

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF OLDER MEN NEW IDEAS HELD IN THE  
WAGGA COMMERCIAL CLUB , GURWOOD STREET, WAGGA WAGGA ON 22<sup>ND</sup> AUGUST  
2014 COMMENCING AT 10.00AM**

***Welcome and Apologies***

The chairman welcomed all members attending the AGM and in particular those who had travelled considerable distances. He referred especially to Jack Smith from the Canterbury OMNI and Joe Rose and Lindsay Whybrough from Hillston OMNI and Andrew Hepburn and Russell Stevenson from Tumbarumba OMNI. The Chairman thanked Frank Deluca and Mrs Gill Deluca for hosting Jack Smith for the second time! It was great to see so many members from Wagga Wagga OMNI 1, OMNI 2 and OMNI 3

**Apologies have been received from**

Griffith (Mick Sheehan, Bert Yates, and Peter Knox), Temora ( Arthur Wallace), Charlestown, (Herb Sowter), Glebe-Leichhardt (Fawzey Hage), Holbrook (Ian Scobie and Murray Locke), Marius Street -Tamworth (Brian Kelly and John Bolger), and Tomaree -Nelson Bay (Ron McLaughlan). Ken Young from Melbourne OMNI groups asked that his apology be recorded as did also two members of the committee, Laurie Hull and Alan Puckeridge. All those groups unable to send a representative have sent a report on their activities.

**1. Thanks to sponsors**

The Chairman recorded the meeting's appreciation of the RSL's donation of the use of the meeting room and the projection equipment for our AGM. He also expressed the meetings appreciation to Eldridge Crawford Business and Accounting Services, who sponsored the printing of our brochure and waived the cost of the brokerage fee for the liability insurance as well as sponsoring the setting up the OMNI website.

**Remembering members who have passed on during the year.**

The chairman asked for one minute's silence in memory of OMNI members who had died since the last AGM.

**2. Previous minutes for the meeting of 16<sup>th</sup> August 2013** The minutes for the last meeting were displayed on the screen. They had been circulated following the last AGM. It was moved and seconded that the minutes were a correct record of the meeting ( Bob Toose/Ken King).

**3. Correspondence** The Secretary reported that he had written numerous letters and made phone calls and there has been the usual correspondence including the renewal of the insurance and the request to the RSL to waive the hire cost of the room. He moved that the correspondence be received. (Ray King/ Jim Saligari).

**4. Reports:**

The **OMNI Committee Chairman** Keith Beck, gave his report which is printed here in full.

"Committee

The seven member committee comprising myself as Chairman, Secretary (Ray King) , Minute taker (Alan Puckeridge) Treasurer (Laurie Hull) and Assistant treasurer Bill van Wel), web master (Peter Piltz) and Frank Deluca, has met monthly over the year. Herb Sowter is our distance member.

This has been a very effective committee. I have been very pleased to be part of the management team and wish to express my appreciation for all the work they have done for OMNI. I understand that all of the committee have agreed to have their nominations put forward for 2014-2015. I will be standing down but there is a nomination for a Chairman and two additional members.

#### OMNI groups

OMNI has remained strong in numbers. In fact the number of members across all groups has marginally increased. There have been members who have passed away and new members have joined. We have 13 groups, eight in the Riverina and five in the east. We have had one new group established in Wagga. The 12 members in this group have not been added to our total as they have made no registration payment. This is not an independent OMNI group but requires supervision and support. We have a video about this group to show you later in the meeting.

#### Affiliations

We have renewed our association with COTA and they receive our fortnightly newsletters. We have continued our affiliation with CPSA (Combined Pensioners and Super annuitants Association). This group advocates for older men and retirees. They produce a monthly newspaper and we will be electing a representative to attend their AGM later on in this meeting. We have put forward a motion to allow affiliation of groups with similar objectives. If the motion is passed at this meeting, the new group in Wagga may become an affiliated group.

#### Publications

The reprint of the OMNI brochures was sponsored by Eldridge Crawford and copies are available at no cost to groups. Please make sure that you fill in the contact details in the space provided so that people receiving the brochures know whom to contact to find out more about OMNI.

Copies of the *Guidelines* are running low. We recommend that this booklet be given to all new members. There are some available on the table at the back of the room. We intend to reprint this very useful booklet adding material about setting up a group in an aged care facility.

#### The website

Peter Piltz, our webmaster is responsible for all the material we have on screen. Peter Piltz has done a great job in maintaining the website with copies of the videos, newsletters, poems, agendas and minutes of meetings, lists of the contacts for all groups and lots more. He has now formed a new website which allows us more flexibility and with links to other sites. The new website is <http://omninsw.Wagga matters.com>. Peter will be presenting and discussing the new website later in the meeting.

