

**MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING AND  
COMMITTEE MEETING OF OLDER MEN NEW IDEAS INC. HELD AT THE GOULBURN WORKERS  
CLUB COMMENCING AT 10.30 AM ON 19<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2011**

**1. Welcome and Apologies**

**Present:** Jack Smith (Canterbury), Herb Sowter, John Dougherty (Charlestown), Steve Cooper, Ian Edwards (Glebe), Ian Scobie, Arthur Liston, Bob Martyn, Glen Crawford (Holbrook), Norm Brown, Russell Stevenson, Andrew Hepburn (Tumbarumba), Ray King, Laurie Hull, John Smit, Bill van Wel, (Wagga Wagga 1), Derrick Foster, Vic Macgill, Bob Toose, John Hyland, Ray Grant, Peter Piltz, Jim Saligari (Wagga Wagga 2), Arnold Velthuis, Frank De Luca (Wagga Wagga 3), Doug Stoddart, Richard Morony (Willoughby), Ken Young (Victoria).

The Chairman Lawrie Hull, welcomed all members present especially Ken Young from Victoria. Apologies were recorded for Hillston, Tomaree, Temora and Griffith groups.

The Chairman asked that the meeting remember members who had passed away since the last meeting (David Baker, Geoff Auld, Ted Gallop, Tony Edwards, Jim Kemp and Jim Lyons and others from groups not present).

**2. Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 20<sup>th</sup> August 2010 and any matters arising**

A motion was passed that the minutes be accepted as a correct record.

*Herb Sowter/Norm Brown*

**3. Correspondence**

The secretary listed the inward and outward correspondence.

**4. Treasurer, Secretary/Public officer's report**

The Treasurer Ray King, tabled the financial statement which was adopted.

*Ray King/Andrew Hepburn.*

Ray reported on the sponsorship which has reduced the costs of the insurance.

It was moved) that the subscriptions for 2012-2013 remain at \$10.00 per capita.

*Ian Scobie/Bill van Wel.* This motion was passed unanimously.

**5. Group reports (on group developments and benefits to members)**

The secretary read the written reports submitted by Hillston and Temora. All other groups reported verbally. In general one could say that the reports from groups demonstrated the individuality and independence of groups. Here is a brief summary of major points:

Membership – wives are important as motivators for men to join and attend, a number of groups said that once members join they tend to stay, some groups reported attrition for reasons of illness and some members have passed away, numbers are small (8-9) in some groups but total membership overall is higher than last year, advertisements in the paper and distribution of leaflets seem not to have produced new members for some groups but others have gained members through these measures;

New groups - difficulties in opening up new groups was discussed in respect of Tumut, the role of Rotary seems to have been central in starting groups in the Riverina and in some cases Rotary Clubs have given some financial support; the need for an active and dedicated

individual to spearhead a new group seemed to be the salient factor in establishing new groups;

Mens Shed – members of some groups also belong to Mens Shed, one OM:NI group has given financial support to the local Mens Shed, rapid development of the Mens Shed movement remarked on by several group reporters;

Meeting structure - some groups have singing, some calisthenics, some emphasizing the importance of the coffee break for socialization, some members not seeking any action other than the fortnightly meeting itself, informality seems important in meetings, some groups have educational sessions with speakers on health or legal topics and driving instruction, other groups run their meetings without outside contributions;

Accommodation - Some groups benefit from free accommodation and pay only a small contribution each meeting, some pay for meeting rooms and thus require a higher member donation each meeting, some benefit from membership of the organization that provides them with their meeting venue such as the use of the Board room and some insurance cover;

Programs - some groups would like to extend their contact with other groups and welcome visits, they would support programs such as men's musters, activities among groups, some are involved with seniors' groups activities in the community, Christmas and birthday occasions were celebrated by some groups each year and wives and family members were invited to attend.

#### **6. New Ideas for promoting and improving OM:NI (circulated)**

Herb Sowter covered a wide range of topics. Among the topics he covered were: the incorporated body's newsletter and the need for groups to report on happenings in their meetings – the newsletter is an OM:NI group newsletter not one prepared by his committee, so there is a need for items of interest to other OM:NI groups; the value of the coloured brochures and how they could be used; the importance of the website; featuring the paper on forming new groups, the support documents and the need for the new committee to check new documents; the wide number of calls about OM:NI that are received and that perhaps there are OM:NI groups that are unknown to us; the need for us to keep on showing the benefits of belonging to OM:NI; comparisons between mens sheds and OM:NI; the value of the state wide and national connections or affiliations including the COTA connection and cross links that are possible with our website; the need for a financial report each quarter; the need for a publicity officer.

#### **7. Election of a Management Committee**

Nominations for membership for the committee were received from Mick Sheehan, Griffith OM:NI, Bill van Wel, Ray King and Lawrence Hull from Wagga Wagga Group 1, Peter Piltz from Wagga Wagga Group 2 and Herb Sowter from Charlestown OM:NI. There being no other nominations it was moved that all be appointed with the proviso that other members be co-opted as required.

*John Hyland/Jim Saligari.*

It was decided that the committee would allocate functions among themselves as required and Herb offered to be the publicity officer and Laurie the chairman.

## **8. Any other business**

The Chairman proposed that the meeting show its appreciation to Eldridge Australia Inc for sponsoring the website and Insurance. It was moved that a letter be sent to Alan Eldridge expressing the meetings thanks.

*Andrew Hepburn/Peter Piltz*

A number of "**New Ideas**" were presented to the meeting in the open discussion:

1. One group sponsored a course on memory that was open to the public and suggested that OM:NI groups could increase their membership by undertaking such events;
2. The idea of a residential course at Borambola was suggested;
3. A Patron for OM:NI was proposed and Tim Fisher was suggested. It was moved that he be contacted on his return to Australia;

*Frank De Luca/Bob Toose.*

4. It was suggested that every effort should be made to establish an OM:NI group at Goulburn. Andrew Hepburn offered to talk to a possible facilitator living in Goulburn about this;
5. Rotary's supportive role in the past was recalled and the question was raised about Rotary's role in the future;
6. The involvement of City and Shire Councils was supported with the officer organizing aged care groups to be contacted and the local mayor to be involved. Links to the OM:NI website could be set up on Council website;
7. The erection of sign posts notifying the meeting place of OM:NI groups was suggested (particularly appropriate for Wagga Wagga);
8. It was suggested that members pay an extra dollar at their meeting and that this would cover the costs of members attending the AGM. Some groups paid all the expenses of their members to attend the AGM, others paid transport costs only.
9. Frank De Luca expressed the thanks of those attending the meeting to the committee who had worked hard to set up such a successful AGM. This was passed by acclamation.

## **9. Date and location of next meeting**

It was proposed that the AGM for 2012 be held on August 17<sup>th</sup> 2012 at Goulburn Workers Club. The secretary was asked to make the required booking.

**The meeting closed at 3.00pm**