



# ASIA-OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

## FINAL REPORT

### 3<sup>RD</sup> ASIA/OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING

held at the Quarantine Station Conference Centre,  
North Head, Manly, New South Wales  
Australia

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> and Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> March 1999

Dear AA Friends,

The time has come to formally request registrations for the Asia/Oceania Service Meeting to be held at the North Head Quarantine Station, North Head, Manly, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, on Monday and Tuesday, 29 and 30 March 1999.

The theme of the meeting is OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE. There is no part of the world that offers a greater opportunity than ours for AA to fulfil its primary purpose of helping the suffering alcoholic. There are in the Asia/Oceania zone all the major religions, probably more alcoholics, more languages, than in the rest of the world combined.

In respect of the meeting venue, it is hoped that delegates will arrive at the venue on late Sunday afternoon, 28 March 1999, and they will be housed at this venue for the duration of the meeting. After registering, they will be allocated accommodation and then an evening meal. In response to a request shown on the feedback forms completed at Auckland, delegates will be asked to participate in an AA meeting if possible. Observers will have to make their own arrangements for accommodation, etc.

In accordance with the AOSM guidelines, the meeting will last for two days, and in view of this it is considered essential that all delegates be accommodated at the same venue.

Remember that observers will be welcome, but will not have speaking or voting rights - these are reserved to official delegates only. All countries are eligible to send a delegate; there is no need for that country to have a General Service structure (which is a requirement for attendance to the World Service Meeting).

The following items are enclosed:

- . Registration form, which asks the main questions and answers we need to meet delegates on arrival.
- . Proposed Agenda items. We can still add any particular items you would like discussed.
- . Brisbane International Convention brochure.
- . Second AOSM Newsletter
- . Details of venue and brochure about Sydney.

If you find your country cannot attend, do not be discouraged. We can continue to be in communication and share information, ideas and encouragement by mail. In the meantime, you can help your country, and us too. We would be glad if you and your Group would contact the other AA Groups in your country and prepare a written report for the AOSM. In this report you could tell....

- . how AA is growing in your country,
- . how many Groups there are and if they are working together to carry the AA message,
- . what special needs and difficulties the Fellowship has,
- . what AA literature you have and in what languages,
- . how AA is received by the professional community (doctors, etc.) and
- . any other matters you might feel useful.

In this way your country will be participating in the AOSM and your report will enable us to develop further ways that we can all share together our experience, strength and hope.

Gradually, over the next few years, more countries will be able to attend, and the AOSM will grow more able to help smaller countries with their needs.

For those who can attend we look forward to meeting in Sydney in March 1999 old friends again and friends we have not yet met.

Sincerely with AA love in Fellowship and Service

Bob J

Yukie Y

24 Love Street  
Flynn ACT 2615

13 November 1998

Dear Anne,

Observers at the 3rd AOSM

Guidelines for AOSM state:

'That observers continue to be welcome, having no voting rights, and participate only at the discretion of the Chairperson.'

The observers likely to attend are:

- (a) International observers (e.g. previous Chairpersons of and delegates to AOSM. I understand Alan Nestor, the second AOSM Chair, will be attending);
- (b) Australian W.S.M. delegates and alternate Australian AOSM delegates residing outside Sydney;
- (c) Trustees of the General Service Board residing outside Sydney;
- (d) Members of the fellowship from Sydney and maybe from intrastate and interstate.

Your attention is drawn to the catering for delegates and possibly the observers. The Quarantine Station is in a slightly isolated position and access is by car only. Overseas observers may have some difficulty getting to and from the venue.

Some thought should be given to housing the observers shown in (a), (b) and (c) above, i.e. provided they pay the costs of their stay. Document showing the price per day is attached, together with other papers about the venue. The manner of the payment of \$145 (Aust.) will need to be worked out. Even if they are accommodated elsewhere, they would probably want morning and afternoon tea.

This is not only a logistic problem, it is about showing hospitality to the international observers and other persons interested and concerned for the purpose of AOSM.

I have discussed the matter with Shirley and she has agreed in principle to the observers listed in (a), (b) and (c) above being housed at the venue for the duration, provided they meet the cost of their stay - accommodation, meals, etc.

In respect to observers who are not resident at the venue, Shirley has suggested that a feeder bus could be hired to take them to lunch and evening meals at Manly. Morning and afternoon tea could be supplied at a cost of approximately \$3 per person each time. The only thing about this is: we will find it hard to recoup the expense and may have to put it down to overheads.

It is recommended that:

- . Observers in (a), (b) and (c) above may be housed at the venue if they are prepared to pay full rates;
- . A feeder bus be hired to transport other observers to Manly for meals (to be taken up with the Host Committee). The cost has not yet been ascertained;
- . Morning and afternoon teas for observers be at the cost of AOSM if we can't come up with an alternative suggestion;
- . Different coloured name badges be used to identify the delegates and observers shown in (a), (b) and (c).

If it is agreed that observers as outlined be housed at the venue, then the contacts letter will need to be worded carefully. In addition, Valerie has informed me that the menu is not decided upon until three to four weeks before the meeting.

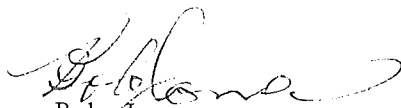
You will note from the terms and conditions that a confirmation deposit applies. I would suggest that we approach the Management Group for this to be paid so that we have a confirmed booking. The amount is \$1,000 and as Chair of the Trustees International Committee, I suggest you approach them. There is, I understand, this amount in the AOSM kitty.

Conference was shown the draft agenda and made no comment. It is necessary, therefore, to give some thought to the time of the agenda items and I need some assistance in this matter. We can either start on the Sunday evening of at 8.30 a.m. on the Monday morning, and continue through to Monday evening after dinner. Then on Tuesday start at 8.30 a.m. with a finish time around 5.00 p.m.

Any thought of outside entertainment may be difficult to arrange as at this point the details of travel of overseas delegates is not known. (They may proceed straight to Brisbane afterwards, or have their own arrangements in Sydney.) The Host Committee may have some ideas on the entertainment question. Brian might like to sound them out as he attended the first meeting.

I have sent a copy of this letter to Shirley, John S. and Valerie for their comments.

