

THE SERENITY TIMES
THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER
OF THE
DARWIN DISTRICT
DECEMBER 2020



12 *Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs.*



I live by these Steps and get better.
I try to help other alcoholics.

Darwin District

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

Darwin District Office

Nightcliff Community Centre
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Casuarina NT 0810

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Website: aadarwin.org.au

Office Hours:

11am-2pm Monday-Saturday

Mick G (District Committee Member)

Pat M (Treasurer)

Kitty Kat (Secretary)

VACANT (Office Co-Ordinator)

Denis P (Registrar)

Mick G (Webmaster)

Caroline B (Literature Officer)

Denis P (acting Maintenance Officer)

Dan T (Public Information Officer)

Doug W (Treatment & Correctional Facilities Coordinator)

VACANT (Roundup Coordinator)

Susan B (Editor)

Next Meeting

District meeting for all GSRs and committee members is scheduled for Wednesday the 9th December at 7pm, also via Zoom.

To submit your story, or any other articles A.A. suitable, for printing in the

SERENITY TIMES:

Please contact the editor at

serenitytimesaa@outlook.com

The editor has the right to decide the suitability, for printing, of all articles forwarded.



Public Information Update

Treasurer DDO: Pat M

We have a healthy balance (cash and bank account) Of \$8,154.23. We recorded a surplus for the month Of \$1,166.50 compared to a loss of \$344.97, for the same month last year. Several factors contribute to to the unusually high increase in funds. Firstly we received a \$700.00 personal donation from a member in addition to \$785.95 in contributions, including Humpty Doo Sunday, Tuesday BBRG, Zoom meetings and the Bill W Camp. To further improve our financial situation, we received a cheque from City of Darwin for \$562.50 for the time we were unable to use the office due to COVID-19. There is also a \$100 anonymous donation recorded, we need to discuss returning this, it was to replace lost keys, presumably before the locks we changed.

DCM: Mick G

Thank you to groups that attended the recent Area meeting, to express their groups view to the Area On the Topics that the Area Delegate will now take to the General Service Conference this month. (Nov) The office currently has Volunteers on Mon, Wed and Fri, leaving Tues and Sat to be filled. The phone roster is currently being operated by Denis P and both he and I will share that duty until an Office Coordinator is elected. Thank you to Marg, Sam H and Ollie on supporting the phone roster system for the week while Denis and I were connecting the system. Denis has also been instrumental in acquiring volunteers for the office and updating lists. Thank you, Denis. NT Corrections has again been in contact asking for a possible return of AA to Holtze Prison. At present it will only be male inmates, on a Saturday. Meetings continue as normal with approximately 50/50 split Between Zoom meetings and "Face to Face" meetings.

Webmaster: Mick G

Lots of new resources accessible on aadarwin.org.au Video of recent GSR Bootcamp, Australian Service Manual and AA Guidelines in PDF to download, also National Newsletters.

All current meetings face to face and Zoom.

Past and current Serenity Times.

Past and current Darwin District Office meetings reports with financials.

Past and current Northern Region A "Area Meetings" reports.

National and International Conventions and Workshops.

Make aadarwin.org.au your "go to site" for all current information.

Secretary: Kitty kat

Kitty Kat has had to put her resignation in a month early, her business and family are keeping her extra busy with Christmas on the horizon. Kitty has appreciated having the role as even though it was a Brief stint she say's "she has learned a lot".

Literature: Caroline B

A few books were sold as well as time spent assisting Dan T with a project.

Treatment Facilities: Doug W

Reception and response have been good as our members have continued visiting Banyan House. Mission Australia starts 4th November on a fortnightly basis. I am still looking for members to offer to assist the members already on the roster.

Registrar: Denis P

It has been a busy month. The meetings list on the web site has been updated. Some groups have moved from Zoom back to Face to Face meetings. We have more office volunteers so office can be opened on a more regular basis.

Office Co-Ordinator: VACANT

Office maintenance: Denis P is acting in this position until someone volunteers for this position. Denis is keeping floors vacuumed and rest of office clean.

