

2

**Share your highlights and 'lowlights' from OM so far. What have been the best aspects of OM and what would we not want to repeat?**

Highlights/Positives	Negatives/Don't Repeat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Assemblies when they worked (Democratic, Horizontal, An</li> <li>- Working Groups, Repair Batches, Responsibility</li> <li>- MIC CHECKS</li> <li>- BRIDGING GENERATION CAR</li> <li>- The HOPE for CHANGE</li> <li>- TENT MONSTER PARADE (It was fun!)</li> <li>- Empowerment</li> <li>- FREEDOM OF Communication</li> <li>- DIVERSE COMMUNITY</li> <li>- ENGAGING WITH THE HOMELESS</li> <li>- NON-VIOLENCE</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CLASSISM / AGEISM</li> <li>• THEFT</li> <li>• CO-OPT'ING by <del>the</del> Political Groups or GA's</li> <li>• Police / Council Harassment</li> <li>• Lack of collective thinking / some people</li> <li>• Inability for leadership</li> <li>• Too much leadership exercised by few people repeatedly, repeatedly</li> </ul>

## Highlights/Positives

Coordination of legal support over the weekend of the  
 Dist - feeling as if we were supporting people.  
 Thoughtful conversations  
 Exciting people.  
 Feeling I could share my thoughts  
 Feeling connected w/ community & feeling empowered.  
 Courage & sense of youth & optimism  
 A sense of something to join - inspiration -  
 Community - feelings of happiness & connectedness.  
 Working for a common goal.  
 Witnessing disenfranchised people feeling & being  
 empowered.  
 Having beliefs challenged. Meeting people who would  
 otherwise be invisible.  
 Networking w/ people I was interested in working with  
 Transformative experience  
 Feeling that this event is an optimistic start to  
 the upskilling that is necessary for a new start.

## Negatives/Don't Repeat

Lack of understanding the process & how to operate  
 w/in the process.  
 Inability to get a definitive statement/manifesto.  
 'War' at Flagstaff gardens - intense interpersonal  
 conflicts.  
 Move to Father Bobs ~ moving to private space. A  
 retreat would have been useful, but the occupation  
 should not have been on private land.  
 Sexism, racism, homophobia - also a lack of infrastructure  
 to deal w/ these problems - personal experiences  
 of discrimination & oppression.  
 Safer spaces was never implemented. - Don't build  
 a social movement w/out this.  
 State persecution. Lack of action &  
 exhaustion.  
 Personal feelings of.  
 Lack of processes for dealing w/ mental health & complex  
 social issues.  
 Safer Space } Lack of understanding /  
 respect for our  
 economic & social  
 - privilege.  
 A lack of willingness to engage w/ anti-oppressive  
 practises & vilification of people who tried to  
 do this.  
 Vilification of / division b/n homeless community & rest of O.M. -  
 lack of respect for their political engagement.

Highlights/Positives

Negatives/Don't Repeat

• City Square. Food / Kitchen. Chalk Bombing. Sense of community. ↳ 1st Aid tent. Library, free Uni, Anarchist free Shop. Global Solidarity. International Womens day event. Space for broad range of Political Issues. \* Sense of community. \* Occupy Fridays. Sense of hope / Cooperative spirit. Consensus decision making. Realising I was not alone

Public Support on eviction day on few days after. Court Case. Media Attention. mass civil disobedience

Police Violence ... State Repression. hoosing focus. In-fighting. Lack of capacity. Inexperience. Experienced activists not engaging. Unwillingness to address bad behaviour. Trashed father Bobs! + Ross house. unwieldy meetings + Irene's. VIOLENCE. Sexism. Disrespect. We stopped being proactive after City Square. Not prioritising debriefs & support, external assistance, after eviction day. INCOMPETENT, IMMATURE, MANCHILDREN

Highlights/Positives	Negatives/Don't Repeat
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- building community/family</li> <li>- collaborating with others</li> <li>- local adaptation of international movement</li> <li>- quit job to take part in occupy</li> <li>- conversations with other OMs</li> <li>- breaking silence on neo-liberal capitalism</li> <li>- reclaiming public space</li> <li>- sharing experiences with younger people</li> <li>- taking part in a global social movement</li> <li>- occupy 2.0 strategy</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- disgusting behaviour of other OMs</li> <li>- lack of patience for discussion</li> <li>- bad vibes</li> <li>- academic critiques of Occupy</li> <li>- police brutality</li> <li>- unrealistic expectations around occupation</li> <li>- doctrinal attitude of facilitation team</li> <li>- decline in numbers (feeling powerless to stop it)</li> <li>- Aboriginal tent embassy GA</li> <li>- lack of discussion about political parties</li> </ul>