Sincerely in fellowship and service

  
Bob Jones

Anne O'Connor  
13 Ikara St  
Mornington Vic. 3931

c.c. to Shirley Milan  
John Smith  
Valerie Martin

To: Delegates  
Australian General Service Conference

ASIA/OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING, 29 and 30 MARCH 1999  
Delegates' Report

Conference 1996 decided that Australia should place a bid to host the 1999 Asia/Oceania Service Meeting (AOSM). We were granted that privilege and plans are now well advanced in order to fulfil that Conference request. In March next AOSM delegates from around the Asia/Oceania region will arrive in Sydney to carry out their responsibilities. The venue is the same as our Conference is now enjoying.

Perhaps of most significance is the fact that this event will be the first time in the history of AA in Australia, some 53 years, that we will host an International Meeting such as this one. The vision of those who dared to dream of such an event is now almost a reality. More importantly, though, is the surge in awareness that there is much Twelfth Step work to be done in the countries around our Zone. Prior to the Second AOSM, thoughts of trying to carry our message to another country never seemed to have meaning. It was generally assumed that 'someone else is doing it'!!

In August this year all the contacts in the Asia/Oceania Zone were written to and asked for agenda items, whether they would attend or not, and for articles for the next Asia/Oceania Newsletter to be published at the end of November 1998. At the time of preparing this report, replies have been received that New Zealand and Japan are attending, along with Richard Bush from the North American General Service Office. Replies to our request are due by 20 October 1998. Agenda items etc. will be presented to delegates at Conference for perusal and comment and we should know roughly the number of delegates who have indicated they may attend in March 1999.

At the Second AOSM which was held in Auckland, there was very little knowledge of 'where to find' the contacts for our Fellowship in the AO Zone, so Australia took on the added responsibility of trying to get into place an up-dated Data Base. This too is proceeding. We also felt that a Newsletter would enable us to communicate with our AO neighbours. The first one was distributed in March this year and was warmly welcomed.

In some respects it has not been an easy year for your AOSM delegates. With the situation at our GSO unresolved by the end of July, we began to fear for the viability of the Third AOSM, and we conveyed these fears to our Fellowship. The end result of that has been that from that awareness many members are now getting behind our efforts to enable the Third AOSM to go ahead.

Attachments A and B give an outline of some of the delegates' activities and the necessary actions to be undertaken up to the Meeting in 1999.

We would like to thank all of you who have shown us once again that our Fellowship's needs will be met - all we have to do is ASK. As your AO delegates, we are part of the Trustees International Committee Meeting, in which we have found great support. Thank you to all.

Finally, a full and comprehensive report of the Third AOSM will be distributed throughout our Fellowship. This report will cover all aspects of this Zonal Meeting, but more importantly, all of those who have participated, shown interest, or have been involved, will see the fruits of their vision that will extend much further than the horizon!!

Shirley Milan and Bob Jones  
AOSM Delegates  
25 September 1998

Delegates Activity Report, Sept. 1998

Since the last Board meeting a large number of matters have been actioned and they are headed as follows:

- . preparation of first Asia/Oceania newsletter and distribution throughout the region;
- . letters to contacts in the region informing them of the 1999 AOSM and asking for agenda items etc.;
- . continuous dialogue between delegates and GSO with the Secretary AOSM who is located at the office of the Japan General Service Office, Tokyo;
- . delegate, Bob J, in his position as Chairman of the forthcoming AOSM, communicates with the Secretary on a regular basis for her assistance in planning the 3rd AOSM;
- . delegates speaking at various functions within the fellowship to raise the knowledge of members that we have a role in world-wide AA, and to try and assist in raising funds to offset the cost of the 3rd AOSM;
- . prepare drafts about the world-wide activities of AA for inclusion in AAAA;
- . assist the formation of non-English speaking groups in Australia (refer to GSO's assistance in the formation of Korean speaking group in Sydney);
- . GSO compiled a data base of all AA groups in the Asia/Oceania Zone with assistance of Tokyo and New York. Draft needs checking at the present time;
- . assisted in preparing material showing the activities of AOSM and WSM and other AA international activities for presentation at conventions, forums, weekends, rallies etc.

*This is not entirely correct as  
since O.C. has this in focus.  
It can be mentioned at  
conference*

Plan of Action for AOSM Delegates' Meeting, Sydney, 1999

July 1998

Delegates to prepare and submit up-to-date activity and planning report to July Board meeting.

August 1998

After July Board meeting draft further letter to all contacts in the AOSM Zone reminding them of the dates of the meeting, accommodation costs at the venue for the two days, and a reply whether they can attend or not. Further agenda items called for and say they will close by the end of September 1998. A date such as 30 November could be used as a guide to having their thoughts whether they will attend the March meeting or not. Prepare the 2nd Asia/Oceania newsletter, which will be sent by the Secretary, AOSM, Japan, to accompany the August letter.

A small committee to be formed from Areas in Sydney to assist the staging of the event. AOSM delegates to assist wherever possible in liaison with the GSO, Sydney. A meeting should be set up by the interested parties as soon as possible.

October 1998

Delegates prepare a report for the Australian General Service Conference as to the position of the meeting and for discussion of the agenda items and comment.

November 1998

Secretary AOSM to write to all regarding AA in their countries and ask them to forward reports whether they are attending the AOSM meeting or not in March 1999. At the same time send questionnaire (Copy of the registration form used at the Auckland AOSM 1997 attached) for registration for attendance, including questions such as airline flights, flight numbers, estimated time of arrival and departure, as well as accommodation requests outside the dates of the meeting. If arriving early they should let us know when they expect to arrive so they could be met.

After receipt of all the requested information, this to be sent to GSO Sydney, who will co-ordinate all these matters and arrange with the small committee and the AOSM delegates for the ongoing action.

January 1999

Final letter to be sent to all participants by the Secretary AOSM, giving them up-to-date information about the agenda items, time-table, etc. etc.

February and March 1999

GSO to make arrangements to meet delegates, transportation, billeting of overseas observers if requested. The main area of activity will be focused on the GSO, Sydney, at this period.

NOTE: Both delegates are not Sydney residents and it will be necessary for liaison with them at all times.

FAX

To: Yukie Yamamoto  
Secretary AOSM  
Japan General Service Office  
Tokyo  
Fax: 81-3-3590-5419

From Bob Jones  
Canberra A C T 2615  
Fax: 61-26241-4961

Page 1 of 2

Dear Yukie,

In my fax of 31/5/98 I gave you a fax no. you may contact me on from 21 June to 19 July nex. The number should read FAX 61-26249-7772.

