



MY STORY

On the 19th February 2006, I was twelve stepped into Alcoholics Anonymous, after 35 years of drinking.

This is my story; I was born into a family of 10 and I was the 9th child. My family was very dysfunctional. I was to learn when I came to AA that my father drank the way I did, and mum drank and took pills. There was a lot of abuse on all levels and my father was violent to my siblings. My mother used to throw things at us and scream a lot.

When I was 14 years old my Nan died and one week later my father died of a heart attack. A couple of months later my brother-in-law died of cancer at the age of 23 and he was my best mate.

I was devastated, I didn't know how to deal with my emotions, my mother was grief stricken, I had to look after my younger brother, go to work and do all the home duties cooking, cleaning and shopping.

I could not cope so I started drinking at 15 years old I was a blackout drinker; I drank every night.

I started coming home later and later, my mother could not cope with me, she became violent towards me, she tried to choke me to death. I was lucky my older sister was there; she saved me and took me to Sydney to live with her.

My drinking got worse, at 17 years of age I got married because I was pregnant, I thought it was probably the best thing I could do to help me stop drinking. That did not work, I had 3 boys to my husband, I was an untreated alcoholic, popping pills and binge drinking. We became violent towards each other; I left and took the boys with me.

And so it began, I got worse and started taking drugs as well as drinking. My life started spiralling out of control and I kept doing the same thing, repeatedly. Geographic's started and I was

caught in this cycle of picking up men and trying to play happy families, at which I was not particularly good. I was repeatedly doing the same thing.

It got even worse, one of my sons was taken off me by DOCS, there was homelessness, police stations, hospitals and domestic violence.

At the age of 48yrs old the law was changed to the responsible serving of alcohol, at this time I had become a binge drinking alcoholic, getting picked up by a courtesy bus, taken to the club, drinking to blackout and the courtesy bus taking me home.

The night of my last drink the barman refused to serve me, he said I was too drunk, the next thing I found myself getting removed from the club and I was barred for life. They put me on the courtesy bus to go home. When I got home, I was devastated, I could not drink anywhere else because I did not know where I would end up, or with who. I wanted to change my life and I could not stop drinking, I needed help, I begged God for help and sobbed myself to sleep.

The next morning, I got up, made myself a coffee, then took my lawnmower to a lawnmower man to get fixed.

I felt I was on remote control, this man took my mower, put it in his shed and asked me to come and have a coffee with him, so I did.

When he brought the coffee out to me, he brought the BIG Book of Alcoholics Anonymous out and put it on the table in front of me, he asked me if I had an alcohol problem.

I was gob smacked, I couldn't believe my ears and eyes, I said Yes (I had asked God for help and it was right there in my face the next day), what do I have to do?

He asked me what day I normally start drinking again, I said Thursday and that is when he took me to a meeting of Alcoholics Anonymous.

Since that day I have never needed to pick up a drink. Thanks to God and the 12-step program of Alcoholics Anonymous. Deb H. Page 5



Bill W Camp a goer

With the Northern Territory borders opening on July 17, the 2020 Bill W Camp is definitely on. While the July 24-26 camp at Douglas Daly starts just a week after the borders open, we're expecting to have some interstate visitors as well as local members.

The camp always attracts a good roll-up of interstate members and the word is that some are still keen to come, despite the uncertainties following the coronavirus outbreak. In fact by late June there were some already on the road.

The borders opening means that after July 17 the mandatory quarantine period will no longer be in force. Interstate visitors will have to fill in a form to advise the health authorities where they are staying, but we understand that's the only requirement.

We plan to have a simple camp this year, but there will still be plenty of good sharing and fellowship plus the usual fun events like a cricket match, damper cooking competition and visiting the hot springs. There might be a Red Faces where you can show off your talent.

So bring everything you need (including your own mug and a chair) and enjoy a weekend away. If you don't want to self-cater, food is available at the shop. Could be some cold nights this year, so don't forget warm clothing.

If you haven't been to the camp before and would like more details, phone one of these contacts: Mark P 0400 255 019, Terry B 0418 895 007, Denis P 0435 479 477, Samantha H 0400 579 656. Watch our website www.aadarwin.org.au for any updates.
Bob.W

The 12 Concepts for Worldwide Service

1. Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. World Services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole Society in its world affairs.
2. The General Service Conference of A.A. has become, for nearly every practical purpose, the active voice and the effective conscience of our whole society in its world affairs.
3. To ensure effective leadership we should endow each element of A.A.-the Conference, the General Service Board and its service corporations, staffs, committees, and executives – with a traditional "Right of Decision".

4. At all responsible levels, we ought to maintain a traditional "Right of Participation", allowing a voting representation in reasonable proportion to the responsibility that each must discharge.

5. Throughout our structure, a traditional "Right of Appeal" ought to prevail, so that minority opinion will be heard, and personal grievances receive careful consideration.

6. The conference recognises that the chief initiate and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee member of the conference acting as the General Service Board.

7. The Charter and Bylaws of the General Service Board are legal instruments, empowering the trustees to manage and conduct world service affairs. The Conference Charter is not a legal document; it relies upon tradition and the A.A. purse for final effectiveness.

8. The trustees are the principle planners and administrators of overall policy and finance. They have custodial oversight of the separately incorporated and constantly active services, exercising this through their ability to elect all the directors of these entities.

9. Good service leadership at all levels is indispensable for our future functioning and safety. Primary world service leadership, once exercised by the founders, must necessarily be assumed by the trustees.

10. Every service responsibility should be matched by an equal service authority, with the scope of such authority well defined.

11. The trustees should always have the best possible committees, corporate service directors, executives, staffs and consultants. Composition, qualifications, induction procedures, and rights and duties will always be matters of serious concern.

12. The conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power; that sufficient operating funds and reserves be its prudent financial principal; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive or an incitement to public controversy; that it never perform acts of government; and that, like the Society it serves, it will always remain democratic in thought and action.

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Do you understand these concepts?

Keep your eyes posted on this page.

A workshop on the 12 Concepts will be coming to those interested, via Zoom soon. Susan. B.