Public Information Officer: Dan T

Dan is doing a great job as usual and has been exceptionally busy.

Editor Serenity Times: Susan B

Apologies for being late with November newsletter. Emailing to a large list of recipients and not knowing how old my mailing list is, I posed a question in my email asking who wanted to receive the newsletter. I am happy to say I only received 3 cancelations. I also received many messages from people saying they enjoyed reading the newsletter, this was very encouraging. All is good with the Serenity Times, even though it is hard to get people to contribute. Thanks to Caroline B I have one regular contributor.



THE TWELVE STEPS

Step One

"We admitted we were powerless over alcohol—that our lives had become unmanageable."

Step Two

"Came to believe that a Power greater than ourselves could restore us to sanity."

Step Three

"Made a decision to turn our lives over to the care of God as we understood Him."

Step Four

"Made a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves."

Step Five

"Admitted to God, to ourselves, and to another human being the exact nature of our wrongs."

Step Six

"Were entirely ready to have God remove all these defects of character."

Step Seven

"Humbly asked Him to remove our shortcomings."

Step Eight

"Made a list of all persons we had harmed and became willing to make amends to them all."

Step Nine

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

Step Ten

"Continued to take personal inventory and when we were wrong promptly admitted it."

Step Eleven

"Sought through prayer and meditation to improve our conscious contact with God as we understood Him, praying only for knowledge of His will for us and the power to carry it out."

Step Twelve

"Having had a spiritual awakening as the result of these steps, we tried to carry this message to alcoholics, and to practice these principles in all our affairs."



THE TWELVE TRADITIONS

Tradition One

"Our common welfare should come first; personal recovery depends upon AA unity."

Tradition Two

"For our group purpose there is but one ultimate authority—a loving God as He may express Himself in our group conscience. Our leaders are but trusted servants; they do not govern."

Tradition Three

"The only requirement for A.A. membership is a desire to stop drinking."

Tradition Four

"Each group should be autonomous except in matters affecting other groups or A.A. as a whole."

Tradition Five

"Each group has but one primary purpose—to carry its message to the alcoholic who still suffers."

Tradition Six

"An AA. group ought never endorse, finance, or lend the A.A. name to any related facility or outside enterprise, lest problems of money, property, and prestige divert us from our primary purpose."

Tradition Seven

"Every A.A. group ought to be fully self-supporting, declining outside contributions."

Tradition Eight

"Alcoholics Anonymous should remain forever non-professional, but our service centres may employ special workers."

Tradition Nine

"A.A., as such, ought never be organized; but we may create service boards or committees directly responsible to those they serve."

Tradition Ten

"Alcoholics Anonymous has no opinion on outside issues; hence the A.A. name ought never be drawn into public controversy."

Tradition Eleven

"Our public relations policy is based on attraction rather than promotion; we need always maintain personal anonymity at the level of press, radio, and films."

Tradition Twelve

"Anonymity is the spiritual foundation of all our traditions, ever reminding us to place principles before Personalities."

WEDNESDAY LUNCHTIME AA MEETING RISES OUT OF COVID-19

Fifteen and a half years ago, the Wednesday, then brunchtime meeting, had its humble beginnings on the foreshore at Nightcliff. A small, tight group of members huddled together at the table and benches adjacent to a popular barbeque setting. Michael R. opened the meeting with Gillian R. as secretary.

There were no banners or slogans. However, the view overlooking the Arafura Sea, was always sublimely serene with birds calling overhead. Totally connected. Travellers, wayfarers, newcomers and locals alike seemed to find the meeting they were seeking.

A Topic meeting using the AA book "As Bill Sees It", this steadfast group thrived through sun and wind, rain and passers-by. At times, itinerants joined the meetings and perhaps a seed was planted.

The Wednesday meeting continued at the Nightcliff Beach top until 2013, when the founders Michael and Gillian, keeping the meeting going, relocated to Karama.

Visitors are a constant feature of the Wednesday group and many friendships were forged along the way. One of the most memorable being the yachting couple who had set sail into a storm out of Cairns. Never has a pair been seen, so relieved to be ashore and find a meeting.