I received the attached letter from Alan Nestor and it gives a good outline of the procedures carried out for the Auckland meeting. Have you any comments on the present procedures.

Before I write to India I have faxed Richard Bush to comment on the financial assistance for countries who cannot afford to attend at the WSM and the Americas Service Meeting. In addition I asked whether India were attending the WSM in Auckland. I will let you know the reply.

I am preparing a report for the July Board Meeting and we should have a better idea of how we are proceeding after that meeting.

With AA love



Bob Jones

15/6/98

P.S. It is ok to use the usual fax number. I will also send you a revised plan of action to keep you up to date when I have finalised it with Shirley.

37 Dumfries Road,  
TOKOROA  
New Zealand.

Page 2 of 3

7<sup>TH</sup> May 1998.

Dear Bob,

Many thanks for your letter and all good wishes with your task of setting up the next AOSM. Thank you also for the invitation to be present as an observer. I do hope to be there .

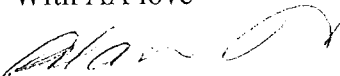
My thoughts on the questions you pose follow: -

Item 1). I agree that a WSM could report to AOSM and represent AOSM on and at the WSM: so long as there is a WSM at AOSM. I believe the responsibilities of the delegates differ between the requirements of WSM and AOSM and that two different types of delegates are required to adequately service both duties. To this end I am canvassing for Simon to be replaced by a new WSM and an AOSM delegate when his term is up. Enclosed is a reply I gave to our GSC delegate regarding this matter. In the long term I hope to see the AOSM actively supported by all sorts of countries using it as a conduit to the World Scene and mayhap one day, have its own delegates to directly represent the likes of India at WSM. As I see it the first responsibilities of the likes of Simon Roach and WSM representing individual countries is to their country and its GSC. When I was WSM for NZ I was very busy travelling, reporting, communicating and writing and I don't believe I would have been able to do justice to the AOSM had it existed at that time. I don't believe Bob Preston my predecessor would have either. My other gripe is that just reporting to AOSM doesn't give the members of AOSM any voice or substance and the AOSM would be in danger of only having lip service paid to it. In the meanwhile I consider you as chairman should if you can, be invited to attend WSM and report. Why not ring George Dorsey and ask?

2) Support for countries who cannot afford attendance has come before the WSM year after year. It is a very vexed question because our sympathies are with the underdog and this clashes with self support. During my term Poland asked twice and I believe after I finished they were still at it, along with other countries. I suggest you ask Richard Bush or George Dorsey at New York what the current wisdom of AA WSM is on the matter. If my memory serves me right we let such countries off the travel but they had to pay registration. Trevor Gillies was the chairman of the committee responsible last term and he was faced with the same dilemma with other countries as well; I am not sure how it was finally resolved but Richard B or George D could give you the latest WSM thinking on the matter. Trevor's address is 15 Rangitoto View Road, Howick, Auckland, NZ and phone /FAX 9 534 3324 should you want to ask his thoughts on the matter.

~~XXXXXXXXXX~~  
Thanks again for your letter Bob. Please remember me to Shirley when you see her and give her my regards. And all good wishes for a very successful AOSM in March next year. Please let me know if there is anything I can help you with. I believe what you are working on will have a profound affect on the ability of AA to help the alcoholic to find sobriety and as a by product will go a long way to assist promoting understanding between different cultures.

With AA love



Alan Nestor.

37 Dumfries Road,  
TOKOROA NZ.  
4<sup>th</sup> June 1998.

Dear Bob,

Many thanks for your letter. The question of representation at AOSM has been put to all our WSM's and answers received are enclosed. Opinions are so diverse they shall probably only add to the confusion rather than clarify it. However I do believe that in the long run there should be a separation of roles for the AOSM and the WSM delegates. Whatever the outcome I have no doubt that it will be for the best for AA. Somehow the Fellowship always seems to come up with the right answers in the end.

I heartily agree with you Simon Roach would be a good representative for AOSM at WSM. He is exceptionally good value. My recommendation to NZ GSConference was that he should continue, it is his replacement that I am hoping will become a dedicated AOSM delegate.

With regards your other questions I handled them as follows:-

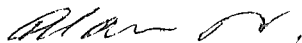
Venue and the meeting of arriving delegates. I went to the Northern Area assembly from day one and reported the responsibilities NZ had taken on to host the AOSM and put it to them that as the meeting was to be held in their territory they should accept some responsibility for it. The Assembly agreed and a small committee was set up with sub committees to arrange the whole thing; accommodation, catering, venue co-ordination, entertainment for any spouses etc. Co-ordination was achieved by attending the quarterly meetings of the Area Assembly and using the telephone. The regular reporting of progress served to raise awareness of the AOSM among members and engendered an enthusiasm to be involved from among the majority of Auckland Group delegates. This was evidenced by the attendance at the evening meeting towards the close of the proceedings and interest during the AOSM meetings.

*long feedback* →  
Yuki collated the delegates reports regarding AA in their countries. She wrote to them all and asked for reports whether the countries were going to be represented or not. It was considered to be interest to have reports from as many countries as possible. The questionnaire that was sent to all countries asking for registration for attendance included questions such as airline, flight numbers, expected time of arrival and departure as well as any accommodation requests or dietary needs and if they were arranging their own accommodation to let us know when and where, so transport could be arranged to and from AOSM meetings or social events.. In turn this information was passed on to those of the sub-committee in Auckland set up from Area Assembly to run the venue. The same system is being used to organise the WSM which is to be held in Auckland in October this year. The AOSM was seen to be a warm up for the WSM by the Area Assembly. Trevor Gillies our WSM was my main contact in Auckland and he did a sterling job. I am sure there will be similar people in the Sydney Area Assembly, Inter group or District Committee or whatever structure you operate over there.

Please let me know if there is anything further I can be of help with Bob. I consider that what you are doing is of very great importance in carrying the message and do wish you well in your endeavours. My FAX number is 07-886 7538 if you should need anything urgently; phone 07 886 0172.

My regards to Shirley.

All best wishes

  
Alan Nestor.

FAXED 2/8 ANNE O'C

COPY.

TO GO OUT WITH  
DELEGATES LETTER  
PROBABLY AWE.

