

Chairman's report to the OMNI AGM on 20th August 2015

1. **The AGM** is a great time to talk about what is happening in groups around the state. Groups operate in different ways and have different issues to deal with. We look forward to the group reports and very much appreciate those who are presenting them. Groups that are not coming to the AGM have submitted reports following the suggested topics that we sent out some time ago.
2. **Rewriting the Green Book.** We have been distributing the Green **book** to groups for new members. We have also been responding to requests for brochures from groups. We have run out of copies of the Green Book and need to consider a rewrite. We convened a meeting of a small committee to look at what needs to be updated. We have some good suggestions to help in the rewrite. We have sufficient copies of the brochure. (copies available today from Ray)
3. **New very attractive badges. These** are available here from Frank Deluca (\$2.00 each). He will take orders. Ray has an OMNI mug that groups may wish to buy. Cost is \$15 if we buy in bulk. This price includes the attachment of the owner's name if desired. This price is what we pay for them so there would be postage if orders would need to be sent.
4. **The state of the nation.** Numbers of members have increased so we have over 160 paid up members. Some groups have not increased in numbers but membership has been maintained and of course for other groups, membership has changed with some becoming too old or unable to attend but being replaced by new members. The average size of groups is 10 but the 'Tamnet' group numbers 34. Willoughby has been invited to the AGM but although two members are willing the time clashed with another event.
5. **Affiliated groups.** We have been running a type of OMNI group under the group affiliation arrangements that we passed at the AGM last year. This is at the aged care centre called 'Remembrance Village'. We have operated for over a year now. Numbers attending have increased and the men feel that they are a group. Recently they asked that a letter be sent from them to the state member asking that the base hospital retain its name. The group received a response from the Minister of Health. This identity as a group is very important for the men who are otherwise isolated from events outside the aged care centre. As our OMNI members age, they find themselves in aged care facilities and lose contact with OMNI and the benefits of companionship and support. Establishing groups in aged care facilities goes some way to maintain the contact with these men and helps them manage their new environment and challenges. This is not the only justification for establishing these groups. Aged care facilities tend to develop more programs for women than men and indeed women comprise the majority in such homes. There is a great need for programs specifically for men in these aged care facilities.
6. **New groups.** We are encouraged that Brian O'Hara is keen to work to establish a new OMNI group at Young. (a 'young' group of older men sounds a contradiction). We hope that something will come of this initiative and thanks Brian for his commitment. We will keep all groups informed of progress with this exciting prospect.
7. **Affiliations.** We maintain our Affiliation with COTA and the Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association (CPSA). Steve Cooper represented us at the CPSA AGM and we need to fill this position for the 2015 AGM.

8. **The committee of the incorporated body.** This group is working well. We have 9 members representing four groups and meet monthly from 10am to 12. We would like to enlarge the membership of the committee.
9. **Communications.** The **newsletter** for Wagga group 1 is sent to all groups and serves not only to cover what that group is doing but is used also for matters of interest to all groups. We will continue with this means of communication. We can organise **banners** to publicize OMNI quite cheaply. If any group is interested please contact Ray King. Groups can decide on the content for the banner. (see examples in this room).
10. **Website.** As you know, we have retained the old address but linked it to a new website which allows much more flexibility. The website is constantly updated and already encouraging contacts. We are pleased that Glebe also now has a website which is linked with the OMNI incorporated website. I will ask Peter Piltz, our webmaster, to talk about the OMNI website.

In conclusion, the OMNI Incorporated committee has listed some Issues for 2015-2016:

1. Starting new groups
2. Maintaining our website and encouraging other groups to establish a website
3. Opening men's groups in aged care centres
4. Extension to Canberra
5. Rewrite of Green book and brochures, print and distribute to groups.
6. Distribution of new badges and mugs
7. Try again to run a Sydney meeting

11. Any Questions?