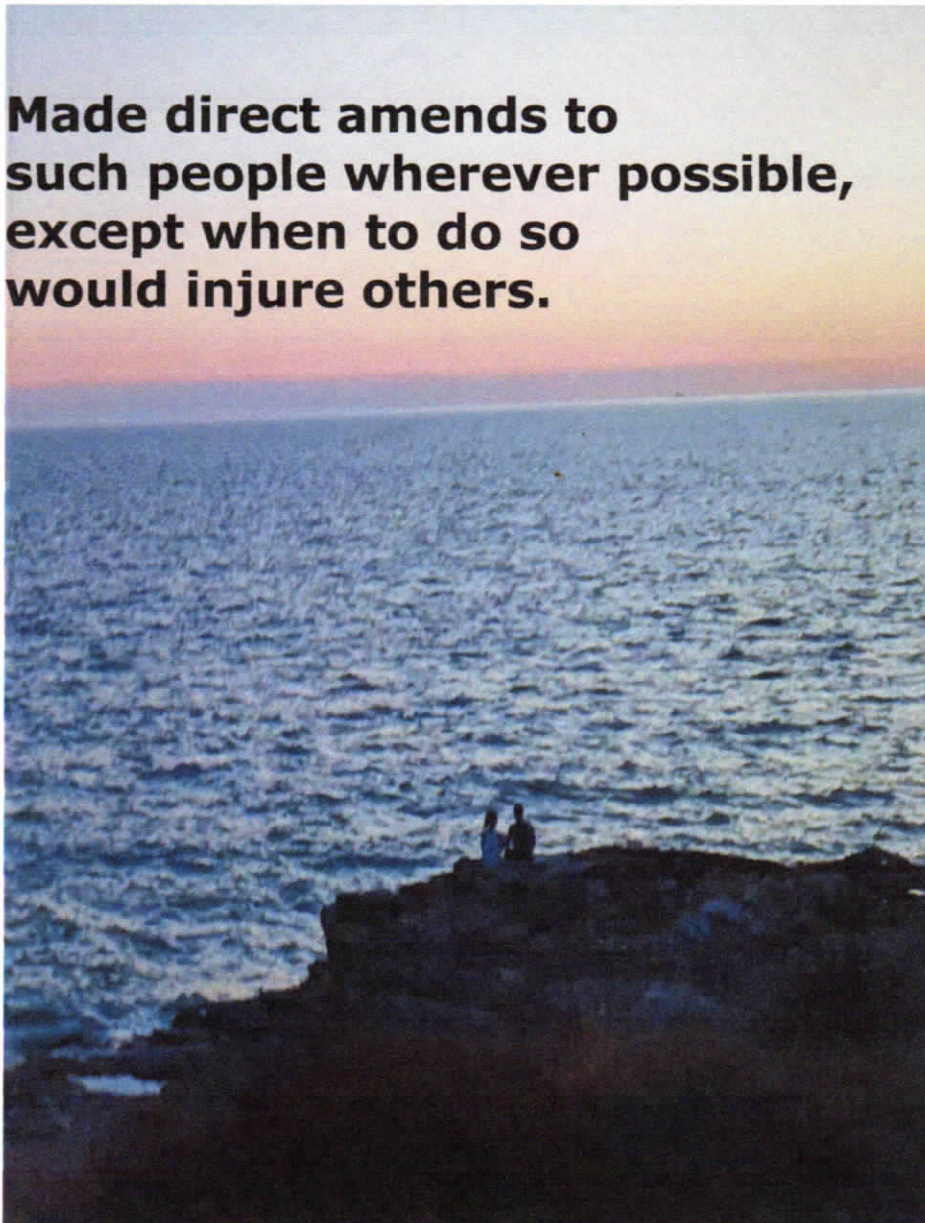


# THE SERENITY TIMES

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE  
DARWIN DISTRICT.  
SEPTEMBER 2020

## STEP 9

**Made direct amends to  
such people wherever possible,  
except when to do so  
would injure others.**



### **Darwin District**

Darwin District serves the A.A. groups in the Darwin District

### **Darwin District Office**

Nightcliff Community Centre

5/18 Bauhinia Street

Nightcliff NT 0810

PO Box 40760

Casuarina NT 0810

**Telephone** 0889485202

### **Email:**

**[aadarwin@bigpond.com](mailto:aadarwin@bigpond.com)**

### **Website:**

**[aadarwin.org.au](http://aadarwin.org.au)**

**Office hours** 11am-2pm

Monday to Saturday

Mick G (District Committee Member)