**ASIA OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING**

**SUBJECT; 2<sup>ND</sup> EDITION AOSM NEWSLETTER.**

**Dear Friends,**

**Soon we shall be putting together our 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition AOSM Newsletter.**

**It is important that we try and cover as much of our Asia/Oceania Region as possible in our search for content for this next edition. You are therefore invited to send any stories from your country that you feel may be of interest to those of us in other countries around our Zone.**

**These stories may take the form of sharing experience, strength and hope, or you may like to just keep us informed of when and where your Group Meetings are, or local contacts or of Anniversaries etc... Whichever form they take, we will try and fit them in our next edition, so perhaps just a brief description could be kept in mind?**

**As time seems to slip by so quickly, would you be so kind as to have your piece to me by the 15<sup>th</sup> of September please.**

**Mail to;**

**The Secretary AOSM  
Japan GSO  
C/- Tachibana Bldg, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor  
2-23-3 Ikebukuro, Toshima-Ku  
TOKYO 171**

**JAPAN**

**Yours in Service**

**Yukie Yamamoto**

**.July 1998.**

Draft

The Chairman  
General Service Board  
Sydney

Third Asia/Oceania Service Meeting (AOSM)  
Delegates Report

This report will be in two parts. The first deals with the activities undertaken by the delegates and the GSO on an ongoing basis. The second deals with the planning of the forthcoming meeting of AOSM at the North Head Quarantine Station, Manly on Monday and Tuesday, 29 and 30 March 1999.

The ~~summary of the~~ <sup>summary of the</sup> activities are set out in the attachment A in a general manner.

In the planning aspect a number of matters have been settled and they are:

- the venue has been booked and confirmed
- delegates will be paying their own accommodation costs at the venue and the host country will pick up the costs of meals etc.
- the theme OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE has been settled on.

After the July Board meeting a further letter will be drafted and sent to all contacts in the AOSM Zone asking for their details if they are attending and informing them of some of the agenda topics and the accommodation costs at the venue. (Attached for your information at attachment B is a copy of the breakdown of the projected costs submitted to the last Board meeting together with the package costs at the venue-attachment C).

It is only nine months approximately away at the date of this report and a number of questions need to be answered at this stage and the the important one is whether the General Service Office can handle the workload that will place upon them from October through to the AOSM and for a short time afterwards because of the following:

- organisation aof the Australian general service Conference in November and subsequent actions that are necessary;
- prepare for and arrange the February Board meeting; and
- prepare for and arrange all the necessary functions in relation to the AOSM im March;
- in addition the every day running of the office not forgetting the 1999 Conference.

A revised Plan of action for the AOSM delegates is attached at attachment D. You will note that as from November a greeat amount of the action will be the responsibility of the GSO, Sydney. It will be necessary to have the staff and volunteer helpers well in place by November. Liaison with the Secretary AOSM in Japan is excellent and the previous Chairmna of AOSM in Auckland has been very helpful.





To: *Alan* This is the "form"

*Tuki*

ASIA OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING.

REGISTRATION DETAILS FOR THE MEETING TO BE HELD IN AUCKLAND, NEW ZEALAND ON 20th / 21st MARCH 1997.

Please complete and return one of these forms for each person attending by the 30th November 1997 to -

Alan Nestor,  
37 Dumfries Road,  
TOKOROA 2392,  
NEW ZEALAND.

Telephone number 64 7 8860172  
FAX 64 7 8867538.

YOUR NAME.....

YOUR ADDRESS.....

YOUR TELEPHONE NUMBER ..... FAX NUMBER...

YOUR DATE AND TIME OF ARRIVAL IN AUCKLAND.....

YOUR AIRLINE AND FLIGHT NUMBER COMING TO AUCKLAND.....

YOUR DATE AND TIME FOR LEAVING AUCKLAND.....

YOUR AIRLINE AND FLIGHT NUMBER LEAVING AUCKLAND.....

PLEASE TICK WHICH ACCOMMODATION YOU WANT US TO ARRANGE ----

BILLET WITH ONE OF OUR MEMBERS or

OTHER ACCOMMODATION (Please give details, this will have to be at your expense).

⇒ ANY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS NEEDED, eg DIET, SPECIAL TRANSPORT OR OTHER

RECEIVED  
23 APR 1998  
2808

Dear Eddie,

Thanks for your letter and the opportunity to comment on representation at the OASM and WSM.

I firmly believe that New Zealand should have separate representation to these meetings for the following reasons:-

- 1). It is customary in AA for an AA member to hold only one job at a time and to try and make a good fist of it during the relatively short time the position is held.
- 2). Cost should not be a consideration as there should be no difference either way.
- 3). Separate representation opens more and wider opportunities for service.
- 4). The World Service Meeting is a mature, well structured meeting run under the sponsorship of New York and dedicated to the well being and maintenance of cohesion and protection of AA world wide as well as prioritising and financing translations of literature. Membership is limited to countries who meet set criteria and the influence any one country can have is fairly limited. eg. Australia has considered it only worth sending one delegate to the WSM for some years now.
- 5). The AOSM is relatively new and in my view, has a completely different purpose than the WSM. Like the European Zone and the Zone Of The Americas it has the responsibility to provide access to the world scene for those countries not eligible for membership of the WSM and to give them a voice, representation and a forum to participate in the world scene.
- 6). AOSM being so new, AOSM member countries have been given responsibility for nominated non WSM countries to ascertain their needs and to open communication through the AOSM to the WSM and of course the communication back. In the European and American Zones this is achieved through the delegates appointed by those Zones to act on their behalf and be the messengers to bring countries not in the WSM into the world scene. In our case NZ, Australia, Japan and Hong Kong have accepted specific responsibilities.

7). There is a need to service the Australian initiative to identify AA where ever it may be throughout our region. I understand some approach has been made to our GSO in that regard. Australia has done a lot of work on this and its value will be appreciated by any traveller who makes use of when overseas or, like the AOSM when it was being set up, in just trying to find a contact for AA. Yuki our secretary had and has a very difficult job finding contacts as New York has its hands full and are of very limited help when it comes to the nitty gritty. The World Service Directory covers only the major countries and is very dated. In fact they are looking to the AOSM to assist them. This I consider is the responsibility of the AOSM Delegates to progress and open communication.

8). The AOSM is customarily held during the March following the WSM. If the delegates are to do their job thoroughly I consider there is not sufficient time to adequately service both those meetings as the WSM is held in October/November and the AOSM in March; particularly when we will be called on to host the meetings relatively often while the AOSM membership is still so few in numbers.