#### Future Directions

The committee would like to organise an OMNI meeting which would bring together the 5 groups located in centres stretching from Glebe to Tamworth. The suggested venue could be Sydney. Although the committee is located in Wagga, its membership includes one from Temora and another from Charlestown. While the Temora member is able to attend meetings, Herb Sowter in Charlestown confers by email. A similar arrangement with Tamworth or Griffith may be possible.

#### **Treasurer (copy of balance sheet is on screen)**

Assistant treasurer Bill van Wel presented the report in the absence of Treasurer Laurie Hull. He reported that the current balance is \$3,489.66. \$3,251.56 was brought forward from last financial year and our income for the year was \$1,340.00 making a total of \$4,591.56. Our expenditure was \$1,101.90 leaving a balance, as you can see, of \$3,489.66. Copies of the Treasurer's report were circulated to all present.

*It was moved that the Treasurer's report be received (Bill van Wel/Louis de Kort).*

#### **5. Election of officers**

The Chairman reported that he had received the following nominations for positions on the committee:

Chairman, *Roger Southwood*

(nominated by Ray King/Bill van Wel)

Secretary/Public Officer, *Ray King* (nominated by Frank Deluca/Peter Piltz)  
Treasurer, *Laurie Hull* (nominated by Bill van Wel/ Keith Beck)  
Assistant Treasurer, *Bill van Wel* (nominated by Ray King/Laurie Hull)  
Committee members,  
Web master, *Peter Piltz, Alan Puckeridge, Frank Deluca, Louis de Kort, Des Booth*  
(nominated by the committee)

CPSA (Combined Pensioners and Superannuants Association of NSW Inc.) representative from OMNI to attend their AGM, *Steve Cooper* (nominated by Fawzy Hage)

The Chairman requested any further nominations and in the absence of these he asked for a motion that the nominees be elected (John Smit/Robert Stakenburg). The Chairman thanked all those who had put their names forward to work on the committee. The secretary expressed the committee's appreciation to Keith Beck for his contribution to the management of OMNI Inc during the year.

## **6. Business**

The following motions were put to the meeting and passed. They were introduced and explained by the Secretary and displayed on the screen.

a) Subscriptions for 2014-2015

Motion: *that the per capita subscription remain at \$10.00 for 2015-2016. (Frank Deluca/Ken King)*

Motion: *That the 2015 AGM be held at Wagga Wagga. (Jim Saligari/Louis de Kort)*

b) Date and location of next AGM

Motion: *That the 2015 AGM be held on Friday 21st August. (Bob Toose/Chris Thomas)*

c) Starting new groups

Motion: *That the grant for new groups be made available to the new group named as Wagga No 4. - Remembrance Village, Wagga Wagga-. (John Smit/Frank Deluca)* The point was made in discussion that this was available to any OMNI group that started a new group

d) Publicity and publications

Motion: *That the brochures and 'Guidelines' be presented to all new members.(Bill van Wel/Louis de Kort)*

e) Constitution amendments

These changes were explained in some detail and the wording of the present constitution and the wording of the proposed changes were presented on the screen.

Motion: *That the OMNI constitution be amended to provide for Affiliate Members (Bill van Wel/Bill Salter)*

Motion: *That the constitution be amended to reflect our current practice in electing the organising committee.(Bill van Wel/Jim Saligari)*

Fawzey Hage (Glebe-Leichhard) proposed that it be made clear that other decisions in respect of the constitution require a majority of all members. It was pointed out that this was already covered by the current constitution.

## **7. Cancer Council Community Speakers Program**

The Chairman welcomed Mr Kerry Geale who spoke on recent research on Cancer with special reference to Prostate cancer and various forms of melanoma. His talk was received with appreciation and welcomed as an important matter of great concern to many members.

*A musical interlude had been planned featuring the internationally acclaimed Wagga City Rugby Male Choir. The intention was to promote singing (or music) in OMNI groups- a practice that has long been a feature of the Tumbarumba meetings and occasionally with*

*Wagga OMNI 1. Music is an untapped resource in OMNI groups and could be considered by members as an important component of OMNI meetings. However we were foiled in our attempt to make this point by the cancelling of the appearance by the male choir which had several withdrawals of members on the day.*

**8. Reports from OMNI groups** (some submitted in writing and others presented orally).

Canterbury	(Jack Smith)
Charlestown	(Herb Sowter)
Glebe-Leichhardt	(Fawzey Hage)
Griffith	(Mick Sheehan)
Hillston	(Joe Rose)
Holbrook	(Ian Scobie)
Melbourne	(Ken Young)
Tamworth-Marius Street	(Brian Kelly)
Temora	(Arthur Wallace)
Tomaree	(Ron McLachlan)
Tumbarumba	(Andrew Hepburn)
Wagga 1	(Bill Salter)
Wagga 2	(Jim Saligari)
Wagga 3	(Frank Deluca)

*There was a Video presentation of the new group Wagga RSL Remembrance Village Group, by Peter Piltz introduced by Ray King. This was a training video which illustrated the difficulties associated with establishing an OMNI (men's discussion ) group in an aged care facility. The point was made that when our members are unable to continue in their OMNI group and require aged care, they no longer have access to OMNI. Conducting OMNI type groups in aged care facilities helps achieve some continuity in contact, continued fellowship and support.*

**9. Any other business**

a) New Website: Introduction to new website by Peter Piltz. Peter displayed the website on the screen and had ingeniously prepared a demonstration which led the members through the various connection in the new website. This was very cleverly done and earned sincere appreciation from the audience.

b) Sydney meeting: There was some interest in the idea of holding a meeting following the AGM, in another location that would enable other OMNI Groups from Sydney and the North, to participate.

