

**OM:NI VICTORIA NEWSLETTER**  
**August 2011**

**CONTENTS**

- 1. REPORT ON OM:NI REPRESENTATIVES MEETING 26 NOVEMBER 2010**
- 2. THE THUMBNAIL PROJECT**
- 3. THE HISTORY OF OM:NI**
- 4. NSW**
- 5. STATISTICS**
- 6. OUR OM:NI NEWSLETTER**

**1. REPORT ON OM:NI REPRESENTATIVES MEETING 26 NOVEMBER 2010**

In attendance were sixteen OM:NI men with ten groups being represented as follows:

- Balla Balla – Terry Hughes and Spencer Wanklyn
- Balwyn – Peter Hassett, Howard Webb and Ken Davis
- Banyule – Ken Young, Arnold Wheeler and Ray Ewings
- Belmont – Allan Thomas
- Brentwood Park – Brian Regan
- Canterbury and Hawthorn – Ralph Johnson
- Casey - John Douch
- Croydon Hills – John Hogan
- Greensborough – Ken Ramplin, Maurie Callow and Ray Newman
- In addition observers present from COTA (VIC) were Anton Mischewski and Mark McAuliffe

Apologies were received from

- Kooyong – Alan Bawden
- Warrnambool – Jim Thornley
- Waverley – Allan Carter
- Werribee – Adrian Cloonan

After preliminary introductions the theme of the gathering became The Past, Present and Future. We were fortunate to have as guest of honour, Ken Davis, now a participant of the Balwyn Group and previously a driving force in the establishment of OM:NI in Victoria. Ken reviewed the early days and the assistance received from New South Wales plus the great work done by COTA and David Clunn the Co-ordinator for Men's Health, from mid-2004 up to the end of 2006.

Representatives presented the results of their individual Thumbnail Projects and an array of photos of participants. These will be very valuable for publicity purposes.

Reports from those OM:NI representatives present and via email indicate that we are currently surviving well. Anton and Mark gave an indication of the direction COTA is heading and the possibility of future positive developments. John Douch added to the vision of the future. Much discussion centered on the need for a Development Officer to help support and grow the OM:NI movement and the possibility of funding a part-time position at COTA.

It is proposed to hold the next OM:*NI* Representatives meeting in mid – November 2011, again with the invitation to representatives to bring along one or two other participants. Details will be sent out closer to the time. In the meantime the members of the OAG are always available to discuss any concerns.

## **2. THE THUMBNAIL PROJECT**

The response to the Thumbnail Project has been great and a summary report has been prepared and distributed. This provides a thumbnail sketch of the impact OM:*NI* has on the wide variety of men participating. It is expected to be a useful element in gaining support for the growth and development of OM:*NI*.

## **3. THE HISTORY OF OM:*NI***

Briefly, for the record in Victoria - Stonnington (Prahran\*) and Boroondarra (Canterbury) were established in the second half of 2004, Croydon Hills, Belmont, Box Hill\* and Kooyong in 2005, Greensborough, Brimbank (Sunshine\*), Bannockburn\*, Cranbourne, Warrnambool and Hawthorn in 2006, Casey, Waverley\* and Werribee in 2007, Banyule, Balla Balla and Balwyn in 2008, Brentwood Park in 2010 and Diamond Creek and Beaconsfield in 2011. A second Balwyn group was also established in 2011. Those marked \* have ceased to operate as OM:*NI* groups. In summary 22 OM:*NI* groups have been established in Victoria since 2004 and 17 continue to operate as at August 2011.

COTA (NSW) and OM:*NI* in NSW have allowed access to their records in Sydney and have endorsed a Short History of OM:*NI* prepared as a result. This is now available for general circulation and publicity purposes. Work is continuing on a longer version. The part detailing the history of OM:*NI* in Victoria is almost complete.

## **4. NSW**

Contact with some of the independent groups, those that formed the Older Men's Network Inc. (OMNi) in 2007, was made this year with a view to combining efforts towards the growth and development of OM:*NI*. Attendance at the AGM of the Older Men: *New Ideas* (OM:*NI*) New South Wales Incorporated is planned for this year.

## **5. STATISTICS**

Thanks to all those who have provided statistics on their group.

## **6. OUR OM:*NI* NEWSLETTER**

This newsletter is to be distributed by email to all representatives of OM:*NI* groups in Victoria. It is suggested that if any OM:*NI* participants want to be included in the email distribution they can send a request to [youngkr@bigpond.com](mailto:youngkr@bigpond.com). Hard copies are sent out by mail to representatives without email but cost prevents it being posted out more widely. Please feel free to distribute hard copies locally.

Ken Young  
9435 2430  
0400 122 044  
[youngkr@bigpond.com](mailto:youngkr@bigpond.com)