9). I consider the Simon Roche should continue as the WSM and AOSM delegate until the end of his term but he should be replaced with both a new WSM delegate and a new AOSM delegate at the end of his term. He can introduce the new AOSM delegate into the position and attend the meeting in Australia. But I consider that the new AOSM delegate should be elected from the October/November GSC meeting in Wellington from nominees submitted by the next Area assemblies.

Sorry if I have been a bit long winded about this Eddie but I feel quite strongly about it and believe New Zealand has a very major role to play in carrying the AA message in this the most populated part of the world, until now the most neglected by AA and with the most diverse languages and cultures anywhere on the planet. We have already played a major part sponsoring a country such as Japan to the WSM; a country many times our own population and a read of the reports covering the last two AOSM meetings will I am sure, show that there is a need. Note particularly the comments of the Hong Kong delegates and the comments about India.

Meanwhile have a good day and don't let my verbosity spoil it.

With AA love and the welfare of the alcoholic in mind,



Alan Nestor.

Dear Eddie

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the question of whether the World Service Delegates should also be appointed to the Asia Oceania Meetings (AOSM) or whether an additional Delegate/s should be appointed for the AOSM.

The AOSM is a fledgling service area which has a wonderful opportunity to carry the message within the Oceania region. I am sure most will agree that it is important for our service message to be carried to those areas that do not have the finances or do not have the structure in place to allow them to attend the World Service Meeting. (WSM)

When considering this aspect alone, it seems as though the AOSM is in need of the experience of World Service Delegates, particularly that of the senior delegate who has already been to a WSM.

The AOSM in my opinion will also benefit hugely from having direct access to WSM Delegates who can report the detailed matter being discussed at WSM level. I do not think that Delegates who have not been involved with World Service have the same opportunity to assist the AOSM.

An issue that also needs to be considered is the time required to carry out the duties of Delegates. There is a lot of research and report writing required for both meetings, however most of this is duplication and a delegate can utilise all of his information for both meetings. The information would also be consistent.

Some may think that the workload of the delegates will become too great and that the delegate duties may need to be shared. This is an issue for the individual delegates to come to terms with. In my own case I have committed 4 years to being a delegate and the workload is whatever is required to fulfil the role.

Perhaps in the future conditions may change. You will recall that Richard Bush from GSO in New York made the observation that in his view the AOSM may be on the brink of expansion. That may be so and it may result in a tremendous work load for the delegates, however at present this is not the case and I believe that the workload is reasonable.

I was pleased to see that other addressees have been given an opportunity to comment. As you know I have yet to attend my first WSM and I am not fully aware of the commitment required. Perhaps the other addressees can add to my opinions.

In conclusion I would summarise some of my feelings as follows:

PROS	CONS
Experienced WSM Delegates to AOSM	Delegates hold two responsibilities
Limited duplication of effort	Less people involved in International service
Less Delegates at NZGSO Conference (Less cost to fellowship)	Increased work load requiring more effort

Kind regards



KEVIN BROMWICH

Dear Eddie,

Thank you for your letter of 14th April, and your request re the Asian Oceania Service Meeting Delegates. I hope I can be of some assistance.

When I finished my term as A.O.S.M. Chairman and W.S.M. Delegate, in my final report to Conference I suggested that only one W.S.M. delegate should attend the A.O.S.M., and one delegate appointed purely in that area. I also said that the W.S.M. delegate should be the 1st term delegate as he/she could then report direct to the next World Service Meeting.

The delegate appointed solely to the A.O.S.M. could be for a four year term. The main drawback to this would be that every second meeting, due to rotation, two new delegates would be attending the A.O.S.M.. Naturally this would be dependent on finance available, as all three delegates would be expected to attend Conference. If the money is not available then the format would have to be that the two W.S.M. delegates attend both meetings.

Could I point out here that Australia, for the 1997 A.O.S.M. in Auckland, appointed 2 delegates purely for this area, one for a 2 year term, and one for a 4 year term to get the continuity and rotation going. Also the European Service Meeting approximately 1/3 of the delegates are W.S.M. delegates. It seems in Europe that there is no common policy, it is up to the individual countries. So the same can apply to us. It is our decision. Naturally the most important factor is finance. It would be nice to have the two areas separate but we have to be realistic.

I hope this is of help to you, Eddie, and do not hesitate to contact me if you want any more information. I have a fax, it is my phone number--03-615-8168..so feel free to write, fax, or phone.

With Best Wishes,

Sincerely,



Bob Preston

Dear Eddie

Hi I hope this letter finds you well, we are all fine here.

Thanks for your letter. I have given a lot of consideration to the options regarding how we are to be represented at the Asia Oceania Meeting. I worked on a roster system that would uphold the principle of rotation and yet keep some experience in the job as well. But I cannot say I ever got completely comfortable with what I came up with - nor with what anybody else has. - Although I have an open mind. I think the reason is that it is too early in the evolution of the AOM to lock ourselves into anything. My own feelings are that we do not make a firm decision on this yet. I think we should:

- (a) see what comes out of the work that is being done in terms of AOM country sponsorship, PI, etc.
- (b) have a good look at what comes out of the next AOM
- (c) report these things back to the Fellowship
- (d) assess our finances, as the state of these will play a major role in what we do, because if we create one or two extra delegates, we must send them to Conference twice a year

It is not that long ago that Conference had a Friday night workshop regarding, among other things, the creation of a General Service Board and only having one Conference a year. This, of course, would free up funds for the two new delegates.

Eddie I am just not sure yet. There are too many factors that yet have to be assessed in my opinion. Bill Wilson once said to Ian McEwan: "take no steps at this stage which cannot be easily retraced". That's the way I feel about this. I think we should continue to use our World Service Delegates until we get a clearer picture.

Yours in the Fellowship

Simon Rouch



24 Love Street  
Flynn A C T  
Australia  
4/5/98

Dear Alan,

Thank you for your fax of the 27/2/98 with some suggested items for the 1999 AOSM. Sorry for the delay in answering but I am getting around to the stage of setting up a draft agenda for the other people here to look at and comment.

