

# Annual General Meeting



Older Women's Network (Qld) Inc.

Thursday 12 September 2019

Gunabal Homestead  
9 Power Road, South Gympie

# PROGRAM

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- 9.00 a.m. Registration sign-in and raffle
- 9.30 a.m. Morning Tea
- 10.00 a.m. Welcome, housekeeping,  
Acknowledgement of Country by  
Aloma Fennell, President National OWN
- 10.05 a.m. Guest Speaker Dr Prue Millear, University of  
Sunshine Coast
- 11.05 a.m. AGM – see separate Agenda
- 12.00 p.m. Lunch
- 12.45 p.m. Group Photos (David Cameron)
- 1.00 p.m. Aloma Fennell, President, National Older  
Women's Network
- 1.30 p.m. Guest Speaker Elizabeth Power,  
Mercy Ships
- 2.30 p.m. Afternoon Tea.
- 3.00 p.m. Members welcome to stay and mingle

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Accommodation (pre-booked through Gympie Branch) will be at  
The Muster Inn, 21 Bruce Highway, Gympie.

7.00 p.m. Dinner at Gunabal Homestead

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**Older Women's Network (Qld) Inc  
2019 Annual General Meeting**

**AGENDA**

**Thursday, 12<sup>th</sup> September 2019**

- Attendance and Apologies
- Minutes from 2018 AGM
- Business Arising from 2018 Minutes
- President's Report – Lee Hodgson
- Coordinator's Report – Leonie Swainston
- Treasurer's Report & Motion to Appoint Auditor – Barbara Barnes
- Presentation of Awards
- Change of OWN Qld's Rules – Vote
- Management Committee vacate their positions
- Interim Chairperson
- Written Nominations presented and accepted



## **OLDER WOMEN'S NETWORK (QUEENSLAND) INC.**

### **Minutes of the Annual General Meeting**

Held at the Uniting Church New Farm

Thursday 20 September 2018

- Present** Doreen Hamner, Fran Fiore, Gloria Johnson, Linda Hannah, Mugi Bennett, Shirley Collier (Beenleigh/Logan); Atie Goossen, Desley Molnar, Jan Poole, Julie Harrison, Mavis Roper, Sharon Chalmers (Capalaba); Bev Comerford, Cathy Elliott, Jennifer Peckson, Kaye Gaynes, Lee Hodgson, Linda Percival, Lyn Day (Gympie); Jill Bolen, Ruth McLean (Independent); Helen Stanton, Helen Zaglas, Ruth Sargent (Mackay); Barbara Barnes, Catherine Poulsen, Helen Musgrove, Judith Heindorff, Patricia Wendt, Wendy Robson, Yvonne Hayes (Mitchelton); David Cameron, Leonie Swainston, Marianne Wright (OWN Qld); Annette Moore, Brenda Nicholls, Chris Brockfield, Colleen Chadwick, Heather Smith, Helen McEwan, Janice Cosgrove, Joan Hayes, June Donnelly, Lynne Johnson, Teresa Carlyon, Catherine Morgan (Woody Point)
- Apologies** Carol Wright, Brenda Rapana, Barbara Goodwin, Val Morgan (Mitchelton); Mary Novikov (Mackay); Leslie McDevitt (Gympie); Cara Calbran (Beenleigh-Logan); Sue Fowler & Blessie (Capalaba)
- Welcome** The President, June Donnelly, welcomed members and did the Acknowledgement of Country.
- Opened** 11.39am

#### **Minutes of the 2017 AGM were tabled.**

Moved Ruth McLean, seconded Lee Hodgson - All in favour Carried

#### **Business Arising - Nil**

#### **REPORTS**

##### **President's Report**

June spoke to her report emphasising the project "Not Born Yesterday". Moved June Donnelly, Seconded Ruth Sargent - All in favour Carried

##### **Coordinator's Report**

Leonie spoke to her report and thanked the Management Committee for their support as well as the Convenors & Policy Sub Committee. Moved Leonie Swainston, Seconded Helen Stanton - All in favour Carried

##### **Treasurer's Report and Audit Report**

Barbara spoke on the Treasurer's report. Moved Barbara Barnes, Seconded Cathy Elliott - All in favour Carried

Appointment of Auditor A.M. Giles & Co. for 2018/19: Moved Barbara Barnes, Seconded Ruth McLean - All in favour Carried.