In Karama for nearly seven years, saw the group establish a core of regular members along with many a newcomer. Banners went up and slogans along with a box of literature at the MP's community room in the Karama shopping centre, Kalymnos Drive. The time was nudged to noon. For a while, it was home to the indigenous community of CAAPS and some of the best meetings ever, resulted.

Last year, 2019, saw Christmas and New Year celebrations, coincide with Wednesday Lunchtime. What a privilege it was, to open the air-conditioned doors, to all members in need of a meeting on those sometimes-excruciating holidays.

March 2020 along came Covid-19 and the restrictions. Zoom meetings were maintained for as long as we deemed worthwhile. An ABC journalist elected to observe one of the Wednesday Lunchtime meetings on Zoom, he wrote an article online about the local increase in alcohol dependency during this difficult time. Highlighting how AA is part of the solution for alcoholics.

By the time this article appears it will be December and the Wednesday Lunchtime meeting will be up and running in its NEW home. The Sanderson MP's room at the Northlakes Shopping Centre, of McMillans Rd, from noon till 1pm. It is a big comfortable room with COVID-19 protocols being applied. Members register name and phone number, use the sanitiser and socially distance. It is easy to find, next to the hair salon and Coles. There are 2 excellent coffee shops to choose from right before the meetings entrance. There will be an AA sign on the door handle. Northlakes shopping centre is small but has everything we need.

Gillian R.

Addition.

Wednesdays Lunchtime's inaugural meeting at the Northlakes Shopping Centre MP's room was a huge success with the return of the core members, appreciating a daytime group. The at topic was Gratitude. With several apologies, it is hoped the room will be a bit fuller next week. Check it out.

All the Best Gillian R.

AA Preamble

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women

Who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

The only requirement for membership is desire to stop drinking. There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self-supporting through our own contributions. AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organisation or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes. Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

(Reprinted from AA Grapevine with permission)



**HISTORY OF ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS IN DARWIN
AND THE
NORTHERN TERRITORY
Part 4**

13) Being the group's only single member, and being possessed of boundless, restless energy, the older members wisely gave John the job of 'group contact' and custodian of the key to the mailbox. He could not believe it, trusted with the key to the AA mailbox! Box 549, Darwin, because of its similarity to 'Box 459', the New York official mailing address and publication 'Box 459' served as a significant reminder to him and does to this day. His phone number, Darwin 3057 can be found on archival copies of the NSW 'Reviver' of the relevant years.

14) He was privileged to work as a liaison officer alongside the world-famous Englishman, Dr John Hargrave at the East Arm Leprosarium, (now defunct), a division of Commonwealth Department of Health. A few months later he was transferred as assistant paymaster into Darwin into the former Judge Wells residence on the Esplanade, by then converted into Health Department HQ.

15) Soon the calls for help arrived. One day, a quiet little man, dressed in a Top End 'uniform' appeared next to John's desk. Wearing the distinct capital 'S' in each lapel of his shirt collar, he introduced himself as 'The Flying Padre', Major Pederson, of the Salvation Army. He covered nearly all the Northern Territory by aircraft, administering to his parishioners, from baptisms, funerals, spiritually comforting the lonely, sick and distressed. One of his 'flock' at Katherine had a husband who was so sick from drinking he had voluntarily had himself locked up in the local police cells but could only legally be held until the Friday morning. Reaching for a bundle of literature, (now known as a 'sponsors wallet'), John had been advised by his sponsor to always keep 'at the ready', he passed it to Major Pederson, apologising that he could do nothing until the close of business Friday, but he would then come down immediately. Major Pederson assured him that if the sick man, Roy, knew he was coming then he would be content, and that the literature, (if he could read it), would suffice.

Fully laden with maximum fuel, unsure of the fuel supplies between Darwin and Katherine, John set off in his little MG series "Y" saloon, dodging buffalo, wild pigs and scrub cattle in addition to kangaroos. On arrival at Katherine, and locating the correct address, as well as noting the light at the rear of the house was on and voices audible, he approached the back door, to walk into a confrontation between a man on the doorstep, with wife Naomi anxiously trying to restrain him from behind, from menacing with a rifle and another man facing him who had a carton of bottled beer on his shoulder. At this point, the rifle was swung around onto the new arrival, accompanied by the challenge, "And who are you?"