Before I do this I would make the following comments on Items 3 and 5 as outlined in your fax:

Item 3:

I am led to believe that at present the WSM delegate of a country within a particular Zone gives a report on the activities of the Zone and its meetings. For example the Italian delegate would be given the task of presenting the European Service meeting report of that Zone's meetings and activities to the WSM. In our case we could ask that Simon Roach who will attend the next WSM could present the report on the activities of the AOSM and the activities since the 1997 AOSM Service meeting in Auckland. Yukie and I could give him a summary of the matters thought relevant.

Item 5:

The matter of self support leads me to think of India where it is difficult for them to find the money to send a delegate to the WSM and the AOSM. In addition currency restrictions in India have a bearing also. George D... in a letter to the retiring delegate, Tom K.. wrote and I quote in part:

"I am really interested in seeing India participate in the WSM in Auckland or the AOSM in Sydney. I believe that there a few hundred groups in India now, and as I understand it an awful lot of alcoholism in that huge country, but it seems that they are so isolated from the rest of the AA world."

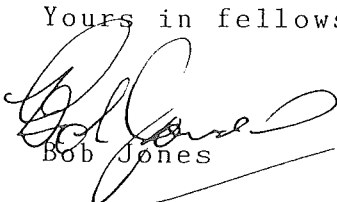
Richard B... of the GSO New York International Desk in a recent fax made the following comment:

" I think that India might be for growth of AA in the forthcoming decade and I think the AOSM meeting is going to right in the middle of an explosion in that country as well as in China and others."

If India doesn't attend or indicates it can't some thought to assistance should be given? A delicate question.

I must apologise for the delay in acknowledging your comments. Shirley and I appreciate your support and look forward to seeing you in Sydney.

Yours in fellowship and service



Bob Jones



## THE INTERNATIONAL DESK

(From Your ASIA/OCEANIA Service Meeting Delegate)

### What is the ASIA/OCEANIA Service Meeting of AA?

The history of the Asia/Oceania Service Meeting (AOSM) of AA is very short in terms of time as its first meeting was held in Tokyo in 1995.

For quite some years now, all countries that have an AA service structure have been entitled to be represented at the World Service Meeting (WSM) of AA - which is held every two years.

But sometimes AA service work that involves an exchange of experience, strength and hope between near-by countries can be better facilitated by elected AA representatives located in those near-by countries rather than through the AA World Service Office located in far-away New York.

### **How does AOSM work?**

The AOSM is a forum to facilitate an exchange of experience, strength and hope on AA service matters within the Asia/Oceania zone of AA. This activity is co-ordinated by an AOSM Secretariat located within the GSO of AA in Japan. Communication within AOSM mainly relies on exchanges of letters and faxes (via each country's GSO where one exists) and also on 'face-to-face' AOSM meetings from time to time.

The AOSM of AA now serves AA's primary purpose among the following countries (and regions of countries):

**New Zealand, Micronesia, Polynesia, Hong Kong, Macau, China, Japan, Thailand, Manchuria, Kamchatka Peninsula of Russia, South Korea, Australia, the Philippines, Papua New Guinea, Indonesia, South Pacific Islands, Malaysia, India, Vietnam, Myanmar (formerly Burma) and Cambodia.**

There are two Australian delegates to the AOSM at present - Bob J. from Canberra and Shirley M. from South Australia.

Through activities of its World Service Delegates, AA members in Australia are more aware today of our international responsibilities as evidenced by the wonderful support for the International Literature Fund provided by many Groups and individual AA members in Australia.

Such enthusiasm is always apparent in AA when we become active in our Primary Purpose - ie 'carrying AA's message to the suffering alcoholic' which is the theme of the next AOSM which is to be held in Sydney.

### **Next AOSM to be in Sydney**

In March 1999 Australia will hold the 3rd Asia/Oceania Service Meeting in Sydney when the theme will be ***Our Primary Purpose***.

Delegates from the Asia/Oceania region at this forum will share the experience strength and hope of the countries they represent. It can also represent an expression of the Group Conscience throughout the Region and provide a link to the World Service Meeting for countries unable to be registered there.

The meeting encourages the planning of sound structures suited to the needs of the individual countries and the expansion of AA services to reach the alcoholic who still suffers through the spoken word, literature and institutions.

The AOSM recognises that it has no authority over any AA service or group.

### **Other AA service meetings**

There are similar regional service meetings held in other areas of the world such as in Europe and the Americas.

In October 1997 eight countries of Central/ South America met in Gualalagero, Mexico under the theme *In search of a New Destiny*. Their next meeting will be held in Colombia in 1999.

### **AOSM to cost \$8,000**

The forthcoming Asia-Oceania Service Meeting in Sydney has been budgeted at around \$8,000.

Where economic and social conditions permit, many sober members of AA can now earn up to their full potential - because of being sober.

If we reinvest but a fraction of that amount wisely, gratefully and humbly many great things can be accomplished. These include additional 'message-carrying' to suffering alcoholics all over the World which is now made possible by your Group and individual donations to the International Literature Fund and to the AOSM.

Some 25% of monies collected in Australia for the International Literature Fund are expended on literature projects recommended by the AOSM. The other 75% is spent on international literature projects approved by the World Service Meeting.

No funds from the International Literature Fund are expended on administration or travel for either World Service or AOSM delegates - hence the need to request assistance to support the forthcoming Asia-Oceania Service Meeting.

Through initiatives co-ordinated through the AOSM it is hoped to assist AA to bring hope to the lives of thousands of still suffering alcoholics throughout the Asia/Oceania zone

### **Great diversity in our region**

In Asia/Oceania there are all the major religions represented - plus several communist countries where religion is not encouraged at all! Within the region there are more people, and probably more alcoholics and more languages spoken, than in the rest of the world combined.

But AA is not very well understood everywhere within Asia/Oceania.

From Shirley M.  
11/5/98

## The challenge ahead

To some of the Governments and community leaders within the region, AA may be thought of (if it ever comes to mind at all) as a Western Christian movement seeking converts - or even as a 'front' for covert infiltration by intelligence agents! And alcoholism, itself, may not be understood in terms of being an illness that is treatable.

The challenge for us to carry the AA message of hope to alcoholics in the countries where it is not well known in Asia/Oceania is enormous. This can only be set in motion by the kind of dedication that our earliest members and groups demonstrated by the power of their example.

## 100-fold increase in Poland

While the task ahead may appear difficult we should not be discouraged. In Russia and Eastern Europe under communism alcoholism was considered to be criminal behaviour or a mental illness. AA is now growing rapidly in Russia. Twelve years ago in Poland there were about five or ten groups and now nearly 1,000 AA groups exist in that country.