Pat M (Treasurer)

Vacant (Secretary)

Sam H (Office Coordinator)

John S (Registrar)

Mick G (Webmaster)

Caroline B (Literature Officer)

Denis P (Office Maintenance Officer)

Dan T (Public Information Coordinator)

Deb H (Treatment Facilities Coordinator)

Vacant (Correctional Facilities Coordinator)

Vacant (Roundup Coordinator)

Susan B (Editor)

### **Next District meeting**

The Darwin District meets the first Wednesday of March, June, September, and December at 7:00pm

The September meeting will be held on the 9<sup>th</sup> this year.

### **To join the mailing list**

Contact the DDO







## Public Information Update

**Treasurer DDO:** Pat M. 05/08/2020 Current balance (cash and bank account) \$6,314.08. Surplise recorded for month \$381.85, compared to surplise of \$662.00 for same month last year. Difference attributable to higher group contributions and literature sales in July 2019. **VACANT** Pat is stepping down from this position on September the 9<sup>th</sup> at the DDO meeting. **CAN YOU HELP!!!**

**DCM:** Mick G. All DDO members, GSR's and Group Secretaries, have been sent an attachment of a letter issued by the General Service Board, informing all "face to face" meetings Australia wide, that A.A.s insurer has withdrawn all coverage for "pathogenic avian influenza" (Covid 19). Meaning that any member/group operating "face to face" meetings is individually wholly responsible for all costs and payments if a case for "pathogenic" infection is awarded against them by a court of law. This adds a whole new dimension to the statement "I am responsible".

**Secretary:** Pat M has been acting Secretary for quite a while. This position is **VACANT**, Pat has kindly filled the position for another term. He can no longer continue due to other commitments and will be stepping down at the September DDO meeting, he will no longer be staying as a committee member. **CAN YOU HELP!!!**

**Literature:** Caroline B. We have plenty of books available for sale, at the office. If you need any call Caroline and she will organise your order and advise of pick up time.

**Treatment Facilities:** Deb H (Mission Australia Rehab/Banyon House) We have received great response from the residents in both facilities. The problem is chasing volunteers.

Service is a big part of recovery, sharing our Experience Strength and Hope. There are a lot of members not interested. This comes down to

good sponsorship and encouraging sponsees to do service work and the rewards.

As only a small handful of members already doing service work on the DDO Committee have been willing to go, it is with regret I have had to cancel our visits to both these facilities.

**Registrar:** John S I have been announcing the vacant positions at the meetings I attend, no one has yet to show interest.

**VACANT** Johns position will be vacant from 9th Sept.

**Office Co- Ordinator:** Sam H. The office has vacancies Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday. This is an opportunity for sponsors to suggest service work to their sponsees. 24-hour phone roster is full, with Marg M on standby if a volunteer is unavailable. I am rotating off on Sept 9 so my position will be **VACANT** perhaps someone in your group may be interested. **CAN YOU HELP!!!**

**Office Maintenance:** Denis P. I been keeping office clean and as Covid 19 safe as I can. Volunteers can you please read comments in office logbook and please refresh your memories on the procedures for DDO. Please empty the rubbish bin each day before you leave.

**Webmaster:** Mick G. AA National Guidelines for "Media and Health professionals" has been added to the website at the suggestion of our PI officer, Dan T.

**PI Coordinator:** Dan T. It has been a quiet month on the PI front as I have not had a lot of time to chase things up, however, I can still report the following.

- More cards have been distributed to St Johns Ambulance. I have emailed their coordinator to seek feedback with the distribution via ambulances.
- We are booked for the next Available 'Community Space' segment for our announcement on Channel 9.

I have a to-do list that will get a lot more attention in September.