### **Awards and Lifetime Membership**

A Lifetime Membership was awarded to Barbara Goodwin (Mitchelton) for her services to OWNQ.

### **Election of Office Bearers**

All positions were declared vacant and the Management Committee stepped down. Cathy Elliott presided as Interim Chairperson for the election of officer bearers. She announced each nominated position, as per the attached list, and asked each nominated person to confirm her acceptance. As a result, the following office bearers were elected.

President – Lee Hodgson

Vice President – June Donnelly

Treasurer – Barbara Barnes

Secretary – Judith Heindorff

Management Committee - Ruth Sargent, Helen Stanton, Patricia Wendt

The Interim Chairperson then confirmed all positions filled and the committee was congratulated by acclamation from all present.

### **General Business**

**Close** President Lee Hodgson closed the AGM at 12.02pm



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT QLD AGM 2019

Good morning everyone,

I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners of the land on which we meet today and elders past and present.

I would like to welcome everyone here today, Tony and Michelle Perrett, Tony is our State Member for Gympie; Sharon O'Brien wife of Lew O'Brien, Federal Member for this area; National OWN President (NOWN) Aloma Fennell; and June Donnelly, Vice President OWN Queensland. Guest speakers Georgie Somerset and Elizabeth Power; Members from the branches Gympie OWN, Mackay OWN, Bribie Island OWN, Woody Point OWN, Mitchelton OWN, Capalaba OWN, Logan Beenleigh OWN, Southern Gold Coast OWN; staff from OWNQ office; OWNQ Management Committee and David Cameron our photographer. I would like to especially thank members from the Gympie OWN branch who have supported me in organising this Annual General Meeting.

OWNQ has just celebrated the 25th anniversary of connecting with older women throughout Queensland, to lessen isolation and allow them to meet and form friendships in a safe environment. Two of our branches Gympie and Mackay have been operating 24 years, Mitchelton 21 years with the others starting more recently. I would like to thank Gympie Life Member, June Idle, for having the foresight to see the needs of our local community and starting this branch in Gympie. Branches offer information, care and support to members about a variety of topics, hold activities, and provide experiences which support the wellbeing of each member.

Gympie region has always had a strong connection with supporting each other, especially in times of need. The community is very generous in volunteering in many areas, homelessness, elder and family abuse and for disadvantaged people. However, distance and transport cause difficulties for many elderly people in connecting to services they need. Gympie OWN branch members are very active and involved with trying to find solutions by working with the Local Council, and State and Federal members of parliament to achieve these aims.

As President of OWN Queensland, I would like to encourage branches to continue to connect and support each other and I acknowledge the huge amount of work that each of the branches do in their areas and what they are achieving. Thank you to Leonie and Marianne at the Brisbane office for all the help they give the branches and to June Donnelly as Vice President for the help that she has given me during the past twelve months. We acknowledge and thank the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors for our ongoing funding.

To finish I would like to thank you all for making the effort to attend the OWN Queensland AGM today.

Thank you Lee Hodgson



## COORDINATOR'S REPORT AGM 2019

I have now been working with OWNQ for just over a year, and it has been a year of consolidation and expansion, and getting to know you more! In June, OWNQ marked its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Incorporation which is a major milestone in our story.

In the last year we are proud to have increased the number of branches by two, at Southern Gold Coast and Bribie Island. Some discussions have been held in recent months with a former OWN member who is keen to start a branch in another area of South-East Queensland. Expansion through new branches has also resulted in a net overall increase in membership, and we are now heading close to the 300 mark. Both new branches have enjoyed very good attendance levels, and a pleasing number of members keen to join.

Every branch continues to attract new members, and this is a special achievement in an era when many membership organisations in general are not necessarily growing, and perhaps even reducing. Unfortunately due to the demographic we work with we do lose members too, due to illness or death, having to move into aged care or to live elsewhere with family. Lack of suitable transport often impacts on people's ability to attend meetings however this has been a longterm problem in Queensland and sadly is one beyond our capacity to resolve in the big picture.