AA was slow to take root in some Mediterranean countries in Europe. Some people thought the nature of the culture and drinking habits of Mediterranean countries were such that AA would not work there. An English-speaking AA Group met in Rome for many years but they could not sober up one Italian. Then they were successful with just one local Italian-speaker, and, in a relatively few years, AA had spread throughout Italy.

AA may be the most democratic institution in human history, and it was thought that it would not flourish in non-democratic societies. However it has taken root vigorously in South America where the history of democratic institutions has been difficult. AA is now thriving throughout that continent and is reported to be the fastest growing AA area in the world.

For the other side of the world, AA literature has been translated into Turkish, Persian and Arabic - languages spoken in some of the Muslim countries where the use of alcohol is contrary to their religion.

## Letter from New York

In a letter to our retiring WSM delegate the Manager, GSO, New York said:

*I am really interested in seeing India participate in the WSM in Auckland or the AOSM in Sydney. I believe that there are a few hundred groups in India now, and as I understand it an awful lot of alcoholism in that country, but it seems that they are isolated from the rest of the AA world.*

Also a recent fax from the International Desk of GSO, New York says, in part:

*I think that India might see some growth of AA in the forthcoming decade and I think the AOSM meeting is going to be right in the middle of an explosion in that country as well as in China and others.*

When the late Bernard Smith, a non-alcoholic Trustee and then Chairman of the North American Board of Trustees was asked the question: "Why do we need an AA Conference?". His reply, in part, was:

*We need it to insure that the doors and halls of AA never have locks on them, so that all people for all time who have an alcoholic problem may enter these halls unasked and feel welcome. We need it to insure that Alcoholics Anonymous never asks anyone who needs us what his or her race is, what his or her creed is, what his or her social position is. (AA Service Manual P.40)*

This statement could be just as viable when we talk about Asia/Oceania.

## AA's in near-death experience!

The Japan General Service Office has reported the receipt of a letter from an AA member in Yanji City, Julin Sheng, People's Republic of China. In summary the letter said:

*We started an AA group on 24 May 1996 and have been sharing the strength experience and hope in this group to recover from*

*alcoholism with around 20 people. More alcoholics and their families are beginning to recognise AA as an effective program for recovery from alcoholism.*

*"Most members are Korean. Other alcoholics in this country suffer because of the language barrier. In China, alcoholism as a disease is not known to the public yet. Even when they do (see compulsive drinking as a disease) they don't yet know what to do about it.*

*All the people in our group are making efforts to carry the message to more people but we have been here for only one year and been given little support from others. Still, we have enough willingness, a small office next to the mortuary in a hospital and one telephone. Using these tools we would like to carry the message of AA to still suffering alcoholics.*

This one letter points to the need for all of us to be aware of the progress of AA in other areas of the world where it may be just starting up. AOSM is one way that the help needed to assist them can be co-ordinated and our experience strength and hope shared with other countries.

## Interpreter needed

An AA member fluent in English and Japanese is needed for the March 1999 AOSM to be held in Sydney. Interested members please contact GSO Sydney.

## AA Groups respond

The Autumn Edition of AAAA published a suggestion how one district was raising funds to be earmarked for the 1999 AOSM. The district raised \$274.25 from a special meeting as outlined in the article. This effort is greatly appreciated and will go towards helping defray the costs of the meeting.

## Don't forget Founder's Day

Founder's Day is the ideal time for AA Groups to send any surplus funds to GSO for the International Literature Fund or to assist the AOSM 'carry the message' in Asia/Oceania.

*Bob Jones*

24 Love Street  
Flynn ACT 2615

22 September 1997

The Manager  
General Service Office  
of AA Australia  
PO Box 255  
Beaconsfield NSW 2014

Delegates' Report - Second AOSM

In reply to your memo of 12 August 1997, attached is the Second AOSM delegates' Report with attachments for presentation to Conference.

I'm sorry for the delay but as explained in my telephone conversation of 17 September, the delay was unavoidable.

Yours in service

*Bob Jones*  
(Bob Jones)

P.S. Please forward copies to members of the Trustees International Committee as well as the alternate OASM delegates.

*Bob Jones*

Shirley,

For your information. Hope this satisfies. I have sent a copy to Yukie for her information together with a COPY of the attached copy of a letter I received from George Dorsey in reply to another matter I referred to him.

Hope the holiday went well and I will ring you on your return. Happy days. I am off to Young for the Regional Forum.

*Sincerely*  
*Bob Jones*  
29/9/97.



SECOND ASIA/OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING, AUCKLAND, 1997

DELEGATES' REPORT

You will have received a copy of the Final Report of this meeting. This Report highlights some of our thoughts and actions arising from the meeting.

The theme of the meeting, FRIENDS WE HAVE NOT MET, expressed the feelings of all delegates. It opened our minds, through the sharing, that in the Asia/Oceania region there are all the major religions, more people, probably more alcoholics and more languages spoken, than the rest of the world combined. AA is not well understood in the region, and it appears to be thought of in some areas as a middle-class western Christian movement.

The Australian delegation, attending for the first time, felt that while the task confronting AA in the region appears daunting and difficult, we should not be discouraged but be enthusiastic, as fifty-odd years ago we were in the same position. A willingness was expressed for Australian AA to help, not as a region leader, but as the service entity with possibly the most resources at this stage in AA's development in the Asia/Oceania region.

The 1996 Australian General Service Conference requested a bid be placed for the Third AOSM. The bid was taken up and Sydney was agreed upon unanimously as the site for the Third ~~AOSM~~ AOSM in 1999. The dates of the meeting are Monday and Tuesday, 29 and 30 March 1999, which will allow delegates and observers to attend the 1999 Easter Convention if they have time and wish to do so.

The responsibility for the smooth running and planning beforehand will rest with the Australian General Service Office in liaison with the Secretary and Chairman AOSM, Trustees International Committee, and all ~~AOSM~~ AOSM delegates. It is important that this meeting go well, as it is Australian AA's first venture into the field of hosting an International AA Service meeting. It is interesting to note that our friends across the Tasman are hosting the 1998 AA World Service meeting.

Monies forwarded by Australian AA to assist in expenses at the Auckland meeting were very much appreciated. The Japan General Service Office has picked up secretarial and other expenses involving the running of AOSM between meetings. Financial assistance has been given to them by ourselves and New Zealand AA to help defray expenses.