**Editor Serenity Times:** Susan B. I am looking for readers to send their stories of attaining sobriety. Your Strength, fears, and hope. How it was for you. Anything AA that would be of interest to other members. No prayers or poems allowed. As the editor I retain the right to choose what is used for the newsletter. Please email to:

[serenitytimesaa@outlook.com](mailto:serenitytimesaa@outlook.com)

#### **NEXT MEETING:**

The next meeting will be a quarterly meeting for committee members and GSRs, &pm Wednesday 9th September 2020, via Zoom. This meeting was previously scheduled for the first Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September, it has been extended a week to allow preparation of the end of year financial report in time for meeting. This will be the first meeting for the new Financial year 2020/2021 and several committee members will be rotating including Secretary, Office Coordinator, Registrar and Treasurer, so please encourage group members to take up vacancies so that we can keep the Office operating.

#### **AA Darwin District- Position Description.**

##### **REGISTRAR:**

- Attends Office sub-committee meetings and quarterly District Meetings.
- Submits a report to each monthly meeting and to each quarterly district meeting.
- Keeps an up to date record of the contact details of all groups in the Darwin District and coordinates with the Area Committee to maintain details of other groups in the Northern Region for publication in the Meetings list.
- As a service to the Area Committee, keeps the Northern Region Meetings List up to date and publishes a new meetings list whenever necessary, distributing it to the Groups, Office Sub Committee members, the General Service Office by email. Provides the office with hard copies of the Meetings List and ensures copies are also available in the receptacle outside the Office Door.



##### **DISTRICT TREASURER:**

- Responsible for all financial records of the District, including Office Operations, other District expenses and the annual Darwin Roundup.
- Attends monthly Office sub-committee meetings and quarterly District meetings.
- Submits a report to each monthly meeting Office sub-committee meeting, to each quarterly District Meeting, in the approved format and to the Roundup Committee as required.
- Manages the District bank account and ensures that all income received is banked on a weekly business.
- Prepares payments for all invoices received and approved.
- Delivers an annual financial report at the Annual General Meeting in the approved format.
- Makes recommendations regarding financial management of the Darwin District, including the office.
- Ensures that the office cash box is supplied with a permanent \$50 float in a range of denominations.

##### **OFFICE COORDINATOR:**

- Attends monthly Office sub-committee meetings and quarterly District Meetings.
- Submits a report to each monthly Office sub-committee meeting and to each quarterly District Meeting.
- In the absence of the DCM, chairs monthly Office sub-committee meetings.
- Maintains an up to date list of AA members willing to take 12 step calls.
- Coordinates Office and phonline volunteers.
- Keeps the Volunteer Manual up to date, for the information of Office Volunteers and Phonline Volunteers.
- Keeps a key register identifying each key to the office, its number and the person in possession of the key.





#### **DISTRICT SECRETARY:**

- Attends monthly Office sub-committee meetings and quarterly District meetings.
- Calls for items for meeting agenda from Group GSRs and from the Office Sub-Committee.
- Drafts and distributes meeting agendas.
- Takes minutes of monthly Office meetings and distributes them to the members of the office sub-committee.
- Takes minutes of quarterly District meetings and distributes them to GSRs and Office sub-committee members.
- Submits a report on external correspondence sent and received, to each monthly Office sub-committee meeting and to each quarterly District meeting.



#### **FUN EVENT for UNITY WEEKEND**

The Darwin Unity Weekend this year was a fairly low-key affair, with the coronavirus stopping many interstate visitors who would usually attend. But one event, a barbecue, meeting and fun auction at a members home was a great success.

More than 40 people attended the 1<sup>st</sup> August Saturday night including 15 visitors, mainly from South Australia and a few via Queensland. It was a perfect dry season night for an outdoors meeting although some enjoyed the warmth of the fire bucket in later hours. There was also plenty of space for "social distancing".

Thanks to Terry B for providing his Stuart Park home for the event and to the Caring and Sharing Tape Library for recording the meeting. Thanks also to the Auctioneer, the fire bucket providers and those who helped by making salads, barbecuing and clearing up afterwards. Those helpers included visitors and members of Terry's family, who were staying with him. Thanks for their tolerance being invaded by a bunch of rowdy AAs and Al-Anons.



Those attending contributed generously and with the Auction, a total of \$356.50 was contributed to Darwin District Office.