16) When John explained why and who, Roy, the man with the rifle, wild-eyed and crazy, told the new arrival he could come in, and turned to the other with 'get back to the pub, you mongrel'. He then turned to Naomi, ordered her to 'put the kettle on,' then to the new boy with "This had better be good! They've been having bets all day at "Kirby's Pub to see who can persuade me to go down for a drink. When that did not work, they sent that other one around with a carton. They knew I'd just been released by the sergeant this morning."

17) So began a new chapter for AA in Katherine. John had taken his Big Book with him, and despite it being a much-treasured gift from his own sponsor, he gave it to the one with the greatest need. Roy, a very gifted man with horses and working in leather, especially saddles and whips, was to relapse frequently, but was to be able to pass on the message of hope at the old Durack homestead in the Kimberley's of W.A. to a young schoolteacher named Tom, now sober in Darwin for many years.

(Still lots more to come. Note: This was written in 2007 some of these people are no longer with us or have moved)



BRING MORE PEOPLE THROUGH THE DOORS OF AA

Date: Sunday 29 November 2020
Time: 1pm - 2pm

Zoom Meeting ID: 859 9447 8909
Password: Wilson

Workshop Organiser: Area D Public Information Committee

Topics

- Cost Effective Public Information Strategies
- Debunking Myths
- New approaches created by Covid-19
- Resources Available



Do not forget to go to our website for information on meetings, events like those on this page.

Minutes from DDO meetings and Area meetings. Serenity Times is there also access to lots of interesting things. Check it out for yourself if I tell you everything you will not need to look.

The Port Lincoln A.A. Group are having their THURANA ANNUAL SUMMER RALLY, this is an AA event with Al-Anon and Al-Ateen participation.

Thursday 21st - Monday 25th January 2021
Four days and five nights of fellowship. Clean up Tuesday 26th and home. Enjoy an extended long weekend of serene fellowship by the sea and experience the pristine beaches. Daily meetings, wonderful food provided, and lots of activities including beach sports, a quiz, mystery auction (please no junk items) and lots more! Unlimited room for tents/caravans, Dorms available on booking. \$30 per night Adults 6-15-year old's \$15 per night. \$20 day visits. Under 5's free with Airport and Bus pickups available.

**Out of respect for the venue owners' rules
NO PETS/ NO DOGS ALLOWED**


The camp will be in accordance with COVID regulations in place at the time. Please bring your own cutlery and plates. Paper plates and bamboo utensils will be provided if required. Early Bookings would be appreciated to cater for COVID-19 requirements.




ADELAIDE 2021



National Convention
Hilton Adelaide, Victoria Square
Thursday 1st April - Monday 5th April 2021
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Alanon & Alateen Participation
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SAVE THE DATE



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For bookings contact.

Jack- 0428824561 istocky@gmail.com

Barb-042443963 barbelinez@gmail.com

BSB 633000 ACC 151884210 Ref-camp

THE TWELVE CONCEPTS

Concept I

Final responsibility and ultimate authority for A.A. world services should always reside in the collective conscience of our whole fellowship.

Concept II

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.

Concept III

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."

Concept IV

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.

Concept V

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

Concept VI

The conference recognizes that the chief initiative and active responsibility in most world service matters should be exercised by the trustee members of the Conference acting as the General Service Board.

Concept VII

The Charter and the 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.

Concept VIII

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.

Concept IX

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

Concept X

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

Concept XI

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.

Concept XII

The conference shall observe the spirit of A.A. tradition, taking care that it never becomes the seat of perilous wealth or power, that sufficient operating funds and reserve be its prudent financial principal; that it place none of its members in a position of unqualified authority over others; that it reach all important decisions by discussion, vote, and whenever possible, by substantial unanimity; that its actions never be personally punitive nor 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.