The principle of self-support continued to be expressed during the sessions. With this in mind it was paramount that the dates of the 1999 meeting be fixed early so that countries can plan their budgets to ensure their attendance, especially those countries who have not attended previously (e.g. India).

This does not, however, mean we cannot give encouragement and make arrangements so that all countries can attend. One highlight of the Auckland OASM was that delegates were given the option of being billeted by local members. This was seen as an excellent idea and appreciated by the delegates who attended.

Attached for your information is a copy of a letter sent to AAs throughout the region informing them of the dates of the Third AOSM to be held in Sydney.

The Fifth Tradition allows no secondary objectives, only that we pass the message to the alcoholic who still suffers and wishes sobriety. It is because we do not have any secondary objectives that the alcoholic finds us credible, and this extends to all service levels. The road of responsibility appears overwhelming but it may be time for the fellowship in Australia to extend its horizons beyond our own needs. It is true that nothing strengthens our sobriety more than service. It relates through our own structure and our willingness, in this instance, to pass the message of AA to those countries that need our help. We will then be expressing the eternal spirit of love in AA, which is giving without receiving, and meeting friends we have not yet met.

Finally, it is recommended Conference endorse the following actions, that:

- . the next Asia/Oceania Service Meeting be held in Sydney on Monday and Tuesday, 29 and 30 March 1999, at the Quarantine Station Conference Centre, North Head, Sydney;
- . the theme of the meeting be OUR PRIMARY PURPOSE (this theme has been agreed upon by Japan and New Zealand);
- . billets be arranged by local members for official delegates (outside the meeting dates) and observers from the Asia/Oceania region.

Yours in Service

Shirley Milan and Bob Jones  
Delegates to Second AOSM  
22 September 1997

*copy*

# ASIA OCEANIA SERVICE MEETING

JAPAN GENERAL SERVICE OFFICE

c/o Tachibana Bldg. 9th Fl.

2-23-3 Ikebukuro, Toshima-ku, Tokyo 171, JAPAN

TEL. 03 - 3590 - 5377 FAX. 03 - 3590 - 5419

August 12, 1997

Bob Jones  
24 Love St.  
Flynn 2615  
ACT Australia

Dear AA Friends,

The second Asia Oceania Service Meeting held in Auckland, New Zealand last March decided that the next meeting would be held in Sydney, Australia in 1999. That meeting will be held on Monday and Tuesday, 29 and 30 March 1999, at the Quarantine Station Conference Centre, North Head, Sydney, Australia.

The theme for the meeting will be Our Primary Purpose and any suggestions you may have for the agenda will be very welcome.

All countries are eligible to send delegates; there is no need for that country to have a service structure or General Service Office (which is a requirement of the World Service Meeting). Observers to the meeting will be welcome but will not have any speaking or voting rights—these are reserved for official delegates only.

At this stage it is realised that there are matters that are not yet finalised but this early notice of the meeting dates etc. may assist you in making forward budgeting arrangements in obtaining the best travel deal, etc. When considering attendance at the AOSM, your attention is also drawn to an International Convention of Alcoholics Anonymous to be held in Brisbane, Australia, from Friday, 2 April to Monday, 5 April 1999, which is three days after the AOSM meeting. Further information about the Convention will be sent separately at a later date.

Since the last AOSM, it is thought that there is a strong need for some sort of ongoing communication between delegates and the fellowship within the Asia Oceania Zone. If you feel that there is a need for a newsletter or a similar means of communication, please send your thoughts to Yukie at the above address.

August 12, 1997

Page 2



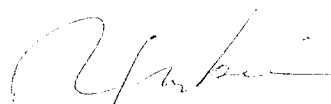
In addition to your thoughts about the newsletter or some other means of communication, you should address these and the topics for the agenda to Yukie, together with any other questions you may have and also whether you are likely to attend.

Later this year we will be in a position to give you further information about the third AOSM. Meanwhile, we hope you will begin planning to attend this very important service meeting to share your recovery, unity and service with each of us attending.

Yours in recovery, unity and service,



Bob Jones  
Chairman



Yukie Yamamoto  
Secretary

Dear Bob,

The same letters have been sent to all the contacts, in the total of 40 contacts.

Yukie

Delegates' Report



Subject: Activities re Asia/Oceania Service Meeting

Following our attendance at the Second AOSM in Auckland, a Report was given to our General Service Board in March and July. Further observations and reports have been made from time to time.

Some relevant points are:

- . Information is starting to flow between GSO (Australia) and GSO (Japan). Correspondence from Japan includes a thank you letter from Yukie, the AOSM Secretary, regarding our P.I. survey which was forwarded to them at their request. This was presented to their Board for ideas to use.
- . We copy all of our pertinent correspondence for the AOSM file which has been actioned at GSO. We thank Valerie and Lin for their participation to date.
- . Bob, in his capacity as Chairman of AOSM 1999, has been busy getting arrangements set down for this event.
- . Shirley has received a large box from New York which contains all the necessary literature for P.I. and C.P.C. exhibits. This gift was in response to an offer made by George at the Second AOSM, when he suggested that we may find this beneficial to our needs here in Australia.
- . Delegates are in contact with our New Zealand counterparts. Exchange of information also seems to 'cement' the ties we enjoy with New Zealand or any other country we dialogue with.
- . A report to AAAA as requested by Conference has been actioned. Bob has also provided an 'advert' to be placed in magazines, service material etc., calling upon AA travellers to perhaps provide valuable information regarding meeting whereabouts.
- . An article is being prepared to go to Central Service Offices, to be placed in magazines or newsletters. The article asks for information about meetings in the Asia/Oceania region so a data base can be established by GSO.
- . Contact has been made with isolated groups in the region. A data base is being established at GSO Sydney of groups in the region, which will be of assistance to all AA travellers in the region in passing the message.
- . A suggestion has been floated for an Asia/Oceania newsletter and replies to the suggestion are awaited.
- . Dr Nelson's MEDICUS piece was sent to GSO Japan, together with results of the 1996 Australian survey. GSO Japan responded with '...what I believe is the first piece of Australian written literature translated into Japanese'.
- . Requests for translations into languages (e.g. Marshallese) have been received and are being investigated.
- . An article is to be placed in Box 459, giving highlights of the Second AOSM.

Shirley Milan and Bob Jones