Terry said the night proved that such an event could pay for itself, he hoped that a group or individual members would pick up and run with the event next year. He also hoped the same would happen with the Sunday morning Spiritual Concepts meeting, which did not happen this year, but in 2019 included a breakfast at Lake Alexander. (Bob W) Thank you for your contribution Bob, and that reminds me we are also looking for a **ROUND UP CO-ORDINATOR**: Every body has talked about the Darwin Roundup since I first joined AA we can't let this event not continue due to lack of someone stepping forward to keep this event going. (The Editor)

**ATTENTION! ATTENTION! ATTENTION!**

**AA FAMILY CRICKET MATCH**

**SUNDAY 6<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER**

**11AM**

**LAKE ALEXANDER**

**BBQ**

**Sausages, Hamburgers and bread supplied**

**BYO, families, chairs and salads to share.**

**Gold Coin Donation**

**For any more information call Terry B**

**0418895007**

**MYSTERY 3 day 2 night CAMP**

**Pre Christmas, Date To Be Announced**

**This is for you and your family.**

**Keep your eyes on your Newsletter.**







### MY STORY:

Hi all my name is Caroline; I am an alcoholic.

I had my first drink and blackout when I was 18. Drinking at a bar in my workmate's hometown, which we had decided to visit for the weekend.

My recollection of having that first drink was that I could not stop.

Then falling off the bar stool and coming too on her couch.

From that time my drinking was spaced out over time.

My next bout of drinking was when my twin babies were 18 months old, I had been suffering with post-natal depression.

My husband at that time, had a holiday home and a bottle of champagne was left for us, I took a drink and felt at once, what I thought, was a cure for depression, unknown to me, it was to get worse.

Space between drinks in time was starting to get closer.

We lived in Albury Wodonga at the time and we were renting a place of a friend of my brother in law, he was a hopeless alcoholic.

It was that place and time that the flood gates to alcoholism was opened, there was no length of time between my drinking.

This is where it progressed for me. My alcoholic husband and myself were both in full flight.

The state of my house, husband and children was appalling. The real underlying unmanageability was my spiritual condition. The hole in my soul that alcohol filled, only for a while and then it grew larger, alcohol was no longer the filler.

The Big Book says only a spiritual experience can conquer. This means that today I need to remain in a fit spiritual condition, or else.

Looking at the meaning of the word fit = a suitable quality, standard or type to meet the required purpose.

So, the problem, allergy to alcohol/could be prevented from starting.

Mental Obsession = one thought that outweighs any other / could not wait to do it again.

Solution, today God fills the hole within.

God/ spiritual experience through the 12 steps taken as directed in the Big Book.

Thank you so much for the chance to share.

(Caroline B)



### What is the Third Legacy? (July 1955)

Our Twelfth Step-carrying the message-is the basic service that AA's Fellowship gives; this is our principle aim and the main reason for our existence. Therefore, AA is more than a set of principles; it is a Society of alcoholic's in action. We must carry the message, else we ourselves can wither and those who haven't been given the truth will die. Hence, an AA service is anything whatever that helps us to reach a fellow sufferer-ranging all the way from the 12<sup>th</sup> step itself to a 10 cent phone call and a cup of coffee, to AA's General Service Headquarters for national and international action. The sum total of all these services is our Third Legacy. ( Reprinted with permission, from The Language of The Heart Page 160)



# HISTORY OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IN DARWIN AND THE NORTHERN TERRITORY

## Part One

1) It was September 1959, two seemingly unrelated events occurred. In a remote frontier town, called Darwin, in Australia's far north. These events created the establishment of A.A. Darwin.

2) The prime mover of today's A.A. in Darwin was the Rev Norman Pearce; he was not an alcoholic. He had heard of the great success of the Fellowship in other parts of the world and in Australia. As Minister in charge of the United Church of Northern Australia, Rev Pearce came into contact with a 36 year old chronic alcoholic, whom the doctors of the Darwin Hospital had pronounced a hopeless case, they were unable to help this person.

Doubtless the Reverend's welfare resources were stretched to the limit. In desperation he approached the editor of a well-known Darwin newspaper, asking for his appeal to be printed on the front page of the next issue. This so enraged the newspaperman, (of the two 'fisted drinking variety'), that his retort was virtually unprintable- condensed, it translates into, "No *blankety* story like this is going on my frontpage", at which the Clergyman calmly offered to withdraw his church advertisements from the paper, forthwith!

