



November 2019

# The Serenity Times

The monthly newsletter of the Darwin District



## Next meeting

Did you miss the District's quarterly meeting in September? Dry your eyes because there's another quarterly meeting at **7:00pm on Wednesday 4 December 2019** at the Darwin District Office.

Did you know that it's the Groups who run AA? That the District is the humble servant of the Groups? That the Groups tell the District what to do, not the other way around? That it is up to the Groups whether they join the District, attend meetings of the District or make financial contributions to the District? That the District reports to the Groups, not the other way around?

AA Groups are invited to send a General Service Representative to the next District meeting to receive the District's report to the Groups and to tell the District how it can best serve your Group.

All AA members are welcome to attend. Why not bring a newcomer to show them how AA works?

## Unity Weekend

The Darwin Unity Weekend on 2-4 August 2019, which was put together to provide some extra AA meetings in the absence of a Darwin Roundup, drew about 70 attendees for the Saturday night barbeque and AA meeting.

Around 15 members, including 8 from interstate, attended the Saturday lunchtime AA meeting and around 20 came to the breakfast meeting on Sunday, the third extra meeting for that weekend.

The DCM, Mick G, said in his July report, "Darwin Unity Weekend was very successful. Thank you to all involved."

Tradition 7 contributions and the proceeds of an auction held on Saturday night resulted in a financial surplus in the amount of \$315.80, which was distributed 60-30-10.

Bob W

## Bill W Camp

The Bill W Camp at Douglas Daly on 26-28 July 2019 saw a good roll up of visitors and more local members this year, bringing attendance to around 70.

The group conscience meeting held during the weekend heard that members would like to have meditation sessions during next year's Camp and the new committee can look into this.

After the Camp, 14 people joined the tag-along through Kakadu and 10 people took a cruise on two houseboats on the Mary River. These activities were at members' own expense.

The wash up meeting heard that the Camp finished with a financial surplus and it was decided to distribute the sum of \$528, 60-30-10.

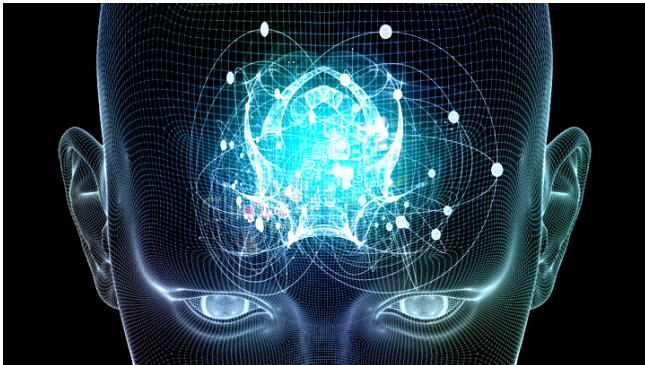
Bob W



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## Sixth sense

*We have begun to develop this vital sixth sense - Into Action, p 85*

If our moral inventory has been searching and fearless (Step Four) and we have shared it with God and another human being (Step Five), then by the time we have commenced making our amends (Step Nine), we will have begun to develop a vital sixth sense. What is this sixth sense? It is intuition, direction and inspiration from God, which the authors of the Big Book suggest we further develop through a daily practice of prayer and meditation (Step Eleven).

Recently I struggled with a dilemma. I wrestled with it in my head with no resolution, so I knelt and prayed. I told God all about the dilemma, about what I saw as the pros and cons of the two courses of action, then I stayed silent to receive God's response. I was given a clear direction to take no action. Because God hadn't steered me toward what I saw as the better option, I prayed and meditated twice more that day. When I received the same response, I reminded myself that I had handed my will and my life over to the care of God and I did as God had directed: I took no action. It was just as well; shortly after, my preferred option was shown to be ill-starred.

My sixth sense is my GPS. With it, I am able to gain access to God's perfect wisdom and timing.



## Sponsorship

*Much has already been said about receiving strength, inspiration, and direction from Him who has all knowledge and power - Into Action, p 85*

The Twelfth Step suggests that after we have had a spiritual awakening, we try to carry AA's message to alcoholics. Until we have a spiritual awakening, we will be unable to show others how to have one and the only thing that we will pass onto other alcoholics is spiritual ill health.

My purpose in sponsoring other alcoholics is simply to show them how to achieve conscious contact with God through a spiritual awakening. I used to provide advice and direction to my sponsees and receive advice and direction from my sponsor, but the sponsor simply became the Higher Power.

AA isn't a self-help or support group; AA is for people who are *beyond* human help. The purpose of AA's 12-Step program isn't to connect us to the knowledge and power of another human being, but to the knowledge and power of God. If I lack the knowledge and power to manage my own life, then I lack the knowledge and power to manage anyone else's. I no longer provide advice or direction to my sponsees. Instead, I relate a helpful experience of my own if there is one or I suggest that they ask God for guidance.