Our members are aging and find it a problem to travel to participate in the AGM in Wagga Wagga. It was agreed that a meeting in Sydney could well be accessible to groups from Tamworth, Charlestown and Nelson Bay. This would provide an opportunity for fellowship and discussion of OMNI issues face to face, where this has not been possible due to the distances these groups are from Wagga Wagga. The meeting asked that the committee investigate this issue. Some members said they were willing to travel to Sydney for such a meeting.

**The meeting closed at 3.30pm**

Ray King  
Secretary

**PROPOSAL TO INTRODUCE A NEW CATEGORY OF MEMBERSHIP  
OF OLDER MEN NEW IDEAS (OMNI Incorporated)  
'AFFILIATE MEMBER'**

**PREAMBLE**

At present the membership of the OMNI (NSW) Inc. constitutes OMNI groups and not individual members of those groups. Individual members of each group are designated associate members of OMNI (NSW) Inc..

There are a number of men's groups which have concerns about promoting the interests of older men. Some of these groups are incorporated and some unincorporated. We are interested in those men's groups or organisations which have objectives that are compatible with those of OMNI incorporated as indicated in the association's constitution ('providing forums for developing camaraderie, social health and promotion of the objectives of OMNI (NSW).')

The association is interested in promoting the recognition of the needs of men and particularly older men in the community. We believe that this can be achieved more effectively if there is a common voice for advocacy among men's groups having similar objectives and concerns. We see also the potential for widening the fellowship and camaraderie among men, especially among older men, through a process of affiliation among like groups.

For these reasons we make the following proposal.

**PROPOSAL**

That application as an **affiliate member** be negotiated with men's groups which have compatible objectives to OMNI Incorporated;

That **application as an affiliate member** of OMNI(NSW) Incorporated be considered on written application accompanied by the payment of an annual membership fee by an organisation eligible to apply as an **affiliate member**;

That an annual membership fee for an **affiliate member** be determined;

That an **affiliate member** retains its autonomy and existing legal status including its own constitution;

That an **affiliate member** appoints a delegate who may attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting of OMNI(NSW) Incorporated;

That an **affiliate member** has access to OMNI groups by arrangement with OMNI(NSW) Incorporated;

That **affiliate members** receive free copies of the occasional newsletters and information publications and brochures produced by OMNI(NSW) Incorporated.

Reference to the OMNI Constitution, 'PART 2 MEMBERSHIP' and part 4 NOMINATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

*Insert new section.....*

**3a. AFFILIATE MEMBERS**

- (i) An Affiliate member shall be a men's group that is not a registered OMNI group (under PART 2 Membership, section 3) and has compatible objectives to OMNI incorporated.
- (ii) An affiliate member shall have been nominated for affiliate membership of the association as provided by rule 3a and has been approved for affiliate membership of the association by the committee of the association.
- (iii) An annual membership fee for an affiliate member be determined;
- (iv) An affiliate member retains its autonomy and existing legal status including its own constitution;
- (v) An affiliate member appoints a delegate who may attend and vote at the Annual General Meeting of OMNI Incorporated;

- (vi) an affiliate member has access to OMNI groups by arrangement with the committee of the association
- (vii) Affiliate members receive free copies of the occasional newsletters and information publications and brochures produced by the association

*Insert new section.....*

#### **4a. NOMINATION FOR AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP**

An application as an affiliate member of OMNI Incorporated will be considered on written application to the association accompanied by the payment of an annual membership fee, by an organisation eligible to apply as an **affiliate member**;

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### **PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION IN RESPECT OF THE VOTERS FOR THE ELECTION OF THE OMNI INCORPORATED COMMITTEE**

#### **PREAMBLE**

*The current constitution 'Part 3 THE COMMITTEE, section 15 CONSTITUTION AND MEMBERSHIP', states that:*

*"The management of the organisation shall be vested in a committee which shall consist of one representative elected by each registered group".*

*Our practice however has been to elect the committee by vote from the floor by representatives of all of the groups at the Annual General Meeting. In order to amend the constitution to follow common practice the following proposal is made:*

#### **PROPOSAL**

*That section 15 of part 3 be amended by substituting the following for the existing wording as quoted above:*

*"The management of the organisation shall be vested in a committee which shall consist of members elected at an Annual General Meeting of registered groups".*