One thing is certain: there are many older women out there in our communities who keenly desire to connect with and share friendship with other women of a similar age. As the proportion of older women in the population increases, we know that our branches are meeting a definite need which is intricately tied to the wellbeing and life satisfaction for those women. There is a great deal of research available on how social connectedness or conversely, loneliness, impacts on the health status and indeed longevity of older people. It is very satisfying that we can make this contribution.

We can hold our heads up high knowing how valuable our service is, and that we will continue to seek expansion of branch locations and increased membership over the next three years of our funding. There are doubtlessly many more women we could reach and it is very positive that our branch representatives are keen to find and include women in their communities who would benefit from more social engagement.

Gradually the manner in which we are promoting the organisation and shaping its public image is evolving. During this last year we established a Facebook page for OWNQ, which is an important public face of the organisation and is regularly updated. Our website is active, providing browsers with information about what is being offered in branches, and including articles and links to a variety of topics and discussion starters which are relevant to older women. Postings to Facebook also include articles and links to current issues, discussion topics, news of branches and celebrations of member's achievements. We are making greater use of publicity and promotion through suburban locality facebook pages, and community announcements in local newspapers. Word of mouth continues to be a reliable way we promote branches and attract new members.

In recent months local council authorities have worked with many of our branches in consultation about issues such as Age Friendly Cities, and we welcome and value the opportunity to have a voice

in significant matters impacting upon older people. We also were invited to participate in a consultation process regarding sexual violence and older women. Branches do a considerable amount of networking in their local communities and many of them also contribute to their community's wellbeing through charitable work eg craft group members making Trauma Teddies for the Ambulance service; OWN members rostering through the branch to assist with Meals on Wheels; donations to worthy causes such as drought relief, emergency rescue services, and more.

Here is a snapshot of some of the reporting provided by branch convenors: During the year July 2018-June 2019, over 732 branch meetings and outings have been held, and this does not even include *all* branch outings and informal coffee/lunch gatherings! Cumulatively, those meeting attendances total over 5,340 for that one year and again this does not necessarily include all attendances at those extra outings organised by branches. The number of visitors recorded was approximately 343 and the number of first-time attendees was approximately 246.

Our Strategic Plan was modified in July 2018 for this last year of operation and is now ready for renewal. The Code of Conduct for members was finalised, and updates made to the Branch Resource Manual. I have visited all but one of the branches during the year, some more than once, as yet Gympie has not been possible to find a mutually suitable date but will happen soon! A training day for the Management Committee was held after the AGM last year with NOWN President, Aloma Fennell who facilitated a values clarification session. Convenor Meetings by teleconference have been held monthly, and support for branches and convenors provided as needed. Our photo compilation Not Born Yesterday has been featured in exhibitions. A funding application to support the proposed Forum for Older Women resulted in some money being provided for the event by the Brisbane City Council, however due to other priorities the event has been postponed. Four newsletters have been produced during the year: July 2018; Spring 2018; Summer 2018-19; and Autumn – April 2018. Volunteer Recognition certificates were produced for National Volunteer Week in May.

Finally I would like to thank the many people who work so hard and willingly to make OWNQ the strong, vital organisation that it is: our Management Committee members who collectively devote many hours to ensure we both survive and thrive; to the Convenors of the Branches along with their leadership teams and many helpers who continue to keep branches operating so well on so many levels; and our Policy sub-committee who tackle those often tricky and intricate decisions about the most appropriate policies to guide our operations. Also my thanks to Marianne Wright, our Administration Officer who handles such a wide variety of tasks, questions, data, and almost everything you can think of! Karen Dare, CEO of Communify provides some mentoring for me, and is always enthusiastic and full of great ideas to explore.

Thank you to Lee Hodgson our President and Convenor of Gympie Branch and Gympie members who are our hosts for this AGM, we appreciate your hospitality and commitment to bringing us all together in your vibrant city to celebrate our organisation and being proud to be ourselves.

I wish to acknowledge and thank the Department of Communities, Disability Services and Seniors which provides funding enabling us to continue our valuable work and unite our branches under the one banner of OWNQ, and for the support of their staff who assist us with reporting requirements.

Leonie Swainston, Coordinator, September 2019