need care re our advertising of catering for older teens. Suggest that a variety is provided. **Suggested that we survey the parents who expressed opinion.** Gap in program for teens after high school age.

Deanna - Discussion of how to parent your children through re-entry - does TCK final session address issue? Feedback stated that this isn't addressed in sessions. Include on resource table or list. Information on warning signs in children/teens – eating disorders, self harm. Deanna has been searching for resources – Deanna has a check list for signs of depression in men, women & children – can be put in pack. **Deanna to email to Michael.**

**Trauma and resilience Schaefer & Schaefer*

Mention these issues – When parents are in their own re-entry they are not always aware of what is going on for their children.

ACTION: Michael and Deanna to discuss and incorporate in seminars.

Psychology services – update lists – suggestion - not only Christian.

ACTION – Dawn

7. Dates for 2017 ReEntry Retreat: Thurs. 5- Sunday 8 Oct. A standing booking has been made for future years for the first week-end of the third term school holidays.

8. New team members: Jane Window, Charlie Fletcher & Andrew Vines – may be overseas at time of this year's retreat. Welcome.

The number of facilitators for the retreat depends on the number of participants.

9. Team Officers: Mark Glover - Vice Chair, Dawn - Administrator & Chair, Coordinator – Michael Collie, Minute Sec.- Jenny Johnston. Signatories - Dawn & Jenny & Richard Dickens (MI). Existing positions remain.

Position descriptions remain

- 10. Brochure:** Price – 5 % increase. Dawn has sent new figures, ElKanah yet to confirm. When confirmation comes back Michael to update brochure. Format of brochure discussed – reflect a calm invitation – optimistic – thinking of colours.

Close of registrations: remain as 31st August

ACTION: Michael to update brochure with prices (& date)

ACTION: Dawn will distribute the brochure

- 11. Finance report:** To be distributed with minutes. No shortfall. Current balance is encouraging.

- 12. ReEntry Retreat banner:** Michael – no progress. Timeframe - Michael will circulate before the next meeting.

ACTION: Michael to continue work & circulate draft

- 13. Any other business:**

- a. Glossary of terms to be continued.

ACTION: Michael to continue work

- b. Names of possible returning missionaries to keep in mind

Thompsons - CMS

Morseheads – CMS

Town - CMS

Buchanan & 4 chn

Mychaels - PoA

Pooles - PoA

? Smalls PoA (return in June)

Sanders - PoA (return in June)

- c. **Contact List** – new members added details.

ACTION: Jenny to contact Andrew Vines for contact details & distribute to team.

- d. MC Network gave \$500 for the extra TCK facilitator in 2016. Will make a further donation for 2017.

- e. Members available for retreat. Roger tentative. McLeans yes, Mark yes, Deanna tentative will let know as soon as knows. Andrew Vines – tentative

***Others weren't mentioned – assumption that all other team members are available.

14. Next Meeting: 30 June (apology – Charlie) – see where registrations are at; any action required – any other things needing to finalise re our preparations – craft; installations and seminars allocation

25 August – allocating jobs to members

27 October – evaluation and debrief meeting

15. Close in prayer: Deanna

ACTION POINTS:

Michael

1. Include in Welcome Letter – Expectations that seminars can bring up emotions – there will be resources on the book table. Also include websites/resource names from Deanna on parenting your children through re-entry & information on warning signs in children/teens
2. Discuss with Deanna issues discussed in point 6 of minutes & include appropriate material in seminar.
3. Continue as Retreat Coordinator
4. Update brochure with prices (& date)
5. Continue work on banner and circulate draft of banner
6. Continue work on glossary

Mark Glover

1. Continue as Vice-Chair

Jenny

1. Prepare and distribute minutes
2. Continue as Minute Secretary and bank account signatory

3. Contact Andrew Vines for his complete contact details for the contact list
4. Book Pioneers room & screen for future meeting

Deanna

1. Source resources for bookstall/websites for welcome pack on *coping with stress*, also *how to parent your children through re-entry*. *Information on warning signs in children/teens* – eating disorders, self harm - check list for signs of depression in men, women & children – can be put in pack. **Deanna to email to Michael.**

Growing through stress – Kath Donovan

Trauma and resilience Schaefer & Schaefer

2. Discuss with Michael issues discussed in point 6 of minutes & include appropriate material in seminar.

Dawn

1. Notify ElKanah re adjustments to seminars – lunch to be 15 minutes later (M/T was made 15 mins later). Accordingly the timetable will reflect this year's change.
2. Check with Leigh re children and BBQ on the Sunday
3. Update Psychology services list – suggestion - not only Christian.
4. Continue as Administrator and Chair & bank account signatory
5. Distribute the brochure