3) The newspaperman relented and said, "I suppose we can stretch a point", as he reluctantly agreed to publish the article requested. On issue, a paper boy was down at the old Stokes Hill wharf selling his copies. A visiting merchant seaman, named John from Melbourne stepped ashore, intending to replenish his toiletries, prior to his next voyage. John purchased a copy of the paper from the boy. Instead of tucking the folded copy under his arm, he flipped the paper out to be confronted with the plea for help. He went back on board and gathered whatever A.A. literature he had. He went to the Reverend's home and introduced himself. The same evening, 16th September 1959, the first Meeting was held and Darwin's A.A. group was established. Present were John the sailor, old Darwin Jack of whom nothing is known today, the Reverend Pearce and Les W, who had called for help. Thus, Les W became our first Territory member, and grasped the nettle immediately. John the sailor had a short period with Les, and then sailed away. Les stuck it out as a loner for just over 12 months, supported by his wife Shirley and son Lynton. He eventually took a trip south to Adelaide for his next meeting. It is possible that during his visit he met a Lou De Courci at the Archway Port facility in Adelaide. During the year 1964 a letter arrived at the Darwin group from the above-mentioned gentleman. His letter contained intonations of friendship and conviviality, that may have risen from such a contact, nobody, in the group could provide a clue to validate tht.

4) Thanks for the enthusiasm of Dave F. in Darwin, a copy of the article mentioned above has been obtained from the Northern Territory Government Reference Library and was in last month's newsletter. Not only is it brought to light, but also confirmed the reluctance of the newspaper editor, to print it. It had been printed, not on the front page, but deep into the paper on page 11, instead of the front page as was originally requested. Such was the nature of the individual editor, who would have endured intense ridicule at the hands of his drinking mates; also the culture of society at that time, when drunkenness was an achievement, not something to elicit shame and embarrassment, that he stood his ground, and risked losing the church's advertisements by not locating the article on the front page. TO BE CONTINUED !!





## POSITION DESCRIPTION

### ROUNDUP CO-ORDINATOR: REQUIRED

#### Overall Objective:

The overall objective of the position is to arrange and co-ordinate a roundup committee and all necessary resources to plan and manage the Annual Darwin Roundup and ensure that the event is successful and within budget. Resources include finances, venue, communications, catering, speakers, meetings, and other events. The event should be self-supporting through registration fees and donations.

The Roundup Coordinator will set up a round up committee and allocate roles and responsibilities. Specific tasks to be undertaken are:

- In conjunction with the District Treasurer develop a detailed budget for the event. The total amount to be approved in advance by the Darwin District Committee. The detailed budget will include expenditure on venue, catering, and materials as well as projected income from registrations.
- Select an appropriate venue and develop a detailed program of events including catering and refreshments.
- Hold regular roundup committee meetings to ensure that a detailed plan is developed and progressed.
- Ensure that all communications are arranged in a timely manner including flyers, notices in relevant publications and websites.
- Arrange all necessary additional assistance, such as registration desk personnel, catering assistants, greeters, speakers, and cleaning assistants.
- Report progress at each monthly District Office and quarterly District meeting, including details of expenditure and income.
- Manage the running of the event to ensure the program runs to plan and issues arising are dealt with effectively.
- Post roundup present a report to the Darwin District on the outcome of the event including financial summary, and comments on what aspects were particularly successful and what might be approved for future events.

#### CAN YOU HELP:



*God grant me the serenity  
to accept the things I cannot  
change,  
courage to change the things I  
can,  
and the wisdom to know the  
difference.*



True Tolerance: --

*Gradually we begin to accept the other fellows' sins as well as his virtues. We coined the potent and meaningful expression "Let us always love the best in others—and never fear their worst."*

*Finally, we begin to see that all people including ourselves, are to some extent emotionally ill as well as frequently wrong. When this happens, we approach true tolerance and we see what real love for our fellows actually means.*

Reprinted from As Bill Sees It page 203



ADELAIDE 2021



## National Convention

Hilton Adelaide, Victoria Square

Thursday 1st April - Monday 5th April 2021

With

Alanon & Alateen Participation

[www.aa.org.au](http://www.aa.org.au)

**SAVE THE DATE**



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