## Highlights/Positives

- \* Speaking to many different people (very interesting)
- \* people coming together
- \* Positive: more successful dealings with the police
- \* Overnight occupation (gentle atmosphere)
- \* staying in Treasury Gardens (both highlight and lowlight) - sense of wily ~~but~~
- \* creative: tents
- \* Meeting amazing people; important relationships and connections
- \* Learning more about others, about the world
- \* A realisation that others share my feelings
- \* Facilitating a G.A.
  - \* Skills and knowledge in facilitation and media
  - \* seeing people being empowered, becoming engaged, community-feel

## Negatives/Don't Repeat

- \* being immature, insecure, drunk, sometimes not trusting others
  - \* not enough motivation
  - \* dealings with the police
  - \* gradual disillusionment
  - \* facilitating a G.A.
  - \* Trolley being stolen/taken by the Council
  - \* people insulting all at City Square
  - \* Inappropriate behaviour
  - \* Individuals and groups with pre-conceived ideas (confronting; people not willing to engage in consensus)
  - \* constantly having to move
  - \* naivety
  - \* lack of interpersonal adaptivity
  - \* Father Bob's
- Chaos. - Better organised  
 Burn out - More self care  
 Negative perception - Better PR  
 Assumptions/rumours lack of info

# Passion. Commitment

Discussion 2

Table Number:

6

Table Host:

CARL

## Highlights/Positives

Period directly after Eviction - Inspiration/Energy that was around during this period. scale of the energy.

Discovering Personal Empowerment in facing Adversity  
'How to talk back' ROAR!!

Completely Revolutionized My Life. Transformed my Life. In a different person now. Better understand of my self as part of an environment.

Clarifying things that always intuitively understood

• Also finding a point of community & connection

Signs - Clever Signage

Consensus, Generosity, construction, innovation - Indigenous Respect / connections

Trust, Goodwill, Mutual Understanding - "Getting it"  
Awareness - Sensing Possibilities

Creativity - eg Tent Monster - spontaneity & making stuff go viral

Mega GA - owed by Facilitators - Beauty of Experience

Reality of Being Human | Growing Energy/Sensitivity  
Engaging in the..

Outsourcing Social Friction

## Negatives/Don't Repeat

• G.A.s 'I Detested the G.A.s'

- communication at GA Antid
- People tearing down your ideas - too oppositional
- Enormously Frustrating (Patience)

Mega GAs ... Too large to include everyone

- Found the "Process," restrictive - unmovable
- Lack of Planning leading up to Process.

"Occupy" - the name is a tactic rather than the process

Socialist Alternative co-opting Movement

- Too attached to their Doctrine - Dominating  
Paranoia about everyone - Being able to trust

Inability to look beyond one's existing political ideas  
Personalised Disagreement

Lack of Personal Freedom & Authority to engage

Media, Public - limiting Personal Expression  
Because others might be worried about Image

• NO TACTICS / FORE SIGHT

• An inability to channel that energy

Burn out - Insanity

- lack of broad based momentum for occupy  
 - solidarity when the Indip embassy was threatened by police.

Highlights/Positives

- community ✓ → esp establishing networks
- ✓ ↓ speed of which community developed communication tight & loose differences
- desire to work through differences
- no serious problems
- being out there / public space
- resonance of OT
- knowing / seeing that other people share thoughts / grievances
- erection → moment where crowd swelled
- public forum on Occupy @ Trades Hall
- political discussions
- spokes councils
- tonight's reflection
- ↓ maturity / growth of movement.
- shifting broader political discourse
- solidarity of people on site to each other

Negatives/Don't Repeat

- General Assembly ✓
- having to reach consensus / too many people
- ~~copy what people think~~
- proposals on top of proposals / could have been more efficient
- length of meetings
- lack of ppl talking about strategy without proposals
- personal issues / personalities of occupiers
- occupation as a site for people without other housing options / late night party going.
- 24/7 occupation
- unhealthy
- dangerous
- exclusivity / fetishisation of camping.
- lack of political analysis
- lack of critical reflection
- people not knowing their limits
- suspicion of people who were seen as 'political'
- non-plural decision making
- lack of participation ✓
- lack of collective responsibility → devolve responsibility to other groups / working groups ✓
- failure to communicate / co-ordinate
- lack of knowledge / experience - consensus, experience,
- sexism / racism / violence - response / lack of response
- control of a remnant group of ppl in later stages of movement